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# **The Synod of Eastern Australia**



## **Minutes**

**Of the 168<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Held at Mt Druitt NSW  
5<sup>th</sup> May to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

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**15.1 OPENING**

Within the Mt Druitt Church building of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015, at 4.30pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met. The Moderator Rev Dr Rowland Ward extended a welcome and those gathered joined in praise singing from Psalm 47. The Moderator constituted the meeting in prayer.

**15.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON**

Mr Ward read from Luke 16 and invited Mr Muldoon to lead in prayer. Mr Ward spoke on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. A comparison was drawn between the extremes of the two men's social and spiritual situations. At death Lazarus goes to the presence of God. The rich man, now tormented, still appears to think himself socially superior. But death fixes things. This parable reminds us that it is easy for us to fall into attitudes that are critical and contrary to the Gospel. It reminds us how to use the things we have for the glory of God and for the good of others. The Moderator led in prayer.

**15.3 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*.

**15.4 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  
G 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

TM Reeve  
AH Steel  
DP Smith  
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  
J Dekter  
RS Ward  
T Buck†  
I Hamilton†

**15.5 WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed Mr Tso as a new members of synod.

**15.6 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

The Moderator welcomed Rev David Miller, delegate from the Free Church of Scotland, Rev Geoff van Schie, delegate from the Christian Reformed Church of Australia, Rev Samit Mishra and Mr Pradeep Kumar, from Presbyterian Free Church of Central India, and Rev Ian Hall, from the Southern Presbyterian Church of Australia. It was resolved that these brothers be associated with the court.

## **15.7 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

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

1. That Correspondence Items 1, 2 and 3 be taken with the Law and Advisory business.
2. That Correspondence Item 4 be taken with the Report from Central Presbytery.
3. That the Committee Structure as noted in the report be adopted, with provision that the convener of the Youth and Fellowship be changed to Stuart Carswell if he is agreeable.
4. That the following examiners of records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery	Rev S Bajema and Geelong elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev D Kerridge and Hastings elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev R Tso and Hawkesbury Nepean elder.

## **15.8 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for and read and the session was closed with praise, singing from Psalm 103:1-1, and closing with prayer at 5.35pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

## **SESSION 2**

**TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

**7.00PM**

The session was opened with prayer at 7.00pm.

## **15.9 MINUTES**

The minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed.

## **15.10 ELECTION OF MODERATOR**

The Clerk reported that the Rev Jim Klazinga had been appointed Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr Klazinga took the chair.

## **15.11 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS**

The Moderator addressed the Synod asking the question: "Why are we here? Are our priorities God's? He introduced the writings of the prophet Haggai, noting his four short messages. How do Haggai's priorities relate to ours? The Moderator read from Haggai 1 and then the court joined in praise singing from Psalm 65. The Moderator shared about the challenge of the rebuilding of the temple in the face of opposition, and the challenge that came to the people from Haggai to get on with the job. Selfishness and a lack of faith were evident to the neglect of the house of God. How often do our excuses prevent us from doing the work of the Lord? With the other aspects of church life and witness the moderator drew special attendance to the importance of prayer. We should truly seek to be the building in which God is pleased to dwell. After Haggai's challenge the Spirit of the Lord stirred up the hearts of the people and they respond in faith and hear God's wonderful promise: "I am with you."

The court joined in praise singing Psalm 122 and the moderator led in prayer building on the phrases of the Lord's Prayer.

#### **15.12 THANKS**

After words of appreciation it was resolved that the moderator be thanked for his address, and that his address, together with the content of the closing prayer, be published in "*The Presbyterian Banner*".

#### **15.13 PRESBYTERY REPORTS**

The report Northern Presbytery was presented. Mr Muldoon led the court in prayer. The report for Central Presbytery was presented with the additional note that there had been three psalmody conferences arranged and held during the year.

#### **15.14 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4**

Overture from Central Presbytery re proposed sale of Barrington Church Property. It was resolved that the overture be received.

Mr Steel and Rev Tso were appointed to state the overture and the moderator invited them to do so.

It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be sustained in the following terms:

That Synod grant approval for the sale of the entire Barrington property situated in Argyle Street (Lots 101 and 102) Barrington, NSW, at market price, with the proceeds to be held for capital purposes of the Hunter Barrington charge, with income available for the general purposes of the Hunter Barrington charge.

Mr Miranda led the court in prayer.

#### **15.15 PRESBYTERY REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

The report of Southern Presbytery was presented. Rev TW Yoa was invited to share about the violence presently occurring in Southern Sudan and how that has badly affected the church in Australia physically emotionally and spiritually.

It was resolved that the Presbytery Reports be received.

#### **15.16 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for and the session was closed at 8.50pm, with Mr Kerridge leading in prayer especially for Southern Presbytery.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

JD Klazinga  
Moderator

The session was opened with prayer and the singing of praise from Psalm 68:28-35 at 9.05am. The Moderator read from Haggai 2:1-9 and shared about tasks that seem too difficult for us to contemplate at times. The people were not fulfilling their side of the covenant in rebuilding the temple of God. The people needed more motivation and to be reminded of their responsibility: be strong and work! But with the great encouragement from the Lord: Do not fear because I am with you. The promise of God is that his glory will return, prefiguring the coming of Christ and the bringing of his peace. The meeting joined in praise, singing from Psalm 150, and the Moderator led in prayer.

#### 15.17 MINUTES

The minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed.

#### 15.18 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener Mr Ward presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented proposed deliverances:

It was resolved:

1. In reference to 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, Synod footnotes the word 'Constitutions' with the words "that is, laws".

After discussion a motion was put to break up proposed deliverance 2 into separate sections. The motion was defeated. The Convener presented proposed deliverance 2. It was resolved not to approve proposed deliverance 2.

The Convener presented proposed deliverance 3. It was resolved:

3. Synod draw attention of those concerned to the Note re Corporate Trustees and Congregational Property in the Law & Advisory Committee Report.

Mr Dekter led the court in prayer.

#### 15.19 CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3 RETURNS FROM PRESBYTERIES RE BARRIER ACT

Returns from Presbyteries were noted:

Northern Presbytery: Not approved  
 Central Presbytery: Not approved  
 Southern Presbytery: Approved

#### 15.20 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Kerridge, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented proposed deliverance 1. It was resolved to move into closed court. It was resolved to move into open court. It was resolved that:

1. That the Synod commend the excellent progress of Mr Duncan Hickey in his divinity studies and assure him of our prayerful concern for him and his family.

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

2. That the Synod support the further development and implementation of a Candidate Placement Scheme by the Committee, subsequent to Synod approval.
3. That the Synod support the development and availability of a curriculum and course material for a non-compulsory Eldership Training Course, in accordance with our stated responsibilities and subsequent to Synod approval.

Mr Hamilton led in prayer for the matters relating to the Training of Ministry and for student Mr Duncan Hickey.

#### **15.21 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for and read and the session was closed with the singing of Psalm 1 and Mr Lawson leading in prayer at 12.40pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

JD Klazinga  
Moderator

### **SESSION 4**

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

**2.08PM**

The session was opened with praise singing from Psalm 46:1-7 and with Mr McCallum leading in prayer at 2.08pm.

#### **15.22 MINUTES**

The minutes of Session 3 were read and confirmed.

#### **15.23 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE**

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

1. Synod welcome the short Biblically-based statement on funerals, and requests that it be published in “The Presbyterian Banner”.
2. Synod adopt an amendment to the ‘Unity in the church’ Act 11 Class 2 of 1982 to the effect that ‘the New King James Version and the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible also have the approval of Synod’.
3. Synod write to the Prime Minister reminding him of our prayers, and urging him to stand against any moves to change the Federal Marriage Act which would legalise homosexual marriage, and any changes to the law that would legalise euthanasia.

#### **15.24 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Mr Steel presented his motion and it was seconded: That the review of the “Unity of the Church” Act 11 (1982) be continued to include a clear statement on the New International Version (NIV) for the guidance of our church members. It was resolved that the motion be approved. Mr Campbell led the court in prayer.

#### **15.25 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*.

#### **15.26 WEBSITE**

The Convener, Mr Kerridge gave a video presentation of the website and then presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Kerridge presented the proposed deliverance. It was resolved:

1. That the Synod commend the PCEA website to delegates and congregations as a valuable resource and one worthy of material support.

### **15.27 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 locally.

Mr Tso led the court in prayer.

### **15.28 PRESENTATION TO STUDENT MR DUNCAN HICKEY**

Convener of Training of Ministry Mr Kerridge presented Mr Hickey with a gift for book allowance.

### **15.29 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Ball, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener read extracts from a letter received from the OPC. 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. Synod approves the idea of the periodical Lux Mundi becoming a publication of the ICRC and published on line.

As proposed deliverance 3 was presented the Rev Ian Hall came forward and spoke of the relationship between the PCEA and the Southern Presbyterian Church. The convener proceeded with the proposed deliverances. It was resolved:

3. Synod notes with approval the discussions which the Southern Presbytery have had with the Southern Presbyterian Church.
4. Synod welcomes the invitation from the United Reformed Churches in North America to enter into 'Ecclesiastical Contact' and resolves to extend Fraternal Relations to the URCNA in terms of our Act of Synod 1993.
5. Synod approves the constitution of the ICRC as amended in 2013.

Mr Bajema led the court in prayer.

### **15.30 DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

Mr Ball introduced Rev David Miller, delegate and current Moderator from the Free Church of Scotland and the Moderator invited him to address the Synod.

Mr Miller brought the greetings of the Free Church and spoke of the closest of ties between our two churches. He reflected on the current position of the Free Church, noting the progressive secularisation of Scotland. There was widespread biblical illiteracy, but this also presented an open door of opportunity. In the FCS there were a number of positive areas of growth, but this balanced with a decline in other areas. There is much to be done. In relation to the Free Church Continuing there had been a quietening down of issues with some local resolutions. The FCS is seeking to be an influence for good within a Christian community struggling with a number of social issues.

Mr Leggott led the court in prayer.

Mr Ball introduced Rev Geoff van Schie, delegate from the Christian Reformed Church of Australia, and the Moderator invited him to address the synod.

Mr van Schie brought the greetings of the Church, noting the constructive discussions that were taking place with the PCEA through the ICR Committee. The CRCA is reapplying for membership of the ICRC and is also re-examining and reviewing their relationships with other churches. The church is dealing with matters such as Bible translations, and how it should speak on matters such as same-sex marriage and homosexual relationships, both of which the church oppose. The Church is seeking to maintain its witness and whilst numbers are not large there have been positive new growth through seeking to plant new churches.

Mr Muldoon led the court in prayer

Mr Ball then introduced Rev Ian Hall, delegate from the Southern Presbyterian Church, and the moderator invited him to address the synod.

Mr Hall brought a warm greeting from the Southern Presbyterian Church, noting the significant personal relationships that were held within the two churches. In the face of much that is discouraging within our country we need to be mindful that the Lord has his people and is building his church. The SPC is seeking to effectively communicate the Gospel in an appropriate way in this day and age with an unswerving devotion to the truth of the Word of God, asking especially that we might yet see a great movement of the Lord within our Churches and through the Reformed Faith.

Mr Steel led the court in prayer.

The Moderator thanked the men for their addresses.

### **15.31 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 recognises and continues to pray for the enduring and growth-producing work of Sunday-school teachers, and youth leaders, serving God in our local congregations.
2. Synod thanks Mrs Margaret Kinder and Mrs Irene Steel for their dedication to create new and interesting ways for children to learn the truths of the gospel.
3. Members of Synod commit themselves to keep praying for the spiritual development of our children and youth in the church. Synod is conscious of the danger of moving away from the faith, therefore, constant intercession will be made on behalf of our youth, so that they will have the courage to resist secular pressure, find their identity in fellowship with Christ, and participate with glad involvement in their local churches.
4. Synod thanks God for the work of Y&F Committee members working behind the organisation and successful management of the 2014-2015 Family Camp, and for moments of mutual encouragement during this time.

Mr Smith led the court in prayer.

### **15.32 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session was closed with praise singing from Psalm 145:15-21 and with Mr Ball leading with prayer at 6.05p.m.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

JD Klazinga  
Moderator

## **SESSION 5**

**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

**7.30PM**

The session was opened with praise from Psalm 133 and with Mr Yoa leading the meeting in prayer at 7.30pm

### **15.33 MINUTES**

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

### **15.34 MISSIONS EVENING**

The Moderator, Convener of the Missions Committee, welcomed visitors, thanked the local congregation from the sumptuous meal they had provided, and introduced the Missions Evening.

The Moderator welcomed Rev Samit Mishra and Mr Pradeep Kumar from the Free Church of Central India and invited them to speak. Mr Kumar brought a greeting from the Church and especially expressed the thanks of the Church to the PCEA for their support and interest over many years. Mr Mishra then shared a very informative presentation on the work of the church in the various centres and the outreach program that they were looking to develop. He went on to share about the schools in both Lakhnadon and Chhapara.

Mr Campbell led in prayer.

The Moderator welcomed Mr Sekona Latu, elder of Mt Druitt congregation, and Sekona shared about the history of the bringing of the Gospel to Tonga.

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

### **15.35 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for and read and the session was closed with praise singing from Psalm 72: 17-19 and Mr Reeve leading in prayer at 9.08 pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

JD Klazinga  
Moderator

The session was opened with Mr Kerridge leading in prayer, followed by praise singing from Psalm 51:1-9. The Moderator read from Haggai 2:10-19 and led in devotions considering that external religious activity is not enough. Acceptable religious behaviour must come from pure motives that only comes as God is pleased to bless his people. The people were outwardly engaged in building the temple, but their hearts were not right with God. Motives were not right and as such all their effort would be defiled. We are totally dependent on the blessing of the Lord. Christ has made the way for us to be clean before God through his sacrifice and purifying work on our behalf. We are seen as pure because of him when God is pleased to work by his grace in the lives of his people. As God declared to his people of old: Give careful thought to this day: from this day forward I will bless you.

The moderator led in prayer and Synod joined in praise singing further from Psalm 51:10-19

**15.36 MINUTES**

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

**15.37 MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Klazinga, being Moderator, vacated the chair and Mr Ward took the chair. Mr Klazinga presented the report noting the input from the various members of the Committee giving updates on the different areas of interest. It was resolved that the report be received. After questions and the sharing of further updated information, the Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. That Synod express its ongoing commitment to missions by encouraging the congregations to give generously and continue praying for the mission works we support.
2. That Synod adopt the Missions Committee Budget 2015 - 2016 and expresses its general agreement with the estimates for the aforementioned period.

The convener indicated that Mr Conley would like to be excused from membership of the Missions Committee by next Synod.

Mr McIntosh led the court in prayer.

The Moderator returned to the chair.

**15.38 SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Tso, 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 1<sup>st</sup> July and adjustment made where necessary in terms of the Handbook of Practice & Procedure – Superannuation Committee Section B.1. The figures will be advised by the Committee in due time.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Mr Manly led the court in prayer.

### **15.39 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 the sufficiency of temporal provisions for the church since last Synod.
2. Adjustment of the Minimum Stipend, Cash and Non-cash components (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2015/2016 be made on 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> 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. An application by the Hunter-Barrington Deacons' Court for a loan of \$15,000 from The Capital Assistance Fund be approved to assist in the purchase of a larger motor vehicle for the minister and his family. Repayment to be at least \$300 per month (approximately four years) with no interest to be charged.

### **15.40 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. Synod convey its thanks and appreciation to Mr Richard W Partlett, A.C.A. for his services as Synod auditor for the past 22 years and his willingness to continue to carry out the annual audit of Synod accounts since retiring from full time practice.

### **15.41 NSW TRUST CORPORATION**

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

### **15.42 NOTICE OF MOTION: RE SALE OF ANNA BAY PROPERTY**

Mr Ward presented the notice of motion and it was seconded. It was resolved that:

1. Synod note that the Anna Bay Union Church has been sold for \$100,000 with settlement to occur on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
2. Synod note that from the gross proceeds a refund of building insurance premiums paid for a number of years to 2011 by the Hunter-Barrington Charge should be made.
3. Synod resolve that the PCEA one-third share of the nett proceeds be paid to the Hunter-Barrington Charge to be held for capital purposes with the income available for the general purposes of the Hunter-Barrington Charge.

### **15.43 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION**

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

### **15.44 THE TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

The Secretary Mr RS Ward, presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Ward presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

1. The Synod commend giving by bequest to our people.
2. The responsibility of investing congregational investment funds belongs to Deacons' Court subject to the relevant Church Property Act, the civil law relating to trust funds and any specific

Synod legislation. Funds held in banks and other Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions usually do not require the involvement of the Trust Corporation, but on-line accounts for the purchase of shares must be opened by the relevant Trust Corporation in its name with an appropriate designation to the particular congregation, and with at least two persons authorized to operate it, one usually being a member of the trust corporation and all being subject to the lawful direction of the Deacons' Court..

The following principles are to be followed in the management of church funds held by congregations:

1. It is proper and prudent in meeting trust requirements for Deacons' Courts to place a proportion of investment funds that are not reasonably required in the medium/long term (at least 3 to 5 years) in equities so as to endeavour to maintain real value.
2. All other investment funds not in real estate and all current funds should be held in Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions according to the circumstances as determined by the Deacons' Court from time to time.
3. Deacons' Courts are not to invest in mortgages, mortgage trusts, debentures, managed funds, derivatives, contracts for difference, or unlisted equity funds unless the specific approval of the relevant Trust Corporation is first obtained. Deacons' Courts are not to invest funds directly in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, armaments or speculative mining stocks, nor other morally wrong or ethically dubious enterprises. If in doubt the Deacons' Court is to clear with the Trustees first.
4. The primary focus for equity investment in the absence of real estate is listed dividend-paying shares in the ASX200, including listed readily tradeable investment companies of proven performance and sound management. Review of the portfolio by Deacons' Courts should occur regularly and in any case at least once a year.
5. Separate bequests or other trusts held under the Victorian Property Act should be invested as a Common Fund but accurate records of each trust must be kept. Manse and other capital funds must not be applied for purposes inconsistent with the trust (eg. must not be expended for stipend).
6. Deacons' Courts: Deacons' Courts must exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons, and may obtain and consider independent and impartial advice reasonably required for the investment of trust funds or the management of the investment from a person whom the Deacons' Court reasonably believes to be competent to give the advice; and pay out of trust funds the reasonable costs of obtaining the advice. In making and monitoring investments a Deacons' Court must, so far as they are appropriate to the circumstances of the trust, have regard to—
  - a. the purposes of the funds and the needs and circumstances of those persons or objects for which the funds are held; and
  - b. the desirability of diversifying trust investments to spread risk; and
  - c. the nature of and risk associated with existing trust investments and other trust property; and
  - d. the need to maintain the real value of the capital or income of the trust; and
  - e. the risk of capital or income loss or reduction in value; and
  - f. the potential for increase in the capital value; and
  - g. the likely income return and the timing of income return; and
  - h. the length of the term of the proposed investment; and
  - i. the probable duration of the fund if the capital sum may lawfully be expended; and
  - j. the liquidity and marketability of the proposed investment during, and on the completion of, the term of the proposed investment; and
  - k. the aggregate value of the funds held for the particular purpose; and

- l. the effect of the proposed investment in relation to any tax liability which may result; and
- m. the likelihood of inflation affecting the value of the proposed investment and other funds held for the same purpose; and
- n. the costs (including commissions, fees, charges and duties payable) of making the proposed investment; and
- o. the results of a review not less than once a year of existing trust investments and strategy

7. Presbyteries

- a. Presbyteries, among their other responsibilities, are to ensure congregational annual financial statements show the basis of valuation of investments.

8. Trust Corporation

- a. The relevant Trust Corporation has the right to call for reports from to time (at least once a year), and to provide guidance, as well as direction where appropriate.

9. This Act may be cited as 'Investment of Congregational Funds Act 2015'.

3. Synod assure Mr Boehret of its interest and prayers for his future usefulness in the Lord's service, and notes his intention to meet the obligations of his Loan and Bond agreement by the close of 2015.

Mr McCallum led the court in prayer.

**15.45 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

The minutes of the Northern Presbytery for 2014-2015 were reported to be in order. The minutes of Central Presbytery for 2014-2015 were reported to be in order, with attention drawn to one matter requiring future attention. The minutes of Southern Presbytery for 2014-2015 were reported to be in order. It was resolved that the reports be received and the records attested.

**15.46 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2016**

The Clerk nominated Rev David Kerridge. It was resolved that Mr Kerridge be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2016.

**15.47 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2016**

The Clerk reported that the Hawkesbury Nepean Congregation had indicated their willingness to again host Synod in 2016. It was resolved that Synod 2016 be hosted by the Hawkesbury Nepean Congregation at Mt Druitt from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**15.48 TREASURER'S REPORT RE COSTS INCURRED BY SYNOD 2015.**

The General Treasurer, Mr AH Steel, gave an indication of costs incurred by Synod 2015.

**15.49 THANKS**

Thanks were expressed for the generous hospitality provided by the local congregation. 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. The Moderator was thanked for his leading of the Synod and for his address and devotional messages and it was suggested that all of his devotional messages be included in the Banner.

**15.50 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

**15.51 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2015**

Synod 2015 was closed with praise singing from Psalm 124 and with Mr Ward leading in prayer and the Moderator pronouncing the benediction at 12.30pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

JD Klazinga  
Moderator

**ACTS OF SYNOD 2015**  
**Appended by the Direction of Synod (09.50)**

**Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)**

No	Act	Reference

**Class 2 (Others)**

No	Act	Reference
1	Act concerning Sale of Barrington Church Property	15.14
2	Act inserting footnote re Barrier Act: Constitutions: “that is laws”	15.14.1
3	Act amending ‘Unity in the church’ Act 11 Class 2 of 1982 to include ‘the New King James Version and the English Standard Version.	15.23.2
4	Act concerning Review of New International Version	15.24
5	Act concerning Approval of the Constitution of the ICRC as amended in 2013.	15.29.5
6	Act concerning Annual Review of Superannuation Levy	15.38.1
7	Act concerning 1/3 Proceeds of Sale of Anna Bay Property to Hunter/Barrington Congregation.	15.42.3
8	Act concerning Investment of Congregational Funds	15.44.2