

MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FORTIETH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Australia



HELD IN BRISBANE
SEPTEMBER, 1988

Printed by
SVEN PRODUCTIONS
75 King Street
Sydney 2000

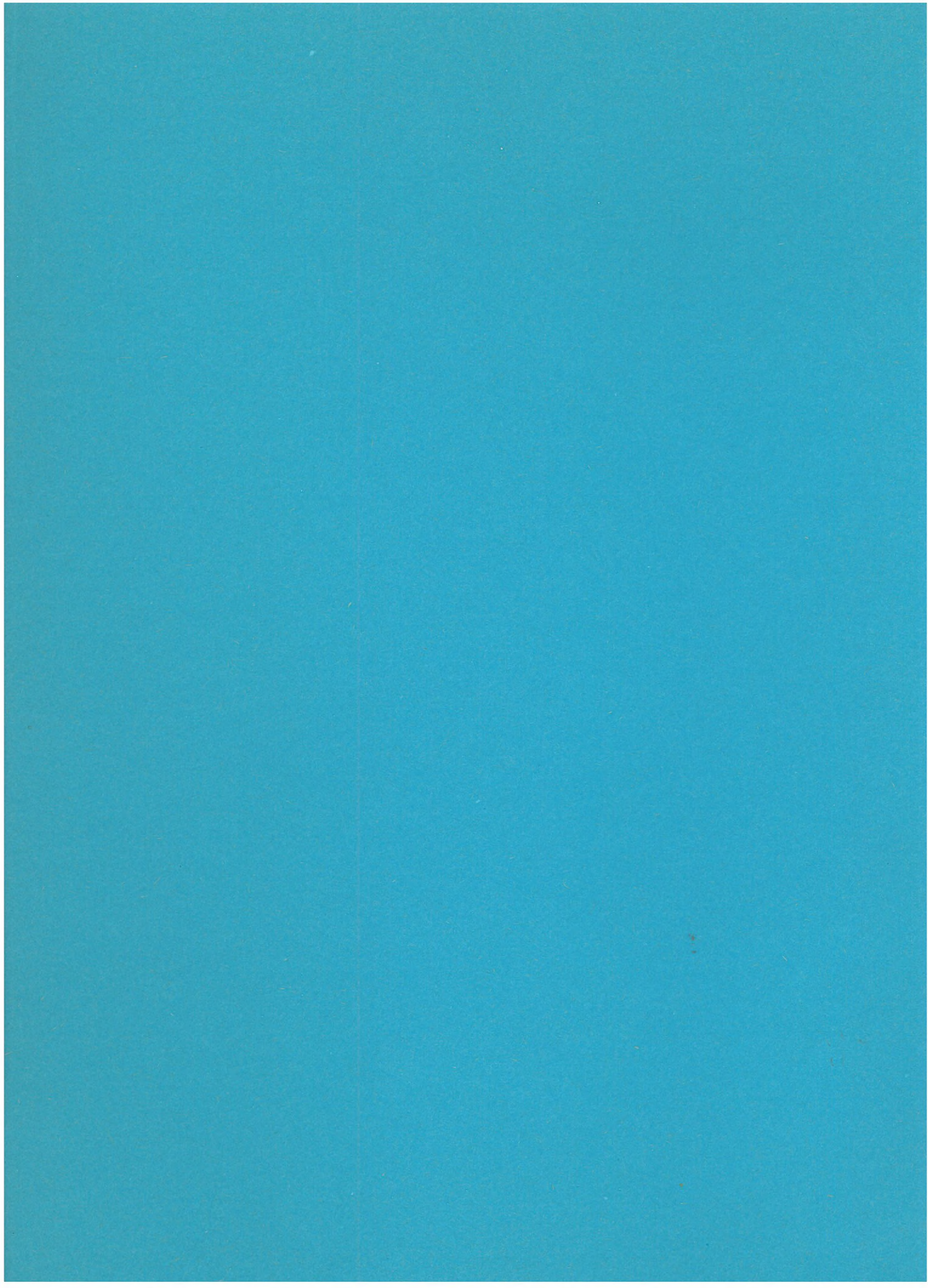


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Deceased.

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Rev. G. Ross Williams.....	1957-1970
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Very Rev. Edward R. Pearsons. L.Th.....	1974-1985
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FORTIETH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

1988

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Procurator:

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The Lau Agent:

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Assembly Officer:

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All 56(2), 59, 149(8), 161, 169(3), 182(1)

MINISTERS AND ELDERS:

169(3), 182(1)

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES - FEDERAL:

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2, 182(4)

CLERK OF ASSEMBLY:

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Environmental Stewardship 56(2)

Stewardship

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NEU SOUTH WALES

(Elected by the State Assembly)

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Mr. S. Tomlinson

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Rev. J. Nocher

Mr. D. Powell

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE FORTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S
TERRACE ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 at 2.00 P.M.

1. **Constitution:** The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public Worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Moderator, the Rev. E.R. Pearsons, assisted by his Chaplain, Rev. A.C. Stubs. Thereafter the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

2. **Loyal Address:** Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner moved,
That the Assembly: -
Request the Right Reverend the Moderator to transmit through the Governor-General of Australia the following address to Her Majesty, the Queen.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,

May it please Your Majesty:

We, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened in General Assembly in the city of Brisbane in the State of Queensland on the thirteenth day of September, 1988, do earnestly assure Your Majesty of our constant allegiance to the Throne and our loyal devotion to your Person.

It is our fervent prayer that Almighty God, having gifted salvation to the world through His only Begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ, will continue the blessings of the Christian Faith to Your Majesty, to His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip and to the members of your family; such blessings that will enable Your Majesty to continue the exacting task of your royal office with the love and understanding so characteristic of your reign.

We are mindful of the splendid example set by your Most Excellent Majesty in adherence to the values of family life and godly living in matters religious so needful in our time. We ever pray that you and your Family will never lack for Divine benefaction.

In this Bicentennial Year of Australian Nationhood we give special thanks to Almighty God for His blessings so bountifully bestowed; blessings to enrich life, blessings to share, blessings to challenge. We, being loyal subjects to Your Throne and Person, commit ourselves in our several and diverse ways to the challenges and demands of future years in the life of this nation being constant in prayer for you to enjoy many years yet to reign over us. It is our honour and humble privilege to address you at this time of Assembly as Ministers and Elders it is signed in our name and at our appointing.

Moderator.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The General Assembly sang Hymn 631 "God Save our Gracious Queen".

3. Roll of Assembly: The Roll of Assembly was laid on the Table.

It was moved and seconded.

That the Assembly: -

Approve the Roll of Assembly at the third sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved. (Min 42)

4. Greeting: A letter of greeting was read from the Rt. Rev. J. Broadhead, Moderator of the General Assembly of New South Wales.

It was moved, seconded and agreed.

That the Assembly: -

Receive the communication.

5. Business: The Report and addendum of the Business Committee were laid on the Table and received.

The Deliverance was moved and seconded. It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause. Clause 1 was approved.

6. Clerks "De Fideli": Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner and Rev. J.J.T. Campbell made the declaration "de fideli".

7. Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Clause 4 was approved.

Clause 5 and 6 were approved.

Clause 7 was approved.

Clauses 8-15 were approved.

Clause 16 was approved.

Clause 17 was approved.

Clause 18 was approved.

According to Notice (N.M.16) Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker moved,

That the Assembly: -

(1) Note the omission from the list of Moderators of the General Assembly of Australia of the name of Rev. Gilliam Albert McConnel Wood, B.A., 1974 in the White Book prepared for this Assembly.

(2) Instruct the Business Committee to insert the name of "Rev. Gilliam Albert McConnel Wood, B.A. ... 1974" before the name of Rev. Neil MacLeod, A.M., M.A., D.D. ... 1974".

The motion was seconded.

The Moderator expressed the opinion that the motion was disapproved.

8. **Division:** A division was called for.
For 82; Against 88.

The motion was declared disapproved.

9. **Business Deliverance:** The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Appoint Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner to act as Clerk and Rev. J.J.T. Campbell to assist for this Assembly, both to act until First day of January, 1989.
2. Express its thanks to Mr. R.P.W. Jell for his service to the Assembly as Deputy Clerk from 1977 to 1985 and Clerk from 1985 to 1988.
3. Call for nominations for Clerk of Assembly and Deputy Clerk, such nominations to close at 4.00 p.m. during the First Sederunt and the ballots to be conducted, if necessary, at 5.00 p.m. during the First Sederunt according to the method as follows: -
 - (i) If there be two (2) nominations in either position the ballots will be conducted on basis of equal value.
 - (ii) If there be more than two (2) nominations in either position the ballots will be conducted by preferential method according to the manner following: -
 - (a) The ballot paper shall be marked by placing the number 1 against the first preference and by placing the numbers 2, 3, 4, and so on as the case may be against all remaining nominees. All ballot papers which fail to have a sequential figure against each nominee are informal.
 - (b) The votes are allocated to the nominees in order of number 1 appearing against each nominee. If any nominee receives more than half the number 1 votes cast, he shall be declared elected. If no nominee has received an absolute majority on his first preference votes, the following procedure will be followed: -
 - (i) The convener of the Ballot Committee will determine the nominee having the lowest number of first preference votes. That nominee will then be excluded and all ballot papers marked as number 1 to him shall be transferred to the remaining nominees in the order that number 2 marking on each ballot paper is shown.
 - (ii) At the conclusion of this distribution, the total number of votes for each nominee (i.e., number 1 votes and number 2 votes received from excluded nominees) are totalled. If no nominee again has an absolute majority, the nominee with the lowest number of votes is excluded. The votes allocated to that nominee as his first preference shall be transferred to the remaining nominees in the order of the number 2 appearing on the ballot papers. In addition, any vote received by him from an excluded nominee shall be transferred to the remaining nominees in the order of the next number shown on the ballot paper.

- (iii) All transfers of votes are only made to the remaining nominees and not to excluded nominees.
- (iv) If a preference is shown for a nominee already excluded, the vote is transferred to the nominee against whose name the next sequential number is shown.
- (v) This procedure is continued until the nominee with an absolute majority is elected.

4. Appoint Rev. G.C. Lake to assist the Business Convener during this Assembly.

5. Determine the hours of meeting to be -

Morning Sederunt 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. ;
 Lunch Interval from 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. ;
 Evening Sederunt 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

6. Declare speeches to be limited as follows -

Convener moving the deliverance	15 minutes
Seconder	10 minutes
Speaking to each clause	5 minutes
All other speakers	5 minutes
Overturists (see also S.0.91)	each 10 minutes
Petitioners and Appellants	at the discretion of the House

Speeches extendible on a motion moved, seconded and agreed.

7. Approve the following Regulations -

1. There shall be a Committee called the Business Committee which shall consist of the Business Convener of the Assembly, who shall be Convener, and who shall be elected by the Assembly and hold office until he resigns or is superseded, the Moderator, the Immediate Past Moderator, the Moderator-Nominate, the Clerks, and the Business Committee of the State in which the General Assembly is appointed to meet. The Executive to act during the Assembly to be Business Convener, the Moderator, the Immediate Past Moderator, the Moderator-Nominate, the Clerks, and those members of the Committee who are also members of the General Assembly of Australia.
2. The Committee shall be responsible: -
 - (a) For all matters falling within the jurisdiction of the Business Committee from the close of one ordinary Assembly to the close of the next ordinary Assembly.
 - (b) To report to the First Sederunt of each Assembly the recommendations of the Committee anent -
 - (i) The times and places of Assembly meetings and general recommendations concerning the business to be brought before the session of Assembly;
 - (ii) The time to be allotted to speeches;
 - (iii) Any other general recommendations for the conduct of Assembly business;

- (c) Through the Convener to move the reception of each report as it comes before the House for debate;
 - (d) To ensure that all business is submitted to the Assembly in proper form, and that the Moderator is advised of the proposed business.
3. All Reports and Papers proposed to be submitted to the Assembly are laid before the Business Committee and shall be forwarded to the Convener at least three months before the meeting of the Assembly. Parties having cases to submit to the Assembly may attend the meeting of the Committee when their matter is under consideration. All Appeals, Complaints or References not presented by Appellants or Complainants within the specified time are liable to be held as fallen from; but Appeals, Complaints, References or Overtures may be presented afterwards provided sufficient cause can be shown why they were not lodged at the specified time. Parties whose Appeals, Complaints, References or Overtures are rejected are notified thereof and have the right of appeal to the Assembly.
8. Appoint the Ballot Committee as follows: -
Dr. P. Lush (Convener)
Rev. J.W. Langbridge
Mr. R.W. Arstall
Mr. C.J. Junor
9. Appoint the Members of the Ballot Committee as the tellers of the Assembly.
10. Appoint the Rev. C.A. Harrison to assist the Clerk.
11. Appoint Mr. P.J. Graham as the Assembly Officer.
12. Appoint Mr. B.M. Sharp to assist the Assembly Officer.
13. Declare that Notices of Motion must be in triplicate.
14. Appoint the Committee to scrutinise the minutes: -
Rev. M.J.K. Ramage (Convener)
Rev. D.B. Fraser
Mr. G.F. Rodgers.
15. Thank Messrs N.L.G. Taylor and R.H. Crowther for acting as members of the Hospitality Sub-committee.
16. Approve the following regulations for the Ballot Committee: -
1. There shall be a Committee called the Ballot Committee.
2. The Committee shall consist of four (4) members, including a Convener, elected by the Assembly on the nomination of the Business Committee.
3. The Committee shall prepare and conduct all ballots during the Assembly.
4. Unless otherwise determined by the Assembly, the ballot shall be by: -
(a) Where there is more than one candidate to be elected, the nominees to the number required, receiving the highest number of votes are elected.
(b) Where there is only one candidate to be elected, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes is elected.

5. Should the Assembly so determine, the ballot shall be preferential as follows:-
- (a) The ballot paper shall be marked by placing the number 1 against the first preference and by placing the numbers 2, 3, 4, and so on as the case may be against all remaining nominees. All ballot papers which fail to have a sequential figure against each nominee are informal.
 - (b) The votes are allocated to the nominees in order of number 1 appearing against each nominee. If any nominee receives more than half the number 1 votes cast, he shall be declared elected. If no nominee has received an absolute majority on his first preference votes, the following procedure will be followed.
 - (i) The Convener of the Ballot Committee will determine the nominee having the lowest number of first preference votes. That nominee will then be excluded and all ballot papers marked as number 1 to him shall be transferred to the remaining nominees in the order that number 2 marking on each ballot paper is shown.
 - (i i) At the conclusion of this distribution, the total number of votes for each nominee (i.e., number 1 votes and number 2 votes received from excluded nominees) are totalled. If no nominee again has an absolute majority, the nominee with the lowest number of votes is excluded. The votes allocated to that nominee as his first preference shall be transferred to the remaining nominees in the order of the number 2 appearing on the ballot papers. In addition, any vote received by him from an excluded nominee shall be transferred to the remaining nominees in the order of the next number shown on the ballot paper.
 - (i i i) All transfers of votes are only made to the remaining nominees and not to excluded nominees.
 - (iv) If a preference is shown for a nominee already excluded, the vote is transferred to the nominee against whose name the next sequential number is shown.
 - (V) This procedure is continued until the nominee with an absolute majority is elected.

17. Approve the order of business as follows for Tuesday, 13th September, 1988, after the Opening: -

FIRST SEDERUNT - Finance
 - The Trustees
 - College
 - Code
 - Notices of Motion

SECOND SEDERUNT - as from 7.00 p.m.
 - Induction of Moderator
 - Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 - Notices of Motion

18. Approve generally the order of business as follows: -

- THIRD SEDERUNT - Wednesday, 14th September, 1988, as from 9.30 a.m.
- Australian Presbyterian World Mission
 - P.W.A. of A. re amendments
 - 10.30 a.m. - Order of the Day - P.W.A. of A.
 - Federal Delegation
 - Appeals, Overtures and Petitions
 - Church and Nation
 - National Journal
 - Christian Education
 - Stewardship and Promotion
 - Public Worship and Aids to Devotion
 - Notices of Motion

- FOURTH SEDERUNT - as from 7.00 p.m.
- Deputations
 - Ad Hoc Committee (Bicentennial)
 - 7.45 p.m. Order of the Day - Address by the Rev. J.J.T. Campbell anent Bicentenary (30 minutes)
 - Ad Hoc Committee - Church Crest
 - Ad Hoc Committee - Office in the Church
 - Defence Forces
 - Notices of Motion

- FIFTH SEDERUNT - Thursday, 15th September, 1988 as from 9.30 a.m.
- Reception of Ministers (in private)
 - 12 noon - Order of the Day - Ballot (if necessary)
 - 2.00 p.m. - Order of the Day - Mr. K.S. Pope
 - Marketing Director of Expo 88 (20 minutes)
 - Relations with other Churches
 - Presbyterian Inland Mission
 - Immigration

- SIXTH SEDERUNT - As from 7.00 p.m.
- Maintenance of the Ministry
 - Remanets
 - Appointment - Commissions of Assembly
 - Close

10. Moderator's Nominating Committee:

The report of the Moderator's Nominating Committee was

laid on the Table and received.

The Deliverance was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was moved.

According to Notice (N.M. 20) Rev. H. J. Gallagher moved.

That the Assembly,

(1) Amend Clause 1 in the following manner: -

- (a) Delete the words, "the former Moderator's of the General Assembly, and" and after the words, "and the Clerk of the Assembly", add the words, "and three (3) ministers and three (3) elders of each State Assembly."
- (b) After the words, "a request for a nomination from each for the office of Moderator", add the words, "and request nominations from each, of three (3) ministers and three (3) elders to serve on the Moderator's Nominating Committee."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 3 as amended was approved.

11. Moderator's Nominating Committee Deliverance:

The Deliverance as a whole was approved as

follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Accept the nomination and elect the Rev. Alan Charles Stubs, Minister of Adelaide-Elizabeth-Mt. Barker, as Moderator of this Assembly.
2. Repeal Regulation 201 - Nomination of Moderator (Resolution of Assembly 1903) (Resolution of Assembly 1914) together with G.A.A. B.B. 1979 Min.17(3); G.A.A. B.B. 1982 Min.14(2); G.A.A. B.B. 1985 Min.97(5).
3. Approve the following new Regulation for the Moderator's Nominating Committee.

**MODERATOR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS**

1. The General Assembly shall appoint a Committee to be called the Moderator's Nominating Committee which shall comprise the Moderator, the Clerk of the Assembly, and three (3) ministers and three (3) elders of each State Assembly. The Clerk is the Convener of the Committee. The Convener shall circulate to State Assemblies no later than the 31st of December two (2) years prior to the Assembly, a request for a nomination from each for the office of Moderator, and request nominations from each of three (3) ministers and three (3) elders to serve on the Moderator's Nominating Committee; such nominations shall be in the hands of the Convener no later than the 31st December next following. All nominations by State Assemblies shall have the written consent of the nominee which should accompany the nomination. The Convener then circulates to members of the Committee, the nominations of State Assemblies no later than the 31st January preceding the Assembly for members to vote thereupon; such votes to be returned to the Convener no later than the 28th February preceding the Assembly. The person receiving the majority of votes shall be declared to be the nominee of the Committee. Should no person receive a majority of votes preceding the Assembly for members to vote thereupon; such votes to be returned to the Convener no later than the 28th February preceding the Assembly. The person receiving the majority of votes shall be declared to be the nominee of the Committee. Should no person receive a majority of votes the Convener shall submit the two (2) names having the highest number of votes to members no later than the 31st March; such votes to be returned no later than the 30th April.
2. Should this procedure fail to provide a single nominee the Convener shall call a meeting of the members of the Committee to decide the matter no later than the 31st of May.
3. The Finance Committee shall make adequate provision to meet the costs of such travel and where necessary accommodation of members.
4. The Convener shall immediately intimate to the nominee advice of his nomination as Moderator.

12. Finance: The Report of the Finance Committee was laid on the Table and received. The Deliverance was moved and seconded. It was agreed to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause. Clauses 1 - 6 were approved.

13. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 21)

14. College: The Report of the College Committee was laid on the Table and received. Clauses 1 - 4 were approved.

According to Notice (N.M.12) Rev. C. D. Balzer moved, That the Assembly: -

1. Allocate all duties and functions previously carried out by the "Federal Committee on Studies" (for Deaconesses) to the College Committee [See Min.217 (B.B. 1948)], and request the College Committee to issue, until further notice, Exit Certificates for Deaconess candidates.

The motion was seconded and approved.

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

1. Appoint the Executive members of the Committee as follows:
Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker (Q)
Mr. F.M. Bradshaw (V)
Rev. J.F. Boyall (NSW)
Rev. W.G. Camden (NSW)
Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman [Convener] (V)
Rev. D.J. Innes (V)
Rev. G.K. Kettmiss (Q)
Rev. Prof. R.W. Swanton (V)
2. Authorise the College Committee to fill casual vacancies and appoint alternate members on nomination by the appropriate State Theological Education Committee.
3. Appoint the full Committee as follows: -
The Executive and Full-time Professors and Lecturers not on the Executive.
4. Appoint the following as corresponding members: -
The Conveners of the Theological Education Committees of the Assemblies of South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia.
5. Allocate all duties and functions previously carried out by The "Federal Committee on Studies" (for Deaconesses) to the College Committee [See Min.217 (B.B. 1948)], and request the College Committee to issue, until further notice, Exit Certificates for Deaconess candidates.

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

17. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min 27)

18. Order of Business: It was moved,

That the Assembly: -

Vary the order of the day to take up the Report on Christian Education.

The motion was seconded and approved.

19. Christian Education: The Report of the Christian Education Committee was laid on the Table and received.

20. **Deliverance:** The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Note the continuing usefulness of the publications of the Christian Education Committee and commend them to the ministers and congregations.
2. Commend the Rev. Dr. J. Graham Miller for his devotion to the task of chronicling the history of church planting in Vanuatu and his diligence in pursuing his project to its conclusion.
3. Note the data in the report under the subject heading "Presbyterian Sunday School Curriculum", thank the Committee on Christian Education for its preliminary work on the subject; and regarding the production of an Australian Presbyterian Sunday School Curriculum concur with the Committee's findings to date, but instruct the Committee to keep under review the matter.
4. Appoint the Committee as follows:-
Rev. D.A. Burke [Convener] (NSW) Mr. J. Jones (NSW)
Rev. N.J. Sandon (NSW) Mr. S.H. Fraser (NSW)
Rev. C.R. Thomas (VIC) Mr. J. Mansfield (Q)
Rev. R. Humphreys (VIC)
Rev. R.C. Clark (Q)
together with the Convener of the Committee on Christian Education of each State Assembly or his Deputy.

21. **Finance Debate Resumed:** The debate anent the Report of the Finance Committee was resumed. (Minute 13)
Clause 7 was moved and seconded.

22. **Debate Adjourned:** The debate on clause 7 was adjourned. (Min. 148)

23. Clause 8 was approved.

Clause 9 was approved.

According to Notice (N.M.13) Mr. D.R. Brierley moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Recognising that many Commissioners, who would be able to leave home on the day of the constitution of the General Assembly, find it impossible to arrive as early as 10.00 a.m., agree that in such cases, an additional night's accommodation be paid, and that steps be taken to avoid a similar occurrence in future by constituting the General Assembly on the Monday evening.

The motion was seconded and approved.

According to Notice (N.M.14) Mr. D.R. Brierley moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Delete in clause 8 the name of the Very Reverend Norman Monsen from the membership of the Finance Committee.
3. Insert new clause 11 as follows:-
"Record its appreciation for the valuable contribution made by the Very Reverend Norman Monsen to the work of the G.A.A. Finance Committee since 1973."
4. Request the Bicentennial Committee to submit a feasibility study, (and if financially acceptable to the Finance Committee, advance a loan of up to \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars), repayable in full, from proceeds of sales of the book, together with interest at the current Trustee interest rate, applicable from time to time), book to be published on Presbyterianism in Australia. The motion was seconded.

24. **Debate adjourned:** The debate was adjourned. (Min. 148)

25. Trustees: The Report of the Trustees was laid on the Table and received.
According to Notice (N.M. 33) Mr. D.R. Brierley moved,
That the Assembly: -

1. Receive the legal opinion received by the G.A.A. Trustees, anent the validity of certain resolutions of the 1974 G.A.A., which opinion, the G.A.A. Trustees resolved to communicate to the G.A.A.
The motion was seconded.

26. Debate adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 175)

27. Code Debate Resumed: The debate on the Code Deliverance was resumed. (Min. 17)
The Deliverance was moved and seconded.
It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.
Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved as follows: -

1. Authorise the Finance Committee to encourage those committees whose task could be integrated to do so in an endeavour to limit expenditure.

By leave clause 3 was fallen from.

Clause 4 was moved in the following form:

2. Delete figure 9 beside the words Public Worship and Aids to Devotion and add the words "10 plus 6 (six) corresponding numbers".

The motion was seconded and approved.

28. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 112)

29. Bicentennial: The Report of the Bicentennial Committee was laid on the Table and received.

According to Notice (N.M. 15) Rev. P.E. Boase moved,
That the Assembly: -

1. Commission the publication of a history of Presbyterianism in Australia to mark the Bicentenary.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clauses 2 and 3 of Notice (N.M. 15) were fallen from.

It was moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Discharge the Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

30. Bicentennial Deliverance: The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

Discharge the Committee.

31. Ballot Clerks: The Order of the Day was called for and the Ballot for appointment of Clerk and Deputy Clerk was taken.

32. Australian Presbyterian World Mission: The Report of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee was laid on the Table and received.
The Deliverance was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was approved.
Clause 4 was approved.
Clause 5 was approved.
Clause 6 was approved.
Clause 7 was approved.
Clause 8 was approved.

33. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 176)

34. Adjournment: 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.

K. J. GARDNER,
J. J. T. CAMPBELL,
Clerks.

SECOND SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S TERRACE ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 7.00 P.M.

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

36. Moderator Inducted: The Rev. Alan Charles Stubs entered the House, was conducted to the Chair, welcomed and inducted with prayer by the retiring Moderator. Thereafter, he delivered a address on "Revival and Renewal".

37. Public Worship: The Moderator conducted public worship assisted by Rev. A.A.D. Gardiner and Rev. M.J.K. Ramage who preached on "Goodwill or God's Will".

38. Holy Communion: The Moderator celebrated the Lord's Supper assisted by elders from St. Paul's Kirk Session and from interstate.

39. Adjournment: The House adjourned to meet on Wednesday, 14th September, 1988, at 9.30 a.m., which having been duly intimated the Sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

K. J. Gardner,
J. J. T. Campbell,
Clerks.

THIRD SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL-S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL-S TERRACE, ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 9.30 A.M.

40. **Constitution:** Thereafter the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.

41. **Apology:** An apology for absence was received from Mr. I. Stuckey. The Clerk moved that it be sustained.
The motion was seconded and approved.

42. **Roll of Assembly:** The Clerk moved,
That the Assembly: -
Declare the amended Roll the Roll of this Assembly. (Min. 3)
The motion was seconded and approved.

43. **[Business:** The Report of the Business Committee was laid on the Table and received.
It was moved,
That the Assembly: -
Adopt the agenda for the Third Sederunt.
The motion was seconded and approved.

44. **Report of Retiring Moderator:** The Report of the retiring Moderator was laid on the Table and received.
The Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons addressed the House.
Mr. L.J. Moore moved,
That the Assembly: -
1. Record its deep appreciation of the dedicated service to the Church over many years by Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons.
2. Thank him for the gracious manner in which he has discharged his duties as Moderator.
3. Convey our warm wishes to Mrs. Pearsons and express our thanks to her for her kindly witness and for her loyal support of her husband throughout his ministry.
The motion was seconded and approved.

45. **Very Rev. E.R. and Mrs. Pearsons:** The Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons and Mrs. Pearsons were received by the Moderator who addressed them and thanked them on behalf of the Assembly. The Assembly showed their appreciation with acclamation.

46. **Ballot:** The Report of the Ballot Committee was laid on the Table and received.
Dr. P.E. Lush moved,
That the Assembly: -
1. Confirm the following elections: -
Clerk: Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner
Deputy Clerk: Rev. J.J.T. Campbell
2. Authorise the Assembly Officer to destroy the ballot papers. The motion was seconded and approved.

7. Church and Nation: The Report of the Church and Nation Committee was laid on the Table and received.
The Deliverance was moved and seconded.
It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.
Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

48. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 52)

49. Order of the Day: The Moderator called for the Order of the Day.

50. Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia Delegation:

The President of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia - Mrs. D. Ramage, the Secretary - Mrs. D. Allison and the Treasurer - Mrs. C. Johnston, all of Tasmania, were presented to the Moderator.

51. Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia Report: The President - Mrs. Ramage laid on the Table the Report of the P.W.A. of A. and addressed the House at the invitation of the Moderator. The Moderator led the House in prayer for the work of the P.W.A.

52. Church and Nation Resumed: The debate on the Church and Nation was resumed. (Min. 48)

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Leave was given to fall from Clause 3.

Clauses 4-6 were moved.

It was moved that these clauses be taken seriatim.

The motion was seconded and approved.

It was moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Urge the Prime Minister and his Government to stage more effective public hearings on the Australian Constitution and on possible changes to it.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 5 was moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Advise the Prime Minister and his Government that this General Assembly considers the present Australian Constitution to have made Australia a highly successful democracy, but that the Assembly is prepared to encourage constitutional amendment when such is believed necessary.

Rev. D.B. Fraser asked the Moderator to rule that a proposed amendment arose out of the debate.

The Moderator ruled that it did not so arise.

The Moderator's ruling was challenged.

The House upheld the Moderator's ruling.

Clause 5 was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 6 was approved.

According to Notice (N.M.9) Rev. C.D. Balzer moved,

That the Assembly: -

3. Thank and discharge the Committee.

The motion was seconded.

53. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned.

The Moderator ruled the motion to be competent.

The Rev. C.D. Balzer raised as a point of privilege, that he had withheld his notice of motion until this point as a matter of courtesy to the Committee. The House upheld the point of privilege and the competency of the motion.

Rev. H.J. Gallagher asked the Moderator to rule that a proposed amendment arose out of the debate. The Moderator so ruled.

Rev. H.J. Gallagher moved as an amendment,
That the Assembly: -

1. Add the words "and request the Christian Education Committee to deal with the matters already referred to the Committee".

Rev. C.D. Balzer accepted those words.

54. Ruling Challenged: Rev. P. G. Logan challenged the right of the mover of the amendment to alter the substance of the motion without leave of the House (S.O. 30).

The Moderator ruled the amendment was in order.

Dissent was moved from the Moderator's ruling.

55. Ruling Upheld: The House upheld the Moderator's ruling. The motion was seconded and approved.

56. Church and Nation Deliverance: The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Invite the Rev. Professor N.T. Barker, Professor Crawford Miller, J.A. Davies and Professor A.M. Harman to investigate the matters raised in the paper "Environment Stewardship", and to assist the Church and Nation Committee to bring a comprehensive report to the 1991 General Assembly of Australia.
2. Send the paper "Environmental Stewardship" to all Presbyteries and Sessions for discussion, with report to the Church and Nation Committee by 31st December, 1989.
3. Urge the Prime Minister and his Government to abandon thoughts of holding referenda on the Constitution during 1988.
4. Send the paper "The Australian Federal Constitution" to Presbyteries and Session, with report to the Church and Nation Committee by 30th June, 1990.
5. Thank and discharge the Committee, and request the Christian Education Committee to deal with the matters already referred to the Committee.

57. Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia Constitution:

According to Notice (N.M.6) Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner moved,

That the Assembly: -

Approve the following amendments to the constitution of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia:

1. Clause 5 number the paragraphs as follows: -

5. GOVERNING BODY:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Voting Delegates of the Federal Conference shall be appointed by the State Units as follows: - New South Wales 5, Victoria 4, Queensland 4, South Australia 2, Tasmania 2, Western Australia 2.
- (c) All business of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia shall be presented, discussed and decided upon at this Conference.
- (d) A quorum shall comprise three-fifths of the voting delegates representing four states.

- (e) The Governing Body is empowered to make By-Laws to implement this Constitution.
- (f) The time and place of meeting shall be determined from Conference to Conference.
- (g) Should a decision on any matter affecting the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia be necessary between meetings of the Governing Body the Executive shall consult with State units by letter and shall act on a decision reached by four (4) of the State Units.

2. Delete the present Clause 9 and insert the following new clause: -

9. FINANCE

All matters of finance shall be determined by the Governing Body or the Executive in accordance with Clause 5 paragraph (g) "Should a decision on any matter affecting the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia be necessary between meetings of the Governing Body the Executive shall consult with State units by letter and shall act on a decision reached by four (4) of the State units."

The motion was seconded and approved.

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

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

The Debate was adjourned. (Min. 163)

59. Stewardship and Promotion: The Report of the Stewardship and Promotion Committee was laid on the Table and received.

Clause 1(a) was moved by Leave of the House as follows: -

1. Request all Presbyteries and Sessions to consider the statement on Stewardship in the body of the Report.

The motion was seconded and approved.

According to Notice (N.M.10) Rev. C.D. Balzer moved.

That the Assembly: -

2. Thank and discharge the Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 1(b) and (2) were fallen from.

60. Stewardship and Promotion Deliverance: The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Request all Presbyteries and Sessions to consider the statement on Stewardship in the body of the report.
2. Thank and discharge the Committee.

61. Public Worship and Aids to Devotion: The Report and Addendum Report of the Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee was laid on The Table and received.

The Deliverance was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2(a) was approved.

62. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 166)

63. Australian Council of Churches: Greetings were read from the Australian Council of Churches.

64. **Order of the Day - President of the Uniting Church of Australia:** The Order of the Day was called for. Sir Ronald Wilson, President of the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, being present in the House, was presented to the Moderator and at his invitation, addressed the House.

65. **Appeal No. 1:** Appeal 1 of Rev. A.S. Bartholomew and Mr. K.J. Swan, against a decision of the New South Wales Assembly was laid on the Table.

66. **Competency:** The competency of the Appeal was questioned. The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

Mr. K.J. Swan moved,
That the Assembly: -

1. Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved and the Moderator's ruling upheld.

The Clerk moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Not print the documents of Appeal No. 1 in the Blue Book.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. R.J. Oakes moved.

That the Assembly: -

3. Apologise formally to Rev. C. R. Thomas and his family for matters mentioned in the documents.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The Clerk moved,

That the Assembly: -

4. Request members to remove pages 151-189 from their White Books and return them to the Clerk.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the House in prayer.

67. **Communication No. 5 - Appeal No. 2:** Communication No. 2 falling from Appeal No. 2 was laid on the Table and received.

68. **Office in the Church:** The Report of the Committee on Office in the Church was laid on the Table and received.

The Deliverance was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Approve the holding of a One-day Conference immediately prior to the 1991 General Assembly of Australia for the purpose of debating the questions relating to:
 - (a) ruling elders or home missionaries administering the sacraments;
 - (b) the ordination of women; and
 - (c) the diaconate.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

By leave of the House, clause 2 was fallen from.

According to Notice (N.M. 46) Dr. P.E. Lush moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Remit Overture 4 B.B. 1985, 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 31st December, 1989.

The motion was seconded and approved.

69. Office in the Church Deliverance: The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Remit Overture No. 4 B.B. 1985, to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under the Barrier Act Procedure for approval or disapproval.
2. Instruct all Returns to this Remit to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31st December, 1989.

70. Overture No. 7 Neo-Pentecostal Movement: The Overture No. 7 from the New South Wales General Assembly anent the Neo-Pentecostal Movement was laid on the Table and received. Rev. A.G. Ingram and N.J. Sandon were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture. Questions were called for.

The Overturist was removed from the Bar of the House.

According to Notice (N.M. 28) Rev. A.G. Ingram moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Sustain the Overture.
2. Appoint a Committee to investigate matters raised in Overture No. 7 and to present to the next meeting of the General Assembly a theological statement on the consistency or otherwise of the doctrines and practices of the "Neo-Pentecostal /Charismatic Movement" with the Scriptures and the subordinate standard of the Church.
3. Appoint the Committee as follows: -
 - Rev. Prof. D. Milne (Convener)
 - Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman
 - Rev. S. Gill
 - Rev. J. Wilson
 - Rev. R. Brightwell
 - Rev. P. Burns together with the following corresponding members
 - Rev. N. Sandon (N.S.W.)
 - Rev. I. Murray (N.S.W.)
 - Rev. M. Charles (N.S.W.)
 - Rev. H.G.D. Todd (Q)
 - Rev. S.J. Nicholson (Q)
 - Rev. A. Harvey (S.A.)
 - Rev. D. Tsai (Tas.)
 - Rev. D.B. Fraser (W.A.)

The motion was seconded and approved.

71. Overture No. 1 Neo-Pentecostal Movement: The Overture No. 1 from the Presbytery of Dubbo anent the Neo-Pentecostal Movement was laid on the Table and received. Rev. A.H. Adams and M.J.P. Charles were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture. Questions were called for.

The Overturists were removed from the Bar of the House.

According to Notice (N.M. 61) Rev. A. Adams moved.

That the Assembly: -

1. Sustain the Overture.
2. Appoint a Committee to investigate the matters in Overture No. 1 and to report back to the next meeting of the Assembly with appropriate recommendations for any necessary additions to our Subordinate Standard or other appropriate suggestions for the guidance of the Church.
3. Refer the matters raised to the Committee appointed in connection with Overture 7.

The motion was seconded and approved.

72. Overture No. 10: The Overture No. 10 from the Presbytery of Moree anent Freemasonry was laid on the Table and received. Rev. R.J. Stark and P.P. Thorneycroft were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture.

Questions were asked.

The Overturists were removed from the Bar of the House.

According to Notice (N.M.6) Rev. R.J. Stark moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Sustain the Overture.

73. Previous Question: The Previous Question was moved and seconded.

The Moderator declared his opinion that the motion was disapproved.

74. Division: A division with names recorded was called for.

The House divided.

The Moderator declared the motion resolved in the negative.

Yes

Ministers: B. Baker, N.T. Barker, A.S. Bartholomew, P. Boase, J. Bruce, B.K. Burton, R.A. Caldwell, R.C. Clark, W.M. Constable, H.G. Durbin, D.L. Ferrington, G.R. Fullerton, K.J. Gardner, K.J. Gibson, G. Hamil, C.A. Harrison, G.C. Lake, P.G. Logan, R.J. McCracken, G.F. McDonald, G.A. Morrow, J. Mullan, D.F. Murray, N.J. Ramage, D.K. Robson, D. Wallace, J. Woodward, one not legible.

Elders: C.E. Baker, R. Bingham, D.R. Brierley, K.S. Campbell, E.W. Chapman, L. Coutts, A. Crawford, R.H. Crowther, H.N. Cusack, P.J. Graham, J.E. Gill, D.J. Goodwin, V. Hardie, R.W. Hartley, P. Hearfield, B.H. Hosegood, C.A. Huckstadt, W.M. Kelly, H.C. Laird, A.G. Matheson, H. V. Mathews, F. Matthews, I. MacDonald, H.I.M. MacFarlane, D. McKelvie, J.S.D. Mellick, L. Moore, F. Morrison, H. Murray, F. Newall, R. Penn, R.W. Pilkington, J.R. Ridley, G.F. Rodgers, G.S. Rutherford, L.R. Sproule, K. Swan, L. Thorpe, R.E. Thorpe, I. Wilkin, M.F. Wilkin.

No

Elders: R.W. Arstall, G. Bell, J. Benn, F. Bennett, R. Blackwell, A.J. Bray, A.T. Buchanan, P.A. Burke, R.F. Burns, A. Byleveld, A.D. Cartan, P. Cowie, V. Corben, D.T. Gallagher, N.E. Gallan, S. Gilli, E. Guy, J. Jacks, C.K. Johnston, B. Layt, J. Little, P. London, N. McInness, J. Packer, D. Parker, D. Powell, M.I. Quirk, K. Salomons, N. Saunders, B.T. Scott, R. Scott, W. Shearer, I. Shepherdson, N.L.G. Taylor, S. Tomlinson, D.J. Topping, A.d. Turner, D.M. Wilson, A. Young.

Ministers: A. Adams, S.A. Andrews, J. Bain, C.D. Balzer, P.L. Barson, A. Beaton, R.P.F. Benn, K. Brown, D. Burke, J. Britton, J.J.T. Campbell, M. Charles, B. Christian, P. Cooper, W. Davidson, J.A. Davies, R.S. Duncanson, J. Elliott, N. Ericksson, B. Fraser, H.J. Gallagher, P. Gills, A. Harman, P. Hastie, E.B. Hosking, D. Inness, A. Ingram, G. Jansson, I. Johnston, R. Keith, G.K. Kettmiss, J. Langbridge, W. Lutton, R. Matthews, B.M. Meller, D. Milner, W.G. Morrow, J. Muller, B.E.G. Napper, G. Newell, G.J. Nicholson, J. Nocher, R. Oakes, R. Osborn, R. I. R. Richards, N. Sandon, D. Secomb, D. Smith, I. Smith, R. Stark, J. Stasse, I. Stewart, D. Stone, J.D. Sutherland, P.W. Swinn, R. Taylor, C.E. ten Broeke, C.R. Thomas, P. Thorneycroft, G.A. Tosh, R. Tsai, R. van Delden, J. Webster, W. Zurrer.

The motion was seconded and approved.

It was moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Appoint a Doctrinal Commission, the members being:-
Rev. Prof. D.J.W. Milne, Professor of New Testament at the Theological Hall Victoria;
Rev. P. Barnes, Department Head of History, Presbyterian Theological Centre in New South Wales;
Rev. Prof. F.N. Lee, Professor of Systematic Theology, Theological Hall in Queensland;
Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman, Principal and Professor of Old Testament at the Theological Hall in Victoria (Chairman).

The motion was seconded.

75. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 158)

76. Notices of Motion: Notices of Motion were read.

77. Adjournment: The House adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

K. J. GARDNER,
J. T. CAMPBELL,
Clerks.

FOURTH SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S TERRACE, ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 7.00 P.M.

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

79. **Business:** The Report of the Business Committee was laid on the Table and received, approved and adopted.

80. **Defence Forces Chaplaincy:** The Report of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee was laid on the Table and received.

By leave Chaplain E. T. J. Brooker addressed the House.

The proposed Deliverance was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take the proposed Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 82)

81. **Bicentennial Address:** The Rev. J.J.T. Campbell delivered a Bicentennial Address: "Twelve Hours in the Day".

According to Notice (N.M. 49) Rev. P.E. Boase moved,

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the Rev. J.J.T. Campbell for his Bicentennial Address to the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

82. **Defence Forces Chaplaincy Resumed:** The Debate on Defence Forces Chaplaincy was resumed. (Min. 80).

According to Notice (N.M. 42) Rev. R.S. Keith moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Delete "C.E.J. Egan" from clause 1, noting that Chaplain C.E.J. Egan has not retired from the Army Reserves but has been transferred to the Inactive Army Reserves with the Uniting Church in Australia, currently occasionally serving with the University Regiment at A.N.U.

Clause 1 as amended was approved.

By leave, Rev. K.J. Gibson moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Record with appreciation the many years of faithful service of Rev. C.E.J. Egan as Senior Chaplain N.S.W.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

According to Notice (N.M.27) Rev. R.S. Keith moved as an amendment,
That the Assembly: -

3. Appoint the Committee as follows: -

- Rev. James Reid (Convener) (N.S.W.)
- Rev. R.J. McCracken (N.S.W.)
- Rev. A. Mortimore (N.S.W.) Mr. J. McKillop (N.S.W.)
- Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman (V)
- Rev. Prof. P.L. Gordon (Q)
- Rev. R. Tsai (Tas)
- Rt. Rev. A.C. Stubs (S.A.)

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Leave was granted for the term "Part-time" in R.A.A.F. Special Reserve to be altered to "Reserve" in the Blue Book.

83. Defence Forces Chaplaincy Deliverance:
follows: -

The Deliverance as a whole was approved as

That the Assembly: -

1. (a) Record with appreciation the many years of faithful service of the following retiring Chaplains:
A.P. Mortimore, W.R. Llewellyn and D.J. Durham.
(b) Record with appreciation the many years of faithful service of Rev. C.E. Egan as Senior Chaplain N.S.W.
2. Commend to the Assembly all serving Chaplains in the Defence Forces and their families requesting Presbyteries and Congregations uphold them in prayer.
3. Appoint the Committee as follows: -

Rev. K.J. Gibson (Convener) (V)	Rev. P.L. Gordon (Q)
Rev. G.F. Lyman (V)	Rev. R.J. McCracken (NSW)
Rev. R.P. Betts	Rt. Rev. A.C. Stubs (SA)
Rev. Prof A.M. Harman (V)	Rev. R. Tsai (T)

84. Office in the Church Discharged:

By leave it was moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Thank and discharge the Committee on Office in the Church.

85. Overture No. 6:

The Overture No. 6 from the New South Wales Assembly anent Minutes of the 1974 General Assembly was laid on the Table and received.

Rev. P.W. Hastie and C.D. Balzer were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture. Questions were asked.

86. Moderator's Ruling: The Clerk asked the Moderator to rule that those presenting the overtures are bound by the recitals of the Overture.
The Moderator so ruled.

87. Moderator's Ruling:

Rev. P.E. Boase asked the Moderator to rule that the Overturists should step down if they are not prepared to carry out the Commission of the New South Wales Assembly.
The Moderator ruled otherwise.

88. Competency:

The competency of the Overture was questioned.

The Moderator ruled the Overture to be competent.

89. Ruling Challenged: Mr. D. R. Brierley moved,
That the Assembly:

1. Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved and the Moderator's ruling upheld.

Rev. C.R. Thomas raised a Point of Privilege regarding a statement of Mr. D.R. Brierley.

Mr. Brierley made a personal explanation to the effect that he was quoting legal advice.

90. Debate Adjourned: The debate was adjourned. (Min. 106)

91. Adjournment: The House adjourned to meet at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 15th September, 1988 which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

W. GARDNER,
J. J. T. CAMPBELL, Clerks.

FIFTH SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S TERRACE ON THURSDAY. 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 9.30 A.M.

92. **Constitution:** The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
93. **Notice of Motion:** Notices of Motion No. 73 - 76 were read.
94. **Business:** The Report of the Business Committee was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. M. J. K. Ramage moved,
That the Assembly: -
1. Alter the proposed order of business to take up Overture No. 6 and other related Overtures after the Order of the Day at 2.00 p.m.
The motion was seconded and approved.
Rev. D. A. Burke moved,
That the Assembly: -
2. Close the Fifth Sederunt before lunch and another sederunt be constituted at 2.00 p.m.
The motion was seconded and approved.
95. **Privilege:** Mr. L. J. Moore raised a question of privilege that the Procurator had to be absent after lunch and that matters of Pure Law would be involved in the Overtures.
96. **Moderator's Ruling:** The Moderator ruled that the Procurator should be heard on the matter.
Mr. L. J. Moore moved,
That the Assembly: -
1. Hear now the Procurator on these issues.
The motion was seconded and approved.
97. **Procurator's Statement:** The Procurator made a statement.
It was moved,
That the Assembly: -
1. Approve the agenda as amended.
The motion was seconded and approved.
98. **In Private:** The House sat in private.
99. **Reception of Ministers:** The Report and Addendum of the Reception of Ministers Committee were laid on the Table and received.
Rev. R. A. Caldwell presented the Deliverance clause by clause.
G.A. Lockyer The petition of G. A. Lockyer was received.
Clauses 1(a) and (b) were approved.
W.A. Ellery-Dyer The petition of W.A. Ellery-Dyer was received.
Clause 2(a) was approved.
Clause 2(b) was moved and seconded.
It was moved as an amendment.
That the Assembly: -
1. Add to Clause 2(b) the words "and the production of a satisfactory medical certificate".
The amendment was seconded and approved.
Clause 2(b) was approved.

- R.I. Kilian** The petition of R. I. Killam was received.
Clauses 3(a) and (b) were approved.
- G.A. Vane** The petition of G. A. Vane was received.
Clauses 4(a) and (b) were approved.
- P. Hermann** The petition of P. Hermann was received.
Clause 5(a) was approved.
Clause 5(b) was moved in an amended form by leave and seconded.
According to Notice Rev. A. Adams moved,
That the Assembly: -
2. Omit the words "one year's preparatory study and".
The amendment was seconded and disapproved.
The motion was approved.
- Y.C. Pak** The petition of Y. C. Pak was received.
Clauses 6(a) and (b) were approved.
- Y. Abadi** The petition of Y. Abadi was received.
Clause 7(a) was approved.
Clause 7(b) was moved, by leave, in an amended form.
The motion was seconded and approved.
- D.L. Griffin** The petition of D. L. Griffin was received.
Clause 8(a) was approved.
Clause 8(b) was approved by leave in an amended form.
- S-1 Chang** The petition of S-1 Chang was received.
Clauses 9(a) and (b) were approved.
- O.M. Gregory** The petition of O. M. Gregory was received.
Clauses 10(a) and (b) were approved.
Clause 11 was moved and seconded.
- 100. Debate Adjourned:** The debate was adjourned. (Min. 127)
- 101. Open Court:** The House resumed in Open Court.
- 102. Adjournment:** The House adj'ourned to meet at 2.00 p.m. which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

K. J. GARDNER,
J. J. T. CAMPBELL,
Clerks.

SIXTH SEDERUNT

**AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAULS TERRACE ON THURSDAY, 15TH
SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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

104. Business: The report of the Business Committee was laid on the Table and approved.

105. Expo: Mr. K. S. Pope, representing World Expo 88, was welcomed and at the invitation of the Moderator, addressed the house. The Moderator thanked Mr. Pope.

106. Overture No. 6: The consideration of Overture 6 was resumed. (Min. 90)
Rev. P.W. Hastie and Rev. C.D. Balzer made statements to the House concerning their presentation of the Overture during the Fourth Sederunt.

According to Notice (N.M. 58) Rev. P.W. Hastie moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Sustain the Overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

According to Notice (N.M. 78) Mr. H. I. M. MacFarlane moved.

That the Assembly: -

2. Inform the New South Wales General Assembly that the General Assembly of Australia is not constitutionally competent to indicate to the whole church the documents which it is to accept as the minutes of the Thirty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The motion was seconded.

Rev. J.D. Sutherland moved, arising from the debate, the addition of the words "(according to Civil Law)", after the word "competent".

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Rev. D.A. Burke moved as a further amendment that the Assembly: -

3. Delete "not constitutionally competent (according to civil law)" and substitute "neither willing nor able".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The Moderator expressed the opinion that the matter had been sufficiently discussed.

It was resolved that the motion now be put.

The motion was put and approved as follows,

That the Assembly: -

4. Inform the New South Wales General Assembly that the General Assembly of Australia is not constitutionally competent (according to Civil Law) to indicate to the whole church the documents which it is to accept as the minutes of the Thirty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

By leave Rev. C. R. Thomas fell from N.M. 79.

107. Rev. P.W. Hastie moved and it was seconded; that

1. The Assembly declares that the issue of ordination of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament is a doctrinal matter.

108. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned.

The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

The Rev. R.R. Duncanson moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

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

By leave. Dr. J.S.D. Mellick moved as an amendment the deletion of the words "the issue of".

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion was approved as follows: -

2. The Assembly declares that ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament is a doctrinal matter.

Rev. P.W. Hastie moved that: -

3. This Assembly declares that it understands the Supreme Standard of this Church to prohibit admission of women to the office of Minister of the Word and Sacraments.

109. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned.

The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

The Rev. P.W. Hastie moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved, on a show of hands, and the Moderator's ruling upheld.

Rev. P.W. Hastie moved: -

That the Assembly: -

Send down under the Barrier Act the proposed alteration to the Article of Agreement by amending Article 8.1 by the deletion of 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 Services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women."

so that the Article will now read:

"All candidates for licence shall be students who have been regularly trained at some Theological Hall recognised by the General Assembly."

110. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned.

The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

The Rev. J.D. Sutherland moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved, on a show of hands, and the Moderator's ruling upheld.

The debate was adjourned. (Min. 122)

Rev. A.M. Harman moved the variation of the Order of the Day to take up Overture 2.

The motion was seconded and approved.

111. Overture No. 2: The Overture No. 2 from the College Committee anent the Article of Agreement was laid on the Table and received.

Principal A.M. Harman was called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture.

Questions were asked.

The debate was adjourned. (Min. 145)

112. Code Resueed: The debate on the Code was resumed. (Min. 28) Clause 4 was moved and seconded.

According to Notice (N.M.48) Rev. G. Lake moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Amend Regulation 10 by the addition of the words:
"Communicants and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia" between the words
"Assembly" and "may".

The motion and seconded and approved.

Clause 4 in the amended form was approved.

Clause 5 was approved.

Clause 6 was fallen from.

Clause 7 was fallen from.

Clause 8 was approved.

Clause 9 was approved as amended by N.M. 35.

N.M. 41 was fallen from.

According to Notice (N.M.64) Very Rev. K.J. Gardner moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Declare the election of the Committee to be conducted by ballot.
2. Declare the nominations to be those listed in Clause 10, with the exception of the name of Mr. R.P.W. Jell, and those in Notice of Motion No. 54.
3. Declare that the representation from the States be: -
4 from NSW, 4 from Victoria, 4 from Queensland.
4. Declare the Queensland members to form the executive.

It was agreed to take the motion clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded as follows: -

5. Declare that the representation from the States be: -
3 from NSW, 3 from Victoria, 3 from Queensland with one corresponding member appointed
by each of the State Assemblies of Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

The Moderator ruled that the Assembly Officers are included in the number of those to be elected.

113. Ruling Challenged: Dissent was moved from the Moderator's Ruling.

114. Ruling Departed From: The Moderator's ruling was disagreed with.

115. Code Deliverance:

Clause 3 was approved.

Clause 4 was moved and seconded as amended by the addition of the words: -

"together with Rev. J.J.T. Campbell".

The motion was approved.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Assembly conduct the ballot forthwith.

The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

1. Authorise the Committee to continue with the revision of The Code.
2. Authorise the Finance Committee to encourage those committees whose task could be integrated to do so in an endeavour to limit expenditure.
3. Approve the following new Regulations on the Election of Standing and Other Committees as follows: -

**CHAPTER 3
REGULATIONS**

Election of Standing and Other Committees

1. **Principle of Election:** The Standing Committees of the Assembly shall consist of a Convener, the Executive comprising those members of the Committee who shall reside in the same state as the Convener and a minimum of one member who shall be representative of each of the State Assemblies together with the Officers of the Assembly who shall be ex-officio of all Assembly committees. Boards and Councils except where expressly excluded.
2. **Election by General Assembly:** The members of each Committee other than the members ex-officio shall be elected by the Assembly upon the nomination of the Committee and shall comprise wherever possible of an equal number of ministers and elders.
3. **Ballot:** In the event of any additional names being nominated, the General Assembly thereupon proceeds to election by ballot.
4. **Casual Vacancies:** Casual vacancies on any Standing Committee arising between meetings of the General Assembly shall be filled by the Committee or by the Executive, from the State from which the vacancy occurs.
5. **Committees and Numbers of Elected Members:**
 - (a) The following are the Standing Committees of the Assembly under the Article of Agreement and the number of their elected members including Conveners: -

Australian Presbyterian World Mission	12
Christian Education	12
College	12
Defence Forces Chaplaincy	9
Finance	15
Immigration	6
National Journal	12
Presbyterian Inland Mission	12
Public Worship and Aids to Devotion	10
Reception of Ministers (plus 6 corresponding members)	12
 - (b) The following are other Committees of the Assembly and the number of their elected members including Conveners: -

Church and Nation	12
Code	12
Relations with Other Churches	9
Stewardship and Promotion	9
6. **Finance:** Each Standing Committee of the General Assembly, and such other Committees whose work requires meetings which involve State representatives in travelling expenses for which no other financial arrangements are made, and Committees responsible for the Assembly's involvement in work and interests beyond the Assembly's jurisdiction (i.e. World Alliance of Reformed Churches) shall submit to the 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 or commitments per annum for the ensuing three years.

7. The Finance Committee shall consider these estimates and detailed statements and shall report with any recommendations to the General Assembly.
 8. Any Committee not provided for, or of the opinion that its needs are not adequately met by the provisions of the Finance Committee may seek, by notice of motion, to amend the proposed Deliverance of the Finance Committee to make such provision.
 9. **Time of Returns:** The Returns from the State Assemblies nominating members of these Committees require to be in the hands of the Convener of the respective Committees at least three (3) months before the meeting of the General Assembly.
 10. **All Neighbors of State Assemblies Eligible:** Members of State Assemblies, not being members of the General Assembly, communicants and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, may be nominated as members and Conveners of the General Assemblies Standing Committees.
4. Repeal Regulations 179 to 202(a) as contained in the 1950 edition of Constitution and Procedure and Practice as amended by subsequent Assemblies.
 5. Declare that where no other mode of enacting, repealing or amending regulations is provided a regulation may be enacted, repealed or amended:
 - (a) upon a petition presented to the General Assembly;
 - or
 - (b) on a motion arising out of a report and deliverance of a Committee of the General Assembly,
 and in either case passed by a majority of not less than 3/5th of the General Assembly.
 6. Approve the reprinting of The Presbyterian Church of Australia - Code - Book 1 as follows: Chapters 1 - 7.

CHAPTER 1

THE SCHEME OF UNION

The Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania and the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, holding the same doctrine, government, discipline and form of worship, believing that it would be for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom that they should form one Presbyterian Church as hereinafter provided to be called the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and under authority of Christ alone the Head of the Church and Head over all things to His church, agree to unite on the following basis and subject to the following articles to be subscribed by the moderators of the respective churches in their names and on their behalf.

BASIS OF UNION

- (i) The Supreme Standard of the united church shall be the Word of God contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
- (ii) The Subordinate Standard of the united church shall be the Westminster Confession of Faith read in the light of the following declaratory statement: -

1. That in regard to the doctrine of redemption as taught in the subordinate standard, and in consistency therewith, the love of God to all mankind. His gift of His Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, and the free offer of salvation to men without distinction on the grounds of Christ's all-sufficient sacrifice, are regarded by this Church as vital to the Christian faith. And inasmuch as the Christian faith rests upon and the Christian consciousness takes hold of certain objective supernatural historic facts, especially the incarnation the atoning life and death and the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, and His bestowment of His Holy Spirit, this Church regards those whom it admits to the office of the Holy Ministry as pledged to give a chief place in their teaching to these cardinal facts and to the message of redemption and reconciliation implied and manifested in them.
2. That the doctrine of God's eternal decree, including the doctrine of election to eternal life, is held as defined in the Confession of Faith, Chapter III, Section 1., where it is expressly stated that according to this doctrine, "nei ther is God the author of sin nor is violence offered to the will of the creature nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established," and further, that the said doctrine is held in connection and harmony with the truth - that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, that He has provided a salvation sufficient for all and adapted to all and offered to all in the Gospel, and that every hearer of the Gospel is responsible for his dealing with the free and unrestricted offer of eternal life.
3. That while none are saved except through the mediation of Christ and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, who worketh when and where and how it pleaseth Him, while the duty of sending the Gospel to the heathen who are sunk in ignorance, sin and misery is imperative, and while the outward and ordinary means of salvation for those capable of being called by the Word are the ordinances of the Gospel, in accepting the Subordinate Standard it is not required to be held that any who die in infancy are lost, or that God may not extend His grace to any who are without the pale of ordinary means as it may seem good in His sight.
4. That in holding and teaching according to the Confession of Faith, the corruption of man's nature as fallen, this Church also maintains that there remain tokens of man's greatness as created in the image of God, that he possesses a knowledge of God and of duty - that he is responsible for compliance with the moral law and the call of the Gospel, and that although unable without the aid of the Holy Spirit to return to God unto salvation he is yet capable of affections and actions which of themselves are virtuous and praiseworthy.
5. That liberty of opinion is allowed on matters in the Subordinate Standard not essential to the doctrine therein taught, the church guarding against the abuse of this liberty to the injury of its unity and peace.
6. That with regard to the doctrine of the Civil Magistrate and his authority and duty in the sphere of religion as taught in the Subordinate Standard the church holds that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of the

Church, "and Head over all things of the Church, which is His body." It disclaims accordingly intolerant or persecuting principles and does not consider its office-bearers in subscribing the Confession as committed to any principle inconsistent with the liberty of conscience and the right of private judgement, declaring in the words of the Confession that "God alone is Lord of the conscience."

- (i i i) Any proposed revision or abridgment of the Subordinate Standard of the church or restatement of its doctrine or change of the formula shall before being adopted be remitted to the local assemblies and through them to the presbyteries, and no change shall be made without the consent of a majority of the local assemblies, three-fifths of the presbyteries of the whole church and a majority of three-fifths of the members present when the final vote of the General Assembly is taken.
- (iv) On any change being made in the Basis of Union in accordance with section (iii), if any congregation thereupon refuses to acquiesce in the change and determines to adhere to the original Basis of Union, the General Assembly is empowered (1) to allow such congregation to retain all its congregational property; or (2) to deal in such other way with the said property as to the Assembly may seem just and equitable.
- (v) Any proposed change in either of the two preceding sections (iii) and (iv) shall be made only under the provisions contained in section (iii).
- (vi) Formula to be signed by ministers and elders at their ordination or induction and by probationers on receiving licence: -

I own and accept the Subordinate Standard of this Church with the explanations given in the articles contained in the Declaratory Statement, as an exhibition of the sense in which I understand the Holy Scriptures, and as a Confession of my Faith. I further own the purity of Worship practised in this Church and the presbyterian government thereof to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto, and I promise that through the grace of God I shall firmly and constantly adhere to the same, and to the utmost of my power shall in my station assert, maintain, and defend the Doctrine, Worship and Government of this Church.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

- (i) There shall be a supreme court of the Church, which shall be called the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (i i) The General Assembly shall meet in such places as it shall itself determine, and it shall endeavour to arrange the business so as to meet only once in two years, but shall have power to meet oftener if found necessary; the place and time of the first meeting to be fixed by the Federal Assembly.
- (i i i) 1903 Min.67(1); 1916 Min.68; 1962 Min 122(5)(c): The General Assembly shall be representative, and shall consist of an equal number of ministers and elders; elected as hereinafter provided. Each State Assembly shall elect one minister and one elder for every sixteen sanctioned charges or portion thereof within its

bounds. A State Assembly may elect an alternate or alternates to take the place of a member or members who may be unable to attend, provided that any such change is certified by the Clerk of the State Assembly to the Clerk of the General Assembly prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

Each Presbytery shall elect one minister and one elder for every five sanctioned charges or portion thereof within its bounds. A presbytery may accept the resignation of a member or members who may be unable to attend, and elect another member or members, or may appoint alternates as in the case of State Assemblies, provided that any such change is certified by the Clerk of Presbytery to the Clerk of the General Assembly prior to the opening of the General Assembly.

Conveners of the General Assembly committees in presenting their reports, the office-bearers holding General Assembly appointments, such as the General Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Missions, the Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission, and the Chaplain-General, shall have all the rights of members of the General Assembly while the Assembly is discussing the reports of their respective committees, when they have not been elected members of the General Assembly of Australia.

- (iv) 1909 Min. 51; 1928 Min.; 1964 Min. 58(3); 1967 Min. 22(6)(c)(i): The General Assembly shall have functions Legislative; Administrative and Judicial, supreme with respect to 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, Christian Education, and Home Missions, and the publication of a National Church Journal in so far as hereinafter provided.
- (v) The judicial functions of the General Assembly in the cases hereafter stated shall be delegated to a Commission to be appointed at each ordinary meeting of the General Assembly, and which shall be called the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and hereinafter is called the Judicial Commission.
 - (a) The Judicial Commission shall hear all appeals to the General Assembly of Australia from State Assemblies in cases where a judicial process has been proposed, whether the decision has been for or against proceeding by such process, or where the decision on the case has been arrived at by a State Assembly in the course of judicial process. The decision of the Judicial Commission shall be final except in such cases where appeals or references involve the interpretation of Doctrine. In cases involving interpretation of Doctrine, the Judicial Commission shall hear the case and come to a preliminary judgement, which will not, however, take effect until it is reported to the General Assembly by whom it may be affirmed, reversed, varied, or suspended. In this review, instead of a record of the case the finding of the facts only by the Judicial Commission shall be reported to the General Assembly, but the records shall be laid upon the table of the Assembly. The Clerk of the Commission shall be responsible for certifying and forwarding to the Clerk of the General Assembly the preliminary judgement with such documents as are necessary in the case. The members of the Judicial Commission shall take no part in this review by vote or

otherwise in the General Assembly.

- (b) The Judicial Commission shall also receive and deal with all references from a State Assembly where a judicial process has been proposed as above, or entered upon. In all appeals or references the Commission shall have authority to deal with the whole case so as to dispose of it finally, subject to the above right of the General Assembly in cases involving Doctrine.
 - (c) The Judicial Commission shall be summoned to meet at a convenient time and place by the Moderator or Acting-Moderator. The Chairman of the Judicial Commission in each case shall be appointed by the Commission from among its own members at its first sitting, and until such appointment the Moderator or senior ex-Moderator present shall preside and constitute the Commission. Every decision of the Commission shall be deemed to be carried if a majority of the members of the Commission voting vote in favour of it. The Chairman shall have a deliberative, but no casting vote. If the voting be equal the Chairman shall declare the motion lost. Where a point of order is raised by any member of the Commission the Chairman shall give a preliminary ruling which shall then be put to, and determined by vote of, the Commission.
 - (d) The Judicial Commission shall consist of 38 members, ministers and elders, 26 of whom shall be appointed on the nomination of the State Assemblies - eight by the Assembly of Victoria, eight by New South Wales, four by Queensland, two by Tasmania, two by South Australia and two by Western Australia, the remaining 12 by the General Assembly itself. Should an Assembly fail to nominate the General Assembly shall appoint in its stead; 16 shall form a quorum.
 - (e) The prosecutors in any case, or the appellants or respondents who plead at the bar of the Judicial Commission shall not, if they are members of the Commission, adjudicate in the case at any stage of the proceedings of the Judicial Commission. By prosecutors, appellants or respondents are to be understood those prosecuting or appealing or responding on their behalf, or acting on behalf of the lower court.
- (vi)
- (a) The General Assembly, at each ordinary meeting, shall appoint a body of assessors, whose members shall be other than the members of the Judicial Commission, to assist any Presbytery, or State Assembly, which may seek their aid in conducting any case involving a question of Life or Doctrine.
 - (b) The request for such assistance shall be made to the Moderator or Acting-Moderator, who shall appoint the assessors from among the body of assessors. The number of assessors so appointed shall not be less than three or more than six. A certificate of appointment over the signature of the Moderator or Acting-Moderator shall be deemed proof of appointment.
- (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. 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.
- (viii) There shall be a system of theological training for the whole church, as follows: -
1. **1974 Min.51(2) (The validity of the 1974 amendment may be in dispute):** All candidates for licence shall be students who have been regularly trained at some Theological Hall recognised by the General Assembly. 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 services of ordination and induction shall be construed that references therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women.
 2. 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.
 3. **1905 Min.41:** Professors shall be elected to vacant chairs by the State Assembly maintaining the said chairs.
 4. **1967 Min.22(6)(b):** The course of study in each Hall shall extend over a period of three years, and shall include the subjects of Hebrew and Old Testament exegesis, New Testament Greek and exegesis, apologetic, church history, systematic theology, and pastoral theology and training, and such other subjects as may from time to time be prescribed.
 5. **1928 Min.:** Candidates for admission to a Theological Hall shall produce evidence to the College Committee that they have obtained or qualified for a degree in some recognised university.

6. **1928 Min.; 1962 Min.122(5)(d):** Notwithstanding the provisions of (viii) 5 students who have obtained the prerequisites for entrance to a Theological Hall may be admitted.
7. **1928 Min.; 1962 Min.122(5)(d):** The prerequisites for entrance for a Theological Hall shall be such as are approved from time to time by the General Assembly.
8. **1962 Min.122(5):** (Repealed)
9. **19__ Min.; 19_____ Min.122(5)(b):** A Committee on Theological Education, to be known as the College Committee, shall be appointed by the General Assembly, and shall have an executive meeting in one of the university seats. Of this Committee, the Professors and Lecturers shall be members ex officio. It shall deal with all matters pertaining to the training of the students and the studies in the Halls.
10. **1905 Min.41:** Each State Assembly within whose bounds a Theological Hall is situated shall appoint annually a Theological Hall Committee, with authority over the general management and finances of the Hall, and to deal with all matters which concern the interests of the Hall that are entrusted to it by its own Assembly and by the General Assembly. These Committees shall report to the General Assembly through its Committee.
11. In order to the settlement of all other matters pertaining to the Theological Halls, the Federal Assembly at its last meeting, or the General Assembly at its first meeting, shall appoint a Committee which shall include among its members all the recognised Theological Professors or Lecturers of the several Churches, and the Conveners of the now existing Boards of Examination, whose first duty shall be to inquire into the course of study, the provision for, and the methods of, instruction in use in the several Halls of the Churches; to draft, provisionally, a common course of study adapted as far as possible to the means and methods in use in the several halls; and to consider what modifications of these may be necessary in order to secure the attainment of a common standard; and to report on all these matters to the General Assembly, the present mode of examination remaining in status quo until such arrangements have been completed and approved by the General Assembly.

(ix)

1905 Min.41; 1967 Min.22(6)(a) (This article editorially was given No. X and Christian Education IX but the no. was never lawfully changed from IX in original article)(Article on Christian Education repealed 1979 Min.17(1)(b). Now merely a matter of Regn. 1982 Min.14(1)): Ministers from other denominations shall be admitted to the United Church only by the General Assembly; those from other Presbyterian Churches either by the General Assembly, or by the State Assembly, or by such Committee as have the power delegated to them, and in accordance with rules framed so as to secure uniformity of method of admission. Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia who have undertaken missionary service under the Board of Missions and have put themselves under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the church within which they are working and licentiates of the Presbyterian Church of Australia who have undertaken missionary service under the Board of Missions and have placed themselves under the ecclesiastical

jurisdiction of the church within which they are to work and received ordination at their hands, shall be received immediately by such committee as has power delegated to it, upon the presentation of a certificate of status from the Church in which they have been serving and a certificate of good conduct from the Board of Missions.

(x) Reports of a full and definite kind shall be forwarded to the General Assembly from each State Assembly on all matters pertaining to the work and welfare of the Church, including Home Mission, Sabbath Schools, and the State of Religion and Morals; and it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to consider these, and to issue recommendations, when that is deemed advisable, with regard to them; the General Assembly shall further be free, in conjunction with the State Assembly, to originate new Home Mission Schemes, and to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to raise money and otherwise assist the Home Mission operations of the church.

(xi) **1905 Min. 41:** The State General Assemblies shall retain their present names, and their autonomy shall not be further interfered with than is needful to give effect to the Basis of Union and the Articles of Agreement.

(xii) **1905 Min. 41:**

1. A fund shall be formed for the purposes of defraying the working expenses of the General Assembly, and such part of the travelling expenses of the members as the General Assembly may from time to time determine, and this fund shall be contributed to by the State Assembly in such proportions as the General Assembly may from time to time determine.

1920 Min. 65:

2. It shall be lawful for the General Assembly, if it thinks fit, to make or secure financial provision for the benefit of Ministers of the Church incapacitated by age or infirmity, and of the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers of the Church, and without limiting the generality of the preceding power to form a fund or funds for the said purposes or any of them, and also to require Ministers of the Church to contribute towards any such provision or fund, and to require congregations or churches to contribute thereto in respect of Ministers of such congregations or in the employment of such churches connected therewith, and to determine the amount of contributions, and also to legislate or pass regulations in respect of any of the matters hereby authorised:

Provided that no Minister within the jurisdiction of a State Assembly connected with or liable to join a Beneficiary or Provident Fund thereof shall be required to contribute to any financial provision or fund of the General Assembly hereunder without the consent of the State Assembly.

(xiii) **1905 Min.41. There is no article numbered, (xiv):** The Articles of Agreement may be altered or added to from time to time, but not without the consent of the majority of the Presbyteries of the whole Church and a majority of the State Assembly.

(xv) **1957 Min.168:** The General Assembly at each ordinary meeting shall appoint a Committee for the management and administration of the Missions to the Jews whose

duties and authority shall be from time to time prescribed by rules, regulations or resolutions of the Assembly and until otherwise prescribed shall subject to review or instruction by the General Assembly be such as the Jewish Mission Committee of the Assembly at present performs and exercises.

(xv) **ACT Repeated 1979 Min. 17(1).**

(xvi) 1957 Min. 168: The ecclesiastical authority as regards the nomination discharge and control of Chaplains in the Naval, Military and Air Services of the Commonwealth of Australia at home or abroad is vested in the General Assembly which at each ordinary meeting of the Assembly shall appoint a Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee with such constitution powers and duties as the General Assembly may from time to time, by rule, regulation or resolution prescribe. The General Assembly may also delegate such portions of its authority in the matter as it shall deem fit to the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee of the Presbyterian Churches in the several States of the Commonwealth (or any of them) and co-operate with those Committees and the Assemblies of Presbyterian Churches in the respective States in all matters conducive to the satisfactory conduct and control of the work of the Chaplains.

(xvi i) **1957 Min. 168:** The General Assembly shall have authority to promote and assist the social and religious welfare of immigrants to Australia and the territories thereof and for these purposes to co-operate with the Presbyterian Churches of the several Australian states and Great Britain and Ireland, the Reformed Churches of Europe, and such other Churches in those or other countries as the General Assembly's Committee having authority in the matter of immigration may, subject to review or instruction by the General Assembly from time to time approve.

(xvi ii) **1957 Min. 168:** The General Assembly at each ordinary meeting shall appoint a Committee to examine and report upon the methods adopted by the Presbyterian Churches throughout the Commonwealth for insurance against fire and other risks to buildings owned or controlled by those Churches indemnity against such risks and the reinstatement of buildings destroyed or damaged by fire or other causes and to co-operate with the authorities of such churches or any of them for union of interests joint or federal control or mutual association in respect of any of the matters aforesaid.

(xvi i ia) **1967 Min. 22(6)(c)(ii):** The General Assembly at each ordinary meeting shall appoint a Committee on a National Church Journal to manage the publication of a National Presbyterian Journal according to regulations to be enacted and amended from time to time by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER 11

THESE STANDING ORDERS WERE ENACTED BY THE 1964 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

The Assembly resolved to:

"Recommend these Standing Orders to State Assemblies as a guide to any revision of their Standing Orders, that greater uniformity may be obtained in the procedures of the several Assemblies."

STANDING ORDERS

Definitions:-

1. (a) "Assembly" means the General Assembly in session.
- (b) "Court" means General Assembly, or State Assembly, or Presbytery, or Session.
- (c) "House" means a Court, either in session or in Committee of the Whole.
- (d) "Chair" means either the Moderator or the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.
- (e) "Leave of the House" means leave without any negative voice, except when otherwise stated.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Quorum

2. No business shall be transacted in the General Assembly except in the presence of at least sixteen members, who representing more than one of the State Assemblies, and at least one-half of whom are ministers.

Meetings, how constituted

3. All meetings of the General Assembly and their Committees shall be opened and closed with prayer, and the fact of their having been so opened and closed shall be recorded in the Minutes.

Sittings of Inferior Courts

4. No inferior court of which a member has been commissioned to the General Assembly shall sit during the sittings of the General Assembly, except by permission of the General Assembly.

Moderator

5. The General Assembly shall be presided over by a Moderator, duly elected, who shall have a casting vote but no deliberative vote.

Moderator absent

6. In the General Assembly the Moderator for the current term shall preside, or in his absence the Chair shall be taken by the ex-Moderator or, if he also should be absent, by a predecessor, or a member appointed by the Court.

Recognising the Chair

7. In the General Assembly members and associated members shall, when entering the House, passing the Chair, or retiring, bow to the Chair.

Clerk

8. The General Assembly shall have its Clerk, usually, but not necessarily, a member of the Court, who shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, and supply extracts of the proceedings when duly called for. The Clerk is elected by and holds office at the will of the court. A Clerk in accepting office shall make the declaration de fidei (which is as follows: "I do solemnly affirm and declare that I will faithfully discharge the duties now entrusted to me.")

Associated members

9. Ministers of settled charges and bona fide acting elders, who are members of other Courts of equal standing, Missionaries while under engagement by the Board of Missions who are on furlough and who are ordained elders or ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and full-time Chaplains to the Defence Forces of the Commonwealth under appointment by the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee of the General Assembly of Australia and who are ordained ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, if they are not already representative of a State Assembly or Presbytery, may be associated with the General Assembly.

Privileges of Associates

10. Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of members except that they shall not move or second a motion or amendment, vote on any question, or occupy the Chair.

Minutes confirmed

11. When the Minutes are submitted for confirmation, no question shall be raised regarding them except such as concerns their accuracy as a record of the proceedings.

Permanent Records

12. The permanent records of the General Assembly shall be those confirmed in the presence of the Court or by a Commission appointed and authorised to confirm them.

Extract Minutes

13. No extracts from the Minutes shall be given by the Clerk without the leave or instruction of the Court; and the fees to be charged for such extracts shall be fixed by the Court.

BUSINESS PROCEDURE

Order of Business

14. In the General Assembly after the first sederunt the order of business shall be: -
 - (a) At forenoon sederunts:
 - (i) Confirmation of the Minutes of the proceedings of the previous day.

- (ii) Reasons of Dissent from any of the decisions recorded in the Minutes so confirmed, and the necessary procedure connected therewith.
 - (iii) Leave to print and circulate notices of motion relative to matters to be brought forward at some future sederunt.
 - (iv) The various items of business in the order arranged by the Business Committee and approved by the court.
 - (v) Applications from Presbyteries for authority to meet, and the announcement of meetings of committees.
- (b) At evening sederunts:
- (i) Report of Business Committee relative to next day.
 - (ii) Leave to print and circulate notices of motion.
 - (iii) Business as previously arranged by the Business Committee and approved by the Court.
 - (iv) Announcements relative to Presbyteries and meetings of Committees.

Orders of the Day

15. The items of business, as arranged by the Business Committee and approved by the Assembly, shall constitute the Orders of the Day.

Variation of Orders of the Day

16. The Assembly may, from time to time during a Sederunt, if it deem it necessary, vary the Orders of the Day for that sederunt by a motion, without notice and without debate.

Order of the Day varied

17. A motion to vary the Orders of the Day may be made only at the interval between items of business.
18. When the Order of the Day is reached, it shall be called for by the Moderator.
19. No business shall be introduced to the Assembly by any member until it is called for by the Moderator.

Reports and Deliverance

20. Committees of the General Assembly shall submit to the Assembly a written report; recommendations for action shall be appended in a proposed Deliverance; such reports and proposed deliverance shall be printed and circulated among members of the Assembly at least one day before they are considered.

Recommendations

21. No recommendation in any report shall be held as adopted unless it shall have been definitely set forth in the deliverance and approved by the Assembly.
22. Printed reports shall be held as read unless the Assembly desire otherwise.

Questions

23. Relevant questions may be put by any member through the Moderator to the Convener of a Committee when the report is before the Assembly, and also after the deliverance as a whole has been moved and seconded.

NOTIONS AND ANENDMENTS

Substantive Motion

24. A substantive motion refers to business which does not arise from the report of any Committee. It shall be written and handed to the Business Convener normally at least one sederunt before it is considered by the Assembly. A substantive motion may, by leave of the House, be moved without notice.

Amendments

25. Motions shall be amended (a) by leaving out certain words, (b) by leaving out certain words in order to insert or add other words, (c) by inserting or adding certain words.

Negative

26. A direct negative to a motion shall not be a competent amendment.

Incompetent Amendments

27. No amendment shall be proposed in any part of a motion after a later part has been amended, or in any words the House has resolved shall stand part of a motion, or has inserted in or added to a motion, except the addition of other words thereto.

Amendments to Amendments

28. An amendment may be moved to an amendment that has been moved and seconded as if the first amendment were an original motion.

Notices of Motion

29. Notices of Motion shall be written and handed to the Business Convener at least one sederunt before the matter to which it is related is before the Assembly. Amendments on a proposed deliverance, motion or amendment of which due notice has been given shall be printed and circulated.

Amendments without notice

30. An amendment may be moved without notice if in the opinion of the Moderator it arises in the course of a debate and does not alter the substance of the motion; should the Moderator rule that the proposed amendment affects the substance of the motion, it shall require, in addition to the Moderator's ruling that it has arisen in the course of debate, the leave of the House.

When seconded

31. Except in Committee of the Whole, a motion or amendment shall be seconded before it can be debated or put to the vote.

Reserving a speech

32. No member who moves or seconds a motion or amendment shall have the right to reserve his speech to a later stage of the debate.

Members giving notice absent

33. If, when the motion of which notice has been given is called for by the Moderator, the member who gave notice is absent, another member may move the motion: or the court may postpone the motion. Otherwise the motion lapses.

Motion lapses if not seconded

34. When the mover of the motion or amendment has finished his speech, his motion or amendment shall forthwith be seconded; if there is no seconder, it lapses and shall not be recorded in the minutes.

Notice withdrawn

35. If a member withdraws a notice of motion given in, he shall do so without remark, and such motion shall not be recorded in the minutes.

Motions withdrawn by leave of the House

36. A motion or amendment, duly made and seconded, shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the House and at the request of the mover, with the consent of the seconder; and any amendment to such motion shall first be withdrawn or negatived.

Motions - not recorded

37. A motion or amendment ruled not competent shall not be recorded in the minutes, except when the ruling of the Chair has been challenged and voted on.

Notice changed

38. No change shall be made in the terms of a notice of motion after it is given in, except by leave of the House; but a member has the right to alter his motion provided notice of the alteration be given at least one sederunt before it comes before the House.

No change without leave

39. After a motion or amendment has been moved, no change shall be made in its terms without leave of the House.

Amendments put first

40. Amendments shall be put before the motions to which they refer.

Debate thereon

41. When an amendment is before the House, the debate shall be strictly confined to such amendment.

PROCEDURE IN DEBATE**Members called**

42. When a member desires to speak, he shall rise in his place, but shall not speak until he is called on by the Chair. A member speaking in the Assembly shall address the Chair only.

Speak more than once

43. Each member may speak once to each question in debate, whether a motion or an amendment; but no member shall speak more than once to the same question, except (a) in explanation, (b) in stating and asking the ruling of the Chair on a point of order, (c) in reply at the close of a debate, if he is the mover of the original motion, and (d) in Committee of the Whole.

Mover of amendment

44. A member who has spoken to the main question shall not afterwards move an amendment on it, but he may second or speak to an amendment moved by another member.
45. A mover of an amendment shall not afterwards speak to the main question.

Moderator leaves the Chair

46. The Moderator or Chairman of the Committee of the Whole shall take no part whatever in any debate. If he wish to speak to any question or to give in a report of a committee, he shall leave the Chair. He shall also leave the Chair when any case arises in which he is a party.

The Moderator standing

47. When the Moderator or Chairman shall rise in his place, all members shall forthwith resume their seats and shall remain silent so that the Moderator or Chairman may be heard without interruption.

Interruptions

48. No member shall interrupt a speaker except for one or other of the following purposes:-
- (a) to state a point of order and to ask for a ruling of the Chair on it;
 - (b) to call attention to a breach of the privileges of the House;
 - (c) to make a personal explanation;
 - (d) to move that the House sit in private;
 - (e) to move the adjournment of the debate;
 - (f) to move the "Previous Question";
 - (g) to object to language deemed objectionable or reflecting on character.

Points of Order

49. Points of order must refer strictly to the order of the proceedings of the House.
50. A member raising a point of order shall simply state it and no other member shall speak at this stage.
The Moderator shall then
 - (a) forthwith rule on the point
 - (b) ask certain members whom he selects to state their views on it, and afterwards rule on the point; or
 - (c) refer it to the House for decision by debate and vote.

Ruling of the Chair challenged

51. When the ruling of the Chair is challenged, the member who questions the ruling may be heard for not more than five minutes and, the Moderator or Chairman having been heard in reply, the vote shall be taken without further discussion.

Privilege

52. Questions of privilege take precedence over all other business and may at any time be brought forward by any member.
53. Questions of privilege must refer strictly to matters directly affecting the privileges of the Court or its members, which matters have recently emerged and call for present interposition.
54. If a question of privilege is brought forward in Committee of the Whole, the Committee shall forthwith report it to the court which alone can deal with questions of privilege.

The "Previous Question"

55. The "Previous Question" may be moved at any stage in a debate after the motion in debate has been moved and seconded, but not by anyone who has spoken to the main question or to an amendment thereupon.
56. The "Previous Question" shall be moved and seconded without debate and shall forthwith be put to the vote.
57. The "Previous Question" must refer to the whole matter before the House. It cannot be moved in a Committee of the whole House or in a Select Committee.
58. The carrying of the "Previous Question" shall mean that the court does not consider it expedient to discuss further, or to give a deliverance on, the matter before the House; and the effect shall be that the court forthwith departs from that matter and takes up the next order of the day.
59. The negating of the "Previous Question" shall not preclude its being moved again during the same debate.

Adjournments, etc.

60. A motion for the adjournment of (a) the debate, or (b) the court, or a motion in the Committee of the Whole "that the Committee report" may be made at any time and without notice.
61. Such a motion shall be put to the vote without debate.
62. The negating of such motion shall not preclude its being moved again during the same debate or sederunt.
63. The adjournment of a debate may be moved by any member, including the member who is at the time speaking to the question in debate.
64. When an adjourned debate is resumed, the right of speaking first shall belong to the member whose speech was interrupted by the adjournment. If no speech was interrupted, the right of speaking first shall belong to the mover of the adjournment, provided that he has not already spoken to the question, whether a motion or an amendment, which was in debate when the adjournment was moved.

Closed doors

65. The General Assembly may at any time close its doors and sit in private in consequence of a ruling by the Chair, or of a motion made, seconded and put to the vote without debate; but cases or questions which have been discussed with closed doors in a lower court shall be so discussed in the higher court unless a motion to the contrary, duly made and seconded and put to the vote without debate, is carried.
66. The negating of such motion shall not preclude their being moved again during the same debate or sederunt.

Character affected

67. In dealing with cases or questions which have been declared by the Chair to affect character or partake of the nature of personal disputes or misunderstandings, the House shall deliberate and decide thereon in private unless a motion to the contrary, duly made and seconded, is carried; and every such motion shall be put to the House without discussion.

Personal explanation

68. A member may at any time make a personal explanation.

Explanation in debate

69. If a member makes an explanation during a debate, it shall refer exclusively to some statement or statements made by himself which, in his opinion, one or more of the speakers in the debate have misapprehended. No other matter whatsoever shall be introduced into an explanation during a debate.

Objectionable language

70. Language ruled objectionable shall be forthwith withdrawn and apologised for by the speaker and in a manner satisfactory to the House.
71. When language used in debate seems to any member to be objectionable, he may forthwith, but not later, raise a point of order concerning it and ask for the ruling of the Chair. He may also demand that the words be taken down. The Moderator or Chairman shall, without debate, forthwith put the question, "that the words objected to be taken down", and, if this question is resolved in the affirmative, he shall direct the Clerk to take them down as ground for such further action as the House may think fit to take.

Laws not to be reflected on

72. No member is allowed to reflect on any law or decision of the Assembly except for the purpose of moving in a legitimate form that it be altered or rescinded.

Speech in reply

73. After the speech in reply, which shall contain no new matter, there shall be no further debate. Before the speech in reply is begun, the Moderator shall distinctly declare that it is to be a reply on the debate, and that thereafter the debate will be closed. Any member entitled to speak has then an opportunity of speaking to the main question before the speech in reply.

The Closure

74. When it shall appear to the Moderator or Chairman, during any debate, that the motion, or any amendment on it, has been adequately discussed and that it is the evident sense of the House that the question be now put, he may so inform the House, distinctly stating at the same time whether it is to the debate on the amendment only or to the debate on both the amendment and motion that the closure is to be applied. A motion "That the question be now put" may then, but not till then, be made and seconded without any remark or discussion. The Moderator or Chairman shall forthwith put this motion and, if the same be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds, the Moderator or Chairman shall forthwith put to the vote the motion, or the amendment only, or the amendment and the motion, as the case may be, without further debate.

Mode of taking the vote

75. The Moderator or Chairman shall endeavour to put the question at every convenient opportunity. He shall state the motion or amendment or shall cause it to be stated by the Clerk. Any member not distinctly hearing the motion or amendment so stated may require it to be stated again.

The Moderator interrupted

76. When the Moderator or Chairman shall rise in his place to state or put the question, he may be interrupted by, and shall give way to, any member who wishes to speak to the question, except when the debate has been closed by a speech in reply or by the application of the closure. A member may so intervene up to the moment when the Moderator or Chairman utters the words "Aye" in putting the question to the voices.

VOTING

Member's vote

77. A member may vote on a motion though he has not voted on any amendment to it.

Uithin the House

78. No member can, by voice or otherwise, give a vote outside the barrier.

Vote taken

79. (a) By the voices

The Moderator or Chairman shall take the vote by the voices. He shall put the question in this form: "The question is: Shall this motion (or amendment) pass? All who are of that opinion say 'Aye.'" The "Ayes" shall then respond. The Moderator or Chairman shall further say, "All who are of the contrary opinion say 'No'." The "Noes" shall then respond. The Moderator or Chairman shall then say, as the case may appear to him to be, "I think the 'Ayes' (or the 'Noes') have it." If his opinion is acquiesced in by the silence of the House, he shall say "The 'Ayes' (or the 'Noes', as the case may be) have it", and the motion or amendment is passed or lost accordingly. Should there be no dissentient voice a unanimous vote may be recorded.

(b) By show of hands

If his opinion is challenged by one or more members saying "no", the vote shall be taken by a show of hands and the numbers shall not be recorded.

(c) By division or ballot

If the opinion of the Moderator is further challenged, the vote may be taken by either division or ballot.

Vote by ballot

80. A motion that the vote be taken by ballot shall be put without discussion and decided by a show of hands "for" or "against". Should such a motion be carried, it precludes the taking of the vote by a division. The result of a vote by ballot as reported to the Moderator in writing and declared by him to the House shall be final. The numbers shall be recorded in the minutes.

Vote by division

81. When a motion that the vote be taken by ballot has not been moved and carried any five members may demand a division. The names of those voting are recorded on the demand of five members, but numbers are recorded in any case.

When the vote is about to be taken by division, the bell shall be rung and after a lapse of two minutes the doors shall be locked and no one shall be allowed to enter or leave the House till the vote is taken. Two tellers on each side shall be appointed. Those "for" the motion or amendment shall go to the right and those "against" to the left of the Chair. The result of the division, as reported in writing to the Moderator and declared by him to the House, shall be final.

Casting vote

82. In the case of an equality of votes the Moderator or Chairman shall have a casting vote, but he usually votes so as to leave the matter voted on open for further consideration. He has no deliberative vote.

Questions not reconsidered

83. No question which has been decided at one sederunt of a court can be reconsidered at a subsequent sederunt during the same session.

DISSENTS

84. A member may dissent from any resolution of a court on which he has voted, and he has the right to have his dissent recorded in the minutes; also his reasons if given forthwith. But he shall not dissent from a resolution, which has been carried on the voices, or from a resolution affirming or negating any amendment, or from any resolution of the Committee of the Whole.
85. He may also, when the minute recording the dissent is brought forward for confirmation, give in, without comment, written reasons of dissent. These, provided they do not involve a breach of privilege, shall be received without debate and shall be kept in retentis.
86. The court may, if it thinks fit, give written answers to reasons of dissent, which answers shall be likewise kept in retentis. A motion to appoint a Special Committee to answer reasons of dissent shall be put to the vote without debate. The report of the Special Committee may be debated, and shall be dealt with as the court sees fit.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

87. By a motion put to the vote a court may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole.
- (a) All members of the court shall likewise be members of the Committee of the Whole.
 - (b) The court shall appoint the Chairman of the Committee.
 - (c) Separate minutes shall be kept of the proceedings.
 - (d) A motion need not be seconded.
 - (e) A member may speak more than once to the same question.
 - (f) No member may dissent from any resolution of the Committee.
 - (g) The proceedings shall be closed by the carrying of a resolution to report to the court on the matter committed, or to report progress and ask leave to sit again.
 - (h) The court shall forthwith resume, and the report of the Committee shall be given in.
 - (i) Thereport may be adopted with or without amendment, rejected, postponed, recommitted, or otherwise dealt with as the court sees fit. At this stage any member may exercise his privilege of dissent.
 - (j) Any of the other Standing Orders which are literally applicable to the proceedings of the court in session only shall, when applied to the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, be read along with and be modified by the provisions of this section.

OVERTURES, PETITIONS, REFERENCES ETC.

Papers transmitted

88. All overtures, returns on remits, and all papers transmitted by the inferior courts shall be in the form of Certified Extracts from the minutes of the said courts.

Questions

89. Relevant questions may be put by any member through the Moderator to (a) overturists, (b) petitioners, (c) parties stating References, and (d) parties in any case when they shall have completed their respective statement.

Parties at the Bar

90. Overturists who are not members of the Assembly, petitioners, and parties duly commissioned to state References, Complaints and Appeals shall take their places at the bar when called by the Moderator, and they shall not leave the bar until they are formally dismissed from it by the Moderator.

Two heard

91. References shall be stated, and overtures and petitions supported, by not more than two persons in each case.

Procedures in dissents and complaints and appeals

92. In dealing with an appeal or a complaint transmitted for its judgement a court: -
(a) calls the parties (i.e., appellants or complainants and the respondent court) to its bar;
(b) hears read the record of the case in the inferior court, and relative documents, or if they are printed, may take them as read;
(c) hears the appellants or complainants or, if there are more than two, the representatives to a number it determines;
(d) hears the respondents appointed by the inferior court;
(e) hears the appellants or complainants in reply;
(f) calls for questions from members of the court;
(g) after removing all parties from the bar, deliberates on the case before it.

When parties are removed from the bar, it is at the discretion of the court whether they be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

When the court has reached a decision or judgement, parties shall be recalled to the bar by the Moderator, who shall then announce to them the decision or judgement of the court.

No document may be read or appear among the papers of the court (printed or written) unless it was before the court of first instance, or was offered to it and rejected, and has thence come up regularly.

Protestation

93. When a complaint or an appeal has been fallen from, the respondent shall make a protestation to the effect and shall be entitled to receive an extract minute of the same.

"Sustain"; "Dismiss"

94. If a motion dealing with an overture, reference, complaint, or appeal is negatived, the matter is still before the House, and shall be disposed of by another motion. For instance, if a motion to "sustain" or "dismiss" is negatived, it shall be followed by another motion to "dismiss" or "sustain", or by any other relevant and competent motion, until the matter is disposed of.

Reference dismissed

95. If a reference is informal or frivolous, or if it clearly appears that the inferior court has not exhausted all its resources in the matter, the Assembly may dismiss the reference without entering upon the consideration of the substance of the reference.

Petitions

96. A motion to grant the prayer of a petition (which prayer includes the words "or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit") means that the court considers there are sufficient grounds in the petition to justify deliberation and decision. If the motion is approved, it is followed by another motion giving effect to the court's decision. If it is negatived, it is followed by a motion to "dismiss" the petition.

Documents in a case

97. All overtures, petitions, references, complaints and appeals, with all necessary relative papers, shall be printed and circulated among the members of the General Assembly at least one day before the business is taken up for discussion in the House. No other document shall be deemed part of the record unless it is expressly so ordered by a resolution duly moved, seconded and voted on. In complaints or appeals the expense of printing shall in the first instance be borne by the complainant or complainants or by the appellant or appellants, and by the party losing when the case is finally decided, unless remitted or distributed by the Assembly.

COMMITTEES - COMMISSIONS

Committees

98. The General Assembly shall appoint Standing and Special Committees and the conveners thereof.
- (a) Three members of a committee shall constitute a quorum.
 - (b) Motions need not be seconded.
 - (c) A member may speak more than once to the same question.
 - (d) The convener, without leaving the chair, may speak to a question and may move motions or amendments, and he shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
 - (e) A committee may, however, at any time resolve to be guided strictly by the formal Rules of Debate.
 - (f) Any member of a court has a right to be present at a meeting of any of its committees, whether standing or special, and may be associated.
 - (g) Reports of the proceedings of the committees shall not be published without their consent.

- (h) Any of the other Standing Orders which are literally applicable to the proceedings of a court shall, if applied to the proceedings of a standing or special committee, be read along with, and be modified by, the provisions of this section.

Commission

99. The General Assembly may appoint a Commission of one or more persons with full powers to deal with all matters submitted to it and any other urgent matters which may arise from time to time. When a Commission consists of two or more members, the Assembly appoints the Chairman.

STANDING ORDERS - SUSPENDED - AMENDED

Suspension of Standing Orders

100. These Standing Orders may be suspended in whole or in part by a motion, notice of which shall have been given at a previous sederunt, duly moved, seconded and carried, or by a motion without notice if the court be unanimous. The purpose or purposes for which it is proposed that the Standing Orders be suspended shall be distinctly stated.

Amendment of Standing Orders

101. Any proposal to amend or add to these Standing Orders shall be introduced to the General Assembly by overture only.

CHAPTER III

REGULATIONS

Election of Standing and Other Committees

- Principle of Election:** The Standing Committees of the Assembly shall consist of a Convener, the Executive comprising those members of the Committee who shall reside in the same State as the Convener and a minimum of one member who shall be representative of each of the State Assemblies together with the officers of the Assembly who shall be ex-officio of all Assembly Committees, Boards and Councils except where expressly excluded.
- Election by General Assembly:** The members of each Committee other than the members ex-officio shall be elected by the Assembly upon the nomination of the Committee and shall comprise wherever possible of an equal number of ministers and elders.
- Ballot:** In the event of any additional names being nominated, the General Assembly thereupon proceeds to election by ballot.
- Casual Vacancies:** Casual vacancies on any Standing Committee arising between meetings of the General Assembly shall be filled by the Committee or by the Executive, from the State from which the vacancy occurs.

5. **Committees and Numbers of Elected Members:**

(a) The following are the Standing Committees of the Assembly under the Articles of Agreement and the number of their elected members including Conveners:

Australian Presbyterian World Mission	12
Christian Education	12
College	12
Defence Forces Chaplaincy	9
Finance	15
Immigration	6
National Journal	12
Presbyterian Inland Mission	12
Public Worship and Aids to Devotion	9
Reception of Ministers	12

(b) The following are other Committees of the Assembly and the number of their elected members including Conveners :-

Church and Nation	12
Code	12
Relations with Other Churches	9
Stewardship and Promotion	9

6. **Finance:** Each Standing Committee of the General Assembly, and such other Committees whose work requires meetings which involve State representatives in travelling expenses for which no other financial arrangements are made, and Committees responsible for the Assembly's involvement in work and interests beyond the Assembly's jurisdiction (i.e. World Alliance of Reformed Churches) shall submit to the 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 or commitments per annum for the ensuing three years.
7. The Finance Committee shall consider these estimates and detailed statements and shall report with any recommendations to the General Assembly.
8. Any Committee not provided for, or of the opinion that its needs are not adequately met by the provisions of the Finance Committee may seek, by notice of motion, to amend the proposed Deliverance of the Finance Committee to make such provision.
9. **Time of Returns:** The Returns from the State Assemblies nominating members of these Committees require to be in the hands of the Convener of the respective Committees at least three (3) months before the meeting of the General Assembly.
10. **All Members of State Assemblies Eligible:** Members of State Assemblies, not being members of the General Assembly, may be nominated as members and Conveners of the General Assembly's Standing Committees.

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. **Function:** The function of the Committee will be to carry out the functions as listed in Article (vii) and otherwise to implement the decision of the General Assembly of Australia with respect to Presbyterian Missions.

2. **Responsibilities:**
 - (i) Distribution of all moneys received from 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.

3. **Composition:** The Committee shall consist of:-
 - () Convener appointed by the General Assembly of Australia;
 - (b) an executive consisting of the Convener plus eleven (11) 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.

4. **Duties and Conditions of Appointments:**
 - () The Convener shall be:-
 - (i) the Chief Executive Officer 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.

5. **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 Missions.

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.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. There shall be a committee called the Business Committee which shall consist of the Business Convener who is elected by the Assembly and holds office until he resigns or is superseded, the Moderator, the immediate Past Moderator, the Moderator Nominated, the Clerks and the Law Officers.
2. The Committee shall be responsible: -
 - (a) to report to the first sederunt of each Assembly the recommendations of the Committee anent -
 - (i) the times and places of Assembly meetings and general recommendations concerning the business to be brought before the session of Assembly;
 - (ii) the time to be allotted to speeches;
 - (iii) any other general recommendations for the conduct of Assembly business.
 - (b) to report daily to the Assembly the Committee's recommendations on the ordering of daily business.
 - (c) through the Convener to move the reception of each report as it comes before the House for debate;
 - (d) to ensure that all business is submitted to the Assembly in proper form, and that the Moderator is advised of the proposed business.
3. Parties having cases to submit to the Assembly may attend the meeting of the Committee when their matter is under consideration. All appeals, complaints or references not presented by appellants or complainants within the specified time are liable to be held as fallen from; but appeals, complaints or references may be presented afterwards provided sufficient cause can be shown why they were not lodged at the time specified. Parties whose appeals are rejected are notified thereof and have the right of appeal to the Assembly.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. The Committee 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.
2. The members from New South Wales shall constitute the executive.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The Committee 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.
6. The Committee shall particularly be responsible for issuing materials and publications, but without prejudice to State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions issuing publications within their jurisdictions.
7. The Finance Committee of the General Assembly is authorised to make funds available to the Committee for administrative purposes.
8. The Committee shall report to each General Assembly.

[B. B. 1982 Min. 14 (1)]

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. The name of the Committee shall be Committee on Church and Nation.
2. The Committee shall consist of:-
 - (a) those persons appointed by the New South Wales General Assembly from time to time to be the Executive of its Church and Nation Committee;
 - (b) the person appointed by the New South Wales General Assembly from time to time to be the Convener of its Church and Nation Committee;

and

- (c) as corresponding members, the person elected from time to time by other State Assemblies as conveners of public questions committees, however styled.

3. It shall be the function of the Committee to: -

- (a) consider all matters referred by the General Assembly and to take appropriate action;
- (b) report regularly to the Assembly on matters of public interest and Christian concern in respect of the welfare of the Church, community or nation;
- (c) foster research into matters of public interest as bear upon the mission and message of the Church, and to disseminate the results of such research.

[B. B. 1985 Min. 37(2)]

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

Admission to the Course of Training:

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

- (a) have been accepted by a Presbytery as "Candidates for the Ministry" and are recommended by the Presbytery and the State Committee responsible for Theological Education for Admission to the Course of Training;
- (b) submit adequate evidence that they have met the requirements specified in 2(c)

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

- (a) have been a member of this Church in full communion for at least six months prior to the date of application;
- (b) produce a certificate from the Presbytery within whose bounds the candidate resides, stating that, after careful inquiry, the Presbytery is convinced that the candidate's personal and spiritual gifts are such as to fit the candidate for the work of the ministry;
- (c) produce evidence that the candidate is qualified to commence degree studies.

The Course of Training:

3. The Course of Training shall include a Preparatory Course, and a Theological Hall Course. Both the Preparatory Course and the Theological Hall Course may, for sufficient reason, be part-time, provided the studies covered on a part-time basis are the same as those covered on a full-time basis. Candidates seeking to study on a part-time basis must secure the permission of the Faculty.

4. (a) The Faculty of each Theological Hall shall be responsible for assessing the progress of students in both Preparatory and Theological Hall Courses, and shall make annual reports to the College Committee on the progress of the student.
- (b) The College Committee
 - (i) may, on academic grounds, remove a candidate from the Course of training, on the advice of the State Committee responsible for theological education after the State Committee has consulted with the Presbytery concerned;
 - (ii) shall, on other than academic grounds, remove a candidate from the Course of Training on the advice of the Presbytery that Presbytery has terminated the candidature of the person concerned.
5. The Faculty (Senatus) shall direct candidates in their course of training.

Preparatory Courses:

6. For the Preparatory Course each candidate -
 - (a) (i) shall be encouraged to complete a tertiary degree as the normal requirement;
 - (ii) shall be required to complete two (2) years of tertiary degree level studies if under 35 or one (1) year of tertiary degree level studies if 35 or over;
 - (iii) who has previously completed non-directed tertiary degree level studies may be required to complete up to one (1) years directed study appropriate to the needs of the candidate in preparation for the Theological Hall Course.
 - (b) shall complete requirements in Scripture Knowledge and Shorter Catechism as set by the College Committee and assessed by the Faculty;
 - (c) shall be granted exemption when evidence is provided that such candidate possesses qualifications of an equivalent nature and standard.

Theological Hall Course -

7. The Theological Hall Course shall extend over three academic years. The College Committee shall be empowered on the recommendation of the Faculty to give appropriate credit towards this three years' requirement for previous studies pursued by candidates in other centres, provided that satisfactory evidence is forthcoming that such studies were of a nature and at a standard consistent with studies at the Theological Hall.
8. The Faculty shall include in the Course of Training the basic subjects listed in Article viii (4) of the Deed of Union, namely, "Hebrew and O.T. Exegesis; N.T. Greek and Exegesis; Apologetic; Church History; Systematic Theology; and Pastoral Theology and Training" (including Presbyterian Polity).

The Faculty shall prepare syllabi in these subjects and submit them to the College Committee for approval. The Faculty shall test candidates in these subjects at appropriate stages in their training by such means as examinations, critical exercises and theses. The Faculty may exempt candidates from Hebrew after the satisfactory completion of one year's study, reporting such exemption to the College Committee, but shall require such candidates to complete Old Testament Exegesis as an alternative to Old Testament Exegesis from the Hebrew.

The College Committee is empowered to give approval to extension courses but not to correspondence courses.

Exit Regulations -

9. The College Committee shall issue an Exit Certificate to a candidate when:
 - (a) The candidate has been certified by the Faculty as having completed the whole course of training to the satisfaction of the Faculty.
 - (b) The candidate has submitted two theses during the third year of the Theological Hall Course (although they may be prepared in the first, second or third years of this course), one a subject in Biblical Studies and one in Systematic Theology, Pastoral Theology or Church History, to be approved by the appropriate teacher in the Theological Hall and to be examined by an external examiner appointed by the College Committee and the Faculty concerned.

Special Cases:

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

Visitation of Theological Halls:

11. The College Committee shall arrange regular visitation to Theological Halls by visitors whom it appoints.

[B. B. 1982 Min. 81]

[B. B. 1985 Min. 105 (1), (2), (3)]

DEFENCE FORCES CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. Each Assembly shall appoint a committee of eight (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
 - (a) 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;
 - (b) offer advice on the appointment of Principal Chaplains within the three services, and on the appointment of Senior Chaplains Army;
 - (c) maintain an interest in and exercise pastoral care and oversight of Chaplains, service personnel and their families.

FINANCE REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS

1. There shall be a Standing Committee of the General Assembly named "Finance Committee".
2. The Finance Committee shall consist of fifteen members of which the State Assemblies shall nominate their proportion as follows: -

New South Wales	-	four (4)
Victoria	-	two (2)
Queensland	-	two (2)
South Australia	-	one (1)
Tasmania	-	one (1)
Western Australia	-	one (1)
3. The remaining four members are elected by the General Assembly by ballot after nomination in writing without reference to the State Assembly to which they belong.
4. Members of State Assemblies, not being members of the General Assembly of Australia, may be nominated as members and Convener of the Finance Committee.
5. The Convener of the Finance Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly.
6. The Executive of the Finance Committee shall consist of the members resident in the city in which the Convener resides.

7. The Executive of the Finance Committee shall exercise the powers of the Finance Committee in dealing with such financial matters as may arise between meetings of the General Assembly with the proviso that all members of the Finance Committee will be provided with copies of all minutes of the Executive of the Finance Committee.
8. The Finance Committee shall meet, if practicable, immediately prior to each session of the General Assembly of Australia at a time and place to be decided by the Executive or at any other time when six members of the Finance Committee request the Convener to call such a meeting, the time and place of such meeting being decided by the Executive.
9. In terms of Standing Order 98 three members of the Finance Committee or of its Executive shall form a quorum.
10. The Finance Committee shall supervise the general funds of the General Assembly of Australia and shall cause the books of account to be audited annually by the official Auditor appointed by the New South Wales State Assembly. Details of accounts shall be reported to the General Assembly.
11. The General Assembly or the Finance Committee may authorise other committees of the General Assembly to maintain separate books of account and to conduct banking accounts to provide for the general business of the Committee. No capital investment shall be undertaken by committees other than through the Finance Committee and Trustees duly appointed by the General Assembly of Australia. Such books of account as may be kept by other committees shall be audited annually by qualified Accountants approved by the Finance Committee and by the Official Auditor appointed by the New South Wales State Assembly. Balance Sheets and Revenue Statements duly audited, shall be forwarded promptly to the Convener, Finance Committee, and shall be reported to the General Assembly.
12. The Finance Committee shall manage the fund referred to in Article (xiii) and shall report thereon and recommend to the General Assembly the proportions to be contributed by State Assemblies to that fund.
13. The Finance Committee shall perform the functions assigned to it by the General Assembly. The Standing and other committees of the General Assembly of Australia whose work requires meetings which involve State representatives in travelling expenses for which no other financial arrangements are made and those responsible for the Assembly's involvement in work and interest beyond the Assembly's jurisdiction shall submit to the Convener of the Finance Committee two calendar months prior to the deadline for the material for the White Book an estimate being statements of income and expenditure anticipated per annum for the ensuing three years.
14. The Finance Committee shall appoint an acting Procurator or an acting Law Agent should such be necessary.
15. The Finance Committee shall undertake any other duties that the General Assembly may from time to time determine.

16. In ordinary circumstances, any proposals to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia for financial appeals in connection with national needs and disasters must be approved by the said General Assembly of Australia before implementation. In urgent or emergency circumstances such proposals must be approved by the Finance Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia before implementation. In each case the merits, purpose, timing, etc. of the appeal must be detailed in the submission.

Standing Orders 98
Article (x i i)
G. A. A. B. B. 1985 Min. 20(1)

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

The duties and responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

1. To negotiate with the States to seek uniform stipend levels throughout Australia to facilitate the transfer of Ministers from State to State in particular to the smaller States so that in translating they would not be disadvantaged by lower stipend levels, allowances and conditions;
2. To liaise between the various States on questions of Long Service Leave and to ensure that reciprocal arrangements were maintained so that if a Minister transferred from one State to another, his rights under Long Service Leave would be maintained and that he would be able to take his Leave when due and that the costs which were apportioned to a particular State would be met by that State;
3. To consider any matter placed before it by State Committees if that State Committee considered it would be in the best interests of the Church in the realm of ministry;
4. To examine and approve Terms of Appointment of all full-time ministerial appointments made by the General Assembly of Australia.

MODERATOR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. The General Assembly shall appoint a Committee to be called the Moderator's Nominating Committee which shall comprise the Moderator, the former Moderator of the General Assembly, and the Clerk of the Assembly. The Clerk is the Convener of the Committee. The Convener shall circulate to State Assemblies no later than 31st December, two (2) years prior to the Assembly, a request for a nomination from each for the office of Moderator; such nominations shall be in the hands of the Convener no later than 31st December next following. All nominations by State Assemblies shall have the written consent of the nominee which should accompany the nomination. The Convener then circulates to members of the Committee, the nominations of State Assemblies no later than 31st January preceding the Assembly for members to vote thereupon; such votes to be returned to the Convener no later than 28th February preceding the Assembly. The person receiving the majority of votes shall be declared to be the nominee of the Committee. Should no person receive a majority

of votes the Convener shall submit the two (2) names having the highest number of votes to members no later than 31st March; such votes to be returned no later than 30th April.

2. Should this procedure fail to provide a single nominee the Convener shall call a meeting of the members of the Committee to decide the matter no later than 31st May.
3. The Finance Committee shall make adequate provision to meet the costs of such travel and where necessary accommodation of members.
4. The Convener shall immediately intimate to the nominee advice of his nomination as Moderator.

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. There shall be a Special Committee of the General Assembly of Australia called the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee responsible to account to the General Assembly for its work.
2. (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, education 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.
3. The Committee shall consist of thirteen (13) members appointed by the General Assembly of Australia of whom six (6) shall come from N.S.W. (including the Convener appointed by the G.A.A.), two (2) from Queensland, and one (1) each from Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, plus the Executive Officer ex-officio. The Committee shall meet from time to time as determined by the Executive. The N.S.W. members shall constitute the Executive and shall meet at least quarterly. The Executive shall have power to fill vacancies between Assembly meetings.
4. The Executive shall administer the funds of the Presbyterian Inland Mission; the accounting of such shall be done in the General Office of the New South Wales Presbyterian Church; expenditure thereto shall be on the authority of the Convener, and/or the Executive Officer, and/or other person as authorised by the Executive; all funds (and property) shall be held by the Presbyterian Church (N.S.W.) Property Trust.
5. Authorise the Committee to appoint an Executive Officer if necessary, with title, terms and conditions approved by the Committee, such appointment, if made, be reported to the G.A.A. following the appointment.

[G. A. A. B. B. 1985 Min. 89(6)]

PUBLIC WORSHIP AND AIDS TO DEVOTION COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. The name of the Committee shall be "The Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion".
2. The Committee shall consist of a Convener and members elected by the Assembly.
3. The New South Wales members shall act as the executive, with members of other States as corresponding members.
4. It shall be the function of the Committee to: -
 - (a) advise the Assembly on trends in worship within and outside Australia;
 - (b) prepare and publish orders of service as guidelines for use in public worship (always under the authority of the Assembly)
 - (c) bring recommendations to the Assembly regarding all aspects of worship (both public and private) and implement such as are approved by the Assembly from time to time.

[G. A. A. B. B. 1985 Min. 50(3)]

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS

REGULATIONS

The Reception of Ministers Committee shall: -

- 1_e (a) be appointed under the provisions for Standing Committees and the members residing in the State of the Convener shall be the executive;
 - (b) receive from presbyteries (and in appropriate cases directly from the applicants) applications for reception into the Presbyterian Church of Australia from ministers or licentiates of other Presbyterian churches or ministers, preachers or pastors of other denominations;
 - (c) consider such applications and report the names of those who have been received under these regulations with relevant details;
 - (d) deal with applications, when authorised to do so by the following regulations, and request presbyteries having oversight to issue certificates of status to those whose applications have been approved by the committee;
 - (e) receive from presbyteries and report to the General Assembly on applications for admission to the Presbyterian Church of Australia from ministers and congregations conjointly or congregations alone of any other denomination.
2. **ministers and licentiates from specified Reformed Churches adopting the Presbyterian system of government:**
- (a) A Minister or Licentiate from any of the following churches:

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland
 The Presbyterian Church of Wales
 The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom
 The Church of Scotland
 The Free Church of Scotland
 The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland
 The Presbyterian Church of New Zealand
 The Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
 The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 The United Church of Canada
 The Presbyterian Church of South Africa
 The Netherlands Reformed Church (Nederlands Hervormde Kerk)
 The Hungarian Reformed Church (Magyar Reformatus Egyház)
 The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
 The Presbyterian Church in Korea
 The Presbyterian Church of Korea

who:

- (i) is directly commissioned by the appropriate committee of such Church;
- (ii) is directly commissioned by a committee appointed by any State Assembly or presbytery thereof for the selection of ministers;
- (iii) has accepted a call from a congregation regularly sustained by the Presbytery of the bounds;
- (iv) has been appointed to some ministerial office in the Church by an Assembly or presbytery;

shall be received at once by the Committee on receipt of evidence of such commission, call or appointment along with a certificate of status, and the presbytery within whose bounds he resides shall be notified accordingly.

- (b) A minister or licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia who has undertaken missionary service under the Board of Missions and who has been ordained and/or received into the church which he has served, on his permanent return to Australia from such service and on presenting a certificate of status from the Church in which he has been serving along with a certificate of good conduct from the Board of Missions, shall be received at once by the Committee and the presbytery within whose bounds he resides shall be notified accordingly and shall issue a certificate of a status.

3. Ministers and Licentiates from other Reformed Churches and other denominations:

- (a) Any minister, licentiate, preacher or pastor from Churches not specified in Rule 196 or from other churches desiring to be admitted as a minister or licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia shall prepare a Petition to the General Assembly in the form approved by the Committee which shall set forth the applicant's age, place of birth, course and manner of education, previous history (including details of previous employment of whatever kind) and all particulars bearing on his character and general eligibility.

(t>) The petition shall be presented through a Presbytery of the Church, and shall be accompanied by documentary evidence in support of it to the satisfaction of the Presbytery.

(c) The Presbytery shall:

(i) examine the petition and accompanying documents and may hear the applicant in support of his petition;

(ji) satisfy itself that at the time of the presentation of the petition he has severed his connection with the Church (or denomination) with which he had been previously connected and has become a communicant member of the Presbyterian Church at least six months prior to the presentation of the petition, and satisfy itself that the applicant was under no censure or liability to censure at the time of severing his connection with his former Church on any moral or doctrinal grounds which would be incompatible with the Christian Faith as held by the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

(d) The Presbytery, if satisfied on the foregoing points and as to the general suitability of the petitioner, may recommend him to the Home Mission or other appropriate Committee of the State Assembly for temporary employment, but any temporary employment by the Church shall not be held to commit the General Assembly to receive the applicant as a minister or licentiate.

(e) The Presbytery shall transmit the petition and all relevant documents, with a recommendation favourable or otherwise to the Committee at least three months before the meeting of the General Assembly.

(f) The Committee, upon receipt of the documents from Presbytery shall investigate the case and shall confer with the applicant directly or through commissioners. It shall prepare a written report which shall include the recommendation of the presbytery and forward it to the Clerk of Assembly at least one month prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

(g) The Clerk shall have the reports printed as a confidential paper and they shall be placed in the hands of members of the Assembly at least twenty-four hours before the Assembly shall deal with them in private session.

4. Proviso re Petitions from Presbyterian Ministers and Licentiatees not specified:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 3 in the case of a petition from a Minister or Licentiate of a Presbyterian Church not specified in Regulation 2, or the case of a minister of one of the Presbyterian Churches specified in Regulation 2, not commissioned, called or under appointment, the provisions of Regulation 3 shall be modified as follows: -

If the interval between receipt of the Petition and the meeting of the General Assembly exceeds twelve months the Committee may:

(a) receive the petitioner if all documents and the interview are to its satisfaction and the presbytery reports favourably, notify the presbytery in whose bounds he resides and requests it to issue a certificate of status; or

<b) require of the petitioner, if it is not entirely satisfied as to the suitability of the petitioner, a period of temporary service as a probationary period under the appointment of the Home Mission or other appropriate committee of the State and, upon completion of this period, if the report of the presbytery is satisfactory, receive him, notify the presbytery having oversight and request it to issue a certificate of status.

5. **Action on Petitions in the General Assembly and thereafter:**

(a) In the case of ministers or licentiates of Presbyterian Churches, if the Assembly grant the prayer of the petition, the applicant is received as a minister or licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and is eligible for a Call. The Clerk shall notify the Presbytery having jurisdiction and request it to issue a certificate of status.

(b) (i) In the case of ministers or licentiates from other denominations, if the Assembly grant the prayer of the petition, they shall determine whether it is necessary for the applicant to receive Ordination at the hands of a Presbytery, and the applicant shall spend at least one year in attendance at one of the Theological Halls of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and/or fulfil such requirements as shall be determined by a Faculty of a Theological Hall which he attends subject to the approval of the College Committee. Provided that the General Assembly in any particular case may deal with the petition in any such other way as they shall determine.

(ii) Upon completion of the requirements of the General Assembly and upon the Committee receiving a satisfactory report from the College Committee and the faculty or Senatus of the petitioner's work, it shall notify the Home Mission Committee of the State that the petitioner is eligible for appointment under the provisions for the appointment of exit students and request the Presbytery having jurisdiction to require the petitioner to sign the formula, and to issue a certificate of status, after which the petitioner shall be eligible for a Call.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROMPT IOH COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS

1. The name of the Committee shall be "The Committee on Stewardship and Promotion".
2. The Committee shall be elected by the Assembly by means of a clause in the Deliverance.

The Committee shall consist of six (6) members from New South Wales (including the Convener) and one each from the other states.

3. The New South Wales members shall act as the executive, with members of other States as corresponding members.

4. It shall be the function of the Committee to:

- (a) monitor stewardship trends and principles within and outside Australia and report on these from time to time;
- (b) provide guidance as required on stewardship principles and practice;
- (c) promote Christian stewardship concepts throughout the Church;
- (d) inform the Assembly of trends in Church growth throughout the Church and make appropriate recommendations from time to time.

[G. A. A. B. B. 1985 Min. 44(4)]

CHAPTER IV

REGULATIONS

LAM OFFICERS

1. The Procurator:

- (a) The Procurator shall be a Barrister-at-Law of one of the States of the Commonwealth or of the High Court of Australia, and a Communicant or Adherent of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy by death or otherwise, or in the event of the Procurator becoming incapacitated by mental or bodily infirmity, until the Assembly shall otherwise provide by rule regulation or resolution pursuant to notice, the Finance Committee shall, if necessary, make an appointment of an Acting Procurator which shall be valid until the meeting of Assembly.
- (c) In the event of the Procurator being absent from the Commonwealth, the Finance Committee shall have power to appoint an acting Procurator, and during such absence the Acting Procurator shall have all the power and authority of the Procurator.
- (d) On the occurrence of a vacancy by death or otherwise, the Procurator shall be appointed by the Assembly, by a resolution of which notice has been given at least two Sederunts.
- (e) The Procurator may be removed from office by the Assembly, on an Overture from a State Assembly, a Presbytery, or a Standing Committee of the Assembly.
- (f) Further, the Procurator shall advise the Assembly, when in Session, with regard to all matters concerning which the Assembly, by motion duly made and carried, may request him to give advice; and he shall consider and report upon all matters submitted to him by the Assembly.
- (g) The Procurator shall advise all Presbyteries and Standing or Special Committees of the Assembly on any matter on which they desire his opinion, or on a case being submitted to him by the Law Agent of the Church.

- (h) The Procurator shall revise all Libels, and no Libel shall be deemed relevant that has not been revised by him [322(77)].
- (i) The Procurator shall hold a general retainer for the Church and shall act as Counsel for the Church in all cases in which any question affecting the rights and interests of the Church shall come before Parliament or the Law Courts, and when so acting shall be entitled to the ordinary professional fees.
- (j) Except as aforesaid, no remuneration shall attach to the office of Procurator.

2. **THE LAW AGENT**

- (a) The Law Agent of the Church shall be a Solicitor of one of the States of the Commonwealth of Australia or of the High Court of Australia and a Communicant or Adherent of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy by death or otherwise, or in the event of the Law Agent becoming incapacitated by mental or bodily infirmity until the Assembly shall otherwise provide by rule regulation or resolution pursuant to notice, the Finance Committee shall, if necessary, make an appointment of an Acting Law Agent which shall be valid until the meeting of Assembly.
- (c) In the event of the Law Agent being absent from the Commonwealth, the Finance Committee shall have power to appoint an acting Law Agent, and during such absence the Acting Law Agent shall have all the power and authority of the Law Agent.
- (d) On the occurrence of a vacancy by death or otherwise, the Law Agent shall be appointed by the Assembly, by a resolution of which notice has been given at least two Sederunts.
- (e) The Law Agent may be removed from office by the Assembly, on an Overture from a State Assembly, a Presbytery, or a Standing Committee of the Assembly.
- (f) The Law Agent shall advise all Presbyteries and Standing or Special Committees of the Assembly on any matter on which they may desire his opinion; and he shall when requested to do so, submit a case for the Opinion of the Procurator. The Law Agent may, at any time he shall deem it advisable, consult and obtain the opinion of the Procurator on any matter on which the former is or shall be acting as Law Agent of the Church.
- (g) The Law Agent shall act as Solicitor for the Church generally. For preparing all deeds and documents (other than written opinions, and other than cases for the opinion of the Procurator), for investigating titles, and for conducting, prosecuting, and defending all petitions, actions and suits, the Law Agent shall be entitled to charge the usual professional fees.
- (h) Except as hereinbefore provided, no fees shall be charged by the Law Agent.

CHAPTER V

RIGHTFUL SUBJECTS OF BAPTISM. 1906

At the General Assembly (1905) attention was drawn to the following facts, viz., that a difference of view exists in the Church with respect to the children who should be regarded as rightful subjects of Christian Baptism, and a diversity of practice among those with whom lies the duty of administering this ordinance.

The Assembly regarded the matter as sufficiently important to appoint a Committee to draw out a short statement of the Church's doctrine on the subject, together with such instructions as might be helpful in guiding Ministers and Church Sessions.

The view of the Church with regard to the children to whom baptism should be administered is explicitly stated in the Confession of Faith and in the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

The Shorter Catechism, Question 95, says:

"Infants of such as are members of the visible Church are to be baptised."

The Larger Catechism, Question 166 says:

"Infants descending from parents, either or both professing faith in Christ, are to be baptised."

The Confession of Faith (Chapter XXVIII. Section IV) says:

"Not only those that do actually profess Christ, but also the infants of one or both believing parents are to be baptised."

This view which makes Christian faith on the part of at least one of the parents essential to the validity of the ordinance, is the only one which is in accordance with the nature of the ordinance as that is set before us in the Scriptures. As great spiritual truths are symbolised in this ordinance, and obligations of a special kind with regard to the training of the children are incurred, by those who receive baptism for their children, to administer this Sacrament to the children of such parents as are without Christian faith, degrades the ordinance to a meaningless form, and brings parents under responsibilities which they are unable to discharge.

The Assembly therefore, would counsel Ministers and Sessions to take heed that the ordinance be administered only to the children of such parents as are one or both communicants of the Church, or who, being themselves baptised, make such a profession of faith as would entitle them to become full members of the Church and partakers of the Lord's Supper.

They would further suggest that the following questions, or questions of a similar kind, be put to those who are not communicants of a Christian Church, who are seeking to have their children baptised:

- (i) Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world. Who in His love gave His life for the world's redemption, and in the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier?
- (ii) Do you believe in the Christian Church as an institution founded by Christ, in which all who are regularly baptised have a place as members?

- (iii) Do you engage to bring up your child (or children), as far as you are able, in the knowledge of God and of His holy will?
- (iv) Do you agree so to order your lives as will set before your child an example of holy living?

REGULATIONS

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

BY HOME MISSIONARIES

1. Chapter XXVIII, Section IV, of the Confession of Faith is as follows:

There be only two Sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel, that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord; neither of which may be dispensed by any but by a Minister of the Word lawfully ordained.

It was amended (G.A.A. Blue Book,, 1916, Minute 70) so that it reads:

"There be only two Sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel, that is to say, Baptism and Supper of the Lord: neither of which may be dispensed by any but a Minister of the Word lawfully ordained (saving where the General Assembly has made special provision to the contrary that the people of God may not be left without these sealing ordinances).

2. **Administration by Home Missionaries, 1959 Min.128(6): Administration of Sacraments:** That the Assembly in view of the fact that in some parts of the Commonwealth it is not meantime possible to obtain the services of an ordained Minister of the Word, hereby authorise as a temporary administrative arrangement, to meet such need, and until such need be supplied, that Home Missionaries who have completed the first year of the Course of Training for the Ministry, or other such training, as is accepted by the College Committee as equivalent thereto, or have completed five years in the Home Mission or Australian Inland Mission or Aboriginal Mission Service, and have been specially recommended by the Presbytery of the bounds, this recommendation having been specifically confirmed by the Executives of the appropriate State Theological Education Committee and Home Mission Committee or the Australian Inland Mission Board or the Australian Board of Missions or the Queensland Aboriginal and Foreign Missions Committee as the case may be, and who have further passed an examination, arranged by the College Committee, on the Doctrines of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be empowered to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper according to the rules of the Church, under the conditions set forth in Rules 206-212 hereunder.

(a) **General:**

- (i) That the Presbytery of the bounds shall, before granting such power to the Home Missionary in charge of any district, satisfy itself that no ordained Minister of the Word is ordinarily available for such purpose.
- (ii) That those exercising such function shall straight way report the details of each case to the Moderator of the Home Mission Station, or if there be no Moderator, to the Clerk of the Presbytery, or in the case of the Australian Inland Mission, to the Convener of the Board.

(iii) That the power be exercised only in the district for which it is given, and only so long as those authorised are acting on behalf of the Church in such station.

(iv) That every Home Missionary administering these Sacraments shall use the forms in the Book of Common Order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia or the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland.

(b) Lord's Supper:

(v) That the Kirk Session responsible, shall fix in advance the date or dates of each such special administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

(vi) That the Moderator of the district shall be responsible for each special administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and shall authorise and direct the Home Missionary to associate with him, wherever possible, one or more elders of the Church, to act on behalf of the Kirk Session in the administration of the Sacrament.

(c) Discipline:

(vii) That in no case shall discipline be exercised by those authorised to act, but any cases of discipline shall be reported to the Moderator of the station, to be dealt with according to the law of the Church.

(viii) That a list of members, and of those desiring to communicate for the first time, shall be submitted before each occasion to the Moderator and Kirk Session, who shall be responsible for the admission of members on profession of faith, and receiving and granting certificates of membership.

(ix) That no Home Missionary shall administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on any occasion except those fixed under conditions as above.

A Presbytery is not to authorise a Home Missionary to administer the Sacraments until he has passed an examination, arranged by the College Committee, on the Doctrines of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

3. The subjects shall be:

- (1) The Confession of Faith, Chapters XXV and XXVI 11-XXIX.
- (2) The Shorter Catechism, Questions 88, 91 and 97.
- (3) The Book of Common Order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

In administering the Sacraments, Home Missionaries are required to consult and to use the Forms in "The Book of Common Order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia" or the Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Chapter XXIV, Section IV, of the Confession of Faith is as follows:

Marriage: Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden in the Word; nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful by any law of man or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife. The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own; nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own.

The second sentence of this Section was amended (G.A.A. Blue Book, 1912 Minute 53, and pages 130 to 136; 1914 Minute 113; 1926 Minute 42) so that it reads: 1928 Min.57: "The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own, except the case of a deceased wife's sister, or the case of deceased husband's brother." See 113.

The laws of the Church require that the parties to a marriage shall not be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden by the Word of God (in this respect consanguinity and affinity are equivalent); that they be both unmarried; and that they are of years of discretion fit to make their own choice or upon good grounds to give mutual consent; or, if under age, that they have obtained the necessary consent required by law. See Confession of Faith, Chapter XXIV. The Confession of Faith has been amended by the General Assembly of Australia, so as to allow of the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister, or of a woman with her deceased husband's brother.

(Min. 107.3(a) B.B. 1967)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE REMARRIAGE

OF DIVORCED PERSONS

The Assembly considers that it is undesirable and dangerous to the public welfare that divorce should be too easily obtained on any ground and is concerned that the divorce laws now applicable throughout Australia may in some cases lead to an easy dissolution of marriage that could have detrimental effects upon the stability of society. It does welcome the present law's provision that a court shall explore any possibility of reconciliation which appears to exist before proceeding to grant a divorce.

The Assembly calls ministers to do all in their power as pastors and counsellors to preserve the enduring basis of marriage and to affirm the Gospel to this end, which calls all men to repentance and confession of sins, forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal of life.

At the same time, the Assembly declares that no bar should or can be put in the way of ministers accepting any divorce recognised by Australian law as having effectively dissolved the marriage concerned.

Before a minister decides that he should remarry a person who has been divorced, it is important for him to consider, in addition to all other relevant circumstances, whether the person concerned is aware and repents of any part he or she may have played in the breakdown or unwarranted dissolution of the former marriage, is willing to accept and exercise forgiveness and is prepared to begin a new marriage trusting in the grace and power of God in Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER VI

ORDINATION AND INDUCTIONS

QUESTIONS AT ORDINATIONS AND INDUCTIONS

For procedure in regard to licensing, ordination and induction see the Code Books of the State Assemblies. For Forms of Service suitable for such occasions see "The Book of Common Order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia".

QUESTIONS AT THE ORDINATION

OR INDUCTION OF MINISTERS

QUESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION

The members of the Congregation are requested to stand up, and the following questions are put to them:

- (i) Do you, the members and adherents of this congregation, adhere to the call which you have already subscribed in favour of Mr. A.B. to be your Minister?
- (ii) Do you now cordially receive him as your Minister, promising to provide for him suitable maintenance, and give him all due respect, encouragement and obedience in the Lord?

Be pleased to signify your assent by holding up the right hand.

QUESTIONS FOR THE MINISTER-ELECT

The Congregation assenting, the following questions are put to the Minister-elect:

- (i) Do you believe the Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, to be the only rule of faith and practice?
- (ii) Do you own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by this Church on the 24th day of July, 1901, as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures, and as a confession of your faith; and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere thereto, and to the utmost of your power to maintain, and defend the same?
- (iii) Do you own and accept the purity of worship as practised in this Church?
- (iv) Do you own the Presbyterian form of government to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto; and do you promise that through the grace of God, you will firmly and constantly adhere to, and to the utmost of your power, in your station, assert, maintain, and defend the same?

- (v) Are zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a desire to save souls, and not worldly interests or expectations (so far as you know your own heart), your great motives and chief inducements to the work of the Holy Ministry?
- (vi) Do you accept this Call, and promise through grace to perform all the duties of a faithful minister of the Gospel among this people?
- (vii) Do you promise to give conscientious attendance upon the Courts of the Church, and to direct your best attention to the business thereof, doing all in the spirit of faithfulness, brotherly kindness, and charity?
- (viii) Do you promise, in the strength of Divine Grace, to lead a holy and circumspect life, to rule well your own house, and faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully to perform all the parts of the ministerial work to the edifying of the body of Christ in love?
- (i) All these things you profess and promise through grace, as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

The General Assembly of 1933 declared that an ordained and inducted Minister is responsible to his Presbytery, and not to his Session, for the discharge of all the duties of his office.

**QUESTIONS AT THE INDUCTION OF A
MINISTER APPOINTED TO A SPECIAL
OFFICE**

At the induction of Ministers to special offices, the Questions to the Congregation shall be omitted. In the Questions to Ministers the following shall be substituted for Question vi:

"Do you accept this appointment, and promise through grace to perform all the duties pertaining thereto? In Questions viii, the words "duties pertaining to your office" shall be substituted for "parts of the ministerial work".

**QUESTIONS AT THE ORDINATION OR
INDUCTION OF A MISSIONARY**

At the ordination of Ministerial Missionaries in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, the questions to the Congregation are omitted. Questions i to v prescribed for the ordination of Ministers are put; also the following substituted for Questions vi to ix:

- vi. Do you promise to be subject in the Lord to the Church and its judicatories and conscientiously to take part in their proceedings as you have opportunity?
- vii. Do you promise, in the strength of Divine grace, to lead a holy and circumspect life; to rule well your own household; and faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully to perform in all its parts the work of a Missionary to the increase and edification of the body of Christ?
- viii. Do you adhere to your acceptance of the call to be a Missionary of this Church, and promise through grace to perform all the duties of a faithful Missionary of the Gospel among the people to whom you are sent?
- i. All these things you profess and promise through grace as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

In the case of a Medical or Educational Missionary, trials for ordination may be dispensed with. The same questions shall be put as in the case of a Ministerial Missionary, except that in Question v. the words "to which you have given yourself" shall be substituted for the words "of the holy ministry".

**QUESTIONS AT THE ORDINATION OR
INDUCTION OF A PROFESSOR**

At the Ordination or Induction of a Professor (as in the case of a Missionary) the Questions for Congregations shall be omitted, and instead of Questions vi to ix, the following shall be substituted:

- vi. Do you accept the office of a Professor in the Theological Hall of this Church, and do you engage in the strength and power of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, to live a holy and circumspect life, and faithfully to discharge all the parts of the work assigned to you as Professor of _____ for the training of the students under your care for the office of the Holy Ministry, and the edifying of the Body of Christ?

- vii. All these things you profess and promise through grace, as you shall be answerable at the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**QUESTIONS AT THE LICENSING OF
THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS**

Questions i, ii, iii» v» are the same as those put to Ministers before Ordination.

- vi. Do you promise in the strength of Divine grace to lead a holy and circumspect life, faithfully fulfilling all appointments and instructions given you by competent authority, in accordance with the laws of this Church?
- vii. All these things you profess and promise through grace, as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**QUESTIONS AT THE ORDINATION OR
INDUCTION OF ELDERS**

Questions for the Congregation

The members of the Congregation are requested to stand up, and the following questions are put to them:

- i. Do you, the members and adherents of this congregation, now confirm the election of these brethren (or this brother) to the office of Ruling Elder in this congregation?
- ii. And do you promise to render them (or him) all due respect and encouragement in the discharge of their (or his) office?

Be pleased to signify your assent by holding up the right hand.

Questions for Elders-elect

The Congregation assenting, the following questions are put to the Elders-elect:

B.B. 1977 Min.26(5)

- i. Do you believe the Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only rule of faith and practice?
- ii. Do you own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, as amended by the General Assembly, and read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by this Church on the 24th day of July, 1901, as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures and as a confession of your faith; and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere thereto, and to the utmost of your power to assert, maintain and defend the same?
- iii. Do you own and accept the purity of worship as practised in this Church?

- iv. Do you own the Presbyterian form of government to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto; and do you promise that through the Grace of God you will firmly and constantly adhere to, and to the utmost of your power, in your station, assert, maintain and defend the same?
- v. Do you adhere to your acceptance of the Call of this Congregation, to exercise among them the office of Ruling Elder?
- vi. Do you engage through Divine Grace to discharge with diligence and faithfulness the various duties of your office, watching over the flock, showing yourself a pattern of good works, and giving a conscientious attendance on the meetings of Session, Presbytery, and Assembly, when duly called so to do?
- vii. All these things you profess and promise through grace, as you shall be answerable at the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**QUESTIONS AT THE ORDINATION OR
INDUCTION OF DEACONS**

Questions for the Congregation

- i. Do you, the Communicants and adherents of this Congregation, now confirm the election of these brethren (or this brother) to the office of Deacon in this Congregation?
- ii. And do you promise to render them (or him) all due respect and encouragement in the discharge of their (or his) office?

Be pleased to signify your assent by holding up the right hand.

227. Questions i, ii, iii, iv are the same as those put to Elders before Ordination.

- v. Do you adhere to the acceptance of the call of this Congregation to exercise among them the office of Deacon?
- vi. All these things you profess and promise, through grace, as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

FORMULA

Formula for Ministers and Elders: Formula to be signed by Ministers and Elders at their Ordination or induction, and by Probationers on receiving licence:

"I own and accept the Subordinate Standard of this Church, with the explanations given in the Articles contained in the Declaratory Statement, as an exhibition of the sense in which I understand the Holy Scriptures, and as a confession of my faith. I further own the purity of worship practised in this Church, and the Presbyterian Government thereof, to be founded on the Word of God and agreement thereto; and I promise that through the grace of God I shall firmly and constantly adhere to the same, and to the utmost of my power shall, in my station, assert, maintain, and defend the doctrine, worship, and government of this Church.

CHAPTER VII

TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

TRUST DEED

SEPTEMBER, 1985

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME we, Kenneth Charles Auld, Derrick Rae Brierley, Paul David Kahl, Wilfred Malcolm McGilvray, James Edmund Sticpewich, and Jack Hayward Watson and the Rev. Peter Edwin Boase, Robert Anderson Caldwell, William Greenwood Camden, Harold Gilbert Durbin, Angus Robertson Ewin and Douglas Fraser Murray, all of 44 Margaret Street, Sydney in the State of New South Wales, send greetings

WHEREAS The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia has by resolution declared that in order to ensure the effective ownership of and management and control by the Presbyterian Church of Australia of the property and funds of the said Church and of the agencies, activities, services, committees, institutions, schemes and interests thereof, it is expedient that trustees be appointed for the holding of the property and funds held or to be held in trust for or belonging to the said Presbyterian Church of Australia as such, or of any agency, activity, service, committee, institution, scheme or interest thereof (except so far as it may not be competent for the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia so to appoint in reference to the trusts applicable to any particular property or funds or so far as the said General Assembly may in its absolute discretion elect or decide not so to appoint), and that provision be made by or under the direction of the said General Assembly for the appointment from time to time of such trustees, the filling of vacancies in the office of such trustees, the holding and disposal of such property and funds, the investment thereof, the conduct of the business and proceedings of the said trustees, the keeping and audit of their accounts, the performance of the trusts committed to them and all other matters incidental to the proper performance of the purposes aforesaid.

AND WHEREAS we are the persons who for the time being hold office as the trustees of The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust being the body corporate of that name established by The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust Act 1936 of the State of New South Wales AND WHEREAS we have been appointed by the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to act whilst we continue to hold office as trustees of the said The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust as Trustees aforesaid of the property and funds of the said General Assembly and of all other the property and funds now or hereafter belonging to the said The Presbyterian Church of Australia and of any agency, activity, service, committee, institution, scheme or interest thereof, except so far as it may not be competent for the said General Assembly of Australia to appoint trustees thereof, or so far as the said General Assembly of Australia may specifically elect or decide not to appoint us or our successors in office as Trustees hereunder. Trustees of any particular property or funds. And whereas this trust deed and the contents thereof have been approved of, ratified and endorsed by resolution of the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Now therefore know ye and these present witness as follows: -

1. The official name of the trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and of our successors from time to time in office is the "Trustees for the Presbyterian Church of Australia".

2. In this Deed unless inconsistent with the context, words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, and the masculine the feminine, and words importing persons shall include bodies corporate, and the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively unless there is something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction:
 - "the church" means the Presbyterian Church of Australia
 - "the church Assembly" means the General Assembly of the Church
 - "Moderator" means the Moderator of the General Assembly and includes the interim or acting Moderator thereof.
 - "committee" means committee (including Standing Committee) of the General Assembly, whether consisting exclusively of members of the General Assembly or not, and includes any commission or committee appointed by the General Assembly.
 - "instrument creating the trust" includes Act of Parliament, ordinance, deed, will, testamentary disposition, settlement agreement for a settlement or other agreement or instrument.
 - "property" means real and personal property, and includes lands, tenements and hereditaments, houses, buildings, chattels real, money or securities for money, bonds, stocks, funds, debentures, and investments and property of every description.
 - "transfer" includes convey or conveyance.
 - "the Trustees" means the persons from time to time holding office as Trustees for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
 - "auxiliary service" when used herein in conjunction with or in reference to the said the Presbyterian Church of Australia shall include any agency, activity, service, committee, institution, scheme or interest of the Church.

3. The purposes for which the Trustees are constituted and their principal powers are as follows: -
 - (a) To acquire, take over and hold any property in trust for the Presbyterian Church of Australia or any auxiliary service of the Church and to receive any money which has been or shall be given, contributed, or bequeathed, by any person or persons to be applied to any of the purposes or enterprises of the Church or of any auxiliary service of the Church and to take over any securities for money or investment held by any person or persons on behalf of the Church or of any auxiliary service thereof and to take in the name or under the control of the Trustees any securities for money belonging to the Church or any such auxiliary service of the Church, which shall be lent or advanced on account thereof. All property, moneys, securities for money, and investments hereinbefore referred to shall be held and dealt with by the Trustees for the uses and purposes, and effect given to the trusts to which they shall be specially subject where expressed or defined, and failing such expression or definition as the General Assembly shall from time to time direct and subject thereto as this Deed defines.

- (b) To invest any money acquired, taken and held, or lent or advanced by the Trustees as aforesaid (and also any moneys of the Trustees not immediately required for any of their purposes or in the exercise of any of their powers) as follows namely:
- (i) Upon or in investments on which Trustees are, or shall be authorised to invest trust funds according to the law of the Commonwealth of Australia or any of the States thereof, or any of the Territories or Mandated Territories or Dependencies of the said Commonwealth.
 - (ii) On deposit with any incorporated bank or banks carrying on business in the said Commonwealth or any of the Territories or Mandated Territories or Dependencies thereof or under special circumstances approved by the Trustees, in the United Kingdom, the Dominion of New Zealand, or in any other country.
 - (iii) Upon or in any investment or security of any kind whatever not included in the foregoing lists, provided always that the General Assembly shall have approved or shall approve thereof by resolution, rule or regulation, either generally or specially in the matter.
 - (iv) Provided always that save so far as the General Assembly shall otherwise resolve or direct the Trustees may retain and hold any property, investment or security, which has been or may hereafter be transferred to or vested in the Trustees or otherwise placed under the control of the Trustees in the same form as the same exists at the time of such transfer to or vesting in trustees, even though such form be not included in the foregoing lists. Any such property, investment or security shall be included in the next succeeding report of the Trustees to the General Assembly and shall be held by the Trustees subject to the trusts thereof and the lawful directions of the General Assembly.
 - (v) Provided also that where the direction regarding the modes of investment applicable to any particular trust are not identical with or shall be wider or narrower as regards authorisation than those hereinbefore specified, the trust premises affected thereby shall be held in accordance with the directions applicable thereto. Any such cases shall be included in the next report of the Trustees to the General Assembly, and the trust premises shall be held by the Trustees subject to such directions and to further lawful directions of the General Assembly or shall be disclaimed by the Trustees if the General Assembly shall so resolve.
- (c) To manage all and every part of the property, funds, moneys, securities, and investments vested in or under the control of the Trustees.

- (d) Save so far as a contrary intention is expressed in the instrument creating the trust and subject to the rules, regulations and decisions (if any) of the General Assembly, to sell, let, mortgage, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal with all or any of the property transferred to or vested in the Trustees.

And without restricting the generality of the foregoing the Trustees:

- (i) may grant leases or sub-leases or any land or premises held by them for such period, at such rents and subject to such terms and conditions as they think fit.
 - (ii) may act in relation to all cases of exchange, surrender, dedication and compulsory acquisition of any property vested in the Trustees including the power to make claims for compensation, and to agree to and settle upon such terms and conditions as they think fit any such claims.
 - (iii) may from time to time mortgage to any person any land vested in the trustees in pursuance of this deed for the purposes of securing the repayment of such sum or sums of money with or without interest as the Trustees consider necessary for the purposes of the Church generally or any auxiliary service of the Church and Trustees may guarantee advances with or without security made for any of the purposes herein set out.
 - (iv) may from time to time sell any property vested in them by public auction or private contract as they think fit at such price as can be reasonably obtained for that property.
 - (v) may guarantee or undertake to indemnify any person for any loss arising out of the performance of any obligation undertaken by persons administering property used for any purpose, activity or institution of the Church or its auxiliary service and whether solely so used or not.
- (e) Save so far as a contrary intention is expressed in the instrument creating the trust and subject to the rules, regulations and decisions (if any), of the General Assembly, to purchase, take on lease, or otherwise acquire any property which may be deemed necessary or convenient for any of the purposes of the Church or any auxiliary services thereof, and to surrender, and accept surrenders of leases and tenancies.
- (f) In taking over the property, held by any trustees or other persons pursuant to the provisions of this Deed on behalf of the Church or any auxiliary service thereof, the Trustees may lawfully do so out of the property or funds under their control indemnify such trustees or persons against all or any actions, suits, claims and demands in respect of all debts, liabilities, or other obligations they may have properly incurred in connection with such property.

- (g) Save so far as a contrary intention is expressed in the instrument creating the trust and subject to the rules, regulations and decisions (if any), of the General Assembly, to manage, construct, maintain and alter any houses, buildings, improvements or works, necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Church or any auxiliary service thereof or of any trust administered by the Trustees.
 - (h) To take any gift of property, whether subject to any special trust or not for the Church or any auxiliary service thereof, or for any purpose which the Trustees are authorised to perform, and to give full receipts, releases and discharges in respect thereof.
 - (i) As such Trustees to sue and be sued on behalf of the Church or any auxiliary service thereof, as regards any matter within the scope of this Deed, or otherwise authorised by the Assembly or any committee thereof, with power to act on its behalf.
 - (j) To procure the Trustees to be registered or recognised in any State or Territory or Mandated Territory of the Commonwealth or elsewhere.
 - (k) To do all such other things which may be lawfully done by the Trustees, as are incidental to the proper performance of the purposes and powers aforesaid.
4. Provided always that notwithstanding anything contained in clause (3), hereof, property and funds of the Church or any auxiliary service thereof are excepted from the operation of that clause in particular cases where it is not competent for the General Assembly to appoint Trustees in reference thereto, or where for any reason in its absolute discretion, the General Assembly by Rule Regulation or resolution pursuant to notice, elects or decides not to place any particular property or funds under the control of the Trustees.
- Provided further that the Trustees shall take over the administration of such trusts and the control of such property or funds as the General Assembly or some commission, committee, officers or officers of the General Assembly empowered so to do either generally or specially in the matters by Rule, Regulation or resolution pursuant to notice of the General Assembly, may lawfully direct or appoint.
5. The Trustees shall be bound by such Model Trust Deeds as the General Assembly may by Rule, Regulation or resolution pursuant to notice prescribe under which any property or class of property is to be held by the Trustees.
6. The Trustees shall consist of persons who for the time being hold office as the Trustees of The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust being body corporate of that name established by The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust Act 1936 of the State of New South Wales.

7. Until the General Assembly shall by Rule or Regulation otherwise provide each Trustee shall hold office as Trustee so long as he shall remain a trustee of the said The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust and any casual vacancy occurring at any time in the office of Trustee shall be filled by the person appointed to fill the corresponding vacancy in the said The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust.

8.
 - (a) There shall be a chairman of Trustees who shall be elected by the Trustees from among their own number.
 - (b) The chairman shall hold office for a period of twelve months but is eligible for re-election.
 - (c) The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Trustees at which he is present.
 - (d) In the absence of the chairman from a meeting of the Trustees, the Trustees present shall elect one of their number to preside at that meeting.
 - (e) At a meeting of the Trustees four of the trustees constitute a quorum.

 - (f) The Trustees shall meet at least once every year and shall keep or cause to be kept minutes of their proceedings and a record of their resolutions.
 - (g) The minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees and the record of their resolutions shall be made available for inspection when required by the official auditor of the Church, being the person appointed to that office by the General Assembly.
 - (h) The method of calling meetings of the Trustees, the places at which those meetings are held and the procedure to be followed at those meetings shall be as determined from time to time by the Trustees.

9. Reports shall be made to each meeting of the General Assembly by the Trustees on matters pertaining to the work of the Trustees occurring since the last preceding General Assembly.

10. A certificate under the hand of the person for the time being holding the office, or performing the duties of Clerk of the General Assembly certifying:
 - (a) That the trustees consist of the persons specified in the certificate.
 - (b) That on a day specified in the certificate the Trustees consisted of the persons specified in the certificate, or
 - (c) That any declarations, determinations, resolutions or rules specified in the certificate have been made or passed by the General Assembly; is evidence of the matters so certified.

11. Every person becoming a Trustee shall signify in writing by an endorsement on or in any annexure to this Deed his acceptance of office as such and his agreement to be bound by and subject to the provisions of this Deed with such alterations and amendments therein as the General Assembly may make from time to time.

12. The titles, certificates and all other documents of title to all lands and investments transferred to, or which may hereafter be transferred to or which may be acquired or held by the Trustees under this Deed as well as the titles, certificates and all other documents of title to all property and investments in which the Trustees may lawfully invest the funds, shall be taken in the name of the Trustees unless in cases where in the opinion of the Trustees it is expedient or where it shall be necessary in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth or any of the States thereof, or any Territory, Mandated Territory or Dependency thereof, or of any of the laws of any other country having lawful authority in the matter, to take such titles, certificates or documents in another form.
13. Any deed or instrument executed or signed by and any other act matter or thing done by a majority of the Trustees, and in pursuance of a resolution of Trustees shall be as effectual as if the same had been executed, signed or done by all the Trustees.
14. No Trustee shall be under any obligation to execute a mortgage or accept a transfer of property subject to a mortgage, in either of which cases he would be under any responsibility to be personally liable for the payment of any moneys out of his own estate.
15. Every Trustee shall be answerable only for losses arising from his own defaults and not for involuntary acts nor for the acts or defaults of his co-Trustees or co-Trustee and in particular any Trustee who shall pay over any money to his co-Trustees or co-Trustee or do any act or make any omission enabling him or them to receive any money for the purposes of any of the trusts under this Deed shall not be bound to see to the due application thereof nor be subsequently rendered liable by any express notice of the misapplication of such moneys, nor shall any Trustee be liable for the neglect or default of any officer of the Church, or of any agency, activity, service, committee, institutions, scheme or interest thereon, or of any banker, broker, contractor, solicitor, valuer, factor or agent of any description reasonably employed by the Trustees.
16. Save where the instrument creating the trust otherwise provides the General Assembly or any such Commission, committee or officer duly authorised by it may from time to time, remove any trusts from under the control or authority of the Trustees.
17. Where under this Deed or the Rules, Regulations or decisions (if any) of the General Assembly applicable to the matter, the consent of the General Assembly or of any Commission, committee or officer thereof, or the Moderator or other person is expressed to be required in connection with the performance of any act, deed, matter or thing by the Trustees or any officer thereof, all persons (including any Registrar-General, Registrar of Titles or other public authority) dealing in good faith with the Trustees or any officer or officers thereof, shall not be concerned to inquire whether any such consent has been obtained.

18. Any defect in the appointment of a Trustee or in any resolution or decision of the Trustees, or in any matter of procedure under this Deed may be absolutely cured by the authority of the General Assembly or by the Trustees.
19. (a) The Secretary of the Trustees shall be the person who for the time being holds office as Secretary of The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust.

(b) The Treasurer or Treasurers of the Trustees shall be such person or persons as the General Assembly shall, from time to time, appoint (or authorise the appointment of) to the office or offices concerned. The tenure, remuneration and duties attached to the said offices shall be subject to the Rules, Regulations and resolutions, pursuant to notice of the General Assembly applicable thereto.

AMENDMENT OF TRUST DEED

- (c) Until the General Assembly shall otherwise provide by Rule, Regulation or resolution, pursuant to notice, the Law Agent or Acting Law Agent of the Church shall be the solicitor of the Trustees, but provision may be made by the Trustees, in consultation with the solicitor of the Trustees, to arrange for the representation of the Trustees in different States or parts of the Commonwealth, or in any other country where the interests of the Trustees so require, or where, for any other sufficient reason it is in the opinion of the Trustees expedient so to do.
20. It is admitted and acknowledged that the General Assembly has full power and authority by any resolution or resolutions at any time hereafter passed, pursuant to notice, to alter or amend the trusts power or provisions of this Deed in any particular, with the approval of a majority of State Assemblies and in the event of a corporate body of Trustees being created by or under any statute or statutes or otherwise to exercise all or any of the functions of the Trustees the General Assembly may require all or such parts as it thinks fit of the property or funds of the Church, or any auxiliary service thereof, held by the Trustees, to be transferred to or vested in such corporate body, subject to the trusts affecting the property or funds concerned and in such case the Trustees shall join in executing and signing all documents necessary to give full force and effect to such transfer and vesting in such corporate body as aforesaid.

And these presents, further witness that we do and each of us doth, hereby declare that we and the survivors and survivor or us and our successors in office as such Trustees, shall hold and stand possessed of all the property and funds of the Church or of any auxiliary service of the Church upon the trusts and for the purposes of the Church or of any auxiliary service of the Church and shall also stand possessed of all other property or funds which may at any time or times hereafter, be transferred to or vested in the Trustees for the time being under the provisions of this Deed or any amendment thereof lawfully made upon the trusts affecting the same.

IN WITNESS whereof the several parties hereto have hereunto subscribed their respective hands and seals the day of One thousand nine hundred and eighty

7. Declare the election of the Committee to be conducted by ballot.
8. Declare the nomination to be those listed in clause 10, with the exception of the name of Mr. R.P.W. Jell, and those in Notice of Motion No. 54.
9. Declare that the representation from the States be:-

3 from New South Wales, 3 from Victoria, 3 from Queensland, with one corresponding member appointed by each of the State Assemblies of Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.
10. Declare the Queensland members together with Rev. J.J.T. Campbell to form the executive.
11. Conduct the ballot forthwith.

The ballot for the Code Committee was conducted.

- 116. Adjournment:** The House adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S TERRACE ON THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 7.00 P.M.

- 117. Constitution:** The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- 118. Business:** The Rev. G. Lake moved that the Agenda for the Seventh Sederunt be the unfinished business on the Agenda approved for the Sixth Sederunt. The motion was seconded and approved.
- 119. Ballot:** Dr. P. Lush reported on behalf of the Ballot Committee and moved:
That the Assembly:-
3. Confirm the following elections for the Code Committee:
N.S.W. Members Rev. P.W. Hastie, Rev. D.A. Burke, Rev. D. C. Mitchell
Victorian Members Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman, Mr. B.D. Bayston, Rev. C.A. Harrison
Queensland Members Rev. G.C. Lake, Rev. P.J. Barson, Rev. Prof. N. Lee.
 4. Authorise the Assembly Officer to destroy the ballot papers.
 5. Thank and discharge the committee.
- 120. Overture No. 14:** The Overture No. 14 from anent Sydney South Presbytery was laid on the table and received.

Rev. R.P.F. Benn and N.A.C. Ericksson were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture. Questions were asked.
The Overturists were removed from the Bar of the House.

According to Notice (N.M. 73) Rev. N.A.C. Ericksson moved
That the Assembly: -
1. Sustain the Overture.
The previous question was moved and seconded.
The motion was disapproved.

121. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned. The Moderator ruled the motion to be competent.
The Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker moved,
That the Assembly: -
1. Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.
Rev. G.K. Kettmiss raised a point of privilege.
The motion was seconded and disapproved and the Moderator's ruling upheld.

122. Rev. M.J.K. Ramage moved,
That the Assembly: -
Appoint a Committee of the 2 overturists, Rev. R.P.F. Benn and N.A.C. Ericksson.
Rev. C.D. Balzer, Mr. L.J. Moore, Rev. P.W. Hastie to prepare an overture on the matter before the Assembly and present it to the House tomorrow morning.
The motion was seconded and approved.

The debate was adjourned. (Min 132)

123. Adjournment: The house adjourned to meet at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 16th September, 1988 which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

K.J. Gardner,
J.J.T. Campbell,
Clerks.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT

AT BRISBANE AND WITHIN ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S TERRACE ON FRIDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1988 AT 9.30 A.M.

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

125. Confirmation of Minutes Sederunts 1-4: It was moved,
That the Assembly: -
Confirm the minutes of Sederunts 1 - 4.
The motion was seconded and approved.

126. Business: The Report of the Business Committee was laid on the Table and received, and the agenda approved.

127. Reception of Ministers (Resumed): It was moved,
That the order of the day be varied to take up the resumption of the debate on Reception of Ministers.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The debate on the Reception of Ministers Deliverance was resumed. (Min. 100)
Clause 3 was approved.
Clause 4 was approved.

According to Notice (N.M. 7) Dr. R. F. Burns moved:

1. That the following churches listed in the Regulations of the Committee for Reception of Ministers 2(a) be removed from that list;
The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom.
The United Church in Canada.

Rev. D. A. Burke moved,

That the Assembly: -

Send the Notice of Motion to the Committee with the request that it examine the whole list of Churches from which Ministers are received and report to the next session of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Burns fell from Clause 2 of N.M. 7.

According to Notice (N.M. 44) Rev. J. M. D. C. Elliott moved,

That the Assembly:

1. Transfer the duties of the Reception of Ministers Committee to the full College Committee so as to save duplication of work and to preserve consistent standards for all ministers.
2. Request the College Committee to revise the regulations for the Reception of Ministers, and consider altering the current system of specified Reformed churches adopting the Presbyterian system of government (Rule 196) to a system where all applications are considered on an individual basis according to merit.

128. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned. The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

The Rev. C. R. Thomas moved,

That the Assembly: -

Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved and the Moderator's ruling upheld.

Clause 3 was moved as follows: -

3. That the Reception of Ministers Committee be the Convener and the members of the College Committee.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 4 of Notice (N.M. 7) was moved as follows,

That the Assembly: -

4. Appoint an Ad Hoc committee to review the regulations of the Committee for Reception of Ministers and relevant parts of the constitution of the Church, with a view to making the Regulations more suitable to the present day church and ensuring that all ministers received into the Presbyterian Church of Australia from whatever denomination meet the same standards of entry into the Presbyterian Church of Australia required of students for the ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. D.A. Burke moved,

That the Assembly: -

Appoint the Code Committee, in consultation with the Reception of Ministers' Committee (with the Convener of the Code Committee as Convener), as the ad hoc Committee referred to in N.M.8:4.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Ad Hoc CoMMittee: Rev. J.M.D.C. Elliott moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Request the Ad Hoc Committee to revise the regulations for the Reception of Ministers, and consider altering the current system of specified Reformed churches adopting the Presbyterian system of government (Rule 196) to a system where all applications are considered on an individual basis according to merit.

The motion was seconded and approved.

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

1. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Colin Alfred Lockyer
(b) The Assembly receive Colin Alfred Lockyer as a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the satisfactory completion of two years' study as set by the Victorian Faculty and the College Committee.
2. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of w.a. Ellery-Dyer.
(b) The Assembly receive the Rev. W.A. Ellery-Dyer as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of one year's study to the satisfaction of the N. S. W. Faculty and the College Committee.
3. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. R.I. Kellam.

- (b) The Assembly receive the Rev. R.I. Kellam as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of two years* study to the satisfaction of the Faculty of Queensland and the College Committee.
- e*. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. G.A. Vane.
- (b) The Assembly receive the Rev. G.A. Vane as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of two years' preparatory studies including Greek and Hebrew plus one year Theological Studies to the satisfaction of the Faculty in Victoria and the College Committee.
5. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. P.N. Hermann.
- (b) The Assembly receive the Rev. P.N. Hermann as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of one year's preparatory study and one year's theological study to the satisfaction of the N.S.W. Faculty and the College Committee.
6. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. Y.C. Pak.
- (b) Receive the Rev. Y.C. Pak as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
7. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. Y. Abadi.
- (b) Receive the Rev. Y. Abadi as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to completion of one year's studies set by the College Committee and to the satisfaction of the Faculty in Victoria.
8. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. D. Griffin.
- (b) Receive the Rev. D. Griffin as a minister of the Presbyterian Church subject to the completion of one year's preparatory study and one year's theological study to the satisfaction of the College Committee and the Faculty in Victoria.
9. (a) Grant the prayer of Petition of Rev. Suk-In Chang.
- (b) The Assembly receive the Rev. Suk-In Chang as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
10. (a) Grant the prayer of the Petition of Rev. Owen Malcolm Gregory.
- (b) The Assembly receive the Rev. Owen Malcolm Gregory as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the satisfactory completion of one year's study approved by the College Committee and under the supervision of a Theological Faculty.
11. Confirm the appointment of the Rev. James Bruce in place of Rev. R.J. Taggart.
12. Thank the Rev. R.J. Taggart the Rev. G.R. Fullerton for their services to the Committee.
13. Approve the following revised Regulations of the Reception of Ministers Committee: -

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS

REGULATIONS

The Reception of Ministers Committee shall: -

1. (a) be appointed under the provisions for Standing Committees and the members residing in the State of the Convener shall be the executive;
- (b) receive from presbyteries (and in appropriate cases directly from the applicants) applications for reception into the Presbyterian Church of Australia from ministers or licentiates of other Presbyterian Church or ministers, preachers or pastors of other denominations.
- (c) consider such applications and report the names of those who have been received under these regulations with relevant details;
- (d) deal with applications, when authorised to do so by the following regulations, and request presbyteries having oversight to issue certificates of status to those whose applications have been approved by the committee;
- (e) receive from presbyteries and report to the General Assembly on applications for admission to the Presbyterian Church of Australia from ministers and congregations conjointly or congregations alone of any other denomination.

2. **Ministers and licentiates from specified Reformed Churches adopting the Presbyterian system of government:**

- (a) A Minister or Licentiate from any of the following churches:
 - The Presbyterian Church in Ireland
 - The Presbyterian Church of Wales
 - The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom
 - The Church of Scotland
 - The Free Church of Scotland
 - The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland
 - The Presbyterian Church of New Zealand
 - The Presbyterian Church U. S. A.
 - The Presbyterian Church in Canada
 - The United Church of Canada
 - The Presbyterian Church of South Africa
 - The Netherlands Reformed Church (Nederlands Hervormde Kerk)
 - The Hungarian Reformed Church (Magyar Reformatus Egyház)
 - The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
 - The Presbyterian Church in Korea
 - The Presbyterian Church of Korea

who:

- (i) is directly commissioned by the appropriate committee of such Church;
- (ii) is directly commissioned by a committee appointed by any State Assembly or presbytery thereof for the selection of ministers;

(iii) has accepted a call from a congregation regularly sustained by the Presbytery of the bounds;

(iv) has been appointed to some ministerial office in the Church by an Assembly or presbytery;

shall be received at once by the committee on receipt of evidence of such commission, call or appointment along with a certificate of status, and the presbytery within whose bounds he resides shall be notified accordingly.

(b) A minister or licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia who has undertaken missionary service under the Board of Missions and who has been ordained and/or received into the church which he has served, on his permanent return to Australia from such service and on presenting a certificate of status from the Church in which he has been serving along with a certificate of good conduct from the Board of Missions, shall be received at once by the committee and the presbytery within whose bounds he resides shall be notified accordingly and shall issue a certificate of a status.

3. Ministers and Licentiates from other Reformed Churches and other denominations:

(a) Any minister, licentiate, preacher or pastor from Churches not specified in Rule 196 or from other churches desiring to be admitted as a minister or licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia shall prepare a Petition to the General Assembly in the form approved by the committee which shall set forth the applicant's age, place of birth, course and manner of education, previous history (including details of previous employment of whatever kind) and all particulars bearing on his character and general eligibility.

(b) The petition shall be presented through a Presbytery of the Church, and shall be accompanied by documentary evidence in support of it to the satisfaction of the Presbytery.

(c) The Presbytery shall:

(i) examine the petition and accompanying documents and may hear the applicant in support of his petition;

(ii) satisfy itself that at the time of the presentation of the petition he has severed his connection with the Church (or denomination) with which he had been previously connected and has become a communicant member of the Presbyterian Church at least six months prior to the presentation of the petition, and satisfy itself that the applicant was under no censure or liability to censure at the time of severing his connection with his former Church on any moral or doctrinal grounds which would be incompatible with the Christian Faith as held by the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

(d) The Presbytery, if satisfied on the foregoing points and as to the general suitability of the petitioner, may recommend him to the Home Mission or other appropriate Committee of the State Assembly for temporary employment, but any temporary employment by the Church shall not be held to commit the General Assembly to receive the applicant as a minister or licentiate.

- (e) The Presbytery shall transmit the petition and all relevant documents, with a recommendation favourable or otherwise to the committee at least three months before the meeting of the General Assembly.
- (f) The Committee, upon receipt of the documents from Presbytery shall investigate the case and shall confer with the applicant directly or through commissioners. It shall prepare a written report which shall include the recommendation of the presbytery and forward it to the Clerk of Assembly at least one month prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.
- (g) The Clerk shall have the reports printed as a confidential paper and they shall be placed in the hands of members of the Assembly at least twenty-four hours before the Assembly shall deal with them in private session.

4. Proviso re Petitions from Presbyterian Ministers and Licentiates not specified:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 3 in the case of a petition from a Minister or Licentiate of a Presbyterian Church not specified in Regulation 2, or the case of a minister of one of the Presbyterian Churches specified in Regulation 2, not commissioned, called or under appointment, the provisions of Regulation 3 shall be modified as follows: -

If the interval between receipt of the Petition and the meeting of the General Assembly exceeds twelve months the Committee may:

- (a) receive the petitioner if all documents and the interview are to its satisfaction and the presbytery reports favourably, notify the presbytery in whose bounds he resides and requests it to issue a certificate of status; or
- (b) require of the petitioner, if it is not entirely satisfied as to the suitability of the petitioner, a period of temporary service as a probationary period under the appointment of the Home Mission or other appropriate committee of the State and, upon completion of this period, if the report of the presbytery is satisfactory, receive him, notify the presbytery having oversight and request it to issue a certificate of status.

5. Action on Petitions in the General Assembly and thereafter:

- (a) In the case of ministers or licentiates of Presbyterian Churches, if the Assembly grant the prayer of the petition, the applicant is received as a minister or licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and is eligible for a Call. The Clerk shall notify the Presbytery having jurisdiction and request it to issue a certificate of status.
- (b) (i) In the case of ministers or licentiates from other denominations, if the Assembly grant the prayer of the petition, they shall determine whether it is necessary for the applicant to receive Ordination at the hands of a Presbytery, and the applicant shall spend at least one year in attendance at one of the Theological Halls of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and/or fulfil such requirements as shall be determined by a Faculty of a Theological Hall which he attends subject to the approval of the College Committee. Provided that the General Assembly in any particular case may deal with the petition in any such other way as they shall determine.

- (ii) Upon completion of the requirements of the General Assembly and upon the Committee receiving a satisfactory report from the College Committee and the faculty or Senatus of the petitioner's work, it shall notify the Home Mission Committee of the State that the petitioner is eligible for appointment under the provisions for the appointment of exit students and request the Presbytery having jurisdiction to require the petitioner to sign the formula, and to issue a certificate of status, after which the petitioner shall be eligible for a Call.

14. Send the Notice of Motion

"that the following churches listed in the Regulations of the Committee for Reception of Ministers 2(a) be removed from that list: The United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom, The United Church of Canada"

to the Committee with the request that it examine the whole list of Churches from which Ministers are received and report to the next Session of the Assembly.

15. Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review the regulations of the Committee for Reception of Ministers and relevant parts of the Constitution of the Church, with a view to making the Regulations more suitable to the present day church and ensuring that all ministers received into the Presbyterian Church of Australia from whatever denomination meet the same standards of entry into the Presbyterian Church of Australia required of students for the ministry.
16. Appoint the Code Committee in consultation with the Reception of Ministers Committee (with the Convener of the Code Committee as the Convener) as the Ad Hoc Committee referred to in Clause 15.
17. Request the Ad Hoc Committee to revise the regulations for the Reception of Ministers, and consider altering the current system of specified Reformed churches adopting the Presbyterian System of government (Rule 196) to a system where all applications are considered on an individual basis according to merit.
18. Appoint the committee as follows:-
- Rev. R. A. Caldwell (NSW)
 - Rev. James Bruce (NSW)
 - Rev. H. G. Durbin (NSW)
 - Mr. F. M. Bradshaw (V)
 - Rev. W. A. Stewart (NSW)
 - Very Rev. E. R. Pearsons (V)
 - Very Rev. Dr. K. J. Gardner (Q)
 - Rev. M. J. K. Ramage (T)
 - Rev. R. J. Taggart (SA)
 - Rev. D. B. Fraser (WA)
 - Mr. D. R. Brierley (NSW)
 - Mr. J. C. Mackillop (NSW)

131. Dissent

Rev. B. Meller recorded his dissent to Clause 10.

132. Overtures 16 and 17: Overture 16 was called for.

It was moved that the order of business be varied to take up Overture 17.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. H.J. Gallagher sought leave to distribute another relevant Overture (18). Leave was granted.

According to Notice (N.M. 81) Rev J.J.T. Campbell moved,

That the Assembly: -

Suspend so much of the Standing Orders as may prevent the consideration of any new Overture concerning the ordination of women to the ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Overture NO. 17 from the Special Committee of Assembly anent Articles of Agreement (Art viii) (Min.122) was laid on the Table and received.

Rev. R.P.F. Benn and Mr. L.J. Moore were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture.

133. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned. The Moderator ruled the motion to be competent.

134. Questions were asked.

The Overturists were removed from the Bar of the House.

According to Notice (N.M. 84) Rev. R.P.F. Benn moved.

That the Assembly: -

1. Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Remit to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under the Barrier Act a proposed deletion of the following words from Article viii for approval or disapproval, with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31st December, 1990.

"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 services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women."

and;

Remit both forms of an additional Article to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure, either one for approval with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31st December, 1990, as follows:

(a) "Only men shall be eligible for admission to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Australia and all rules and regulations of the Assembly and services of Ordination shall be construed that reference therein to ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall refer only to men."

or

(b) "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 services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women."

The motion was seconded and approved.

135. Assembly Paper 19 was received.

Rev. D.A. Burke moved that the Statement be sent to State Assemblies and Presbyteries with the remit.

The motion was seconded and approved.

136. Rev. D.K. Robson moved,

That the Assembly: -

Express to all ministers of the Church that none of their rights and privileges are jeopardised in any way.

Rev. H.J. Gallagher moved as an amendment the deletion of all words after "Assembly" and the substitution of the following:

"Declare that all ordinations and inductions of women to the Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Australia up to this present time are valid; and"

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Rev. Dr. J. Muller, by leave, moved as an amendment the addition of the following words:

"by the action of this remit"

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The amended motion was disapproved.

Rev. R.S. Keith moved,

That the Assembly: -

Declare that:

This remit to State Assemblies and Presbyteries will not affect the ministerial rights and privileges of any women who have been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments prior to any subsequent change of Articles of Agreement that may be made preventing such ordinations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

137. Standing Orders Resumed: Standing Orders were resumed.

138. Overtures 3, 11, 13, M.N. 58 Cl. 4-7: Overtures 3, 11, 13 and N.M. 58 Clauses 4, 7 were fallen from.

139. Ad hoc committee: According to Notice (N.M. 58) Rev. P.W. Hastie moved, That the Assembly: -
Appoint a committee consisting of: Rev. R.R. Matthews (V), R.S. Sondergeld (N) & D.D. Milne (V), P.W. Hastie (N), N.A. Chambers (N) - Convener, N. Wallace (Q), J. Langbridge (Q) & M. R. S. Nagle (N) and D. Geddes (N), to explore the full range of ministry open to women, and report their findings to the 1991 G.A.A. or otherwise, as the Assembly deems fit.

Rev. Prof. B.T. Baker moved, as an amendment arising from the debate, the addition of the names of:

Miss M. Geddes, Rev. J.F. Bartholomew, Dr. H. Clements, Mrs. A. Goodman and Mrs. A. Tilson.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The amended motion was seconded and approved.

140. Presbyterian Inland Mission: The Report of the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee was laid on the Table and received.

141. Overture 15: Overture 15 was fallen from.
By leave, the Executive Officer, Rev. A.B. Clark addressed the House.

142. Clause 1 was approved.
Clause 2 was approved.
Clause 3 was moved with reference to Regulation 3 only.

According to Notice (N.M. 71) Mr. B.T. Scott moved, as an amendment,
That the Assembly: -
Repeal Regulation 3 and substitute a new Regulation therefore as follows: -

3. "The Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) members appointed by the General Assembly of Australia of whom eight (8) shall be from Queensland (which includes two (2) corresponding members from the North Queensland Presbytery); two (2) each from New South Wales and Victoria; and one each from Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia and the Northern Territory plus the Executive Officer (Superintendent) ex-officio. The Committee shall meet from time to time as determined by the Executive. The Queensland members shall constitute the Executive and shall meet at least quarterly. The Executive shall have power to fill vacancies between Assembly meetings.

The amendment seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Clause 3 was moved in regard to Regulation 4.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded with regard to regulation 5.

According to Notice (N.M.69) Mr. B.T. Scott moved, as an amendment,
That the Assembly: -

Repeal Regulation 5 and substitute a new Regulation therefore as follows:

5. The Committee of the Presbyterian Inland Mission may appoint an honorary Executive Officer (or Superintendent) or a Part-Time Executive Officer (or Superintendent) up to 25 per cent of a full time appointment with title, terms, and conditions to be approved by the full Special Committee; such an appointment, if made, is to be reported to the General Assembly of Australia following the appointment.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The amended motion was approved.

Clause 4 was fallen from.

According to Notice (N.M.72) Mr. B.T. Scott moved.

That the Assembly: -

Appoint the Committee as follows: -

Rev. J. J. Knapp (Qld) Convener	Mr. R.W. Pilkington (Qld)
Rev. R. C. Clark (Qld)	Mr. R. C. Scott (Qld)
Rev. G. C. Lake (Qld)	Mr. H.R.E. Staines (Qld)
*Rev. A. MacNicol (Qld)	*Mr. B.T. Scott (Qld)
Rev. D. A. Burke (NSW)	Mr. P. A. Burke (NSW)
Rev. C. R. Thomas (Vic)	Mr. R. Scott (Vic)
Rev. D. B. Fraser (WA)	Mr. R. W. Arstall (SA)
Mr. J. A. B. Finlay (Tas)	

*Corresponding members N. Q. Presbytery)

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. R. C. Clark moved

That the Assembly: -

Record appreciation for the work of the retiring members of the Executive.

143. Presbyterian Inland Mission Deliverance:

The Deliverance as a whole was approved as

follows: -

1. Request Ministers and Elders of the Assembly to publicise the work of the P.I.M. in their local and presbytery areas as far as possible.
2. Record the appreciation of the Assembly for the wisdom and counsel of Mr. Don Macdonald as a member of the Committee since 1977 and the A.I.M. Board since 1969.

3. Repeal Regulation 3 and substitute a new Regulation therefore as follows: -
 3. "The Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) members appointed by the General Assembly of Australia of whom eight (8) shall be from Queensland (which includes two (2) corresponding members from the North Queensland Presbytery): two (2) each from New South Wales and Victoria; and one each from Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory plus the Executive Officer (Superintendent) ex-officio. The Committee shall meet from time to time as determined by the Executive. The Queensland members shall constitute the Executive and shall meet at least quarterly. The Executive shall have power to fill vacancies between Assembly meetings.
4. amend Regulation 4 by replacing the term "Executive Officer" with that of "superintendent" wherever it occurs.
5. Repeal regulation 5 and substitute a new Regulation therefore as follows: -
 5. The Committee of the Presbyterian Inland Mission may appoint an honorary Executive Officer (or Superintendent) up to 25 per cent of a full time appointment with title, terms, and conditions to be approved by the full Special Committee; such an appointment, if made, is to be reported to the General Assembly of Australia following the appointment.
6. Appoint the committee as follows:

Rev. J. J. Knapp (Qld) Convener	Mr. R. W. Pilkinton (Qld)
Rev. R. C. Clark (Qld)	Mr. R. C. Scott (Qld)
Rev. G. C. Lake (Qld)	Mr. H. R. E. Staines (Qld)
Rev. A. MacNicol (Qld)	*Mr. B. T. Scott (Qld)
Rev. D. A. Burke (NSW)	Mr. P. A. Burke (NSW)
Rev. C. R. Thomas (Vic)	Mr. R. Scott (Vic)
Rev. D. B. Fraser (WA)	Mr. R. W. Arstall (SA)
Mr. J. A. B. Finlay (Tas)	
Corresponding members N. Q. Presbytery)	

7. Record appreciation for the work of the retiring members of the Executive.

144. Dissent: Mr. H. I. M. MacFarlane, Rev. G. F. McDonald and D. F. Murray and Messrs. I. A. Macdonald, and K. J. Swan recorded their dissent.

145. Overture 2: Overture 2 was fallen from.

146. Overture 8: The Overture No. 8 from the N.S.W. Assembly and College Committee Regulation 6 was laid on the Table and received.

Rev. P. F. Cooper and B. H. Christian were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture.

Questions were asked.

147. Competency: The competency of the overture was questioned. The Moderator ruled the motion to be competent.

The Rev. P.G. Logan moved,
That the Assembly: -
Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.
The motion was seconded and approved and the Moderator's ruling disagreed with.

148. Finance Resumed: The debate on Finance Clause 7 was resumed (Min. 21)

According to Notice (N.M. 53) Dr. R.F. Burns moved.

That the Assembly: -

Amend Clause 7(a) by adding "National Journal Committee \$4,000."

The Motion was seconded and disapproved.

According to Notice (N.M. 47) Rev. G.K. Kettmiss moved,

That the Assembly: -

Amend Clause 7 by deleting b(1) and renumbering the subsequent clauses.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Delete such words, that sub-clause b(iii) reads:

"Approve a contribution of \$1500 towards travelling expenses of a delegate to overseas conferences of the Reformed Ecumenical Council."

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Rev. P.G. Logan moved the deletion of sub-clause b(ii).

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

According to Notice (N.m. 39) Rev. C.R. Thomas moved,

That the Assembly: -

Add a new sub clause 7(g)

Authorise the Finance Committee to distribute profits from "Rejoice" equally between the Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee and the Christian Education Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 7 as amended was approved.

According to Notice (N.M. 57) Rev. R.C. Clark moved,

That the Assembly: -

Instruct the Finance Committee, acting jointly with the Business Committee, and in consultation with State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions, to study the wisdom and advisability of having the General Assembly of Australia meet normally every four years instead of every three years, and if there is wide support for such a change, to bring the required enabling action to the 1991 meeting of the Assembly for attention.

The motion was seconded and approved.

149. Finance Deliverance: The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly: -

1. Discharge the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee and transfer the duties and responsibilities to the Finance Committee as follows: -

(a) To negotiate with the States to seek uniform stipend levels throughout Australia to facilitate the transfer of Ministers from State to State in particular to the smaller States so that in translating they would not be disadvantaged by lower stipend levels, allowances and conditions.

(b) To liaise between the various States on questions of Long Service Leave and to ensure that reciprocal arrangements are maintained so that if a Minister transfers from one State to another, his rights under Long Service Leave shall be maintained and that he shall be able to take his Leave when due and that the costs which are apportioned to a particular State shall be met by that State.

- (c) To consider any matter placed before it by State Committees if that State Committee considered it would be in the best interests of the church in the realm of ministry.
- (d) To examine and approve Terms of Appointment of all full-time ministerial appointments made by the General Assembly of Australia.
2. Receive and note the Balance Sheets as at 31st December, 1987 and associated statements.
3. confirm the continued reimbursement of the actual expenses incurred for Travelling and Accommodation of commissioners not resident in the city which the General Assembly is held on the following basis: -
- Commissioners having to travel more than 750 km by rail
 - Return economy class air fares
 - Commissioners from Tasmania
 - Return economy class air fares
 - Commissioners having to travel 750 km or less by rail
 - Second class concession return rail fares
 - (where not available - ordinary rail fares)
 - Where a train does not run - ordinary coach fares
 - Overnight accommodation and breakfast.
4. (a) Until such time as the General Assembly of Australia determines otherwise, approve payment of Honoraria as follows:
- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Moderator | \$1,000 p. a. |
| Clerk of Assembly | \$ 620 for each General Assembly |
| Deputy Clerk | \$ 310 for each General Assembly |
| Assistants to Clerks | \$ 310 for each General Assembly |
| Business Convener | \$ 310 for each General Assembly |
- (b) Authorise the Finance Committee to pay appropriate Honoraria to one or more persons acting in positions listed in (a).
5. (a) Approve the following provisions for the Moderator assuming office in September, 1988 and for succeeding Moderators until such time as the General Assembly determines otherwise.
- (i) An allowance up to \$5,000 per annum to cover the costs of 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 court dress;
 - (iii) Costs of pulpit supply during the Moderator's absence on moderatorial duty;
 - (iv) An honorarium of \$1,000 per annum as approved in clause 4(a) above.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve any necessary additional expenditure in respect of the Moderator.
6. Request State Assemblies, when called upon to do so, to reimburse the Finance Committee without delay expenditure in connection with the holding of the 1988 General Assembly of Australia in the proportions approved by the Thirty-seventh General Assembly in 1979 (Minute 95:6)

7. (a) Approve the following amounts as "maximum allocations" to the Committees listed for the period 1st January, 1989 to 31st December, 1991 in order to make up deficiencies that cannot be financed from within their own resources :-

Church and Nation	2,000
Code	10,000
College	7,000
Defence Forces	5,000
Finance	2,000
Public Worship & Aids to Devotion	3,000
Reception of Ministers	900
Relations with other churches	500
Stewardship & Promotion	<u>300</u>
Total	<u>\$30,700</u>

- (b) (i) Approve a contribution of \$2,000 to the Reformed Ecumenical Council for the period 1st January, 1989 to 31st December, 1991.
- (ii) Approve a contribution of \$1,500 towards the Travelling expenses of a delegate to overseas conferences of the Reformed Ecumenical Council.
- (c) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve additional expenditure that may arise after consultation with any committee, reporting details to State Finance or equivalent committees.
- (d) Request State Assemblies to make any necessary arrangements for reimbursement to the Finance Committee without delay of relevant proportions of the expenses of Committees of the General Assembly of Australia as and when such expenses are incurred and recorded in the minutes of the Finance Committee.
- (e) Request the Trustees to finance expenditure authorised by the Finance Committee, pending reimbursement by State Finance or equivalent committees.
- (f) authorise the Finance Committee to distribute profits from "Rejoice" equally between the Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee and the Christian Education Committee.
- 8- Instruct the Finance Committee, acting conjointly with the Business Committee, and in consultation with State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions, to study the wisdom and advisability of having the General Assembly of Australia meet normally every four years instead of every three years, and if there is wide support for such a change, to bring the required enabling action to the 1991 meeting of the Assembly for attention.
9. Appoint the Finance Committee as follows: -
- Rev. Frank Avent
 - Messrs. D.R. Brierley and R.E. Thorpe (nominated from N.S.W.)
 - Messrs. D.L. McCullough and R.W. Pilkington (nominated from Queensland)
 - Mr. A.G. Matheson (nominated from South Australia)
 - Mr. P.B. McViety (nominated from Tasmania)
 - The Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons and Dr. F.H. Hooke (nominated from Victoria)
 - Mr. W. Mitchell (nominated from Western Australia)
 - Messrs. R. Dunlop, W. Lennon, W. McGilvray and B. Shirlaw, with Mr. D.R. Brierley as Convener.
10. Convey its appreciation and thanks to Mr. K.C. Auld for his contribution to the work of the Finance Committee for such a long period.
11. Recognising that many Commissioners, who would be able to leave home on the day of the constitution of the General Assembly, find it impossible to arrive as early as 10.00 a.m., agree that in such cases, an additional night's accommodation be paid, and that steps be taken to avoid a similar occurrence in future by constituting the General Assembly on the Monday evening.

12. Record its appreciation for the valuable contribution made by the Very Reverend Norman Monsen to the work of the G.A.A. Finance Committee since 1973.
13. Record its appreciation for the contribution to the work of the Finance Committee by Mr. J.E. Sticpewich who died on 14th May, 1988.

150. It was agreed to vary the Order of the Day to take up Petition 2.

151. **In Private:** The house sat in private.

152. **Petition 2 Benalla Presbytery:** Petition 2 from the Presbytery of Benalla presented by Mr. J.

Zandt was laid on the Table and received.

The petitioners were called to the Bar of the House.

Rev. P.W. Swinn and A.K. Brown stated the Petition.

Questions were called for.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

According to Notice (N.M. 68) the Clerk moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Grant the prayer of the Petition.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The Clerk moved,

That the Assembly: -

2. Dismiss the Petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

By leave, Rev. G.K. Kettiniss moved,

That the Assembly: -

(a) Express its thanks to God for the gifts that Mr. Zandt is using in his present ministry.

(b) Humbly believes that Mr. Zandt's ministry does not lie in the ordained ministry at the present time.

(c) Urge the Presbytery of Benalla to continue to encourage Mr. Zandt to use his gifts as a Home Missionary or lay person, until improvement in his health would allow otherwise.

(d) Express its thanks to the Presbytery of Benalla and the Victorian T.E.C. for the compassion and love shown towards Mr. Zandt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the decision of the Assembly and removed them from the Bar.

153. **Open Court:** The House resumed in open Court.

154. **Overture 9:** The Overture No. 9 from the Presbytery of Moree presented by the College Committee

Regulation 6(a) (ii) was laid on the Table and received.

Rev. P. Thorneycroft and R. Stark were called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture.

Questions were called for.

The Overturists were removed from the Bar of the House.

According to Notice (N.M. 62) Rev. P.W. Swinn moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Sustain the Overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Amend Regulation 6(a)(ii) of the Regulations of the College Committee in accordance with Clause (1) of the Overture to read: "shall be required to complete two (2) years of tertiary degree level studies if under 35 or 1 year of tertiary degree level studies if 35-44 or to pass an assessment for entry to theological training if 45 or over, the College Committee being responsible for both the setting and marking of such assessment."

The motion was seconded and approved.

155. Overture 5: The Overture No. 5 from the South Australian Assembly anent mature age candidates for the ministry was laid on the Table and received.

The Rt. Rev. G.A. Morrow was called to the Bar of the House and stated the Overture. Questions were asked.

The Overturist was removed from the Bar of the House.

According to notice (N.M.2) Rt. Rev. G.A. Morrow moved,

That the Assembly: -

Sustain the Overture.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

It was moved that the overture be dismissed.

The motion was seconded and approved.

156. Relations with Other Churches: The Report of the Committee on Relations with Other Churches was laid on the Table and Received.

Clause 1 was disapproved.

Clause 2 was approved as amended by N.M.19.

Clause 3 and 4 were fallen from.

Clause 5 was approved.

Clause 6 was fallen from.

Clause 7 was approved in an amended form.

157. Relations with Other Churches Deliverance: The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

1. Affirm our desire to remain in membership of the Reformed Ecumenical Council.
2. Authorise the Committee to initiate relations with Presbyterian Churches in Asia and Pacific regions.
3. Appoint the Committee as follows: -
 - Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner (Convener) (Q)
 - Rev. Prof. Dr. F.N. Lee (Q)
 - Mr. G.S. Rutherford (Q)
 - Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker (Q)
 - Rev. P.M. Playsted (Q)
 - Mr. F. M. Bradshaw (V)
 - Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane (NSW), with Rev. M.J.K. Ramage (T), D.B. Fraser (WA) and the Right Rev. A.C. Stubs (SA) as corresponding members only.

158. Overture 10 Resumed: The debate on Overture No. 10 was resumed. (Min. 74)

According to Notice (N.M.70), Rev. R. Stark moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Appoint a Committee consisting of:

Rev. A.M. Harman (Convener)

Rev. P. Barnes

Rev. F.N. Lee

Rev. D.J.W. Milne

to investigate whether or not Freemasonry and other Fraternal Sects and Societies are compatible with Christianity.

Rev. B. Fraser moved, arising from the debate, an amendment to remove all words after "investigate" and substitute therefore the words "is helpful or harmful to growth in Christian maturity and Christian witness and service."

159. Competency: The competency of the motion was questioned.
The Moderator ruled the amendment to be incompetent.

160. Previous Question: The previous question was moved and disapproved.

161. The motion was approved.

Rev. R. Stark moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Direct that the Committee's findings be circulated to all Presbyteries and Sessions by 31st January, 1990 for study and report, with replies to be back to the Convener of the Committee by 31st January, 1991.

The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Direct that the Committee's report be presented to the General Assembly of Australia in 1991, along with any replies received from the Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions.

The motion was seconded and approved.

162. Overture 4: Overture No. 4 was fallen from.

163. National Journal Resumed: The debate on the National Journal was resumed (Min. 58)

Clause 3 was moved with the addition of the following words (N.M. 56).

"with the following terms of call: Appointment terminable by six months' notice on either side; Basic stipend as determined by the N.S.W. Assembly from time to time plus a margin of 20%; manse or manse allowance as determined by the Assembly; four weeks holiday per annum; telephone; Beneficiary Fund and Long Service Leave Assessment; Personal Accident and Sickness Policy; country car allowance; accommodation and travelling expenses by arrangement; removal expenses within the State, outside the State by negotiation; one week's study leave (non-accumulative) per annum.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 4 was approved.

Clause 5 was approved.

Clause 6 was fallen from.

Clause 7 was moved and seconded.

According to Notice (N.M. 30) Rt. Rev. G.A. Morrow moved as an amendment.

That the Assembly: -

Delete the name of Rev. C.R. Thomas as representative for Victoria and insert the name of the Rev. G.M. Nicholls of Victoria in its place.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 7 was approved.

164. National Journal Deliverance: The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

1. Encourage the National Journal Committee to seek and extend the readership of the National Journal into the wider Australian community as well as carrying out the direction of the General Assembly 1985 in minute 93 (2).

2. Express appreciation to the Rev. C.R. Thomas for his service as Editor of the National Journal and commend him to the prayers of the Church in his appointment as Editor of New Life.

3. Appoint Rev. N.J. Sandon as Editor of the National Journal for a period of six (6) years commencing 1st October, 1988; on the following terms: -
 Appointment terminable by six months' notice on either side; Basic Stipend as determined by the N.S.W. Assembly from time to time plus a margin of 20%; manse or manse allowance as determined by the Assembly; four weeks holiday per annum; telephone; Beneficiary Fund and Long Service Leave Assessment; Personal Accident and Sickness Policy; country car allowance; accommodation and travelling expenses by arrangement; removal expenses within the State, outside the State by negotiation; one week's study leave (non-accumulative) per annum.
4. Express appreciation to the retiring members of the committee for their service over the past three years.
5. Confirm that the editor be ex officio a member of the National Journal Committee.
6. Appoint the Committee as follows: -

Rev. N.J. Sandon (NSW)	Dr. R. F. Burns (Convener) (NSW)
Rev. R. P. F. Benn (NSW)	Mr. D. J. Roams (NSW)
Rev. P. W. Hastie (NSW)	Mrs. A. Goodman (NSW)
Rev. R. Humphreys (V)	Mr. D. M. Wilson (Q)
Rev. C. R. Thomas (V)	Mr. A. G. Matheson (SA)
Rev. G. K. Kettmiss (Q)	Mr. R. Kent (WA)
Rev. R. Tsai (T)	

165. **N.J. Sandon & C. R. Thomas:** Rev. C.R. Thomas and N. Sandon were presented to the Moderator.

166. **Public Worship Resumed:** The Debate on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion was resumed. (Min. 62)

Clause 2(b) was moved and seconded.
 According to Notice (N.M. 51) Rev. G. K. Kettmiss moved,
 1. That the words in 2(b) be deleted.

167. **Competency:** The competency of the amendment was questioned.
 The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

168. Clause 2(b) was disapproved.
 Clause 2(c) was approved.
 Clause 3(a) was approved.
 Clause 3(b) was moved and seconded.
 According to Notice (N.M. 51) Rev. G. K. Kettmiss moved, as an amendment
 That the Assembly: -

2. Delete the words in 3(b) in order to replace them by the words: -
 (b) Request Ministers, Sessions and Presbyteries to study the "Anthology of Prayers" and report to the Committee no later than 31st December, 1989.

The amendment was seconded and approved.
 Clause 5 was moved.
 According to Notice (N.M. 51) Rev. G. K. Kettmiss moved,
 That the Assembly: -

Delete all words in clause 5 after "Convener" and substitute the following: -
 D. A. Burke, P. W. Hastie, A. G. Ingram (NSW), R. Humphreys, C. R. Thomas, J. E. Webster (Vic),
 Messrs. A. Ramsay, Mr. Justice R. F. Smart (NSW), Dr. S. D. Gill (Vic).

Corresponding members:

Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker (Qld)
Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner (Qld)
Rt. Rev. A.C. Stubs (SA)
Rev. M.J.K. Ramage (Tas)
Rev. J. Nocher (WA)
Rev. A.K. Brown (Vic)

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion was approved.

169. Public Worship Deliverance: The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: *

1. (a) Note with pleasure the production of "Rejoice!", the Hymn Book for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
(b) Encourage congregations to use "Rejoice!" in worship.
2. (a) Note that the Provisional Services for the Book of Common Order will be available in the near future.
(b) Request Ministers, Sessions and Presbyteries to study the services and report to the Committee no later than the 31st December, 1989.
3. (a) Note that the Anthology of prayers for use in public worship will be available early in 1989.
(b) Request Ministers, Sessions and Presbyteries to study the "Anthology of Prayers" and report to the Committee no later than 31st December, 1989.
4. Confirm the appointment of the Convener to the Editorial Committee of The Australian Hymn Book Committee as a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
5. Appoint the Committee as follows: -
 - Rev. D. F. Murray (Convener) (NSW)
 - Rev. J. L. Bracht (NSW)
 - Rev. P. W. Hastie (NSW)
 - Rev. A. G. Ingram (NSW)
 - Very Rev. J. Mullan (NSW)
 - Rev. P.E. Boase (NSW)
 - Rev. J. Bruce (NSW)
 - Mr. C.R. Brierley (NSW)
 - Mr. A. Ramsay (NSW)
 - Mr. Justice R.F. Smart (NSW)with corresponding members
 - Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker (Q)
 - Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner (Q)
 - Rt. Rev. A.C. Stubs (SA)
 - Rev. R. Humphreys (V)
 - Rev. M.J.K. Ramage (T)
 - Rev. C.R. Thomas (V)
 - Rev. P.A. Davidson (V)

170. Church Crest: The Report of the ad hoc Committee on the Church Crest and Addendum were laid on the Table and received.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

According to notice (N.M.59) Rev. R.C. Clark moved an amendment

That the Assembly

- (a) Remit the matter of a design for the church crest to the National Journal Committee.

- (b) Request the National Journal Committee to consult widely throughout the Church on a new design for the Church crest.
 - (c) Request the Committee to report with recommendations to the next General Assembly.
 - (d) Thank and discharge the ad hoc Committee on the Church Crest.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

171. Church Crest Deliverance

- 1. Note that in 1985 the Assembly accepted a design, in principle (see Design 2 in 1988 Report)
- 2. Note that during the period 1985 to 1988 suggestions were called for a "modern format Church Crest".
- 3. Thank all those who submitted designs to the ad hoc Committee on the Church Crest.
- 4. (a) Remit the matter of a design for the Church Crest to the National Journal Committee.
(b) Request the National Journal Committee to consult widely throughout the Church on a new design for the Church Crest.
(c) Request the Committee to report with recommendations to the next General Assembly.
(d) Thank and discharge the Committee on the Church Crest.

172. Immigration: The Report of the Immigration Committee was laid on the Table and received. Clause 1 was approved.

According to Notice (N.M. 11) Rev. D.A. Burke moved,
That the Assembly: -
Thank and discharge the Committee.
The motion was seconded and approved.

173. Immigration Deliverance: The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

- 1. Thank Rev. R.O. Walder for the time, work and ability given to the task of Convener of the Immigration Committee over so many years.
- 2. Thank and discharge the Committee.

174. Maintenance of the Ministry: The Report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was laid on the Table and received.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

- 1. Transfer the powers and activities of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to the Finance Committee of the General Assembly.
- 2. Thank and discharge the Committees.

175. Trustees Resumed: The Debate on the Trustees was resumed (Min. 26)
Notice of Motion 33 was fallen from.

176. World Mission Resumed: Debate on Australian Presbyterian World Mission was resumed. (Min. 33)

Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner moved Clause 9 in the terms of N.M. 18.
The motion was seconded.

According to Notice (N.M. 55) Dr. R.F. Burns moved as an amendment: -

"That Rev. Robert Humphreys be appointed a corresponding member of the Committee"

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The amended clause was approved.

Rev. R. Keith moved N.M. 45. The motion was seconded and approved.

177. **World Mission Deliverance:** The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -
1. Record its appreciation for the financial support given, and the representation made to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu by our Australian Church.
 2. Note with firm approval the moves being made to the Federal Government to have donations given for the purpose of relieving distress caused by cyclones and the like in countries such as Vanuatu, a deduction for income tax purposes.
 3. Record its appreciation of the record of Vanuatuan Missions and History represented by the "LIVE SERIES" and commend the Rev. Dr. Graham Miller for his industry and scholarship.
 4. Approve the Regulations to the "Dual Membership Agreement" as contained in Addendum A, as follows: -

ADDENDUM A

LOGO

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

THE WORLD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA

AN AGREEMENT TO RECOGNISE THE DUAL MEMBERSHIP

OF MEMBERS SERVING AS MISSIONARIES WITH AN

AGENCY OTHER THAN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

BETWEEN: The Missionary referred to in the First Schedule hereof, (in the case of a family unit this shall include the missionary and his wife whether or not the wife is separately appointed), (hereinafter referred to as (The Missionary"))
of the First Part

AND: The Mission Agency or National Church Agency referred to in the Second Schedule hereof (hereinafter referred to the "The Agency")
of the Second Part

AND: The Presbyterian Church of Australia by its duly authorised representatives, the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee (hereinafter referred to as "The Church")
of the Third Part

Whereas it is desirable to:

- (a) Share in the support, fellowship and service of church members who are missionaries, where such member-missionaries and the mission agencies with which they serve, are approved by the Church.
- (b) Encourage close and continuing links between member-missionaries and their own home congregations so that informed prayer, encouragement and financial support will be forthcoming.

- (c) Maintain the status of ordained ministers and of members serving under the terms of this Agreement.
- (d) Encourage congregations to seek a greater understanding of those Mission Agencies in which their member-missionaries are working.
- (e) Encourage all church members to be evangelically involved, both with their own Congregation and with Missions and Missionaries, in taking the whole gospel to the whole world.

Now this Agreement witnesses that:

1. The appointment of the missionary is approved of by all parties in accordance with the standards established by the Agency and the Church;
2. In the event that either the Agency or the Church requests confidential material gathered by the other, such material shall be shared providing that the missionary concerned agrees to the sharing, and providing such material is kept confidential at all times;
3. The Missionary has opportunity to participate in the full candidate and training programme of the Agency and in any training programme of the Church;
4. The candidate shall be allowed to itinerate and do deputation work in order that adequate prayer and financial support may be realised PROVIDED HOWEVER that the co-operation of the appropriate State World Mission Committee should be sought and expected in making representation to Presbyterian Churches;
5. Prior to the missionary's departure for service, his home Church and/or Presbytery in co-operation with the Agency, shall arrange for a Service of Commissioning in a mutually agreeable venue. It is understood that other Presbyterian Churches and even sister churches in other denominations may wish to be involved subject to the consent of the parties hereto.
6. The Agency shall supervise the securing of visas and make all such arrangements as may be necessary for the missionary beginning field work or returning to field work;
7. The Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee through the appropriate State Committee and the Agency shall together be responsible for the financial support of the missionary PROVIDED HOWEVER that the final co-ordination of finances be under the control of the Agency;
8. The missionary shall have liberty in the full and free presentation of the Gospel as expressed in the Basis of Union of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (1901) PROVIDED that the manner of this presentation in the field is to be subject to the field policies of the Agency.

9. While in the field or while travelling to and from the field, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of the Agency PROVIDED HOWEVER that, for the Church the final discipline of the missionary rests in the proper Court of the Church. Discipline by either the Agency or the Church does not bind the other to the same action, but discipline by one or the other would necessitate consultation to determine the status of this agreement;
10. While in the field, the missionary shall be an integral part of the field staff sharing equally in their privileges and responsibilities and being subject to the policies and directions of the Agency in so far as such policies and directions do not conflict with the other provisions of this agreement;
11. Furlough planning shall be initiated by the Agency and the appropriate State World Mission Committee shall be informed of the home-coming arrangements. Such furlough arrangements will consist of possible additional training or study time, deputation work and holidays. It is expected that deputation visits to Presbyterian Church and Parishes will be an integral part of the missionary's deputation programme. Any deputation work done specifically for a State or Local Parish Church would be at that Church's expense.
12. The missionary will not solicit homeland constituencies of either the Agency or the Church for personal or field funds without the permission of the respective Agency. Should permission be granted, any appreciable funds realised in this matter must be made known to both the Church and the Agency;
13. There shall be no restriction or objection on the part of any party to this agreement in respect of gifts of a strictly personal nature from whatever source, providing that the policy and procedure of the Agency in such cases be followed. (Ref. C17);
14. During a missionary's furlough the church may, if it deems necessary, provide to him additional support at either a Local, State or a Federal level and such support shall not be deemed to be part of the financial support otherwise provided for in the agreement;
15. The State Presbyterian World Mission Committee may receive and transmit funds on behalf of the missionary to the Agency at a time and in a manner mutually agreed upon;
16. The Church may make provision for the hospitalisation, retirement and insurance of the missionary by mutual agreement between the Agency and the Church should the Church deem that adequate provision for these purposes has not been incorporated in the constitution of the Agency;
17. This agreement shall take effect from the completion of its being signed and witnessed by the three parties referred to above, the missionary, the Agency and the Church, each party to hold signed copies of the agreement;
18. This agreement may be terminated by any one of the parties hereto after due consultation with, and one month's notice in writing to all the parties

PROVIDED HOWEVER that in the event that this agreement be terminated by either the Church or the Agency, then the missionary's needs and work in the field shall first be considered and if possible, an agreement reached as to the further relationship of each of the said parties to the missionary.

SCHEDULE 1

Missionary's Full Name: _____

Church Status: _____
(e.g. Member, Elder, Minister)

Congregation: _____

Parish: _____
(If congregation is but one of a number in a larger Parish)

Presbytery: _____

SCHEDULE 2

Name of Mission Agency or National Church Agency:

Address: _____

The above Dual Membership Agreement was entered into on the _____ day of _____ in the year One Thousand _____.

Signed:

_____	_____	_____
Missionary	Official Representative Convener of the of the Agency	Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee
_____	_____	_____
Witness	Witness	Witness
_____	_____	_____
Status of Witness	Status of Witness	Status of Witness

interpretation

In the interpretation of this Agreement

- (a) The singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (b) words importing one gender include the other gender.

NOTES ON AIMS:

- (i) This agreement covers missionaries who are working with approved interdenominational Mission Agencies and those working with National Church Agencies in other countries which are approved and are prepared to subscribe to this agreement.
- (i i) It is not the present intention of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee to undertake full financial support for missionaries who will be listed and advertised throughout our Australian Church as a result of this Dual-Membership Agreement. The Australian Presbyterian World Mission recognises and endorses local church decisions which lead to the full support of missionaries. But in general we wish to share with others in the wider Christian community the privilege of supporting the global missionary task represented by member-missionaries.
- (i i i) It is not intended that the practice of this Agreement will reduce in any way, support given to the other mission areas of our Church.
- (iv) Every contribution to approved missionaries may be noted as a part of the missionary giving of a congregation or parish.
- (v) Missionary candidates should apply to the Mission Agency under whose oversight they believe they are called to serve, but they should notify their own State committee as soon as practicable.
- (vi) A list of approved member-missionaries is available on request to either the local church or the Convener.
- (vi i) Address all correspondence to: The Convener, Australian Presbyterian World Mission, P.O. Box 291, NORTH QUAY, QUEENSLAND 4000.

5. Approve the Regulations as follows:

1. **Function:** The function of the Committee will be to carry out the functions as listed in Article vii and otherwise to implement the decision of the General Assembly of Australia with respect to Presbyterian Missions.
2. **Responsibilities:**
 - (a) Distribution of all moneys received for missions so that a minimum is used for administration.

- (b) Control of Missionaries in the field and responsibility for their welfare in accordance with partner-church relationships and dual membership agreements.
3. **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.
4. **Duties and Conditions of Appointments:**
- (a) The Convener shall be:
 - (i) The Chief Executive Officer 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.
5. **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: -
- (a) the promotion of the work of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission;
 - (b) financial responsibility for supporting projects and personnel as determined by the policies of the Committee for Australian Presbyterian World Mission;
 - (c) 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;
 - (d) the making of travel and furlough arrangements for such missionaries while within their State.
6. Remind our Congregations that an opportunity exists for assistance to be given for training full-blood Aboriginal people under the terms of the Swinney Memorial Trust.
7. Commend efforts being made to initiate Christian contact or extension in lands where Christian witness is difficult.
8. Approve the relocation of the Executive of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee in Sydney, New South Wales, as from 1st October, 1988.

9. Appoint the Committee, as follows: -

Rev. P. Barnes
Rev. R. P. F. Benn
Rev. K. Black
Dr. R. F. Burns (Convener)
Rev. J. J. T. Campbell
Rev. P. George Logan
Mrs. J. Lu
Mr. P. Miller
Miss R. Myers
Miss J. Guest
Rev. R. Humphreys (corresponding member)
together with the State Conveners.

10. Give thanks to God for the ministry of the outgoing Committee to the Church, particularly in their encouragement of a renewed commitment to world Mission in obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord (Matt. 28: 18-20).

11. Recognise, with thanks to God, the centenary of the Australian Presbyterian Mission to Korea in October, 1989.

178. Chair: The Very Rev. Dr. K. J. Gardner occupied the Chair.

179. Petition 1 S.A. Assembly: Petition No. 1 from the South Australian General Assembly, anent Presbyterian Church of Taiwan was laid on the table and received.

Rt. Rev. G. A. Morrow and A. C. Stubs presented the petition.

Questions were called for.

The Deputy Clerk moved,

That the Assembly: -

1. Grant the prayer of the Petition.
2. Direct the World Mission Committee to establish contact with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan with a view to mutual co-operation.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the decision of the Assembly.

The Petitioners were removed from the Bar.

180. Chair: The Rt. Rev. A. C. Stubs resumed the Chair.

181. Communication 2: Communication 2 from the South Australian General Assembly was received.

182. Communication 4: Communication 4 from Roseville Kirk Session was received.

According to Notice (N.M. 8) Rev. D. F. Murray moved,

That the Assembly:

1. Request the Moderator when visiting throughout Australia to draw the attention of Ministers, Sessions and Congregations to the great need for evangelism outreach within the community, and to challenge the people to practise regularly the reading of God's Word and the privilege of prayer.
2. Request all Presbyteries to:
 - (a) call the people within their responsibility to the claim of Christ in spreading the Gospel in all avenues of life;
 - (b) study, analyse, and make positive recommendations to all concerned regarding the Christian responsibility of sharing the faith in every walk of life.

3. Request all State Assemblies to initiate and/or further present programmes which will assist in: -
- (a) building our people up in the faith
 - (b) equipping them for evangelism
 - (c) giving ongoing guidance to the people on social and ethical issues
 - (d) offering guidelines on the practice of prayer, and the reading of the Word.
4. Request the Moderator to confer with the appropriate State Committees on all matters raised in the Communication and report to the next Assembly.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

183. Communication 7: Communication 7 was received.

184. Communication 8: Communication 8 was received.

According to Notice (N.M. 82) Mr. R. W. Pilkington moved,

That the Assembly: -

Request the Clerk to draw up a questionnaire for distribution to all Commissioners attending the 1988 G.A.A. seeking comments and suggestions on ways to expedite business and improve the whole tone of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

185. Accommodation Expenses: By leave, Rev. C. A. Harrison moved,

Authorise the payment of a fourth night's accommodation to Commissioners because of the extra sitting day of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

186. Minutes Sederunt No. 5: The Minutes of the Fifth Sederunt were confirmed.

187. Judicial Commission: The Clerk moved,

That the Assembly: -

Appoint to the membership of the Judicial Commission as follows: -

New South Wales

Rev. A. G. Ingram
 Rev. D. A. Burke
 Rev. B. H. Christian
 Rev. N. A. C. Ericksson
 Mr. L. J. Moore
 Mr. H. I. M. MacFarlane
 Rev. P. G. Logan
 Rev. P. F. Cooper

Victoria

Rev. H. A. Stamp
 Rt. Rev. W. M. Constable
 Rev. C. A. Harrison
 Rev. D. B. Morey
 Very Rev. E. R. Pearsons
 Rev. F. G. Lyman
 Mr. B. D. Bayston
 Mr. F. M. Bradshaw

Queensland

Very Rev. Dr. K. J. Gardner
 Rev. A. W. Laurie
 Rev. H. L. Dunn
 Mr. R. W. Pilkington

South Australia

Mr. R. W. Arstall
 Mr. A. G. Matheson

Western Australia

Rev. J. Nocher
 Mr. R. J. Kent

Tasmania

Rev. M. J. K. Ramage

General Assembly Representatives

Rev.. Prof. N.T. Barker (Q)	Very Rev. J. Mullan (NSW)
Rt. Rev. G.C. Lake (Q)	Mr. P.J. Graham (NSW)
Mr. P.A. Smith	Rev. P.E. Boase (NSW)
Mr. S. Hayden (V)	Mr. R.E. Thorpe (NSW)
Mr. K. Campbell (V)	Rt. Rev. A.C. Stubs (SA)
Mr. C.J. Junor (V)	Rev. D.B. Fraser (WA)

The motion was seconded and approved.

188. Committees Discharged: The Clerk moved,
That the Assembly: -
Thank and discharge the Committee to Scrutinise the Minutes, the Ballot Committee and the Tellers.
The motion was seconded and approved.

189. Thanks: The Clerk moved,
That the Assembly: -
Thank -

1. The Hospitality Committee and particularly Messrs R.H. Crowther and N.L.G. Taylor for arranging and co-ordinating the billeting of Commissioners.
2. The President and members of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Queensland Unit) for providing Assembly luncheons.
3. The President and members of St. Andrew's War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for serving Assembly dinners and the Chief Executive Chef and domestic staff of St. Andrew's Hospital for providing Assembly dinners.
4. The Minister, Kirk Session, Committee of Management and members of St. Paul's Church and Messrs. B.N. Lang, N. Taylor, R. Rogers and T.G. Appleton, Assembly Organists and the Choirs of St. Paul's Church and Fairholme College, Toowoomba.
5. The Convener of St. Paul's Hall Committee, Mrs. Nancy Halliday, for the supervision of the dining facilities for the Assembly.
6. Mr. R.P.W. Jell for the leadership of the General Assembly which he has given both in preparation of the Assembly and in the processing of the papers during the Assembly meetings.
7. Assembly Officer, Mr. P.J. Graham and his Assistant, Mr. B.M. Sharpe, and the staff of the Assembly Office Messdames, R.J. Blake and L. Costello for their unobtrusive but invaluable service to the welfare of the members of the Assembly, and the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and his office staff, for the assistance rendered to the Assembly.
8. All those families in the Brisbane and Mowbray Presbyteries who provided billets for Commissioners.
9. Mr. W. Townsend who, by his dedication, saved the Assembly approximately \$700 - \$1,000 by his gift of time in securing toilets and connecting them himself.

190. Commission to Confirm Minutes: The Clerk Moved,
That the Assembly: -
Appoint the Moderator, Clerks, and Rev. C.A. Harrison a Commission to examine, correct and confirm the minutes of the sixth, seventh and eighth sederunts.

191. Commission of Assembly: 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 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.

192. Appointment of Next Assembly: The Clerk moved.

That the Assembly: -

Resolve to convene in Scots Church, Sydney on Monday, 9th September, 1991 at 7.00 o'clock in the evening 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 function at the time, or place or on the date appointed.

The motion was seconded and approved.

193. Dissolution: The Business of the Assembly having been completed, the Moderator, after briefly addressing the House, from Acts 15:25, intimated that the Assembly would next convene in terms of Minute (192) and dissolved the Assembly with praise, prayer and the pronouncing of the Benedict i on.

K. J. Gardiner
J. J. T. Campbell
Clerks

CERTIFICATE

The Minutes of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Sederunts, having been carefully corrected are confirmed as authorised in terms of Minute 190 thereof.

A. C. Stubs
Moderator

REPORTS
and
OTHER PAPERS
to be presented to the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



**MEETING IN BRISBANE
TUESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 1988
at 2.00 p.m.**

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

The whole committee has met annually since the last General Assembly while the Executive has averaged five meetings per year. The cost of bringing all members to Brisbane for a meeting of the committee was the deciding factor in making the committee meeting an annual event. Nevertheless, the Executive has tried to keep all members fully informed so that their opinions may be taken into account in the decision making process.

1. Vanuatu: Since the last General Assembly of Australia met, our representation in Vanuatu has diminished. At present the only member of our Australian church serving the church in Vanuatu is the Rev. Bill Camden. Mr. Camden's role as a Bible Translator is well known and important. We continue to send financial support to Vanuatu and we believe that this support is significant in the ongoing mission of the church there. Such amounts will be detailed later in this report.

The response of the Australian church, namely, \$82,892.83, to the appeal to mitigate the destruction caused by the cyclone in Vanuatu was outstanding and this committee would thank the church as a whole, through the Assembly, for their generous stewardship in this matter. It is hoped that in the near future, donations from the people of our church to Cyclone Relief Appeals and the like will be tax deductible.

During the past three years, our Australian church has been ably represented on significant occasions in Vanuatu by the Rt. Rev. F. White, the Rev. K.D. Allen, the Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner and the Rev. A.R. Wilson.

The committee would also record its interest in and support for the volumes iv and v of the Rev. Dr. Graham Miller's book - "Live" - "A History of Church Planting in the New Hebrides".

2. Missionary Members - Second and Third Categories: We have approximately one hundred and six member-missionaries working in dozens of countries around the world. They serve under the auspices of twenty-four different missionary agencies. In this number are ministers of our own Australian church and their wives and the total picture of the work being undertaken is large and impressive. The qualifications and dedication of all of our missionary members is such that we should feel both proud and committed to their call and concerns.

As it well known, a Dual Membership Agreement to help establish the status of our Second and Third Category missionary-members has been slightly altered so as to make its meaning clearer. The new regulations are attached as an addendum to this report.

Also, during the triennium, the Missionary Directory has had one revision while it is hoped to distribute another very shortly.

3. Legacy to Assist Aboriginal People: It is well known that we have access to a legacy which is to be used to make it possible for various forms of training to be given to full-blood Aboriginal people but, to date, we have not been able to use it. This is a concern to the Committee.
4. Overseas: Opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in other countries are continually being sought. It is hoped that a contact in China may produce an indirect opportunity in the near future.

At the same time, missionary, links with other churches in other countries are not easy to forge. Sometimes we are at odds with their doctrine and discipline and sometimes they are at odds with ours. Nevertheless, by far the most important reason that more is not being done in this area is that we have not the manpower or the finance to support personal contact and observation.

5. Relocation of Committee: This committee, supported by the State Committees of Queensland and New South Wales, and the Queensland General Assembly believe that for reasons that have to do with an existing mission office structure in N.S.W., the saving of many dollars in travel costs when the whole committee meets, and availability of a greater range of mission expertise in Sydney, the Committee should be relocated in N. S. W.
6. Regulations: Owing to an oversight, Overture 3 which was presented to the 1982 General Assembly, with Returns to the 1985 Assembly, was omitted from the Deliverance.

The Overture and the Regulations, along with Article vii, received approval from Assemblies, Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions and should be enacted as the Regulations for the Committee.

1. Function

The function of the Committee will be to carry out the functions as listed in Article vii and otherwise to implement the decision of the General Assembly of Australia with respect to Presbyterian Missions.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Duties and Conditions of Appointments

- (a) The Convener shall be:
 - (i) the Chief Executive Officer 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.

5. 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.

7. Resignation of Conveners: Both the Convener, the Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner, and the Vice Convener, the Rev. R.T. Missenden, have notified the Committee of their resignations from the Committee which are to take effect on the rising of this Assembly. Both men have served the Committee for over ten years.

8. Conclusion: A lot has happened in the restructuring of our missionary outreach since 1977. A vitally new policy has been put in place and most of our church members now have a reasonable understanding of this present policy. This policy is not perfect or infallible but it is one in which the missionary stewardship and vision of our church can grow and, equally important, one in which our missionary-members receive on-going pastoral care. It is a policy, not only unique on a national scale in Australia, but probably unique on a national scale anywhere in the world.

New light will undoubtedly break forth in the future, but before changes are made, it may be helpful to ask why the present policy is as it is.

We are all aware that the missionary task is huge and that difficulties can be many but God is with us, so let us continue in every way possible "to beseech people on behalf of Christ, to be reconciled to God".

Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner,
Convener.

BI CENTENNIAL (AD HOC)

It is evident that Presbyterians are taking part in the celebrations of this Bi-Centennial Year. A number of reports were received from churches who took seriously the invitation to be part of the weekend of prayer held nationwide in February. At local, district and State level special happenings have or will be held during 1988. The Committee explored a number of ways the Church at the national level could mark the Bi-Centenary. Some of these while interesting hardly warranted the time and effort that would have been involved. The one thing which it is felt could be of significance would be the commissioning of the publication of a history on "Presbyterianism in Australia". Of course special funds would have to be provided and a Committee formed to carry through this project.

Peter E. Boase,
Convener.

BUSINESS

The Committee has met on two (2) occasions to arrange the business for this Assembly. In accordance with the resolution of the 1982 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia a sub-committee on hospitality has been appointed which has arranged for the billeting of commissioners in Brisbane. In addition, the Clerk of Assembly has made appropriate travel arrangements for concessional fares with Ansett Airlines and Assembly Luncheons and dinners for three (3) days of the Assembly have been arranged. Luncheon is being served by the ladies of the Presbyterian Women's Association, Queensland Unit, whilst dinner is being served each night by the ladies of the St. Andrew's War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary with the food provided from St. Andrew's War Memorial Hospital kitchens. As the Assembly is not constituting until 2.00 p.m., it was considered appropriate in the circumstances that the newly-elected Moderator should be inducted to office at the evening sederunt when the Presbyterian Women's Association Delegation would also be received and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper dispensed. As recommended by the Assembly the Committee has addressed the issue of Regulations. Having examined the Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland Business Committee Regulations the Committee recommends to the Assembly the adoption of Regulations as contained in the Deliverance. The draft Regulations were submitted to the Code Committee which has given its approval. The 39th General Assembly appointed the Deputy Clerk as Clerk of the Assembly until this Assembly. It is considered that this appointment now be confirmed and that the vacancy in the Deputy Clerkship be filled. The Committee, subject to the confirmation of the Clerk's appointment, is recommending the appointment of Rev. Paul G. Logan, the Assistant to the Clerk of the New South Wales Assembly for a number of years, as the Deputy Clerk.

The following is the order of business for the opening sederunt of the General Assembly:-

Tuesday, 13th September, 1988:-

2.00 p.m. Opening of Assembly Public Worship conducted by the Rt. Rev. E.R. Pearsons
Assembly constituted with prayer
Loyal Address
Roll of Assembly
Associates and Commissions
Apologies
Communications and acknowledgements

Report: Moderators Nominating Committee
Business Committee
Finance Committee
The Trustees
College Committee
Code Committee

Notice of Motion

Rev. H.G. Durbin,
Convener.

ADDENDUM TO REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Since the original report of the Executive was written, and now with the meeting of the full Committee, the Committee has considered the report and concluded that certain alterations are necessary.

They are as follows: -

1. With the resignation of the Clerk, it was considered appropriate to recommend to the Assembly the appointment of Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner to act as Clerk throughout this Assembly with Rev. J.J.T. Campbell to assist him and to proceed to elect a Clerk and Deputy Clerk to assume their offices from the first day of January, 1989.
2. In view of the difficulties that have arisen which have necessitated the alteration of the report and deliverances, the Committee considered that it would be prudent to recommend to the Assembly that it appoint one of its members, Rt. Rev. G.C. Lake, to assist the Business Convener during this Assembly.
3. Although the proposed Business Committee Regulations were previously submitted to the Code Committee for its approval, the Committee is now submitting Regulations in an amended form and which bear a much greater resemblance to the Regulations of the Business Committees for the States of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, particularly with respect to proposed new Regulation 1.
4. Although the Committee was not requested to do so, it is bringing forward a set of Regulations for the Ballot Committee for adoption. It is usual practice for the Business Committee to bring nominations for the Ballot Committee to each Assembly in its deliverance and therefore, the Business Committee deemed it appropriate that it should make the running in this matter. The Regulations are identical with those in the Queensland Code.
5. The report on page 21 of the White Book indicates that the PWA of A delegation would be received on Tuesday evening. However, the deliverance set aside an Order on the Day for 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, and the PWA of A had been so advised. It is now too late to revert to the Tuesday evening. Commissioners should note this discrepancy in the report.
6. In the light of the foregoing, it will be necessary for the Assembly to deal with the Report, Addendum and the new proposed deliverance after the Assembly is constituted with prayer during the first Sederunt.

Rev. H.G. Durbin,
Convener.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee gives thanks and praise to Almighty God for all that He has enabled them to do in His Name for the extension of His Kingdom through the upbuilding of His people in the Faith.

1. "Rejoice!": Since the last General Assembly, the greater part of the committee's activity has been centred upon the production of "Rejoice!" our church's new hymn book in co-operation with the Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee as directed by the General Assembly of 1982. The convener and the Rev. Rob Humphreys have borne a particularly heavy load in this regard. More will no doubt be said in the Public Worship Committee's report, but it will suffice to say here that because of this committee's previous experience in publishing and the co-operation of the National Journal Committee in the use of its computer and typesetting service, it was possible to bring this most ambitious project to a satisfactory conclusion with the making of an excellent aid to worship available to our people for an amazingly economical price.
2. Other Publications: The committee has kept in print all publications produced since 1977, "The Communicants' Work Book" being about to be reprinted for the fourth time. Neville Sandon and Bob Thomas have undertaken to prepare a revised edition for the next reprint. The publication of the "Live!" series of books on the history of church planting in Vanuatu was handed over to the author, Dr. J. Graham Miller, after Volume Two, the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu having expressed a greater degree of interest in the project. Dr. Miller has just completed Volume Five of this epic work, which now nears completion. All volumes are available from him at 14 Franklin Street, Wangaratta, 3677. To mark the bicentenary the committee has produced a small study booklet written by the Rev. Graham Chipps and David Burke and available in time for the meetings of the Assembly.
3. Annual Meetings: Annual meetings of the committee have continued to be fruitful and helpful to the Christian Education personnel in each state as well as providing assistance to those involved in various areas of Christian Education, especially Sunday School teachers and youth leaders.
4. Presbyterian Sunday School Curriculum: The committee agonised over the question remitted to it by the last General Assembly of whether or not a specifically Australian Presbyterian Sunday School Curriculum should be produced. The committee was particularly grateful for an in-depth feasibility study presented by the Rev. Ron Clark, Director of Christian Education of the PCQ. Despite Mr. Clark's favourable disposition towards the proposal, the committee feels that it must reluctantly counsel the church to abandon any thought of producing its own curriculum. In brief, the reasons for this are as follows: the enormous cost involved in producing material comparable in quality of presentation to those already available; the tremendous amount of personpower required to bring the proposal to fruition; the suitability range and accessibility of materials already available; the smallness of the potential market relative to the need for mass production of the materials for the achievement of economic viability of such a project.
5. Future Publications: The committee has several projects before it for the publications of various works which will further benefit those involved in Christian Education activities, especially in the areas of teaching the faith in the home and adult Bible study.

6. Convener: With the new convener's move interstate, the time has come to appoint a new convener and the committee nominates the Rev. David Burke, who has served several terms as NSW convener and for the past two years has acted as secretary to the GAA committee. With his post-graduate studies and involvement in adult Christian Education through the Presbyterian Theological Centre in Sydney he is admirably equipped to carry out this task.
7. Conclusion: The committee would report with a certain gratitude that it has always been able to function with a high degree of harmony, indeed unanimity. The experience of this committee has always been that, wherever Christians individually or corporately endeavour "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever", there is a beautiful brotherliness, joy unspeakable and perfect peace upon them in their every endeavour. It is our prayer that such would be the experience of the whole church as she moves forward in faith and trust in our Sovereign Lord and Redeemer, to whom be glory and praise forever.

Bob Thomas,
Convener.

CHURCH CREST (AD HOC)

This committee was set up in 1982 to investigate and to clarify which was the authorised design for the Church Crest to be used by the G.A.A. This was done because of the number of versions known to be in use. The intention in 1901 was for the emblem to be used on all official papers and publications of the G.A.A., and it was to follow the design used in 1900 in N.S.W. and Queensland (first used in N.S.W. in 1883-4). The committee found there was in 1901 already a number of variations of the original crest in use, so it was difficult to say, even in 1901, what was the design; no designs in 1900-1901 fully followed the 1883-4 design from N.S.W. Arising from these discoveries, the Committee presented to the 1985 G.A.A. number of variations for consideration with the recommendation that Design 6 in that Report (p .55) (the shield having on it the Burning Bush and five stars of the Southern Cross alone), be accepted as the official design. This design is reproduced with our Report as Design No.2. The design was accepted in principle but there has not been a direction that it be used. The Committee was asked to describe the design and to note the proper colour description. In 1985 the G.A.A. also resolved, after a proposal from one of its commissioners, that the Committee should look into a new format church crest. The Committee has called for suggestions and designs through the A.P.L. and a number of other sources. The possibility has been canvassed of having a new design altogether, or a new arrangement of the present symbols. A number of people have submitted ideas and designs for the Committee's appraisal. The designs and ideas submitted show a concern for expressing key elements of the faith and/or to give expression to ideas about our Australian identity whilst still acknowledging our forebears in the Faith. It must be said that when we advertised that the Committee was commissioned to look into a new format crest a number of individuals and groups from parishes and presbytery areas registered their concern about any move to adopt a new emblem. A number of people do not want a change, although it is obvious that it is adherence to the general shape and symbols which is paramount. People have been surprised to find that they have not noticed the number of variations currently in use. The Committee has taken into account the various expressions of concern from the G.A.A. in 1985, and from individuals and groups since that date, when making a selection to present to the G.A.A. 1988. This has led to the selection of one modern style arrangement of the basic symbols and one design which retains the general shape of the traditional designs. We have, as well, resubmitted the previous design approved in principle.

Design 1 uses a Mallee type tree, and uses, instead of the flowers of later designs, the symbol of living water. Our roots, regardless of where we have come from in the world, are in the living water; a plea for Australians in the dry continent to know their location is under the Southern Cross (in the South land of the Holy Spirit). It is also to remind us, as Australians, that spiritual and temporal life need living water. The St. Andrew's Cross (white) reminds us, both of the need to be disciples and of the Scottish contribution to Australian Presbyterianism. The light shield is to emphasise the lighter Australian skies, but also from a practical design point of view when it is reduced to a small size will keep clarity of lines - a problem observed about the dark shields. Having the Cross and Southern Cross at the top of the crest may help to have it printed correct side up. There have been suggestions that today in a multi-cultural Australia that there is a need to identify ourselves as Christians as well as Reformed thus the Roman Cross as well as the southern Cross is included. 1. The Order of Preference for Designs. The Committee recommends Design 1 as its first preference followed by Design 2 as we believe that the present shape and the basic symbols of the Burning Bush and Southern Cross are important to retain. We support the presentation of Design 3 to the Assembly in response to the expressed concern that we look at a modern format emblem. Other designs submitted covered a wide range of ideas. 2. Colour Reproduction: It is usual on letterheads and in simple printing to have blue/white or black/white reproductions. The colours recommended are taken from the Pantone guide which is used in the Printing industry. Design 1: Pale blue shield (Pantone 544U); medium depth green

tree (384 U); flames - basic warm red (Standard Basic 1); trunk brown (498U); lettering Reflex Blue; ribbands - yellow (Standard Basic 1 U). Design 2: This design has on the deep bright blue shield the Burning Bush and the five stars of the Southern Cross alone. Shield - Reflex Blue U; St. Andrew's Cross - Reflex Blue/White. Design 3: Dark Blue Cross (280U); scarlet flames (185U); white stars of the Southern Cross. Dark blue lettering (280U).

ADDENDUM Omission from Report - Ad Hoc Comm, on Church Crest Please note that the Design details under Design No. 2 should read as follows: Design 2: This design has on the deep bright blue shield the Burning Bush and the five stars of the Southern Cross alone. Shield - Reflex Blue U; St. Andrew's Cross - Reflex Blue/White. Tree - Light green (457U); Trunk - Brown (498 U); Flames - Orange (165U); Stars/Ribbands - Yellow (standard Basic 1 U); Lettering (Reflex Blue U). *Underlined words omitted.

Helen Clements,
Convener.

DESIGNS

CHURCH AND NATION

The New South Wales Church and Nation Committee, while continuing to act for the General Assembly of Australia, has been mainly unsuccessful in its aim of involving as corresponding members the conveners of similarly styled committees appointed by the General Assemblies of other States. We trust that the clause in the deliverance requesting the Clerk of each other State General Assembly to supply the convener's name and address to the Clerk of the New South Wales General Assembly will solve this problem of communication.

Seven presbyteries and six kirk sessions responded to the remit of the papers on In Vitro Fertilisation and associated issues. In general they commended the papers, but the Committee is very conscious of the fact pointed out in three responses that a further, up-to-date paper is called for from the Church. We have begun to address this need. While artificial insemination by husband and in vitro fertilisation for lawfully wedded couples were generally endorsed, artificial insemination by donor, genetic engineering and cloning were universally condemned.

It would be impossible to bring to a general assembly which meets no more frequently than at intervals of three years many social and moral issues confronting the nation. To this session of the General Assembly we bring an introductory paper on Environmental Stewardship and some brief comments on The Australian Federal Constitution, under consideration for amendment in the near future.

K. J. Swan,
Convener.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Reverend I.G. Stewart

To date, theologians and members of the Christian Church have concentrated their theology and ways of worship on two relationships: Man to God and Man to Man. The third vital relationship, Man to Environment, seems to have been either ignored or abused. Evidence of this claim, negative though it is, lies in the almost total neglect of environmental stewardship in our theological writings and in our prayers and in our selection of passages from the Scriptures. While some occupiers and users of the land are faithful stewards, many people fail to exercise land stewardship. It would seem that rather than 'fill the earth and subdue it'. Man has misinterpreted the following Scripture:

You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet.
(Genesis 1:2; Psalm 8:5)

So he has suited his own sinful covetousness by exploiting the environment and engaging in the mad, almost universal, scramble for materialistic prosperity.

Now the Christian Church is challenged to reconsider the theological attitudes in a world whose members should embrace that lifestyle which is pleasing to God and by which they can best 'glorify Him and enjoy Him forever'. To date the Church seems to have failed in this reconsideration.

Although individual theologians and worshippers have confessed to the sin of abusing the environment, and have petitioned God for guidance for the future, total denominations and the universal Church seem not to have done so. Yet the Church can influence people to be better stewards of the environment by encouraging its members to exercise careful land stewardship, to take a forthright stance on the issue of environmental care, and to construct an acceptable theology to become integral to the activities and worship of all believers. It could be argued strongly that only the theological approach to environmental stewardship would have no chance of success. The approaches of ecologists and conservationists will not achieve great success until people's spiritual attitudes are motivated by the desire to care for the environment as God directed and for His glorification.

In his paper Soul Conservation: People Religion and Land (April 1986), Dr. Brian Roberts, President of the Soil Conservation Association of Australia and a member of the staff of Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education at Toowoomba Queensland, has explored the topic environmental stewardship. He has concluded that primitive peoples exhibit a better theological attitude towards land than do modern sophisticates. As evidence of this he quotes Chief Seattle, who said to the President of the United States in 1854, 'the earth does not belong to man: man belongs to the earth.' Roberts describes this nineteenth century view of a non-Christian as 'the most beautiful and profound statement on the environment ever made'.

Moreover, the Australian Aborigines have always felt that the earth owned them, so that land rights take on spiritual meaning for them, as Broome points out in Aboriginal Australians.

A writer of a letter to the editor of The Australian of 29th September, 1987 made much the same point when he said:

"for 40,000 years the Aboriginal people intentionally cared for the environment, their culture revolved around understanding and conserving it, they were for 40,000 years the

perfect conservationists. Yet in a mere 200 years European settlers have, through ignorance and greed, destroyed millions of tonnes of topsoil, annihilated scores of living species, squandered half of our forest resources, silted our rivers."

Although not all of the interpretations of the first sentence may stand scrutiny in the face of contemporary knowledge of the less-than-advanced state of primitive Aboriginal culture, those of the second sentence are indisputable, as any journey through the country areas of New South Wales alone would only too quickly reveal.

Visual and statistical evidence shows the stability and productivity of available arable land are declining. A tour of the Riverina district of New South Wales reveals significant areas of salt-encrusted and/or windswept land which is the result of the thoughtlessness of mankind. Brian Roberts cites evidence to prove that the total area of cropland in the world is declining by 7 per cent per annum. In Australia we are losing the fight to save our soil because 51 per cent of our arable land is detrimentally affected by erosion and salinity: of that 51 per cent, water erosion affects 71 per cent, wind erosion 14 per cent, vegetation 13 per cent, and salinity 2 per cent. Roberts asserts that 'on a per capita basis Australians have destroyed 11.2 hectares compared to 3.5 hectares in the United States of America since settlement.'¹ This problem seems to have arisen because people have either been too ignorant (mainly in the past) or too greedy (probably in every age) to live with the strengths and to protect the weaknesses of the environment. Support for this view comes from Ian McHarg when he says that 'man is an epidemic multiplying at a super exponential rate, destroying the environment upon which he depends and threatening his own extinction'¹. Fines and imprisonment would not alter this attitude. The altering of attitudes is the lot of the Church because it alone, of all the world's institutions, is interested in directing people's activities towards the supreme standards: those established by the provider, Almighty God. Proper environmental use calls for realising its God-given potential. This can require a 'caring-sharing-respecting' partnership between Man and his environment.

Scriptural grounds for this are that believers should obey God respecting His creation (Genesis 1:28 et al).

The Church has failed. Various passages of Scripture endure us to exert dominion, to subdue, to replenish, to multiply. The Church seems to have identified relationships only of God/Man, Man/Man, and God/Earth. The missing link, Man/Earth, has been all but ignored. Indeed, it has been grossly neglected in Christian countries, where the Church has put the idea in the 'too-hard basket', has avoided conservation issues, has thought conservationists are threats to economic survival, and has perhaps at times overplayed its theological stance that 'man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever'. That Christians, generally, have been arrogant towards land is proved by the fact that land-abuse is rife in countries where Christianity is the predominant or even the state religion.

Resolution of the problem relies not on more and new technology but on proper attitudes which have to move from the anthropocentric to the cosmological.

If Christians feel close to God, then they should feel close to one another and to the environment in which God-given life is lived. Just as Christians are told to love one another, so can they only do this well if they utilise the world about them in God's way. How can any believer claim to be close to God and to his neighbour when he is abusing the environment to fill his own plate while starving families huddle over a bowl of powdered milk? Just as God's people have been told to care for the environment (Genesis 1:28 et al), so they must realise

that they are but leaseholders from God, the Owner. The Church of Scotland which has established a committee under Dr. David Pullinger to investigate this matter has directed attention specifically to the areas of afforestation, agriculture, pollution, research and development, as well as to Scotland's place in the world food-supply chain. Can the Presbyterian Church of Australia, situated on a greater environmental mass (perhaps also mess) attempt less?

The universal Church must face the fact that wilful and self-indulgent destruction of the environment is sinful. As part of the universal Church, the Presbyterian Church of Australia must recognise both the need to construct a theology of man's relationship to the environment and the need to apply that theology. Perhaps once again the Church needs to learn from the past, even from a non-christian, for Mahatma Gandhi is reported to have said (though very few seem to have heeded him), that 'the earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed'. For which of these alternatives do the technocrats cater? For which can the Church of believers only cater if it is to be true to its calling?

In concluding this paper the writer admits that while he can recognise the problem, he believes it is beyond the time and competence of most parish ministers to construct the Theology of the Environment which the Church lacks. Accordingly, a clause in the Committee's deliverance aims to produce a sound Theology of the Environment as soon as possible. Even if, after that, we decide that we want to continue abusing Creation, at least we will have made a mature decision. At present we sinful men take advantage of God having put us here to 'exercise dominion', whereas people truly obedient to Him should study also to 'subdue, replenish and multiply'.

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THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

Mr. K. J. Swan

1. Preamble: Christians believe that orderly government according to a set of rules, or a constitution, is necessary. From the Old Testament we know that God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses for the guidance of His Covenant people, the Israelites. We know that God wanted, and still wants, His people to obey His commandments or laws.

Our Subordinate Standard of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Westminster Confession of Faith, deals specifically with orderly government in Chapter XXIII, Of the Civil Magistrate, adding the Christian dimension to the Mosaic Law. The Confession asserts that God has ordained civil magistrates to be under Him and over the people; it declares it to be lawful for Christians to accept the reigns of government when called to do so; and it enjoins Christians to pray for civil magistrates or administrators, to honour their persons, and to obey their lawful commands.

Any civil constitution must be under constant review, so that amendments may be made when necessary to meet changing circumstances; and possible amendments to the Australian Federal Constitution are presently being considered. The Presbyterian Church of Australia and its individual members must be involved in such review, and this paper is designed to help them.

2. Historical Background: Before 1st January, 1901 the Australian or Federal or Commonwealth Government did not exist. Until that date, what are now the States of the Commonwealth were Colonies of the British Empire, and during the second half of the nineteenth century those colonies were granted responsible self-government, most of them in the 1850s, but Western Australia not until 1890. During the last forty years of the nineteenth century, described appropriately by one pre-1940 Australian historian as a period of colonial particularism, the forces for unity of some kind were stronger than those encouraging particularism or separatism or isolationism. These forces for unity were the perceived external threat from European powers annexing Pacific territories, the consequent problem of providing adequate systems for defence, and the frustration caused by customs barriers between some colonies, particularly New South Wales and Victoria. During the 1880s and 1890s, therefore, colonial governments, political groups (the party system as we know it had not really developed), trade unions and other associations vigorously debated means of establishing some kind of unity and of decreasing particularism.

During the last twenty years of the nineteenth century a federal constitution was devised at various inter-colonial conferences and conventions, the members of which were politicians, lawyers, and prominent citizens. There was considerable public debate, and citizen's bodies and local government instrumentalities were also involved. A prominent community organisation working for federation was the Australian Natives' Association, founded in Victoria, and during the 1890s Border Federation Leagues were established in the smaller towns on either side of the Murray River, where customs duties were most felt. The Corowa Convention of border leagues in 1895 had a seminal effect on the movement for federation, adding that 'grass-roots' effect which is so important for achieving public support and national unity. Here were groups of 'men-and-women-in-the-street' saying 'please get on with the task and stop needless argument!'

3. What is Federalism? Why was it adopted for Australia? A federal system is one where powers are distributed between the national or Federal government and the governments of the

parts, which may be state, regional, or local units. Federations are usually established by a number of regional units agreeing that each federal government for more efficient administration. There is usually a rather suspicious attitude on the part of the regional units because they differ in area, population, and proximity to the proposed seat of federal government. Such was the case when the Australian Colonies were contemplating the common problems of defence, customs, immigration and the like in the late nineteenth century, and it was unthinkable that the colonies would contemplate any other than a federal solution, with Switzerland and the United States of America being successful federal examples. Federalism was adopted for Australia because that system allowed smaller and remote colonies in a vast area to feel they retained some control over regional and local destinies.

One usual result of a federation formed by entities surrendering certain powers is the adoption of a written constitution, which both the United States of America and Australia have. On the other hand, Great Britain is a good example of a country whose government is based on a myriad of laws and judgements and traditions made over many hundreds of years. It is not true to say that Great Britain does not have a written constitution, because the laws and judgements are in writing; but that writing is not - cannot! - be enclosed within the covers of one book. So Australia has a written constitution contained within two covers, and the most usual way of amending it is by referendum of the adult population.

4. Has the Australian Constitution been an effective Institution? Opinions within the nation about the answer to that question differ. The Constitutional Commission appointed in 1985 by the Hawke government obviously believes the document not to be effective enough, for the sub-title of its summary of recommendations published in September, 1987 is the categorical statement Time to Update. This is just a bald statement, with no query added. We should always be taking stock of our constitution, and we should be ready to update when necessary. A great many Australians, however, would agree with the following extract from The Weekend Australian of 16-17 January, 1988 which read:

"Australia has been one of the few nations that have successfully established a form of constitutional government and which enjoy genuine democratic freedoms..... on any analysis, the establishment of constitutional government and democratic freedoms in Australia has been a remarkable achievement."

This is not to claim that no amendments to the constitution should be contemplated at present, but to say that due consideration must be given at all times, and that those advocating changes must establish convincing cases.

5. What Attitudes should the Presbyterian Church adopt about the changes suggested by the Constitutional Commission? We must be ready for change when it is necessary.

We should insist that such bodies as the Constitutional Commission and its Committees are widely representative of the economic, social and political groupings within the nation. That is not the case at present.

We should insist that the Commission and its Committees provide wide-ranging opportunities across Australia for public discussion and input to the debate. That has not been the case. Certainly the Commission has promoted a high-profile publicity campaign, and has made available valuable publications, but that is not good enough when time and opportunities for debate are insufficient.

We should insist that the Commission delay providing its recommendations to the Government until at least the time first appointed, the end of 1988, rather than hurrying to present them by the end of June, 1988.

We should urge the Government not to present any referenda during 1988, a year of celebration, when 'hype' may take the place of reasoned debate.

Granting a more wholesome timespan, we should define our attitudes to the suggested amendments, and perhaps bring forward others. In doing this we Presbyterians should remember that our presbyterial form of church government has had a major influence on the development of federalism, and that it was no accident that in 1901 both the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Australian Federation or Commonwealth were inaugurated.

Finally, as Presbyterians with an attachment for the 'federal idea' of government, we might note what Emeritus Professor S. Rufus Davis of Monash University said in an important book:

"Its [the federal idea's] future rests with those who can resist the urge to tidy the matter, while continuing to play out the limitless potentialities of its diverse history, its diverse progeny, its diverse practices, and its diverse purposes."

CODE

The Committee in fulfilling its instructions to continue to update and revise the Code has been aware that prior to 1950 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia did not have a Code Book as we know it today.

The enactments of the General Assembly were contained and retained within the various Blue Books with State Assemblies collating such information and printing them for their own use.

The preface to the 1950 Code confirms this.

However, in 1948, the General Assembly authorised the reprinting and publication of the Code - Min. 118(2b).

The present volume therefore, as stated, was revised and issued by the Code Committee in 1950 without the imprimata of the General Assembly itself on the content.

It is for these reasons that the Committee now seeks the approval of the Assembly for the reprinting of the Code in the form set out hereafter.

With the transfer of the Executive to Queensland the work of the revision commenced by the Victorian Executive has continued.

In addition, members of the Queensland State Code Committee have been associated with the Executive in the practical work of the revision.

It is proposed that the Code now be contained in two (2) volumes: -

The Presbyterian Church of Australia - Code - Book 1 to comprise -

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Chapter 1 | The Scheme of Union of 1901 and the Articles of Agreement of 1901 as amended by subsequent Assemblies; |
| Chapter 2 | Standing Orders approved by the General Assembly in 1964; |
| Chapter 3 | Regulations on the Election of Standing and Other Committees with specific Committee Regulations as approved by the Assembly from time to time; |
| Chapter 4 | Regulations concerning the Law Officer as approved by the Assembly; |
| Chapter 5 | Assembly Decisions in connection with the Rightful Subjects of Baptism Administration of Sacraments by Home Missionaries Marriage and Divorce; |
| Chapter 6 | Questions at Ordinations and Inductions of Ministers, Elders and Deacons and the Formula to be signed by Ministers and Elders; |
| Chapter 7 | The Trust Deed for the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Australia approved by the General Assembly; |
| Chapter 8 | The Code of Discipline - Regulations as revised by the Assembly. The Presbyterian Church of Australia - Code - Book 2 |

It is proposed that during the next triennium this will be prepared to include: -

- Chapter 9 The Church, the establishment of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and its Constitution in 1901 and significant events to date;
- Chapter 10 The Spiritual Freedom of the Church and the Nobile Officium of the General Assembly - a reprint of the old Chapter 3;
- Chapter 11 Overtures to the General Assembly;
- Chapter 12 Petitions to the General Assembly;
- Chapter 13 Appeals to the General Assembly;
- Chapter 14 Civil Acts of Parliament in the several states State Legislatures.

RETURNS TO REMIT

Overture No. 1 [B. B. 1985 Min. 108<2)] anent Article III .

State Assemblies

Approve (5): Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia

Disapprove (1): New South Wales Presbyteries

Approve:

N. S. W. (3) Northern Rivers, Sydney, The Hawkesbury
Victoria (3) Bendigo, Gippsland, Melbourne West
Qld. (2) Mowbray, Darling Downs
S. A. (2) Penola, Torrens
W. A. nil
Tas (1) Tasmania

Disapprove:

N. S. W. (8) New England, Bathurst, Murrumbidgee, South Coast and
Tableland, Sydney South, Sydney North, The Hastings, The Hunter
Victoria (3) Ballarat, Flinders, Geelong
Qld. (1) Rockhamptom
S. A. nil
W. A. nil

In the terms of Article (XV) the Committee is not proposing that the General Assembly proceed further with this matter.

Over the past triennium the Committee in response to requests has also advised other Committees of the Assembly, Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, Ministers and members of the Church on a range of matters pertaining to the Code.

R. P. W. Jell,
Convener.

COLLEGE

1. Meetings and Conferences: During the last triennium the College Committee has met annually either in Melbourne or Sydney. In addition to the business meeting, it has arranged one conference in Sydney and another in Melbourne at the same time as the committee meetings. These conferences have included those involved in the teaching programmes of the respective Theological Halls. The purpose of the conferences has been to discuss various aspects of curriculum and also teaching methods, in order to encourage as much uniformity as possible between the three Theological Halls. It has been good for the teaching staffs to have the interaction and the stimulus of ideas from other colleges. It is the Committee's intention to continue holding such conferences, especially as they can be held at minimal costs.
2. Revision of Article (viii): At the last G.A. of A the College Committee was instructed to revise Article (viii), including paragraphs 1 to 11, and in particular when carrying out the revision, to avoid unnecessary particularisation and to omit any sections which are no longer relevant. The committee has carried out that remit and the result of its revision is embodied in the overture being presented to the Assembly. The Overture seeks to maintain what the Committee consider are the essential features needed in the Articles. It has tried to reorganise the order of the paragraphs to show more clearly the pattern of theological study. In formulating the proposed revision of the Articles, the Committee did not feel it necessary to enter into the debate regarding the admission of women to the ordained ministry. The wording employed throughout the proposed revision has been deliberately chosen so as not to prejudice the discussion on that matter.
3. Syllabi of the Theological Halls: The Committee has fulfilled its responsibility in respect to this matter and has conducted the annual review of the syllabi. It is satisfied that the Theological Halls are complying with the current Articles and that the teaching is being adequately carried out.
4. Candidates from Western Australia: At present the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia has three candidates. One, Mr. Stuart Bonnington, is being trained at the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne. The other two candidates are being trained in Perth. The College Committee recognises the peculiar problems faced by the Western Australian Church and has asked the Victorian Theological Education Committee to help in regard to these Western Australian candidates. Local tuition is being provided by the ministers in Perth, under the co-ordinator of studies, Rev. D. B. Fraser. The Convener, Professor Harman, visited Perth in April of this year, and the Victorian Theological Education Committee hopes to send members of its Faculty across on regular visits while such training is in progress.
5. Reception of Ministers: The Reception of Ministers Committee regularly consult with the College Committee when considering the academic requirements of an applicant to the Presbyterian ministry. The Committee has sought to advise consistently in accordance with the principles set out in their report to the 1985 Assembly (Blue Book 1985, p. 72, para.5). It is necessary to stress that the training of all within the Presbyterian ministry must be maintained at the same level. This means that not only should there be requirement of specified courses, but also that the matter of the content of such courses must come under scrutiny.

6. Membership: The Committee reports that the present membership of the Executive has worked extremely well and it is, therefore, recommending that the same membership be reappointed for the next three years.

A11 an M. Harman,
Convener.

DEFENCE FORCES CHAPLAINCY

In the three years since the last General Assembly of Australia the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee has nominated the following names as Chaplains to the services: -

Rev. R. Tsai	Chaplain 4th Class H.Q. 6th Military District	Tasmania
Rev. K.R. Bell	Chaplain 4th Class H.Q. 4th Military District	South Australia
Rev. S.L. De Plater	Chaplain R.A.A.F. Special Reserve	(Sydney, N.S.W.)
Rev. M. Howarth	Chaplain R.A.A.F. Special Reserve	(Sydney, N.S.W.)
Rev. C.B. Riding	Chaplain R.A.A.F. Special Reserve	(Williamstown, N.S.W.)

The Committee was pleased to note the transfer of Chaplain Ian McKendrick from A.Reserve to Regular Army Chaplaincy.

The Committee notes with great appreciation the age retirement of Chaplain A. Mortimore A.R.A., Chaplain W. Llewellyn R.A.N.R. and Chaplain D. Durham R.A.A.F. We are grateful for the long and dedicated service to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in the services that Alan, Wes and David have each given in their particular arm of the Services. They have given their all to the service of their Lord and the people under their pastoral care. Thank you for a job well done.

It was with deep regret that the Committee noted the passing of Gwenivere Mortimore who had worked with Alan in their many Army postings.

The committee notes the resignation of Senior Chaplain C. Egan to join the ministry of the Uniting Church of Australia.

As of July, 1987 each protestant church with chaplains in the services is now entitled to an equal number of Chaplains. The Presbyterian Church of Australia is required to supply one third of all protestant chaplains to Defence personnel and their dependents.

Rev. K.J. Gibson,
Convener.

ADDENDUM

Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (R.A.C.S)

Chaplain General K.J. Gibson RL

Royal Australian Navy

Full Time	Vacant
Part-time	Chaplain J.W. Langbridge H.M.A.S. CAIRNS Chaplain Charles Finlay R.A.N.R.

Australian Army

Full Time	Chaplain E.T. Brooker D.S.U. Liverpool Ingleburn (NSW) Chaplain A.D. Lang H.Q. Campbell Barracks Swanborne (WA) Chaplain I. McKendrick 1RTB Kapooka (NSW)
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Australian Army Reserve

Part-time

1st Military District (Queensland)
Senior Chaplain: P. L. Gordon H. Q. 1MD
Chaplain R. G. Acreman 1 Trg. Group
Chaplain P. W. Playsted H. Q. 1 Div. Enoggera

2nd Military District (New South Wales)
Chaplain R. S. Keith H. Q. 2 MD

3rd Military District (Victoria)
Senior Chaplain G. F. Lyman H. Q. 3 MD
Chaplain R. P. Betts H. Q. 3 MD

4th Military District (South Australia)
Chaplain K. R. Bell H. Q. 4 MD

5th Military District (West Australia)
Senior Chaplain - Vacant

6th Military District (Tasmania)
Chaplain R. Tsai H. Q. 6 MD

Royal Australian Air Force

Full-time

Chaplain P. A. Davidson, East Sale (V)
Chaplain J. W. Pilgrim, Laverton (V)

Royal Australian Air Force Special Reserve

Part-time

Chaplain R. J. McCracken, Regents Park (NSW)
Chaplain H. J. Gallagher, Townsville (QLD)
Chaplain A. M. Harman, Point Cook (V)

Department of Veterans Affairs; Repatriation Hospitals

Full-time

Chaplain G. R. McIntyre, Concord (NSW)

Part-time

Chaplain G. F. Lyman, Heidelberg (V)

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERIAN MEMBER "RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE SERVICES" (R. A. C. S.)

At a luncheon with the Chief of the Defence Forces the problem of isolation of Chaplains within the Defence system was aired. The Chief of the Defence Forces indicated his desire that members of the R. A. C. S. undertake a more visible role by visiting Chaplains at their various locations, and that where possible Chaplains' families be visited as well. This was accepted with great enthusiasm; it enables the pastoral care and concern of the Church for the Chaplain, his family and all Service personnel to be widely seen and understood.

Previously Protestant R. A. C. S. members found great difficulty in travelling any distance within the Services because of the finance involved. Those Churches with Bishops to the Services of

course were required to travel for Confirmations. The action of the C.D.F. has once again brought all Churches and their representatives to an equal level in the Defence Forces. Travel around the various bases is now a requirement, and I report that all motel rooms are basically the same, or appear to be.

Prior to the arrival in Australia of the Bishop of Rome, the suggestion was made to the R.A.C.S. that he be invited to "Bless the Fleet". Having found that the "Fleet" in question was the Royal Australian Navy the Protestants were led by the Presbyterians in a negative reply. When pressed for a reason it was given in this way. The R.A.N. is the Fleet of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and her permission would have to be obtained. Then if that were done, according to our own working policy, one Anglican and one Protestant Chaplain of equal standing would have to take part in the service with the Bishop of Rome. The suggestion was hastily withdrawn.

The following establishment have been visited: -

During 1986 I took part in the dedication of the Naval Chapel at H.M.A.S. Coonawarra, Darwin.

During 1987 I visited Amberley R.A.A.F. Base; Enoggera Military Barracks; H.M.A.S. Watson, R.A.A.F. Townsville; Latchford Military Barracks Townsville; H.M.A.S. Cairns (Patrol Boats Base); and Cairns 51 far North Queensland Regiment. Ingleburn-Holsworthy Army Barracks, Richmond Air Base Sydney; H.M.A.S. Platypus, H.M.A.S. Penguin; Garden Island Naval Base and the Protestant Chaplains Retreat Sydney were visited in July. These visits used up one month of long service leave, and a little more, but it was worth whatever it took to see these places. I can now visualise places and people. Also I attended the opening and dedication of the R.A.A.F. permanent Chapel at Point Cook, and the R.A.A.F. Base at Sale.

During 1988 I have taken part in the Induction of Principal Air Chaplain R. Boerth at Point Cook. I am scheduled to visit Hobart Tri-service Chaplains' establishments in the first half of the year, and Western Australia and South Australia in the second half.

For the first time in fifteen years the Presbyterian Chaplain General R.A.C.S. member is the Chairman of that Committee, and visitors to that Conference of all ranks and descriptions are learning that the Presbyterian Church is still very much in existence; in fact, very alive and well.

Rev. K. J. Gibson,
Chaplain General R.L.
Presbyterian R. A. C. S. Member.

FINANCE

1. Powers and Functions: During the year a problem arose regarding the election of members to fill casual vacancies. It has been suggested to the Code Committee that Regulation 184(e) be deleted and a new regulation inserted to read: -

..Casual vacancies on any Standing Committee arising between meetings of the General Assembly shall be filled by the Committee or by the Executive, from the State from which the vacancy occurs."

It is also recommended that the duties and responsibilities of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee be transferred to the Finance Committee.

2. Balance Sheets and Statements of Income and Expenditure: In accordance with arrangements previously approved by the Finance Committee and reported to the last General Assembly, financial statements for three years ended 31st December, 1987 will be tabled for information and for incorporation in the Blue Book, as follows: -

Trustees/Federal Finance Committee (Specific and Ordinary Capital)
Hymn Book Fund
Christian Education Committee
National Journal Committee
Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee
World Mission Committee (funds held in both Brisbane and Sydney)

A separate Fund has been established for the "Rejoice!" Hymn Book.

The Funds of the Christian Education Committee are now correctly described as "ordinary" capital.

The Funds of the "Elizabeth S. Swinney Memorial Trust" have been transferred to the NSW Property Trust as it is responsible for the administration of the Estate.

Church Union: GAA Property Commission

3. Division of Assets and Liabilities: The General Assembly will be pleased to know that the division of Assets and Liabilities with the Uniting Church in Australia has been completed during 1987. The financial statements submitted are indeed a true indication of the financial position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as at 31st December, 1987.
4. Rising Costs: As reported to the last General Assembly in 1985, the Finance Committee continue to be concerned with escalating costs. A suggestion has been made to all States that future General Assemblies of Australia be held in Sydney in an endeavour to reduce all costs for the benefit of the whole Church in Australia. The last Session held in Melbourne in September, 1985 cost \$63,971 comprising the following items: -

Travelling expenses of Commissioners	\$39,611
Accommodation expenses of commissioners	\$14,734
White and Blue Books etc.	\$ 8,586
Honoraria to Assembly Officers	\$ 1,040

\$63,971

The Finance Committee know that a lot of work has been carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee on Travel and Hospitality to arrange billeting in Brisbane which hopefully will contain the cost of accommodation.

The Finance Committee has drawn the attention of State Finance Committees to the possible cost of holding the 1988 General Assembly of Australia in Brisbane, which will probably be in excess of \$100,000.

The basis for reimbursement of the Travelling Expenses of commissioners was approved by the Thirty-ninth General Assembly of September, 1985 [Minute 20(4)], as follows: -

..Confirm the continued reimbursement of the actual expenses incurred for travel and accommodation by commissioners not resident in the city in which the General Assembly is held on the following basis: -

- Commissioners having to travel more than 750km by rail
 - Return economy class air fares
 - Commissioners from Tasmania
 - Return economy class air fares
 - Commissioners having to travel 750 km or less by rail
 - Second class concession return rail fares
 - (where not available - ordinary rail fares)
 - where train does not run - ordinary coach fares
- Overnight accommodation and breakfast."

In considering the problem of rising costs the General Assembly will recall that the Finance Committee has referred the committee structure of the Australian Church to the Code Committee for consideration in an endeavour to effect financial economies.

5. Honoraria to Officers of the GAA: The Thirty-ninth General Assembly approved the following Honoraria until such time as the GAA determines otherwise: -

Until such time as the General Assembly of Australia determines otherwise, approve payment of Honoraria as follows: -

- Moderator \$850 p. a.
- Clerk of Assembly \$520 for each General Assembly
- Deputy Clerk \$260 for each General Assembly
- Assistants to Clerks \$260 for each General Assembly
- Business Convener \$260 for each General Assembly

The Finance Committee, having examined the situation, recommends the following payments as from and including the 1988 General Assembly: -

- Moderator \$1,000 p. a.
- Clerk of Assembly \$ 620 for each General Assembly
- Deputy Clerk \$ 310 for each General Assembly
- Assistants to Clerks \$ 310 for each General Assembly
- Business Convener \$ 310 for each General Assembly

6. Moderator's Expenses: The Thirty-ninth General Assembly approved the following provisions for the Moderator [Minute 20(6)(a), (b) and (c)]:-
- (a) Approve the following provisions for the Moderator assuming office in September, 1985, and for succeeding Moderators until such time as the General Assembly determines otherwise:-
 - (i) An allowance up to \$4,400 per annum to cover the costs of 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 court dress;
 - (iii) Costs of pulpit supply during the Moderator's absence on moderatorial duty;
 - (iv) An honorarium of \$850 per annum as approved in clause 5(a) above.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve any necessary additional expenditure in respect of the Moderator.

The Finance Committee consulted the Moderator's Committee and brings forward its recommendations for payments to apply as from and including the 1988 General Assembly.

- (i) An allowance up to \$5,000 per annum to cover the costs of 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 court dress.
- (iii) Costs of pulpit supply during the Moderator's absence on moderatorial duty;
- (iv) An honorarium of \$1,000 per annum as recommended previously.

It is also recommended 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.

Authorise the Finance Committee to approve any necessary additional expenditure in respect of the Moderator.

7. Expenditure by Committees of GAA: In terms of The Code 185 certain committees are empowered to select one-fourth of their number to attend one special meeting per year, a proportion of the travelling expenses of such delegates being paid from the same source and in the same manner as the Expenses of Commissioners to the General Assembly which are covered by Article of Agreement XIII Regulation 160. However, in an effort to restrict expenditure the Thirty-seventh General Assembly of Australia in 1979 (Minute 95.11) instructed all committees of the General Assembly of Australia, except the College Committee, to appoint those members of the committee who reside in the same city as the Convener, as the Executive to exercise the powers of the committee in dealing with such matters as may arise between meetings of the General Assembly with the proviso that all members of the Committee, the Moderator, and Clerk of Assembly, will be provided with copies of all minutes of meetings of the Executive and also that one-third, plus one of the

members of any committee may request the Convener to call a meeting of the Full Committee which shall be held at the time and place decided by the Executive.

As explained to previous General Assemblies, the amounts recommended as allocations to various committees must be regarded as "maximum allocations" and not be regarded as a grant.

In accordance with the accepted procedure, the various committees have submitted estimates and the General Assembly is requested to approve "maximum allocations" as set out in the following schedule: -

Committee	Actual	Maximum Allocations		
	1Jan'86 30Jun-88	1986/88	Sought 1989/91	Recomm. 1989/91
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Beneficiary	-	-	-	-
Bicentennial 1988	-	1,000	-	-
Business	-	-	-	-
Christian Education	-	3,000	-	-
Church and Nation	-	3,000	3,000	2,000
Code	3,976	6,600	10,600	10,000
College	6,808	7,000	9,000	7,000
Defence Forces	-	1,500	6,300	5,000
Finance	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000
National Journal	-	-	-	-
Public Worship & Aids to Devotion	2,052	3,000	5,500	3,000
Reception of Ministers	197	900	900	900
Relations with Other Churches	418	500	5,500	500
Stewardship & Promotion	19	300	300	300
	\$14,970	\$28,300	\$43,100	\$30,700

Other Expenditure:

Contributions	-World Alliance of Reformed Churches	\$ 4,000
	-Reformed Ecumenical Synod	\$ 2,000
Travelling Expenses	-Delegate overseas conferences	\$ 1,500

8. Future Expenditure by Committees: The General Assembly will appreciate that it is extremely difficult to prepare budgets three years in advance. The Finance Committee have indicated to the various State Finance Committees some ideas as to the costs which will have to be borne by them for the ensuing three-year period. The Trustees meet all expenses subject to reimbursement from State Finance Committees, thus improving the administrative procedures and avoiding the necessity of collecting "estimated costs" in advance. The General Assembly is requested to approve the continuation of this arrangement.

9. Year Book and Church Directory: Appreciation is extended to the National Journal Committee for the regular production of a Year Book and Church Directory. It is most gratifying to the Finance Committee that the National Journal Committee have not found it necessary to apply for a subsidy or other financial assistance since the last General Assembly.

10. Committee Membership: The names of those members appointed by State Churches, together with recommendations for appointment to the Finance Committee, are contained in the Deliberance.

It is recorded that Messrs. K.C. Auld and J.E. Sticpewich retired during 1987 and the General Assembly should be mindful of the contribution these two gentlemen have made for such a long period and report with regret that Mr. J.E. Sticpewich died on 14th May, 1988.

It is recommended that Mr. D.R. Brierley, Chairman of Trustees in New South Wales, be elected Convener and that Messrs. R. Dunlop, W. Lennon, W. McGilvray and B. Shirlaw be elected as members of the Finance Committee.

If elected, those members and others elected from New South Wales will form the Executive.

D.R. Brierley,
Convener.

IMMIGRATION

Whilst immigration is more or less in a mark time situation these days there are still migrants arriving. Australia, from the days of first settlement, has been a migrant country and from time to time has had large scale programmes when the need arose.

Many of the migrants who do arrive are not likely to strengthen the Presbyterian denomination although some of the Asians - Koreans and Vietnamese in particular as well as some from other surrounding countries - would see Presbyterianism as the denomination that they would be most inclined to accept as their spiritual home.

There have been a number of newspaper articles in the last few weeks indicating that the subject is never far from the surface and there are many interested in expressing their views - some for the increase in migrant intake - others with an opposite point of view - particularly in regards to Asian immigration.

It was proposed to produce a book on the life and work of our denomination for the Bicentennial year and the Convener was invited to write a chapter on our Church's involvement in immigration. He has done this and yet in spite of many nights burning the midnight oil to do his work, the book may not be produced due to the fact that others entrusted with a similar task did not co-operate to the same extent. However the Convener's work would be available to any interested person as a paper on its own.

Due to impending retirement the Convener does not wish to remain in the office after the next meeting of the G.A.A., and it will be the Assembly's responsibility to decide whether or not to continue the Committee and whether or not if it decides to do this to leave the executive in New South Wales or to place it as a responsibility of one of the other State Assemblies.

It is pointed out that there have been no financial claims on the funds of the Assembly and in the event of a larger migrant intake involving more people who would be likely to seek welfare and spiritual assistance from our denomination, it would be easier to continue the existence of the Committee than to re-start it if this suddenly became necessary.

I thank the Assembly for its trust and confidence in giving me this responsibility for a number of years.

R. O. Walder,
Convener.

ADDENDUM

The Executive of the G.A.A. Immigration Committee met in February and discussed correspondence from Victoria indicating the work in that state in the interests of Migrant and Refugee welfare and the close association of the Victorian Church with the Victorian Inter Church Immigration Committee. It was the opinion of the Executive that this G.A.A. Committee might now become the responsibility of the Victorian Church and the Convener contacted the Rev. J.S. Bain who indicated that he was willing to accept the task if the Assembly called on him to do so.

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY.

The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee has not met since the last General Assembly in Melbourne in September, 1985.

No requests have been made to the Committee or the Convener for assistance, guidance or advice on any matter relating to the operations of the Executive. In the preceding three years, one request was made. Whilst the Committee has always been ready to act, the structure of the Presbyterian Church since 1977, has made the work of the Committee redundant.

Prior to 1977 active discussion was constantly taking place between Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, with occasional references from Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania on matters affecting Stipends, Long Service Leave, uniformity of Stipends and Travel Allowances.

The Committee believes it would be rational to discharge the Committee and transfer its powers to the General Assembly of Australia Finance Committee which meets regularly and is equipped to deal with any matter as it arises.

The Committee therefore would move as in the deliverance.

D. Brierley,
Convener.

MODERATOR'S NOMINATING

The members of the Committee representing the various State Assemblies were as follows:

New South Wales:	Rev. D. F. Murray Rev. A. R. Ewin
Queensland:	Rt. Rev. H. G. D. Todd Very Rev. Dr. K. J. Gardner
South Australia:	Rt. Rev. A. R. Harvey
Tasmania:	Rev. J. W. Britton
Victoria:	Rev. C. A. Harrison Mr. F. M. Bradshaw
Western Australia:	Rev. J. Nocher
Moderator:	Rt. Rev. E. R. Pearsons
Clerk of Assembly:	Mr. R. P. W. Jell (Convener)

The Committee performed its task and on the completion named the Rev. Alan Charles Stubs as Moderator-Nominate.

Mr. Stubs is minister at Adelaide-Elizabeth-Mt. Barker, South Australia where he has been Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

Mr. Stubs was formerly Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and on four (4) occasions moderated the Tasmanian General Assembly.

Mr. Stubs, after prayer and deliberation, graciously accepted the nomination of the Committee.

At the request of the Convener the Code Committee examined the provisions of Regulation 201 and the following Assembly decisions:

G. A. A. B. B. 1979 Min. 17(3)

G. A. A. B. B. 1982 Min. 14(2)

G. A. A. B. B. 1985 Min. 97(5)

In carrying out its functions pursuant to these Assembly decisions the Committee has resolved to recommend to the Fortieth General Assembly for clarity and ease of administration in the future, the repeal of Regulation 201 as printed and the sequential Assembly decisions of 1979, 1982, 1985 and the enactment of a new Regulation embodying the principles of these Assembly decisions.

With the affluxion of time the necessity that existed in 1979, 1982 and 1985 due to the lack of former Moderators no longer exists.

As a consequence, it is considered that the membership of the Committee should once more comprise: the Moderator, the former Moderators and the Clerk. In place of nominees from the State Assemblies as members of the Committee, the State Assemblies themselves will each be called upon to make a nomination for the office of Moderator.

Due to the several State Assemblies meeting at various times of the year it will be necessary at the end of the year two (2) years preceding the Assembly for the process to commence.

R.P.W. Jell,
Convener.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

I have counted it a great honour to represent our Church as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. It has been a pleasure to experience the esteem in which the Church is held by the various government authorities in this land. My wife and I have been accorded civic receptions in centres as far removed as Launceston and Darwin and in a number of other towns and cities. We have been pleased to accept invitations to represent the Church at Vice Regal functions and those hosted by the State and Federal Governments, in particular the celebrations involved with the opening of the new Parliament House. A truly momentous moment in the history of our country.

During the course of my term I have been privileged to meet with the leaders of various other Christian denominations both from within Australia and from overseas. On such occasions I have been assured of the good will of other Churches towards our own and I have sought to reciprocate the same. In this context I appreciated the opportunity to attend and address the recent National Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia meeting in Melbourne and I recorded with thanks the gracious reception of the President, Sir Ronald Wilson. I have been pleased to have had the opportunity of visiting in every State and Territory of the Commonwealth and to be present at meetings of all the State Assemblies and the Presbytery of Western Australia. On most occasions I have been associated with the Court concerned and accorded the opportunity to bring a greeting on behalf of the General Assembly of Australia.

While it simply has not been possible to accept all the invitations I have tried to respond to as many requests as time would permit from various Parishes and organisations both within and outside the Church.

Without doubt the greatest pleasure of this office has been the opportunity to meet with the people of the Church in their own congregation and homes. One cannot fail to be impressed with the quality of dedicated commitment and service offered by so many to Jesus Christ through His Church.

There are many whom I would wish to thank for the unique experience of the past three years. It has been good to have had the opportunity to see so much of the Presbyterian Church and also this wonderful country in which we are privileged to live.

In particular I would record my thanks to my wife and family, to my wonderfully loyal congregation of St. Andrew's, Gardenvale East, my long suffering Session Clerk, Mrs. V. Hardie and my colleagues in the Assembly in Melbourne.

E. R. Pearsons,
MODERATOR.

NATIONAL JOURNAL

Since the election of the present Committee and the Executive consisting of the N.S.W. members at the General Assembly in September, 1985, the Executive has met at approximately two monthly intervals to confer with the Editor and oversee the administration and financial affairs of the Committee. Being a largely new committee the newly appointed convener wrote to the interstate representatives in October, 1985 thanking them for their willingness to serve and asking them to commend A.P.L. to their areas, to seek subscribers and to encourage supply of suitable material for publications. This they have faithfully done. The convener also suggested they act as corresponding members and invited contact at any time with suggestions, advice or concerns. There have been no meetings of the full committee as it was considered that the cost, of well in excess of \$3,000 per meeting would be poor stewardship. No requests for a full meeting have been received.

1. Resignations from the Committee: The following resignations have been received in the first half of 1988: -

Rev. M. Skalicky, Mr. S. Craig, Mr. C.K. Johnston.

Each has been thanked for their contribution to the work. Rev. P. Hastie, following his translation from Victoria to N.S.W. in 1987, was invited to attend Executive meetings.

2. Administration: After extensive investigation in November, 1985 the committee authorised the purchase of a computer with necessary software to streamline and improve the production of A.P.L., leading to extensive savings in printing costs. The Editor worked hard in learning the use of the computer in Page Planning, attending a computer course and deferring his normal holidays to do so. Subsequently in February, 1987 a lap portable computer with peripherals was bought and has proved to be a great help. Page planning and word processing software have been updated and in April, 1988 a TransImage/1000 scanner was bought. This enables direct entry into the computer of printed or typed material without having to be keyed in. It is estimated to save up to two days per week of secretarial assistance and can be operated by any person without typing ability. Above half the cost of the original computer was donated and our thanks go to those who contributed.

In mid 1986, subscribers lists were transferred to the computer resulting in great accuracy and control. We thank Rev. Stephen de Plater for writing a programme and overseeing its use so that we now have ready knowledge of renewal dates and the category of subscribers.

In March, 1987 we commenced plastic wrapping of A.P.L. which is an attractive and modern method, well worth the additional cost.

Early in 1986 the office was moved to the Ground Floor of the Assembly Building sharing some of the space with the Christian Education Committee's Book Ministry. This has given us about 50% more space, thus to a large extent overcoming the deplorably cramped conditions of the previous premises.

At the invitation of the Theological Education Committee and in view of a need to move at some time due to the projected re-development of the Scots Church site, we have agreed to the offered five year lease at the Presbyterian Theological Centre at

Burwood. It is anticipated that the necessary building work will be completed by about September, 1988 and we will be sub-leasing portion of the space to the Christian Education Committee. This should provide excellent working conditions with resultant increase in efficiency.

3. Personnel: Early in 1986 Mr. Conrad Nixon, a student for the Ministry, was appointed as part-time Business Manager. He resigned at the end of 1987 due to his appointment as Chaplain at Scots College. We thank him for excellent work during this time.

Mrs. Gai Henderson took up her secretarial duties in January, 1987 on a permanent part-time basis. At the beginning of 1988 she was appointed full-time and is working efficiently.

Proof reading is done on a voluntary basis by Mr. Arthur Ramsay and until his illness in 1986 by Mr. Eric Dandie. Mr. Dandie's place has been taken by Mrs. Joan Burns. Rev. Arthur Ingram and Mrs. Margaret Ingram give much time in voluntary help and have taken responsibility for collating material for News from Churches and Mentioned in Despatches. Mrs. Melba Mitchell assists regularly in the office. Our grateful thanks are given to all of these voluntary workers for their excellent contributions.

4. Other Publications: Pres Pars have been produced and have been found helpful to many parishes.

Year Book: This has been produced each year and is an important source of information for the Church. The 1988 edition provides additional information including ministers' wives names and names of preaching places.

Rejoice! Typesetting contract was accepted by the Editor who worked very hard on this project. It resulted in a considerable saving of costs for "Rejoice!" and a respectable profit for the National Journal Committee.

5. Circulations: Subscriptions at the end of May, 1988 total 4,815. We would like to increase this figure substantially and will be applying every effort to do so. In this we would appreciate the wholehearted support of ministers and sessions.

6. Editor: The Editor has worked faithfully and well having in mind minute 93 (2),
è., "that the policy and content reflect the concept of a family magazine committed to the development of national outlook, the reporting of the Church activities on a State and National level, and the upholding of standards of the Presbyterian Church of Australia." He has allowed discussion to arise on matters of importance in the life of the church; these have obviously been vital issues as seen in the correspondence generated. Thereby scripture, the basis of our faith and practice, has been brought to bear on these issues. In this he has had the confidence of the Committee.

In November, 1987, the Editor announced his resignation to take effect from 30th September, 1988 and with long service leave, to relinquish duties on 31st May, 1988. Moves were made to appoint an Acting Editor. The position was advertised in A.P.L. and every member of the National Journal Committee and each Clerk of Presbytery were alerted to publicise the need. The applicants were to provide evidence of published works, editorial experience in publishing and journalistic experience, computer literacy, design and graphics experience as well as knowledge of and adherence to

Presbyterian doctrine, devotion and discipline. As a result, by unanimous decision, Rev. Neville Sandon was appointed and was able to assume duty from 2nd May, 1988. A month's overlap with Bob Thomas and earlier work and discussions contributed to a smooth changeover. We are confident that Neville is the right man for the job at this time and seek your agreement to the deliverance relating to appointment of editor.

It has not been possible to purchase a Manse for the appointee in the extremely expensive Sydney market. However, with the goodwill of the Ashfield Parish we have been able to arrange a lease on a very suitable property.

7. Financial: After three years at \$15 per annum, subscription was raised in 1988 to \$18 per annum, a modest rise in the economic circumstances.

Commissioners are asked to examine the financial statement as at 31.12.87 which includes the comparative figures as at 31.12.84, as presented to the General Assembly of 1985. They reveal a vast improvement in our finances due to the savings in the use of computers, good management and the one off profit from the publishing of "Rejoice!". We remind you that the National Journal is completely self-supporting making no call on general church funds.

Finally we praise God for His leading in publishing A.P.L., "_____ to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up".

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's Sake."

Rex F. Burns,
Convener.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON OFFICE IN THE CHURCH
(Minutes 113 and 118, B.B., G.A.A. 1985)

The task given to this Committee has proved to be immense. The Committee was initially set up by the 1985 GAA (min.113) to deal with Overtures 3 and 4 concerning the administration of the sacraments. The name given to the Committee implied that consideration of these overtures required a prior investigation of the whole question of "office" and "ordination". The Committee's task was to prepare position papers examining the Biblical, Theological, Historical and Legal issues involved, to circulate these to all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions throughout Australia and to report to the next General Assembly. Subsequently in the 1985 Assembly (min.118) the issues raised by Overture 6 concerning the ordination of women to the ministry were also referred to this Committee which the Committee presumed to be for the same reason and for the same action. Minute 113 presupposed the existence of divergent views throughout the Church in Australia [clause(4)] and the results of the Committee's work have shown this presupposition to be abundantly true.

It was clear at the outset of the Committee's approach to its task that it would be impossible to present to the 1988 Assembly a definitive statement which would "solve" the problems raised by the three overtures. We first grappled with the issues at a fundamental level within the Committee and discovered in the process that the task was even more complex than was originally supposed. For instance it would have been easier if there had been a clear division into just two parties, but this was not so. Of those who believed that ruling elders should be permitted to administer the sacraments some argued that this right should be extended to include unordained home missionaries and some did not, while some believed that women should be ordained and some did not. The same divergence of opinion concerning the ordination of women was found to exist among those who believed that only the Minister should administer the sacraments. Even the possibility of producing majority/minority reports with specific recommendations from the Committee to the Assembly seemed very remote.

The Committee therefore decided to send out six position papers to all Presbyteries and Sessions as a catalyst for the discussion of the fundamental questions raised by the overtures. In this way those who would be required to debate and possibly vote on these matters in the Assembly would at least have had the opportunity to discuss them beforehand. The papers were kept intentionally brief for two reasons:

- (1) the Committee being an Ad Hoc Committee had no budget and was given no approval to spend money;
- and
- (2) it was believed by most members of the Committee that to produce and circulate discussion papers of sufficient length and complexity to do full justice to each point of view would not only be too costly but would, in fact, be counterproductive to the aim of encouraging discussion at Session and Presbytery level.

Other papers prepared by members of the Committee to deal in more detail with different aspects of the Committee's work include the following: -

1. Mr. Lindsay Moore: "Submission to the GAA Committee on Office in the Church: Theological and Legal Perspectives" (10 pages).

2. Dr. Helen Clements: "Paper No. 1: Brief Notes on Steps Taken to Train and to Ordain Women for Service in the Presbyterian Church" (10 pages); "Paper No. 2: Arguments in the Debate about Women and Authority in Church and Society. A Case for Retaining Ordination of Women in the Presbyterian Church of Australia" (23 pages); "Paper No. 3: A Summary of the Case for Not Changing the Present Rules on the Ordination of Women" (previously included in papers sent to Presbyteries and Sessions) (5 pages).
3. Rev. Prof. Dr. F. Nigel Lee: "What Is Church Office?" (2 pages); "Who Should Administer the Sacraments?" (2 pages); "Biblical Ministry by Women in the Church" (3 pages); "Historical Paper on Women in the Ministry: (3 pages); "The Diaconate" (3 pages); "A Bibliography" (12 pages).
4. Rev. Prof Robert Swanton: "The Offices of the Ministry and Eldership" (5 pages); "Men and Women in the Teaching and Ruling Office(s)" (4 pages); "Reports to the 1959 and 1962 G.A.s of A. on the Nature and Functions of the Ministry" (15 pages).

In addition, many other submissions have been received, including a significant paper on the whole question of church government in the New Testament (10 pages) by Mr. Bernard Secombe. Any of the above papers can be made available on application to the Convener but the cost will have to be borne by the applicant.

The general nature of the replies and comments sent in by Presbyteries and Sessions (and, in some cases, individuals) seems to have confirmed the Committee's decision to send out the briefer position papers. The replies reflect exactly the same diversity of opinion which exists among the members of the Committee and range from a simple, "We are in favour of (or are against) Overture ..", to lengthy discussions arguing further the case for a particular point of view.

It is impossible to summarise the large quantity of divergent material that has been before the Committee in the form of published literature, papers prepared by members of the Committee, papers submitted by individuals, and comments by Presbyteries and Sessions. To attempt to do so would be self-defeating and would add to the confusion rather than remove it. One thing is clear: every individual or group holding strongly to a particular view point does so from what is believed to be an obvious biblical, theological, historical and/or legal perspective! It is no doubt a great cause of frustration to many that such important and far-reaching questions affecting the whole future direction (and even life) of the Presbyterian Church of Australia cannot receive a more thorough treatment which would lead to a more satisfying conclusion. But it is also apparent from the discussion which has emanated from the Committee's work that the prospects of arriving at a consensus on any one of the issues are very slim, and would remain so even after a considerably longer and more detailed debate. At least this seems to be so in the present climate of the Church.

Moreover, it needs to be said that these issues on which there is such sharp division are issues which each of us regards as being close to the very heart of our Presbyterian heritage and churchmanship and it is not threatening the peace of the church. The peace of the Church may be threatened because we differ, but this in no way locates the blame.

Notwithstanding this note of pessimism, the Committee believes it has achieved its aim of encouraging informed discussion throughout the Church. Some respondents have expressed the hope that this Report would make all things clear and plain. This cannot be done. The Committee does not feel that the issues have been sufficiently discussed for specific recommendations to

be brought in this Report, nor does it seem possible for the Assembly to give adequate consideration to all the complex issues raised by the three overtures within the normal framework of Assembly debate. Therefore the Committee is proposing that a one-day conference be held immediately prior to the 1991 Assembly so that a more structured debate might take place with prepared position papers being presented and discussed. It is therefore proposed that the Committee be reappointed to organise this conference.

Bruce Christian,
Convener.

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

1. Committee: During the past three years the Committee has seen change, consolidation and planning in its work. The rapid expansion in the previous term has produced growing pains and a cause for reflection which has produced a new era of what is possible, within the confines of what was effectively a resurrection from the ashes of 1977, to a plan of co-operation within the states where the work has prospered through the guidance of Almighty God.

The Committee met on a regular basis, having met 26 times to the end of June, 1988. Members have been diligent in their attendance. It was with much regret that the committee received the resignations of the Rev. B. Bray, through illness, J.S. Woodward and the convener, J.J. Knapp through translation from Wollongong to Hervey Bay, Queensland. Their places were filled by the Rev. D.F. Murray, J. Bruce and Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane. At a special meeting of the whole Committee in November, 1986 Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane was elected Acting Convener. It is with regret the Committee notes the retirement at this General Assembly of Mr. D. Macdonald, a member for 18 years, including 7 years with the former A.I.M. Board prior to Church Union. The Committee places on record its appreciation for the stalwart service given by Mr. Macdonald, his able guidance and wise counsel.

In February, 1988, after consultation with all members of the Committee and in accordance with the Regulations, the title for the Executive Officer was stated to be that of "Superintendent" having taken cognisance of the various opinions expressed and in line with the historical emphasis of the Inland Mission activity of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Committee has been assisted during its term by the following four persons. Mrs. Clare Palmer took over the role of Correspondence Link person from Mrs. Alison Monsen in communicating with the various state bodies of the P.W.A. and P.W.M.U. Mrs. Nancy Murray has assisted in the office on a part time basis with the Very Rev. Norman Monsen filling in while the Superintendent has been on annual leave or absent from Sydney for any length of time. Mr. Alex Norquay, Financial Controller of the N.S.W. Chamber of Manufacturers, has assisted in financial advice and budget preparation. The Committee's thanks are extended to the above for their help.

2. Finance: The financial position of the P.I.M. continues to improve with the increase of Capital and Reserves in excess of \$500,000 over the three year period. This was in part due to the receipt of bequests, after deliberation of the Legal Reference Committee, in particular from the A.R. Love Estate and that of the A.K. Bryson Estate. There has been a deficit over income in the three year period of some \$67,000, which was expected, due to the increase in activity, but underlines the point that close control of finances has to be maintained if the balance of faith and vision and financial viability is to be realised. The Committee's thanks and appreciation go to those who have so adequately supported the work of the P.I.M. in a positive manner, either by donation or bequest.
3. Promotion: The Committee is indebted to Mrs. Clare Palmer who sends out a quarterly communication to all state units of the P.W.A. and P.W.M.U. and to those persons within each state who disseminate the information. The Superintendent has conducted Public Worship within N.S.W., S.A., and the N.T., been guest speaker at P.W.A. Rallies and Conferences in N.S.W. and Victoria and spoken on Radio in N.S.W. and S.A.. He has

addressed the State Assemblies in N.S.W., Victoria, S.A. and Queensland. Members of the Committee and staff have addressed Assemblies and gatherings within the confines of their sphere of influence. The Committee has regularly advertised in the A.P.L., the Australian Law Journal, Span and the Charities Book. The sale of some 25,000 Christmas cards per annum has kept the work of the P.I.M. before many thousands also.

4. Field: The role of Patrol Padre has always been a difficult one, with the demands placed upon family higher than almost any other sphere of Ministry. For the past three years we have run two full time patrols and two part time patrols. The Rev. I. Mckendrick resigned from his part time patrol work in the N.W. of Tasmania in February, 1987 to take up a full time Army Chaplaincy. At the time of writing no agreement has yet been entered into with the Tasmania Assembly in respect to continuation of work in that State. The effectiveness of a patrol ministry is related to the time and effort coupled with the personality of the padre and the support of the family. It is not an easy Ministry and at times lonely and forgotten in the hustle and bustle in seaboard parishes. Defined areas of responsibility and authority are somewhat blurred and in an attempt to clarify this the Committee is in the process of entering into agreements with the Home Missions Committee in Queensland and the Missions Committee in South Australia and subject to the approval of the N.S.W. Assembly with the Ministry & Mission Committee of that State.

The Rev. L. Fowler, of Blackall Patrol has accepted a Call to West Newcastle and will be inducted there on 1st July completing 2 1/2 years in Patrol work.

Mr. R. Whiting will continue as part time Patrol Padre at Mount Isa until 30th December, 1988.

5. Darwin: The Rev. C. Findlay commenced his Ministry at Darwin in December, 1985 and resigned to take up a Call to Toukley, N.S.W. in December, 1986. Darwin has been declared an Appointment Parish by the Presbytery of Sydney and since Mr. Findlay's Translation has been filled by Supply Ministers from Queensland and N.S.W. It is the Committee's hope and prayer that the vacancy will be filled in the near future.
6. John Flynn Provisional College Council, Darwin: On petition from the P.I.M. the General Assembly of N.S.W. in May, 1986 set up a provisional council with 7 members from the Northern Territory and 2 corresponding members, one each from the Trustees and the P.I.M. The Trustee appointment was Mr. G. Downes, Q.C., and from the P.I.M. the Superintendent, Rev. A.B. Clark.

Invitations were invited by the Northern Territory Government for a proposal to establish a fee paying boarding secondary school based on premises at Berimah, known as Kormilda College. Proposals were tendered by the Uniting Church and the Provisional Council. The Uniting Church proposal was subsequently withdrawn and the N.T. Government accepted the proposal and extended an offer. Upon the public announcement of this acceptance a great deal of negative publicity ensued and lately the offer was withdrawn. The provisional council was thanked and discharged by the N.S.W. Assembly in July, 1987. It is of interest that Kormilda College is now functioning as a fee paying secondary boarding school under the management of a Committee appointed by the Northern Territory Government.

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7. Regulations: The Committee seeks the approval of the Assembly in amending Regulations 3, 4 and 5 by replacing the term "Executive Officer" with that of "Superintendent".

H. I. M. MacFarlane,
Acting Convener.

PUBLIC WORSHIP AND AIDS TO DEVOTION

1. Introduction: It is with much gratitude to Almighty God that this report is provided for the General Assembly. A great deal of time, energy and prayer has been expended by the Committee as the work has been considered, planned and completed. Many matters have been under discussion but the main concerns have been the production of "Rejoice!" the new Hymn Book for our Church, and the preparation of the Book of Common Order.
2. "Rejoice!": After many months of preparation "Rejoice!" was made available to our Church in October, 1987. The special Committee responsible for its production met on many occasions during the past three years. A great deal of time had to be expended on this task not only in regard to the choosing of hymns, but also the preparation of suitable music and words. In addition the Committee itself took on the task of preparing the material received from the printer and music setters. The finished article was then sent to the printer (The Book Printer) in Melbourne. We trust that the finished product will prove to be an invaluable aid to worship throughout the whole Church.

The first edition of 18,000 copies has almost been sold out. The Committee has resolved to proceed to a revised edition and also a melody-line edition. Work on both of these volumes is proceeding favourably and they should be available mid-1988, and at the latest by the meeting of the Assembly.

Reviews have been varied in content with some indicating concern at change of words, some of the music settings etc., while others have indicated a real 'lift' to hymn-singing within the congregations. It must be expected that a varied reaction would be forthcoming and the Committee acknowledges that changes as presented would produce such comments. However, the changes made were in accordance with the general view that a Hymn Book published in the late 80's should be in the idiom of the day.

Launching ceremonies were conducted in Melbourne at Camberwell on 16th October; in Sydney at Roseville on 23rd October and in Brisbane at Clayfield on 30th October. In addition other functions were held at Launceston (Tasmania); Newcastle (New South Wales) and Young (New South Wales). Others could also have been held.

The book has been made available through various outlets: Brisbane, Melbourne, Launceston, Adelaide and Sydney. The thanks of the Committee is expressed to those who so readily and faithfully undertook this task of distribution. This has meant a considerable saving in cost to congregations. To produce such a book at a reasonable cost, with no deficit, has been no mean task.

The production of "Rejoice!" would not have been possible without the co-operation and often complex work carried out by the staff of the N.S.W. Church Offices, and in particular the General Secretary, Mr. R. Thorpe and his Assistant, Mr. Peter Graham.

The future: in due course the value and worthwhileness of this project, approved by the General Assembly, will be tested by the acceptance by congregations. Already there are many indications of worship being uplifted through the singing of God's praise. As people become more familiar with the book and see how it can be used in all kinds of way in worship its worth will be known and appreciated.

k Companion to "Rejoice!" was produced to serve as a guide to its use by all those involved in preparation for worship. In particular the various indices in "Rejoice!" and in its Companion should prove to be most helpful in this regard.

3. The Book of Common Order: Several conferences were held to further the work of preparing the Book of Common Order for our Church. It has become more and more apparent that such a Book is needed by the Church.

At the last Assembly (1985) a few copies of material already approved by the Committee were available to members. These papers have been edited, and work has been carried out on other services in preparation for the production of the Book. The 1985 Assembly authorised the Committee to proceed with the production of "provisional services" and to print these for use within the Church.

The Committee has been able to finalise much of the work and presents a set of provisional services for use within the Church.

These services include:

- The Sacraments: Baptism, Holy Communion
- Marriage
- Funeral
- Ordination and induction of ministers and elders
- Dedication of a Church ... Memorials, etc.
- Admission of new Communicants
- Licensing of a minister
- Leetinary

There is a real need within the Church to provide services which are based upon our doctrine and Presbyterian tradition, and where congregations can experience something of the basic Presbyterian heritage of worship. The Committee has endeavoured to be faithful to these principles and presents the Provisional Book of Common Order with the prayer that it may serve as a guide and aid to worship throughout the Church in this land.

5. The Anthology: Over a period of some years work has progressed in the preparation of an Anthology which will include a series of prayers for worship, morning and evening, and other occasions. A number of ministers provided material for this volume. The Committee believes this will prove to be an invaluable assistance to all those involved in the preparation for worship.

The Committee acknowledges the considerable and competent work of the late Rev. Martyn Hume, whose tragic death in 1987 robbed the Committee of a faithful member. The Committee has placed on record its deep appreciation for his service to the Committee and has resolved to make some mention of his contribution in the introduction to the Anthology.

6. Australian Consultation on Liturgy: At the last Assembly authority was given to the Committee to participate in the discussions with other Churches through the Australian Consultation on Liturgy. An annual conference is held to which our Church is invited. The late Rev. M. Hume attended one of these conferences. Material is received regularly from A.C.O.L. The Committee did discuss the possible presentation of a common Baptismal Certificate and sent some comments to A.C.O.L. on this.

The Committee believes that we should at least remain as a member of this group.

7. Other Matters: The Committee is presently seeking advice concerning a number of matters associated with services ____ questions to be used at special services; special services held from time to time.

In addition the Committee is giving attention to the use of music in worship with a particular emphasis on music in the new century.

8. The Australian Hymn Book: The Convener has continued to represent the Church at the meetings of the Australian Hymn Book Committee and is one of the Directors of The Australian Hymn Book Company (on behalf of the Trustees).

The Australian Hymn Book Editorial Committee produced a supplement to the Australian Hymn Book - "Sing Alleluia".

9. Thanks: The Committee is most grateful for the ready and willing assistance of Mr. and Mrs. O. Todd of Roseville. Their assistance has gone well beyond the second mile. They have been involved in many of the administrative responsibilities regarding preparation of material for the printer for both the Hymn Book and the Anthology. In addition, in recent time they have relieved the convener of some tasks in regard to the distribution of the Hymn Book. The Committee also acknowledges the assistance of many people throughout Australia and the encouragement of many in our several tasks.

Most of all we offer our thanks to Almighty God for His direction and blessing.

D. F. Murray,
Convener.

ADDENDUM TO REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP AND AIDS TO DEVOTION

Since the report was forwarded for inclusion in the White Book a number of matters have required attention and it has therefore become necessary to provide additional information for members of the Assembly. These are as follows: -

1. "Rejoice!": The melody-line edition is presently with the printers and its availability to congregations is now imminent. The Committee regrets that it has not been available sooner but much of the work in its preparation is carried out by only a few people who have other duties to fulfil. This is time-consuming but it also means a great saving cost to congregations.
2. The Book of Common Order: This volume is presently in the process of being type-set and will now be available by the end of this year. There is a need for a change in the Deliverance to come before the Assembly.
3. The Anthology: This volume is being edited and should now be available either later this year or early in the new year. Again there is a need for a change in the Deliverance to come before the Assembly.
4. Membership of the Committee: Note has been taken of the recommendation to come before the Assembly regarding membership of this and other Committees.

This Committee believes that the executive should consist of ten members, plus corresponding members from the various States.

A Notice of Motion will be presented to the General Assembly in this regard.

The present executive believes that most States should have access to the decision-making within the Committee and attendance at least one Conference between Assemblies. The work of this Committee touches much of the Church's life and worship and must therefore be constituted accordingly.

D. F. Murray,
Convener.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS

1. The Committee: The Executive has met as required since the last meetings of the General Assembly. Following the pattern of the previous years the Executive whose members reside in N.S.W. (mainly Sydney) dealt with all matters related to the Committee. The interstate members were acquainted with the deliberations through the receiving of the Minutes of each meeting regularly.

2. Certificate of Status: The following ministers were received by this Committee under Regulation 196(a):

Rev. Andrew Gardiner	Church of Scotland
Rev. K. R. Ridley	Presbyterian Church of New Zealand
Rev. P. Cornford	Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
Rev. T. Duffin	Church of Scotland
Rev. I. Mcivor	Presbyterian Church of U.S.A.
Rev. V. Forsyth	Presbyterian Church of U.S.A.

3. Petitions: The following ministers were received by the Committee under Regulation 198:

Rev. Yeung Soon Im	Presbyterian Church in Korea
Rev. B. G. Kim	Presbyterian Church in Korea
Rev. G. J. Jeffreys	National Presbyterian Church in Chile

4. Completed Work: The following ministers have completed their work to satisfy G.A.A. requirements:

Rev. P. George Logan	Church of England, South Africa
Rev. D. Brooks	Wesleyan Reform Church

5. Incomplete Work: The following minister have not as yet fulfilled the requirements of the G.A.A.

Rev. D. Silas	Geredja Bethel Church, Indonesia
Rev. N. Aubrey	Baptist Church, Great Britain

6. Petitions: The petitions will be dealt with by the Assembly in a Private Session. A precis of each applicant will be given to members.

The Committee recommends the following ministers:

Rev. R. I. Kellam	Anglican Church of Australia
Rev. C. Lockyer	Seventh Day Adventist Church of Australia
Rev. W. Ellery-Dyer	Baptist Church
Rev. G. A. Vane	Anglican Church of Australia
Rev. P. N. Hermann	Congregational Church of Australia
Rev. Y. C. Pak	Presbyterian Church in Korea
Rev. O. M. Gregory	Baptist Church - Australia
Rev. S. Chang	Presbyterian Church in Korea
Rev. Y. Abadi	Uniting Church of Australia
Rev. D. Griffin	Anglican Church of Australia

7. Enquiries: From time to time enquiries are made by ministers of other denominations in this country and overseas. The Convener gives advice on procedures and assists whenever possible with the preparation of petitions.
8. Financial: Very little expenditure was made in the past three years, mostly on postage and phone calls, however it is anticipated there will be a need for reprinting the Regulations in the near future.
9. Appreciation: The Committee records appreciation of the services of the Rev. R.J. Taggart who moved to South Australia. His place on the Committee has been taken by the Rev. James Bruce and the Committee asks the Assembly to endorse this action. Also to the Rev. G.R. Fullerton who has served the Committee for a number of years but is not seeking re-election because of his move to Canberra.

The Committee records appreciation for the way in which the members of the Committee have carried out their duties.

10. Regulations: Although mentioned in the report to the last Assembly no action was taken to amend the regulations concerning the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Rule 196 needs amending by the deletion of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States because of their amalgamation and insert the name of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Consideration has been given to the Presbyterian Church in Korea and the Presbyterian Church of Korea and it is recommended that these Churches be included in Rule 196. Delete Presbyterian Church of England and in place insert the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom.

11. Convener-Members: The Committee nominated Rev. R.A. Caldwell as Convener, and the Rev. James Bruce, H.G. Durbin, W. Stewart, Messrs. D.R. Brierley and J.C. Mackillop (N.S.U.), Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons and Mr. F.M. Bradshaw (Victoria), Very Rev. K.J. Gardner (Queensland).

R. A. Caldwell,
Convener.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER CHURCHES

The Committee met as required and dealt with the various matters referred to it for advice and action.

Membership in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Reformed Ecumenical Synod have continued. Our financial contributions to these bodies are \$4,000 and \$2,000 respectively. The amounts contributed are well down on that asked by the two bodies.

The financial position of our Church is a continual source of concern to the Committee, as it has hindered our full participation in the working of these bodies. We are not able to send a delegate to the Reformed Ecumenical Synod Council held in Harare in May of this year because of the unavailability of funds. Likewise, it would appear that we will be unable to send a delegate to the General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to be held in Seoul on 15th - 27th August, 1989.

Our approach to the Finance Committee for a declaration of what we could expect in our next triennial budget was not very encouraging. We have been advised that "expenses which have to be borne by all States are getting out of hand". In view of this, the Finance Committee has told us that our budget will contain an amount of \$1,500 which can be used "to assist someone who may be visiting overseas at the time conferences are held". The likelihood that someone will be in Seoul at that particular time is very remote.

The Committee, in discussing the wisdom of continuing our membership in such a limited way in both of these bodies, agreed that "membership be maintained for at least the next triennium and that comments from corresponding members be sought". One State replied in writing that we must remain in both bodies; another State replied verbally that there is little purpose being served by staying in either body. In view of the limitations of our involvement in these bodies because of financial restrictions, it would appear that the Assembly, in making any decision to stay in these bodies, must recognise the limitations placed upon the Committee. Despite these problems, the Committee recommends to the Assembly that we retain our membership in the two bodies.

Contacts have been made with some Presbyterian Churches in the United States of America, Central America and Korea. In terms of Deliverance 3 of the 1985 General Assembly "a partnership relationship" with the Presbyterian Church of Korea has been settled. The Committee believes that an authorisation should be given to the Committee "to initiate relations with Presbyterian Churches in Asian and Pacific regions".

Local and State bodies have maintained good relationships with other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

Correspondence was entered with the Department of Ministry and Mission of the Church of Scotland with a view to establishing exchange ministries. Unfortunately, the Church of Scotland abandoned the project.

A dialogue group from members of the Uniting Church and the Presbyterian Church in Sydney have met, as required, to discuss relevant study papers put out by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. The Committee sees no harm in this and recommends that authority be given to the Presbyterian members to continue in the group.

Members of the Committee are happy to continue, if reappointed.

Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner.
Convener.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROMOTION

It is with a sense of gratitude to Almighty God that we present this Report of the Stewardship and Promotion Committee to the Assembly. The past three years have been occupied with much discussion concerning the future of Stewardship within our Church. From information received from the various States it would appear that Stewardship, in many quarters, is not well received. Some have had a bad experience of Stewardship and have never come to terms with the Biblical teaching relating to the whole matter. Your Committee, therefore, believes that it is time for the Church to discuss the doctrine of Stewardship and its implications for Congregational life. With that in mind we present the following statement on Stewardship as a discussion paper for Presbyteries and Sessions, requesting that comments be returned to the Convener, by 15th December, 1989.

Stewardship

It is a recognised fact that the proclamation of the Gospel must always be carried out in the context of a careful study of the prevailing mind set of the recipients. Communication never takes place until a hearer has rightly grasped the message being communicated accurately, it must be expressed in language and thought-forms that are intelligible to the hearer.

Some may argue that the Holy Spirit can bring conviction even when the Scriptural message is poorly expressed. It does seem that for many the doctrine of Stewardship is misunderstood and often completely rejected. It is possible that from the beginning some of the Biblical principles were either forced or were given meanings which were not in agreement with the text. For many this has led to a deep sense of frustration and apprehension with any approach to Stewardship. Because of this Stewardship has become a dirty word for a large number of people in our Church.

It is believed that the time has come for a reassessment of the Biblical principles of Stewardship. When we look at the Scriptures it can be seen that one of the themes which run through the whole Bible is that God is the owner of all we see. The book of Genesis begins with the words:

"In the beginning God Created the heavens and the earth."

This theme of God's ownership, through creating, and man's trusteeship (Stewardship of the earth and what is in it) sounded here and in the first chapters of Genesis, is a recurring biblical theme in both the Old and New Testaments. The writer of Deuteronomy (Deut. 8:10-18) picks up the theme. After listing many of the accomplishments of man's hand - his house, the building of her herds and flocks, and his accumulation of money -- he then warns his readers that the temptation to consider those things as his own will be great.

"Beware lest you say in your heart. 'My power, and the might of my hand has given me this wealth.'" (Deut. 8:17)

In the next verse the writer set it out clearly:

"You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth." (Deut. 8:18)

It is obvious that God is the source, and man is the recipient and user of God's gifts. In the Book of Chronicles, David near the end of his reign, strikes the same theme. A day of offering for the Temple has been proclaimed and David made the initial offering with his own hands. The

text goes on, at length, to describe how the head of every household in the land came forward and made his freewill offerings. When the offering concluded, David addresses this prayer to God:

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given Thee – Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building You a house for Your holy name comes from Your hand and is all Your own." (1 Chron. 29:14-16)

The prophet Malachi takes up the same theme in a more indirect way. In severe words of judgement, Malachi, speaking for God chastises the people for withholding their offering to God, calling it robbery.

"Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. But you say, 'How are we robbing You?' In your tithes and offerings – Bring the full tithe into the storehouse." (Mai. 3:8-10)

The assumption of the whole passage is that God is the owner of all things, and not to return to God of what He has given, in this case a tithe, is robbery. The emphasis on the tithe here is less important, in my view, than the principle that provokes it, God's ownership of all things and the recognition that man is a Steward of all that God owns.

Turning to the New Testament, we hear the same basic principle sounded by Jesus. In three parables especially, Jesus uses this theme of God's ownership and man's stewardship. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), one of the few parables appearing in all four Gospels, Jesus is saying that whatever we possess, (it matters not whether we interpret talents to mean money, as in the parable, or skills, opportunities, creative talents, education, or even life itself), we possess because it has been given to us by God. From that gift some return to God is expected. In the first instance that return is to be commitment and from that point what else we do will flow from the depth of the commitment. The point of the parable is God's ownership and man's stewardship.

Another parable puts it equally well, the parable of the tenants in Mark 12:1-21. In this parable which has to do with the rejection of God's Son by the Jews, the underlying theme is the assumption that what man has, he has because it has been given to him at the hands of God. From that gift God expects a return.

A third parable suggests a similar theme. The parable of the labourers in the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16 clearly describes the proposition that God is the giver of gifts and that God's gifts exceed anything we can do to earn them. The poignancy of the words of the parable, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me", put in the mouth of God, is a proclamation of the depth out of which God desires to give of "what belongs to me" (note the emphasis on God's ownership) to His people.

John Calvin, in the Institutes of the Christian Religion, Vol 2, Book 3, Chapter vii, P 7, sums up the Christian's response to God in this way, "We are not our own; therefore neither our reason nor our will should predominate in our deliberations and actions. We are not our own; therefore let us nor presuppose it is our end to seek what may be expedient for us according to the flesh. We are not our own; therefore let us, as far as possible, forget ourselves and all things that are ours. On the contrary, we are God's; to Him therefore let us live and die. We are God's; therefore let His wisdom and will preside in all our actions. We are God's; towards Him therefore, as our only legitimate end, let every part of our lives be directed." That is the kind of response Christian Stewardship seeks from God's people.

THE COMMITTEE

The Committee was saddened by the passing of Mr. J. Sticpewich, a faithful member of the Committee for many years. Mr. Sticpewich will be missed in many areas of the Church's life as he was a tireless worker for Christ and his Church.

It is recommended to the Assembly that the Executive be Rev. D.F. Murray, J. Broadhead and D.L. Ferrington, Convener; Messrs. P. Graham, J. Mckillop and J. Wearne.

D.L. Ferrington,
Convener.

TRUSTEES

In 1979 the General Assembly appointed The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust as Trustee for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The General Assembly will be pleased to know that the division of assets and liabilities with the Uniting Church in Australia has been completed during 1987. The financial statements submitted are therefore a true indication of the financial position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as at 31st December, 1987.

The Legal Reference Committee, which was set up as one of the terms of settlement in the litigation instituted by the Uniting Church in the Equity Division of the New South Wales Supreme Court, is still continuing with its work in determining the proper interpretation of Wills and other instruments in accordance with the heads of agreement recorded on pages 70 and 71 of the 1979 G.A.A. Blue Book. The present members of the Legal Reference Committee are:-

Mr. H.W. Tebbutt and Mr. Justice J.F. Dey from the Uniting Church; Messrs. Garry K. Downes and Lindsay J. Moore from the Presbyterian Church.

Whilst there were many estates finalised during the last three-year period, there are still in excess of 40 estates under consideration. The Trustees in November, 1987 were alerted by the Presbyterian Members of the Legal Reference Committee that negotiations on many aspects of the Committee were being frustrated by the directions of the Uniting Church Frontier Services section and, as a consequence, the Trustees resolved to endorse the proposed action of our representatives on the Legal Reference Committee concerning a hardening of the attitude on the allocation of estate. The main point at issue is the difference of opinion on bequests for the Australian Inland Mission.

With regard to the previous report that the Uniting Church in Western Australia is still making use of the word "Presbyterian" in the name of the "Presbyterian Ladies' College, Perth", it is understood that this matter is in the course of being resolved.

In connection with the Northern Territory, the Presbyterian Church (Northern Territory) Property Trust Act, 1985 was assented to on 17th April, 1986. A congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been established at Darwin and has been operated by supply ministry in recent times. A Manse was purchased, being funded by the Presbyterian Inland Mission, but unfortunately the residence has proved to be unsatisfactory and is in the course of being sold at the time of writing this report.

For the information of the Assembly, the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales, Mr. Hector MacFarlane, retired on 31st August, 1986 and Mr. Raymond E. Thorpe was

elected General Secretary effective from 1st September, 1986 and acts as Secretary to the Property Trust.

During 1987 the "Rejoice!" Hymn Book was finalised by the Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee and is being introduced to many Presbyterian Churches throughout Australia.

There was one urgent appeal approved by the Trustees in March, 1987 concerning the cyclone which occurred in Vanuatu which resulted in a National Appeal being launched.

The Trustees release accumulated income amounting to \$8,050.25 to the Australian World Mission Committee from the Estate of the late Nancy V. Paton, which will be used for various purposes in Vanuatu. The capital fund of this estate stands at \$21,000.

D. R. Brierley,
Convener.

COMMUNICATIONS

APPEALS

OVERTURES

PETITIONS

COMMUNICATION NO. 1

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

147 ANN STREET,
BRISBANE

P.O. BOX 291,
NORTH QUAY, 4002

PHONES: 221 9934
221 9733

KJG: EB

6 June, 1988

Mr. R. P. W. Jell,
The Clerk,
Presbyterian Church of Australia,
P.O. Box 291,
BRISBANE, QLD. 4001

Dear Mr. Jell,

RE: PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, which met in May, 1988 approved the following motions:

1. Recommend to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the termination of the appointment of the full-time superintendent to the P.I.M.
2. Recommend to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland that the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee be transferred to Queensland.

Will you please bring these matters to the attention of the General Assembly.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Dr. K. J. Gardner,
Clerk of Assembly.

Copy To:

Mr. H. I. M. MacFarlane,
Convener,
Presbyterian Inland Mission,
G. P. O. Box 100,
SYDNEY, N. S. W. 2001

COMMUNICATION NO. 2

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
In the State of South Australia

PARISH OF ST. ANDREW'S, NARACOOORTE

Manse: 5 Church Street,
NARACOOORTE, 5271
PHONE: 62 1035

20th June, 1988.

Mr. R. P. W. Jell,
Clerk,
General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of Australia,
P.O. Box 291,
NORTH QUAY, QLD. 4000

AT Mount Gambier, the 14th day of May, 1988, which day the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, being duly met and constituted with prayer, inter alia resolved to:

1. Communicate with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia expressing dismay and displeasure that the prolonged delay by the College Committee in setting specific work for Mr. Keith Acheson led to his resignation as a Student for the Ministry.
2. Request the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and to instruct its College Committee to bestir themselves and to proceed with alacrity in fulfilling their duties.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia this 20th day of June, 1988, by me.

(Rev.) K. R. Bell,
Clerk,
General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

COMMUNICATION NO. 3

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA

17 First Street,
CAMP HILL QLD. 4152

21st June, 1988

Mr. R. P. W. Jell,
Clerk of Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of Australia,
P. O. Box 291,
BRISBANE, NORTH QUAY. 4002

Dear Mr. Jell,

We thank you for your letter advising steps to be taken to present our Constitution alterations for approval to the G.A. of A. meeting in September, 1988.

A Notice of Motion dated 22/10/87 re alterations to the P.W.A. of A. Constitution, as set out below, was received by the Federal Executive and printed in their Minutes of 16th November, 1987, for submission to the Federal Conference of P.W.A. of A. to be held in Ann Street Presbyterian Church on Monday, 12th September, 1988. The reason given for this submission was "to clarify the situation".

That the Assembly: -

Approve the following amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia:

1. Clause 5 number the paragraphs as follows: -

5. GOVERNING BODY

- (a) 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.
- (b) Voting Delegates of the Federal Conference shall be appointed by the State units as follows: - New South Wales 5, Victoria 4, Queensland 4, South Australia 2, Tasmania 2, Western Australia 2.
- (c) All business of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia shall be presented, discussed and decided upon at this Conference.

- (d) A quorum shall comprise three-fifths of the voting delegates representing four states.
- (e) The Governing Body is empowered to make By-Laws to implement this Constitution.
- (f) The time and place of meeting shall be determined from Conference to Conference.
- (g) Should a decision on any matter affecting the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia be necessary between meetings of the Governing Body the Executive shall consult with State units by letter and shall act on a decision reached by four (4) of the State units.

2. Delete the present clause 9 and insert the following new clause: -

9. FINANCE

All matters of finance shall be determined by the Governing Body or the Executive in accordance with Clause 5 paragraph (g) "Should a decision on any matter affecting the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia be necessary between meetings of the Governing Body the Executive shall consult with State units by letter and shall act on a decision reached by four (4) of the State units."

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) W.W. Meadows,
Federal President.

COMMUNICATION NO. 4

TO: THE VENERABLE
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

WE, The Minister and Elders of the Charge of Roseville-Lindfield Killara and of French's Forest-Ki Harney Heights in the State of New South Wales, wish to advise the General Assembly of Australia of our deep concern at the amount of time and energy being given to various matters which have evidently concerned the Church in recent years, and upon which through its Church and Nation Committee and otherwise, has made certain pronouncements.

The Session recognises the importance of those matters, but believes that there are other issues which the Church does not appear to be facing and tackling.

While believing that the following matters to which the Church has given its attention are important namely: -

- (a) The place of Women in the Church,
- (b) The Celebration of the Sacraments by persons other than Ordained Ministers, and
- (c) The office of Deacon --

(all of which have been under consideration and will have their respective places on the Agenda of the Assembly) and to which this Session has given due consideration in recent months and has communicated its decision to the Committee on Office in the Church.

The Session, however, believes that there are other concerns to which the Churches attention should be directed at this stage of its history and which are important and relevant in this age.

These concerns include, but are not limited to: -

- (1) Equipping its people for evangelism;
- (2) Building its people up in the Faith;
- (3) Giving ongoing guidance to its people on Social and Ethical Issues; and
- (4) Giving a "lead" from the Assembly to the whole Church in the practice of prayer, advice on Devotional practice (including the reading of the Word of God) and the revitalisation of its worship.

The "field is ripe unto harvest -- where are the reapers?"

Our people are looking for encouragement in the expression of their faith as they endeavour to be faithful to Christ in their daily lives both at work and in leisure. Many find witnessing difficult but believe that the "real work" of the Church is "out there" in the world and their cry is for assistance and direction from the Church they love.

COULD NOT THIS ASSEMBLY PROVIDE THAT ENCOURAGEMENT AND GUIDANCE IN A POSITIVE, REALISTIC AND DYNAMIC MANNER?

The Session, therefore, seeks from THIS ASSEMBLY such a "LEAD" to be given at this crucial time in the Church's history.

Dated the 10th day of July, 1988.

F. S. Dyball,
Session Clerk.

COMMUNICATION NO. 8
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA

Melbourne,

9th September, 1985.

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

Dear Sir,

At the Conference of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia held on the 9th September, 1985 the following expression of concern was read and it was agreed by the majority of the members of the Conference to send this statement onto the General Assembly of Australia. The statement is an indication of the concern by members about Overture 6 to come before the General Assembly of Australia and it reads:

"The Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia has local branches throughout all States except Victoria and is concerned with all matters concerning the work of women in our Church. Members of the Federal Conference were concerned to learn that once again there is to be an attempt to debate the role of women in the Church.

The women in our Church have had a proud record in their dedication to the local church and service in mission work both at home and abroad. We would hope that those who have faithfully served their Lord will not be disparaged for their dedication. It is difficult to imagine that one can effectively serve in any position in the Church without exercising spiritual discernment or authority.

We fear that the attitude exhibited in parts of the Church about women's role goes far beyond a concern about the question of ordination and is already inhibiting participation in the most vital work of proclaiming the gospel here and abroad.

Yours in Christ's service,

(Mrs.) Helen Charlton,
Federal Secretary.

APPEAL NO. 1

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

N. S. W. General Assembly

23rd March, 1987.

Mr. R. P. W. Jell,
Clerk,
General Assembly of Australia.

Dear Mr. Jell,

Please find enclosed the Appeal of the Rev. A. S. Bartholomew and Mr. K. J. Swan against the decisions of the meeting pro re nata of the N. S. W. General Assembly on 11th March, 1987.

Yours faithfully,

James Mullian,
Clerk of Assembly.

Encl. The Appeal of the Rev. A. S. Bartholomew and Mr. K. J. Swan. Certified Minutes of the Meeting pro re nata of the N. S. W. General Assembly on 11th March, 1987.

OVERTURE NO. 1

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

in the State of New South Wales

EXTRACT MINUTE

At West Dubbo and within the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday the seventeenth day of June, 1987 at 10.30 a.m. the Presbytery of Dubbo met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.

Inter alia

37. G.A.A. Overture: The Moderator called for the report of the Committee appointed under May 13, 1987 Minute 8.8 to prepare an approach to the General Assembly of Australia on questions concerning the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The Convener, Mr. C. McKenzie, reported. The report was received.

37.1 It was resolved to Overture the General Assembly of Australia in the following terms: -

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

WHEREAS there are various phenomena in churches around the world and within the State of New South Wales which are alleged to be manifestations of the Holy Spirit, such as: gifts of Divine healings and of prophesy, works of miracles, speaking in different kinds of tongues, the interpretations of tongues, messages of wisdom and of knowledge, the ability to distinguish between different spirits etc. and

WHEREAS these phenomena are accompanied by Biblical terms such as: 'the baptism in (with/by) the Holy Spirit' (Matt. 3.11; Acts 1.5; 1 Cor. 12.13), 'being filled with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 4.31; Eph. 5.18) and 'the outpouring of the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2.17) and "Whereas the Subordinate Standard of this Church appears to make only passing reference to these phenomena and no direct reference to the above mentioned terms, and

WHEREAS the absence of definitive guidance on these matters by the Subordinate Standard leads to doctrinal and practical tensions in the Church, "Now therefore, the Presbytery of Dubbo humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to:

1. Appoint a Committee to examine this situation, giving specific attention to:
 - (a) The meaning of the above Biblical terms and how they relate to the term 'regeneration' (W.C.F. XIII: I & III).
 - (b) The meaning relevance and function of the spiritual gifts in the Church today (1 Cor. 12; Romans 12.1-8; Ephesians 4.11-13; 1 Peter 4.10-11).
 - (c) The occurrence and place of miracles, signs and wonders (Acts. 2.22;

- 2.43; Hebrews 2.4), visions and dreams (Acts 2.17) in the Church today.
- (d) The meaning and importance of the term 'in the Spirit' (Ephesians 6.18, Revelation 1.10).
 - (e) Whether God gives messages today that have equal authority to Scripture and whether He still gives direct guidance by His Holy Spirit (Acts 13.2; 16.6,7).
 - (f) The way that the record of the Acts of the Apostles relates to other parts of the New Testament as a basis for our doctrine on the work of the Holy Spirit; and

- 2. To report back to the General Assembly of Australia with appropriate recommendations for any necessary addition to our Subordinate Standard, or do otherwise as the Assembly, -y in its wisdom may deem fit."

37.2 The Reverends M. J. P. Charles and A. H. Adams were appointed to state the overture.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Dubbo, this eighteenth day of June, 1987 by me.

Stephen L. de Plater,
Clerk of Presbytery

Transmitted with the approval of the New South Wales General Assembly.

James Mullin,
Clerk of Assembly.

OVERTURE NO. 5

At Mount Gambier, the 14th day of May, 1988, which day the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia being duly met and constituted with prayer, inter alia

1. Resolved to transmit the following Overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

OVERTURE

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

WHEREAS the General Assembly has appointed the standards to be met by those seeking to be Ministers of Word and Sacrament within the Presbyterian Church of Australia;

WHEREAS these standards may inhibit those who are not academically inclined from volunteering for training as Ministers of Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS there are such people with proven ministerial ability serving in the Church (as e.g., Home Missionaries);

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 consideration and modify the standards to be met by those seeking to be Ministers of the Word and Sacrament within the Presbyterian Church of Australia so that those who have proven ministerial ability and are not academically inclined are not denied the privilege of serving our Lord, Jesus Christ, as Ministers of Word and Sacrament or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may deem fit.

2. Resolved to appoint Rt. Rev. G.A. Morrow and Rev. A.R. Harvey to state the Overture

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia this 20th day of June, 1988, by me.

(Rev.) K.R. Bell,
Clerk,
General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

OVERTURE NO. 6

At Sydney and within the Scots Church on Wednesday, 6th July, 1988 the Assembly met and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things.

63. General Assembly of Australia, 1974: Pursuant to notice, the Rev. W.G. Camden, moved:

That the Assembly:

Overture the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the following terms:

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

WHEREAS the minutes of the Thirty Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, held in Melbourne on the first day of May, 1974 show that certain of the duly appointed commissioners to that Assembly were persons who have subsequently continued in membership within the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and

WHEREAS those same minutes show that at one point in the proceedings of that Assembly, certain of those commissioners protested a decision of that Assembly, and withdrew, taking no further part in its proceedings, while others of those commissioners continued to participate in the proceedings of the Assembly to its close, and

WHEREAS those commissioners who protested and withdrew from the regularly constituted meeting of the General Assembly, proceeded to meet forthwith in another building, under the Moderatorship of the Rev. Neil MacLeod, A.M., M.A. D.D., and under the guidance of the Procurator of the General Assembly, Mr. F Maxwell Bradshaw, Esq., M.A. LL.M., in order to continue and conclude that meeting of the Thirty Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia from which they had withdrawn in protest, minuting their actions appropriately, and

WHEREAS there now exists two quite different sets of minutes purporting to be the minutes of the Thirty Fifth General Assembly of this church, from minute 46 to the closing of the Assembly, each set of minutes being supported by sections of the church as the true and correct record of the later part of the proceedings of that Assembly, and

WHEREAS this uncertainty concerning the documents to be accepted as the correct records of the General Assembly of Australia has already contributed to the church being obliged to seek the guidance of civil courts of at least three states in order to resolve resulting legal uncertainties over the division of the church's assets, and

WHEREAS the minutes of the later part of the meeting of the General Assembly from which certain commissioners protested and withdrew, record decisions made by duly

appointed commissioners, many of whom are no longer members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, one of which decisions, concerning the ordination of women to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, is currently viewed by a section of the present membership of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as unbiblical, and

WHEREAS the uncertainty of the authority of the documents recording that decision is contributing to a measure of disquiet within the church concerning the role of women within its ministry, and

WHEREAS this uncertainty should be resolved by asking the General Assembly of Australia to indicate clearly the documents which this church is to accept as its minutes of the Assembly in question,

NOW THEREFORE the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales humbly overtures this Assembly to take these premises into consideration, and:

Indicate clearly to the whole church the documents which it is to accept as the minutes of the Thirty Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. W.G. Camden moved:

That the Assembly appoint the Rev. P.W. Hastie and C.D. Balzer to state the overture before the General Assembly of Australia.

The motion was seconded and approved.

By leave of the house, the Rev. Paul G. Logan moved:

That the Assembly forward the Procurator's Opinion to the General Assembly of Australia.

The motion was seconded.

The Rev. D.A. Burke moved as an amendment the addition of the words "in simpliciter" following the words "Procurator's Opinion".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The debate was adjourned. (Min. 80)

80. General Assembly of Australia, 1974: The Assembly resumed consideration of the notice of motion by the Rev. Paul G. Logan (Min. 63).

The motion was approved.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales this fourteenth day of July, 1988, by me.

J. Mullan,
Clerk of Assembly.

OVERTURE NO. 7

At Sydney and within the Scots Church on Thursday, 7th July, 1988 the Assembly met and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things.

91. Neo-Pentecostal Movement: The report of the Committee on the Neo-Pentecostal Movement was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. A.G. Ingram submitted the deliverance.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: -

That the Assembly:

- (1) Having noted the contribution to the spiritual good of the Assembly of the prayer meeting and Assembly Exposition, instruct the Christian Education and Business Committees to consider the possibilities of gatherings during Assembly Week that would stimulate the spiritual life of the Church and report to the next Assembly.
- (2) Encourage presbyteries to organise gatherings within their bounds that would stimulate the spiritual life of church members.
- (3) Recognising the value of the Minister's Family Camp, encourage the Elders' Association and the Christian Education Committee to develop further initiatives for both ministers and elders in which the development of the spiritual life of the participants would be a primary aim.
- (4) Request the Evangelism and Christian Education Committees to develop thrusts within our Church that will encourage a more spiritual life throughout its membership.
- (5) Re-appoint the Committee to continue its work on the Neo-Pentecostal Movement and report to the 1989 General Assembly.
- (6) Make available from the Assembly Fund an amount of up to \$500 to cover the costs of the Committee.
- (7) Overture the General Assembly of Australia as follows: -

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

WHEREAS the Church should have concern for the integrity of the Gospel and should examine anything that may add to or detract from it, and

WHEREAS there has been growth in what is generally known as neo-pentecostal and 'charismatic' influence in the Church in recent years, and

WHEREAS some of our churches have been affected by the teaching of this movement either directly or indirectly and some members have been attracted to pentecostal movements, and

WHEREAS in some instances when this movement has penetrated our congregations, there has been a tendency towards division rather than the unity of the Spirit, and

WHEREAS there appear to be areas of tension between certain doctrines and practice of the neo-pentecostal movement and our supreme and subordinate standards, and

WHEREAS it is imperative for the good order and government of the Church that Presbyteries and State Assemblies act with consistency when fundamental doctrines

are involved and

WHEREAS these matters are of a doctrinal and exegetical nature and the General Assembly is supreme in doctrinal matters, and

WHEREAS the General Assembly of Australia has not issued any statement regarding the neo-pentecostal movement and the relationship of its doctrines and practices to the standards of this church.

NOW THEREFORE the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales humbly overtures the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to issue a statement on the consistency or otherwise of the doctrines and practices of the neo-pentecostal/charismatic movement with the Scriptures and the Subordinate Standard or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

(8) Appoint the Rev. A.G. Ingram and Rev. N.J. Sandon to present the Overture to the General Assembly of Australia.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the state of New South Wales this fourteenth day of July, 1988, by me.

J. Mullan,
Clerk of Assembly.

OVERTURE NO. 9

At Sydney and within the Scots Church on Friday, 8th July, 1988 the Assembly met and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

127. Communication (iv): A communication was received from the Presbytery of Moree re an overture to the General Assembly of Australia.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. R.J. Lee moved:

That the Assembly:

(a) Overture the General Assembly of Australia in the following terms:

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

WHEREAS it is the testimony of Scripture that our ascended Lord has provided for the building and maturing of his Church a permanent ministry of pastors and teachers; and

WHEREAS he continues to confirm this provision to-day in the calling of men from many backgrounds and of a variety of ages to serve in the ministry of the Gospel; and

WHEREAS our Church has seen fit to specify a set course of training for such men to prepare them for this ministry; and

WHEREAS men of mature age offering themselves for such training may find that the course required of them may be as much as five years or more, the which may frustrate a real sense of calling and effectively reduce their remaining period of useful service to the Church; and

WHEREAS our Overturists consider it desirable that such men may be encouraged to fulfil their calling and to be given such preparation as may provide a suitable background for the years of service they are able to fulfil;

NOW THEREFORE the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales humbly Overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to alter Regulation 6 of the Regulations of the College Committee of the General Assembly of Australia as follows:-

1. Amend 6(a)(ii) to read:
"shall be required to complete 2 years of tertiary degree studies if under 35 or 1 year of tertiary degree level studies if 35-44 or to pass an assessment for entry to theological training if 45 or over, the College Committee being responsible for both the setting and marking of such assessment;"

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

2. Appoint the Rev. R.J. Stark and P.P. Thorneycroft to present the overture to the General Assembly;.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales this fourteenth day of July, 1988, by me.

J. Mullan,
Clerk of Assembly.

OVERTURE NO. 14

PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY SOUTH

CLERK: The Rev. Ron Keith,
66 Priam Street,
CHESTER HILL, N.S.W. 2162

7th September, 1988.

Mr. R.P.W. Jell,
Clerk,
General Assembly of Australia,
P.O. Box 291,
NORTH QUAY, QLD. 4000

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find an Extract Minute from the ordinary meeting of the Presbytery of Sydney South held on Tuesday, 6th September, 1988.

You will note that Minute 33 and 34 of the Commission of the Presbytery held on 11th August, 1988 have been rescinded. This means that the Overture that I recently transmitted to you is, in effect, void. The Extract Minute includes a new Overture on the same subject to be presented to the Meeting of the General Assembly to be held next week.

The Rev. N.A.C. Ericksson has asked me to forward to you his notices of motion which relate to the overture. I have enclosed two copies.

Yours faithfully,

Ronald Keith,
PRESBYTERY CLERK.

(COPY TO THE REV. P. J. BARSON)

EXTRACT MINUTE

At Kogarah and within the Presbyterian Church on the sixth day of September, 1988, the Presbytery of Sydney South met and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

NOTICE OF MOTION:

605: Pursuant to Notice of Motion for rescission having been circulated to all members of the Presbytery, it was resolved that Minutes 33 and 34 of the Commission of the Presbytery of Sydney South held at Penshurst on Thursday, 11th August, 1988 be rescinded.

606: Pursuant to Notice of Motion, having been circulated to all Members of the Presbytery, it was resolved that the Presbytery of Sydney South overture the General Assembly of Australia in the following terms:

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

WHEREAS (1) the 1974 General Assembly of Australia clearly affirmed that until the Presbyterian Church of Australia enters into Union with the Methodists and Congregationalists as the "Uniting Church" on 22nd June, 1977, the Presbyterian Church of Australia "shall continue to function pursuant to its Existing Constitution, its existing Basis of Union and its existing Acts of Parliament" (Minutes 19, 25 & 43); and

WHEREAS (2) the General Assembly of Australia 1974 Blue Book Minute 51.2 records that the 1974 General Assembly of Australia added the words to the Article of Agreement 145(viii) by stating that "Women shall be eligible for admission to the Ministry of the 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 Services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include Women"; and

WHEREAS (3) The General Assembly of Australia Code Committee reporting to the 1979 General Assembly of Australia (Blue Book p.86) stated in relation to Min 51 of 1974, that it "has been constitutionally incapable of bringing about the eligibility of women to be admitted to the Ministry"; and

WHEREAS (4) the said Code Committee also reported, "...it is not for this article or any other to determine what is the nature of the ministry to which candidates are admitted", further, "...this is something that may only be dealt with in the basic constitution of the Church" which embraces the Westminster Confession of Faith; and

WHEREAS (5) the said Code Committee reported that "the only lawful method of determining the issue of whether women are or are not to eligible for admission to the Ministry is for the Assembly to remit to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under Section (III) of the Basis of Union of 1901 an appropriate revision of the Confession of Faith" (See also Constitution & Procedure and Practice 120 Section (III) page 23); and

WHEREAS (6) the proper procedures, viz. altering the Westminster Confession of Faith, to allow women to be admitted to the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments has never been enacted; and

WHEREAS <7) the said Code Committee Report was received by the 1979 General Assembly of Australia (Minutes 12-15); and

WHEREAS (8) your overturists consider it desirable to seek the mind of the Church relating to whether women can lawfully be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments under current Church law, but

WHEREAS (9) your overturists are not seeking to alter the position of any individual or particular ordination/s; and

WHEREAS (10) the Church has yet to explore the full range of ministries open to women;

NOW THEREFORE the Presbytery of Sydney South within the Presbyterian Church of Australia humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and:

1. Declare that Blue Book minute 51 of the 1974 General Assembly of Australia meeting in Collins Street "has been constitutionally incapable of bringing about the eligibility of women to the Ministry" inasmuch as it is not for Article VIII of the Constitution and Procedure and Practice or any other to determine what is the nature of the ministry to which candidates are admitted, since this is a matter of doctrine which may only be dealt with in the basic constitution of the Church which embraces the Westminster Confession of Faith.
2. Declare that the only lawful method of determining the issue of whether women are or are not eligible for admission to the ministry is for the Assembly to remit to State Assemblies and through them to Presbyteries under Section III of the 1901 Basis of Union an appropriate revision of the Confession of Faith.
3. Instruct Presbyteries not to proceed with Licensing and Ordinations of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Australia, unless and until later duly authorised by the General Assembly of Australia.
4. Instruct Presbyteries not to induct women ministers on transfer from other denominations to the Presbyterian Church of Australia unless and until later duly authorised by the General Assembly of Australia.
5. Instruct Presbyteries not to accept women as Candidates for the ministry unless and until duly authorised by the General Assembly of Australia.
6. In view of the uncertainty regarding the Constitutionality of the ordination of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments and of the fact that Presbyteries and candidates have acted in good faith, declare that the ordinations of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments that took place between 1974 and 1988 be recognised as valid.

7. Appoint a Committee consisting of the Rev. R. Matthews (V), J. Sondergeld (N), D. Milne (V), P. Hastie (N), N. Chambers (N) Convener, J. Wallis (Q), J. Langbridge (Q), M. Ramage (T) and D. Geddes (N) to explore the full range of ministry open to women, and report their findings to the 1991 General Assembly.

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

The Rev. Robert Benn and the Rev. N. Ericksson to state the Overture.

607: That the Clerk be instructed to transmit the Overture to the Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia by courier as soon as possible, and that a copy be sent by registered mail.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Sydney South this seventh day of September, 1988, by me.

Ronald Keith,
PRESBYTERY CLERK.

OVERTURE NO. 17

(To be presented if Notice of Motion 52 is NOT carried)

WHEREAS unrest and uncertainty exist within the Church with regards to the eligibility of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments; and

WHEREAS Article vi ii as originally enacted related only to the admission and training of candidates for the ministry; and

WHEREAS it is desirable that the following words be deleted from Article viii:

"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 services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women:

and that a new Article be added in either of the following terms:

"Only men shall be eligible for admission to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Australia and all rules and regulations of the Assembly and services of ordination shall be construed that reference therein to ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall refer only to men."

or

"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 services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women."

NOW THEREFORE the undersigned humbly overture the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration delete the following words from Article vi i i:

"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 services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women.:

and add a new article in either of the following terms:

- (a) "Only men shall be eligible for admission to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Australia and all rules and regulations of the Assembly and services of Ordination shall be construed that reference therein to ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall refer only to men."

or

"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 services of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women."

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

C. D. Balzer
R. Benn
L. Moore
P. Hastie

ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT TO OVERTURES 16 & 17

This remit is designed to determine the mind of the church on the question of whether women as well as men should be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.

As part of this process, it is advisable to remove an anomaly in Article VIII. Article VIII is designed to deal with the handling of Candidates for the Ministry and not the question of their gender.

A separate Article is advisable to deal with the matter of whether just men, or men and women, can be ordained to the Ministry.

If you wish to support the ordination of women, you should support the amendment to Article VIII by the deletion of certain words as proposed and the addition of the proposed separate Article which specifies the eligibility of women for admission to the ministry.

If you wish to support the ordination of men only, you should support the amendment to Article VIII by the deletion of certain words as proposed and the addition of the proposed separate Article which specifies the eligibility of men only for admission to the ministry.

David Burke.

PETITION NO. 1

At Mt. Gambier, the 14th day of May, 1988 which day the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia being duly met and constituted with prayer, inter alia,

1. resolved to transmit the following Petition to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

PETITION

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

THIS Petition humbly sheweth -

THAT The Reverend Don Brookes, now a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, was for twelve years a missionary in Taiwan, working solely with and for the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan;

THAT While in Taiwan, he made contacts, and built up good relationships with members at all levels of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan;

THAT He has maintained those contacts till this day;

THAT There are other Presbyterians within the Church of Australia who are anxious to serve the Lord in Taiwan.

THAT The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan has already established 'partner-Church' relationships with several other Presbyterian Reformed Churches in Great Britain, Europe, New Zealand, Canada and America, and with the Uniting Church in Australia, and is desirous of establishing a similar relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Australia;

THAT The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan periodically organises and runs missionary conferences for representatives of its 'partner-churches';

THAT Attendance at the conferences by a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Australia could result in mutual benefit for both Churches.

NOW THEREFORE the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, humbly petitions the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and

(1) commence conversation with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan with a view to mutual recognition and, if possible, a closer working together; and

(2) Either send a representative to the next missionary conference held by The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan;

Or if unable to send a representative, convey greetings to that conference, or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

2. resolved to appoint Rt. Rev. G.A. Morrow and Rev. A.R. Harvey to state the Petition.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia this 20th day of June, 1988, by me.

(Rev.) K.R. Bell,
Clerk,
General Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

(Excluding Australian Presbyterian World Mission, Christian Education,
National Journal Committee, Presbyterian Inland Mission and Hymn Book Funds.)

	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		
<u>Specific</u>		
Balance 1 January 1985	254,986	
Capital Funds Received	-	
Capital Funds Distributed (N. S. W. Property Trust)	(333,090)	
Adjustments	-	
Surplus for the period (interest only)	<u>78,104</u>	
Balance 31 December 1987		-
<u>Ordinary</u>		
Balance 1 January 1985	81,302	
Capital Funds Received	-	
Capital Funds Distributed (Uniting Church)	(64,675)	
Adjustments	(10)	
Surplus for the period	<u>23,112</u>	
Balance 31 December 1987		<u>39,728</u>
<u>TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		<u>\$39,728</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
<u>INVESTMENT OF FUNDS</u>		
<u>Ordinary</u>		
Investments	4,500	
Debtors	2,763	
Petty Cash	100	
Deposit (Presbyterian Church N. S. W.)	<u>32,365</u>	
<u>TOTAL (ORDINARY)</u>		<u>39,728</u>
<u>TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED</u>		<u>\$39,728</u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987 (ORDINARY CAPITAL)

(Excluding Australian Presbyterian World Mission, Christian Education,
National Journal Committee, Presbyterian Inland Mission and Hymn Book Funds.)

	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Investment income		2,059
Trustee interest		21,053
Contributions Received or Receivable from the States: -		
- New South Wales	55,092	
- Queensland	21,763	
- South Australia	3,966	
- Tasmania	3,617	
- Victoria	28,103	
- Western Australia	<u>2,354</u>	<u>114,895</u>
		<u>\$138,007</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
<u>1985 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:</u>		
Travelling and Accommodation	54,345	
White and Blue Books	6,018	
Honoraria to Assembly Officers	1,040	
Other	<u>2,568</u>	63,971
<u>Moderatorial</u>		
Honorarium	2,550	
Travel and Accommodation	9,827	
Other	<u>2,203</u>	14,580
<u>Committees</u>		
Code	2,034	
College	5,808	
Finance	1,500	
National Journal	6,000	
Public Worship and Aids to Devotion	3,011	
Reception of Ministers	113	
Relations with Other Churches	667	
Stewardship and Promotion	(43)	19,090
Contribution to W.A.R.C.		4,000
Contribution to R.E.S.		1,350
Office Services		8,600
Other		3,304
Surplus for the period ended 31 December 1987		<u>23,112</u>
		<u>\$138,007</u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
PUBLIC WORSHIP AND DEVOTION COMMITTEE
HYMN BOOK
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

	\$	\$
<u>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		
<u>Ordinary</u>		
Balance 1 January 1985	-	
Capital Funds Received	458	
Surplus for the Year	<u>46,252</u>	
Balance 31 December 1987		<u>46,710</u>
<u>TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		<u>\$46,710</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
<u>INVESTMENT OF FUNDS</u>		
Investment in Companies	5	
Deposit (Presbyterian Church N. S. w.)	<u>46,705</u>	<u> </u>
<u>TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED</u>		<u>\$46,710</u>
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987</u>		
<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest		1,886
Publication Income		170,607
Other		<u>578</u>
		<u>\$173,071</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Publication Expenses		98,009
Publicity		1,663
Copyright		15,821
Travelling Expenses		4,578
Other		6,748
Surplus for the Year		<u>46,252</u>
		<u>\$173,071</u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

CAPITAL AND RESERVES

\$\$

Specific

Balance 1 January 1985	5,807
Capital Funds Distributed	(3,493)
Transfer to Ordinary Capital	(9,731)
Surplus for the Period (Special Publications and Interest)	7,417

Ordinary

Balance 1 January 1985	9,387
Transfer from Specific Capital	9,731
Deficit for the Period	(9,663)
Balance 31 December 1987	<u>9,455</u>

TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES

\$ 9,455

Represented by:

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

Ordinary

Fixed Assets	729
Deposit (Presbyterian Church N. S. W.)	<u>8,726</u>

TOTAL (ORDINARY)

9,455

TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED

\$ 9,455

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987 (ORDINARY CAPITAL)

INCOME

Interest	1,360
Deficit for the Period	<u>9,663</u>

\$11,023

EXPENDITURE

Travelling Expenses	4,260
Other	<u>6,763</u>

\$11,023

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL JOURNAL COMMITTEE

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

	\$	\$
<u>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		
<u>Ordinary</u>		
Balance 1 January 1985	30,509	
Surplus for the Period	<u>45,478</u>	
Balance 31 December 1987		<u>75,987</u>
<u>TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		<u>\$75,987</u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
<u>INVESTMENT OF FUNDS</u>		
Fixed Assets	16,661	
Cash	200	
Interest Bearing Deposit (Bank)	50,000	
Deposit (Presbyterian Church NSW)	<u>32,780</u>	
<u>TOTAL</u>	99,641	
<u>Less:</u>		
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Creditors	4,872	
Provisions	672	
Subscriptions in Advance	<u>18,110</u>	
<u>TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED</u>		<u>\$75,987</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987 (ORDINARY CAPITAL)

<u>INCOME</u>		
Interest	15,619	
Donations	16,786	
Year Book - Sales and Advertising	15,581	
APL - Sales (Bulk)	34,331	
APL - Sales (Other)	184,248	
APL - Advertising	110,550	
GAA Allocation	6,000	
Typesetting "Rejoice" Hymn Book	17,395	
Other	<u>2,264</u>	
	<u>\$402,774</u>	

EXPENDITURE

Salaries	140,724
Office Services	10,500
Rent	8,518
Printing - Year Book	6,031
Printing - APL	111,706
Postage	40,600
Travel	5,818
Other	33,399
Surplus for the Period	<u>45,978</u>
	<u>\$402,774</u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

	\$	\$	\$
<u>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>			
<u>Speci f i c</u>			
Balance 1 January 1985		41,358	
Capital Funds Received		1,000	
Capital Funds Distributed		(40,782)	
Surplus for the period (Interest Only)		<u>626</u>	
Balance 31 December 1987			2,202
<u>Represented by:</u>			
Inland Hospital	759		
Darwin Ministry	<u>1,443</u>		
	<u>2,202</u>		
<u>Ordinary</u>			
Balance 1 January 1985		391,108	
Capital Funds Received		666,662	
Capital Funds Distributed		(5,220)	
Adjustment		4,352	
Deficit for the period		<u>(67,685)</u>	
Balance 31 December 1987			<u>989,037</u>
<u>TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>			<u>\$991,239</u>
Represented by -			
<u>Investment of Funds</u>			
<u>Speci f i c</u>			
Deposit (Presbyterian Church NSW)		2,202	
<u>Total (Specific)</u>			2,202
<u>Ordinary</u>			
Fixed Assets		57,450	
Investments		781,667	
Loan - Darwin		134,000	
" Other		3,012	
Deposit (Presbyterian Church NSW)		12,908	
Total (Ordinary)			989,037
<u>Total Funds Invested</u>			<u>\$991,239</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987 (ORDINARY CAPITAL)

Income

Dividends	2,150
Interest	235,122
GMP A1 Location	2,200
Donations	100,854
Other	1,620
Christmas Cards (Profit)	3,552
Deficit for the Period	<u>67,865</u>
	<u>\$413,363</u>

Expenditure

<u>Blackall</u>	- Salaries	41,462
	- Other	39,335
<u>Darwin</u>	- Salaries	36,275
	- Other	23,626
<u>Mt. Isa</u>	- Other	11,086
<u>Pt. Augusta - Whyalla</u>	- Salaries	72,271
	- Other	6,899
<u>Stanley-Rocky Cape</u>	- Other	14,056

General Administration

Salaries	97,580
Office Services	6,050
Rent	2,108
Travelling Expenses	34,883
Other	<u>27,732</u>
	<u>\$413,363</u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

FUNDS HELD BY THE COMMITTEE IN QUEENSLAND

	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
<u>CASH AT BANK</u>			
<u>BALANCE 1 JANUARY 1985</u>		7,871	
Surplus for the period		<u>4,683</u>	
<u>BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 1987 (BANK)</u>			12,554
<u>PLUS</u> Interest Bearing Deposits			<u>23,776</u>
<u>TOTAL UNDISTRIBUTED INCOME</u>			\$36,330 =====

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1987

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Category 1	81,084	51,485	57,774	
Category 3	69,576	8,508	83,802	
Unallocated	20	29	-	
Bank Interest	471	316	467	
IBD Interest	1,041	929	-	
IBD Capital	<u>16,306</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
	168,498	61,267	143,043	371,808
	=====	=====	=====	
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Category 1	53,837	79,268	48,289	
Category 3	88,467	2,424	91,464	
Administration	60	67	879	
Publicity	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,370</u>	<u>-</u>	
	143,364	83,129	140,632	367,125
	=====	=====	=====	=====
 <u>Surplus (Deficit)</u>	<u>25,134</u>	<u>(21,863)</u>	<u>1,411</u>	
 <u>Surplus for period ended 31 December 1987</u>				\$ 4,463 =====

FUNDS HELD BY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NEW SOUTH WALES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1987

CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Speci fi c

	\$	\$	\$
Balance 1 January 1985		26,881	
Capital Funds Received		-	
Capital Funds Distributed		(10,703)	
Surplus for the period (interest only)		<u>7,586</u>	

Balance 31 December 1987 23,764

Represented by:

Estate Late N.V. Paton 23,764

Ordi nary

Balance 1 January 1985	54,509
Capital Funds Received	163,231
Capital Funds Distributed	(24,197)
Surplus for the period (interest less \$400 Audit Fees)	<u>19,412</u>

Balance 31 December 1987 212,955

TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVES

\$236,719
=====

Represented by:

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

Speci fi c

Deposit (Presbyterian Church NSW) 23,764

TOTAL (SPECIFIC)

23,764

Ordi nary

Fixed Assets (House - Eastwood)	120,000
Investments	66
Deposit (Presbyterian Church NSW)	<u>92,889</u>

TOTAL (ORDINARY)

212,955

TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED

\$236,719
=====

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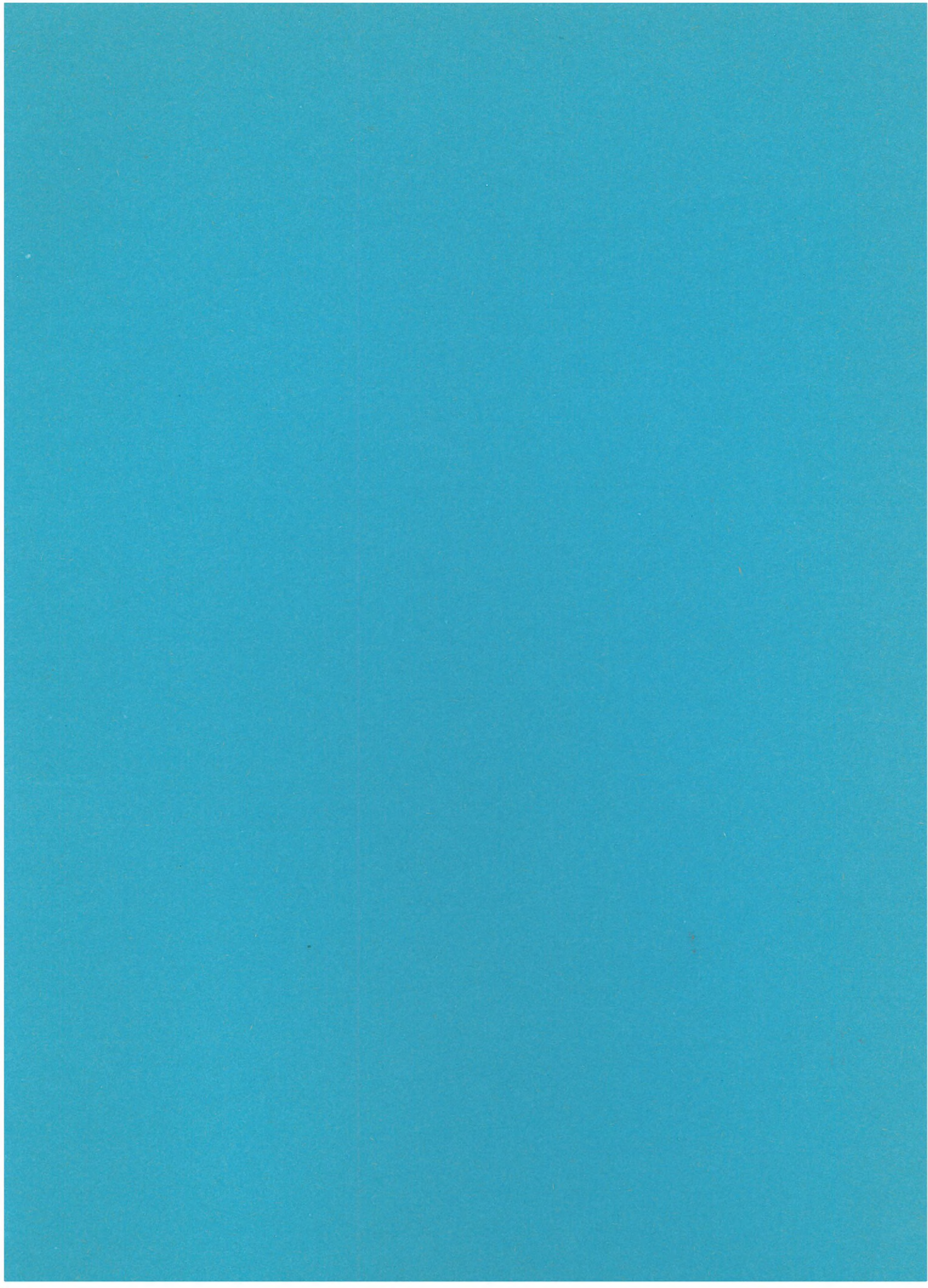
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