

**MINUTES**  
OF  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
OF THE  
**FORTY-SIXTH**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

OF THE  
*Presbyterian Church of Australia*



**HELD IN SYDNEY**  
**SEPTEMBER 2007**



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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
OF THE  
*Presbyterian Church of Australia*  
**2007**

**ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

**Right Reverend the Moderator:**

REV. ROBERT PERCIVAL FREDERICK BENN  
12 Wilson Street, Wentworth Falls N.S.W. 2782  
(02) 4757 3109

**Clerk of Assembly:**

REV. DR. PAUL G. LOGAN, O.A.M., B.A., D.Min., Dip.Ed.Stud., M.A.C.E.,  
PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills N.S.W. 2012  
(02) 9955 1662 (H) (02) 9690 9371 (O)

**Deputy Clerk:**

REV. BRUCE M. MELLER, B.D., Th.L., M.A.(Theol)  
PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills N.S.W. 2012  
(02) 9690 9375 (O)

**Business Convener:**

REV. PETER J. BARSON  
55 Chater Street, Carina Qld. 4152 (07) 3398 9823

**Procurator:**

MR. GREGORY BURTON, S.C., B.C.L., B.A., LL.B.  
C/- Church Offices

**Law Agent:**

MR. SIMON FRASER, B.A., LL.M.  
Colin Biggers & Paisley,  
Level 42, 2 Park Street, Sydney N.S.W. 2000  
Phone: (02) 8281 4555 Fax: (02) 8281 4567

**Assembly Officer**

MR. PETER J. GRAHAM, OAM. Esq.,  
PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills N.S.W. 2012

**Trustees for The Presbyterian Church of Australia:**

Persons who for the time being hold office as the Trustees of  
"The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust"

PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills N.S.W. 2012  
Telephone: (02) 9690 93335 Fax: (02) 9310 2148  
DX 22502 Surry Hills

The Assembly will meet on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Scots Presbyterian Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, N.S.W.  
or in such other place as may be decided.

**PAST MODERATORS**

**of the**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA**

Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D.....	1901
Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D. ....	1902
Rev. David Bruce, D.D. ....	1903
Rev. P.J. Murdoch, M.A.....	1905
Rev. T.E. Clouston, D.D .....	1906
Rev. Peter Robertson .....	1907
Rev. John Ferguson .....	1909
Rev. W.S. Rolland .....	1910
Rev. J. Laurence Rentould, M.A, D.D.....	1912
Rev. George Davidson, M.A.,D.D .....	1914
Rev. Ronald G. Macintyre, C.M.G., C.B.E., M.A., D.D. ....	1916
Rev. John Walker, D.D.....	1918
Rev. James Gibson, M.A.....	1920
Rev. John Mathew, M.A, D.D.....	1922
Rev. James Crookston .....	1924
Rev. R. Scott-West, D.D.....	1926
Rev. Alexander Crow.....	1928
Rev. Donald A. Cameron, M.A. ....	1930
Rev. G.R.S. Reid, M.A., D.D. ....	1933
Rev. John Mackenzie, M.A, D.D. ....	1936
Rev. John Flynn, O.B.E., D.D.....	1939
Rev. R. Wilson Macaulay, B.A., D.D .....	1942
Rev. Alexander C. Grieve, B.A. ....	1945
Rev. Julian R. Blanchard, C.B.E., B.A., D.D.....	1948
Rev. Richard Bardon, O.B.E., B.A. ....	1951
Rev. Sir Francis W. Rolland, O.B.E., M.C., M.A. ....	1954
Rev. David J. Flockhart, M.A.....	1957
Rev. Alan C. Watson, M.A., D.D. ....	1959
Rev. Hector Harrison, O.B.E., M.A., B.D. ....	1962
Rev. William Young, B.A. ....	1964
Rev. Norman Faichney, B.A.....	1967
Rev. James Frederick McKay, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.A., B.D. ....	1970, 1971
Rev. Gillam Albert McConnel Wood, O.B.E., A.M., B.A. ....	1973
Rev. Neil MacLeod, A.M., M.A., D.D.....	1974
Rev. Kenneth Joseph Gardner, O.B.E, D.D.....	1977
Rev. James Mullan, B.A., Dip.R.E. ....	1979
Rev. Norman Monsen.....	1982
Rev. Edward R. Pearsons .....	1985
Rev. Alan C. Stubs, B.A., B.D., M.Th., Dip.R.E. ....	1988
Rev. Murray J.K. Ramage .....	1991
Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman, B.A., B.D., M.Litt., M.Th., Th.D.....	1994
Rev. Bruce H. Christian, M.E., B.D. ....	1997
Rev. Jack J. Knapp.....	2001
Rev. Charles Robert Thomas, Th.D.....	2004
Rev. Robert P.F. Benn, L.Th., Dip.R.E. ....	2007

**CLERKS**  
**of the**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA**

Rev. James S. Laing, D.D. ....	1901-1906
Rev. George Tait, M.A. ....	1906-1933
Rev. R. Wilson Macaulay, B.A., B.D. ....	1933-1942
.....	1945-1951
Rev. W.D. Marshall, M.A. ....	1942-1945
.....	1951-1957
Rev. G. Ross Williams .....	1957-1970
Rev. L. Farquhar Gunn, M.B.E., E.D., M.A., B.D. ....	1970-1974
Very Rev. Edward R. Pearsons .....	1974-1985
Raymond P.W. Jell, Esq., L.Th., A.R.E.I.A.I.C.M., A.A.I.M., J.P. ....	1985-1988
Very Rev. Kenneth J. Gardner, O.B.E., D.D. ....	1988-1991
Rev. Paul G. Logan, O.A.M., B.A., D.Min., Dip.Ed.Stud., M.A.C.E. ....	1991-

**DEPUTY (OR JUNIOR)**

**CLERKS**

Rev. George Tait, M.A. ....	1901-1906
Rev. E.E. Baldwin, M.A., Dip.Ed. ....	1922-1939
Rev. W.D. Marshall, M.A. ....	1939-1942
.....	1945-1951
Rev. G.W. McAlpine .....	1942-1945
Rev. J.M. Stuckey, B.A. ....	1951-1962
Rev. C.M. Dyster, M.A., B.D., S.T.M. ....	1962-1964
Rev. L.F.F. Gunn, M.B.E., E.D., M.A., B.D. ....	1964-1970
Rev. A.M. McMaster, B.A., B.D. ....	1970-1974
Raymond P.W. Jell, Esq., L.Th., A.R.E.I., A.I.C.M., A.A.I.M., J.P. ....	1977-1985
Rev. J.J.T. Campbell, B.A. ....	1988-1991
Rev. B.M. Meller, B.D., Th.L., M.A. (Theol).....	1991-

## LAW AGENTS

Messrs. Davies and Campbell.....	1901-1930
Mr. Alexander Gerald Proudfoot.....	1930-1950
Mr. J.P. Adam, M.A., LL.B., Dip.Ed.....	1950-1972
Mr. John G.R. McArthur, LL.B. ....	1972-1977
Mr. Lindsay J. Moore, LL.B. ....	1977-1991
Mr. Simon H. Fraser, B.A., LL.M. ....	1991-

## PROCURATORS

Mr. John Garland, K.C., M.A., LL.B.....	1901-1921
Mr. John A. Ferguson, B.A., LL.B. ....	1921-1936
Mr. Brian C. Fuller, Q.C., B.A., LL.B. ....	1936-1956
Mr. Douglas M. Little, Q.C. ....	1956-1959
Mr. F. Maxwell Bradshaw, M.A., LL.M. ....	1959-1992
Mr. Garry K. Downes, A.M., Q.C., B.A., LL.B. ....	1992-2002
Mr. Gregory K. Burton, B.C.L., B.A., LL.B.....	2003-



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA**  
**ROLL OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**ELECTED TO THE 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**The Assembly Officers**

<b>Moderator-General</b>	Rt. Rev. R.P.F. Benn
<b>Clerk</b>	Rev. Dr. Paul Logan
<b>Deputy Clerk</b>	Rev. B.M. Meller
<b>Business Convener</b>	Rev P.J. Barson
<b>Law Agent</b>	Mr. S.H. Fraser
<b>Procurator</b>	Mr. G.K. Burton

**Former Moderators-General**

Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner	Very Rev. J. Mullan
Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons	Very Rev. M.J.K. Ramage
Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman	Very Rev. B.H. Christian
Very Rev. J.J. Knapp	Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. J.R. Irvin	Mr. J.R. Falls
Rev. Dr. I.K. Smith	Mr. W.D. Richards
Rev. P.F. Cooper	Mr. A. Byleveld
Rev. K.D. Murray	Mr. M.J. Quirk
Rev. Dr. J.A. Davies	Mr. P.J. Graham, OAM
Rev. C.D. Balzer	Mr. M.C. Beveridge
Rev. Dr. P.E. Barnes	Mr. J. Rolland
Rev. R. Quadrio	Mrs. Y. Forsyth
Rev. I. Schoonwater	Mr. P. Mitchell
Rev. Dr. E.F. Brown	Mr. R. Holvast

**Presbytery of Bathurst**

Rev. D.B. Stone	Mr. J. Read
Rev. K.W. King	Dr. H. Clements

**Presbytery of Canberra**

Rev. J.F. Bartholomew	Mr. B.C.E. McDowell
Rev. D.J. Hassan	Mr. E.D. Mercer

**Presbytery of The Central Coast**

Rev. G. Samuel	Mr. L.R. Pye
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**Presbytery of Dubbo**

Rev. W. Connor	Mr. K. Hampstead
----------------	------------------

**Presbytery of The Hastings**

Rev. T.R. Galvin	Mr. J. Rooimans
Rev. S. Soldatos	Mr. N.G. Foreman

**Presbytery of The Hawkesbury**

Rev. Dr. D.L. Ferrington	Mr. R. Green
Rev. W.G. Morrow	Mr. B. Clark
Rev. L.G. Fowler	Mr. J. Spinney



**Presbytery of Darling Downs**

Rev. G. McKay  
Rev. A. Clarke

Mr. W.J. Dunn  
Mr. D. Mooney

**Presbytery of Mowbray**

Rev. D. Mihailovic  
Rev. K.R. Ridley  
Rev. R. van Delden

Mr. I. Lang  
Mr. G. Gardener  
Mr. J. Hopkin

**Presbytery of North Brisbane**

Rev. J. Nicol

Mr. N. Hughes

**Presbytery of North Queensland**

Rev. D.R. Schwartz

Mr. I. Putt

**Presbytery of Wide Bay-Sunshine Coast**

Rev. J.T. Roth  
Rev. W.G. Brown

Mr. W. Pivac  
Mr. D. Richards

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rt. Rev. G. Ware

Mr. R. Hanna

**Presbytery of Penola**

Rev. A. Gall

Mr. R. Bannister

**Presbytery of Torrens**

Rev. S. Slucki

Mr. I. Robbie

**TASMANIA**

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. Dr. D. Mitchell

Mr. M. Lynch

**Presbytery of Bass**

Rev. P.P. Thorneycroft

Mr. G.S. Munro

**Presbytery of Derwent**

Rev. R. White

Mr. G. Roberts

**VICTORIA**

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. Dr. G. Goswell  
Rev. J.P. Wilson  
Rt. Rev. G. Lawry  
Rev. P.W. Phillips  
Rev. P.N. Orchard

Mr. B. Bayston  
Mr. J. Searle  
Mr. R. Butcher  
Mr. N. Sharp  
Mr. J. Dalstead

**Presbytery of Ballarat**

Rev. Dr. J.S. Woodward

Mr. G. Smith

**Presbytery of Benalla**

Rev. N. Harvey

Mr. M. Browning

**Presbytery of Bendigo**

Rev. M. Willsmore

Mr. A. Zirngast

**Presbytery of Flinders**

Rev. D. Palmer  
Rev. M. Wharton

Mr. R. Dikkenberg  
Mr. R. McCarron

**Presbytery of Geelong**

Rev. D. Griffin

Mr. G. Stasse

**Presbytery of Gippsland**

Rev. J. Hood

**Presbytery of Kilnoorat**

Rev. I. Leach  
Rev. N. Benfell

Mr. D. Hayward  
Mr. K. Gibson

**Presbytery of Maroondah**

Rev. R. Carner

Mr. W. Lawrence

**Presbytery of Melbourne East**

Rev. C. Siriweera  
Rev. J.H. Stasse  
Rev. A. Johnson

Mr. B. Mills  
Mr. K. Childs  
Mr. J. Adlawan

**Presbytery of Melbourne North**

Rev. A. Parle  
Rev. D. Elliott

Mr. F. Goodson  
Mr. B. Miller

**Presbytery of Melbourne West**

Rev. J. Diacos

Mr. N. Gilmour

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. S.M. Bonnington

Mr. G. Muskett

**Presbytery of Western Australia**

Rev. R. Fraser  
Rev. A. Robinson

Mr. W. Macrae  
Mr. M. Sloan

**COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY (Article 3)**

**New South Wales:**

Rev. D.B. Stone  
Rev. I.R. Schoonwater  
Rev. J.R. Irvin  
Rev. K.D. Murray

Mr. R. Neems  
Mr. P.J. Graham  
Mr. A.W. Byleveld  
Mr. R. Holvast

**Queensland:**

Rev. L.G. Hall  
Rev. G.K. Ketniss

Mr. N. Hughes  
Mr. J. Tucker

**South Australia:**

Rt. Rev. G.J. Ware

Mr. R. Hanna

**Tasmania:**

Rev. Dr. D.C. Mitchell

Mr. G.K. Roberts

**Victoria:**

Rt. Rev. G. Lawry  
Rev. K.D. Allen  
Rev. J.P. Wilson

Mr. J.H. Searle  
Mr. G. Bell  
Mr. I. Downes

**Western Australia:**

Rev. D.B. Thatcher

Mr. G. Muskett

**Former Moderators-General:**

Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner  
 Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons  
 Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman  
 Very Rev. J.J. Knapp

Very Rev. J. Mullan  
 Very Rev. M.J.K. Ramage  
 Very Rev. B.H. Christian  
 Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas

**Assembly Officers:**

Moderator  
 Clerk  
 Deputy Clerk  
 Business Convener  
 Law Agent  
 Procurator

Rt. Rev. R.P.F. Benn  
 Rev. Dr. Paul Logan  
 Rev. B.M. Meller  
 Rev. P.J. Barson  
 Mr. S.H. Fraser  
 Mr. G.J. Burton

**Chairman:** The Moderator-General

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

### Australian Presbyterian World Mission

Seven members elected by the General Assembly:

Mr. I. Campbell  
 Rev. C.J. Letcher  
 Mrs. J. Oakley

Mr. D. Lewis  
 Mrs. R. Hodge

Rev. J.M. Elliott  
 Miss C. Moar

The National Director  
 The Associate Director

The Convener of each of the APWM State Committees of Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia and two representatives appointed by each of the APWM State Committees of Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, one of whom in each case shall be the State Convener.

Ex-officio: Assembly Officers

**Convener:** Dr. D. Pilgrim

### Christian Education

New South Wales:

Rev. I. Schoonwater, Very Rev. B.H. Christian,  
 Rev. J.A. McClean, Rev. A. Unwin

Queensland:

Rev. J. Nicol, Rev. G. McKay

South Australia:

1 vacancy

Tasmania:

Mr. I. Partridge

Victoria:

Rev. Dr. G. Goswell, Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas

Western Australia:

Rev. A. Robinson

The Convener of the Christian Education Committee (or a representative) from each State.

Ex-officio: Assembly Officers

**Convener:** Rev. I. Schoonwater

### Church and Nation

A representative from each State Church and Nation Committee or its equivalent.

Ex-officio: Assembly Officers

**Convener:** To be elected from among the members of the Committee

### Code

New South Wales:

Mr. M.C. Beveridge, Rev. B.M. Gorton, Rev. J.R. Irvin

Queensland:

Rev. R. Clark, Rev. L.J. Hall, Rev. R. Schwartz

South Australia:

Rev. G. Ware

Tasmania:

Rev. Dr. D.C. Mitchell

Victoria: Rev. P. Phillips, Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman,  
Rev. J.P. Wilson  
Western Australia: Rev. K.W. Morris  
Ex-officio: Assembly Officers  
**Convener:** The Clerk of Assembly

### College

The Conveners of the Theological Education Committee of each State.  
The full-time professors and lecturers at the Theological Colleges or Halls approved by the Assembly.  
Ex-officio: Assembly Officers  
**Convener:** Appointed by the Committee

### Defence Force Chaplaincy

Twelve members elected by the General Assembly:  
Dr. L. Thorpe Rev. J. Macintyre Rev. G. Hooper  
Rev. A. Robinson Rev. P. Phillips Rev. J. Nicol  
Mr. N. Hughes 5 vacancies  
Ex-officio: Assembly Officers  
**Convener and Presbyterian Member on the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services:**  
Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman

### Finance

New South Wales: Rev. P.R. Dunstan, Rev. P.F. Cooper, Mr. R. Dunlop  
Queensland: Mr. K. Booker, Mr. G. Rodgers  
South Australia: Mr. B. Redpath  
Tasmania: Mr. G. Roberts  
Victoria: Clerk of Assembly, Chairman of the Victorian  
Trust Corporation.  
Western Australia: Rev. R. Fraser  
Elected by the General Assembly: Rev. J.R. Irvin, Messrs J. Rolland, W.D. Richards,  
Rev. L.J. Hall  
Ex-officio: Assembly Officers  
**Convener:** Chairman of the Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust

### National Journal

Nine members elected by the General Assembly:  
Rev. A. Clarke Rev. G.K. Ketniss Mr. R. Holvast  
Mrs. J. Bell Mr. W. Bruining Mr. B. Zwartz  
Rev. S.M. Bonnington Rev. R. Waterhouse Rev. M. Wharton  
Ex-officio: Assembly Officers  
**Convener:** Rev. P.W. Hastie

### Presbyterian Inland Mission

New South Wales: Mrs. E. Mill, Rev. G. Samuel, Rev. L.G. Fowler  
Northern Territory: Dr. L. Greenwood  
Queensland: Mrs. H. Ross, Rev. R. Schwartz, Mr. K. Booker  
South Australia: Mr. R. Hanna  
Tasmania: Mr. A.D. Turner  
Victoria: Rev. R. Duncanson, Rev. M. de Pyle, Mr. M. Smith  
Western Australia: Rev. A. Robinson  
Ex-officio: Assembly Officers and the Superintendent  
**Convener:** Rev. R. Duncanson

## Public Worship and Aids to Devotion

New South Wales:	Rev. S.A. Andrews, Rev. T. Cheetham, Rev. J. Li, Rev. A. Unwin, Rev. D.B. Stone
Queensland:	Rev. R. Van Delden, Mrs. J. Brown, Rev. J. Langbridge
South Australia:	Rev. S. Slucki
Tasmania:	Mr. G. Munro
Victoria:	Rev. P.D. Mercer, Rev. M. Wharton, Rev. Dr. J.S. Woodward
Western Australia:	1 vacancy
Ex-officio:	Assembly Officers
<b>Convener:</b>	Rev. R. Van Delden

## Reception of Ministers

Ministers:	Rev. P. Bloomfield (WA), Rev. A. Clarkson (SA), Rev. G.K. Kettmiss (Queensland), Rev. Dr. G. Goswell (Victoria), Rev. B.M. Gorton (NSW)
Elders:	Mr. A.D. Turner (Tasmania), Mr. N. Taylor (Queensland) and three vacancies
The Principal of each Theological Hall of the Church recognized by the General Assembly. The Convener of the College Committee.	
Ex-officio:	Assembly Officers
<b>Convener:</b>	Rev. G.K. Kettmiss

## Relations with Other Churches

New South Wales:	Very Rev. B.H. Christian, Rev. D.J. Campbell
Queensland:	Rev. A. Clarke, Rev. R. Schwartz
South Australia:	Rev. G. Ware
Tasmania:	Rev. R. White
Victoria:	Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas, Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman
Western Australia:	Rev. K.W. Morris
Ex-officio:	Assembly Officers
<b>Convener:</b>	Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman

## Ad hoc Committee on Women's Ministries

Rev. J. McClean	Mrs. N. Moore	Mrs. C. Orford
Mrs. A. Pryde	with power to co-opt	
<b>Convener:</b>	Rev. J.A. McClean	

## Panel of Assessors (Article 13)

Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman	Rev. J.R. Irvin
Rev. S.M. Bonnington	Rev. P.F. Cooper
Rev. D. Mihailovic	Rev. J.W. Langbridge
Rev. D. Elliott	Rev. P.P. Thorneycroft
Mr. G. Muskett	Mr. K. Booker
Mr. J. Searle	Mr. K. Childs
Mr. A. Johnston	Mr. G.K. Roberts
Mr. N. Taylor	Mr. G. Munro

## AUTHORISATIONS, INSTRUCTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Moderator-General:**

Attend as voting delegate at the World Reformed Fellowship Assembly in 2010 (Min. 37(2)).  
Authorisation to hold an appeal over the next three years for a church plant in metropolitan Perth (Min. 59(17)).

To act as spokesman for the General Assembly (Min. 95(1)).

Moderator-General or his representative as the Assembly's representative to the assemblies of overseas churches (Min. 102 (13)).

### **State Assemblies:**

Report of ad hoc Committee on Biblical Ministries for Women (Min. 25(1))

To amend Codes concerning licensing of students (Min. 52(4)).

Commend serving chaplains in the defence force to the church (Min. 54(1)).

Reimbursement to Finance Committee (Min. 59(9)).

Adoption of a period of prayer and fasting (Min. 95(3))

### **Presbyteries:**

Encourage the purchase of copies of Constitution, Procedure and Practice of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (Min. 19(1)).

Report of ad hoc Committee on Biblical Ministries for Women (Min. 25(1))

Updated versions of "Partnership in Mission" (Min. 35(8)).

Appointment of mission secretaries or conveners (Min. 35(16)).

Decommissioning services for returned missionaries (Min. 35(19)).

Encourage use of the publications by the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee (Min. 43(1)).

Encourage ministers to consider service as chaplains in the defence force (Min. 54(2)).

Subscriptions urged to Australian Presbyterian (Min. 96(11)).

### **Sessions:**

Encourage the purchase of copies of Constitution, Procedure and Practice of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (Min. 19(1))

Report of ad hoc Committee on Biblical Ministries for Women (Min. 25(1)).

Updated versions of "Partnership in Mission" (Min. 35(8)).

Appointment of mission secretaries or conveners (Min. 35(16)).

Decommissioning services for returned missionaries (Min. 35(19)).

Encourage use of the publications by the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee (Min. 43(1)).

Subscriptions urged to Australian Presbyterian (Min. 96(11)).

### **Congregations:**

Thanks to congregations for PIM support (Min. 19(6)).

Encourage prayer and support cross-cultural and indigenous ministries in Australia (Min. 35(11)).

Ministry Papers and Café Theologia as training resources (Min. 42(1)-(2)).

Subscriptions urged to Australian Presbyterian (Min. 96(11)).

### **Assembly Committees:**

Code Committee to prepare and circulate a paper on a National Church (Min. 19(2))

Code Committee to finalise a new chapter in Constitution, Procedure and Practice dealing with appeals and complaints (Min. 19(3))

Encourage the Committee on Relations with Other Churches to continue discussions with other Presbyterian and Reformed denominations in the region (Min. 37(4)).

Discussions with Business Committee on celebration of the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Reformation in 2010 (Min. 37(5)).

Committee on Relations with Other Churches to make contact with the General Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa (GKSA) (Min. 37(6)).

Christian Education Committee to consider ways of stimulating the study of the Shorter Catechism, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed and Westminster Confession of Faith (Min. 42(7)-(9)).

Christian Education Committee to continue holding 21C (Min. 42(4)).

Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee authorized to develop a Bible reading notes and Bible reading calendar (Min. 43(3)).

Possible chaplaincy services to the Federal Police (Min. 54(3)).



Finance Committee allocations for triennium (Min. 59(8)).

Code Committee to consider matter of petitions (Min. 7)

All Assembly committees to inform the church via pres e-news of resolutions in between meetings of the General Assembly (Min. 102(15)).

**Members of the Church:**

Encourage the purchase of copies of Constitution, Procedure and Practice of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (Min. 19(1))

Thanks to church members for PIM support (Min. 24(6)).

**State Assemblies and Presbyteries under Barrier Act Procedure:**

Overture on persons for the eldership (Min. 62)).

Overture on home missionaries administering the sacraments (Min. 94)



# OVERTURE

## (iii) From seven members of the Assembly concerning the understanding of worship.

### To the venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas,

- A. The General Assembly of Australia may:
  - i. make a declaration or interpretation of the law or practice of the Church on some particular point (G.A.A. Code 2.01 [c]), or
  - ii. have something done or declared which is for the general benefit of the Church (G.A.A. Code 2.01 [d]);
- B. The Westminster Confession of Faith, read in the light of the Declaratory Statement, is the subordinate standard of the Church;
- C. Chapter 21 of the Westminster Confession of Faith states concerning "Religious Worship" that:
  - i. *God is to be worshipped everywhere, in spirit and truth; as, in private families daily, and in secret, each one by himself; so, more solemnly in the public assemblies; (21.6)*
  - ii. *a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God (21.7)*
  - iii. *the reading of the Scriptures with godly fear, the sound preaching and conscionable hearing of the Word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith, and reverence, singing of psalms with grace in the heart; also, the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God; (21.5)*
- D. A plain reading of this chapter seems to suggest that worship is a particular and deliberate engagement of Christians within their life.
- E. It is the clear duty of all Christians, in the pursuit of all their lawful and several callings, and in all their fellowship and interaction with other believers to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in full obedience and to show that he is worthy of honour and glory. [Phil 2:1-18, Col 3:1-17, 2Thess 1:3-12 1Tim 1:12-20]
- F. There are some of the opinion that the Greek words "λογικην λατρευια" in Romans 12:1 should be translated "reasonable service of worship" implying that "worship" in the form of Christian ministry or service is now the broad sacrificial response to God's grace in Christ, and that therefore worship extends beyond the definition in Chapter 21 of the Confession; with the consequence that such gatherings as are described in Chapter 21 are said to be mere components of a generally worshipful life and not a particular and deliberate engagement of Christians in their life (or "a special and distinct Christian activity").
- G. There are some of the opinion that the Greek words "λογικην λατρευια" in Romans 12:1 should be translated "reasonable (rational) service" implying that Christian ministry or service is the broad sacrificial response to God's grace in Christ in daily living but without denying the idea of worship as a special and distinct activity, the privilege of all Christians as they live the whole of life to God's glory.
- H. There are other references to worship in the Westminster Confession of Faith outside of chapter 21, namely; 1:6; 1:8; 2:2; 19:3; 20:2; 20:4; [22.1], 23:3; 25:4; 25:5; 26:2; 29:4, and 31:3.
- I. There are some of the opinion that these references to worship outside of Chapter 21 are not necessarily referring to religious worship as a special and distinct Christian activity, defined by Chapter 21;
- J. There are some of the opinion that these references to worship outside Chapter 21 do refer to religious worship as a special and distinct Christian activity, as defined by Chapter 21.
- K. Worship, as defined in the Westminster Confession of Faith, was a matter of debate in the Presbytery of Brisbane in 2007.
- L. The distinction between 'worship is a part of life' and 'worship is all of life' with a consequential inference that there is no distinct Christian activity which can be called worship, is a matter of doctrine in which the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church

of Australia has ultimate jurisdiction.

Now therefore the above listed Commissioners overture the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to do the following:

Appoint a Committee:

- a. as follows: Rev. Dr. Douglas Milne (Convener), Very Rev. Dr. Allan Harman, Rev. Dr. John Davies, Rev. Dr. Peter Barnes, Rev. Dr. Bruce Winter and Rev. Ian McIver, with power to co-opt.
- b. to determine if there is a difference between religious worship as defined in Chapter 21 of the Westminster Confession of Faith and worship as elsewhere referred to in the Confession.
- c. to bring an interpretation of the meaning of Romans 12:1 and any other portions of Scripture which impact upon the Presbyterian Church of Australia's understanding of worship and practice as defined within the Westminster Confession of Faith.
- d. to investigate the implications of the statements 'worship is a part of life' and 'worship is all of life', on worship and practice in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- e. to bring a report to the 2010 General Assembly of Australia.

Or do otherwise as the Assembly may deem fit.

Rev. P.L. Barber, Rev. P.W. Hastie, Rev. G.K. Kettmiss, Rev. L.J. Percy, Rev. K.R. Ridley, Rev. S.A. Slucki, Messrs. N.L.G. Taylor and Mr. J.E. Tucker.

**The Rev. K.R. Ridley and L.J. Percy were appointed to state the overture.**

- (iv) **From the Presbytery of New England concerning an amendment to Article 1.3 on membership of the Assembly.**

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

WHEREAS

- A. State Moderators are expected to attend the opening of the General Assembly of Australia, but attend thereafter only as visitors; and
- B. Such a visit to the opening of the General Assembly of Australia has a significant financial cost involved; and
- C. State Moderators may have to deal with issues arising from decisions of the General Assembly of Australia within their State Assembly (e.g., a State Assembly Commission meeting) and the presbyteries they visit as part of their moderatorial role; and
- D. It would be beneficial in cases as in recital C, if State Moderators were able to be present during the whole of the Assembly's deliberations and decisions, including particularly those in closed court; and
- E. The General Assembly of Australia in 1997 Minute 24 has already added a new provision as Article 1(c) *the past Moderators of the General Assembly*, in the revised Articles of Agreement, adding past Moderators' General to the membership of the General Assembly of Australia;

Therefore the Presbytery of New England requests the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take the above premises into account and amend Article III in the Articles of Agreement by addition of the word *and* after *General Assembly* in 1.3(c), and a new clause (d): *the State Moderators holding office at the time of any ordinary meeting or any special meeting of the General Assembly of Australia.*

Or do otherwise as the assembly may deem fit.

**Rev. Stuart Andrews and Mr. Lance Jackson were appointed to support the Overture.**

- (v) **From the College Committee concerning Administration of the Sacraments by Home Missionaries and Elders.**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

Whereas:

- A. the General Assembly has, for decades, allowed authorised home missionaries to administer the sacraments under defined circumstances and has required such home missionaries, as a condition of their authorisation, to undertake an examination concerning their understanding of the sacraments (Ref. S.4.2 of *Constitution, Procedure and Practice*);
- B. the General Assembly, in 2004, changed the longstanding practice of the church in order to allow elders to administer the sacraments under circumstances that are less proscribed than those applying to home missionaries and has not required such elders to satisfy any examination;
- C. this discrepancy constitutes a disincentive in the recruitment of home missionaries; and
- D. this discrepancy also makes the Church's Constitution unnecessarily cumbersome.

Now therefore the College Committee overtures the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to:

1. Change the title of section 4.2 of *Constitution, Procedure and Practice* to "Administration of the Sacraments – Special Provision".
2. Delete section 4.2 sub-section 2 and replace it with the following:
 

**2 Administration of the Sacraments by Home Missionaries and Elders.**  
*Home missionaries appointed by the relevant state home mission committee, and elders set apart by a presbytery to perform special pastoral work in either a home mission station, vacant charge, or an area requiring missionary activity to commence and develop a church, may be authorised by the ordained minister or interim moderator of the bounds to celebrate the sacraments.*  
*The minister or interim moderator of the bounds shall be responsible to presbytery for the manner in which the sacraments are celebrated and all such cases are to be duly reported to the presbytery.*  
*Presbyteries when authorising elders, and home mission committees when authorising home missionaries, are counselled to exercise care so that only elders or home missionaries who have an adequate understanding of the theology of the sacraments and who have proven themselves by service to be suitable to take special responsibilities are appointed and given the right to celebrate the sacraments.*  
*In administering the sacraments elders and home missionaries shall consult and use the forms in the most recently approved book of common order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.*  
*Elders and home missionaries authorised to administer the sacraments under this provision shall not do so except in their sphere of work and on occasions fixed by the Kirk Session.*
3. Delete sub-section 4.4 since it is now redundant

**The Rev. B. Meller and J. McClean were appointed to state the overture.**

# PETITIONS

(i) **From the Rev. Dr. Benno Alexander Zuiddam to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.**

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:  
This petition humbly shows that:

The Rev. Dr. Benno Alexander Zuiddam was born in Amersfoort, The Netherlands, on the 28th of May 1968 and is married with a family of four children. He was baptised in the Dutch Reformed Church and committed his life to Christ in his teens.

Dr. Zuiddam and his family are permanent residents of Australia, where they arrived in January 2000. Dr. Zuiddam is fluent in Dutch, English and Afrikaans and has a working acquaintance with several other European languages.

Dr. Zuiddam formerly received tertiary training as a journalist and was employed in that profession; he was formerly associated with a Reformed political party in The Netherlands, serving on local and state boards; he has experience in youth work with the Dutch Reformed Church; and subsequently received the Lord's calling to the fulltime Ministry of the Word.

Dr. Zuiddam received his extensive theological education at three universities in The Netherlands and South Africa, during the years 1989-1997, graduating cum laude in all subjects. Having completed his initial studies at the universities of Kampen and Utrecht, he received his postgraduate BTh Hons from the University of the Orange Free State in Bloemfontein in 1994 and earned a DTh in Church History and Polity (on the authority of Scripture in the 2nd century). He has also undertaken courses on the doctrine, church polity and history of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Dr. Zuiddam's research in Patristic studies at the University of Utrecht and his doctoral research in Bloemfontein have been published in accredited theological journals.

Dr. Zuiddam was lawfully ordained into the Reformed Ministry by the Free Reformed Churches of Australia in July 2000.

Dr. Zuiddam concluded his relationship with the Free Reformed Church of Australia and was received into full membership of the Presbyterian Church of Australia at St Andrews, Launceston on the 29th of June 2003. On the 13th of October 2003 he commenced employment as an assistant to the Minister of St Andrews, which employment continued with renewed contracts until April 2006.

Dr. Zuiddam was elected and received as an elder of the Session of St Andrews on the 22nd of August 2004, when he subscribed to the doctrine of the Westminster Confession of Faith by undertaking the vow of eldership and signing the Formula.

In 2003 Dr. Zuiddam applied to the Reception of Ministers Committee for recognition as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, which committee initially deferred his application for twelve months.

Dr. Zuiddam has received strong support for his application from the Session of St Andrews Launceston, and also from the Presbytery of Tasmania, and subsequently from the Presbytery of Bass, each of which gave him unanimous support. He has demonstrated his clear commitment to the Presbyterian Church of Australia over this period of time and has proven himself in both character and ministry gifts.

These have been recognised formally by minuted decisions:  
Presbytery of Tasmania (2003):

"403.24.1 It was moved that Presbytery put forward a strong recommendation to the Reception of Ministers Committee that Rev. Dr. Benno Zuiddam be accepted as a Presbyterian Minister. The motion was seconded and approved.

403.24.2 Mr. Zuiddam was recalled and advised of this decision. Prayer followed.

403.24.3 It was moved that we further declare that Presbytery is eminently satisfied that Rev Dr Benno Zuiddam at the time of his quitting the church with which he had previously been connected was not under any censure or liability to censure on any moral or doctrinal grounds. The motion was seconded and approved."

The Presbytery of Bass (2005.58.5 & 2005.8317), unanimously reconfirmed its support for the application of the Rev Dr Zuiddam to be received into the Ministry of the

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Presbytery of Bass (2006.13, correspondence items 29.9-11) urged the Rev. Dr. B.A. Zuiddam not to be dismayed at the decision of the Reception of Ministers Committee to defer consideration until the 2007 General Assembly of Australia. The Presbytery decided to convey "the deep disappointment of the Presbytery of Bass with the Committee's decision" in a letter to the Convener of the Reception of Ministers Committee.

Dr. Zuiddam has faithfully served with the Presbyterian Church of Australia for a period of more than four years, firstly in his position of Assistant to the Minister of St Andrews Launceston and subsequently as Chaplain to the Presbyterian Homes Legana (Launceston Presbyterian Homes for the Aged); also as a serving elder of the Presbyterian Church and active member of the Presbytery of Bass. During this period Dr. Zuiddam has also maintained and continued his academic pursuits having several reviews published in accredited theological journals. He also prepared a concise history of the Christian Church, which has been accepted for publication by Teologia, a division of the Importantia Online Bible Publishers. His (Dutch) book "Holy Letters and Syllables," on the authority of the Scriptures in the early Church was published by the same company in 2006. Dr. Zuiddam has entered into further doctoral studies in Greek and New Testament. By invitation, Dr. Zuiddam is currently a member of the New Testament Society of South Africa, and addressed this society at its congress at the University of Stellenbosch in April 2007. Dr. Zuiddam is also a member of the international Plutarch Society.

Dr. Zuiddam humbly recognised the Reception of Ministers Committee's decision "to refer the application of Dr. Benno Zuiddam to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to the 2007 General Assembly of Australia for determination."

Now therefore the Rev. Dr. Benno Alexander Zuiddam prays the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and grant him recognition as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

Rev. Dr. Benno Zuiddam  
20 July 2007

**(ii) From Mr. Woodrow David Wilson and Marja-Leena Wilson concerning allegations against a minister and an elder of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.**

The text of this petition is not included by order of the Assembly (B.B. 2007 Min. 28)

**(iii) From the Session of Springwood to authorise the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury to take Mr. Mark Armstrong on trials for licence.**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia from the Session of the Parish of Springwood, Winmalee, and Woodford. The Session of the said Parish hereby petitions the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to authorise the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury to take Mark Armstrong on trials for licence.

This petition shows that during the vacancy in the said parish Mark Armstrong diligently carried out the Pastoral duties associated with the Parish.

From 1996 to 1999 Mark was Home Missionary at Hay.

From 2000 to 2003 he was Home Missionary at the Hawkesbury Districts Presbyterian Church.

From 2004 he was the assistant to Reverend Robert Benn. With the retirement of Rev. Robert Benn in 2005 Mark has been the sole Pastor within the Parish.

In each of these pastoral situations Mark has demonstrated his heart for Parish Ministry.

His resume indicates that he has:

A Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) from the University of NSW.

A Th.L. from the General Board of Religious Education.

From the Sydney Missionary and Bible College the following:

Associate Dip. Divinity & Mission (Associate Dip. D.M. credit)

Bachelor Theology (B.Th.hons 2A)

From the Presbyterian Theological centre Sydney:

FES A (pass)

1999 Narrative Hermeneutics and Preaching from Genesis MA subject.

2004 Australian Presbyterianism, Presbyterian Principles and Practice.

MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Presently enrolled as MTH candidate – submitting Thesis this year.

Now therefore the Session of the Parish of Springwood, Winmalee, and Woodford prays the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and authorise the Presbytery of the Hawkesbury to take Mark Armstrong on trials for licence.

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

**The Rev Dr. D. L. Ferrington was appointed to present the Petition.**

Forwarded by the Presbytery of The Hawkesbury simpliciter.



# REPORT

## RECEPTION OF MINISTERS COMMITTEE

Since the last meeting of the General Assembly, we have said farewell to and thanked the following Committee members:-

Rev. Ian McIver. (Former Principal Qld Theological Hall)  
Rev. Alan Perrie (WA Representative)  
Mr. John Searle (Victorian Representative)  
Rev. Peter Richardson (Former Acting Principal of the Qld Theological Hall)

We certainly valued their contribution and we thanked them for serving the Lord through this Committee.

We welcomed:-

Rev. Paul Bloomfield (WA representative)  
Rev. Dr. Greg Goswell (Acting Principal Victorian PTC)

As is the task of this Committee, we have dealt with many applications. There have also been a number of inquiries, and a lot of these do not proceed with a formal application.

**1. Ministers who have signed the Formula.** The following ministers whose applications were before the 2004 (or earlier) meeting of the General Assembly of Australia have completed all requirements and have signed the Formula:-

Rev. Paul Charles Cornford  
Rev. J. Marvin Hagans  
Rev. Harold Hyong Oh  
Rev. Dr. Chung Suk Park  
Rev. Norman George Shellard  
Rev. Hee Chuan Goh  
Rev. Kyu Bum Lee  
Rev. Myeong-Gu Lee

**2. Ministers Received.** Applications by the following ministers have been approved under Clause 12 of the Regulations (minister under call):-

Rev. Gerhardt van Tonder  
Rev. Ian Touzel  
Rev. Dr. Lewis Romney

**3. Studies completed (or not required) but Formula not signed:**

The following minister whose applications was before the 2004 (or earlier) meeting of the General Assembly of Australia has completed all requirements, but has not as yet signed the Formula:-

Rev. Michael Deal

**4. Studies completed (or not required) but Formula not signed and recommended to be received** - (see confidential white paper):-

Rev. Alan Radloff  
Rev. Richard Wilson  
Dr. Felix Chung  
Rev. Suk Won Kim

**5. Studies not completed therefore the Formula not signed and recommended to be received** - (see confidential white paper):-

Rev. Tut Wan Yoa  
Rev. George Albert Bitar  
Rev. Seong Mo Byun  
Capt. Brian J Harvey  
Rev. Choul Thurbil Yat  
Rev. Ted Myoung Hun Yoon

**6. Decision left to 2007 Assembly:**

In regards to the application by Dr Benno Zuiddam, after several interviews, the Committee resolved at the Standing Committee in February, 2006, as follows:-

**10.2/06** Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved that this Committee considers it prudent to refer the application of Dr Benno Zuiddam to be received into

the Ministry of the PCA to the 2007 GAA for determination. (See confidential white paper).

**7. The Rev. Dr. Bruce Winter** was received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia by the February, 2007 Commission of Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia but has not yet completed the work nor signed the formula.

**8. Applications withdrawn:-**

Rev. Des Burgess (Application has never come before this Assembly)  
Rev. Jin Tae Bae (Did not obtain permanent residency, and returned to Korea)  
Rev. Barry W. Swann

**9. Negative Recommendations.**

Committee policy is as follows:- if the Committee makes a negative recommendation about a particular applicant then he will be advised of his right to petition, and if the Committee makes a positive recommendation in spite of reservations expressed by some of its members (or other people), then the applicant will be advised to be present at the meeting of the GAA in case he is needed. The Committee believes that if these procedures are followed then justice should be done and the time of the Assembly used wisely. The Committee has not approved the applications of the following:-

Rev. John Bracht  
Dr. Hendrik Pretorius (Application has never come before this Assembly)  
Rev. Robert Finster (Application has never come before this Assembly)  
Rev. J.S. Raj (Application has never come before this Assembly)

**10. Additional documents.**

To avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of applications, the Committee requests Presbyteries to obtain a recent Certificate of Status and Academic Transcripts of tertiary study by applicants and to forward these to the Committee attached to the Application Form. The Committee advises Presbyteries to consider carefully such Certificates of Status (or the absence of them) when they process applications.

**11. In order for the Committee to fulfil its Duty of Care, the following is required from all applicants:-**

1. All Applicants to be required to furnish an AFP clearance.
2. That the application forms contain the following:-

**a. Declaration:-**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the answers contained in this application are true in every particular. I understand that if I am later found to have given any false, misleading or incomplete information in this application, the Committee will have the right to disapprove the application, even if the Committee has already made a decision to approve the application.

I further understand that this information is sought for the purposes of assessing my suitability to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. By signing and lodging this application form, I consent to my personal and sensitive information being recorded and retained by the Committee.

Signature                      Date

**b. Child Protection Legislation:-**

The position of a Minister with the Presbyterian Church of Australia is a position covered by the Child Protection Legislation as applicable in all Australian States and Territories. In order to fulfill this Committee's Duty of Care, every applicant, prior to being approved, will be required to certify that he is not guilty of any offense under these Australian State and Territory Legislation.

I certify that I am not guilty of any offense under any Australian State and Territory Child Protection Legislation.

Signature                      Date

**c. Criminal History:-**

The applicant must not have any relevant Criminal History, Apprehended Violence Orders etc. In order to fulfill this Committee's Duty of Care, all applicants now residing, or having resided in Australia at some time, must furnish an Australian Federal Police Clearance with their Application.

I hereby enclose an Australian Federal Police Clearance, and certify that I have no Criminal History

Signature                      Date

**12. Seek approval for an additional Clause in the Regulations:-**

At the 2007 Standing Committee Meeting, it was agreed, that the Committee seek approval from

the 2007 General Assembly of Australia, for a New Clause 14 in the Regulations as follows:-

**Ministers from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds.**

Where a non-English speaking Congregation wishes to invite a Minister from overseas to minister in a particular linguistic and cultural context, and where the theological training of that Minister has been within the Reformed and Presbyterian framework, approval may be given by the Reception of Ministers Committee to receive that Minister as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to serve in that particular Congregation for a period of up to five years with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining. After the five year period it would be competent for a Presbytery to sustain a Call to that Minister. Such approval will be reported to the General Assembly of Australia.

**13. Nominations for the Committee.** The Committee, following the schema set down in the regulations, nominates to the Assembly the following, bearing in mind that the Assembly officers, the Principals of the three recognised Theological Halls and the Convener of the College Committee are ex-officio members:-

W.A.	Rev. Peter Bloomfield
S.A.	Rev. Allan Clarkson
Tas	Mr. A David Turner
Qld	Rev. Guido Kettmiss
	Mr. Neville Taylor
Vic.	Rev. Bob Thomas
	Rev. Dr. Greg Goswell
NSW	Rev. Moses Hahn
Convener:	Rev. Guido Kettmiss

G.K. KETTNISS, Convener.

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA  
THE FORTY SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FIRST SEDERUNT**

**1. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, at 7 p.m. on Monday 10 September, 2007, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened.

Public worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas. Thereafter the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

**2. Roll of Assembly:** The Clerk laid on the table the list of commissioners appointed to this Assembly by the State assemblies and presbyteries of the Church. It was resolved that the list of commissioners as made up be the Roll of this Assembly.

**3. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from the Very Rev. Dr. K.J. Gardner, Very Rev. E.R. Pearsons, Very Rev. M.J.K. Ramage and Messrs. M. Lynch, K. Childs and J. Adlawan.

**4. Associates:** There were no associates.

**5. Election of Moderator:** The Clerk laid on the table the report of the Moderator's Nominating Committee.

The report was received.

It was resolved that the Assembly accept the nomination of the Moderator's Nominating Committee and elect the Rev. R.P.F. Benn, Minister Emeritus of N.S.W., as Moderator of the Assembly.

The Rev. R.P.F. Benn was welcomed and inducted into office with prayer by the Moderator, took the chair and delivered an address.

**6. Motion of Loyalty:** The following Motion of Loyalty, submitted by the Business Convener, was approved.

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

May it please Your Majesty, your faithful subjects, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened in General Assembly at Sydney on the tenth day of September, Two Thousand and Seven, take leave to assure Your Majesty of our loyalty and devotion to Your person and to the Throne. We pray that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, and the only Saviour of mankind, may, by His grace, sustain and uphold Your Majesty in His providential care, and that He may grant to Your Majesty personally all the gifts needful for the discharge of the exacting duties of Your Majesty's high office.

We also pray that Christ, through His unchanging Word and by the guidance of His Spirit, will grant to Your Majesty, in your demanding position of leadership in church and nation, wisdom, integrity, courage, and faithfulness to Him.

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

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

Robert Benn, Moderator.

**7. Prayers for the Australian Parliament:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved: That the Assembly:

Forward to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the Australian Parliament assurances of the regular prayers of the people of the Presbyterian Church of Australia for the nation's elected representatives in the exercise of their responsibilities.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**8. Representatives of Overseas Churches:** The following representatives of overseas

churches, being present, were welcomed by the Moderator.

The Rev. Dr. I.C. Barclay and the Rev. Prof. A. McGowan, of the Church of Scotland, Mr. R. Peek and the Rev. D. Bayne of Grace Presbyterian Church, New Zealand, and Pastor Soleman Batti of the Toraja Church of Indonesia.

It was resolved that the representatives of overseas churches be granted privileges equivalent to those of associated members for this General Assembly.

**9. Representatives of other Churches:** The following representatives of other churches, being present, were welcomed by the Moderator: Bishop I. Lee, representing the Anglican Church of Australia; the Rev. F. Nile representing the Fellowship of Congregational Churches; the Rev. Dr. R. Ward, representing the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia; Sister E. Delaney, representing the Australian Bishop's Conference of the Roman Catholic Church in Australia; and Rev. S. Estherby of the Uniting Church.

**10. Business Committee:** The report of the Business Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. P.J. Barson submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (13) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. J.F. Bartholomew moved:

That the Assembly:

(14) Make the presentation of Overture (ii) an order of the day immediately following the constitution of the Eighth Sederunt on Thursday 13 September 2007.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 102)

**11. Report on 21C:** The Rev. J. McClean presented a report on the 21C Conference held before the General Assembly.

**12. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 1 to 30 were laid on the table.

**13. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet tomorrow, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, at 9.30 a.m. in the Scots Church for the celebration of Holy Communion and thereafter for the transaction of business whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## SECOND SEDERUNT

**14. Holy Communion:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church on Tuesday 11 September, 2007 at 9.30 a.m. the Assembly met for the celebration of Holy Communion. The Solemn Service was conducted by the Moderator assisted by the Rev. Dr. B. Winter, the Rev. J. McClean, J.W. Elliott, Messrs J. Goodman, E. Mercer, J. Spinney, W. Thompson, W. McClaren, J. McClenahan, N. Taylor, G. Roberts, J. Searle, N. Gilmour, B. Stasse, N. Hughes, D. Jamieson and G. Muskett.

**15. Assembly Constituted:** At the conclusion of the Solemn Service the Assembly was constituted with prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**16. Report of the Retiring Moderator:** The report of the retiring Moderator was laid on the table and received.

The Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas addressed the House.

Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express its appreciation to the Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas for his service to the Church as Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia from 2004 to 2007 and assure both he and Mrs. Thomas of the Assembly's prayers for their continued ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Thomas.

**17. Presbyterian Women's Association:** The report of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia was laid on the table and received.

Mrs. J. Thuaux, retiring President; Mrs. E.R. Moore, retiring Secretary; Miss P.M. Watts, retiring Treasurer; Mrs. H. Ross, President; Mrs. B. Gadsby, Secretary; and Miss B. Knowles, Treasurer were presented to the Moderator and at his invitation Mrs. J. Thuaux addressed the House.

Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Give thanks to God for the work of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia and encourage state branches to continue their valued support to the ministries of the Church whilst encouraging ministers, elders and congregations in the formation of branches of the PWA within their charges.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to the PWA.

**18. Returns to Remits:** The report on Returns to Remits was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Logan submitted the deliverance.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

Amend the Code of Discipline by inserting a new Rule 3.10 as follows:

3.10 If an allegation is made against a person who holds office in the Church, including a minister of a parish, which concerns inappropriate behaviour with young people, including child molestation, then having regard to the need to protect children the Court may at any time suspend the accused person from office even though the Court has not at that time resolved to proceed to judicial process as referred to in Rule 5.01. In the case of any such suspension the provisions of Rule 5.01(a) shall apply as though the suspension had occurred after the decision to proceed by judicial process. If the Court subsequently resolves to proceed by judicial process it may either continue or discontinue the suspension and may in any event discontinue the suspension at any time.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**19. Code:** The report of the Code Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Logan submitted the deliverance.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Encourage ministers, elders and members of the Church to purchase a copy of Constitution, Procedure and Practice in order that they might be fully informed of the procedures and practice of

- the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (2) Request the Code Committee to prepare and distribute a comprehensive discussion paper on the advantages and disadvantages of a National Church, including consideration of the practical implications of such a change, with report to be made to the 2010 Assembly after distribution of the paper to presbyteries and state assemblies and consideration of any comments that might be made in response to that paper.
  - (3) Request the Code Committee to:
    - (a) Finalise a draft chapter on appeals and complaints for *Constitution, Procedure and Practice*;
    - (b) Circulate the draft chapter to state assemblies and presbyteries for consideration and report to the Code Committee; and
    - (c) Bring an overture to the 2010 General Assembly of Australia on a new chapter dealing with appeals and complaints to be included in *Constitution, Procedure and Practice*.

**20. Finance:** The report of the Finance Committee was laid on the table and received. Mr. J.R. Falls submitted the deliverance. Clauses (1) to (14) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.M. Bonnington moved:  
That the Assembly:

- (15) Acting under Articles of Agreement 9.3 and in conjunction with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, resolve over the next three years to raise enough funds from across the Presbyterian Church of Australia to provide for opening, staffing and development of a new church planting congregation in metropolitan Perth to be initiated (DV) from the start of 2010 as part of the celebrations marking the 450th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S. Slucki moved:  
That the Assembly:

- (16) (a) Note both the financial and other support accorded to the smaller states during the last triennium by Assemblies and committees in the larger states and the Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas' renewed call for such support to continue.
- (b) Request the larger states' Assemblies and finance and other committees to consider how they might offer tangible, continued support of various kinds to the smaller states.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas moved:  
That the Assembly:

Note with approval the Section of the Immediate Past Moderator's Statement titled "Aid to Smaller States", refer it to the Finance Committee, authorize the Finance Committee to implement the recommendations as it deems appropriate and report to the next meeting of the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 59).

**21. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 31 to 38 were laid on the table.

**22. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

### THIRD SEDERUNT

**23. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, on Tuesday 11 September, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**24. Presbyterian Inland Mission:** The report of the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. R. Duncanson submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (6) were approved.

Clause (7) was moved and seconded.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Logan moved Clause (7) in the following amended form:

That the Assembly:

- (7) Request the Finance Committee to consider an approach from PIM to the value of \$10,000 p.a. to cover administrative costs.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion, as amended, was approved.

Clauses (8) to (13) were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Praise God for the ministry of the following patrol teams, field and pastoral workers and commend them to the on-going prayers of the Church: Rev. P. and Mrs. D. Bloomfield, Rev. R. and Mrs. J. Duncanson and family, Padre D. and Mrs. J. Howard, Padre C. and Mrs. C. Mackenzie, Rev. J. Nocher and Mrs. N. Nocher, Padre A. and Mrs. P. Pierce, Padre A. and Mrs. K. Purcell and family, Rev. L. and Mrs. G. Peake, Padre D. Rodgers, Rev. T. and Mrs. J. Sadler, Padre H. and Mrs. H. Tiemens, Padre D. and Mrs. G. Tranter and family, Rev. M. and Mrs. Y. Willsmore and family.
- (2) Acknowledge with gratitude the dedicated and faithful service of former PIM workers: Padre D. and Mrs. D. Hart, Padre O. and Mrs. S. Oakes, Padre B. and Mrs. C. Rossiter.
- (3) Express appreciation to Mr. P. Burke and the Rev. A. Clarkson for dedicated service on the PIM Committee and the Executive over many years.
- (4) Thank Mr. W. Bruining for his outstanding work as PIM Business Manager and wish him well as he takes up his new position with the Reformers Bookshop in Sydney.
- (5) Express sincere thanks to Mr. K. Booker and the office staff of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland for their help and assistance during the relocation of the PIM administration from Brisbane to Melbourne.
- (6) Sincerely thank all members, congregations and other organisations (especially the PWA/PWMU) within the Church who have so generously supported the PIM in the past three years and encourage further support as part of their commitment to the work of the Church to outback and inland Australia through the PIM.
- (7) Request the Finance Committee to consider an allocation for PIM to the value of \$10,000 to cover administrative costs.
- (8) Endorse in faith and in general terms the proposed future development of the PIM Patrols as outlined in the Future Developments section of the PIM Report.
- (9) Endorse in faith and in general terms the proposed future development of the PIM Mission Churches as outlined in the Future Developments section of the PIM report.
- (10) Endorse in faith and in general terms the proposed future development of the PIM Vision 21 as outlined in the Future Developments section of the PIM Report.
- (11) By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, call the Church to pray, go, work together and sacrifice that the gospel of the Crucified and Risen One in word and deed, will go forth further through the PIM in outback and inland Australia in the future than thus far in the past!
- (12) Praise God for the wide range of advances in the work of the PIM in the following ways:-
  - (a) the very pleasing financial result achieved by the PIM Trustees
  - (b) the annual PIM rally in Sydney at the time of the annual meetings of the GAA Committees.
  - (c) the re-establishment of the Darwin PIM Church and the generosity of the Melton Presbyterian Church in financing a six month short-term ministry by the Duncansons.
- (13) Sincerely thank the Trustees of the PIM and the GAA for their very prudent administration and oversight of the PIM assets which have maximized financial resources available for PIM ministry.



**25. Ad hoc Committee on Biblical Ministries for Women:** The report of the ad hoc Committee on Biblical Ministries for Women was laid on the table and received. The Rev. J.W. Langbridge submitted the deliverance. The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:  
That the Assembly:

- (1) Affirm women as valued partners in the PCA by establishing an ad hoc committee within the GAA to oversee and further investigate implications and implementations of this report.
- (2) Send a copy of this report to state assemblies, presbyteries and sessions and encourage its implementation in facilitating opportunities for women to use their gifts in service.
- (3) Appoint an ad hoc Committee on Women's Ministries consisting of Rev. J. McClean (Convener), Mesdames N. Moore, C. Orford and A. Pryde, with power to co-opt.

**26. Private Sitting:** The Assembly sat in private.

**27. Persons to remain in Private Sitting:** The Clerk moved that the Rev. J. McClean and J. Elliott, Moderator's Chaplains, be permitted to remain in the House during the private sitting. The motion was seconded and approved.

**28. Petition (ii):** A petition from Mr. W.D. Wilson concerning matters in South Australia was taken up.

Mr. W.D. Wilson appeared as the petitioner.

The Rev. L. Percy raised a matter of privilege as to whether members of the South Australian Assembly should participate in questions and the debate on the petition.

The Moderator ruled that there was no matter of privilege and that members of the South Australian Assembly could participate in questions and discussion.

Questions were asked of the petitioner.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Logan moved:

That the Assembly:

Remove Mr. W.D. Wilson from the bar of the House and exclude him from the House during deliberations on his petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

Decline to receive the petition of Mr. W.D. Wilson.

The Rev. C.D. Balzer raised a point or order as to whether a subsequent motion could be moved if the petition was dismissed.

The Moderator ruled that a subsequent motion could be moved if the petition was dismissed.

Dissent was moved from the Moderator's ruling.

The Moderator's ruling was disagreed with.

It was moved and seconded that the debate be adjourned.

The motion was disapproved.

The motion to decline the petition of Mr. W.D. Wilson was seconded and approved.

The petition was dismissed.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Logan moved:

That the Assembly:

Instruct the Clerk not to publish the contents of the petition in the Blue Book.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The petitioner was recalled to the bar and informed of the decision of the Assembly.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

The petitioner was removed from the bar.

**29. Open Court:** The Assembly resumed in open court.

**30. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 39 to 42 were laid on the table.

**31. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## FOURTH SEDERUNT

**32. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, on Tuesday 11 September, 2007 at 7.00 p.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**33. Bible Exposition:** The Rev. Prof. A. McGowan gave an exposition of Romans 8:1-17 on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

**34. Minutes:** The minutes of the first sederunt were laid on the table and confirmed.

**35. Australian Presbyterian World Mission:** The report of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee was laid on the table and received.

Dr. D. Pilgrim submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (4) were approved.

Clause (5) was moved in an amended form as follows:

Re-appoint the Rev. Philip Simmonds as Associate Director of Mission Partners for a further term of three years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses (6) to (19) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. W. Connor moved:

That the Assembly:

(20) Encourage APWM in consultation with APWM (NSW Committee) to appoint a board to oversee the partnership relationship with Grace Presbyterian Bible College, Bangladesh.

(21) Encourage APWM to investigate the finances, governance, work and welfare of the Grace Presbyterian Bible College in Bangladesh and ways the Presbyterian Church of Australia can assist in the wellbeing of the College.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Express its thanks to God for the number of missionary candidates coming forward from our churches.

(2) Praise God for the growing interest in and support for world mission by many of our churches.

(3) Express its thanks to the Director, Rev Ronald William (Bill) and Mrs Jenny Lutton, and to the Associate Director, Rev Philip and Mrs Glenda Simmonds, for their untiring service during the last three years.

(4) Re-appoint the Rev Ronald William (Bill) Lutton as National Director of *Mission Partners* for a further term of three years under the current Terms of Appointment, with the exception that the allowance for car travel outside Sydney be increased to 20 cents per kilometre.

(5) Re-appoint the Rev. Philip Simmonds as Associate Director of *Mission Partners* for a further term of three years.

(6) Request *Mission Partners* to write to all Presbyteries encouraging them to consider the continuing need for the financial and prayer support of the National Director and Associate Director, recognising that home-based missionaries are frequently overlooked in the church's praying and giving.

(7) Approve the inclusion of the three additions to APWM's 2001 Manual of Practice "Partnership in Mission, Mark 2", as attached to the Report as Appendices:

A1. Amended Sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 regarding relationships with Partner Churches and Partner Societies, including in 6.1 new protocols for Fraternal Relationships and Partner Church Agreements.

A2. New clause 14.4 in Section 14 Short-term Missionary Service regarding Criteria for Eligibility.

A3. Privacy Policy, approved by the Law Agent.

(8) Draw attention of Sessions and Presbyteries to the frequently up-dated versions of "Partnership in Mission" and the Missionary and Prayer Directory, both hard copy and on the *Mission Partners* website as a source of current information for prayer and support of our Church's missionary enterprise. It should also be noted that the entries will take due account of privacy concerns and of security concerns in sensitive areas.

- (9) Encourage the use of the Missionary and Prayer Directory, the “Mission Partners” Mini-Magazine insert in *the* “Australian Presbyterian” magazine, and the *Mission Partners* “Email Update” in church services and home groups and by individuals as a means to informed prayer for our missionaries and their ministries.
- (10) Encourage its Commissioners, Sessions and local Missions Committees to:
- (a) promote responsible support for the Church’s cross cultural mission programme;
  - (b) actively promote and creatively support the annual MISSIONChallenge appeal (incorporating “Meal for Mission”) which is planned to meet approximately 20% of the Federal APWM Committee’s financial obligations each year.
- (11) Encourage churches to pray for and support the special needs of cross-cultural and indigenous ministries in Australia.
- (12) Express its thanks to God for the service of the following Partner Church Missionaries:
- Overseas:*
- Rev. Chris and Leah Balzer served at Talua MTC under the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu from early 2003 until early 2005, Chris as Dean of Students. Sadly Mrs. Leah Balzer died in February 2006.
  - Miss Nerida Bell served in association with Mission to the World under our Partner Church, the Presbyterian Church in Japan from February 2003 to July 2005. She returned to Japan in September 2006 to commence an initial four-year term as a career missionary.
  - Glen and Rachael Connor and family served at Talua MTC under the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu during 2005 and 2006, Glen as Dean of Students and also as Deputy Principal for the latter part of this period. At the invitation of the PCV, the Connors returned in May this year for a further two-year period.
  - Rev. Andy and Rosemary Williamson and family returned to Talua MTC for a two year appointment in January this year after submission of Andy’s PhD thesis. Andy is Dean of Students for the BD programme planned for commencement in 2008.
- In Australia:*
- Rev. Rick Manton has continued his ministry to Indigenous Australians in western Sydney, and acted as liaison with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship and in developing training for indigenous pastors.
  - Rev. Fayek Iskander has continued his ministry to Muslims and of informing the Australian Church about Islam.
  - Rev. Bill Lutton, with Jenny, has been National Director in the National Office throughout the period.
  - Rev. Phil Simmonds, with Glenda, has been Associate Director in the National Office throughout the period.
- (13) Note the changes to the Executive, and thank for their service those members who have resigned since the last GAA: Mrs. Rosemary Williamson and Mr. John Tucker.
- (14) Thank Rev. John Campbell for his many years of involvement in many aspects of Presbyterian missions, including his terms on the Federal Committee, the last one of which finished in 2006.
- (15) Thank the State Committees of APWM for their faithful service in supporting missions, and especially the work of State Conveners.
- (16) Urge Sessions and Presbyteries to appoint Mission Secretaries or Conveners and preferably Committees to promote the work of missions.
- (17) Request Presbyteries and Sessions to actively encourage their ministers and suitable members of their congregations to consider short-term and long-term missionary service, and to take an active role in their application for service. Commend the opportunity that exists for those eligible to dedicate periods of long service leave and retirees for this purpose.
- (18) Alert Sessions with members who are candidates or who are already in missionary service to the need for and value of Support Coordinators.
- (19) Remind Presbyteries and Sessions of the need to hold decommissioning services for returning missionaries in order to acknowledge their ministry service on behalf of the church.
- (20) Encourage APWM in consultation with APWM (NSW Committee) to appoint a board to oversee the partnership relationship with Grace Presbyterian Bible College, Bangladesh.
- (21) Encourage APWM to investigate the finances, governance, work and welfare of the Grace Presbyterian Bible College in Bangladesh and ways the Presbyterian Church of Australia can assist in the wellbeing of the College.

**36. Greetings from the Toraja Church of Indonesia:** At the invitation of the Moderator, Pastor Solomon Batti, Moderator of the Toraja Church of Indonesia, addressed the Assembly.

**37. Relations with Other Churches:** The report of the Committee on Relations with Other Churches was laid on the table and received.

The Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (5) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.M. Bonnington moved:

That the Assembly:

- (6) Request the Committee on Relations with Other Churches to establish contact with the General Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa (GKSA) with a view to developing an inter-church relationship and to explore ways that the Presbyterian Church of Australia might be able to assist the increasing numbers of Afrikaans people who are migrating to Australia.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. D.J. Campbell moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the committee on Relations with Other Churches to undertake exploratory negotiations with World Alliance of Reformed Churches with a view to rejoining the Alliance and report back to the 2010 Assembly.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Give a grant to the World Reformed Fellowship of \$US2,000 per year for the triennium (2008-2010).
- (2) Authorise the Moderator-General to attend as a voting member/delegate at the World Reformed Fellowship Assembly in 2010, the cost to be met from the committee's funds.
- (3) Authorise the payment of the cost of the convener's annual attendance at the meeting of the Executive of the World Reformed Fellowship.
- (4) Encourage the committee to continue discussions with other Presbyterian and Reformed denominations in the region to see if the work of the World Reformed Fellowship can be strengthened.
- (5) Note that discussions will be held with the Business Committee as to the most appropriate ways to commemorate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Reformation at the 2010 GAA.
- (6) Request the Committee on Relations with Other Churches to establish contact with the General Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa (GKSA) with a view to developing an inter-church relationship and to explore ways that the Presbyterian Church of Australia might be able to assist the increasing numbers of Afrikaans people who are migrating to Australia.

**38. Greetings from the Grace Presbyterian Church, New Zealand:** At the invitation of the Moderator, Mr. R. Peek, Moderator of the Grace Presbyterian Church, New Zealand addressed the Assembly.

**39. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 43 to 48 were laid on the table.

**40. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet tomorrow, Wednesday 12 September, 2007 at 9.30 a.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## FIFTH SEDERUNT

**41. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, on Wednesday 12 September, 2007 at 9.30 a.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**42. Christian Education:** The report of the Christian Education Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. I. Schoonwater submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (6) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.M. Bonnington moved:

That the Assembly:

- (7) Request the Christian Education Committee to examine ways to further stimulate the study and use of the Shorter Catechism to help the children and youth of the Presbyterian Church of Australia take their place in the life of the Church and report back to the next Assembly with recommendations of how this can be done.
- (8) Request the Christian Education Committee to examine ways to further stimulate the study and use of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed to increase the knowledge of basic and essential Christian truth within the Presbyterian Church of Australia and report back to the next Assembly with recommendations of how this might be done.
- (9) Request the Christian Education Committee to examine ways to further stimulate the study and use of the Westminster Confession of Faith to strengthen the knowledge of Christian truth within the Presbyterian Church of Australia and report back to the next Assembly with recommendations of how this might be done.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Commend the publication *The Ministry Papers* as a training resource for local congregations.
- (2) Commend *Café Theologica* to congregations
- (3) Thank Presbyterian Youth NSW for its support in the running of 21C and for the financial contribution it has made.
- (4) Encourage the Christian Education Committee to continue to hold 21C as an event on the weekend preceding the GAA.
- (5) Encourage state Christian Education Committees to hold regional training events on a regular basis.
- (6) Encourage the Committee to continue the practice of visiting the smaller states.
- (7) Request the Christian Education Committee to examine ways to further stimulate the study and use of the Shorter Catechism to help the children and youth of the Presbyterian Church of Australia take their place in the life of the Church and report back to the next Assembly with recommendations of how this can be done.
- (8) Request the Christian Education Committee to examine ways to further stimulate the study and use of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed to increase the knowledge of basic and essential Christian truth within the Presbyterian Church of Australia and report back to the next Assembly with recommendations of how this might be done.
- (9) Request the Christian Education Committee to examine ways to further stimulate the study and use of the Westminster Confession of Faith to strengthen the knowledge of Christian truth within the Presbyterian Church of Australia and report back to the next Assembly with recommendations of how this might be done.

**43. Public Worship and Aids to Devotion:** The report of the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. R. Van Delden submitted the deliverance.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Note the various publications of the Committee and recommend them as useful tools to ministers, home missionaries, lay preachers, and elders in their conduct of public worship, and as an aid to the church in general for private and family devotions.

- (2) Continue to recommend the Rejoice! backing music CDs (under the name of Psalm Tree Music), as a practical resource for churches who are without organists or other musicians, to assist them with their hymn singing.
- (3) Authorise the Committee to develop a new resource called Bible Reading Notes and Bible Reading Calendar and make them available to the church.
- (4) Thank God for the life and service of Mary Beavan, our long-standing and very faithful Hymnbook distributor, and convey our sympathy to her family.

**44. Greetings from the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia:** At the invitation of the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Roland Ward, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, addressed the Assembly.

**45. Church and Nation:** The report of the Church and Nation Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. S.A. Slucki submitted the deliverance.

The Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Request the Moderator to act as spokesman for the General Assembly in a way which seeks to apply the mind of the Assembly, as expressed in the church's standards and its decisions over the years, to the issues of the day.
- (2) Request the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee, the Editor of the Australian Presbyterian and the webmaster to assist the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly as requested in publishing any statements they make on behalf of the Assembly on matters relating to the Church and Nation Committee.

The motion was seconded.

The competency of moving the motion in this form was challenged.

The Moderator ruled that clauses (1) and (2) as presented by the Committee should be moved as a whole.

The Moderator's ruling was challenged.

The Moderator's ruling was disagreed with.

The motion of the Rev. S. Slucki was approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 95).

**46. Bible Exposition:** The Rev. Prof. A. McGowan gave an exposition of Romans 8:18-27 on Suffering, Future Glory, Adoption and the Work of the Holy Spirit.

**47. Minutes:** The minutes of the second sederunt were laid on the table and confirmed.

**48. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 49 to 53 were laid on the table.

**49. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## SIXTH SEDERUNT

**50. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, on Wednesday 12 September, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**51. Greetings from the Church of Scotland:** At the invitation of the Moderator the Rev. Dr. I.C. Barclay, representing the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, addressed the Assembly.

**52. College:** The report of the College Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Prin. J.A. Davies submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (5) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. R.J. Quadrio moved:

That the Assembly:

Instruct the College Committee to clarify in writing to all Faculties the requirements of Hebrew and OT Exegesis and to instruct all state faculties to clarify in writing to all candidates and prospective candidates the requirement for Hebrew as outlined in Code 10.7.6. The following information must be published explaining:

- (a) The need for the satisfactory completion of one year of Hebrew.
- (b) The encouragement of all candidates to complete OT exegesis in Hebrew.
- (c) The reminder to all students that they are entitled to apply to their Faculty for an exemption from the study of OT exegesis in Hebrew and if granted they must proceed to complete OT Exegesis in English.
- (d) That the executive of the College Committee is empowered to deal with special cases including the reduction in the requirements of the course as they arise from time to time and that should students feel the study of Hebrew is impeding their training for the ministry they should apply to the Executive of the College Committee for consideration.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Note the change of name of the Consortium of Reformed Colleges to the Queensland Theological College.
- (2) Approve the continuation of the recognition of the Queensland Theological College, subject to the College Committee's continued satisfaction that the confessional and academic standards of the Presbyterian Church of Australia will be maintained, and the agreement of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.
- (3) Continue to grant approval for candidates from Western Australia to undertake studies at Trinity Theological College, Perth, subject to the continued approval of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia and the annual approval of a full curriculum by the College Committee, such training to be under the oversight of the Faculty of the Presbyterian Theological College of Victoria.
- (4) Request State Assemblies to amend their respective codes so that
  - (a) a candidate for the ministry may not be licensed in less than one year after being accepted as a candidate;
  - (b) a candidate for the ministry would be required to commence the course of training within two years of being accepted as a candidate, unless the relevant Faculty gives permission to extend this time in a particular case.
- (5) Amend clause 7 (b) of the regulations of the College Committee by the addition of:
  - (iii) shall remove a candidate from the Course of Training if after eight years from first enrolling the candidate has failed to complete the course, unless permission has been given by the relevant Faculty to extend the course; and shall then request the Presbytery having jurisdiction to terminate the candidature of that candidate.

**53. Petition (iii):** A petition from the Session at Springwood to authorise the Presbytery of The Hawkesbury to take Mr. Mark Armstrong on trials for licence was laid on the table and received. The Rev. Dr. D.L. Ferrington appeared for the petitioner. Leave was granted for Mr. M. Armstrong to be present in the House and answer questions.



Questions were asked of the petitioner.  
The competency of the petition was questioned.  
The moderator ruled the petition incompetent.  
The petitioner was informed of the decision and removed from the bar.

**54. Defence Force Chaplaincy:** The report of the Committee on Defence Force Chaplaincy was laid on the table and received.

The Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) and (2) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. A. Unwin moved:

That the Assembly:

- (3) Request the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee to consider how Chaplaincy Services might be provided to the Australian Federal Police and advise the Assembly accordingly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Commend our serving chaplains to the wider church, asking our congregations to encourage them, and to pray for them regularly.
- (2) Encourage ministers to consider service in the armed forces either as reserve chaplains or full-time, or as chaplains to cadet units.
- (3) Request the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee to consider how Chaplaincy Services might be provided to the Australian Federal Police and advise the Assembly accordingly.

**55. Overture (iv):** An overture from the Presbytery of New England concerning an amendment to Article 1.3 of the Articles of Agreement on state moderators as members of the General Assembly was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. S.A. Andrews and Mr. L. Jackson stated the overture.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.A. Andrews moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The overture was dismissed.

**56. Trustees:** The report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was laid on the table and received.

**57. Minutes:** The minutes of the third sederunt were laid on the table and confirmed.

**58. Ballot:** A ballot was held for the following committees: Christian Education (Queensland members); Code (NSW members); Code (Victorian members); Presbyterian Inland Mission (NSW members); Public Worship and Aids to Devotion (Queensland members); Reception of Ministers (Ministers); National Journal.

**59. Finance:** Debate was resumed on the report of the Finance Committee (Min. 20): Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.M. Bonnington moved:

That the Assembly:

- (17) Authorise the Moderator-General to hold an annual appeal over the next 3 years to raise funds from across the Presbyterian Church of Australia to provide for opening, staffing and development of a new church planting congregation in metropolitan Perth.

By leave of the House the Rev. P. Thorneycroft moved as an amendment that the words "Empower the Commission of Assembly to" after the words "That the Assembly" be deleted and the following words inserted at the end of the clause "subject to the provision of suitably detailed proposal from the Western Australian Assembly.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion of the Rev. S.M. Bonnington was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Receive the Balance Sheets as at 31 December, 2006 and Associated Statements of Income and Expenditure.
- (2) Appoint Robert J. Nixon and Associates to audit the accounts of the National Journal Committee and Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee on an annual basis.
- (3)
  - (a) Agree that the General Assembly of Australia through the Finance Committee meet the accommodation costs of Commissioners not resident in the city in which the General Assembly is held.
  - (b) Request the Secretary of the Finance Committee and the Clerk of Assembly to secure advantageous accommodation rates for lodging Commissioners during the General Assembly.
  - (c) Continue to pay accommodation during the course of the General Assembly for the Moderator, Clerks and Business Convener.
  - (d) Approve the reimbursement of the actual expenses incurred for Commissioners traveling to the General Assembly (excluding the Presbyteries of the Hawkesbury, Illawarra, Sydney, Sydney North and Sydney South) on the following basis:
    - Commissioners who travel more than 750km, by air each way return air fares at the rate set by the Committee.
    - Commissioners having to travel 750km or less, by rail (or coach where a train does not run) return rail (or coach) fares.
    - Commissioners using their own car, a payment of 30 cents per km (maximum 1,500km)
  - (e) Remind all Commissioners traveling by air that they should make their bookings in advance to achieve the cheapest flight available.
- (4)
  - (a) Until such time as the General Assembly determines otherwise approve payment of Honoraria as follows:-

Clerk of Assembly	\$2,000 for each General Assembly
Deputy Clerk	\$ 600 for each General Assembly
Assistance to Clerks	\$ 400 for each General Assembly
Business Convener	\$ 850 for each General Assembly
  - (b) Authorise the Finance Committee to pay appropriate honoraria to one or more persons acting in positions listed above.
- (5)
  - (a) Approve the following provisions for the Moderator assuming office in September 2007 and for succeeding Moderators until such time as the General Assembly determines otherwise:-
    - (i) An allowance of up to \$36,547 to cover costs of travel, accommodation, telephone, postage, stationery;
    - (ii) An allowance sufficient to cover the cost of moderatorial dress;
    - (iii) Costs of pulpit supply during Moderator's absence on moderatorial duty;
    - (iv) An honorarium of \$2,000 per annum.
  - (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.
  - (d) Agree to increase the Moderator's allowance by CPI adjustments as at 30 September each year.
- (6) Reappoint Rev. Mike Wharton as Webmaster for the Presbyterian Church of Australia for another three (3) years on a retainer of \$12,360 per annum.
- (7) Approve the reimbursement of the travelling expenses incurred by members of Committees attending Committee meetings on the same basis as determined for meetings of the General Assembly of Australia, that is, as in Clause (3) above, with incidental expenses as determined by each committee.

- (8) (a) Approve the following allocations for 2008/2010 for the Committee's listed:-

	<b>Triennium Total</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
National Journal (incl. Service Fee)	\$93,310	\$31,103	\$31,103	\$31,104
Website Management	\$37,080	\$12,360	\$12,360	\$12,360
The Code	\$5,000	\$1,666	\$1,666	\$1,668
Reception of Ministers	\$8,240	\$2,747	\$2,747	\$2,746
Relations with Other Churches	\$20,000	\$6,666	\$6,666	\$6,668
College	\$16,000	\$5,333	\$5,333	\$5,334
Church and Nation	\$5,000	\$1,666	\$1,666	\$1,668
Defence Force Chaplaincy	\$3,100	\$1,033	\$1,033	\$1,034
NSW Historical Records & Library	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Committee to Investigate "Fellowship"	\$10,000	\$3,333	\$3,333	\$3,334
<b>Total Expenses Committees</b>	<b><u>\$209,730</u></b>	<b><u>\$69,907</u></b>	<b><u>\$69,907</u></b>	<b><u>\$69,916</u></b>
General Costs	\$40,170	\$13,390	\$13,390	\$13,390
Assembly Costs	\$87,522	\$87,522	-	-
Moderatorial Expenses	\$36,600	\$12,200	\$12,200	\$12,200
Procurator's Retainer	\$3,300	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
Total Expenses – General Assembly	<u>\$167,592</u>	<u>\$114,212</u>	<u>\$26,690</u>	<u>\$26,690</u>
<b>Total GAA Expenditure</b>	<b><u>\$377,322</u></b>	<b><u>\$184,119</u></b>	<b><u>\$96,597</u></b>	<b><u>\$96,606</u></b>

- (b) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve expenditure that may arise after consultation with any committee, reporting details to State Finance or equivalent Committees.
- (c) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve payment of audit fees, office service charges and other necessary administrative expenses and include such costs with Committee expenses to be recovered from State assemblies.
- (9) Request the State Assemblies when called upon to do so, to reimburse the Finance Committee without delay expenditure in connection with the holding of the 2007 General Assembly of Australia, the expenses of Committees of the General Assembly of Australia, and expenditure of the Moderator in the proportion of Commissioners as approved.
- (10) Request the New South Wales Trustees to finance expenditure authorised by the Finance Committee, pending reimbursement by State Finance or equivalent Committees.
- (11) (a) Rescind GAA BB 2004 Minute 50(5) and (6) affiliating with Christian Television Australia.  
 (b) Encourage the Presbyterian Church of Queensland to continue its affiliation with Christian Television Australia.  
 (c) Instruct the Finance Committee to pay all outstanding fees to Christian Television Australia.
- (12) Repeal the regulations of the Finance Committee and enact the following new regulations:-

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**1. Composition**

1.1 In accordance with Article 11.1 there shall be a Standing Committee of the General Assembly named the Finance Committee.

1.2 The Committee shall consist of 14 members. The State Assemblies shall nominate 10 members as follows:

New South Wales	-	three	(3)
Victoria	-	two	(2)
Queensland	-	two	(2)
South Australia	-	one	(1)
Tasmania	-	one	(1)
Western Australia	-	one	(1)

1.3 Three members are elected by the General Assembly without reference to the State to which they belong. The other member of the Committee is the Chairman from time to time of The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust, who shall be Convener of the Committee.

**2. Executive**

2.1 The Executive shall comprise the members of the Committee resident in New South Wales.

2.2 The Executive shall exercise the powers of the Committee in dealing with such financial

- matters as may arise between meetings of the Committee and the General Assembly.
- 2.3 All members of the Committee will be provided with copies of all minutes of the Executive, and meetings of the Committee.
- 2.4 The Convener shall determine arrangements for meetings of the Executive.
3. **Meetings**
- 3.1 The Committee shall meet at least annually in conjunction with the meetings of other committees of the General Assembly. All meetings shall be determined by the Executive.
- 3.2 The Committee shall meet, if practicable, immediately prior to each session of the General Assembly at a time and place to be decided by the Executive.
- 3.3 The Convener shall call a meeting of the Committee at any time when six members of the Committee request the Convener to call such a meeting, the time and place of such meeting to be decided by the Executive.
4. **Functions**
- 4.1 The Committee shall manage and supervise the funds of the General Assembly. Pursuant to Article 11.2 the Committee shall establish itself and maintain a fund to pay for:
- (a) the working expenses of the General Assembly, and
  - (b) such travelling and accommodation expenses of its members as the General Assembly may from time to time determine, including expenses incurred in attending committee meetings.
- 4.2 The working expenses of the General Assembly shall include:
- (a) such honoraria for the Assembly Officers as may be approved by the General Assembly,
  - (b) allowances and honorarium for the Moderator as may be approved by the General Assembly,
  - (c) audit fees, legal expenses, office service charges and other administrative expenses,
  - (d) expenses of maintaining the Presbyterian Church of Australia website,
  - (e) all other expenditure of the General Assembly as approved by the General Assembly.
- 4.3 The General Assembly or the 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 expenditure or investment of funds of a committee shall be undertaken by committees other than through, or with the approval of, the Committee and Trustees duly appointed by the General Assembly. Such books of account as may be kept by other committees shall be audited annually by qualified accountants approved by the Committee and by the Official Auditor appointed by the New South Wales State Assembly. Balance sheets and revenue statements duly audited, shall be forwarded to the Convener by 30 April each year, and shall be reported to the General Assembly.
- 4.4 The Committee shall appoint an acting Procurator or an acting Law Agent should such be necessary.
- 4.5 The Committee shall undertake any other duties that the General Assembly may from time to time determine.
5. **GAA Fund**
- 5.1 The Committee shall manage the GAA Fund and shall report thereon to the General Assembly.
- 5.2 Each State shall contribute to the GAA Fund for each Budget period according to the following proportions:-
- 4.5% of the GAA Fund - in equal shares of 1.5% each by Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania,
  - 95.5% of the GAA Fund – by New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria in proportion to the membership of the General Assembly coming from each of these States as recorded on the Roll of Assembly for the General Assembly which approved the relevant Budget.
6. **Budget**
- 6.1 The Committee shall at least six months prior to each meeting of the General Assembly prepare a budget which shall take into account all expected expenditure to be incurred by

- the GAA Fund for the period of 3 calendar years immediately following the calendar year in which the General Assembly meets.
- 6.2 All committees seeking an allocation of funds from the GAA Fund shall by 1 January of the year in which the General Assembly meets notify the Committee of the monies it would like to receive from the GAA Fund for each of the three years of the Budget. Taking into account, but not being bound to accept, all submissions, the Committee shall frame a Budget showing estimated expenditure for each of the three years of the Budget period. Once a draft Budget has been prepared by the Committee it shall be circulated with papers for the General Assembly.
- 6.3 Any other court or committee of the Church or member of the General Assembly who intends to seek approval by the General Assembly for the expenditure of funds from the GAA Fund shall notify the Committee of the amount sought and the purpose of the proposed expenditure by 1 January of the year in which the General Assembly is to meet. The Committee shall consider the requested allocation of funds and may make a recommendation to the General Assembly as to whether or not the proposed expenditure should be approved and included within the Budget.
- 6.4 The Committee shall seek the approval of the General Assembly for the Budget. Once a Budget is approved by the General Assembly no expenditure may be incurred which is payable from the GAA Fund and which is not allowed for in the Budget except with the approval of the Committee.
- 6.5 The Committee may propose in any Budget a contingency sum which will be set aside and managed by the Committee to meet any unforeseen expenditures of the GAA Fund which may arise during the term of the Budget. The Committee shall determine what expenditures, if any, are paid for from this contingency sum.
- 6.6 Once the Budget is approved by the General Assembly the Committee shall notify the State Assemblies of the amounts required to be contributed to the GAA Fund to meet the Budget by each State, including the dates required for payment of those contributions. The proportion of contributions from each State are as listed in regulation 5.2.
- 6.7 If during the term of any Budget the Committee resolves that there should be expenditure from the GAA Fund which:
- (a) is not included in the Budget, and
  - (b) should not (or cannot due to insufficiency) be paid from any contingency funds within the GAA Fund set aside in the Budget
- then the Committee shall notify the State Assemblies of the additional contributions required and the dates by which those contributions should be paid. The Committee should not approve any expenditure from the GAA Fund not covered by the Budget unless there are in the opinion of the Committee special circumstances which warrant the additional expenditure.
- 6.8 The General Assembly shall not approve any proposal by a committee which involves expenditure of funds not covered by the Budget without first obtaining a report from the Committee.
7. **Fundraising Appeals**
- 7.1 In ordinary circumstances, any proposals to the General Assembly for financial appeals in connection with national or international needs should be approved by the General Assembly before implementation.
- 7.2 In urgent or emergency circumstances a proposal for a financial appeal may be approved by the Committee in accordance with any protocols for such appeals as may be adopted by the General Assembly from time to time.
- 7.3 In each case the committee seeking approval for a fundraising appeal must prepare and present to the Committee a full submission including details of the purpose, method and timing of the proposed appeal.
8. **Other Duties**
- 8.1 The Committee may from time to time:
- (a) consider any matter placed before it by a State committee if that State committee considers it would be in the best interests of the Church in the realm of ministry, including uniformity of stipends and allowances, and
  - (b) examine and approve terms of appointment of all full-time ministerial appointments

made by the General Assembly.

9. **Audit**

9.1 The Committee shall cause the books of account for the GAA Fund to be audited annually by the Official Auditor appointed by the New South Wales Assembly. The Committee shall provide to the General Assembly full financial statements for the GAA Fund including any written audit report.

10. **Indemnity for Officers of the Church**

- (a) Notwithstanding any insurance that may be in place the General Assembly by the enactment of this regulation hereby indemnifies all Officers of the Church and the Trustees against any Liability where such Liability does not arise out of conduct attributable to a lack of good faith on behalf of the Officer.
- (b) For the purposes of paragraph (a) "Liability" extends to any liability, costs, damages, fees, expenses, demands, suits, actions, proceedings or claims incurred by the Officer in or arising out of being an Officer for the Church or the Trustees including legal costs incurred by the Officer in connection with claims or threatened proceedings, whether or not the Officer is receiving any remuneration of any kind or is acting in an honorary capacity. Such indemnity:
- is limited to property and assets of the Church only and not the personal property and assets of any person
  - does not extend to any Officer or person for a Liability arising from their personal provision of any legal, financial or professional advice, goods and services
  - does not extend to any claim or circumstance where to do so would involve a breach of law or defending or resisting criminal proceedings in which the Officer is found guilty.
- (c) For the purposes of this regulation an Officer shall mean any formally appointed person who holds office under the rules or regulations of the Church or any committee established by the General Assembly and who is duly authorised to make or participate in making decisions that substantially affect any duly constituted part of the Church. Officers shall include any former, current or future member of a governing body, ministers, elders, directors, executive heads, senior managers, treasurers, clerks, deputy clerks, secretaries, moderator, moderator general, chairman or convener and members of any committee, subcommittee, church court, trust, board, council or foundation, but shall not include any contractor or provider of goods or services in respect of Liability arising from the provision of such goods and services.
- (d) The Committee and the Trustees in respect of any claim against an Officer may reserve and exercise:
- the right to give directions and take over conduct of the claim
  - the right of subrogation.
- (e) If an Officer becomes aware of a claim which could result in a Liability or circumstances that could give rise to such a claim, then that Officer must notify, or procure that the committee of which the Officer is a member notifies, the Committee of the relevant circumstances as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (f) An Officer must not make any admissions or seek to settle a claim without written consent from the Committee or the Trustees.

11. **Definition**

11.1 In these regulations:

**"General Assembly"** means the General Assembly of the Church.

**"Budget"** means the proposed budget, usually a triennial budget, prepared by the Committee pursuant to regulation 6.1 and, where applicable, means the budget as approved by the General Assembly.

**"Church"** means Presbyterian Church of Australia.

**"GAA Fund"** means the fund which pays for all expenses of the General Assembly as provided for in regulation 4.1.

**"Convener"** means the convener of the Committee.

**"Committee"** means the Finance Committee.

**"Executive"** means the executive of the Committee referred to in regulation 2.1.

**"Trustees"** means the Trustees of the Church as established by the deed of trust dated 3 February 1986.

- (13) Adopt the Budget for 2008 – 2010.
- (14) Record with deep appreciation the services of Very Reverend E.R. Pearsons, Captain A.S. Small, Mr. P.A. Burke and Mr. W.J. Lennon as members of the Finance Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia over a very long period of time and note they are not seeking re-election to the Committee.
- (15) Acting under Articles of Agreement 9.3 and in conjunction with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, resolve over the next three years to raise enough funds from across the Presbyterian Church of Australia to provide for opening, staffing and development of a new church planting congregation in metropolitan Perth to be initiated (DV) from the start of 2010 as part of the celebrations marking the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Reformation.
- (16)
  - (a) Note both the financial and other support accorded to the smaller states during the last triennium by Assemblies and committees in the larger states and the Very Rev. C.R. Thomas' renewed call for such support to continue.
  - (b) Request the larger state Assemblies and finance and other committees to consider how they might offer tangible, continued support of various kinds to the smaller states.
- (17) Authorise the Moderator-General to hold an annual appeal over the next three years to raise funds from across the Presbyterian Church of Australia to provide for opening, staffing and development of a new church planting congregation in metropolitan Perth.

**60. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 54 to 56 were laid on the table.

**61. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## SEVENTH SEDERUNT

**62. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, on Wednesday 12 September, 2007 at 7.00 p.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**63. Private Sitting:** The Assembly sat in private.

**64. Persons to remain in Private Sitting:** The Clerk moved that the Rev. J. McClean and J. Elliott, Moderator's Chaplains, be permitted to remain in the House during the private sitting.

**65. Reception of Ministers:** The report of the Reception of Ministers Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. G.K. Kettmiss submitted the deliverance.

Clause (1) to (5) were approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 85).

**66. Petition:** The petition from the Rev. Dr. B. Zuiddam to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was taken up and received.

The Rev. Dr. B. Zuiddam appeared as the petitioner.

Questions were asked of the petitioner.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Assembly:

Permit the petitioner to remain in The House during the deliberations on his petition.

The motion was disapproved.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Assembly:

Remove the Rev. Dr. B. Zuiddam from the bar at the House and exclude him from the House during deliberations on his petition.

The motion was approved.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was approved.

The Rev. P. Thorneycroft moved:

That the Assembly:

Receive the Rev. Dr. B. Zuiddam as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof and subsequently signs the formula.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. L. Percy moved:

That the Assembly:

Note that the vote on the motion to receive Dr. B. Zuiddam as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was approved without a dissenting voice.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The petitioner was recalled to the bar and informed of the decision of the Assembly.

The petitioner was removed from the bar.

**67. Open Court:** The Assembly resumed in open court.

**68. Thanks to Mr. W. Bruining:** Pursuant to notice the Rev. P.W. Hastie moved:

That the Assembly:

Congratulate Mr. Walter Bruining on the successful completion of ten years of financial and administrative oversight as the Business Manager of the National Journal, and note that throughout his stewardship the National Journal Committee has discharged all its responsibilities in terms of reliable production and delivery of goods and services within its approved budgets.



The motion was seconded and approved.

**69. Ballot:** The report of the Ballot Committee was laid on the table and received.  
The Very Rev. B.H. Christian submitted the deliverance.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

That the Assembly:

(1) Confirm the following elections:

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission**

Convener: Dr. D. Pilgrim

Members: Mr. I. Campbell, Mr. D. Lewis, Rev. J. Elliott, Rev. C. Letcher, Mrs. R. Hodge,  
Miss. C. Moar and Mrs. J. Oakley

**Code**

NSW: Mr. M.C. Beveridge, Rev. B.M. Gorton, Rev. J.R. Irvin

QLD: Rev. R. Clark, Rev. L. Hall, Rev. R. Schwartz

SA: Rev. G. Ware

TAS: Rev. Dr. D. Mitchell

VIC: Rev. P. Phillips, Very Rev. Dr. A.M. Harman, Rev. J. Wilson

WA: Rev. K. Morris

**Christian Education**

Convener: Rev. I. Schoonwater

NSW: Rev. I. Schoonwater, Very Rev. B.H. Christian, Rev. J. McClean, Rev. A. Unwin  
and Mr. M.J. Quirk

QLD: Rev. J. Nicol and Rev. G. McKay

SA: 1 Vacancy

TAS: Mr. I. Partidge

VIC: Rev. Dr. G. Goswell, Very Rev. R.C. Thomas

WA: Rev. Andrew Robinson

**Defence Force Chaplaincy**

Convener: Very Rev. Dr. A.M. Harman

Members: Dr. L. Thorpe, Rev. J. Macintyre, Rev. G. Hooper, Rev. A. Robinson, Rev. P.  
Phillips, Rev. J.C. Nicol, Mr. N. Hughes and 5 vacancies

**Finance**

Assembly: Rev. J.R. Irvin, Messrs. J. Rolland, W.D. Richards, Rev. L.J.F. Hall

NSW: Rev. P.R. Dunstan, Rev. P.F. Cooper, Mr. R. Dunlop

QLD: Mr. K. Booker, Mr. G. Rodgers

SA: Mr. B. Redpath

TAS: Mr. G. Roberts

VIC: Clerk of Vic. Assembly and Chairman of Vic. Trust

WA: Rev. R. Fraser

**National Journal**

Convener: Rev. P.W. Hastie

Members: Rev. A. Clarke, Rev. G. Kettmiss, Mr. R. Holvast, Mrs. J. Bell, Mr. W. Bruining, Mr.  
B. Zwartz, Rev. S.M. Bonnington, Rev. R. Waterhouse, Rev. M.A. Wharton

**Presbyterian Inland Mission**

Convener: Rev. R.S. Duncanson

NSW: Mrs. E. Mill, Rev. G. Samuel, Rev. L.G. Fowler

NT: Dr. Len Greenwood

QLD: Mrs. H. Ross, Rev. R. Schwartz and Mr. K. Booker

SA: Mr. R. Hanna

TAS: Mr. D. Turner

VIC: Rev. R.S. Duncanson, Rev. M.D. de Pyle and Mr. M. Smith

WA: Rev. A. Robinson

**Public Worship & Aids to Devotion**

Convener: Rev. R. Van Delden

NSW: Rev. S.A. Andrews, Rev. T.N. Cheetham, Rev. J. Li, Rev. A. Unwin, Rev. D.B.  
Stone

QLD: Rev. R. Van Delden, Mrs. J. Brown, Rev. J. Langbridge

SA: Rev. S.A. Slucki

TAS: Mr. G. Munro  
VIC: Rev. P.D. Mercer, Rev. M.A. Wharton and Rev. Dr. J. Woodward  
WA: 1 Vacancy

**Relations with other Churches**

Convener: Very Rev. Dr. A.M. Harman  
NSW: Very Rev. B.H. Christian, Rev. D.J. Campbell  
QLD: Rev. A. Clarke, Rev. R. Schwartz  
SA: Rev. G. Ware  
TAS: Rev. R. White  
VIC: Very Rev. R.C. Thomas, Very Rev. Dr. A.M. Harman  
WA: Rev. K. Morris

**Reception of Ministers**

Convener: Rev. G. Kettniss (QLD)  
Elders: Mr. D. Turner (TAS), Mr. N. Taylor (QLD) and 3 vacancies  
Ministers: Rev. P. Bloomfield (WA), Rev. A. Clarkson (SA), Rev. G. Kettniss (QLD), Rev. Dr. G. Goswell (VIC), Rev. B.M. Gorton (NSW)

(2) Authorise the Clerk of Assembly to destroy the ballot papers.

**70. Extension of Time:** The Business Convener moved:  
That the Assembly:  
Resume debate on the report of the Reception of Ministers Committee and extend the time of sitting for this sederunt until the business of that Committee is finished.  
The motion was seconded and disapproved.

**71. Minutes:** The minutes of the fourth sederunt were laid on the table and confirmed.

**72. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet tomorrow, Thursday 13 September, 2007 at 9.30 a.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## EIGHTH SEDERUNT

**73. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney on Thursday 13 September, 2007 at 9.30 a.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**74. Overture (ii):** An overture from the Presbytery of Sydney South concerning an amendment to Article 2.1 of the Articles of Agreement was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. D.R. Middleton and the Rev. Dr. P.E. Barnes stated the overture.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. D.R. Middleton moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded.

The Rev. Prin. J.A. Davies moved as a motion of procedure:

That the Assembly:

Invite the Law Agent and the Procurator to comment on the constitutional and other issues involved in this overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Law Agent addressed the Assembly.

The Procurator addressed the Assembly.

The Previous Question was moved, seconded and disapproved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. A. Van Ash moved:

That the Assembly:

Take the vote on sustaining the overture by secret ballot.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The motion to sustain the overture was approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 82).

**75. Bible Exposition:** The Rev. Prof. A. McGowan gave an exposition of Romans 8:28-39 on The Hope of Glory.

**76. Thanks to Rev. Prof. A. McGowan:** Pursuant to notice the Rev. I. Schoonwater moved:  
That the Assembly:

Express to the Rev. Prof. A. McGowan its sincere appreciation for his beneficial involvement in the life of the PCA through his insightful Bible expositions at this General Assembly, his generous input to our developing leaders at the 21C Conference, his encouragement and teaching at other events associated with the Assembly and his engaging fellowship with us as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**77. Material on Website:** Pursuant to notice the Rev. K.D. Murray moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve of the placement for free download, on the PCA website of the following recordings:

- (1) The sermon delivered by the Rev. Prof. A. McGowan at the Assembly Commissioner's Rally.
- (2) The Assembly Bible expositions delivered by the Rev. Prof. A. McGowan.
- (3) The Sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. B. Winter at the Assembly Lord's Supper service.
- (4) The lecture on eldership delivered at the Christian Education Seminar by the Rev. Prof. A. McGowan.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**78. Minutes:** The minutes of the fifth sederunt were laid on the table and confirmed.

**79. Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 57 to 60 were laid on the table.

**80. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## NINTH SEDERUNT

**81. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney on Thursday 13 September, 2007 at 2.00 p.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**82. Overture (ii):** Debate was resumed on Overture (ii), (Min. 74).

Pursuant to notice the Rev. D. Middleton moved:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Send the overture to state assemblies and presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 December, 2009.

The motion was seconded.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. A. Van Ash moved:

That the Assembly:

Send the overture to state assemblies, presbyteries and sessions for consideration and report with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 December, 2009.

The motion was seconded:

Pursuant to notice the Rev. P.R. Dunstan moved:

That the Assembly:

Affirm that admission to the eldership is a matter of government and is therefore a matter rightly determined by individual State assemblies.

The motion was seconded.

The Moderator declared the three motions to be counter motions.

A vote was taken on the three counter motions.

The motion of the Rev. D. Middleton having an absolute majority of votes became the motion.

The Moderator declared the motion approved.

Five members of the Assembly requested a division in terms of Standing Order 84.

The Moderator declared the motion carried – For - 83; Against - 47; Abstaining - 9.

The following recorded their dissent: Misses S. Maddrell, F. Perry, Rev. A. Van Ash, P.R. Dunstan, Dr. D.L. Ferrington, J.R. Buchanan, Dr. H. Clements, Messrs. B. McDowell, J. Thomson, D.M. Crawford, A.W. Byleveld, C. Short, S. Petherick, W. Henderson, N. Gilmour, Dr. L. Thorpe, Mesdames, Z. Hasselmann, Jill Stevenson and M. McEwan. Mr. M.C. Beveridge dissented for the following reason that it is divisive of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and is destructive of the same.

The Rev. J.F. Bartholomew recorded her dissent for the following reasons: The decision of the court proposes to take rights from the N.S.W. Assembly and has sent down a proposal under Barrier Act in a confusing form requiring one vote on two different actions.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. P.R. Dunstan moved:

That the Assembly:

- (2) Refer Overture (ii) to the Code Committee for consideration and report to the 2010 General Assembly, in particular asking the Committee to report on how making such proposed changes to the Articles of Agreement may affect the balance of responsibilities and powers between the individual State and General Assemblies and the impact of such changes on the Basis of Union 1901.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. P.R. Dunstan moved:

That the Assembly:

Request the Procurator to bring an opinion to the 2010 Assembly on the implications of the proposed exclusion of women from ordination to the eldership in relation to the various pieces of State and Federal Legislation and of the various State and Federal Anti-discrimination Acts in particular.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. J.F. Bartholomew moved:

That the Assembly:

- (3) Request the Procurator to give a written opinion to the 2010 Assembly on the impact (if any) of proposals contained in Overture (ii) on the Basis of Union.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**83. Private Sitting:** The Assembly sat in private.

**84. People to remain in Private Sitting:** The Clerk moved that the Rev. J. McClean and J. Elliott, Moderator's Chaplains, be permitted to remain in the House during the private sitting. The motion was seconded and approved.

**85. Reception of Ministers:** Debate was resumed on the report of the Reception of Ministers Committee (Min. 65).

Clauses (6) to (7) were approved.

Clause (8) was moved and seconded.

By leave of the House the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

Add the following words after "board thereof" the following words "demonstrates that he has been baptized".

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Clauses (9) to (10) were approved.

Clause (11) was moved and seconded.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. C.D. Balzer moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause (11) by the addition, after the words "with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining", of these words:

"except that such a minister will not be eligible to be called or inducted",

and by the addition, after the words, "a call to that minister" of these words:

"to that particular non-English-speaking congregation."

The proposed new regulation would then read:

**14. Ministers from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds:** Where a non-English-speaking congregation wishes to invite a minister from overseas to minister in a particular linguistic and cultural context, and where the theological training of that minister has been within the Reformed and Presbyterian framework, approval may be given by the Reception of Ministers Committee to receive that minister as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to serve in that particular congregation for a period of up to five years with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining except that such a minister will not be eligible to be called or inducted. After the five year period it would be competent for a presbytery to sustain a call to that minister to that particular non-English-speaking congregation. Such approval will be reported to the General Assembly of Australia.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Clause (12) was approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly

- (1) Note that the following have been received as ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia under Clause 12 of the Regulations:
  - Rev. Gerhardt van Tonder
  - Rev. Ian Touzel
  - Rev. Dr. Lewis Romney
- (2) Receive the Rev. Richard Wilson as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, satisfied that the Rev. Richard Wilson has completed a course of theological training equivalent to the standard set by the College Committee, the decision to take effect when he signs the formula.
- (3) Receive the Rev. Alan Radloff as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, and subsequently signs the formula.
- (4) Receive the Rev. Dr. Felix Chung as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, and subsequently signs the formula.

- (5) Receive the Rev. Suk Won Kim as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof; and subsequently signs the formula.
- (6) Receive the Rev. Tut Wan Yoa as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he has completed the study set by the College Committee, and when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, and subsequently signs the formula.
- (7) Receive the Rev. George Albert Bita as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he has completed the study set by the College Committee, and when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, and subsequently signs the formula.
- (8) Receive the Rev. Brian Harvey as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he has completed the study set by the College Committee, and when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, demonstrates that he has been baptized and subsequently signs the formula.
- (9) Receive the Rev. Choul Thurbil Yat as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he has completed the study set by the College Committee, and when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, and subsequently signs the formula.
- (10) Receive the Rev. Ted Myoung Hun Yoon as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take effect when he has completed the study set by the College Committee, and when he receives and accepts either a call to a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or an appointment made to a congregation or an institution of the Church, or by the General Assembly, a State Assembly, or a committee or board thereof, and subsequently signs the formula.
- (11) Amend the regulations of the Reception of Ministers Committee by the addition of a new regulation 14.

14. **Ministers from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds:** Where a non-English speaking congregation wishes to invite a minister from overseas to minister in a particular linguistic and cultural context, and where the theological training of that minister has been within the Reformed and Presbyterian framework, approval may be given by the Reception of Ministers Committee to receive that minister as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to serve in that particular congregation for a period of up to five years with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining except that such a minister will not be eligible to be called or inducted. After the five year period it would be competent for a Presbytery to sustain a call to that minister to that particular non-English speaking congregation. Such approval will be reported to the General Assembly of Australia.

- (12) Thank the following for serving the Lord through this Committee:
  - Rev. Ian Mclver
  - Rev. Alan Perrie
  - Mr. John Searle
  - Rev. Peter Richardson

**86. Open Court:** The Assembly resumed in open court.

**87. Rules and Regulations on Petitions:** Pursuant to notice Mr. S.H. Fraser moved:  
That the Assembly:  
Request the Code Committee to:

- (1) Consider issues raised at this Assembly regarding the competency of Petition (ii).
- (2) Consider whether the business of the Assembly would be facilitated if the Business Committee were to consider each petition prior to an Assembly with a view to reporting both to the petitioner

and the Assembly on the competency of the petition having regard to *Constitution, Procedure and Practice* Chapter 3 Rule 3.03.

- (3) Consider any changes which might usefully be made to *Constitution, Procedure and Practice* Chapter 3 Rule 3.01 to 3.07 and/or Regulation 10.3 of the Business Committee, and
- (4) Report to the 2010 Assembly, including bringing forward an overture to amend these Rules and/or Regulations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**88. Overture (i):** An overture from the Presbytery of Melbourne East concerning the establishment of an Overseas Aid and Development Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas and the Rev. G. Lawry stated the overture.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice the Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas moved:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Appoint an Overseas Aid and Development Committee.
- (2) Approve the following regulations for the Overseas Aid and Development Standing Committee:

**OVERSEAS AID AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

1. There shall be a Committee of the General Assembly known as the Overseas Aid and Development Committee.
2. The Committee shall consist of four members, ministers or elders, from Victoria (who shall form the executive), two members, ministers or elders from New South Wales, one minister or elder from Queensland, the National Director of APWM, the Convener of the GAA APWM Committee and the state Conveners of APWM.
3. The Committee shall be the instrument through which the Presbyterian Church of Australia directs funds for aid and development to like-minded Presbyterian and Reformed denominations in developing countries throughout the world.
4. The Committee through its Convener will liaise on the one hand with the relevant departments and officers of these denominations, and on the other hand with the National Director of APWM in order to determine and prioritise projects to be assisted by the Committee.
5. The Committee shall establish and administer a fund known as "PRES-AID (Presbyterians Assisting In Development)" to receive and distribute funds raised for overseas aid and development.
6. The Committee is authorised to appeal to congregations throughout the church to devote their Christmas Day and Good Friday offerings to the ongoing work of "PRES-AID, and shall take such steps as are necessary for the advertising and promotion of its various projects.
7. The Moderator-General shall be the Patron of PRES-AID, with whom the Committee shall liaise in its appeals to the church from time to time.

- (3) Appoint the Committee as follows (with the Victorian members to form the executive):

Messrs. W. Thompson and W. Maclaren (NSW),

Very Rev. Dr. C.R. Thomas, Rev. J.P. Wilson, G.R. Goswell, Mr. K. Childs (Vic)

Rev. G.K. Ketniss (Qld).

Together with the National Director of APWM, the Convener of the GAA APWM Committee and the state Conveners of APWM.

Convener: Very Rev. C.R. Thomas.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**89. Overture (iii):** An overture from seven members of the Assembly concerning the definition of worship was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. L.J. Percy and P.W. Hastie stated the overture.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. L.J. Percy moved:



That the Assembly:  
Sustain the overture.  
The motion was seconded.  
The Previous Question was moved, seconded and approved.

**90. Assembly Paper No. 2:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:  
That the Assembly:  
Collect copies of Assembly Paper Two when the items of business contained therein have been concluded.  
The motion was seconded and approved.

**91. Notices of Motion:** Notice of Motion 61 was laid on the table.

**92. Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk.  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

## TENTH SEDERUNT

**93. Assembly Constituted:** At Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney on Thursday 13 September, 2007 at 7.00 p.m. the Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

**94. Overture (v):** An overture from the College Committee concerning an amendment to Chapter 4.2 of *Constitution, Procedure and Practice* on Home Missionaries administering the sacraments was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. B.M. Meller and J. McClean stated the overture.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Send the overture to state assemblies and presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 December, 2009.

The motion was seconded.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr. D.C. Mitchell moved as an amendment:

That the Assembly:

Delete all words after "Assembly" and insert the following:

That the Assembly:

Send the overture to state assemblies and presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure in the following amended form by replacing section 4.2 sub-section 2 by deleting the words "ordained minister or" in line 5 and replacing them with the words "inducted minister or ordained"; and by deleting the words "minister or" in line 7 and replacing them with the words "inducted minister or ordained" (so that the lines will read "authorised by the inducted minister or ordained interim moderator of the bounds"), with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 December 2009.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion of the Rev. B.M. Meller was approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

- (2) Declare that in the proposed new rule 4.2, PIM Padres are considered as Home Missionaries with their authorization and oversight coming under the PIM Committee through its Superintendent.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the overture interim authority.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Dr. L. Thorpe recorded his dissent to clause (2).

**95. Church and Nation:** Debate was resumed on the report of the Church and Nation Committee (Min. 45).

The Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

In the light of *Constitution, Procedure and Practice* 10.5 regulations 6(d) and 7 declare that the Federal Church and Nation Committee is empowered to issue "statements" having consulted the Moderator and that such "statements" when issued express the mind of the Federal Church on the matter discussed.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

- (4) Adopt the following "statement" on abortion: we the commissioners to the 2007 meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Australia General Australia –

Affirm the Biblical teaching of the Right to Life, especially as this applies to the unborn child that all life is sacred to God, and that human life is a gift of God from conception.

Affirm that abortion is always unacceptable – except where two competent medical practitioners (other than the one under consideration to perform the abortion) deem the abortion essential to protect the life of a mother or of her prenatal child (or children), when threatened with immediate death should the pregnancy continue.

Affirm if and when the rare contingency mentioned in the above clause should ever arise, everything medically possible should also be done to try to ensure the continuation of the lives of all that are thus being threatened.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr. P.E. Barnes moved as an amendment to delete all words after Assembly and insert the following:

That the Assembly:

Adopt the following ‘statement’ on abortion: We the commissioners to the 2007 meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Australia General Assembly.

- (a) Affirm the biblical teaching of the right to life (especially as this applies to the unborn child) that all life is sacred to God, and that human life is a gift of God from conception.
- (b) Affirm that abortion is always unacceptable except where two competent medical practitioners (other than the one under consideration to perform the abortion) deem the abortion essential to protect the life of a mother when threatened with immediate death should the pregnancy continue.
- (c) Affirm that if and when the extremely rare contingency mentioned in the above clause should ever arise, everything medically possible should also be done to try to ensure the continuation of the lives of all that are thus being threatened.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. P.R. Dunstan moved:

That the Assembly:

- (a) Affirm the sanctity of human life, including foetal life, as part of the creative and redemptive work of God.
- (b) Express total opposition to abortion being used as a means of birth control.

Recognise the need for therapeutic abortion but only on the recommendation of medical practitioners acting in accordance with the highest ethical principles of their profession, and concerned with the health of the mother.

The motion was seconded.

The Moderator declared the motions to be counter motions.

The motion of the Rev. Dr. P.E. Barnes, on receiving the majority of votes was declared to be the motion.

The motion of the Rev. Dr. P.E. Barnes, on being put as the motion, was approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. K.W. King moved:

That the Assembly:

- (5) Affirm the Church’s commitment to provide appropriate pastoral care and gospel ministry for unmarried mothers, women considering an abortion, women who have had an abortion, and their families, and wherever possible to offer referral to appropriate specialized Christian support agencies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses (6) to (10) were approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

Recognises the fairness of empowering adults living in domestic arrangements of whatever sexual orientation to enjoy privileges which, in themselves, are individually based entitlements.

The motion was seconded.

The Previous Question was moved, seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

- (11) Recognise that same-sex domestic partnership arrangements are neither legally nor technically “families” and therefore entitlements properly belonging to families should not be extended to participants in such arrangements.
- (12) Request the Federal Government and Opposition not to extend entitlements which properly belong to families to same-sex domestic partnerships.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

- (13) In particular, request the Federal Attorney General and the Shadow Attorney-General, to move to amend the Sex Discrimination Act in such a way as to prevent same-sex partners and singles from continuing to access artificial reproductive technology.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Request the Moderator to act as spokesman for the General Assembly in a way which seeks to apply the mind of the Assembly, as expressed in the church's Standards and its decisions over the years, to the issues of the day.
- (2) Request the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee, the Editor of the Australian Presbyterian and the webmaster to assist the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly as requested in publishing any statements they make on behalf of the Assembly on matters relating to the Church and Nation Committee.
- (3) Encourage all State Assemblies to:
  - (a) Consider adopting a regular, annual, "period" of prayer and fasting culminating in some form of celebration of Reformation Sunday.
  - (b) Direct the Federal Church and Nation Committee to produce an annually updated prayer calendar for use in such a "period".
- (4) Adopt the following "statement" on abortion: We the commissioners to the 2007 meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Australia General Assembly.
  - (a) Affirm the biblical teaching of the right to life (especially as this applies to the unborn child) that all life is sacred to God, and that human life is a gift of God from conception.
  - (b) Affirm that abortion is always unacceptable except where two competent medical practitioners (other than the one under consideration to perform the abortion) deem the abortion essential to protect the life of a mother when threatened with immediate death should the pregnancy continue.
  - (c) Affirm that if and when the extremely rare contingency mentioned in the above clause should ever arise, everything medically possible should also be done to try to ensure the continuation of the lives of all that are thus being threatened.
- (5) Affirm the Church's commitment to provide appropriate pastoral care and gospel ministry for unmarried mothers, women considering an abortion, women who have had an abortion, and their families, and wherever possible to offer referral to appropriate specialized Christian support agencies.
- (6) Record its thanks to the archivists at the Ferguson Memorial Library for their agreement to facilitate the compilation of the past resolutions bearing upon the work of the Church and Nation Committee: in particular, to Mr. Donald Goudie for his volunteering to carry out the work.
- (7) Thank the staff of the Ferguson Memorial Library for making space available to store the Church and Nation Committee's archives.
- (8) Commend the study and consideration of the papers, given at the inaugural meeting of the Australian Christian Heritage Forum, to the members of Assembly in particular and the Church in general [note the papers are either available in the book "Shaping the Good Society" edited by Stuart Piggitt or online [www.achnf.org.au](http://www.achnf.org.au)].
- (9) Commend the report on Climate Change, to the study of the members of Assembly in particular and the wider Church.
- (10) Commend the email newsletter "social issues briefing" produced by the Sydney Anglican Diocese as a helpful source of Christian thinking on tough issues of the day [<http://yoursydneyanglicans.net/socialissues>].
- (11) Recognise that same-sex domestic partnership arrangements are neither legally nor technically "families" and therefore entitlements properly belonging to families should not be extended to participants in such arrangements.
- (12) Request the Federal Government and Opposition not to extend entitlements which properly belong to families to same-sex domestic partnerships.
- (13) In particular, request the Federal Attorney General and the shadow Attorney-General, to move to amend the Sex Discrimination Act in such a way as to prevent same-sex partners and singles from continuing to access artificial reproductive technology.

**96. National Journal:** The report of the National Journal Committee was laid on the table

and received.

The Rev. P.W. Hastie submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) to (12) were approved.

Arising from the debate Mr. G. Munro moved:

That the Assembly:

- (13) Commend the Rev. P.W. Hastie for the godly and diligent way in which he discharges his duties as Editor of the Australian Presbyterian.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Note that the Australian Presbyterian magazine has been produced on-time and within budget for the last thirty three issues since the 2004 General Assembly of Australia.
- (2) Note that the Australian Presbyterian magazine has consistently supported the confessional position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia on matters of life, ministry and doctrine.
- (3) Commend the Rev. Mike Wharton for his faithful oversight, production and delivery of the Yearbook and Church Directory during the period 2005-2007, particularly in view of illness within his family and personal hardship.
- (4) Commend Mr. Mike Timmins, the present Business Manager of the National Journal, for his loyal and efficient service to the wider church through the production of Australian Presbyterian and the Yearbook, and for ensuring their continued financial viability.
- (5) Commend and give thanks for the Presbyterian Trust Corporation of Victoria, Melton Presbyterian Church, Victoria, and an anonymous donor in Sydney, NSW, for their generous support of Australian Presbyterian so that hundreds of subscribers, within and beyond Australia, are able to receive the magazine at a substantial discount or for free.
- (6) Congratulate the editorial and production team of Australian Presbyterian, as well as the regular contributors, for the high-quality work that they produce for the Presbyterian Church of Australia – particularly Barney Swartz (production editor), Sandra Joynt (art-work and layout), Rev. Peter Barnes, Stuart Bonnington, and John Campbell.
- (7) Congratulate the Very Rev. Bruce Christian for his production of the Bible Study component of Australian Presbyterian which is regularly commended by numbers of readers for its usefulness and spiritual insight.
- (8) Note that the Australian Presbyterian has become the vehicle for the regular distribution of news, views and promotional material for several Assembly Committees such as PIM and APWM and, as such, is a vital conduit of communication for the national church.
- (9) Note that the magazine and Yearbook retain the confidence of a large number of regular and loyal advertisers.
- (10) Note that Australian Presbyterian receives strong international endorsement in conservative evangelical circles and is the only denominational magazine hosted on the website of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals in the USA.
- (11) Urge ministers, elders, Committees of Management and congregational members to subscribe to Australian Presbyterian, and also urge congregations to seek the inclusion of their details in the magazine's quarterly church directory.
- (12) Thank Rev. Guido and Mrs. Virginia Kettmiss for their reliability and co-operation in proof-reading each issue of Australian Presbyterian for the last three years.
- (13) Commend the Rev. P.W. Hastie for the godly and diligent way in which he discharges his duties as Editor of the Australian Presbyterian magazine.

**97. Communication (i):** A communication was received from the Convener of the Historical Records and Library Committee of the N.S.W. General Assembly concerning the archives of the General Assembly of Australia.

**98. Representatives of Roman Catholic Church at activities of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:** Pursuant to notice the Rev. L.J. Percy moved:

That the Assembly:

In the light of the Statement by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church, ratified and confirmed by the "Supreme Pontiff" Benedict XVI and published on 29 June 2007, and in the light of the Confessional position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, declare that it is not

appropriate to extend an official invitation to a representative of the Roman Catholic Church to attend the service of induction of the Moderator or any other activity of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

**99. Representation of the Presbyterian Church at a Visit by the Pope:** Pursuant to notice the Rev. L.J. Percy moved:

That the Assembly:

In the light of the Statement by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Roman Catholic Church, ratified and confirmed by the "Supreme Pontiff" Benedict XVI and published on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007; and in the light of the Confessional position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; declare, that no Office bearer, or any other person, is authorized to represent the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia at any function or any other activity associated with the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Australia in 2008.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Mrs. J. Stevenson, Miss F. Perry, Rev. A. Van Ash, P.R. Dunstan, Mrs. S. Maddrell and Mr. B. McDowell recorded their dissent.

**100. Point of Privilege:** The Rev. B.M. Meller raised a question of privilege concerning the recording of dissent in terms of Standing Order 87 if a person wishes to record a dissent against a motion that has been disapproved.

The Moderator ruled that there had been a breach of privilege.

The Rev. Dr. D.C. Mitchell moved dissent from the Moderator's ruling.

The motion of dissent was seconded and approved.

**101. World Youth Day:** Pursuant to notice the Rev. J.R. Irvin moved:

That the Assembly:

Note the availability of resources such as the book "Nothing in My Hand I Bring" by R. Galea (St Matthias Press) and the DVD series "Ideas that Change the World" (Christians in the Media) published specifically to assist evangelical Christians to engage gospel opportunities during the Papal visit to Australia in 2008.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**102. Business:** Debate was resumed on the report of the Business Committee (Min. 10).

Pursuant to notice the Rev. S.A. Slucki moved:

That the Assembly:

(14) Request the Business Convener, in consultation with the Moderator and Clerk, to prepare a summary of the resolutions of the Assembly, which will impact upon the life and witness of the denomination electronically disseminating it via pres e-news.

(15) Encourage all Assembly committee Conveners to inform the church, via pres e-news, of resolutions their committees adopt in-between meetings of the Assembly which will impact upon the life and witness of the church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) (a) Determine the hours of meeting to be:

Morning Sederunt ..... 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Lunch Interval ..... 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Afternoon Sederunt..... 2.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Tea Interval ..... 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Evening Sederunt ..... 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

(b) Determine that morning and afternoon tea breaks may be taken for up to 20 minutes, the taking of each recess to be at the discretion of the Moderator.

(2) Declare speeches to be limited as follows:-

Convener of Committee speaking to report ..... 15 mins.

All other speakers ..... 5 mins.

Overturists and Petitioners ..... 10 mins.

Appellants, Complainants, and Respondents - per party ..... 15 mins.

- (3) Declare that the total time allowed for questions during the presentation of each report, overture, petition, appeal, or complaint be limited to 30 minutes, such time to be subject to extension by resolution of the house.
- (4) Appoint the Ballot Committee as follows: Very Rev. B.H. Christian (Convener) with power to co-opt.
- (5) Appoint the members of the Ballot Committee as Tellers of the Assembly.
- (6) Appoint the Committee to scrutinise the minutes as follows:-  
Rev. J.R. Irvin (Convener), L.J. Hall, P.W. Phillips, P.P. Thorneycroft, Messrs. R. Hanna and G. Muskett with power to co-opt.
- (7) Declare that notices of motion must be in triplicate.
- (8) Appoint Mr. P.J. Graham, OAM as Assembly Officer.
- (9) Declare that video and/or audio recording of Assembly business (except for the opening service and the communion service) shall not be permitted for the purposes of reproduction or broadcasting without the express permission of the Assembly.
- (10) Approve the Order of Business as follows for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2004:
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>SECOND SEDERUNT</b><br/>9.30 a.m.</p> <p>The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</p> <p>Business as from 11.00 a.m.</p> <p>O.D. (11.45 a.m.) PWA Delegation</p> <p>Report of Retiring Moderator</p> <p>Returns to Remits</p> <p>Code Committee</p> <p>Finance Committee</p> <p>The Trustees</p> <p>Notices of Motion</p> | <p><b>THIRD SEDERUNT</b><br/>2.00 p.m.</p> <p>Presbyterian Inland Mission</p> <p>Ad Hoc on Women's Ministry</p> <p>Appeals</p> <p>Dissents and Complaints</p> <p>Notices of Motion</p> <p><b>FOURTH SEDERUNT</b><br/>7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Australian Presbyterian World Mission</p> <p>Relations with Other Churches</p> <p>O.D. (8.00 p.m.) – Close of Nominations for the Ballot</p> <p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>Notices of Motion</p> |
|---|--|
- (11) Approve generally the Order of Business as follows:-
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>FIFTH SEDERUNT</b><br/>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2004<br/>9.30 a.m.</p> <p>P.W.A. Delegation</p> <p>Christian Education</p> <p>Public Worship and Aids to Devotion</p> <p>Church and Nation</p> <p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>Notices of Motion</p> <p><b>SIXTH SEDERUNT</b><br/>2.00 p.m.</p> <p>Deputations</p> <p>College Committee</p> <p>Defence Forces Chaplaincy</p> <p>Overtures and Petitions</p> <p>O.D. (5.00 p.m.) – Ballot</p> <p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>Notices of Motion</p> | <p><b>SEVENTH SEDERUNT</b><br/>7.00 p.m.</p> <p>National Journal</p> <p>Reception of Ministers</p> <p>Ballot Committee</p> <p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>Notices of Motion</p> <p><b>EIGHTH SEDERUNT</b><br/>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2004<br/>9.30 a.m.</p> <p>Unfinished Business</p> <p>Appointment – Time and Place of 2010 Assembly</p> <p>Close</p> |
|--|--|
- (12) Declare that the Assembly should not receive, as a communication, a document which could be submitted in another form but may receive as a communication,
- (a) the resignation of an Assembly Officer;
- (b) any other communication which has been approved by the Business Committee.
- (13) Appoint the Moderator-General or his representative as the Assembly's representative to the Assemblies of overseas churches without any commitment to costs.

- (14) Request the Business Convener, in consultation with the Moderator and Clerk, to prepare a summary of the resolutions of the Assembly, which will impact upon the life and witness of the denomination electronically disseminating it via pres e-news.
- (15) Encourage all Assembly committee Conveners to inform the church, via pres e-news, of resolutions their committees adopt in-between meetings of the Assembly which will impact upon the life and witness of the church.

**103. Reports from Assemblies:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Request the South Australian, Tasmanian and Western Australian Assemblies to prepare comprehensive reports on issues pertaining to the work and welfare of the Church within their individual jurisdictions for each meeting of the General Assembly of Australia.

The motion was seconded.

The Previous Question was moved, seconded and disapproved.

The motion was approved.

**104. Panel of Assessors:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

In terms of Article 13 of the Articles of Agreement appoint the following panel of assessors:

Very Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman, Rev. J.R. Irvin, S.M. Bonnington, P.F. Cooper, D. Mihailovic, J.W. Langbridge, D. Elliott, P.P. Thorneycroft, Messrs. G. Muskett, K. Booker, J. Searle, K. Childs, A. Johnston, G.K. Roberts, N. Taylor and G. Munro.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**105. Minutes:** The minutes of the sixth, seventh and eighth sederunts were laid on the table and confirmed.

**106. Minutes Commission:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator, Clerks, Business Convener, the Rev. L.J. Hall, K.D. Murray, J.R. Irvin and Mr. G. Muskett a Commission with the Clerk of Assembly as Convener, to examine, correct and confirm the minutes of the ninth and tenth sederunts.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**107. Ballot Committee:** The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**108. Assembly Accommodation:** Pursuant to notice Mr. N. Hughes moved:

That the Assembly:

For future General Assemblies provide one more night's accommodation for commissioners to the G.A.A. to ensure full attendance on the set final day of business of the Assembly and to remove the uncertainty for commissioners of travel arrangements and the possible need for extra accommodation, etc. should the business move into a ninth or tenth sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

**109. Appointment of Next Assembly:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

(1) Resolve to meet in Sydney and within the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, on Monday 13 September, 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

(2) Appoint the Business Committee a Commission, of whom four members representing at least three states shall be a quorum, to appoint another time, place or date of meeting should it become impracticable for the Assembly to discharge its functions at the time, place or date appointed.

The motion was seconded.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. C.D. Balzer moved:

That the Assembly:



Amend clause (1) by the addition of the words:  
Or at another place if so determined by the Business Committee.  
The amendment was seconded and approved.  
The motion as amended was approved.

**110. Thanks:** It was resolved that the Assembly record its thanks to the Rev. A. Van Ash, Miss F. Perry and the members of the Scots Church for the use of their premises; to Mr. W.D. Richards, the General Manager, and the staff of Church Offices in Sydney for their work in preparing for the Assembly and in particular to Miss S.H. Jensen, Mr. P.J. Graham, Assembly Officer; the Rev. K.D. Murray and J.R. Irvin for assistance to the Clerk; Mrs. P. Christian for playing the organ for the opening night and the Communion service; the choir and orchestra of the Indonesian Churches of Sydney for their music on the opening night; Mr. J.A. Goodman, Mesdames D. Lewis and M. MacEwan for the arrangements for the Communion Service; Messrs. Mr. M. Norman, M.J. Quirk and members of Presbyterian Youth for their work throughout the Assembly in many areas; Mrs. E. Mill and her helpers for catering for the Moderator's Supper; and all who assisted in the operation of the Assembly.

**111. Moderator's Address:** The business of the Assembly having been completed, the Moderator addressed the House.

**112. Close:** After prayer, the Assembly joined in singing Psalm 122 verses 6 to 9. The Moderator then intimated in pursuance of the General Assembly's appointment that the next session of the General Assembly will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 13 September, 2010, in the Scots Church, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney or at such other date, time and place as may be decided. (Min. 109).

Thereafter the Moderator in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and head of the Church, declared this session of the General Assembly closed and pronounced the benediction.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk,  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

The minutes of the ninth and tenth seditments, having been carefully corrected are confirmed as authorised in terms of Minute 106 thereof.

ROBERT P.F. BENN, Moderator.  
PAUL G. LOGAN, Clerk,  
BRUCE M. MELLER, Deputy Clerk.

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