

The Synod of Eastern Australia



Minutes

**Of the 167th Annual Meeting
Held at Wauchope NSW
6th May to 8th May 2014**

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

CONTENTS

Opening.....	2
Election of Moderator and Moderator's Address	2
Association of Visitors.....	2
Rolls of Presbytery.....	2
Administration Committee	3
Retiring Moderator's Sermon.....	3
Presbytery Reports	4
Law and Advisory Committee.....	4
Procedures Dealing With Regulations under the Barrier Act	4
Suggestions for Bequests	5
Training of Ministry Committee.....	5
Church and Nation Committee	6
Media Committee	6
Website	6
Archives	7
Youth and Fellowship Committee	7
Missions Committee Report	7
InterChurch relations Committee.....	7
Delegates From Other Churches	8
Missions Evening.....	9
Superannuation Committee.....	10
Finance Committee	10
General Treasurer	11
NSW Trust Corporation.....	11
Queensland Trust Corporation.....	11
Trustees for Victoria.....	11
Report from Examiners of Records	12
Moderator-Elect for Synod 2015	12
Time and Place of Synod 2015	12
Principal Acts.....	13
Greetings from Other Churches	14

14.1 OPENING

Within the Wauchope Church building of the Hastings congregation, on Tuesday 6th May 2014, at 4.30pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer.

14.2 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The retiring moderator had been delayed by late planes and it was resolved to hear his retiring sermon after the evening meal. The Clerk reported that Moderator-elect Rev Jim Klazinga had apologised for being unable to attend Synod because his wife was undergoing medical treatment. The administration committee had nominated Rev Rowland Ward in his place. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr Ward took the chair.

14.3 MODERATORS ADDRESS

The Moderator addressed the Synod on Mobilising for Mission through Presbyterian Polity, focusing on: 1) The importance of qualification for eldership, 2) That eldership is a team ministry, 3) There is a distinction in eldership, all rule but not all labour in word and doctrine, 4) That the elders should meet regularly, at least monthly, 5) The importance of pastoral visitation.

14.4 THANKS

After words of appreciation and questions and answers, it was resolved that the moderator be thanked for his address, and that his address be published in "*The Presbyterian Banner*".

The moderator welcomed members and guests to the meeting of Synod.

14.5 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES

The Moderator introduced Rev J. Bruce Martin, delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and his wife Joanne. It was resolved that Mr Martin be associated with the court.

14.6 ASSOCIATION OF OTHER MINISTERS

Rev Peter Smith and Rev Alan Tripovich were welcomed to the synod and it was resolved that they be associated with the court.

14.7 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES

The Certified Rolls of Presbyteries were tendered. Apologies for non-attendance were received from those marked † below.

Northern Presbytery

Brisbane
Hastings
Northern Rivers

Ministers

JD Klazinga†
DJ Kerridge
Vacant

Commissioned Elders

R Lawson
D Hamilton
R Campbell

Northern Presbytery Appointment WJW Hanna †

Central Presbytery

Hawkesbury/Nepean
Hunter/Barrington
Manning
St. George's

DK Muldoon
R Tso†
GD Ball
JA McCallum

TR Reeve
AH Steel
JA Cromarty
DA McIntosh

Synod Appointment: TI Leggott (Seconded to AIM)

Southern Presbytery

Geelong
Knox
All Nations
Narre Warren
Ulverstone

Vacant
AA Miranda
TW Yoa †
S Bajema
JA Scheepers

DPT Manly
D Boehret
RS Ward
T Buck†
I Hamilton†

14.8 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee's Report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Clerk presented the proposed resolutions and it was resolved that:

1. That Synod assures Rev Jim Klazinga and Julie of our prayerful support as Julie receives medical treatment, and wish her a speedy recovery if it please the Lord.
2. That Correspondence Items 1, 2 and 3 be taken with the Law and Advisory business.
3. That Correspondence Item 4 be taken with Training of Ministry business.
4. That the Committee Structure as noted in the report be adopted, but with Mr Bajema being taken off the Superannuation Committee as requested.
5. That the following examiners of records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery	Rev J McCallum and Geelong elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. A Scheepers and Northern Rivers elder.
Southern Presbytery	Brisbane elder and Manning elder.

14.9 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were called for and the session was closed with prayer at 6.00pm.

TI Leggott
Clerk

RS Ward
Moderator

SESSION 2

TUESDAY 6TH MAY 2014

7.15PM

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 7.15pm.

14.10 RETIRING MODERATOR'S SERMON

The Retiring Moderator took the chair and read from Matthew 7 and spoke on the danger of self-deception, the danger of obsessive criticism, the danger of being indiscriminating and the need to be genuinely discerning. The answer lies in close communion with God: ask, seek and knock. Is our testimony consistent with our message? Jesus expects his people to build their lives on the authority of his word. Mr Miranda led in prayer.

14.11 THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR

After words of appreciation it was resolved that the retiring Moderator be thanked for his sermon, and that it be published in *The Presbyterian Banner*.

The Moderator Mr Ward returned to the chair.

14.12 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Mr Ball warmly welcomed Rev J Bruce Martin, and then introduced Rev Iain Smith, delegate from the Southern Presbyterian Church, Rev. Geoff van Schie, delegate from the Christian Reformed Church of Australia. It was resolved that these delegates be associated with the court.

14.13 MINUTES

The minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed.

14.14 PRESBYTERY REPORTS

The Presbytery reports for Northern, Central and Southern Presbyteries were presented and it was resolved that the reports be received. The inability of Rev Tut Won Yoa to attend Synod was noted with sadness, and it was resolved that Tut be assured of the Synod's prayerful interest in the difficult ministry in which Tut is engaged ministering with the Sudanese community in Melbourne, and especially at this time of great unrest and distress in Southern Sudan.

14.15 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of Motion were called for and read and the session was closed with prayer and praise at 8.25pm.

TI Leggott
Clerk

RS Ward
Moderator

SESSION 3

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2014

9.00AM

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 9.00am. The Moderator read from 1 Corinthians 1:10f., and spoke on Paul's method in answering critics and expressing true wisdom through acknowledging that true wisdom is found in the plans and purposes of God, especially as expressed in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Synod joined in singing praise.

14.16 MINUTES

The minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed.

14.17 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr Ward, being Moderator, vacated the chair to present the report. Mr Miranda took the chair. Mr Ward presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented proposed deliverances 1:

1. Synod amend the ACT CONCERNING THE METHOD OF PASSING ACTS OF ASSEMBLY OF GENERAL CONCERN TO THE CHURCH, AND FOR PREVENTING OF INNOVATIONS [COMMONLY CALLED *THE BARRIER ACT*] enacted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1697 by deleting the now ambiguous word 'Constitutions' and replacing it with the word 'Laws'.

14.18 NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Steel presented his motion: That the proposal to amend The Barrier Act as detailed in the Law & Advisory Committee Report and Proposed Deliverance No. 1 be transmitted to Presbyteries in terms of existing legislation. (Handbook 5.39). The Synod resolved in favour of the notice of motion.

The Convener proceeded to present proposed deliverance 2 and indicated that the Law and Advisory Committee agreed to take on the proposed notice of motion of Mr Steel. It was resolved: That the proposed *Summary of Procedure* relating to *The Barrier Act* procedure as set out in the *Law & Advisory Committee Report and Proposed Deliverance No. 2* be transmitted to Presbyteries in terms of existing legislation. (Handbook 5.39).

The Convener continued with proposed deliverances. It was resolved that:

3. The content of Interim Act (Act 1 Class 1 of 2013) having met with the approval of a majority of Presbyteries the Synod convert the said act into a standing rule, and encourage Presbyteries to send any further suggestions for improvement to the Law & Advisory Committee.

4. Synod note the procedure in regard to serious disturbance in a church service stated in the Report and draw the attention of Sessions to the same.

5. Synod draw attention of members to the importance of giving by bequests for the furtherance of Christ's work, and provide the following examples of forms of bequest, replacing 3:23 in the Handbook.

(i). General or Undesignated Bequests

These general bequests are of most benefit to the mission of the Church. In such cases, the funds can be applied to specific areas of priority need at the time. If a person wishes to make an undesignated bequest, the following clauses can be used:

Clause A where the capital gift is to be made directly to the Church.

"I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATHto the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia for the charitable and/or religious purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia as the Synod of the said Church may direct."

Clause B where the capital of the gift is to be permanently invested, with the income earned to be used by the Church

"I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATHto the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia to be invested and the income therefrom from time to time received to be used for the charitable and/or religious purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia as the Synod of the said Church may direct."

(ii). Specific Bequests

If a person wishes to designate a particular congregation, parish, project, activity, agency or institution within the Church the following clauses can be used:

Clause C where the capital gift is to be made directly to the particular part of the Church:

"I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATHto the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia for the general work and activities of of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia provided that should that work or activity of the said Church have ceased prior to my death or thereafter cease, the said sum shall be used in such other manner as determined by the Synod of the said Church."

Clause D where the capital of the gift is to be permanently invested, with the income earned to be used by the nominated activity:

"I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATHto the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia to be invested and the income therefrom from time to time received to be used for the general work of of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, provided that should that work or activity of the said Church have ceased prior to my death or thereafter cease, the income arising from said sum shall be used in such other manner as determined by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia"

After the desired clause A, B C or D has been selected for the Will, the following wording should also be added:

"...the receipt of the Secretary or other proper officer for the time being of the relevant corporate trust body of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees". (or similar)

The Moderator returned to the chair.

14.19 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

It was resolved to move into closed court. The Convener, Mr D Kerridge, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

14.20 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4: OVERTURE FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

Re: Mr Duncan A. Hickey, BA, BSc.

To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia appointed to meet at Wauchope on 6 May 2014

WHEREAS Central Presbytery met on 18 September 2013 at Lindfield to consider Mr Hickey's application to become a student for the ministry, and after examination agreed to recommend his application

AND WHEREAS the Training of Ministry Committee heartily concurred with the same, and wrote to inform Presbytery on 18 October 2013

NOW THEREFORE Central Presbytery seeks confirmation by Synod of Mr Hickey's reception by Central Presbytery as student for the ministry. Or to do otherwise as Synod in its wisdom sees fit.

It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted and that Mr Hickey be accepted as a student for the ministry, the first year being probationary.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance and it was resolved that:

1. That, subsequent to the overture of Central Presbytery regarding Mr Hickey's acceptance, Synod ratifies the decision of the Committee to direct Mr Duncan Hickey to commence study at Christ College, Sydney in the Master of Divinity course in 2014. The Committee further asks that Synod assure Mr Hickey of their prayerful interest in his course of study.
2. That Synod approve the payment of Mr Hickey's costs for attendance at Synod as an observer out of Committee funds.
3. That Synod engage in prayer for the wise and careful training up of men to serve the Lord.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

14.21 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Muldoon, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverance and after discussion it was resolved that:

1. Synod welcome the short Biblically-based statements on some ethical issues and requests that these be published in "The Presbyterian Banner".
2. Synod write to the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader stating our opposition, based on the Bible, to any changes to the Marriage Act to legally recognise homosexual marriage.

14.22 MEDIA COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Bajema, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverance and it was resolved:

1. To warmly encourage our congregations and members to pray for and actively support the ministry of *The Presbyterian Banner*.

14.23 WEBSITE

The Convener, Mr Kerridge presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

14.24 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were called for and the session was closed with prayer at 12.40pm.

TI Leggott
Clerk

RS Ward
Moderator

SESSION 4

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2014

2.00PM

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 2.00pm.

14.25 ARCHIVIST

Mr Ward presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The proposed deliverance was presented and it was resolved:

1. That congregations and committees be encouraged to deposit significant material in the Archives retaining an extra copy for themselves.

14.26 YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Miranda, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. Synod thanks God for all Christian workers and their commitment to encourage our children with the teachings of Scripture.
2. Synod commits to keep praying for the children's spiritual growth, and for the youth to find meaning and fulfilment in their relationship with Christ.

14.27 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Convener, Mr Klazinga, the Clerk presented the report with the various members of the Committee giving updates on the different areas of interest. It was resolved that the report be received. The Clerk presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. That Synod express its continued prayerful support and interest in the work of Rev Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries, and confirms his secondment as General Director of Australian Indigenous Ministries until the end of 2016.
2. That Synod recognises and confirms Rev Peter Smith as a missionary to serve in a part-time voluntary capacity as office administrator with Australian Indigenous Ministries, and assures him of its prayerful interest and support. (It was noted that Mr Smith remains a minister of the church available for a call).
3. That Synod adopt the budget for 2014 and express general agreement with the estimates for 2015.

Synod engaged in a time of prayer in support of the various mission endeavours of the church.

14.28 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ball, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener read from letters of greeting that had been received from other churches and it was resolved to include these as an appendix to the minutes. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolve to pray for the Lord's blessing upon their work and witness.
2. The Synod acknowledges the kind invitation of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand to appoint a delegate to attend their upcoming Synod to be held at the Reformed Church of Bishopdale, Christchurch, from Saturday 13th September until Friday 19th September 2014 DV. The Synod cordially agrees to appoint a member to represent us. (It was noted that the committee would determine which delegate to send).
3. The Synod records its pleasure at the developing relationship with the Southern Presbyterian Church in Tasmania. Synod resolves to extend Fraternal Relations to the Southern Presbyterian Church in terms of

our Act of Synod 1993. Synod also encourages pulpit exchange or supply to assist in getting to know each other and thus progress closer relations.

4. The Synod encourages the Southern Presbytery to continue developing relations especially with the EPC and the RPCA.

5:1 The Synod acknowledges its long association with the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia – a relationship dating back to its formation over 60 years ago. We note that this relationship has never been formalised on our part, though delegates have been exchanged at Synod level.

5:2 The Synod notes in response to two points of concern that were recorded in the PCEA Synod minutes of 1987 and 1999 that the CRCA is no longer a member of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod; and that we believe the CRCA has done what it could to overcome differences with the Free Reformed Church of Australia.

5:3 The Synod records it thanks for the gracious invitation which has been renewed to us by the CRCA to formalise the relationship between our two churches.

5:4 The Synod desires to formalise our relationship with the CRCA. Toward that end, and with a view to ensuring a stable and satisfactory outcome, we resolve to appoint a delegate (or delegates) to attend the upcoming CRCA Synod planned to be held in Gosnells, Western Australia, from 18th to 23rd May 2015. (It was noted that the committee would determine which delegate/s to send).

14.29 DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Mr Ball introduced Rev J. Bruce Martin, delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America to address the Synod. Bruce brought the greetings of his church noting it was the first personal visit of a delegate to the PCEA. Bruce briefly shared some of the history of the church and seminary. There had been a particularly good influence through the seminary with a number of ministers coming to the church from other denominations after training. Bruce spoke of support of mission work in Cyprus and a new work in South Sudan, together with the support of five congregations in Japan.

Mr Ball introduced Rev Geoff van Schie, delegate from the Christian Reformed Church of Australia. Geoff brought greetings from his church, noting some amazingly strong personal connections with the PCEA over the years and including the Wauchope congregation. Geoff spoke of the strength and state of the CRCA and the good strength of the Reformed Theological College. The church carries out mission work in the Solomon Islands and supports an indigenous work in India, aboriginal work in Maclean and the Warburton Ranges. The church continues to have a vital interest in the Christian school movement. Geoff also shared about his ministry in rural Western Australia.

Mr Ball then introduced Rev Iain Smith, delegate from the Southern Presbyterian Church, who brought a greeting from his church. Ian shared the difficulty of maintaining a witness as a Psalm Singing church when today's society is becoming more and more alien to the manner in which we present the Gospel. People coming to the church struggle with an appreciation of the Psalms. We need to work harder than ever in presenting our unique form of worship as an acceptable and beautiful means of worshipping God. Some suggestions that might help: 1) Explaining the meaning of the Psalm in advance of singing, 2) Issue leaflet explaining the biblical position for exclusive psalmody, 3) Establish a family Psalm singing camp for all Psalm singing churches. 4) Promote the positive aspects. We need ministers who are not only well trained theologically but who have a passion for the things of Christ. We need to be people of prayer. There was considerable discussion in regard to the manner and method of Psalmody in the church.

The Moderator thanked the men for their addresses.

14.30 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with praise singing Psalm 23 and prayer at 6.00p.m.

TI Leggott
Clerk

RS Ward
Moderator

SESSION 5

WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2014

7.05PM

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 7.05pm and the Moderator read from Isaiah 54 and welcomed visitors to the evening meeting.

14.31 MINUTES

It was resolved to defer the confirmation of the Minutes of Session 3 and 4 to the next session.

14.32 MISSIONS EVENING

The Moderator introduced Rev J Bruce Martin and invited him to speak about the work of the Reformed Church of North America in East Asia. His parents had served briefly as missionaries there until the Pacific theatre of World War 2 compelled them to return to America. Nevertheless, the work of Christ's Church in East Asia greatly prospered after western missionaries had left the area.

He also addressed the Synod concerning the work of the Reformation Translation Fellowship (RTF). The RTF was established in 1949 to translate and publish theological works in the Chinese language. This work has contributed to the blessing of God on His Church by providing these books free of charge.

Ross Campbell was introduced and shared with photos about his personal reflections following a recent visit to India. Ross shared about the life and testimony of the work and witness of the Free Church and their schools and hospital ministry in Lakhnadon and Chhapara.

The Clerk introduced Stephen Bignall, Field Director of Australia Indigenous Ministries, together with Elder Henry Louie from the AIM Church at Gilgandra. Henry shared about his personal work and testimony and how the Lord had led him to a leadership position in the Church at Gilgandra. Stephen added some personal insights about the heavy burdens placed on the few Aboriginal church leaders in Western NSW, the difficulties in balancing work commitments and pastoral responsibilities, and the constant burden of dealing with grief needing to perform funerals on a regular basis, often with young people.

The Clerk introduced Neil and Wilma Robinson who shared about their developing ministry helping Paul and Erin Strahan working with the Aboriginal community in Moree.

The moderator thanked the speakers for their interesting and informative talks.

14.33 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were called for and read and the session was closed praise and Rev Iain Smith leading in prayer at 9.05pm.

TI Leggott
Clerk

RS Ward
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer. The Moderator read from Romans 8:18f. and led in devotions: The groaning of Creation, suggesting a longing of true freedom to be found only when the full freedom for God's people comes. The groaning of the Church: Those who also long for that which is to come in the fullness of total redemption. The groaning of the Spirit: the groaning of the Spirit Himself interceding and mediating on behalf of his people. This is not a groaning of complaint or despair, but a groaning of anticipation.

Mr Scheepers offered an apology for needing to leave early. Rev Geoff van Shie also apologised and gave notice that he needed to leave.

14.34 MINUTES

The minutes of Session 4 and 5 were read and confirmed.

14.35 SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev Bajema, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. The Superannuation Levy on congregations be reviewed annually on 1st July and adjustment made where necessary in terms of the Handbook of Practice & Procedure – Superannuation Committee Section B.1.
2. Deacons' Court should note the levy for self-supporting charges is \$1,782 per quarter (eg: February and May) ie. 14% of the estimated minimum stipend for 2014 \$50,900. For aid-receiving charges with PCEA ordained supply it is 10% \$1,273 per quarter and for vacant charges without a supply minister 5% \$636 per quarter. For quarters ending August 2014 and November 2014 self-supporting charges is \$1,845 per quarter ie. 14.50% of the estimated minimum stipend for 2014. For aid-receiving charges with PCEA ordained supply it is \$1,336 i.e. 10.50%, and vacant charges without a supply minister \$636 i.e 5.00%
3. Synod remind fund members of the advisability of seeking professional advice in regard to both choice of fund and investments within any particular fund, and the effects of recent changes in government legislation, so that it meets their particular needs, as this is their responsibility and not that of the church.
4. Synod request Sessions and Deacons' Courts to keep a close eye on ministers' leave entitlements to ensure ministers do not suffer burn out through failure to take it, and that Presbyteries keep this in mind in the annual examination of records to ensure outstanding entitlement is minuted at least once a year.

14.36 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr A Steel, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. We record our thanks to God for temporal blessings granted for another year.
2. Adjustment of the Minimum Stipend, Cash and Non-cash components (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2013/2014 be made on 1st January and 1st July in line with the movement in the *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Full-time adult ordinary time earnings)* as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the event of a negative movement in any six monthly review period, no adjustment be made.
3. Stipend relief of up to \$5,000 be granted to Hawkesbury-Nepean Deacons' Court on a strictly needs basis for the 2014/2015 Synodical year.

4. SYNOD COMMISSIONERS' EXPENSES [Act 1 of Class 2, Synod 1984 as amended in section c by Synod 2003, 2005 & 2007] be amended to:

“Expenses incurred by Commissions attending Synod meetings may seek reimbursement as follows:

1. Economy class return fares for travel by rail, road or air to apply.
2. Should reimbursement for travel by motor vehicle at the rate per kilometre set by Synod from time to time, exceed the cost of air fares where services are available, commissioners' claims are to be limited to the lesser of the two for that portion of their journey.
3. Reimbursement for travel by motor vehicle:
 - One claim per congregation represented at Synod allowed.
 - For church owned vehicles, reimbursement be *Running* (operating) Costs only.
 - For privately owned vehicles, *Running Costs* with an option to include *Fixed Costs*, if commissioners so desire. The NSW NRMA annual Vehicle Operating Costs Survey figures to be used as the basis for reimbursement. These figures to be adjusted on the last business day before Synod convenes, taking into account the average unleaded fuel pump price in the area where Synod is meeting.
4. Miscellaneous expenses allowed including taxis, car parking, accommodation at reasonable cost if necessary.”
5. That 60% of the cost of airfares to and from Tasmania for Southern Presbytery members in the course of the proper exercise of the Southern Presbytery's oversight met by the Synod General Fund as approved by Synod 1988, be repealed.

14.37 GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Treasurer, Mr AH Steel, presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Treasurer presented the proposed deliverance and it was resolved that:

1. Deacons' Courts note the need of funds for the Synod General Fund as outlined in the General Treasurer's Report to Synod and are requested to make a contribution to help cover the administration costs of Synod.

14.38 NSW TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. The Trustees agreed to fall from the proposed deliverance.

14.39 NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Campbell presented his motion: In the event that the Northern Presbytery approve the sale of the Lismore Church within the Northern Rivers Charge, the Synod approve such sale at not less than market value, the retention of the capital and the application of the income for the extension of the witness of the Church. Synod resolved in favour of the notice of motion.

14.40 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received.

14.41 THE TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA

The Secretary Mr RS Ward, being moderator vacated the chair to present the report. Mr Miranda took the chair. Mr Ward presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Ward presented the proposed deliverance and it was resolved that:

1. The Synod commend giving by bequest to our people.

Proposed deliverance 2 was not approved.

It was further resolved:

3. Synod amend the allocation in the investment strategy of Synod 2002 as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	<u>Range</u>
Cash/mortgages/debentures	30%	25-35%
Shares/units	70%	65-75%

4. The following be added to paragraph 3.20 in the Handbook: "Purchase or capital improvements of property where full funds are not available must be cleared with Presbytery first and any loan proposals approved by the Presbytery."

The Moderator returned to the chair.

14.42 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The minutes of the Northern Presbytery for 2013-2014 were reported to be in order. The minutes of Central Presbytery for 2013-2014 were reported to be in order. The minutes of Southern Presbytery for 2013-2014 were reported to be in order. It was resolved that the reports be received and the records attested.

14.43 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2015

The Clerk nominated Rev J Klazinga. It was resolved that the Rev J Klazinga be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2015.

14.44 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2015

The Clerk reported that the Hawkesbury Nepean Congregation had indicated their willingness to host Synod in 2015. It was resolved that Synod 2015 be hosted by the Hawkesbury Nepean Congregation at Mt Druitt from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th May 2015.

14.45 TREASURER'S REPORT RE COSTS INCURRED BY SYNOD 2014.

The General Treasurer, Mr AH Steel, gave an indication of costs incurred by Synod 2014.

14.46 THANKS

The Moderator was thanked for his leading of the Synod and for his address and devotional messages. Mr Bruce Martin expressed his thanks for the warm fellowship he shared during the meeting of Synod.

The Moderator expressed his thanks to the members of Synod for their participation, the Clerk, the Treasurer and the Precentor during Synod for their work, and expressed the thanks of the court to the Hastings congregation for hosting the Synod and for their hospitality.

14.47 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of this closing Session 6 were read and confirmed.

14.48 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2014

Synod 2014 was closed with the Moderator making some closing remarks from Romans 9-11 and praise singing from Psalm 72 and prayer and the benediction at 12.10pm.

TI Leggott
Clerk

RS Ward
Moderator

ACTS OF SYNOD 2014
Appended by the Direction of Synod (09.50)

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
1	Act Concerning Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct	14.18.3

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Act concerning Barrier Act Amendments	14.18
2	Act concerning Dealing with Disturbances in a Church	14.18.4
3	Act concerning Bequests	14.18.5
4	Act concerning Recognition of Rev Peter Smith as missionary serving with AIM in a voluntary capacity	14.27.2
5	Act concerning Extension of Fraternal Relations to Southern Presbyterian Church in Tasmania	14.28.3
6	Act concerning Amendment to Commissioners' Expenses.	14.36.4
7	Act concerning Amendment of Victorian Trustees investment allocation.	14.41.3
8	Act concerning Victorian Trustees: Presbytery approval of loans	14.41.4

GREETINGS FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland

Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations Free Church of Scotland

The Reformed Churches in the Netherlands