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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales

Officers of Assembly

Moderator: Rev. Kevin D. Murray, DipTeach, BTh, DipArts(Theol)
C/- Moderator’s Secretary
PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills, 2012
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au

Clerk: Rev. John R. Irvin, BTh
PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills, 2012
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au

Deputy Clerk: Rev. David G-M Yu, BE(Chem), BD, DipTS, DipMin, MS(Theol)

Procurator: Mr Gregory Burton,
SC, BCL (Oxon), BA (Hons), LLB (Hons) (Syd), FCIarb.
C/- Church Offices

Law Agent: Mr Simon H. Fraser, BA LLM
Colin Biggers & Paisley
Level 42, 2 Park Street, Sydney, 2001
Telephone: (02) 8281 4555  Facsimile: (02) 8281 4567

Business Convener: Dr Rodney Yager, BSc, PhD
PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills, 2012
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au

CHURCH OFFICES
168-180 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills, 2010
Office Hours: 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday
Postal Address: PO Box 2196, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
Telephone: (02) 9690 9333  Fax: (02) 9310 2148  E-mail: general@pcnsw.org.au

Chairman of Trustees
Mr J.R. Falls, BEc, MBA

General Manager and Secretary of the Property Trust
Mr W.D. Richards, MBA

The Trustees
Rev. K.R. Boulden, BTh, DipBS, BCom, DipEd, Rev. B.M. Meller, BD, ThL, MA(Theol);
Rev. M.S. Oates, BA, BD, MA(Theol); Rev. D.M. Seaman, BA, BTh, DipTh, DipDiv&Miss;
Rev. J.E.D. Seaton, ThL; Rev. D.G.M. Yu, BE, BD, DipTS, DipMin, MS(Theol);
Messrs J.R. Falls, BEc, MBA; J. Davis BEc, LLB; R.D. Parker, BE(Hons), MBA; Mr J. Rolland, BE,
MEngSc.; K. Turner, BBus, CA, MIR; and Mrs L. Russell, CA

Official Auditor: Ms M. Scott
Moderators of the N.S.W. General Assembly

1972 The Rev. Alan Leonard Hewitt, Guildford-Merrylands
1973 The Rev. Neil MacLeod, M.A., B.D., Hurstville
1974 The Rev. Norman Monsen, Superintendent, Ministry and Mission
1975 The Rev. Douglas Fraser Murray, B.A., Bathurst
1976 The Rev. Robert Anderson Caldwell, Drummoyne
1977 The Rev. Harold Gilbert Durbin, E.D., B.A., St. Andrew’s, Newcastle
1978 The Rev. Peter Edwin Boase, Epping
1980 The Rev. Crawford Miller, M.A., B.D., Professor of Theology
1982 The Rev. Stuart John Clements, B.A., Randwick
1983 The Rev. Angus Robertson Ewin, St. Andrew’s Newcastle
1984 The Rev. William Greenwood Camden, B.Sc., Missionary
1985 The Rev. Arthur George Ingram, Tamworth
1986 The Rev. Raymond Oliver Walder, Ryde
1987 The Rev. John Joy Thorp Campbell, B.A., Lismore
1988 The Rev. John Fursden Broadhead, St. Ives-Pymble
1989 The Rev. Ernest Lyle Noble, Bowenfels
1990 The Rev. Crawford Miller, B.A., B.D., Professor of Theology
1993 The Rev. Gordon Ross Fullerton, B.A., D.Min., St. Andrew’s, Canberra
1995 Dr Peter Eugene Lush, M.A., Ph.D., B.Ed., Elder, Armidale
1997 The Rev. Dr David Lindsay Ferrington, BA, D.Min., Wollongong
1998 The Rev. David Tsai, BSc., Th.L., Epping
2000 The Rev. Charles Richard Pass, Penshurst
2002 The Rev. John Richard Irvin, B.Th., Cherrybrook
2004 The Rev. Dr. Paul G. Logan, OAM, BA, DMin, DipEdStud, MACE, North Sydney-Greenwich
2005 The Rev. John Stewart Thompson, Wollongong
2006 The Rev. David Keith Robson, B.Th., Minister Emeritus.
2008 The Rev. Bruce McIntock Meller, BD, ThL, MA (Theol.), Superintendent, Ministry & Mission
2010 Mr Peter John Graham, OAM, Elder, Macquarie Chapel
2012 The Rev. Trevor Neil Cheetham, A.D.I.T., Warringah
2013 Mr Colin M. Langford, H.D.A., Elder at Argyle

Moderators prior to 1970 are listed in the 1993 Blue Book.
Clerks of Assembly

1865 – 1874 The Rev. James Brotherston Laughton, BA
1874 – 1905 The Rev. James Samuel Laing, DD
1906 – 1929 The Rev. John Burgess, MA, DD
1929 – 1942 The Rev. John Edwards, MA
1942 – 1961 The Rev. Alexander Campbell Greive, BA
1942 – 1954 The Rev. John Waugh, BA, Junior Clerk
1954 – 1961 The Rev. Dr Paul Gibson Logan, OAM, BA, DMin, DipEdStud, MACE, Deputy Clerk
1978 – 1994 The Rev. Dr Paul Gibson Logan, OAM, BA, DMin, DipEdStud, MACE, Deputy Clerk
1994 – 1998 The Rev. Kevin David Murray, BTh, DipTch, Deputy Clerk
2015 – The Rev. John Richard Irvin, BTh
2015 – Rev. David Gar-Ming Yu, BE(Chem), BD, DipTS, DipMin, MS(Theol), Deputy Clerk

Law Officers

PROCURATORS:
1895 – 1921 John Garland, KC, MA, LLB
1921 – 1937 John Alexander Ferguson, BA, LLB
1937 – 1956 Bryan Cecil Fuller, QC, BA, LLB
1956 – 1968 Phillip Lyburn Head, MBE, QC, BA, LLB
1964 – 1968 Forbes John David Officer, QC, BA, LLB
1969 – 1974 David Albert Yeldham, QC, BA, LLB
1975 – 1977 Murray Rutledge Wilcox, LLB
1977 – 1981 Alex Duff
1982 – 2002 Garry Keith Downes, AM, QC, BA, LLB
2002 – Gregory Burton, SC, BCL, BA, LLB

LAW AGENTS:
1883 – 1912 Mr John A. Aitken
1912 – 1924 Mr John Stinson
1925 – 1945 Mr Arthur Nelson Littlejohn
1945 – 1947 Mr Edward A. Bryant (Acting)
1947 – 1973 Mr Edward Alan Hunt
1973 – 1977 Mr Ian Sinclair Hunt, LLB
1977 – 1984 Mr Lindsay John Moore, LLB
1984 – Mr Simon Hugh Fraser, BA, LLM

Agents and Financial General Secretaries

1869 – 1873 The Rev. Adam Thomson, MA, Agent
1873 – 1880 The Rev. Henry Macready, Agent
1880 – 1893 The Rev. John Miller Ross, General Agent
1894 – 1927 Mr William Wood, Financial Secretary
1921 – 1930 The Rev. William Addison Smyth Anderson, BA, Deputy Financial Secretary
1930 – 1936 The Rev. William Addison Smyth Anderson, BA, General Secretary
1936 – 1949 The Rev. Victor Clark-Duff, BA, General Secretary
1950 – 1959 Mr James Rorrison Mackay, FCIS, FASA, General Secretary
1960 – 1961 Mr Fredric Joseph Walker, General Secretary
1961 – 1973 Mr Kenneth Charles Auld, FCIS, FASA, General Secretary
1973 – 1986 Mr Hector McFarlane, FAIV, General Secretary
1986 – 1993 Mr Raymond Ernest Thorpe, JP, CPA, General Secretary
1993 – 2002 Mr Keith Peter Mar, BSc, BCom, FCPA, MACS, General Secretary
2002 – Mr Wayne David Richards, MBA, General Manager
ORDINARY COMMITTEES

The Moderator, Clerks and the General Manager are members of all Committees of the Assembly.

A.P.W.M. (N.S.W. COMMITTEE)
Convener: Rev. R.C. McKean

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<td>Rev. D.F. Maher</td>
<td>Mr A. Lawson</td>
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<td>Rev. R.C. McKean</td>
<td>Mr W. Laylim</td>
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<td>Rev. P. Rawlings</td>
<td>Mr W. McLaren</td>
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<td>Mr J. Spinney</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr E.F. Brown</td>
<td>Mr P. Sanders</td>
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<td>Rev. D.J.G. Bullen</td>
<td>Mr M. Mitchell</td>
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Together with three representatives appointed by the P.W.M.U. Standing Committee of the P.W.A., and two representatives appointed by Presbyterian Youth.

BUSINESS

| Retire 2016 | Rev. B.M. Gorton | Mr J.A. Goodman |
| Retire 2017 | Vacancy          | Mr M.J. Quirk  |
| Retire 2018 | Vacancy          | Mr M. Norman   |

Together with the Moderator, Clerks of Assembly and the General Manager.

CODE
Convener: The Clerk of Assembly

The Procurator, Law Agent, Convener of the Business Committee, the General Manager, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Assembly, Messrs M.C. Beveridge, P. Mitchell and the Rev. L.G. Fowler.

CONCILIATION
Convener: Rev. D.J. Hassan

| Rev. D.J. Hassan | Mr L. Jackson |
| Rev. P.J. Pallett | Mr R. Norman  |
| Rev. D. Tsai     | Dr M. Whitelaw|

GOSPEL, SOCIETY AND CULTURE
Convener: Rev. Dr. J. McClean

| Retire 2016 | Dr N. Pather, Dr. L. Jones, Mr P. Christopher |
| Retire 2017 | Dr J. Barlow, Mr B Greig, Mr W. Chan          |
| Retire 2018 | Rev. Dr. P.E. Barnes, Rev. A.C. McMillan, Rev. K. Weerakoon |

METRO
Convener: Rev. R.W. Smidt

| Retire 2016 | Mr M. Norman, Rev. S. Wong |
| Retire 2017 | Rev. P.R. Sheely, Dr D. Bell |
| Retire 2018 | Mrs C. Quirk, Rev. J. Newans |

(iv)
MINISTRY AND MISSION
Convener: Rev. J.N. Read

Retire 2016  Rev. S. Gerges  Mr S. Maddrell
            Rev. R.E. Vandervelden  Mr J. Rolland
Retire 2017  Rev. D. Agahari  Mr G. Lum Mow
            Rev. J. MacIntyre  Mr T. Macready
Retire 2018  Rev. J.N. Read  Mrs E. Mill
            Rev. S. Teale  Mr I.J. Warrell

Together with the Superintendent.

PRESBYTERIAN AGED CARE
Convener: Very Rev. B.H. Christian

Retire 2016  Mr P.J. Graham, OAM, Mr D. Lennie, Rev. P. Rothnie, Mrs. C. Barclay
Retire 2017  Very Rev. B.H. Christian, Mrs H. Barr, Rev. P.R. Dunstan, Miss F. Perry
Retire 2018  Messrs I. Dunbar, Mrs A. Logan and 2 vacancies

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL CENTRE COMMITTEE
Convener: Rev. Dr S.J. Pym

Retire 2016  Rev. Dr G.T. Coleman  Mrs J. Greig
            Rev. J.M. Elliott  Mr T. Macready
Retire 2017  Rev. P.G. Harris  Mr C.M. Langford
            Rev. Dr S.J. Pym  Dr M. Whitelaw
Retire 2018  Rev. B.J. Ryu  Mr J. Thoms
            Rev. I.N. Stenhouse  Mr W. Thompson

Together with the Principal of the Presbyterian Theological Centre.

SOCIAL SERVICE
Convener: Rev. B. Richardson

Retire 2016  Rev. A. Clausen  Mr A.W. Woodruff  Mrs N. Smidt
Retire 2017  Rev. B. Richardson  Mr J. McIntosh  Miss F. Perry
Retire 2018  Rev. Dr I.C. Barclay  Mr R. Norman  Mr R. Piercy

Together with the Executive Officer (without voting rights), the Convener of the DORCAS Standing Committee of the P.W.A. and the Treasurer.

THE TRUSTEES

Retire 2016  Rev. D.M. Seaman  Mr J.R. Falls
            Rev. J.E.D. Seaton  Mr R.D. Parker
Retire 2017  Rev. M.S. Oates  Mr K. Turner
            Rev. D.G.M. Yu  Mr J.M. Rolland
Retire 2018  Rev. K.R. Boulden  Mr J. Davis
            Rev. B.M. Meller  Mrs L. Russell
SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ASSEMBLY AUDIT COMMITTEE
Convener: Convener of the Trustee’s Audit Committee.
Retire 2016 Dr R.I. Yager
Retire 2017 Rev. S.J. Taylor
Retire 2018 Dr M. Whitelaw
Together with the members of the Trustee’s Audit Committee.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES  (GANSW BB 2015 Min 56)
Moderator (Convener), Clerk (Secretary), Rt Rev. D.A. Cook, Mr C. Langford, Mrs C. Morpewh, Rev. C. Nixon, M.R. Powell, Mr W. Richards, two Trustee nominees, with power to co-opt.

ELDERS AND DEACONS  (GANSW BB 2015 Min 87)
Mr G Davis, Miss R. Earnshaw (corresponding member), Rev. K. Hartberg, B. Ho, S. Mannyx, Rev. Dr J. McClean, Rev. S. Moore, Messrs M. Smith, G. Wong- See, Dr R.I. Yager

ELDER’S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE
Mrs Y. Forsyth, Messrs P.J. Graham, OAM (President), B. Greig, Mrs M. Hill, Mr R. Norman and J. Stevenson.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMISSION
Chairman: Mr C.M. Langford
Messrs R.P. Dunlop, C.M. Langford.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH:
Mr J. Turnbull, Mr B. Stuckings, Rev. S. Fong and Rev. D. Woolcott
Together with a convener and seven members elected by PY Annual Conference.

PRESBYTERY RECORDS:
Convener: Mr C.C. Short
Rev. J. Bartholomew, Mrs Y. Forsyth, Mr C.C. Short and 1 vacancy.

BOARDS AND COUNCILS

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES’ COLLEGE, SYDNEY AND ARMIDALE:
Retire 2016 Mrs C. Balzer, Mr M. Kah, Rev. D.M. Seaman, Messrs G. Werry, O. Wormald.
Retire 2017 Rev. Dr D. Burge, Miss F. Perry, Mr A. Rees, Rev. D. Tsai, Mr L. Hall.
Retire 2018 Mrs T. Welch, Prof. W. Britton, Dr D. Lim, Mr R. Khoury-Harb, Mrs M. Turner.
Together with the Chairman of Trustees or (deputy) and a further Trustee appointed by the Property Trust.

THE SCOTS COLLEGE, SYDNEY:
Retire 2016 Dr G. Heard, Mr R. Simpson, Mr G. Simitian.
Together with the Chairman of Trustees (or deputy) and a further Trustee appointed by the Property Trust, plus three members appointed by the Council.

THE SCOTS SCHOOL, BATHURST:
Retire 2016 Messrs M. Inwood, D. Mills, Mrs J. Stone and 1 vacancy.
Retire 2017 Mrs R. White, Mr A. Lamrock, Mr B. Sinclair, Rev. R. Coleman.
Retire 2018 Dr. S. Telfser, Mr T. Gilchrist, Mrs R. McKay, Rev. T. Merkel.
Together with the Chairman of Trustees (or deputy) and a further Trustee appointed by the Property Trust.
OTHER APPOINTMENTS

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN N.S.W.:
Rev. K. Weerakoon

N.S.W. REPRESENTATIVE ON THE GAA CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE:
Rev. Dr J. McClean

COMMISSIONERS TO THE 2016 GAA:
Ministers: Rev. Kevin Murray
Rev. Dr Ian Smith
Rev. John Irvin
Rev. Dr John McClean
Rev. David Burke
Rev. Jeff Read
Rev. Dr Paul Logan
Rev. William Morrow
Rev. David Yu

Elders: Mr Jeof Falls
Dr Rod Yager
Mr Murray Smith
Mr Colin Langford
Mr John Rolland
Mr Mick Quirk
Mr Alan Byleveld
Mr Peter Graham
Dr Michael Whitelaw

Reserves: Rev. David Seaman
Rev. Paul Harris
Rev. Brett Richardson
Rev. Stuart Andrews
Rev. Joy Bartholomew
Rev. Dr Ewen Brown
Rev. Russell Vandervelden
Rev. Peter Dunstan

Reserves: Mr Ralph Holvast
Mr Matthew Mitchell
Mr Andrew Lawson
Mrs Jill Stevenson
Mrs Yvonne Forsyth
Mrs Joan Thuaux
Mrs Barbara Howsan
Miss Fiona Perry

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

The 2001 Assembly resolved (B.B. 2001 Min. 137):
That the Assembly:
(1) In order to assist an informed vote for the election of members to committees, distribute nomination forms for Assembly committees, boards and councils with the White Book.
(2) In the light of the recommendation of the report of Price Waterhouse Coopers, published by the morning sederunt of the ballot a statement of not more than 200 words of the nominee’s background and experience to be elected as Trustees.
(3) As from the 2002 Assembly request that all nominees standing for Assembly elected positions to supply the Clerk with a statement of no more than 50 words outlining their qualifications, and that these statements be in the hands of the Clerk in sufficient time to be published in Assembly Paper No. 2.

DATES FOR 2015-2016

COMMISSION OF NSW GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 18 November, 2015 in Committee Room No. 5 Church Offices.
5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 20 April, 2016 in Committee Room No. 5 Church Offices

2016 NSW GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
7.00 p.m. on Monday 4 July, 2016 in the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Performing Arts Centre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney.

2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA:
7.00 p.m. on Monday 12 September, 2016 in Sydney at the Chinese Presbyterian Church, corner Crown and Albion Streets, Surry Hills.
COMMUNICATIONS

(i) From the Premier of NSW on the 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales.

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

I am delighted to send my congratulations to the Presbyterian Church of Australia on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia has served with distinction since its establishment, so I am pleased it is celebrating this special occasion with the wider community.

Whether attending a celebratory event or a special service, I wish everyone taking part a memorable celebration.

Congratulations on reaching this wonderful milestone.

Mike Baird MP
Premier

(ii) From the Presbyterian Ladies’ College on the 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales.

To the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church

We share in giving thanks to God for 150 years of worship, service and care as a Church in Australia.

Presbyterian Ladies’ College is excited at the opportunities we have to consider and enact a gospel-based education. Over this period of time we have adapted with you as a cross-cultural ministry, not simply in the sense of being a school that serves a broad number of communities, but in engaging with a society that increasingly struggles to understand the love of God in Jesus.

We pray with you that we will continue to be able to understand and represent Jesus to our community.

And on this night we celebrate with you all of the conversations and acts of service, the decisions made and kindnesses received in that 150 year period.

God bless you tonight and in the years ahead,

(iii) From The Council of Churches in N.S.W. seeking approval of a proposed new constitution.

4TH June, 2015

TO HEADS OF CONSTITUENT CHURCHES, THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NSW.

Dear Sir,

At its meeting on 2 June 2015 the NSW Council of Churches agreed to propose a new Constitution for the Council to be put to a Special General Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 6 October 2015 at 1pm.

The Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend Glenn Davies, held a meeting of Heads of Constituent Churches in May where the proposed Constitution was discussed and agreed to in principle.

However, it was also agreed that the proposed Constitution should also go to the governing bodies of each Constituent Church for their response. No doubt your current representatives on the Council will be able to provide details of the changes to your respective
Governing Bodies. At that meeting the Heads believed that it would be possible for each Governing Body to make a response by the end of August.

I would be grateful to receive your response and good will for this new Constitution at your earliest convenience, but no later than the end of August.

You may send it by email to nswchurches@pacific.net.au or by post to:
NSW Council of Churches, PO Box 445, BURWOOD NSW 2134.

Yours sincerely
The Rev Bruce Thornton
Council Secretary.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED
Constitution
Under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)
Part 1 — Preliminary
1. Title
   (1) The name of the Council is "The Council of Churches in New South Wales Incorporated".
   (2) The Council may also be also described as “The NSW Council of Churches”.

2. Definitions
   (1) In this Constitution:
       Board means the body referred to in part 5.
       Constituent Church means a church which is a Constituent Church under part 3.
       Director-General means the Director-General of the Department of Services, Technology and Administration.
       Executive means the body referred to in part 6.
       Executive Director means the office bearer referred to in clause 13(b).
       President means the office holder referred to in clause 14.
       Secretary means the person holding office under this Constitution as Secretary of the Council.
       The Act means the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.
       The Regulation means the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010.
   (2) In this Constitution:
       (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and
       (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, if the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty, and
       (c) the term "Council" has the same meaning as "association" for the purpose of the Act and Regulations.
   (3) The provisions of the Interpretation Act 1987 apply to and in respect of this Constitution in the same manner as those provisions would so apply if this Constitution were an instrument made under the Act.

Part 2 — Objects
3. Object
   The object of the Council is to advance the cause of evangelical Christian faith in the State of New South Wales by:
   (a) building a strong partnership of belief, purpose and action among Constituent Churches,
   (b) promoting the application of the Christian gospel in personal, social and structural contexts,
   (c) defending the right to proclaim and live out the Christian gospel,
   (d) advocating for social transformation in keeping with the Christian gospel,
   (e) supporting strategies for evangelistic outreach, mission and ministry,
   (f) engaging with all aspects of the political process, key stakeholder and community groups to pursue godly reform on public issues.

Part 3 — Constituent Churches
4. Constituent Churches
   (1) Subject to this clause 4, the Constituent Churches of the Council comprise —
(a) the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney,
(b) the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales,
(c) the Council of Baptist Churches in NSW and ACT,
(d) the Churches of Christ,
(e) the Salvation Army, the Fellowship of Congregational Churches,
(g) the Reformed Churches of Australia (Classis New South Wales),
(h) the Christian Community Churches of Australia in NSW & ACT, and
such other churches as may be admitted under sub-clause 4(2).

(2) Any church desiring to become a Constituent Church may apply in writing to the Council and will be admitted as a Constituent Church upon the unanimous agreement of the members of the Board.

(3) Any Constituent Church desiring to withdraw from the Council may do so by notifying the Council in writing.

(4) A church will cease to be a Constituent Church if, having been given the opportunity to show cause at a meeting of the Board convened to consider this matter, the members of the Board (excluding those members representing the Constituent Church in question) unanimously agree to remove the church as a Constituent Church by reason of —
(a) the doctrine, public pronouncements or any other action of the church not being compatible with its remaining as a Constituent Church, or
(b) the church failing to remedy any defect in its financial obligations to the Council within 30 days of written notification of the defect by the Secretary or Treasurer of the Council.

Part 4 — Membership

5. Membership generally

(1) The Council is comprised of a Board and an Executive.

(2) The members of the Board and the members of the Executive together comprise the membership of the Council.

6. Cessation of membership

If a member of the Council ceases to be a member, the Secretary must make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

7. Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of the Council is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person, and terminates on cessation of the person’s membership.

8. Register of members

(1) The public officer of the Council must establish and maintain a register of members of the Council specifying the name and postal or residential address of each person who is a member of the Council together with the date on which the person became a member.

(2) The register of members must be kept in New South Wales:
(a) at the main premises of the Council, or
(b) if the Council has no premises, at the Council’s official address.

(3) The register of members must be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of the Council at any reasonable hour.

(4) A member of the Council may obtain a copy of any part of the register on payment of a fee of not more than $1 for each page copied.

(5) If a member requests that any information contained on the register about the member (other than the member’s name) not be available for inspection that information must not be made available for inspection.

(6) A member must not use information about a person obtained from the register to contact or send material to the person, other than for:
(a) the purposes of sending the person a newsletter, a notice in respect of a meeting or other event relating to the Council or other material relating to the Council, or
(b) any other purpose necessary to comply with a requirement of the Act or the Regulation.
9. **Fees and subscriptions**

(1) The Board may set a membership fee to be paid by each Constituent Church on behalf of its members on the Council.

(2) Unless approved by the Executive, there shall be no refund in whole or part of a membership fee paid by a Constituent Church on account of the Constituent Church withdrawing from the Council under clause 4(3).

10. **Constituent Church liability**

The liability of a Constituent Church on behalf of its members on the Council to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Council or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Council is limited to the amount, if any, due but unpaid by the Constituent Church under clause 9.

11. **Resolution of disputes**

A dispute between a member and another member (in their capacity as members) of the Council, or a dispute between a member or members and the Council, may be mediated by the President, but if thereafter it remains unresolved, or the dispute involves the President, a general meeting of the Council may be convened by any two members of the Board to resolve the dispute.

12. **Disciplining of members**

Each Constituent Church is responsible for exercising discipline in relation to its members on the Council in such manner as it thinks fit.

**Part 5 — The Board**

13. **Membership of the Board**

The members of the Board shall consist of the Head of each Constituent Church.

14. **President**

(1) The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney shall be the President of the Council and Chair of the Board for so long as the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney is a Constituent Church.

(2) If the Anglican Church of Australia in the Diocese of Sydney is not a Constituent Church, the President and Chair of the Board shall be the Head of a Constituent Church nominated at a general meeting convened to consider this matter for such term as shall be decided by that or a subsequent general meeting.

15. **Other Office-bearers**

The Board may elect such other office-bearers from among its membership as it sees fit for the conduct of its business.

16. **Policy and public pronouncements**

(1) All matters of the Council’s policy shall be decided by the Board.

(2) The Executive is to implement any policy decided by the Board and is to exercise its functions and powers under this Constitution in accordance with such policies.

(3) No public pronouncement shall be made on behalf of the Council that is contrary to the Board’s media policy or unless it is otherwise approved by the Board.

**Part 6 — The Executive**

17. **Powers of the Executive**

Subject to the Act and the Regulation, the Executive:

(a) is to control and manage the affairs of the Council; and

(b) may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the Council; and

(c) has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the Executive to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the Council, except to the extent that those functions or powers are required by this Constitution to be exercised by the Board or by the Council in general meeting.

18. **Composition and membership of Executive**

(1) The Executive is to consist of the office-bearers and one representative member appointed by each Constituent Church for a period of 3 years in such manner as the governing body of each Constituent Church may determine. A representative member is eligible for re-election, subject to a maximum of 3 consecutive terms.
(2) The office-bearers of the Executive, are as follows:
(a) the Executive Director,
(b) the Treasurer, and
(c) the Secretary, who shall be the public officer.

(3) The Board is to appoint an Executive Director to be the Chair of the Executive for a renewable term of three years, and has power to remove and replace the Executive Director as and when it may see fit to do so.

(4) The Treasurer and the Secretary are to be elected at the annual general meeting of the Council and may be removed by the Council in a general meeting and, subject to this Constitution, otherwise hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, at which time they are eligible for re-election. The Treasurer and Secretary may also be appointed representatives of their respective Constituent Churches.

(5) An Executive member may hold up to 2 offices.

(6) An office-bearer of the Executive ceases to hold office upon ceasing to be a member of the Executive.

19. Election of Secretary and Treasurer
(1) Nominations of candidates for election as the Secretary or Treasurer of the Council:
(a) must be made in writing, signed by a member of the Council and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination); and
(b) must be delivered to the Secretary of the Council at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting or other general meeting at which the election is to take place.

(2) If no nomination is received to fill the position of Secretary or Treasurer pursuant to clause 19(1), further nominations may be received at the general meeting.

(3) If no further nomination is received, any remaining vacancy in the position of Secretary or Treasurer is taken to be a casual vacancy.

(4) If one nomination is received for the position of Secretary or Treasurer, the person nominated is taken to be elected.

(5) If more than one nomination is received for the position of Secretary or Treasurer, a ballot is to be held.

(6) The ballot for the election of the Secretary and the Treasurer is to be conducted at the annual general meeting of the Council in such usual and proper manner as the Executive may direct.

20. Secretary
(1) The Secretary of the Council must, as soon as practicable after being appointed as Secretary, lodge notice with the Council of his or her address.

(2) It is the duty of the Secretary to:
(a) maintain a register of the Constituent Churches and the names and addresses of members of the Council,
(b) maintain a register of the office-bearers of the Council, and
(c) keep minutes of all proceedings at Board, Executive and general meetings including the names of members present at such meetings.

(3) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting must be signed by the person who chaired the meeting or by the person who chairs the next succeeding meeting of the relevant body.

21. Treasurer
It is the duty of the Treasurer of the Council to ensure:
(a) that all money due to the Council is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the Council are made, and
(b) that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the Council, including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Council.
22. Meetings of Board and Executive

(1) The Board must meet at least one time in each period of 12 months at such place and time as it may determine. Additional meetings of the Board may be convened by the President or by any 3 members of the Board with voting rights. The Executive Director shall normally be invited to attend meetings of the Board.

(2) The Executive must meet at least 4 times in each period of 12 months at such place and time as it may determine. Additional meetings of the Executive may be convened by the Chair or by any 3 members of the Executive.

(3) Oral or written notice of a meeting must be given by the Secretary to each member of the relevant body at least 48 hours (or such other period as may be unanimously agreed on by the members of the relevant body) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.

(4) Notice of a meeting given under sub clause (3) must specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business is to be transacted at the meeting, except business which the members of the relevant body present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.

(5) One half of the members of the relevant body entitled to be present at a meeting constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of that body.

(6) No business is to be transacted unless a quorum is present and if, within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting is to stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.

(7) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting is to be dissolved.

(8) At a meeting of the Board, the President or, in the President's absence, such other member as may be chosen by the members present at the meeting, is to chair the meeting. At a meeting of the Executive, the Executive Director or, in the Executive Director's absence, such other member as may be chosen by the members present at the meeting, is to chair the meeting.

(9) The Board and Executive shall otherwise each have power to make, alter and repeal standing orders for the proper conduct of their meetings and management of their respective affairs.

23. Meetings — use of technology

(1) A meeting of the Board, Executive or a sub-committee of either may be held by the respective members of such body communicating with each other by any technological means by which they are able simultaneously to hear each other and to participate in discussion.

(2) The members need not all be physically present in the same place for a meeting to be held.

(3) A member who participates in a meeting held in accordance with this clause is taken to be present and entitled to vote at the meeting.

24. Resolutions without a meeting

(1) If three-quarters of the members who are eligible to vote on a resolution of the Board, Executive or a sub-committee of either have signed a document containing a statement that they are in favour of a resolution of the respective body in terms set out in the document, then a resolution in those terms is taken to have been passed at a meeting of that body held on the day on which the document was last signed by a member.

(2) For the purposes of clause 24(1):

(a) two or more identical documents, each of which is signed by one or more members, together constitute one document signed by those members on the days on which they signed the separate documents, and

(b) an electronic message, whether a facsimile, email or otherwise, which is received by the Secretary on behalf of the relevant body and expressed
to have been sent by a member is to be taken to be a document signed by that member at the time of its receipt.

(3) The minutes of meetings of the respective bodies must record that a resolution was passed in accordance with this clause.

(4) This clause does not apply to special resolutions.

25. **Delegation to sub-committees**

(1) The Board and the Executive may, by instrument in writing, delegate to one or more sub-committees (consisting of such member or members of the relevant body as it thinks fit) the exercise of such of the functions of the relevant body as are specified in the instrument, other than:

(a) this power of delegation, and

(b) a function which is a duty imposed on the relevant body by the Act or by any other law.

(2) A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this clause may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.

(3) A delegation under this clause may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function, or as to time or circumstances, as may be specified in the instrument of delegation.

(4) Despite any delegation under this clause, the relevant delegating body may continue to exercise any function delegated.

(5) Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this clause has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the relevant delegating body.

(6) The relevant delegating body may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this clause.

(7) A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

26. **Voting and decisions**

(1) Questions arising at a meeting of the Board, the Executive or of any sub-committee are to be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the present at the relevant meeting.

(2) Each member present at a meeting of the Board, the Executive or of any sub-committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote. In the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may not exercise a second or casting vote.

(3) Subject to the requirement for a quorum being met, the Board and the Executive may act despite any vacancy in their membership.

(4) Any act or thing done or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the Board, the Executive or by a sub-committee, is valid and effectual despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the relevant body.

**Part 7 — General meetings**

27. **Annual general meeting**

(1) The Council must hold its annual general meeting:

(a) within 6 months after the close of the Council's financial year, or

(b) within such later time as may be allowed by the Director-General or prescribed by the Regulation.

(2) The annual general meeting of the Council is, subject to the Act and to clause 27(1), to be convened on such date and at such place and time as the Executive, with the concurrence of the President, thinks fit.

(3) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is to include the following:

(a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any other general meeting held since that meeting,

(b) to receive from the Board and/or the Executive reports on the activities of the Council during the last preceding financial year,

(c) to elect the Secretary and Treasurer of the Council,
(d) to receive and consider any financial statement or report required to be submitted to members under the Act.

(4) An annual general meeting must be specified as such in the notice convening it.

28. **Convening other general meetings**

The Executive or the President may, whenever it or he thinks fit, convene a general meeting of the Council.

29. **Notice of general meetings**

(1) Except if the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the Council, the Secretary must, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, give a notice to each member specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.

(2) If the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the Council, in accordance with clause 34, the Secretary must, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be given to each member specifying, in addition to the matter required under sub-clause (1), the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

(3) No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting is to be transacted at the meeting unless in the case of an annual general meeting, it is business which may be transacted under clause 27(3).

(4) A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the Secretary who must include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of the notice from the member.

30. **Quorum for general meetings**

(1) No item of business is to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this Constitution to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.

(2) Five members present (being members entitled under this Constitution to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.

(3) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting is to stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.

(4) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being at least 3) are to constitute a quorum.

31. **Chairing general meetings**

(1) The President is to chair each general meeting of the Council.

(2) If the President is absent or unwilling to act, the members present must elect one of their number to chair the meeting.

32. **Adjournment**

(1) The person chairing a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

(2) If a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the Secretary must give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the Council stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

(3) Except as provided in sub-clauses (1) and (2), notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.
33. Making of decisions
   (1) A question arising at a general meeting of the Council is to be determined by either:
       (a) a show of hands, or
       (b) a written ballot, if on the motion of the person chairing the meeting, the meeting resolves that the question should be determined by a written ballot or upon the request of 5 or more members present at the meeting.
   (2) If the question is to be determined by a show of hands, a declaration by the person chairing the meeting that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Council, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
   (3) If the question is to be determined by a written ballot, the ballot is to be conducted in accordance with the directions of the person chairing the meeting.

34. Special resolutions
   A special resolution may only be passed by the Council —
   (1) by a majority of at least three-quarters of the votes cast by members of the Council who, under this constitution, are entitled to vote on the proposed resolution, and
   (2) in accordance with section 39 of the Act.

35. Voting
   (1) On any question arising at a general meeting of the Council a member has one vote only.
   (2) In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the person chairing the meeting is not entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
   (3) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Council if the member is under 18 years of age.

36. Proxy votes not permitted
   Proxy voting is not permitted at or in respect of a general meeting.

Part 8 — Not-for-Profit

37. Use of assets and income
   The assets and income of the Council shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the Council except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Council.

38. Dissolution
   In the event of the Council being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

Part 9 — Miscellaneous

39. Insurance
   The Council may effect and maintain insurance.

40. Funds — management
   (1) Subject to any resolution passed by the Council in general meeting, the funds of the Council are to be used in pursuance of the objects of the Council in such manner as the Executive determines.
   (2) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any 2 members of the Executive or employees of the Council, being members or employees authorised to do so by the Executive.

41. Change of name, objects and Constitution
   An application to the Director-General for registration of a change in the Council's name, objects or Constitution in accordance with section 10 of the Act is to be made by the public officer or an Executive member.

42. Custody of books etc
   Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, the public officer must keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all records, books and other documents relating
to the Council.

**Inspection of books etc**

(1) The following documents must be open to inspection, free of charge, by a member of the Council at any reasonable hour:

(a) records, books and other financial documents of the Council,
(b) this Constitution,
(c) minutes of all Executive meetings and general meetings of the Council.

(2) A member of the Council may obtain a copy of any of the documents referred to in sub-clause (1) on payment of a fee of not more than $1 for each page copied.

**43. Service of notices**

(1) For the purpose of this Constitution, a notice may be served on or given to a person:

(a) by delivering it to the person personally, or
(b) by sending it by pre-paid post to the address of the person, or
(c) by sending it by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission to an address specified by the person for giving or serving the notice.

(2) For the purpose of this Constitution, a notice is taken, unless the contrary is proved, to have been given or served:

(a) in the case of a notice given or served personally, on the date on which it is received by the addressee, and
(b) in the case of a notice sent by pre-paid post, on the date when it would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post, and
(c) in the case of a notice sent by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission, on the date it was sent or, if the machine from which the transmission was sent produces a report indicating that the notice was sent on a later date, on that date.

**44. Financial year**

The financial year of the Council is each period of 12 months after the expiration of the previous financial year of the Council, commencing on 1 January and ending on the following 31 December.

**45. 2CH, Council and CCB Legal and Operational Relationship**

(1) As the original licence holder of radio station 2CH in Sydney, the Council;

(a) Affirms the strategic ministry importance of the Agreement dated 20/2/1995 between NSW Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Limited [ABN 75 003 372 030] (CCB) and the owners of 2CH, that grants agreed air-time for broadcasting Christian content on 2CH, and

(b) Recognises CCB as the vehicle for executing that ministry in trust on behalf of the Council, as described and regulated in the Deed dated 2/8/2011 between the various denominational church shareholders of CCB and the Council.

5th June, 2015.

**TO HEADS OF CONSTITUENT CHURCHES NSW COUNCIL OF CHURCHES RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL**

Dear Sir,

Further to my recent letter concerning a proposal to restructure the NSW Council of Churches I attach —

* A brief summary of the reasons why the restructure is being undertaken, and
* a diagram setting out how the Council will operate.

I trust that these are helpful in explaining the proposal to your constituency. With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely

**Rev. Bruce Thornton**

Council Secretary
From the Presbytery of The Central Tablelands seeking ratification of an ordination and induction due to irregularities in process.

Clerk, Presbytery of the Central tablelands.

Wednesday, 24 June 2015

Please be advised that at its meeting of June 5th 2015, the Presbytery Ordained and inducted Mr Stephen Moore. There were irregularities in the process, as outlined in the following (unconfirmed) extract minute. Would it be possible to have the Assembly deal with this matter at its earliest convenience?

15.072 ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF MR STEPHEN MOORE (15.049).

It was moved and seconded that the Presbytery proceed to ordain Stephen Moore into the Ministry and induct him into the pastoral charge of Cowra subject to any objection being raised to his life or

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**NSW COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - BRIEF REASONS FOR RESTRUCTURE**

- The need to revise the Council structures has long been recognised by the Council;
- The current Constitution needs to be updated to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act which was last revised in 2009;
- The number of member representatives in the current Council (thirty eight) is too large and unwieldy;
- A new Council consisting of a Board supported by an Executive Committee with fewer representatives will encourage greater participation and better decision making;
- A new Council which brings together the Heads of Churches in a policy making forum will make the Council’s work more effective in the public arena;
- A smaller Council of (about) sixteen members plus a Secretary, treasurer and Public Officer will be much more efficient;
- The new Council is smaller and more democratic.

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**NSW Council of Churches**

_Restructure Proposal_

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**DENOMINATIONAL CONSTITUENT CHURCHES MEMBERSHIP (8)**

**BOARD OF REFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[with Executive Director as a non-voting member]</th>
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| Heads of Constituent Churches & Theological Colleges [8 + 3 = 11] |

| NSW Council of Churches Broadcasters Pty Ltd |

| Executive Director (Chair of Exec Comm) |

| All Constituent Member Representatives [8] |

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(iv) From the Presbytery of The Central Tablelands seeking ratification of an ordination and induction due to irregularities in process.

Clerk, Presbytery of the Central tablelands.

Wednesday, 24 June 2015

Please be advised that at its meeting of June 5th 2015, the Presbytery Ordained and inducted Mr Stephen Moore. There were irregularities in the process, as outlined in the following (unconfirmed) extract minute. Would it be possible to have the Assembly deal with this matter at its earliest convenience?

15.072 ORDINATION AND INDUCTION OF MR STEPHEN MOORE (15.049).

It was moved and seconded that the Presbytery proceed to ordain Stephen Moore into the Ministry and induct him into the pastoral charge of Cowra subject to any objection being raised to his life or
doctrine or subject to no objection being raised to this decision to proceed, noting the following matters:

- a. There was a failure to read the edict of ordination and induction as outlined in Code 6.25;
- b. Over the last four (4) weeks the weekly service sheet has announced the ordination and induction; what was not announced is the opportunity of people to object to the life or doctrine of Mr Stephen Moore.
- c. Over the last week the session clerk has contacted by telephone all communicant members on the roll (except some in nursing homes and a couple overseas) and a majority of the adherents, and read the edict to them, advising them that they may contact the clerk of presbytery by telephone before the induction or speak to him in the hour before the induction service should they have any objections to the life or doctrine of Stephen Moore.
- d. A similar edict was read without objection being made to the life or doctrine of Stephen Moore at his licensing by the Presbytery of Sydney.
- e. The session of the pastoral charge has no objection to the ordination and induction proceeding;
- f. Mr Stephen Moore has no objection to the ordination and induction proceeding;
- g. The edict will be read immediately before the service, allowing a period of time for possible objections to be lodged in person to the clerk of presbytery;
- h. A notice will be read to the assembled congregation informing the congregation that while the letter of the Code had not been followed, the presbytery believes it has followed the spirit of the Code;

"The service the will commence shortly is a bit like a wedding, Stephen will make vows and the congregation will make some vows. And just like at a wedding there's a chance to speak now or forever hold your peace, so tonight if you have any objections to Stephen's life or doctrine, the Presbytery Clerk, Ian from Mudgee, will be at the back, and you need to speak to him within the next 5 minutes. Also if you object to this service continuing because of the failure for the edict to be read last Sunday morning, speak to Ian now."

The presbytery therefore believes that in this case, because of the actions taken by the session and the presbytery, the failure to follow the letter of The Code 6.25, does not invalidate this service of ordination and induction.

That the presbytery write to the Clerk of Assembly, including an extract minute of the proceedings, asking the Assembly to note the actions of the presbytery, and to ratify as valid the presbytery's actions in ordaining Stephen Moore on 5th June 2015, and inducting him into the pastoral charge of Cowra.

An amendment was moved and seconded to delete the clause "what was not announced is the opportunity of people to object to the life or doctrine of Mr Stephen Moore." The amendment was not carried.

Motion was put and carried unanimously.

It was resolved to request the Clerk to inform:

- (a) The Clerk of Assembly, with a request that Mr Moore be granted a license to marry,
- (b) The Session of Cowra Pastoral Charge, and
- (c) The Editors of the The Pulse magazine and The Key.

It was resolved that the Presbytery meeting will be closed by the benediction at the Ordination and Induction service.

Rev. Ian Halbish
From the Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia advising the result of the ballot for the Moderator-General Elect for the next triennium

Subject: Moderator Elect, General Assembly of Australia, 2016
Please be advised that, pursuant to the regulations of the Moderator's Nominating Committee of the General Assembly of Australia, the Rev. John Wilson, Clerk of Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, has been appointed as Moderator-Elect for the Assembly in 2016 and the subsequent triennium.
The results of the ballot were:
  Rev. John P. Wilson, 18 votes
  Rev. David A. Burke, 14 votes
The next meeting of the General Assembly of Australia is scheduled to be held in Sydney on 12 September 2016 at which time the election of the Rev. John Wilson will be confirmed.
Bruce Meller
Assembly Clerk, and Convener of the Moderator's Nominating Committee

From the Clerk of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Queensland concerning a proposed amendment to the Code of Discipline (GAA).

Dear John,
At a meeting of the Queensland State Assembly last week the Assembly resolved to declare its support for its Commission of Assembly in asking the GAA Code Committee to overture the GAA to bring about a change in the Code of Discipline Rule 3.12 to ensure that such suspension referred to in the rule is mandatory by deleting the words 'may at any time' and inserting the words 'shall immediately' so that the rule would read as follows:
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 shall immediately suspend the accused person from office even though the Court has not at the time resolved to proceed to judicial process as referred to in Rule 5.01. Once the Assembly declared its support for the Commission’s request to the GAA Code Committee it resolved to instruct me to advise all State Assemblies in relation to the content of this clause.
In fact this is the procedure normally followed in Queensland but the Assembly wishes to make our zero tolerance abundantly clear.
John I realise the frustration of receiving last minute things for the Assembly. If you are unable about this for this year I would understand; likewise I would appreciate it if you could bring this matter to your Assembly for 2015.
I trust and pray that you will have a great Assembly.

With all good wishes.
Yours sincerely in Christ

(Rev) Ron Clark
Clerk of Assembly
From Rev. B.M. Meller, Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia, re election of Commissioners to the 2016 GA of A.

From: Bruce Meller, Clerk, General Assembly of Australia
Date: 29 June, 2015
Re: Election of Commissioners to the 2016 meeting of the General Assembly of Australia

The forty ninth meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia will meet in Sydney at 7.00 p.m. on Monday, 12 September, 2016.

Under the Articles of Agreement, membership of the Assembly consists of:

a) an equal number of ministers and elders elected pursuant to Articles 1.4 and 1.5.

b) the Officers of the General Assembly appointed pursuant to Article 1.7 (although any Officer who is not a minister or elder shall have no power to vote)

c) the past Moderators of the General Assembly.

Article 1.4 provides that “each State Assembly” shall elect one minister and one elder for every sixteen sanctioned charges or portion thereof within its bounds. A State Assembly may elect alternates to take the place of a member who may be unable to attend. The Clerk of the State Assembly shall notify the Clerk in writing prior to the opening of the General Assembly of the commissioners from that State Assembly.”

(Please note: Presbyteries may not appoint as representatives, elders beyond their bounds (so, GAA BB 1926 Min. 115(3).)

If possible, would you please advise me of the names and addresses of the commissioners appointed by your Assembly by 31 January, 2016.

Bruce Meller
Assembly Clerk
OVERTURES

(ii) From the Business Committee to amend The Code Part II:8.02 concerning Members of the Assembly.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales,
Whereas:
A. It is desirable that debate at the General Assembly is informed by the wisdom, experience and insight of ministers and elders drawn from all areas of ministry found within the presbyteries that make up the Assembly;
B. The General Assembly is responsible for making decisions which impact directly on Home Mission Stations;
C. Home Mission Stations are required to pay CPU and MDP assessments as determined by the General Assembly;
D. The current provisions which permit a Home Mission Station to commission an elder provided the Home Mission Station elects to pay Assembly (Fund) assessments provides the strongest disincentive to Assembly participation to those Home Mission Stations who are closest to being able to transition to the status of a Pastoral Charge;
E. The desirable aim of the current provisions of reducing the burden placed on Home Mission Stations by the Assembly could equally be achieved through the adoption of a formula for the Assembly Fund assessment that distinguishes between Pastoral Charges and Home Mission Stations.

Now therefore, the Business Committee overtures the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to amend the Code by deleting the present 8.02 f) and replacing the present 8.02 b) with:

8.02 b) One elder from every pastoral charge and Home Mission Station within the bounds of the aforesaid presbyteries whose commission has been duly sustained provided that an additional elder may be commissioned by a pastoral charge for every ordained minister inducted and serving in that pastoral charge as an associate or colleague.

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

The Business Committee appointed Dr Rodney Yager and Rev. John Irvin to state the overture.

(iii) From the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands relating to the use of capital funds.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales,
Whereas:
A. Decisions of the 1978 and 1979 Assemblies affirmed the practice of restricting the use of congregational funds derived from bequests above $1,000 or the sale of property to new capital works or the purchase of property; and
B. This decision was made in the immediate aftermath of Church Union in 1977; and
C. This is deemed to have been an exceptional time in the Church's life; and
D. The premise of the decision was that the Church's capital needed to be maintained; and
E. The Church now owns several significant properties including Kirkplace, Christ College, and the Chalmer's Street offices; and
F. Many country parishes with a comparatively small capital base have been struggling financially through the exodus from small towns to cities and regional centres and the drought; and
G. The beneficial owners of congregational property held by the Trustees are the congregations not the denomination; and
H. The Charitable Purpose of the Trust is The Advancement of Religion, in particular the Presbyterian form of the Christian religion; and
I. It is possible now for a congregation with a viable Presbyterian Christian witness to be unable to access funds and property over which they claim beneficial ownership for maintenance of both ministry and property necessary for that ministry; and

J. While it may be argued the funds could be used better by the denomination in another place, Acts 5:4 establishes a principle of ownership and grace in giving rather than enforced removal of property to another place; and

K. The promise of God is that He will provide all our needs; and

L. When there are ministry needs, and there is money provided by God, there are times when that money should be preserved for expected capital needs. However there are times when it is wrong to accumulate funds for possible capital needs when there are real and existing ministry needs.

Now therefore the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands overtures the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to:

(1) Affirm beneficial ownership of all congregational property both real and personal by the congregation; and

(2) Affirm that the Presbytery of the bounds is the body most fit to determine if a viable Presbyterian Christian witness is being maintained by a congregation; and

(3) Declare that while a viable Presbyterian Christian witness exists the congregation may choose to expend its property, including funds deemed ‘capital’ under the 1978 and 1979 Assembly decisions, on the maintenance of the witness in that sphere of ministry.

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

The Rev. W. Morrow and R. Coleman were appointed to state the overture.

(iv) From the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands to amend The Code by the deletion of 4.80 relating to Communion Vessels

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales,

Whereas:

A. The current code requires all sacramental vessels to be kept unless permission from both presbytery and the historical records and library committee.

B. The Westminster Confession in XXIX, points out that there is no power or anything special in the elements and in fact “is repugnant, not to Scripture alone, but even to common sense”, we should infer that the same applies to any vessel holding those elements.

C. It would be inconsistent therefore to treat the disposal of the sacramental vessels to the disposal of the elements other than monetary value.

D. The rules of 2.13 b & e apply to all items, 4.80 only singles out sacramental vessels.

E. Hence code 4.80 should be seen in conflict with both the subordinate and the supreme standard in giving a special place to the sacramental vessels.

F. The removal of 4.80 would not result in sessions hastily disposing of valuable items.

Now therefore, the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands overtures the General Assembly of NSW to take these premises into consideration and to remove Code 4:80 and renumber the following clauses.

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

The Rev. T. Abbey and Mr B. Greig were appointed to state the overture.

(v) From seven members of the Assembly concerning the office of elder and the office of deacon.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales,

Whereas:

A. ‘The Lord Jesus, as King and Head of the Church has therein appointed a government, in the hand of Church officers’ (WCF 30.1);
B. Ministers and elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia have taken solemn vows affirming that the Presbyterian form of church government is ‘founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereunto’ and are thereby committed to ensuring that the form of government practised in this church is as faithful to Scripture as possible;

C. The Scriptures provide clear teaching with regard to the nature and functions of the offices of elder and deacon in the government of the church;

D. With regard to the office of elder, the Scriptures are clear that: a. ‘overseer’ and ‘elder’ are alternative titles for one and the same office (Acts 20.17, 28; Tit 1.5, 7; 1 Tim 3.1-7 and 5.17); b. a plurality of elders is to lead each particular congregation (Acts 14.23; 20.17, 28; Phil 1.1; Tit 1.5; Jas 5.14; cf. 1 Thess 5.12; Heb 13.17); c. elders are called to jointly shepherd (= pastor) God’s church (Acts 20.28; 1 Pet 5.1-4), involving: governing the congregation (1 Tim 3.4-5; 5.17; 1 Pet 5.2); teaching from the Scriptures (1 Tim 3.2; Tit 1.9); and providing an example of Christ-like living (1 Tim 3.1-7; Tit 1.5-9; 1 Pet 5.3);

E. With regard to the office of deacon, the Scriptures are clear that: a. deacons are to serve the congregation in its life and mission, with particular reference to material needs (Acts 6.1-6; 1 Tim 3.8-13); b. deacons are not required to teach (1 Tim 3.8-13);

F. The description of the ‘Duties of Elders’ in PCNSW Code 4.36-4.39 does not fully express the biblical shape of the office of elder;

G. The description of the role of deacons in PCNSW Code 2.01-2.05 does not fully express the biblical shape of the office of deacon;

H. These matters of church government, while not primary in our confession, remain important because: a. they are the subject of the Lord’s command in Scripture; b. they are an integral part of the Presbyterian form of church government, which is founded on and agreeable to the Scriptures, and; c. they provide an important part of the setting in which our churches live as gospel communities and exercise gospel ministry;

I. The clarification of the expression of the roles of elders and deacons in our Code book, while it cannot guarantee that the offices will be filled by suitably qualified and gifted people, or that the offices will be exercised faithfully and fruitfully, nevertheless may help to strengthen the gospel ministry of our churches.

Now, therefore, we the undersigned members of the Assembly overture the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to:

(1) Establish a Special Committee to review the roles assigned to elders and deacons in the PCNSW Code in the light of the Scriptures;

(2) Request this Committee to:
   a. provide to the next Assembly a paper presenting the teaching of the Scriptures on the nature and functions of the offices of elder and deacon and examining The Code (PCNSW) in the light of this teaching, and;
   b. bring recommendations to the PCNSW Assembly 2016 designed to clarify the nature and functions of elders and deacons, which recommendations may include possible amendments to The Code which, if adopted, could be sent down to presbyteries for consideration and report to the 2017 General Assembly;

(3) Appoint the following people to the Special Committee: Ministers – Kristian Hartberg, Benjamin Ho, Steven Mannyx; John McClean, Stephen Moore; Elders – Geoff Davis, Murray Smith (convener), Graeme Wong-See, Rod Yager; Deaconess – Rebekah Earnshaw (corresponding member).

(4) Allocate a budget of up to $2500 to cover expenses of committee members travelling to Sydney for up to four meetings.

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

Signed: Chris Ashton; Peter Barnes; David Burke; Geoff Davis; Ben Grieg; Kristian Hartberg; Benjamin Ho; Steven Mannyx; John McClean; Stephen Moore; Murray Smith; Graeme Wong-See.

Date: 16 June, 2015

Mr M. Smith and the Rev. D.A. Burke were appointed to state the overture.
(vi) From the Presbytery of Sydney North to amend The Code 5.62 concerning the authority to perform marriages.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales:
Whereas:
A. There is currently significant social pressure within Australia, under the name "marriage equality", to legalise same-sex 'marriage';
B. There has recently been similar social pressure within England, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States of America to legalise same-sex 'marriage';
C. England, Canada, New Zealand, and 37 of 52 states within the United States of America have, in response to this pressure, legalised same-sex 'marriage';
D. The law of Australia is influenced by the contemporary law of nations, like those enumerated above, that share our British legal heritage;
E. Bills have recently been advanced within the Australian Federal Parliament to legalise same-sex 'marriage';
F. Some States and Territories have attempted to bypass the Australian Constitution’s reservation of marriage to the Federal sphere and legalise same-sex 'marriage' within their own jurisdiction;
G. Senator Leyonhjelm, for example, has proposed the "Freedom to Marry Bill 2014" to remove the specification that marriage be between a man and woman;
H. The Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW nominates persons to be authorised, as ministers of religion, to celebrate marriages for the purpose of the Marriage Act 1961;
I. Those who solemnise marriages as ministers of religion of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW do so according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW; and
J. The marriage rites of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW, by referring to the terms "husband" and "wife", countenance marriage as only being between a man and a woman;

Now therefore the Presbytery of Sydney North overtures the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and amend The Code Part II 5.62 by inserting after (d) as a non-indented paragraph the words:

"noting that such persons are authorised by the Church to solemnise marriages only between a man and a woman."

so that 5.62 reads:

5.62. Celebrants of marriages. The following persons shall, subject to the Marriage Act 1961, be nominated by the Clerk of Assembly to the Registrar of Ministers of Religion in New South Wales as ministers of religion authorised to celebrate marriages for the purpose of the Marriage Act 1961:
(a) ordained ministers who are members of a presbytery,
(b) licentiates and ministers on the register of licentiates and ministers eligible for a call who have been nominated by the presbytery having jurisdiction, and
(c) home missionaries appointed by the committee on Ministry and Mission who have been nominated by the presbytery having jurisdiction.

3 Same Sex Marriage Bill 2013 South Australia; Same-Sex Marriage Bill 2013 NSW; Same-Sex Marriage Bill 2012 Tasmania; Marriage Equality (Same Sex) Act 2013 ACT; Marriage Amendment Bill 2012 NT.
4 Code 5.62.
5 This overture does not include Biblical references and theological argumentation because such doctrinal debates belong to the GAA. This overture restricts itself to the competence of the GANSW because (1) our marriage licences are NSW licences, and (2) we perform marriage ceremonies according to the rites of the PCA in NSW.
(d) elders who are serving as a special appointment, supply, or assistant, in their sphere of ministry, who are nominated by the presbytery having jurisdiction and approved by Ministry and Mission.
noting that such persons are authorised by the Church to solemnise marriages only between a man and a woman.
Or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The Rev. John Buchanan and the Rev. Dr Steven Pym were appointed to state the overture.
To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the state of NSW:

This petition shows that:

A. Craig Tucker was ordained as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in February 1990 and has served as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in the charges of Lalor Park, Blacktown West and Drummoyne for approximately 25 years.

B. His demission from the Drummoyne charge took effect on the 16th March 2015 at which time he became a minister without charge eligible for a call under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Sydney.

C. He commenced serving as Director of Coaching for the Geneva Church Planting Network commencing in Feb 2015 on a two year contract, having received permission from the Presbytery of Sydney to work outside the denomination in this role (Code 5.40).

D. The Geneva Church Planting Network works closely with a number of denominations including the Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW and in other states to see the establishment and flourishing of effective church plants.

E. A significant part of Mr Tucker’s role with the Geneva Church Planting Network will involve assessing and coaching Presbyterian planters, and training experienced Presbyterian ministers as the coaches of church planters.

F. Over the last 15 years, Mr Tucker has actively served the Presbytery of Sydney in various roles including three terms as Moderator, numerous interim moderatorships, as Convener of the Candidates Committee for 9 years, and on various ad hoc committees.

G. Mr Tucker remains a Presbyterian by conviction; he and his wife are currently attending a Presbyterian church within the bounds of the Presbytery of Sydney; he is exercising a ministry of supply preaching in various Presbyterian churches; and he hopes to return to Presbyterian pastoral ministry in the future.

H. Mr Tucker continues to reside within the bounds of the Presbytery of Sydney.

I. Mr Tucker continues to affirm the theological position of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as it is articulated in the ordination vows and the Formula.

J. Mr Tucker, if granted a seat on the Presbytery, intends to continue to give diligent attention to the business of the church courts.

K. The Presbytery of Sydney at its February 2015 meeting resolved to support Mr Tucker in petitioning the Assembly for a seat on the Presbytery of Sydney.

Now therefore the petitioner asks the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and grant the Rev. Craig Tucker a seat on the Presbytery of Sydney for the duration of his appointment as Director of Coaching for the Geneva Church Planting Network in accordance with The Code 5.04(g), or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

Date: 16 June 2015

Signature: Craig Tucker
REPORTS

ORDINARY COMMITTEES

ASSEMBLY AUDIT COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

PROPOSED PARTIAL FUNDING OF PSS CHAPLAINCY:
The AAC considered a request from PSS to provide funding from a small surplus in the MDP, as provided for in Code D1.02 (e), to support the cost of the key Chaplaincy ministry to hospitals and gaols which would otherwise be at risk of losing those positions. The AAC recommends that the Assembly approves an allocation to PSS (from the existing small MDP surplus) of $30,000 in 2015 and a further $30,000 in 2016 as a contribution towards the cost of the Chaplaincy ministry to assist with its continuation while measures to transition to fuller funding are implemented by PSS. Any application by PSS for funding of Chaplaincy during the next triennial MDP cycle will be evaluated by the AAC (and forwarded to the Assembly) as if it were an initial proposal for funding.

R.D. PARKER, Convener.

GOSPEL, SOCIETY AND CULTURE ADDENDUM

Introduction
The 2014 Assembly asked the committee to publish a resource papers on climate change. While this was a request which we sought, further reflection led the committee to two conclusions — first, that a discussion of climate change had to be set in a wider discussion of creation care; second that we could not produce a resource paper on either topic without a clearer sense of the Assembly’s views.

It is worth reflecting on why the Gospel, Society & Culture Committee asks Assembly to consider ethical issues and make resolutions. Our goal is to assist the church in helping members to understand and respond to issues. We hope that the debate itself helps to clarify issues for members of the Assembly and that it brings important questions to their attention. The resolutions made by the Assembly allow the committee to prepare material which reflects the Assembly’s positions. Secondarily, the resolutions allow the committee, and others in the church, to speak to the wider community on behalf of the Assembly. These are our goals in dealing with Creation Care.

As we bring Creation Care before the Assembly, we are aware that it is a potentially divisive issue, one that is often approached in terms of partisan politics. Nevertheless we are hoping to avoid unnecessary division, and are genuinely seeking views which are held by the vast majority in the Assembly. We are also aiming to generate a genuine and constructive moral discussion. Proper responses to complex issues are rarely summarised in a ‘sound bite’. They require the discernment which comes from careful discussion, and we present this report and its associated deliverance to the Assembly in the hope of such a discussion.

Why address creation care?
Ecological issues, environmentalism, sustainability and climate change have been important issues in our society for at least four decades. The nature and the focus of the discussions have changed, and the intensity has waxed and waned, but the theme of environmental concern has remained constant. In all that time, however, the General Assembly has had very little to say about environmental questions, and has never made a comprehensive statement on the environment. The Committee believes that now is an appropriate time for the Assembly to make a statement.

Environmental issues raise important ethical questions on which the church should give some guidance to members. Christians should have some understanding of our responsibility for the natural

6 In 1978 the Assembly raised concerns about nuclear power generation and requested the Federal government “to give high priority to the funding of research into the use of solar energy” (Min 156, 1978). In 1992 the Assembly dealt with “energy conservation”, recognising that it was important and urging members of the Church “to consider the environmental implications of different means of transport, and to practice Christian stewardship” in the area and calling on governments to “encourage research into the development of renewable energy resources” and to “discourage the use of non-renewable resources” (Min 30. 1992). In 2000 the Assembly asked members of the church to make investment decisions which, among other things, “reflect Biblical priorities for environmental stewardship” (Min. ? 6 2000).
environment. How we best fulfil that responsibility is a question which is largely beyond the competence of the Assembly, and will have to be answered by individual Christians as they inform themselves about the issues. The Assembly can, however, present the biblical and theological basis for creation care and can also identify some of the relevant issues.

Further, there are pressing apologetic questions related to the environment. Believers and non-believers alike ask what the church believes, and critique how the church acts, regarding the environment. In a famous article, written in 1974, Lynn White claims that Christianity has taught “that it is God’s will that man exploit nature for his proper ends” and sheets home much of the responsibility for environmental destruction to Christianity.7 This accusation has often been repeated and it requires a response. A part of our own apologetic is being able to say that the Presbyterian Church has made a clear statement about the importance of creation care.

A theology of creation care

All Christian ethics must have a firm biblical and theological foundation. What follows is a short sketch of a theology of creation care.

God has made a good world, full of fertility and productivity and beauty. It is made as a realm in which humanity and the non-human creation can flourish. Psalm 104 portrays creation made for humanity (vv14-15), but include parts which seem unrelated to humanity (vv17-18, 21-22). All is God’s good creation and displays his goodness, power and glory. While it is a good world for humans to enjoy, we must not think that the world exist only for the sake of humans. Bauckham points out that God’s speech at the close of Job makes this point.

God invites Job into a vast panorama of the cosmos, taking Job on a sort of imaginative tour of his creation, all the time buffeting Job with questions. . . . God puts Job in his place. He draws Job’s attention to creatures over which he plainly does not exercise dominion. The point is that Job has no bearing on the value or purpose of their existence for their own sake and for God’s sake. Job is not the unique reference point for all God’s purposes in his creation.8

Our assessment of the value of creation is not simply dependent on its value for human existence. It is good in and of itself and has value to God and displays his glory.

Humans are given the role of caring for the creation and developing the creation. We commonly use the imagery of ‘stewardship’ to describe this role. Like the trusted manager in the ancient household, humanity has a responsibility to rule on behalf of the true owner of the creation. This rule involves developing the natural order as well as caring for it. It should not be exploitation, but instead a loving service. Humanity has a special role in world, one which we should carry out responsibly (cf Prov 12:10). We are not restricted to the imagery of stewardship, which itself needs to be supplemented and qualified. We should not imagine God as the distant landlord, nor forget that humans are part of the eco-system, not merely overseers. We should not imagine that we can direct eco-systems the way a steward may be able to direct a household. Still, ‘stewardship’ is a useful way of thinking about how humanity is meant to relate to the natural environment.9

Humanity is appointed by God tend for and develop the world and it is just because of our responsibility for creation that our human sin so deeply effects the natural environment.10 Sin brought a curse on the ground so that production and agriculture became difficult (Gen 3:17-19). The degradation of the natural world as a part of God’s judgement on sin is a theme that is repeated in Scripture. In Deuteronomy 28 the covenant curses against Israel present a horrifying picture of the destruction of a fertile land (Deut. 28:17-18), of failing crops (v40) and drought (vv23-24), of locusts (38, 42) and worms (39), of disease (v21-22, 27, 35, 59-60), and of destruction and exploitation by invaders (vv30-33, 51-52). In Isaiah 24-26, the prophet stresses the way in which sin has bought judgement on the land as well as people:

“The earth will be completely laid waste
and totally plundered.
The LORD has spoken this word.
The earth dries up and withers,

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8 R. Bauckham, Living with Other Creatures: Green Exegesis and Theology (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2012), Kindle, chap. 1.
10 See M. Smith, “Did God enter into a ‘covenant of works’ with Adam?” unpublished paper for a discussion which highlights the relationship of the traditional formulation of “the covenant of works” with humanities location in creation.
the world languishes and withers,
the exalted of the earth languish.
The earth is defiled by its people;
they have disobeyed the laws,
violed the statutes
and broken the everlasting covenant.” (Isaiah 24:3–5 NIV)

Isaiah’s prophecy is about the sin of Jerusalem and the devastation of the land of Israel (e.g. Isa 25:2). Yet just as the promise of redemption is rightly applied to the whole world (e.g. Isa. 25:7–8), so the portrayal of the suffering of the land is not restricted to the land of Israel.

Paul echoes these Old Testament themes when he observes that the created order is now disordered, “subjected to futility” and in “bondage to corruption” (Genesis 3: 17-19; Romans 8:20–21). Just as sin has placed humanity under the power of death, and this is seen in weakness, illness and disease, the same curse has the natural environment in its grip.

Moreover, just as human actions often exacerbate the effects of sin on ourselves, our families and our society, so human actions often make worse the curse on creation. The curses of Deuteronomy are partially effected by an invading army. The famine and death announced by God with the opening of the seals in Revelation 6 are largely the result of war (Rev. 6:1–8). We can easily see the same pattern through human history, as the human race has exploited the natural environment for its own greed and destroyed it in war.

Rich, developed nations such as Australia have a far greater impact on the environment, given our population, than do poorer and less developed nations. Yet it is the poor and vulnerable who often suffer most directly from the degradation of the environment. Nations such as Bangladesh face increased flooding due to deforestation as well as changes in the sea-levels. Food and water shortages impact the poor disproportionately, and land degradation has had a severe impact on agricultural production in poor areas of the globe such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In Kenya, for example, from 1981–2003 productivity declined across 40% of cropland, while the human population doubled. In general, Africa is expected to suffer most from land degradation.11

While the effects of the curse on creation are exacerbated by human action, God in his ‘common grace’ limits the effects of sin and allows the world still to flourish through human actions. He restrains sin (Genesis 3:22, 23; 4:15; 20:6), he restrains his own wrath (Gen. 6:3; Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9) and he limits the disintegrating effects of his judgement on sin.1213 Civil government has an important role in this (1 Pet. 2:14; Rom. 13:3, 4; 1 Tim. 2:1, 2). God has promised to sustain the world and he does so in his ‘common grace’ (Gen 8:21-9:11; 2 Peter 3:7).

And so we see God’s common grace at work in the natural environment. Despite the curse of sin, the rains still come, the seasons roll on and the animals bear and raise their young. At times we can see how humanity has had a role in this through enhancing the productivity of the world, beautifying it and turning the wilderness into a garden. We have also had a role in guarding and defending the wilderness and its animals.

Thus the present status of the natural environment, like human society, is determined by a dynamic of God’s curse and common grace. We can certainly see how humans are responsible, but our responsibility is exercised under God’s gracious rule.

Humanity cannot restore the world, but God is doing so in his acts of redemption. Jesus’ life, death and resurrection redeems God’s people, and with them redeems the creation. “The creation waits in eager expectation” for the revelation of the children of God because it will them share in our “glorious freedom” (Rom. 8:19–21).

Chris Wright brings out the importance of the redemption of creation in the Biblical presentation of God’s redemption (Isa 65:17-25; Rom 8:18-21; 2 Pet 3:10-13; Rev 21:1-4).14 He also calls attention to themes in Ezekiel and Psalms which may not explicitly teach a renewal of creation in the eschaton, but which find in it their fulfilment. The New Creation brings the real fulfilment of OT promises to Israel (see Heb. 11:9-10, 14-16). As Adam was the image of God, ruling creation for God, and Adam’s fall affected all creation; so the second Adam reclaims the world. Christ’s physical resurrection is the ‘pledge’ not only of our resurrection, but of the whole new creation.

13 Murray, 12.
What does this all mean for our thinking about caring for creation?

This theology of creation underscores the fact that Christianity gives the true basis for creation care. A great deal of contemporary thought about ecology draws on ideologies which view humanity as simply one part of a vast eco-system with no specific significance. This view supports assumptions which deny the value and dignity of humans.\textsuperscript{15} It also removes from humanity any real responsibility for the creation. It suggests that humanity may have a major impact on the rest of the eco-system, but if we are merely the result of an evolutionary process, then there is no reason why we should take moral responsibility for the natural world. The same logic that leads us not to hold animals of prey culpable for hunting, would imply that we cannot hold humanity responsible for its destruction of the environment.\textsuperscript{16} What’s more, on an evolutionary basis, we have no reason to think that we are able to take responsibility for the natural environment. Similarly Eastern worldviews offer no genuine basis for caring for the environment.

The Christian view, in contrast, affirms that humans can, and should, take some responsibility for the natural environment. We certainly can’t control it ourselves, for it is Christ in whom all things are held together as he sustains them with his word (Col 1:17; Heb 1:3). Yet, for good or ill, our actions have an impact on the environment and we’ve been given the capacity to develop the wisdom needed to direct those activities.

Further, some secular arguments for environmental care are merely pragmatic and self-serving, appealing simply to what will make life comfortable for this generation. The Christian worldview critiques this by insisting that the natural environment is valuable in its own right, and that present generations have responsibilities to future generations.

As Beisner, \textit{et al.} argue, the Christian worldview gives the one truly viable basis for care of the natural environment.

\textit{To reject human stewardship is to embrace, by default, no stewardship. The only proper alternative to selfish anthropocentrism is not biocentrism but theocentrism: a vision of earth care with God and his perfect moral law at the center and human beings acting as his accountable stewards.}\textsuperscript{17}

Christians should not retreat from environmental concerns simply because we can see that other approaches to environmentalism are flawed. Rather, for this very reason, we should be all the more concerned with the issue. Other worldviews give people some reason to be concerned about the environment, and we can be glad that they do. Like all genuine moral responses, these are signs of God’s common grace. We should be ready to enter the debate, to present and to act on the clear Christian reasons for creation care, since they “can provide the metaphysical basis that ecologists are yearning for”.\textsuperscript{18} As Francis Schaeffer observed 35 years ago, “a truly biblical Christianity has a real answer to the ecological crisis”.\textsuperscript{19}

Brunner, Butler and Swoboda list a series of truths which should lead Christians to care for creation:

- Earth-keeping is the primary calling of humanity.
- God has made us as part of the creation, so there is a mutuality between the good of humanity and the good of the rest of creation.
- We recognise creation to be the work of God as the master artist, so to care for it is to respect him.

\textsuperscript{15} See C. Beisner, “‘Imago Dei’ and the Population Debate” TrinJ 18:2 (Fall 1997): 173-97, although this report does not endorse Beisner’s claim that “continued population growth will result not in the depletion but in the increased abundance of resources” (p. 190).
\textsuperscript{16} J.A. Davies, “Toward a biblical theology of the environment” RTR 51/2 (May 1, 1992): 44, “If we consider ourselves merely as one mammalian species which has managed to achieve a temporary dominance in the evolutionary struggle, the degradation of our habitat becomes simply the mechanism for our ultimate replacement by some other life-form better adapted to living in whatever our planet may become. On this view, we have no rationale, apart from selfishness, for preserving an environment to which we’ve happened to be adapted, when free world has known innumerable climatic changes, some of which are less conducive to human life, but more so to other life forms.”
Christian virtues of respect, receptivity, self-restraint, frugality, humility, honesty, wisdom, hope, patience, serenity, benevolence, love, justice and courage all support practices of creation care. Concern for the poor and underprivileged should lead us to be concerned about environmental degradation.

God’s redemption has the whole of creation as its scope, bringing all things into unity under Christ (Eph 1:9-10), so Christians should seek to promote the harmonious co-existence of the whole of creation.

We love and serve future generations by preserving the natural environment as well as we can. Because discussions about environmental issues involves the most basic questions about humanity—the nature of world, moral failure, guilt and hope—it opens many opportunities to present gospel of the Creator who loves his creation and is committed to redeeming it, including the humans who have often abused and exploited it. Discussion of environmental concerns not only gives opportunities for the gospel, but must begin with gospel.

The promise of a new creation is not an excuse for Christians to exploit this creation, nor to be idle while it is exploited. Evangelical Christianity is sometimes accused of taking this view, and we must acknowledge that occasionally it has. Authentic evangelical thought about creation, however, sees just the opposite implication in God’s promise. God’s redemption and restoration of his world assures us that the created world deserves our care. Just as Jesus’ healing miracles and his own resurrection have led Christians to invest in medical care and to nurture bodies, so the nature miracles and the resurrection, with their promise of the new creation, encourage us to care for creation. It is not that creation care, in itself, will bring the new creation, any more than medical care brings resurrection bodies. Rather God’s promise sets a direction for Christian service.

Indeed Christian hope provides encouragement for creation care in the face of predictions of planetary disaster. Christians can rest on God’s promise to sustain the world (Gen 8:21-9:11; 2 Peter 3:7) until Jesus’ return and the revelation of his glory in creation. This promise doesn’t mean that the earth is disaster-proof and that we don’t have to worry about the consequences of our actions for human life. It does mean that we don’t have to be overwhelmed by doomsday scenarios which predict the eradication of humanity. We can trust in God’s good faithfulness and live in the light of hope. Many people in the environmental movement portray crisis in apocalyptic terms and experience severe despair. The Christian hope, however, is grounded in God’s faithfulness, not human capacity. In light of God’s promise to keep the world and bring a new creation, we can affirm that in creation care, as in all other area of service, our “labour in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58).

Some Christians wonder if there is any point attempting creation care on a small scale, when the challenges are global. What difference can my small changes in lifestyle make? Or, what is the point of recycling in our suburb, when there is so much waste in other parts of the world? Certainly, the large scale problems should not be ignored. At the same time it is important to recognise that on these issues, as on others, Christians and churches are called to be signs of the coming kingdom, living in the light of the future. That is, we don’t measure our actions merely by their effects. We seek to live in a way which reflects the coming kingdom of God, whether or not our actions ‘make a difference’.

The pressing issues of creation care

Creation care is a timely moral issue, perhaps the most timely. Francis Schaeffer called the attention of evangelicals to this in 1970 in his prophetic work Pollution and the Death of Man: The Simple Fact is that if man is not able to solve his ecological problems, then man’s resources are going to die. It is quite conceivable that man will be unable to fish the oceans as in the past, and that if the balance of the oceans is changed too much, man will even find himself without enough oxygen to breathe. So the whole problem of ecology is dumped in this generation’s lap.

In the last 35 years the crisis has only intensified. The Lausanne Global Consultation on Creation Care and the Gospel issued a Call to Action in November, 2012 in the following terms:

23 Schaeffer, Pollution, 4.
Many of the world’s poorest people, ecosystems, and species of flora and fauna are being devastated by violence against the environment in multiple ways, of which global climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, water stress, and pollution are but a part. We can no longer afford complacency and endless debate. Love for God, our neighbours and the wider creation, as well as our passion for justice, compel us to “urgent and prophetic ecological responsibility (CTC I.7.A).

Some of the key issues are noted below.

• Water degradation

Water, and especially fresh clean water, is essential for human life. Fresh water supplies are under increasing pressure due to growing populations and many of the poorest communities in the world lack access to clean water. About 10% of the world’s population does not have sustainable access to safe drinking water. This is a significant improvement compared to the figure of 25% in 1990. However regions with rapidly increasing populations are those which have the worst access to water, and also those in which it is most difficult to address the problem. Moreover, 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation facilities which hygienically separate human excreta from human contact.24 This year the World Economic Forum’s Global Risk Perception Survey surveyed 900 leaders from business, academia and the public sector, and rated water crises as the global risk with the greatest potential to impact society, and the eighth most likely to have significant impact in the next 10 years.25

Rainfall patterns are changing, with wet areas becoming wetter and dry areas becoming drier. This reduces water supplies in many areas and exposes other to greater risks of flooding.26

The 2014 Global Ocean Health Index gave the overall ocean health a score of 67/100. The supporting report comments that the score “needs to be much higher if the ocean is sustainably to help meet the needs of our rising human population”. It observes that the score “does not indicate that the ocean is dying”, but that acidification, oil spills, plastic trash, dead zones and overfishing “will become worse if their causes are not reduced or eliminated”27.

• Deforestation and land degradation

Nearly 85% of the ice-free land surface of the planet has been directly influenced by humans.28

A 2014 report found that land degradation hotspots cover about 29% of global land area in all land-cover types, but especially in grasslands. About 3.2 billion people live in these areas, though a larger number of people depend on them for food and other services.29

• Loss of biodiversity

Present extinction rates are an estimated 1000 times higher than the normal background level.30

White and Moo point out that Christians should be concerned about this because it represents a loss of the inherent beauty and fruitfulness of the God’s creation as well as that fact that “we rely on living systems to keep our air breathable, our water drinkable, and to provide us with sufficient food … loss of biodiversity makes the ecosystems vulnerable to diseases and other disasters that could wipe out species on which we depend”.31

• Climate change

There have been warnings about the impact of human activity on the earth’s climate since the 1970s and serious concern since the 1980s. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed in 1989 (see http://www.ipcc.ch/) and released its 5th Assessment Report in 2014. It concluded that:

Anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions have increased since the pre-industrial era, driven largely by economic and population growth, and are now higher than ever. This has led to atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide that are unprecedented in at least the last

24 See Progress on sanitation and drinking-water - 2014 update, World Health Organization and UNICEF
27 The 2014 Global Ocean Health Index, see http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/
800,000 years. Their effects, together with those of other anthropogenic drivers, have been detected throughout the climate system and are extremely likely to have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.32

The IPCC and its reports have been seen as controversial in some circles. While we need to acknowledge the fallibility of all scientific research and the possible effects of prejudices and ideologies, there is no reason to be more sceptical about the IPCC warnings than about those who criticise it. White and Moo offer a sober Christian assessment.

Practically all scientists who have investigated this believe that it almost certainly is. However, it is fair to say that there is an outside possibility that the temperature changes are simply fluctuations in the climate caused by the normal processes of the earth system. But every year that goes by makes the influence of humans on global warming more apparent and renders other possible explanations less and less likely. And we cannot afford to wait and wait before we take action. Even if by some chance the temperature rise were due to other causes, the changing climate would still be just as disastrous for many people and ecosystems. We have a good understanding of the physics of how greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide cause warming. So whatever the cause of the warming we are currently observing (though, again, nearly all climate scientists are now convinced it is due largely to human causes), reducing the volume of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will serve to slow and reduce the warming.33

The most widely accepted predictions are that unless the impact of human activity is reduced temperatures will rise by 4°C by the end of the century (and by 2°C even if we take strong action now). These increases are also likely to cause an increase in the occurrence of severe storms and severe drought, creating weather that is less predictable and more extreme. Predictions warn of sudden and/or irreversible effects as warming increases.

Humans have polluted the environment in all sorts of ways. Solid waste generated by those who live in cities is a very obvious example, and toxic chemical waste, air pollution and nitrogen on land and in the water all have a major impact on environmental health.

In considering the church’s response it is important to acknowledge the limits of our role. The church, as an institution, is not called by God to provide public policy solutions, nor is it gifted for such. We are not in a position to direct members of the church on their views of environmental issues and especially on their approaches to environmental policy. The complex relationships of environmental science, economics and politics means that the church cannot give detailed directions in this area.

While observing the proper limits of our authority and competence, the church can:

- call attention to the biblical mandate to care for creation,
- call attention to the timeliness of the issue,
- encourage members to take their environmental responsibility seriously,
- encourage members to support and participate in ministries which seek to address environmental issues,
- affirm the work of members who are engaged in creation care in various ways,
- teach the biblical virtues which are important in creation care,
- consider its own actions so as to limit unnecessary impacts on the environment.

This report is a first step toward the Presbyterian Church of Australia in NSW offering a considered position on creation care. There is far more than can be said, and certainly far more to be done. As a conclusion to this report the committee draws attention to the following as actions deserving the attention of Christians:

34 P. Gerland, et al, “World population stabilization unlikely this century” Science: 346 (6206) 10 October 2014, 234-237. Published online 18 September 2014 DOI:10.1126/science.1257469
seek to limit the “environmental footprint” of the individual, household, congregation or organisation;
seek to live simply, consuming less resources and resisting the allures of a consumer culture;
develop and use sustainable agricultural practices;
support campaigns for water security and the reduction of waste;
support organisations which address global poverty, since poverty both exposes people to higher risks from environmental degradation and also increase degradation;
support organisations, including Christian organisations, which aim to maintain biodiversity and healthy eco-systems;
pray for God to sustain the created order, for responsible human care of the environment, for protection of poor and vulnerable and for wisdom for those whose work may have a major impact on the environment — primary producers, business owners, scientists, public servant, politicians.

Resources:
Lausanne Global Consultation on Creation Care and the Gospel: Call to Action
http://www.lausanne.org/content/statement/creation-care-call-to-action
R. Bauckham The Bible and Ecology: Rediscovering the Community of Creation (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2010)
J.A. Davies, “Toward a biblical theology of the environment” RTR 51/2 (May 1, 1992): 42-49
J. Moo & R White, Hope in an Age of Despair: The gospel and the future of the earth (Nottingham: IVP 2013)
R. S. White ed, Creation in Crisis: Christian Perspectives on Sustainability (London: SPCK, 2009)
“Christians and Climate Change” A statement from the Australian Evangelical Alliance

Some Christian organisations and ministries involved in creation care:
Evangelical Environmental Network — a US ministry dedicated to the care of God’s creation, it seeks to equip, inspire, disciple, and mobilise God's people in their effort to care for God’s creation. http://creationcare.org
Cornwall Alliance — a conservative Christian ministry in the US which advocates environmental stewardship and concern for poor, while being dubious about anthropogenic climate change and many of the proposed responses. http://www.cornwallalliance.org/
TEAR Australia — a movement of Christians in Australia responding to the needs of poor communities around the world, with a clear concern for environmental issues. http://www.tear.org.au/
Care of Creation — an evangelical organisation in the US which aims “to pursue a God-centered response to environmental challenges that brings glory to the Creator, advances the cause of Christ, and leads to a transformation of the people and the land that sustains them.” http://www.careofcreation.net/

J.A. McCLEAN, Convener.
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE:
This year concerns about domestic violence and violence against women have been brought to the attention of the Australian community in several ways. In the discussion, the claim has been made that theologically conservative churches which teach that a wife should submit to her husband are at least complicit in allowing domestic violence. The Centre for Public Christianity called for an independent study into the issue. Fairfax media approached PCNSW for a comment on the issue and the proposed study. The Moderator, after consulting with the General Manager, Communications Manager and the Convener of Gospel, Society and Culture released the following statement:

“The Bible is clear that God is opposed to abuse in marriage or in the family. He particularly warns husbands to be considerate to their wives and treat them with respect. The model of love in the Bible is Jesus’ suffering for others, the very opposite of abuse. So any attempt to turn the Bible’s teaching into an excuse for verbal, physical or sexual abuse is a terrible distortion of its message. [However, humans are prone to distort God’s good ways into evil, and this can happen with the Bible’s teaching on marriage]. If this is happening in churches, then churches and church leaders should be aware of it, and do all they can to protect victims. A carefully conducted independent study may assist in this process and we would support such a study”.

In the process of developing this statement, we noted that the Assembly has not made a statement about Domestic Violence. We believe that it would be timely to issue such a statement for the following reasons:

- it clarifies for members of the church that the Bible’s teaching on submission in marriage in no way endorses violence or abuse;
- it clarifies for ministers, elders and others involved in pastoral care that domestic and family violence must not be ignored;
- it provides an opportunity to include a section on domestic and family violence in Breaking the Silence and in the accompanying training;
- it provides us with an official church position which can be quoted to the media if necessary.

Proposed statement: Domestic and family violence can be defined as actions which involve violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by a partner, carer or family member to control, dominate or instil fear, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other types of abuse.

God is opposed to abuse and violence in marriage and in the family. He particularly warns husbands to be considerate to their wives and treat them with respect (Eph 5:28–30; 1 Peter 3:7). The model of love in the Bible is Jesus’ suffering for others, the very opposite of abuse.

Any attempt to use the Bible’s teaching as a pretext for abuse is a distortion of its message. The Bible’s teaching that a wife should submit to her husband is not a basis for a husband to force submission or to seek to control his wife or to dominate her or cause her to fear. Acts of domestic violence and abuse are heinous sins.

Humans are prone to distort God’s good ways into evil, and this can happen with the Bible’s teaching on marriage. If this is happening in churches, ministers and elders should actively teach against it as well as doing all they can to protect victims.

Ministers, elders and church leaders involved in pastoral care should be alert for signs of domestic and family violence and teaching in churches should address these issues.

Sessions should seek to identify to the congregation several people, including some women, whom members could approach for pastoral care and support if they are facing domestic and family violence.

When a minister, elder or church leader is aware of domestic and family violence within a church family they should follow the guidelines in Sections 11 and 12 of Breaking the Silence. The Conduct Protocol Unit is able to be contacted for advice and support.

When a minister, elder or church leader is aware of domestic and family violence in which no child is involved and the alleged offender is not an office bearer or leader in a Presbyterian Church then he or she should follow the general guidelines of these sections of BTS and particularly:

- seek to contact the victim as soon as possible, if he or she has not raised a concern, to clarify the situation;
• listen carefully to that person;
• ask what can be done to make them feel safe and take steps to make them safe;
• encourage the person to report their concerns to the police and support them in doing so;
• contact the police directly if someone is in danger or they have knowledge which would assist authorities to apprehend or convict a person of a serious offence, or the incident involves either physical or sexual assault;
• with the permission of the person inform elders and other appropriate leaders within the church so they are able to provide appropriate care.

If the offender is a member of the church then church discipline may be appropriate, recognising that church discipline aims for restoration and that restoration depends upon genuine repentance. Care should be taken when an active Police investigation has commenced to ensure that any church discipline proceedings do not interfere with Police matters. The Conduct Protocol Unit can provide advice in these circumstances.

No victim of domestic and family violence should be pressured to reconcile with or restore a relationship with an offender.

If a member of a church is aware of domestic and family violence in a church family they should take similar steps if they are able. They may inform the minister or an elder of the church, or they may go directly to the police. Any member of the church who is concerned about a possible case of domestic and family violence is able to contact the Conduct Protocol Unit for advice and support.

J.A. McCLEAN, Convener.

METRO COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

During 2014/15 the METRO Committee developed and implemented a ‘dashboard’ for reviewing key measures of the METRO program in response to the recommendation of the Assembly Audit Committee. The key measure dashboard is reviewed at each Committee meeting and is proving to be a useful tool for assessing the performance of the METRO program. The key measures are the planning, reflection, review and reporting aspects of each coach-trainer-trainee relationship.

R. SMIDT, Convener.

MINISTRY AND MISSION ADDENDUM

Since the submission of the Assembly report for the Ministry and Mission Committee, the Committee has invited the Rev. Darwin Agahari to fill the remaining membership vacancy. The Committee welcomed Mr Agahari to its meeting in May 2015, and is pleased to nominate him to the Assembly for election to the Committee. Darwin Agahari was ordained in 2012 and continues to serve as the Associate Minister at the Randwick Indonesian Presbyterian Church. Darwin brings to the Committee the perspective of a new generation of ministers as well as insights into ministering to a growing congregation in a cross-cultural context.

J. READ, Convener.

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL CENTRE COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Reappointment of Ian Smith as Principal:

In submitting this Addendum Report, the PTCC wishes to highlight its great gratitude to God and its sincere thanks to Ian Smith for all Ian has given to the life and work of Christ College in all aspects. The PTCC wishes to underline its esteem and respect for Ian, to write large its conviction that he is the right person to continue to lead the College in these coming years.

The PTCC recommends Ian as God’s servant: husband, father, grandfather, member of Christ’s church and servant of it. He stands firm in the truth of God’s Word, declares and defends it actively, preaches it in season and out of season, and takes on an enormous number of opportunities to preach and teach in the wider church. He is submissive to God: both in His fashioning and firing the clay of Ian’s individual Christ-likeness; and, in the humble recognition, that like Christ we are made perfect...
through learning obedience in suffering.

The PTCC recommends Ian as a teacher and trainer of men and women in their formation as teachers and leaders and shapers of others. It recognises him as a man with vision for the future and wisdom in responding to the challenges of our culture and of tertiary education within our country and beyond. It acknowledges his contribution in attracting godly men and women to train at Christ College; and to fostering increasing confidence in Christ College within the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales.

The PTCC recommends Ian as a team leader and team player. As Christ College has grown, and hopefully continues to grow, Ian has sought to develop the whole staff team, matching abilities to demands, fostering lines of support and reporting, and being strongly pastorally responsive. Ian’s relationship with the PTCC is strongly positive.

S.J. PYM, Convener.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH ADDENDUM

Special Religious Education Policy and Procedures

Special Religious Education Policy

Introduction

The NSW Education Act (1990) makes provision for a “religious persuasion” to teach “special religious education” (SRE) in government schools. The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) oversees this provision of the Act in its schools.

“Special religious education (SRE) is education in the beliefs and practices of an approved religious persuasion by authorised representatives of that persuasion.” (DEC Religious Education Implementation Procedures 2013, p. 3)

DEC policy is that only those religious persuasions that are approved as “providers” can authorise teachers of SRE. The Presbyterian Church in NSW (the Church) is a DEC approved SRE provider.

In order to maintain its status as a provider, the Church must give an annual assurance to the DEC that it has proper processes in place to authorise its SRE teachers.

Policy

In order to teach special religious education which is in keeping with the Church’s beliefs and is good pedagogy and to provide assurance to the DEC that each teacher and helper is authorised the Church will:

- Provide a process conforming in principle with the AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System that leads to authorisation of its SRE teachers and helpers;
- Maintain records of the training of all its SRE teachers and helpers;
- Verify all Working with Children Checks and keep a record of the verification as required by the legislation
- Ensure to the best of its ability that every SRE teacher has initial and ongoing teacher training including classroom management and continuing professional development;
- Ensure to the best of its ability that every SRE teacher and helper has child protection training and this remains current;
- Authorise both the curricula and the pedagogy used by its SRE teachers; and
- Provide links to its approved curricula on a relevant website.

Where appropriate, the Church will join with other Christian providers in “combined arrangements” (RE Implementation Procedures, p. 12) so that students receive SRE.

The Church will also join with other providers to develop and improve standards and advocate for the validity and importance of SRE in our multicultural society.

The Director of the Conduct Protocol Unit (CPU) is the official point of contact for everything related to child protection and the Working with Children Check.

So that it is abreast of all expectations in terms of compliance and opportunities to deliver SRE in schools, the Church has appointed PY to represent it in negotiations with the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) and in SRE forums and organisations.

The General Manager (or delegate) of Presbyterian Youth (PY), in consultation with the CPU, will sign the annual DEC letter of assurance regarding authorisation of SRE teachers and is the official point of contact between the Church and the DEC and other providers in relation to all other SRE
matters.
This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA) Breaking the Silence Policy and Code of Conduct and the Church’s SRE Procedures.

Special Religious Education Procedures
As a religious persuasion and a DEC approved provider of SRE, the Church will take up the opportunity to educate students in its beliefs and, where practical, work in partnership with other approved providers to deliver Christian SRE through “combined arrangements” (RE Implementation Procedures 2013, p. 12).
Teaching the Church’s Christian beliefs must take account of the developmental stage of students and the principles of pedagogy, which is the act of teaching a lesson from a curriculum in a classroom so that students are engaged and increase their understanding.
So that it is abreast of all expectations in terms of compliance and opportunities to deliver SRE in schools, the Church has appointed PY to represent it in negotiations with the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) and in SRE forums and organisations
In order to maintain its status as a DEC approved provider, the Church will follow a process for authorising all SRE teachers and helpers that involves:
1. Presbyterian Youth (PY) providing basic SRE teacher training to a recognised standard and in principle approval of curricula subject to ratification by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in NSW.
2. The Conduct Protocol Unit (CPU) collecting and managing all the confidential records, in particular verifying the Working with Children Check and issuing an SRE authorisation to teach card to teachers and helpers on behalf of the Church to the Session of a pastoral charge for authorisation

1. Responsibilities
1.1 The Session of the Pastoral Charge
The Session of the Pastoral Charge is to:
1. Inform prospective SRE teachers or helpers of the process of becoming authorised;
2. Organise basic SRE teacher training;
3. Organise Breaking the Silence Basic Training or equivalent child protection training;
4. Lodge the SRE Teacher/Helper Authorisation Form with the CPU; and
5. Retain a signed Job Description: SRE Teacher/Helper and give one to the teacher or helper.
When the Session of the pastoral charge receives confirmation from the CPU that an SRE teacher or helper has completed all the requirements, they must arrange for
- The Minister or Session Clerk to sign the authorisation card and give it to the SRE teacher or helper;
- An adequate nametag for the SRE teacher or helper;
- The SRE teacher or helper to obtain and understand the child protection reporting requirements of the school;
- The school to receive the teacher or helper’s name and contact details
- The teacher to only use a PY approved curriculum or resource;
- The teachers and helpers to comply with any policies and procedures required by the school and assist them to access any necessary training or obtain any necessary information;
- Renewal of the authorisation of the SRE teacher or helper when it expires;
- Continuing Breaking the Silence training as required by the CPU; and
- Continuing professional development for both teachers and helpers.
The Church’s SRE authorisation card and the nametag must be with the teacher or helper whenever they are in a school.

1.2 Presbyterian Youth
Presbyterian Youth (PY) provides the Session of a Pastoral Charges and its SRE teachers and helpers with:
- Appropriate and accessible minimum teacher training in line with the Inter Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools (ICCOREIS) Basic Training Standard;
- Assessment and in principle approval of curricula for both primary and high school programs;
- Opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD); and
- Advice about resolving problems delivering SRE, unless the problem relates to child protection, in which case the CPU is responsible.
1.3 Conduct Protocol Unit

The Conduct Protocol Unit (CPU) processes all SRE teacher and helper authorisation applications on behalf of the Church using the information provided by the Session of a Pastoral Charge. The CPU assesses the SRE Teacher or Helper Authorisation Form and associated information and:

- Records completed teacher training and/or approval of recognised prior learning (RPL);
- Verifies the Working With Children Check and keeps a record of the verification;
- Issues an authorisation card for the SRE teacher or helper to the Session of a Pastoral Charge;
- Provides suitable child protection training for all SRE teachers and helpers; and
- Issues notices to pastoral charges showing expiry dates of SRE authorisation alerting them to the need for renewal of authorisation to teach or help.

1.4 SRE teacher

The SRE teacher must provide the information for the Session of the Pastoral Charge to complete an SRE Teacher Application Form to submit to the CPU. After the CPU issues the Session of the Pastoral Charge with an authorisation card for the SRE teacher, the person must:

- Retain a copy of the Job Description: SRE Teacher;
- Carry the authorisation card signed by the Session and wear an appropriate name badge whenever they are in a school;
- Recognise the authority of the principal or appointed executive staff member whenever they are at the school;
- Use only a PY approved curriculum or resource; and
- Do Continuing Professional Development (CPD) each year.

1.5 SRE helper

The SRE helper must provide the information for the Session of the Pastoral Charge to complete an SRE Teacher Application Form to submit to the CPU. After the CPU issues the Session of the Pastoral Charge with an authorisation card for the SRE helper, the person must:

- Retain a copy of the Job Description: SRE Helper;
- Carry the authorisation card and wear an appropriate name badge whenever they are in a school; and
- Recognise the authority of the principal or appointed executive staff member whenever they are at the school.

2. SRE in primary schools

In primary schools the Session of the Pastoral Charge manage SRE teachers and helpers according to section 1.1 above.

2.1 Combined arrangements

Most SRE classes to which the Session of the Pastoral Charge provides teachers and helpers will have a mode of delivery the DEC calls a “combined arrangement.” In essence, this means DEC approved providers, like the Church, combine their teachers and helpers to provide SRE classes for students of various religious persuasions using a common curriculum.

Where teachers or helpers from the Church are involved in a combined arrangement, the Session of the Pastoral Charge must

- Sight evidence that all other teachers and helpers are authorised by an approved provider;
- Cross-authorise in writing every teacher and helper;
- Authorise in writing a common curriculum from amongst those approved by PY;
- Keep a copy of all documentation sighted and signed;
- Make sure the school is provided with a list of all teachers at the beginning of each year;
- Ensure that the authorisation of all teachers and helpers is up-to-date;
- Confirm that every teacher and helper has a name badge and carries his or her authorisation card in school; and
- Support continuing professional development for all teachers and helpers;
- Confirm with the school what policies and procedures the teachers and helpers are required to comply with; and
- Assist all the SRE teachers and helpers to undertake any necessary training or obtain any
necessary information.

2.2 SRE Assemblies

Occasionally the Session of the Pastoral Charge will be asked to support an “assembly style” of Christian SRE for multiple classes or stages. The Session of the Pastoral Charge must confirm that the teaching at the assembly relates directly to the scope and sequence of the cross-authorised SRE curriculum. Where an external presenter or group is used, the Session must ensure that they have a verified Working with Children Check. External presenters or groups must be under the direct supervision of a fully authorised Christian SRE teacher at all times they are on school grounds.

3. SRE in high schools

3.1 Seminars

Where volunteers are required for a seminar style pattern of SRE for year or stage groups, and the local Presbyterian Church is the organising denomination, the Session of the Pastoral Charge must confirm that everyone in the team is authorised by an approved provider. The Session of the Pastoral Charge must:

☐ Sight evidence that all volunteers are authorised by an approved Christian SRE provider;
☐ Cross-authorise in writing all volunteers;
☐ Authorise in writing that the topic is related to the scope and sequence of a curriculum approved by PY;
☐ Make sure the school is provided with a list of all volunteers; and
☐ Confirm that every volunteer has a name badge and carries their authorisation card.

3.2 Employed SRE teachers

Where local approved Christian SRE providers join together to develop and sustain SRE by employing a teacher of SRE, this is to be viewed as a type of “combined arrangement” (RE Implementation Procedures, p. 12). In order to provide a legal structure for the processing of decisions and raising money to employ an SRE teacher, individuals may choose to be involved in creating an “association” through following the process set out by the NSW Department of Fair Trade and register with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.

In order to provide Christian SRE, the association must ensure that the SRE teacher is authorised by an approved SRE provider. Where the approved SRE provider is to be this Church, the Session must establish a combined arrangement. Where the employed SRE teacher is not already authorised, the Session of the Pastoral Charge must follow the responsibilities set out in 1.1.

Where the employed SRE teacher is to be authorised by an approved SRE provider other than this Church, the Session must:

☐ Sight the authorisation of the employed SRE teacher by an approved provider;
☐ Insist that all local providers who are represented in the school by the employed teacher cross-authorise him or her in writing; and
☐ Cross-authorise a curriculum approved by PY.

4. Complaints Procedure

All approved SRE providers like the Church are committed to implementing the DEC’s own RE Implementation Procedures. Sometimes there are local school decisions, personal behaviours and misunderstandings that negatively impact the delivery of SRE.

The following flow charts are a simplified picture of a process for negotiating issues with delivering SRE in a school. The foundational principles of the process are

☐ Where at all possible, issues should be handled early and managed at a local level;
☐ Where an individual or provider is involved, the person or religious persuasion has a right to know the allegations against him or her or them;
☐ The individual or provider has the right to be heard; and
☐ The decision makers must be free from bias or perceived conflict of interest.

4.1 When the Session of the Pastoral Charge has an issue with the way the RE Implementation Procedures are interpreted or implemented by the school

The DEC has a Complaints Handling Policy and a Complaints Handling Policy Guidelines. Normally most issues relating to SRE can be resolved without recourse to these documents. The Session of a Pastoral Charge should also be familiar with the DEC’s Religious Education Policy and the Religious Education Implementation Procedures.

The Session of the Pastoral Charge should encourage teachers and helpers to follow the flow chart. Where an issue cannot be immediately resolved the Session of Pastoral Charge should make an
appointment with the principal.

Flow chart for resolving problems with combined arrangements of SRE

4.2 When the school has a problem with an SRE teacher or helper

In the event that the school or a parent has a concern with the delivery of SRE, the Church expects someone from the school, like the school SRE Coordinator or the principal, to contact either the Session of the Pastoral Charge or the appointed church SRE Coordinator or the minister.

The DEC has clear procedures for dealing with child protection complaints. If there is a complaint made about an SRE teacher or helper from the Church in relation to child protection, the CPU must be notified immediately.

The nature of any concern or complaint should be documented and include the date and time and name of the person who makes contact from the school.

The local SRE Coordinator or minister must talk with the SRE teacher(s) involved and seek some resolution of the issue at the core of the complaint based on the DEC RE Implementation Procedures and the Church’s SRE Policy and Procedures.

When the complaint is resolved, the local churches SRE Coordinator or the minister should talk face-to-face with the principal of the school so that there is clear communication and an agreed resolution of the complaint.
Flow chart for resolving complaints from schools with combined arrangements for SRE

D. BALZER, Convener.

TRUSTEES ADDENDUM

The Trustees Report printed in the White Book referred to up-coming vacant trustee positions which the Trustees are now able to nominate along with other expiring terms summarised in full below:-

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<td>Rev. B.M. Meller</td>
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<td>Rev. K. Boulden</td>
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<td>Mr K. Turner</td>
<td>GA 2014</td>
<td>GA 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As reported, the Rev B.M. Meller and K. Boulden, being eligible, have offered themselves for re-election at this meeting of the General Assembly, and the Trustees have resolved to nominate both of them to the General Assembly accordingly. Miss P. Watts after ten years of faithful service (2001-2005 and 2009-2015) as a Trustee is, with much regret, not making herself available for re-nomination. Likewise Mr I.L. Wallace who has faithfully served the Trustees for 6 years is not making himself available for nomination. Much thanks and appreciation go to these two for their tireless contribution over many years. Consequently, the Trustees are pleased to confirm that Ms Leah Russell and Mr Jeff Davis have agreed to be nominated and the Trustees have resolved to nominate them to the General Assembly accordingly. Ms Russell is Lead Partner – Audit Assurance at Crowe Horwath (Accountants) and a communicant member of Ashfield Presbyterian Church. Mr Jeff Davis is Head Counsel Group Legal at Rabobank Australia and an elder of Chatswood Presbyterian Church.

J.R. FALLS, Chairman.
TRUSTEES SECOND ADDENDUM

NOMINATED TRUSTEE’S BIOGRAPHIES:
The Trustees are nominating two new Trustees at this General Assembly.

Ms Leah Russell
Leah Russell is a registered company auditor and chartered accountant. She is partner in Crowe Horwath Sydney (Accountants), leading Audit Assurance. Leah is a member of the Sydney firm’s leadership team, currently heading a team of audit and assurance professionals and also assists in overseeing quality, training and mentoring of managers. Half of her client base is not for profit organisations. Leah has a zeal for working with numbers and also assisting with corporate governance. A Christian for over 25 years Leah and her husband have a passion for living the Christian life at both home and work and are Communicant Members of the Presbyterian Church. They have been attending Ashfield congregation with their two boys for the past eight years.

Mr Jeff Davis
Jeff Davis has a BEc and LLB from Macquarie University and works as a Head Counsel at Rabobank in Sydney where he leads a team of banking and finance lawyers. He previously worked at national law firm Clayton Utz and the State Bank of New South Wales. He was also previously a member of the Ministry and Mission Committee, from 1999 to 2002. Jeff Davis and his wife are communicant members of the Presbyterian Church and attend the Chatswood congregation with their four children, where Jeff is also an elder. Among other things, Jeff has a passion for family life and enjoys running and playing squash.

J.R. FALLS, Chairman.
Presbyterian Church of Australia

MINUTES
OF PROCEEDINGS
of the
NEW SOUTH WALES
2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH SESSION
FIRST SEDERUNT

1. **Assembly Constituted:** At Croydon, and within the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College Sydney, Boundary Street, Croydon, at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 30 June, 2015 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales convened. The Moderator, Right Reverend Mark Powell, constituted the Assembly with a hymn of praise, the reading of scripture and prayer.

2. **Minutes:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:
   That the Assembly:
   - Confirm the minutes of the One Hundred and Forty Ninth Session of the General Assembly, and
   - the minutes of the Commission of Assembly which met on 19 November, 2014.

   The motion was seconded and approved and each page thereof was signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

3. **Ministerial Changes:** The Clerk laid on the table the list of ministerial changes that have taken place since the last meeting of the Assembly.

   **Licensed:**
   - By the Presbytery of The Central Tablelands-
     - T. Merkel ................................................................. 5.12.2014
     - V. Smith ........................................................................ 6.2.2015
   - By the Presbytery of The Central West-
     - D. Ferris ........................................................................ 19.3.2015
   - By the Presbytery of The Hawkesbury-
     - J. Park ................................................................. 3.9.2014
     - C. Grande .................................................................... 3.12.2014
   - By the Presbytery of Sydney-
     - M. Nhieu ....................................................................... 2.12.2014

   **Ordained:**
   - By the Presbytery of Sydney North-
     - J.B.S. Ling, Licentiate by resolution of the Assembly (BB 2014 Min. 87) ......................... 24.3.2015

   **Ordained and Inducted:**
   - By the Presbytery of The Northern Rivers-
     - P. Richards, Licentiate to Lower Clarence ................................................................. 6.8.2014
P.J. Thompson, Licentiate to Southern Cross (East Lismore) ........................................... 3.9.2014

By the Presbytery of The Central Tablelands:
  T. Merkel, Licentiate as Colleague at Bathurst .......................................................... 6.2.2015
  V. Smith, Licentiate to Gulgong ............................................................................. 10.4.2015
  S.K. Moore, Licentiate to Cowra ................................................................. 5.6.2015

**Ordained and Set Apart:**

By the Presbytery of Sydney:

By the Presbytery of The Hawkesbury:
  C. Grande, Licentiate as Assistant at Springwood-Winmalee-Woodford ................ 6.2.2015
  J. Park, Licentiate as Appointee at Bonnyrigg ............................................... 18.3.2015

By the Presbytery of Sydney North:
  J.B.S. Ling, Licentiate as Missionary ................................................................ 24.3.2015

By the Presbytery of Sydney South:
  D. Au, Licentiate as Assistant at Kirkplace .................................................. 10.3.2015

**Inducted:**

By the Presbytery of The Hunter:
  D.A. Haley, Minister without Charge to St Andrew’s, Newcastle .................... 4.2.2015

By the Presbytery of the Northern Rivers:
  S. Playsted, Minister without Charge as Colleague at Southern Cross ............. 3.9.2014

By the Presbytery of Sydney:
  E.T. Kwok, Minister without Charge as Associate at Gracepoint ..................... 9.8.2014

By the Presbytery of Sydney North:
  B.M. Graham, Minister without Charge to Mosman ........................................... 11.3.2015

By the Presbytery of Wagga Wagga:
  M. Purnell, Minister without Charge to Wagga Wagga .................................. 10.2.2015
  C.W. Nicholas, Minister without Charge to Henty ........................................... 2.5.2015

**Translated:**

  K.D. Gray, Temora to Western Blacktown ....................................................... 8.8.2014
  D.J. Campbell, Newcastle, St Andrew’s to Canberra, St Andrew’s ................. 29.9.2014
  B.J. Merchant, Caringbah to Associate at Epping ........................................... 2.12.2014
  S.J. Taylor, Tweed Heads to Charlestown-Eastlakes ........................................ 6.2.2015

**Took up appointment:**

  J.R. Irvin, Clerk of Assembly ........................................................................ 1.1.2015
  D.G.-M. Yu, Deputy Clerk of Assembly .......................................................... 1.1.2015
  B.M. Graham, Appointed Minister at Mosman ................................................ 11.3.2015

**Set apart as missionary:**

By the Presbytery of The Hawkesbury:
  M.S. Key, Missionary to Indonesia ................................................................ 30.11.2014

**Appointment resigned or terminated:**

  E.W. Kwok, Assistant at Gracepoint ................................................................. 9.8.2014
  W. Fernandes, Jr., Assistant at Warringah ..................................................... 30.9.2014
  C.W. Nicholas, Assistant at Beecroft ............................................................. 31.12.2014
  M.S. Key, Hospital Chaplain ........................................................................ 31.12.2014
  S. Fong, Assistant at Merrylands East .......................................................... 31.5.2015

**Demitted:**

  S. Playsted, Southern Cross (East Lismore) .................................................... 3.9.2014
  T.N. Cheetham, Warringah ........................................................................ 11.1.2015
  M.V. Cropper, Gosford .................................................................................. 31.1.2015
  C.R. Tucker, Drummoynel ........................................................................... 16.3.2015
  B.M. Gorton, Argyle ..................................................................................... 11.5.2015

**Transfer of jurisdiction:**

**Licentiates:**

  P.J. Thompson, Brisbane (Q.) to The Northern Rivers ..................................... 6.8.2014
  H.J. Prattis, Sydney to The Hawkesbury ....................................................... 4.2.2015

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S.K. Moore, Sydney to The Central Tablelands ................................................. 6.2.2015

Ministers:
A.D. Campbell, Minister Emeritus, Wagga Wagga to North West NSW .................. 9.12.2014
I.F. Ransom, Minister Emeritus, Sydney to The Mid North Coast .......................... 13.11.2014
R.W. Tucker, Defence Force Chaplain, Wagga Wagga to Canberra ........................ 1.1.2015
D.A. Haley, Minister without Charge, The Central Tablelands to The Hunter ........... 4.2.2015
M. Purnell, Minister without Charge, Mowbray (Q.) to Wagga Wagga .................. 10.2.2015
T.N. Cheetham, Minister Without Charge, Sydney North to Brisbane (Q.) ............... 11.1.2015
B.M. Grahan, Minister Without Charge, Sydney to Sydney North ......................... 17.2.2015
A. Satchell, Minister without Charge, The Hawkesbury to Bass (T) ....................... 26.2.2015
C.W. Nicholas, Minister without Charge, Sydney North to Wagga Wagga ................. 2.5.2015

Resigned from the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:
A.T.M. Cheung, Minister without Charge .......................................................... 7.10.2014
S. Y-S. Chong, Minister without Charge .......................................................... 9.6.2015

Deceased:
E.S. Drury, Minister Emeritus ............................................................................ 16.7.2014
B. Lim, Minister Emeritus ................................................................................. 11.12.2014
C. Paton, Minister Emeritus .............................................................................. 17.2.2014
P.A. Davidson, Minister Emeritus ...................................................................... 24.4.2015

Change of Name of Presbytery:
Moree to North West NSW .............................................................................. 28.8.2014

Ministers Without Charge Eligible for a Call
C. V. Dubi (1989) ......................................................................................... Sydney North:
T.K. Lee (2005) ............................................................................................. Sydney South:
K. J. Walker (1998) ....................................................................................... Sydney North:

Ministers Without Charge
Sydney: H. Cairns (1963) .................................................................................. J.D. Ting (1973)
J. D. Ting (1973) .......................................................................................... J. Cover (1993)

Ministers Emeritus - Rights of Associated Members (The Code Part II:5.32)
R. J. McCracken (1963) ............................................................................... W. M. Johnson (1988)
Licentiates:
Hawkesbury: Sydney: H. Hammo ........................................................................ J. S. Kim
H. J. Pratiss ................................................................................................. D. M. Brookes

4. Roll of Assembly: The Clerk laid on the table the certified list of ministers on the roll of
presbytery and of elders duly commissioned, and the Roll of Assembly was made up accordingly.
## ROLL OF ASSEMBLY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastoral Charge</th>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Year of Ordination</th>
<th>Elder</th>
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<tr>
<td>Argyle</td>
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<td>Bateman’s Bay</td>
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<td>Gungahlin, New Life</td>
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### PRESBYTERY OF CANBERRA
Clerk: Mr M. Maskell

### PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL COAST
Clerk: Rev. Dr Paul G. Logan

### PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL TABLELANDS
Clerk: Rev. I.M. Halbisch
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastoral Charge</th>
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<th>Year of Ordination</th>
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<td>J.W. Read</td>
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<td>D.B. Stone</td>
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<td>J.S. Woodward</td>
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**PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL WEST**

**Clerk:** Rev. L.G. Fowler

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<td>Dubbo</td>
<td>B.K. Smith</td>
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<td>W.G. Connor</td>
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<td>P.G. Tamsett</td>
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<td>Parkes-Forbes-Peak Hill</td>
<td>C.N. Bland</td>
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<td>Trundle-Tullamore-Tottenham</td>
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<td>A.R. Harvey</td>
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**PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY**

**Clerk:** Rev. K.R. Boulden

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<td>Arabic Evangelical, Toongabbie</td>
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<td>K.R. Boulden</td>
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<td>Parramatta City-Wentworthville</td>
<td>S.D. Arkapaw</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>A. Hands</td>
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<td>Tregear</td>
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## Pastoral Charge

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<th>Year of Ordination</th>
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<td>Bonnyrigg HMS</td>
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<td>J. McClean</td>
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<td>P.A. Beringer</td>
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<td>D.L. Ferrington</td>
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## Presbytery of The Hawkesbury (Continued)

### Presbytery of the Hunter

#### Clerk: Rev. T.R. Galvin

- **Charlestown-Eastlakes**: S.J. Taylor, 1994
- **Assistant**: T.R. Galvin, 2002
- **Dungog**: Home Mission Station, -
- **East Maitland**: Vacant, -
- **Gateway Family**: Vacant, -
- **Grace**: J.A. Macintyre, 1992
- **Colleague**: J.M. Nuttall, 2007
- **Assistant**: M.P. Crocker, 2013
- **Hamilton**: G.J. White, 2013
- **Maitland**: R.E. Vandervelden, 1997
- **Newcastle-Samoan**: Appointment Charge, -
- **Newcastle, St. Andrew’s-Mayfield**: D.A. Haley, 2008
- **Upper Hunter**: Home Mission Station, -

#### Appointments:

- **Newcastle Samoan**: S.P. Amosa, 1995
- **Chairman Scots School Bathurst**: A.H. Adams, 1986
- **B.D. Bowtell**: 1972
- **J.F. Broadhead**: 1958
- **K.A. Cooper**: 1997
- **A.D. Lang**: 1970
- **I.G. Stewart**: 1970
- **J.E. Webster**: 1971

## Presbytery of Illawarra

#### Clerk: Rev. P.J. Currie

- **Albion Park-Shellharbour**: G.T. Coleman, 2004
- **Berry**: Home Mission Station, -
- **K.W. Bosward**: 1986
- **C.F. Gauld**: 1972
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**PRESBYTERY OF THE MID NORTH COAST**  
**Clerk:** Mr W. Deer

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**PRESBYTERY OF NEW ENGLAND**  
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**PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS**  
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Clerk: Mrs B. Style

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<td>G.R. McIntyre</td>
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<td>A. Van Ash</td>
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**PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY NORTH**

**Clerk:** Mr C.C. Short

| Beecroft                             | Vacant           |                    | W. Grant       |
| Captivate                            | Vacant           |                    |                |
| Castle Hill                          | M.J. Hahn        | 2001               | A.W. Byleveld  |
| Chatswood                            | J.N. Read        | 2000               | T. Nestel      |
| Associate                            | W. Esdale        | 2006               | A. Tan         |
| Cherrybrook                          | J.S.C. Nodder    | 2013               | N. Brewster    |
### Pastoral Charge

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<td>M.S. Oates</td>
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<td>Gladesville-Hunters Hill</td>
<td>C.A.D. Hor-Kwong</td>
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<td>Korean Rainbow</td>
<td>S.K. Hong</td>
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<td>Korean Urim</td>
<td>M.K. Park</td>
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<td>Korean Young Nak</td>
<td>M.G. Lee</td>
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<td>Korean The Kalos</td>
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<td>Macquarie Chapel</td>
<td>L. Kruger</td>
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<td>Ryde</td>
<td>D.M. Woolcott</td>
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<td>Wahroonga</td>
<td>D.G.M. Yu</td>
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<td>W. Fernandes</td>
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#### Appointments:

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<td>AFES Chaplain Macquarie Uni</td>
<td>K. Weerakoon</td>
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<td>Associate M&amp;M Superintendent</td>
<td>J.R. Irvin</td>
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<td>Christian Studies Head, Scots</td>
<td>J.D.S. McFarlane</td>
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<td>Defence Force Chaplain</td>
<td>R.J. Quadrio</td>
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<td>P.E. Boase</td>
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<td>P.F. Cooper</td>
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<td>A. de Graaf</td>
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<td>T.M. Duffin</td>
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<td>C.S. Kim</td>
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<td>P. Rawlings</td>
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<td>R.E. Spring</td>
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### PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY SOUTH

#### Clerk: Mr C.J. Ashton

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<tr>
<td>Bexley-Rockdale</td>
<td>E.F. Brown</td>
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<td>Camden</td>
<td>W.N. Hicks</td>
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<td>Campbelltown</td>
<td>J.M. Elliott</td>
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<td>Caringbah-Helensburgh</td>
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<td>Chester Hill</td>
<td>L.I. Yoo</td>
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<td>Como</td>
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<td>Cronulla</td>
<td>R.J. Stark</td>
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<td>Hurstville</td>
<td>D.C. McDougall</td>
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<td>Corowa</td>
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<td>C.W. Nicholas</td>
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**PRESBYTERY OF WAGGA WAGGA**

**Clerk:** Mrs Y. Forsyth

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<td>J. Van Every</td>
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<td>Young</td>
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<td>G.P. Davis</td>
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**MEMBERS EX-OFFICIO**

**The Procurator:** G.K. Burton
**The Law Agent:** S.H. Fraser
**The General Manager:** W.D. Richards

**5. Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from the Rev. C. Abel, D. Au, J.B. Baker, C. Balzer, D. Balzer, D.J. Campbell, A. de Graaf, the Rev. Dr D.L. Ferrington, the Rev. G. Fullerton, D. Hawkins, R. Lee, J. McFarlane, C. Pass, D.P. Powell, R.J. Quadrio, I.F. Ransom, I.
6. **Notices of Motion:** Notices of motion 1 to 33 were laid on the table.

7. **Order of Business:** Pursuant to notice the Clerk moved:
   That the Assembly:
   (1) Declare the times for the sederunts for this session of the General Assembly to be:
   9.00a.m.-1.00p.m. (Morning sederunt);
   2.00p.m.-6.30p.m. (Afternoon sederunt);
   With morning and afternoon tea breaks of 20 minutes, the timing of these recesses to be at the
   Moderator’s discretion.
   (2) Approve the order of business for Tuesday 30 June, 2015.
   (3) Approve, generally, the order of business for this session of the Assembly.
   The motion was seconded and approved.

8. **Moderator:** The Assembly proceeded to the election of Moderator. Nominations by
    presbyteries with a report thereon were laid on the table and received. Thereafter on the motion of the
    Clerk, seconded by the Business Convener, the Rev. Kevin D. Murray, National Director Australian
    Presbyterian World Mission, was unanimously elected Moderator of the General Assembly, was
    welcomed by the past Moderator, took the Chair and delivered an address.

9. **Moderator’s Chaplains:** The Moderator introduced to the Assembly his chaplains the
    Rev. Dr S.J. Pym and the Rev. P.G. Harris.

10. **Act of Remembrance:** The Assembly gave thanks for the life of the following former
    members:- Rev. P.A. Davidson, Minister Emeritus, Rev. E. Drury, Minister Emeritus, Rev. B. Lim,
    Minister Emeritus, Mr D. Mackie, Elder at Middle Clarence, Rev. Dr C.J. Paton, Minister Emeritus, Dr D.
    Pilgrim, Elder at Hurstville, Mrs S. Rumbel, Elder at Liverpool.

11. **Ministerial Jubilee:** The Business Convener reported that the Rev. J.F. Boyall had
    celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry.
    On a motion duly moved and seconded it was resolved:
    That the Assembly:
    Convey to the Rev. J.F. Boyall the congratulations of the Assembly and its thanks for his faithful service to the Church as a minister over 60 years.

12. **Elders’ Jubilee:** The Business Convener reported that Mr K. Butler, Elder at Epping,
    and Mr R.E. Thorpe, Elder at Epping had celebrated the 50th anniversary of their ordination to the
    eldership.
    On a motion duly moved and seconded it was resolved:
    That the Assembly:
    Convey to Messrs K. Butler and R. Thorpe its thanks for their faithful service to the Church as elders over 50 years.

13. **New Members:** The Business Convener reported that the following ministers had been
    inducted into their first parishes, set apart for their first appointments in NSW or been granted a seat by
    the Assembly for the first time since the last Assembly:- Rev. D. Au (Assistant to the Minister at Kirkplace),
    Rev. C. Grande (Assistant to the Minister at Springwood-Winmalee-Woodford), Rev. M. Lai
    (Assistant to the Minister at Gracepoint), Rev. J.B.S. Ling, (Missionary APWM/CMS), Rev. T. Merkel
    (Colleague, Bathurst), Rev. S.K. Moore (Cowra), Rev. J. Park (Bonnyrigg), Rev. Dr M. Purnell (Wagga
    Wagga), Rev. P. Richards (Lower Clarence), Rev. V. Smith (Gulgong), and Rev. P.J. Thompson
    (Southern Cross).

14. **Associates:** The Very Rev. R. Thomas, a member of the General Assembly of the
    Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and the Rev. L. Hall, a member of the General Assembly of the
    Presbyterian Church of Queensland, being present in the court, were associated and welcomed by the
15. **Prayer for Authorities:** The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for those in authority in the State, the nation and across the world.

16. **Business:** The report of the Business Committee was laid on the table and received. Dr R.I. Yager presented the deliverance. Pursuant to notice Mr A. Lamrock moved:

That the Assembly:

(19) Note and thank the Business Committee for its dedication and hard work.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Request the Moderator to convey to the Governor of NSW assurances of the regular prayers of members of this Assembly for Her Majesty, the Queen.

(2) Forward to the Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, the President of the NSW Legislative Council and the Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly assurances of the regular prayers of our people for our parliamentary representatives in the exercise of their responsibilities.

(3) Give thanks to God for the life and service of the following former members and servants of the Assembly:-


- **Mr Donald John Mackie**, Elder, died 19.05.2015. Ordained 1955. Assembly Elder for Middle Clarence.


- **Dr David Pilgrim, AM, BE, PhD, DSc, HonFIEAust** Elder Emeritus, died 11.4.2015. Ordained 1963. Hurstville, Convener Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee (GAA) 1996-2010.


(4) Appoint the Ballot Committee as follows:-


(5) Request the Moderator to officially visit during his term of office the presbyteries of Central West and Sydney North.

(6) Approve a maximum expenditure of 50% of the basic stipend for Moderator's costs in 2015-2016 including an honorarium for the Moderator of 5% of the basic stipend for the year with any additional expenditure to be approved by the Business Committee and the payment of 25% of the Basic Stipend to the agency of which the Moderator is an appointee.

(7) Authorise the payment of honoraria of $900 to both the Business Convener and the Deputy Clerk.

(8) Authorise travelling expenses at the rate of reasonable air fares as determined by the Clerk of Assembly or 32¢ per kilometre, whichever is the lesser, to members from NSW and the ACT attending the General Assembly, the Commission of Assembly and Assembly Committee meetings as elected members of that committee from beyond the boundaries of the presbyteries of Sydney, Sydney North, Sydney South and The Hawkesbury.
(9) Approve the payment of travelling expenses to Assembly appointees to outside bodies at the rate for travel to the Assembly for meetings of those bodies in NSW.

(10) Authorise payment to the NSW Council of Churches of the subscription for the current year.

(11) In terms of the Act of Commission, appoint the Commission of Assembly to meet in the Committee Rooms, Presbyterian Church Offices, 168 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills, on Wednesday 18 November, 2015, at 5.00 p.m. and Wednesday 20 April, 2016, at 5.00 p.m.

(12) Ratify the decision of the Business Committee to relocate the celebration service to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in the State of NSW to Audrey Keown Theatre of the Performing Arts Centre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney due to emergent circumstances.

(13) Thank those who arranged and participated in the celebration service to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in the State of NSW.

(14) Appoint the next session of the General Assembly to meet at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 4 July, 2016 in the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Performing Arts Centre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney.

(15) Set the observance of the Lord’s Supper at the 2016 General Assembly for the beginning of the morning sederunt on Tuesday 5 July, 2016.


(17) Request presbyteries to take action to ensure that outstanding Assembly Fund assessments are paid.

(18) Instruct congregations, sessions, presbyteries, committees, boards and councils of the Church to lodge records not currently being used with the Ferguson Memorial Library and Archives.

(19) Note and thank the Business Committee for its dedication and hard work.

17. **Presbyterian Theological Centre**: The report of the Presbyterian Theological Centre Committee together with an addendum to the report was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr S.J. Pym submitted the deliverance.

The Business Convener moved:
That the Assembly:
Suspend so much of Standing Orders as is necessary to allow the appointment of the Principal to be debated separately.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses (1) to (4) were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:

(1) Encourage presbyteries which have not yet held the Elders’ Training Course to sponsor an Elders’ Training Course for their congregations.

(2) Express sincere thanks to the Trustees; the General Manager, Wayne Richards; and the Executive Manager, Development, John Ishak; Messrs Glenn Moore and George Abraham for their continued attention and involvement in the completion of the building project at Christ College and adjacent Independent Living Units.

(3) Thank the Assembly Audit Committee for its work with the PTCC, in particular for the way in which it highlighted the increasing challenges of governance across many areas, the need for the PTCC to address these changing demands, and indication of fruitful avenues by which to pursue them.

(4) Re-appoint Rev. Dr Ian K. Smith as Principal of Christ College, the Presbyterian Theological Centre for a term of six years (2016-2021) in terms of The Code Part III:A9.09, with the following remuneration and benefits:-

(a) Stipend equivalent to the Basic Stipend plus 20% with 30% of the whole being sacrificed in favour of fringe benefits of equivalent value;

(b) Fringe benefits in lieu of, and equivalent in value to, the City travelling allowance;

(c) In lieu of a manse, fringe benefits will be provided with a value equivalent to that of the manse allowance that would be determined by application of the Assembly-approved formula;

(d) In lieu of computer resources, fringe benefits will be provided equivalent in value to the technology allowance as determined by the PTCC;

(e) professional expenses, telephone rental and telephone calls, and stamps and stationery on church business;
(f) Superannuation contribution to an approved fund at a rate of 15.5% (representing the Superannuation Guarantee Charge plus 6% additional employer contribution, applied together against the undivided stipend);

(g) Long Service Leave assessment;

(h) four weeks annual leave;

(i) study leave of six months duration may be provided at the discretion of the PTCC after minimum periods of three years;

(j) professional development expenses of 4% of basic stipend in any two year period; and

(k) the appointment may be terminated with at least three months’ notice, either by the appointee or by the PTCC.

Standing Orders were resumed.

18. **Gospel, Society and Culture:** The report of the Committee on Gospel, Society and Culture together with an addendum to the report was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr J. McClean submitted the deliverance.

The Business Convener moved:

That the Assembly:

Suspend so much of Standing Orders as is necessary to allow the reports on “Creation Care”, “Domestic and Family Violence”, and “Marriage” to be debated separately.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses (1) to (4) were approved.

Communication (iii) was received from the Council of Churches in NSW seeking approval of a proposed new constitution.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. Dr J. McClean moved:

That the Assembly:

(5) Approve the proposed new constitution for the Council of Churches in NSW and communicate this approval to the Rev. Bruce Thornton, the secretary of the Council.

(6) Note that the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee has appointed the Rev. Kamal Weerakoon to represent the Assembly on the Executive of the Council of Churches in NSW.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. Dr J. McClean moved:

That the Assembly:

(7) Adopt the prepared statement on “Domestic and Family Violence” and circulate it to all sessions.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause (8) was moved and seconded.

Pursuant to notice, Mr C.J. Ashton moved as an amendment.

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause (8) by deleting the words “if it is amended to include same-sex couples.”

The amendment was seconded.

The Previous Question on the amendment was moved, seconded and approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 26).

Standing Orders were resumed.

19. **Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 34 to 40 were laid on the table.

20. **Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet on Tuesday 30 June, 2015 at 2.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.

JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.

DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.
SECOND SEDERUNT

21. **Assembly Constituted:** At Croydon and within the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney, on Tuesday 30 June, 2015 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.


23. **Presbyterian Women’s Association:** The report of the Presbyterian Women’s Association of Australia in NSW was laid on the table and received.

Mrs B. Bullen, State President, Mrs S. Johnson, State Secretary, Mrs R. Sharpe, State Treasurer, and Mrs B. Clark, Incoming President, were presented to the House.

At the invitation of the Moderator, Mrs B. Bullen addressed the House.

Pursuant to notice, the Very Rev. B.H. Christian moved:

That the Assembly:

Commend the PWA on its work of ministry and support for ministry during the previous year, and in particular, thank the Market Committee and all those who assisted with the Market Day for the generous gift of $27,000 towards the new Dementia Garden at Pitt Wood House; and commend the organisation to ministers, sessions and the women in congregations throughout the Church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

24. **Presbyterian Men’s League:** The report of the Presbyterian Men’s League was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. D.B. Brand submitted the deliverance.

Clause (1) was approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

Withdraw the Constitution of the Men’s League from The Code.

25. **PresAID:** At the invitation of the Moderator, the Very. Rev. R. Thomas, Convener of PresAID Committee of the General Assembly of Australia, addressed the Assembly on the work of PresAID.

Pursuant to notice the Very Rev. R.P.F. Benn moved:

That the Assembly:

Give thanks to God for the work of PresAID and the opportunities it has opened up for partnership with sister churches, and commend the Christmas and Easter PresAID appeals to all congregations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

26. **Gospel, Society and Culture:** Debate was resumed on the report of the Committee on Gospel, Society and Culture (Min. 18).

Debate on Clause (8) was resumed.

The motion was put.

A division was called for by five members.

Upon the result of the division, being 146 votes in the affirmative and 62 votes in the negative, the Moderator declared Clause (8) approved.


The debate was adjourned (Min. 69).

27. **Order of Business:** The Business Convener presented a report on the order of business.

The report was received and the order of business for Wednesday 1 July, 2015 approved.

28. **Social Service:** The report of the Social Service Committee together with an addendum to the report was laid on the table and received.
The Rev. B. Richardson submitted the deliverance.
At the invitation of the Moderator, Mrs E. McClean, Chief Executive Officer of Presbyterian Social Services, addressed the Assembly.
Clauses (1) to (5) were approved.
Clause (6) was approved in the following amended form:-
Approve the additional content of Section 5 of Breaking the Silence concerning Domestic & Family Violence as follows:

5. Domestic & family violence
The Bible is clear that God is opposed to abuse in marriage or in the family. The model of love in the Bible is Jesus’ suffering for others, the very opposite of abuse. So any attempt to turn the Bible’s teaching into an excuse for abuse is a terrible distortion of its message. If this is happening in churches, then churches and church leaders should be aware of it, and do all they can to protect victims.
Biblical marriage is recognised as being between a man and a woman, notwithstanding domestic & family violence can include carers and other family members.

5.1 What is domestic & family violence?
Domestic & family violence is actions which involve violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by a spouse, carer or family member to control, dominate or instil fear, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other types of abuse. It is sometimes called relationship violence or intimate partner violence. Domestic violence where there are children in the household is child abuse.
Domestic & family violence is a pattern of behaviour, rather than a single incident. Like grooming, it gradually undermines the victim’s ability to seek help and their confidence in themselves and others.
Domestic & family violence can happen in all sorts of relationships, including:
- intimate partners (husbands & wives)
- older people (sometimes called elder abuse)
- parents and children; and
- people with a disability and their carers.

5.2 What are the signs?
Domestic & family violence is often hidden violence. Physical violence is usually the most noticeable and obvious to people outside the relationship or family. Other forms of violence are harder to see. Examples include:
- isolation of the victim from friends and family;
- controlling the victim’s access to money;
- diminishing the victim’s self-esteem;
- restricting access to the church; and
- intimidation and threats.
The website
http://www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/what_is_domestic_and_family_violence has useful information about domestic & family violence including the following which may help to identify when it is occurring:-

Verbal
This can include, but is not limited to:
- swearing and continual humiliation, either in private or in public; and/or
- attacks following clear themes that focus on intelligence, sexuality, body image and capacity as a parent and spouse.

Psychological
This can include, but is not limited to:
- driving dangerously;
- destruction of property;
- abuse of pets in front of family members;
- making threats regarding custody of any children; and/or
- asserting that the police and justice system will not assist, support or believe the victim.

Emotional
This can include, but is not limited to:
- blaming the victim for all problems in the relationship;
- constantly comparing the victim with others to undermine self-esteem and self-worth;
• sporadic sulking;
• withdrawing all interest and engagement (for example weeks of silence); and/or
• emotional blackmail and suicidal threats.

Social
This can include, but is not limited to:
• systematic isolation from family and friends through techniques such as ongoing rudeness to family and friends to alienate them;
• instigating and controlling the move to a location where the victim has no established social circle or employment opportunities;
• restricting use of the car or telephone; and/or
• forbidding or physically preventing the victim from going out and meeting people.

Financial
This can include, but is not limited to complete control of all money, through:
• forbidding access to bank accounts;
• providing only an inadequate ‘allowance’;
• not allowing the victim to seek or hold employment;
• coercing to sign documents or make false declarations;
• using all wages earned by the victim for household expenses;
• controlling the victim’s pension; and/or
• denying that the victim has an entitlement to joint property.

Physical
This can include, but is not limited to:
• direct assault on the body (strangulation or choking, shaking, eye injuries, biting, slapping, pushing, spitting, punching, or kicking);
• use of weapons including objects;
• assault of children;
• locking the victim in or out of the house;
• forcing the victim to take drugs, withholding medication, food or medical care; and/or
• sleep deprivation.

Sexual
This can include, but is not limited to:
• any form of pressured/unwanted sex or sexual degradation by an intimate partner or ex-partner, such as sexual activity without consent;
• causing pain during sex;
• assaulting genitals;
• coercive sex without protection against pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease;
• making the victim perform sexual acts unwillingly (including taking or distributing explicit photos without their consent); and/or
• criticising or using sexually degrading insults.

Harassment and stalking
This can include, but is not limited to:
• following and watching;
• telephone and online harassment;
• tracking with Global Positioning Systems (GPS); and/or
• being intimidating.

A person does not need to be married for it to be considered ‘domestic and family violence’. It can be perpetrated by a family member, carer, boyfriend or girlfriend.

A person does not need to experience all of these types of abuse for it to be considered domestic or family violence.

Clauses (7) and (8) were approved.
Pursuant to notice, the Rev. R. Richardson moved:
That the Assembly:
(9) (a) Request the Social Services Committee to consider the ministry of chaplaincy in its many expressions, including current scope, future operations, governance, funding, training and recruitment; and report to the 2016 Assembly with any recommendations regarding chaplaincy.
(b) Request the Social Service Committee as part of the preparation of this report to consult with other Committees, schools and pastoral charges who engage chaplains,
and other interested individuals, including but not limited to the Rev. M.R. Powell, C. Nixon and the Rev. Dr P. Paul.

(c) Approve spending of up to $1,000 from the Assembly Fund towards costs of meeting.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Note the resignation of Mr Jeof Falls from the Social Service Committee and thank him for his service.

(2) Recommend to presbyteries, sessions and pastoral charges that they actively support Jericho Road however they are able.

(3) Amend the requirements of Breaking the Silence by the inclusion of the following paragraph at the end of Section 1.3: Breaking the Silence also acknowledges that some organisations, such as Presbyterian Aged Care, within the church are required by legislation to establish policies and procedures for dealing with and preventing particular forms of abuse. With the approval of the Assembly, these organisations may obtain full exemption from the provisions of Breaking the Silence, including the provisions placed on approved organisations as set out above. Such an exemption will only be granted by the Assembly where the organisation applying is subject to specific legislation relating to abuse and where the organisation is audited by a relevant external quality assurance body on a regular basis. The Committee responsible for such an organisation has full responsibility for ensuring that the organisation maintains an appropriate policy and procedure and makes legislated and insurance reports.

(4) Amend Breaking the Silence to include the following definition in Section 1.4: Domestic or family violence: Actions which involve violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by a partner, carer or family member to control, dominate or instil fear, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other types of abuse.

(5) Amend Breaking the Silence Code of Conduct Point 10 to read as follows:-

“With regard to adults, children and young people:

- You will not condone or participate in bullying behaviour, where bullying is the repeated seeking out or targeting of an adult, child, or young person to cause them distress and humiliation or to exploit them, including exclusion from a peer group, intimidation and extortion.

- You will not condone or participate in domestic or family violence, which involves violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by a partner, carer or family member to control, dominate or instil fear. This includes physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other types of abuse.

- You will not participate in or allow nude swimming or other such activities.

- You will not participate in or allow initiations and secret ceremonies.”

(6) Approve the additional content of Section 5 of Breaking the Silence concerning Domestic & Family Violence as follows:

5. Domestic & family violence

The Bible is clear that God is opposed to abuse in marriage or in the family. The model of love in the Bible is Jesus' suffering for others, the very opposite of abuse. So any attempt to turn the Bible’s teaching into an excuse for abuse is a terrible distortion of its message. If this is happening in churches, then churches and church leaders should be aware of it, and do all they can to protect victims.

Biblical marriage is recognised as being between a man and a woman, notwithstanding domestic & family violence can include carers and other family members.

5.1 What is domestic & family violence?

Domestic & family violence is actions which involve violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour carried out by a spouse, carer or family member to control, dominate or instil fear, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial or other types of abuse. It is sometimes called relationship violence or intimate partner violence. Domestic violence where there are children in the household is child abuse.

Domestic & family violence is a pattern of behaviour, rather than a single incident. Like grooming, it gradually undermines the victim’s ability to seek help and their confidence in themselves and others.

Domestic & family violence can happen in all sorts of relationships, including:
The website
http://www.domesticviolence.nsw.gov.au/what_is_domestic_and_family_violence has
useful information about domestic & family violence including the following which may help to
identify when it is occurring:

Verbal
This can include, but is not limited to:
• swearing and continual humiliation, either in private or in public; and/or
• attacks following clear themes that focus on intelligence, sexuality, body image and
capacity as a parent and spouse.

Psychological
This can include, but is not limited to:
• driving dangerously;
• destruction of property;
• abuse of pets in front of family members;
• making threats regarding custody of any children; and/or
• asserting that the police and justice system will not assist, support or believe the victim.

Emotional
This can include, but is not limited to:
• blaming the victim for all problems in the relationship;
• constantly comparing the victim with others to undermine self-esteem and self-worth;
• sporadic sulking;
• withdrawing all interest and engagement (for example weeks of silence); and/or
• emotional blackmail and suicidal threats.

Social
This can include, but is not limited to:
• systematic isolation from family and friends through techniques such as ongoing
rudeness to family and friends to alienate them;
• instigating and controlling the move to a location where the victim has no established
social circle or employment opportunities;
• restricting use of the car or telephone; and/or
• forbidding or physically preventing the victim from going out and meeting people.

Financial
This can include, but is not limited to complete control of all money, through:
• forbidding access to bank accounts;
• providing only an inadequate ‘allowance’;
• not allowing the victim to seek or hold employment;
• coercing to sign documents or make false declarations;
• using all wages earned by the victim for household expenses;
• controlling the victim’s pension; and/or
• denying that the victim has an entitlement to joint property.

Physical
This can include, but is not limited to:
• direct assault on the body (strangulation or choking, shaking, eye injuries, biting,
slapping, pushing, spitting, punching, or kicking);
• use of weapons including objects;
• assault of children;
• locking the victim in or out of the house;
• forcing the victim to take drugs, withholding medication, food or medical care; and/or
• sleep deprivation.

**Sexual**
This can include, but is not limited to:
• any form of pressured/unwanted sex or sexual degradation by an intimate partner or ex-partner, such as sexual activity without consent;
• causing pain during sex;
• assaulting genitals;
• coercive sex without protection against pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease;
• making the victim perform sexual acts unwillingly (including taking or distributing explicit photos without their consent); and/or
• criticising or using sexually degrading insults.

**Harassment and stalking**
This can include, but is not limited to:
• following and watching;
• telephone and online harassment;
• tracking with Global Positioning Systems (GPS); and/or
• being intimidating.

A person does not need to be married for it to be considered ‘domestic and family violence’. It can be perpetrated by a family member, carer, boyfriend or girlfriend.

A person does not need to experience all of these types of abuse for it to be considered domestic or family violence.

(7) Acknowledge the service of Mr Colin J. Llewellyn who served for over twenty six years with Presbyterian Social Services and thank God for the care and compassion he showed during his service.

(8) Give thanks to God for the 25 years of service completed by the Rev. Morris Key as a Chaplain with Presbyterian Social Services and pray for his continuing work in Indonesia.

(9) (a) Request the Social Service Committee to consider the ministry of chaplaincy in its many expressions, including current scope, future operations, governance, funding, training and recruitment; and report to the 2016 Assembly with any recommendations regarding chaplaincy.

(b) Request the Social Service Committee as part of the preparation of this report to consult with other Committees, schools and pastoral charges who engage chaplains, and other interested individuals, including but not limited to the Rev. M.R. Powell, C. Nixon and the Rev. Dr P.B. Paul.

(c) Approve spending of up to $1,000 from the Assembly Fund towards costs of meeting.

29. **Rev. R. Manton:** At the invitation of the Moderator, the Rev. R. Manton, Chaplain to the Koori People, addressed the Assembly.

30. **Northern Rivers Conference Centre:** The report of the Northern Rivers Conference Centre was laid on the table and received.

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

The Rev. J.R. Irvin submitted the deliverance.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) In accordance with a decision of the Assembly on an overture sent down under Barrier Act procedure (BB 2014 Min. 54) Overture (i) from the Presbytery Records Committee to amend The Code 5.27 concerning records attested, delete 5.27 and insert the following:-

5.27 Records examined and attested. The presbytery records shall be in the custody of the Clerk. Following the confirmation of the Minutes of each meeting the Clerk shall forward one signed copy by mail to the Clerk of Assembly and either two (2) signed copies by mail or one unsigned copy by email to the Convener of the Presbytery Records Committee for examination, the latter to be accompanied by the statement “these are a true record of the signed confirmed
Minutes”. The Clerk shall bring to the General Assembly each year or delegate another member of the presbytery to do so, the Minutes of the previous calendar year for examination and attestation by the Moderator.

(2) In accordance with a decision of the Assembly on an overture sent down under Barrier Act procedure (BB 2014 Min. 52) Overture (ii) from the Trustees to amend The Code by the insertion a new clause at 2.19 concerning electronic payments, insert the following new clause at 2.19 and renumber all subsequent clauses thereafter:

2.19. Electronic payments. Each electronic payment duly authorised by the Committee of Management shall be processed by the treasurer, or in conjunction with another member so authorised by the committee for this purpose as may be required by the financial institution. These procedures shall be followed by all the organisations of a congregation.

32. Dr J. Pratt: At the invitation of the Moderator, Dr J. Pratt, Associate Superintendent (Training and Development) Ministry and Mission Committee, addressed the Assembly.

33. Overture (vi): An overture from the Presbytery of Sydney North to amend The Code 5.62 concerning the authority to perform marriages was taken up and received. The Rev. J.R. Buchanan and the Rev. Dr S.J. Pym stated the overture. Questions were asked of the overturists. Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr S.J. Pym moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr S.J. Pym moved:

That the Assembly:

(1) Send the overture to presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 March, 2016.

(2) Grant the overture interim authority.

The motion was seconded and approved.

34. Ministry and Mission: The report of the Ministry and Mission Committee was laid on the table and received. The Rev. J.N. Read submitted the deliverance. Clause (1) was moved and seconded. Pursuant to notice, the Rev. P.R. Dunstan moved as an amendment.

That the Assembly:

Amend clause (1) by deleting all words and inserting the following:-

(1) Declare unacceptable the situation where Presbyteries allow pastoral charges within their bounds to decline year after year in vitality often seen as a failure to grow without good reasons being known to Presbytery, and require Presbyteries and pastoral charges so identified to:

(a) Pray that God might reveal, expose and correct those things that are hindering the growth and development of pastoral charges and congregations facing such a situation.

(b) Seek the assistance of the Ministry and Mission Committee to identify and correct reasons for the lack of vitality and growth of such pastoral charges.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 71).

35. Notices of Motion: Notices of Motion 41 to 42 were laid on the table.

36. Adjournment: Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet on Wednesday 1 July, 2015 at 9.00 a.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.
JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.
DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.
THIRD SEDERUNT

37. **Assembly Constituted:** At Croydon and within the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney, on Wednesday 1 July, 2015 at 9.00am the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, the reading of Scripture and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

38. **Associate:** Mr W. McRae, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, being present in the court was associated and welcomed by the Moderator.

39. **Communication (vii):** A communication was received from the Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia concerning the election by state assemblies of commissioners to the 2016 General Assembly of Australia.

By leave of the Assembly, the Rev. J.R. Irvin moved:

That the Assembly:

(1) Call for nominations for the election of nine ministers and nine elders as commissioners from the New South Wales General Assembly to the 2016 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

(2) If more than the required nominations are received hold a ballot at the same time as the ballot for Assembly committees.

The motion was seconded and approved.

40. **Accounts:** The audited accounts of the Presbyterian Church in NSW for the year ended 31 December 2014 were laid on the table and received.

41. **Auditor’s Report:** The Official Auditor’s Report on the Church’s accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 was laid on the table and opportunity was given for questions to be asked of the Official Auditor.

Pursuant to notice Mr J.R. Falls moved:

That the Assembly:

- Receive the Official Auditor’s Report on the Church’s accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 and forward it to the Trustees.

The motion was seconded and approved.

42. **Trustees:** The report of the Trustees and an addendum to the report was laid on the table and received.

Mr J.R. Falls submitted the deliverance.

Clauses (1) and (2) were approved.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. J. Macintyre moved:

That the Assembly:

(3) Request the Trustees to consider changing Form F to allow full reporting of income and expenditure along with surplus or deficit on page (1) and insert a new page (2) where the “basis for assessment” is calculated.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, Ms F. Perry moved:

That the Assembly:

(4) Give thanks to God for Miss Patricia Watts for her 10 year service (2001 to 2005 and 2009 to 2015) and Mr Ian Wallace for his 5 year service as Trustees.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, Mr J.R. Falls moved:

That the Assembly:

(5) (a) Give thanks to God for the contributions of Mr Wayne Richards as General Manager of the Church over the past 13 years, and for Mrs L. Richards in supporting Wayne in this role.

(b) Commend Mr Richards in his leadership of many operational changes in the church which have included, among other things, significant improvements in the systems and processes of the General Office; major improvements of Church’s risk exposure and
insurance coverage; active engagement with congregations, committees, Boards and 
Councils of the Church in improving their management practices, governance and 
reporting; and humble, sensitive dealing with a number of deeply hurt individuals and 
their families who were impacted severely by molestation in some of our schools in the 
past.

(c) Express its hope that Mr Richards may enjoy a relaxed, refreshing and joyful time with 
Mrs Richards and his family in his retirement.

The motion was seconded and carried by acclamation.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Note that:

(a) The monies derived from the sale of Thornleigh land in 1996 for the benefit of camping 
and related Presbyterian Youth activities are contained in the Margaret Friend Fund as an 
express trust.

(b) The Margaret Friend Fund has traditionally been managed by a separate committee 
and as investing has become more complex since that time and compliance with the 
regulations as contained in The Code Part III E4.19 has become unreliable, PY and the 
Trustees have agreed that the management requirements of the Margaret Friend Fund 
is now an anachronism of the past.

(c) At their meeting of the 25th August 2014 the Trustees resolved the following; “As the 
Margaret Friend Fund administrative practices contained in regulation E4.19 of the 
Presbyterian Youth section of The Code have become redundant and that the funds 
should be treated the same as other significant specific trust funds held and invested by 
the Property Trust in accordance with variations of trust determined by the General 
Assembly from time to time (specifically minute 152.13 of the 1998 Blue Book in respect 
of this matter), it is recommended that The Code Part III regulation E4.19 be deleted in 
its entirety."

(2) Resolve to delete from Part III of The Code regulation E4.19 in its entirety.

(3) Request the Trustees to consider changing Form F to allow full reporting of income and 
expenditure along with surplus or deficit on page “1” and insert a new page “2” where the “basis 
for assessment” is calculated.

(4) Give thanks to God for Miss Patricia Watts for her 10 year service (2001 to 2005 and 2009 to 
2015) and Mr Ian Wallace for his 5 year service as Trustees.

(5) (a) Give thanks to God for the contributions of Mr Wayne Richards as General Manager of 
the Church over the past 13 years, and for Mrs L. Richards in supporting Wayne in this 
role.

(b) Commend Mr Richards in his leadership of many operational changes in the church 
which have included, among other things, significant improvements in the systems and 
processes of the General Office; major improvements of Church’s risk exposure and 
insurance coverage; active engagement with congregations, committees, Boards and 
Councils of the Church in improving their management practices, governance and 
reporting; and humble, sensitive dealing with a number of deeply hurt individuals and 
their families who were impacted severely by molestation in some of our schools in the 
past.

(c) Express its hope that Mr Richards may enjoy a relaxed, refreshing and joyful time with 
Mrs Richards and his family in his retirement.

43. Mr A. Letcher: At the invitation of the Moderator, Mr A. Letcher, Chief Executive 
Officer of Presbyterian Inland Mission, addressed the Assembly.

44. Rev. M. Crocker: At the invitation of the Moderator, the Rev. M. Crocker, minister of 
Restored congregation (a church planting ministry within Grace Presbyterian Church), addressed the 
Assembly.

45. Overture (iii): An overture from the Presbytery of Central Tablelands relating to the use 
of capital funds was taken up and received.

The Rev. W.G. Morrow and R. Coleman stated the overture.

Questions were asked of the overturists.
Pursuant to notice the Rev. W.G. Morrow moved:
That the Assembly:
Sustain the overture.
The motion was seconded and approved.
Pursuant to notice, Mr J.R. Falls moved as a motion of procedure:
That the Assembly:
Refer Overture (iii) from the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands relating to the use of capital funds to the Trustees for consideration and report to the next Assembly.
The motion was seconded and approved.

46. Assembly Audit: The report of the Assembly Audit Committee together with an addendum to the report was laid on the table and received.
Mr R.D. Parker presented the deliverance.
Clauses (1) to (8) were approved.
Clause (9) was approved in the following amended form:-
With effect from 1 January 2016 determine that the MDP assessment shall consist of a flat fee of $240 for the first $50,000 of income plus 4.7% of the balance of ordinary income declared on Form F for the previous year.
Clauses (10) to (12) were approved.
Pursuant to notice, Mr R.D. Parker moved:
That the Assembly:
(13) (a) Request the Assembly Audit Committee in conjunction with the Business Committee to review options for altering the current method of computation of ordinary income for assessment purposes, in order to take into account more appropriately the circumstances of pastoral charges and home missions stations that are at an early point in their life-cycle.
(b) Invite pastoral charges, home mission stations and presbyteries to make written submissions to this review, with submissions to be in the hands of the AAC Convener by 1st October, 2015.
(c) Direct the Assembly Audit Committee to report to the 2016 Assembly on the findings of this review, including any recommendations for changes to the assessment formula together with any adjustments to the rates of assessments necessitated by any changes to the assessment formula.
The motion was seconded and approved.
Pursuant to notice the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:
That the Assembly:
(14) Authorise the Assembly Audit Committee to receive, from the Moderator General's Church Planting Taskforce of the GAA, by 28th February, 2016 a proposal (supported by a business case that includes annual budgets and cash flow forecasts) to assist the growth of the Presbyterian Church of Australia outside of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, and to bring to the Assembly in 2016 a considered recommendation for triennial funding from the Ministry Development Program.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
(1) Commend the Presbyterian Theological Centre Committee and College Staff for their faithfulness, dedication, hard work and effectiveness in training people in preparation for ministry.
(2) Direct the Presbyterian Theological Centre Committee to address the opportunities for improvement as detailed in the 2015 AAC report.
(3) Commend Presbyterian Social Service for its hard work and its energetic completion of many of the recommendations in the 2014 AAC report.
(4) Note that PSS is still facing a financial situation (arising from both the wind-up of Recycling and the bed occupancy in Allowah) that will take some time, perseverance and innovation to redress, and encourage all members of Assembly to support PSS in prayer.
(5) Direct Presbyterian Social Service to address the remaining opportunities for improvement as detailed in the 2015 AAC report.
(6) Approve an allocation of MDP to PSS of $30,000 in 2015 and a further $30,000 in 2016 as a
contribution towards the cost of the Chaplaincy ministry to assist with its continuation while measures to transition to fuller funding are implemented by PSS.

(7) Commend METRO for the timely completion of nearly all the recommendations in the 2013 AAC report and direct METRO to address the remaining opportunity for improvement as summarised in the 2015 AAC report.

(8) Commend M&M for the timely completion of many of the recommendations in the 2013 AAC report and direct M&M to address the remaining opportunities for improvement as summarised in the 2015 AAC report.

(9) With effect from 1 January 2016 determine that the MDP assessment shall consist of a flat fee of $240 for the first $50,000 of income plus 4.7% of the balance of ordinary income declared on Form F for the previous year.

(10) Direct any Assembly committees seeking MDP funding for the 2017 to 2019 triennium to submit their requests to the AAC by 28th February 2016, with the AAC’s recommendations to be brought to the July 2016 Assembly.


(12) Amend The Code III D1 (Assembly Audit) to read as follows:

**ASSEMBLY AUDIT**

**D1.01 Name.** There shall be a Committee named the Assembly Audit Committee (hereinafter called the AAC) responsible to recommend the rate of assessments for the Ministry Development Program (MDP), the Conduct Protocol Unit (CPU) and the Assembly Fund and, further, to review the operation of the Assembly’s committees and recommend to the Assembly the allocation of MDP funds among its committees.

**D1.02 Objects and Functions.** The objects and functions of the AAC shall be to:

(a) Review the operations of each Assembly committee that receives funding from Assembly assessments for the purpose of refining annual plans and budgets favourably for both income and expenditure.

(b) Assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which each of the above Assembly committees both fulfils its constitutional purpose and cooperates with other Assembly committees in so doing.

(c) Provide assistance to identify and implement committee savings where available.

(d) Report to each meeting of the General Assembly those committees that have been reviewed and the results of those reviews.

(e) Receive proposals for MDP funding from committees seeking to establish new programs or initiate new activities in order that the AAC might consider the impact that any such proposal might have on the MDP and report thereon to the Assembly, it being understood that new initiatives may only be financed within a triennium from accumulated surpluses in the MDP.

(f) Recommend any variation in the rate of any of the assessments to be applied for the ensuing triennium.

(g) Ensure that total allocations to committees shall not exceed MDP funds raised during each triennium.

(h) Make triennial recommendations to the Assembly (commencing in 2013) on the apportionment of MDP funds among the Assembly’s committees.

**D1.03 Membership.**

(a) The Committee shall consist of all members of the Audit Committee of the Trustees from time to time, plus

(b) Three members of the Assembly who have business management, accounting, audit or finance experience, each being elected for a three year term.

(c) The convener of the Trustees Audit Committee shall be the convener of the AAC or, in his absence or at his request, the Chairman of Trustees shall fulfil this role.

(d) Casual vacancies occurring in any of the three positions determined by the Assembly may be filled by the AAC subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Assembly.

(e) No person shall be a member of the AAC who is also a convener or head managing or executive officer of an MDP-funded committee. While honorary treasurers of MDP-funded committees shall be eligible for membership of the AAC, they may not move or second a motion or vote on any matter concerning their own Assembly committee.

**D1.04 Duties of committees receiving funding from an Assembly assessment.**

Each committee shall:
(a) Appoint a treasurer to attend to the financial affairs of the committee, prepare annual budgets and regular forecasts, and report to the AAC at a time and in a manner determined by the AAC.
(b) Liaise constructively with the AAC.
(c) Utilise MDP funds only for purposes for which they have been allocated.
(d) Prepare and submit to the AAC a proposal with business case for any new initiative or program prior to seeking approval from the General Assembly.
(e) Report to the AAC, to the Trustees of the Property Trust and to the General Assembly in the event that it records a deficit in the revenue account and is not in possession of capital funds to meet that deficit.

D1.05 MDP Assessment. The MDP shall be administered by the Trustees on recommendations from the AAC in accordance with these regulations and any relevant resolutions of the General Assembly in order to finance, in whole or in part, those works of the Church which extend beyond the tasks and resources of individual congregations. The MDP shall derive income from assessments determined by the Assembly and levied annually upon the ordinary income of all pastoral charges and home mission stations as that income is reported on Form F for the immediately preceding year and from additional contributions from congregations.

D1.06 Assembly Fund Assessment. The Assembly Fund provided for in The Code II 8.26 shall consist of monies derived from assessments determined by the Assembly from time to time and levied upon all pastoral charges and those home mission stations that commission an elder to the Assembly pursuant to The Code II 8.02(f). Assembly Fund assessments shall be calculated on a pastoral charge’s or home mission station’s ordinary income as reported in Form F for the immediately preceding year.

D1.07 CPU Assessment. The CPU Assessment, which will finance, in part, the operations of the CPU, shall consist of monies derived from assessments determined by the Assembly on a triennial basis and levied annually upon the ordinary income of all pastoral charges and home mission stations as that income is reported on Form F for the immediately preceding year.

D1.08 Payment of Assessments. All pastoral charges and home mission stations shall pay the combined value of all annual assessments in four equal quarterly instalments by 30 April, 30 June, 30 September and 30 November each year or as otherwise agreed by the Trustees. A fee of $80 shall apply to any payment received after the due date, which fee shall be credited to the pool of available MDP funds. If a congregation fails to lodge a Financial Return, assessments shall be calculated on an assumed ordinary income 10% higher than the year preceding that for which the Financial Return was not lodged.

D1.09 Promotion of MDP. MDP shall be promoted by the Trustees after consultation with the various spending committees.

D1.10 Contributions to MDP from Congregations.
(a) The committee of management shall, prior to the annual congregational meeting, consider the financial needs of the wider work of the Church and shall recommend to the congregation the amount which it will endeavour to contribute to MDP in addition to the Assembly assessment during the current year and a financial objective for attainment in the following year.
(b) The congregation at the annual meeting in considering the wider work of the Church, having received a report and/or recommendation from the committee of management on the financial aspects, shall decide the amount which it shall endeavour to contribute to MDP during the current year in addition to the Assembly assessment; shall also decide a financial objective for contributions during the following year and shall inform the presbytery and the Trustees accordingly.
(c) Presbyteries shall encourage congregations within their bounds to contribute significantly towards MDP and shall assist all committees in making known to congregations the nature, extent and needs of the wider work of the Church.

(13) (a) Request the Assembly Audit Committee in conjunction with the Business Committee to review options for altering the current method of computation of ordinary income for assessment purposes, in order to take into account more appropriately the circumstances of pastoral charges and home missions stations that are at an early point in their life-cycle.
(b) Invite pastoral charges, home mission stations and presbyteries to make written submissions to this review, with submissions to be in the hands of the AAC Convener by 1st October, 2015.

(c) Direct the Assembly Audit Committee to report to the 2016 Assembly on the findings of this review, including any recommendations for changes to the assessment formula together with any adjustments to the rates of assessments necessitated by any changes to the assessment formula.

(14) Authorise the Assembly Audit Committee to receive, from the Moderator General's Church Planting Taskforce of the GAA, by 28th February, 2016 a proposal (supported by a business case that includes annual budgets and cash flow forecasts) to assist the growth of the Presbyterian Church of Australia outside of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, and to bring to the Assembly in 2016 a considered recommendation for triennial funding from the Ministry Development Program.

47. **Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 43 to 47 were laid on the table.

48. **Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday 1st July, 2015 whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.
JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.
DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.
FOURTH SEDERUNT

49. **Assembly Constituted:** At Croydon and within the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney, on Wednesday 1 July, 2015 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.

50. **Bible Exposition:** The Rt Rev. D.A. Cook delivered an exposition of Romans 8:1–39 entitled “Authentic Christian Experience”.

51. **Statement by Past Moderator:** The statement by the Immediate Past Moderator, the Rev. M.R. Powell was laid on the table and received. Pursuant to notice the Rev. M.R. Powell moved: That the Assembly:

- Strongly encourage all church agencies (including schools and aged care institutions) to explore with presbyteries and local congregations how their facilities could be appropriately used for the development of new congregations.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

- Pursuant to notice, the Rev. Dr I.K. Smith moved: That the Assembly:

  - Give thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev. Mark Powell as Moderator of the General Assembly, for the willing support of Mrs A. Powell and family in freeing Mark for this service, and for the people of God at Cornerstone for sharing their minister, and assure them of its prayers in their continued work for the Kingdom of Christ.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

52. **Principal’s Address:** At the invitation of the Moderator, Mr David Gates, Principal of The Scots School Bathurst and Lithgow addressed the Assembly.

53. **The Scots School Bathurst:** The report of The Scots School, Bathurst and Lithgow was laid on the table and received. By leave of the House, Ms F. Perry moved: That the Assembly:

- Give thanks to God for the Rev. T. Abbey for his 13 years of service to the Board of The Scots School Bathurst.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

54. **Presbyterian Ladies’ Colleges, Sydney and Armidale:** The report of the Council of the Presbyterian Ladies’ Colleges, Sydney and Armidale was laid on the table and received.

55. **The Scots College:** The report of the Council of The Scots College was laid on the table and received. At the invitation of the Moderator, Dr G. Heard, Chairperson of The Scots College, addressed the Assembly.

56. **Committee to Explore Educational Activities:** Pursuant to notice, the Rev. B.M. Meller moved: That the Assembly:

(1) Appoint a special committee consisting of the Moderator as Convener, the Clerk as Secretary, the Rev. C. Nixon, Rt Rev. D.A. Cook, the Rev. M.R. Powell, Messrs C. Langford and W. Richards, Mrs C. Morphew and two Trustee nominees, with power to co-opt, with responsibility to:

(a) explore the current nature of the Presbyterian Church’s involvement in education in NSW;
(b) clarify the Church’s mission as it relates to its educational activities; and
(c) make recommendations to the 2016 Assembly concerning these matters and the potential development of the Church’s educational activities.

(2) Require the committee to converse with the Principals and Chairs/Conveners of the Church’s
educational institutions (being its denominational and congregational schools and Christ College) and encourage those Principals and Chairs/Conveners to participate fully in these conversations.

The motion was seconded.

At the invitation of the Moderator, Dr I. Lambert, Principal of The Scots College, addressed the Assembly.

The motion was approved.


The report was received and the order business for Thursday 2 July, 2015 approved.

58. Moderator Vacated Chair: The Moderator invited the immediate Past Moderator to take the chair while the report of Australian Presbyterian World Mission (NSW Committee) was before the Assembly.

59. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (NSW Committee): The report of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (NSW Committee) was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr W.A. Williamson, a returning missionary from Vanuatu, was welcomed by the Moderator and addressed the Assembly.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. R.C. McKean moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the regulations of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee (NSW) by replacing regulations A1.04 (d) and (e) with the following:

(d) interview missionary candidates and make an appropriate determination regarding their application in accordance with the regulations of Australian Presbyterian World Mission.

(e) ensure that NSW missionaries accepted by APWM receive appropriate care and support from their mission agency and sending church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. Dr E.F. Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

In light of motions passed by the National Committee of APWM:

(1) Request APWM NSW to prepare a 1000 word report (2 pages) to submit to the GAA requesting the NSW APWM to take sole responsibility for a ministry in Bangladesh with guidelines as set out in the approved motion of the NSW APWM Committee 16 October, 2014.

(2) Grant interim authority for this procedural motion from the rising of the NSW Assembly until the GAA meets.

The motion was seconded.

The competency of the motion was challenged.

The Moderator ruled clause (1) competent and clause (2) incompetent.

The Moderator’s ruling on clause (1) was challenged.

The Moderator’s ruling was dissented from.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

Amend the regulations of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee (NSW) by replacing regulations A1.04 (d) and (e) with the following:

(d) interview missionary candidates and make an appropriate determination regarding their application in accordance with the regulations of Australian Presbyterian World Mission.

(e) ensure that NSW missionaries accepted by APWM receive appropriate care and support from their mission agency and sending church.

60. Moderator Resumed Chair: The Moderator resumed the chair.

61. Moderator, Western Australia: At the invitation of the Moderator, Mr W. McRae, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, addressed the Assembly.

62. Ballot: The ballot was held for the following committees:
63. **Notices of Motion:** Notices of Motion 48 and 49 were laid on the table.

64. **Adjournment:** Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet tomorrow, Thursday 2 July, 2015, at 9.00 a.m. in the Audrey Keown Theatre at the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney, for the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion and thence for the transaction of business whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.
JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.
DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.
65. **Holy Communion**: At Croydon and within the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney on Thursday 2 July, 2015 at 9.00 a.m. the Assembly met for the celebration of Holy Communion. The Solemn Service was conducted by the Moderator assisted by the Rev. P. Gobbo, P.G. Harris, the Rev. Dr S.J. Pym, the Rev. J. Rusli, B.J. Ryu, S. Siu, Messrs A. Byleveld, J.A. Goodman, L. Jackson, C. Langford, J. McGregor, W. McRae, J. Read, W. Thompson, I. Warrell, with the Rev. D.F. Maher expositing the Scripture.

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

67. **Ballot**: The report of the Ballot Committee was laid on the table and received. The Rev. D.M. Seaman submitted the deliverance. The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly Audit Committee:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Person: Dr Michael Whitelaw</td>
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<td>Rev. Jeff Read</td>
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<td>Rev. Steve Teale</td>
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<td>Aust. Presbyterian World Mission:</td>
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<td>Convener: Rev. Robert McKean</td>
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<td>Elder: Mr Ian Warrell</td>
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<td>Communicant: Mrs Evelyn Mills</td>
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<td>Ministers: Rev. Dr Ewen Brown</td>
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<td>Rev. Derek Bullen</td>
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<td>Rev. David Stone</td>
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<td>Elders: Mr Matthew Mitchell</td>
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<td>Mr Philip Sanders</td>
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<td>Mr Ron Norman</td>
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<td>Persons: Mr Malcolm Beveridge</td>
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<td>Rev. Les Fowler</td>
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<td>Mr Phillip Mitchell</td>
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<td>Business:</td>
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<td>Dr Michael Whitelaw</td>
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<td>Convener: Rev. David Hassan</td>
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<td>Dr Michael Whitelaw</td>
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<td>Gospel Society &amp; Culture:</td>
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<td>Convener: Rev. Dr John McClean</td>
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<td>Members: Rev. Dr Peter Barnes</td>
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<td>Mr Warren Chan</td>
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<td>Rev. Sandy McMillan</td>
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<td>Rev. Kamal Weerakoon</td>
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<td>1 vacancy</td>
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<td>Rev. David Woolcott</td>
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<td>Conciliation:</td>
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<td>Dr Michael Whitelaw</td>
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<td>Presbytery Records:</td>
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<td>Convener: Mr Colin Short</td>
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<td>Members: Rev. Joy Bartholomew</td>
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<td>Mrs Yvonne Forsyth</td>
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<td>Mr Colin Short</td>
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<td>Social Service:</td>
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<td>Convener: Rev. Brett Richardson</td>
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<td>Minister: Rev. Dr Iain Barclay</td>
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<td>Elder: Mr Ron Norman</td>
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<td>Communicant: Mr Roy Piercy</td>
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<td>Theological Education:</td>
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<td>Convener: Rev. Dr Steve Pym</td>
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<td>Ministers: Rev. Byeong Jae Ryu</td>
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<td>Rev. Ian Stenhouse</td>
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<td>Elders: Mr Bill Thompson</td>
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<td>Mr John Thoms</td>
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<td>Trustees:</td>
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<td>Ministers: Rev. Keith Boulden</td>
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</table>
Rev. Bruce Meller  
Dr Michael Whitelaw  

Persons:  
Mr Jeff Davis  
Mrs Leah Russell  

Reserves:  
Mr Ralph Holvast  
Mr Andrew Mitchell  

GA of A Commissioners:  
Rev. Kevin Murray  
Rev. Dr Ian Smith  
Rev. John Irvin  
Rev. Dr John McClean  
Rev. David Burke  
Rev. Jeff Read  
Rev. Dr Paul Logan  
Rev. William Morrow  
Rev. David Yu  

Reserves:  
Rev. David Seaman  
Rev. Paul Harris  
Rev. Brett Richardson  
Rev. Stuart Andrews  
Rev. Joy Bartholomew  
Rev. Dr Ewen Brown  
Rev. R. Vandervelden  
Rev. Peter Dunstan  

Elders:  
Mr Jeof Falls  
Dr Rod Yager  
Mr Murray Smith  
Mr Colin Langford  
Mr John Rolland  
Mr Mick Quirk  
Mr Alan Byleveld  
Mr Peter Graham  

Boards and Councils  
P L C - Sydney and Armidale:  
Prof. Warrick Britton  
Mr Luke Hall  

Persons:  
Mr Ray Khoury-Harb  
Dr David Lim  
Dr Madeline Turner  
Mrs Toni Welsh  

The Scots College:  
Rev. Bruce Meller  
Rev. Mark Powell  
Rev. Dr Martin Spadaro  

Persons:  
The Scots School, Bathurst:  
Rev. Robert Coleman  
Mr Timothy Gilchrist  
Mrs Rosemary McKay  
Rev. Tristan Merkel  
Dr Shevahn Telfser  
1 vacancy  

68. Presbyterian Aged Care: The report of Presbyterian Aged Care was laid on the table and received. 
At the invitation of the Moderator, Mr P. Sadler, Chief Executive Officer of Presbyterian Aged Care, addressed the Assembly.  
The Very Rev. B.H. Christian submitted the deliverance. 
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows: That the Assembly:  
(1) Give thanks to God for the dedicated service of:  
(a) Mr Jeof Falls who retired from the Committee during 2015;  
(b) All the ministers and pastoral care workers and other volunteers who visit and minister in the various Aged Care facilities;  
(2) Under the provisions allowed in Section 1.3 of Breaking the Silence, grant Presbyterian Aged Care full exemption from the provisions of Breaking the Silence, Presbyterian Aged Care being an organisation within the church which is required by legislation to establish policies and procedures for dealing with and preventing particular forms of abuse. This exemption is granted by the Assembly in recognition that Presbyterian Aged Care is subject to specific legislation relating to abuse and is audited by a relevant external quality assurance body on a regular basis. The Presbyterian Aged Care Committee being responsible for Presbyterian Aged Care has full responsibility for ensuring that the organisation maintains an appropriate policy and procedure and makes legislated and insurance reports.  
(3) Express thanks to the Presbyterian Women’s Association and the Dorcas Standing Committee for their prayerful support and generous donations for the ministry of Presbyterian Aged Care.
69. **Gospel, Society and Culture:** Debate was resumed on the report of the Committee for Gospel, Society and Culture (Min. 26).

Clause (9) was approved.

Clauses (10) to (20) were approved.

Clause (21) was approved in the following amended form:-

Request the Trustees to consider how environmental impact could be included within the ethical guidelines for investments by the Trust.

Clause (22) was approved.

Pursuant to notice, Dr M. Whitelaw moved:

That the Assembly:

Request that the Committee examine the impact on population growth of raising the educational and economic status of women.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Pursuant to notice, the Rev. Dr M. Purnell moved:

That the Assembly:

(23) Request the Committee to provide the 2016 New South Wales General Assembly with a report on a biblical understanding of human gender and its implications for Christian ethics.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Thank Mrs Tracy Nodder for her work on the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee.

(2) Commend to congregations and sessions the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee website and resource papers for help in understanding and engaging the society and culture.

(3) Commend to sessions and presbyteries the training offered by the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee in *Christianity Everyday* and encourage them to host a *Christianity Everyday* event.

(4) Request the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee to publish resource papers, or other resources, on the following topics:- Euthanasia; Education choices; Abortion; Contentment and how it relates to our personal finances; Ageing and Retirement.

(5) Approve the proposed new constitution for the Council of Churches in NSW and communicate this approval to the Rev. Bruce Thornton, the secretary of the Council.

(6) Note that the Gospel, Society and Culture Committee has appointed the Rev. Kamal Weerakoon to represent the Assembly on the Executive of the Council of Churches in NSW.

(7) Adopt the statement on “Domestic and Family Violence” and circulate it to all sessions.

(8) Ask the GAA Church and Nation Committee to take the necessary steps to have the GAA determine that the Presbyterian Church of Australia withdraw as a registered denomination under the Marriage Act if it is amended to include same-sex couples.

(9) Affirm that:

(a) the Triune God created the world very good to show the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness (WCF 4:1); and that humanity, made in God’s image as a part of the creation, has the task of caring for and developing the created order (Genesis 2:15);

(b) humanity should seek to care for and develop the created order in a way which treasures its beauty and riches;

(c) this care and development should be performed with a view to enhancing human life and preserving resources for the use of future generations;

(d) God’s promise of a new creation does not remove a responsibility to care for the creation but instead stimulates such care;

(e) one of the effects of human sin is that the created order is disordered, “subjected to futility” and in “bondage to corruption” (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:20–21);

(f) humanity itself has been guilty of misusing the natural environment, often exploiting it, failing to care for it in a sustainable way and that the most widely accepted scientific research shows that human activity is having an increasingly negative impact on the environment;

(g) human actions cannot undo the corruption of the created order due to sin, but can exacerbate it and may also mitigate its effects;

(h) developed nations, such as Australia, have often consumed a disproportionate share of their resources and have contributed a disproportionate share of damage to ecosystems, so have a particular responsibility to seek to care responsibly for the creation;
a Christian perspective offers a basis for creation care missing from all other religious and philosophical positions in that it affirms the creation as the good gift of the Triune Creator, the responsibility of humanity before him to care for his gift and God’s plan to restore his creation to his glory;

it is, therefore, a Christian responsibility to seek to care for the natural environment and that this is a serious issue for our generation.

Publish these resolutions and circulate them, with the accompanying report on creation care, to presbyteries and sessions, encouraging ministers and elders to study the Biblical basis for creation care.

Request the Gospel, Society & Culture Committee to prepare and publish material based on the report on creation care as resources for the churches.

Encourage ministers to address creation care in their preaching.

Encourage members of the Church to inform themselves of issues of creation care.

Call the Church to pray for God to sustain the created order, for responsible human care of the environment, for wisdom for those whose work has a responsibility for or a major impact on the environment and for the poor who are most vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Call members of the Church to adopt a simple lifestyle as God instructs in the Bible (Luke 12:15; 1 Tim 6:6–10, 17–19), which will also reduce their burden on the environment.

Encourage churches and members to explore local expressions of creation care as a witness to God’s care for his creation and opportunities to engage with the wider community.

Affirm the paid and unpaid work of church members in areas of environmental research and care.

Affirm the work of agricultural production and the advances in sustainable methods by Australian farmers and encourage members to participate in this.

Encourage members of the Church who have a role in forming public policy to take an active interest in creation care and environmental policy.

Encourage congregations, and especially Committees of Management, to review the environmental impact and energy use of church buildings and consider how these may be reduced.

Request the Trustees to consider how environmental impact could be included within the ethical guidelines for investments by the Trust.

Request the Gospel, Society & Culture Committee to prepare a discussion paper for the 2016 Assembly on the issues related to climate change.

Request the Committee to provide the 2016 New South Wales General Assembly with a report on a biblical understanding of human gender and its implications for Christian ethics.

70. Petition (ii): A petition was received from the Rev. C.R. Tucker for a seat on the Presbyterian of Sydney.
The petitioner was called to the bar.
The Rev. C.R. Tucker appeared as the petitioner.
Questions were asked of the petitioner.
It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Assembly grant the prayer of the petition.
The Rev. J.R. Irvin moved:
That the Assembly:
Grant the Rev. C.R. Tucker a seat on the Presbytery of Sydney for the duration of his appointment with Geneva Push as Coaching Director.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The petitioner was informed of the decision of the Assembly and removed from the bar.

71. Ministry and Mission: Debate was resumed on the report of the Ministry and Mission Committee (Min. 34).
The Business Convener moved:
That the Assembly:
Suspend so much of Standing Orders as is necessary so that questions may be asked when clauses of the deliverance are before the House.
The motion was approved.
Clause (2) was approved.
Clause (3) was moved and seconded.
Pursuant to motion Mr J. Greig moved as an amendment:
That the Assembly:
Replace the word “instruct” with the word “encourage” so that the clause reads:
“Encourage all sessions to take action to ensure the participation of their congregations in the National Church Life Survey to be held in 2016.”
The amendment was seconded.
The Previous Question on the amendment was moved, seconded and approved.
Clause (3) was approved.
The Rev. Dr G.T. Coleman and the Rev. R. Coleman recorded their dissent.
Clauses (4) to (6) were approved.
Standing Orders were resumed.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
(1) Declare unacceptable the situation where presbyteries allow pastoral charges within their bounds to decline year after year in vitality often seen as a failure to grow without good reasons being known to presbytery, and require presbyteries and pastoral charges so identified to:-
(a) Pray that God might reveal, expose and correct those things that are hindering the growth and development of pastoral charges and congregations facing such a situation.
(b) Seek the assistance of the Ministry and Mission Committee to identify and correct reasons for the lack of vitality and growth of such pastoral charges.
(2) Direct and instruct all presbyteries to submit to the Committee a schedule of visitations for the next five years and to conduct the visitations as scheduled.
(3) Instruct all sessions to take action to ensure the participation of their congregation/s in the National Church Life Survey to be held in 2016.
(4) Extend until 2016 the time by which the Ministry and Mission Committee should report on sick leave provisions for persons in ministry as required in GANSW BB 2014, Min. 55(4).
(5) Extend until 2016 the time by which the Ministry and Mission Committee should report on the Long Service Leave Fund as required in GANSW BB 2014, Min. 55(7).
(6) Approve the action of the Ministry and Mission Committee in appointing the Rev. M. Cropper to the position of Associate Superintendent (Personnel and Cross-Cultural Ministry) and thus declare him entitled to a seat on the Presbytery of the Central Coast under The Code II 5.04(d) for the duration of that appointment.

72. Notices of Motion: Notices of Motion 50 to 51 were laid on the table.

73. Adjournment: Thereafter the Assembly adjourned to meet on Thursday 2 July, 2015 at 2.00 p.m. whereof public intimation having been given the sederunt was closed with prayer.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.
JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.
DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.
SIXTH SEDERUNT

74. **Assembly Constituted:** At Croydon and within the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney, on Thursday 2 July, 2015 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.

75. **Bible Expositions:** The Rt Rev. D.A. Cook delivered an exposition of Romans 12:1-21 entitled “Authentic Implications of Justification”.

76. **Thanks to Expositor:** The Rev. M.R. Powell moved:
That the Assembly:
Express its deep appreciation to the Rt Rev. David Cook for his clear and compelling expositions on the book of Romans during the Assembly and the 150th Anniversary celebration and assure him and Mrs M. Cook of its continual prayers and support in his role as Moderator-General.
The motion was seconded and approved.

77. **Moderator-General:** At the invitation of the Moderator, the Rt Rev. D.A. Cook, Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, addressed the Assembly.

78. **Assistance to Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory:** Pursuant to notice, the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:
That the Assembly:
(1) Invite the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia to consider how the Church in New South Wales might assist with the Assembly-level functions of that church, and express a warm willingness to provide whatever help may realistically be possible.
(2) Encourage ministers and sessions to regularly include in corporate prayer the ministry of Presbyterian congregations in Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory.
(3) Convey to the relevant Assemblies and congregations in Western Australia, South Australia, and the Northern Territory this Assembly’s willingness to stand together with them in prayer as they contend for the gospel in their communities.
(4) Authorise from the Assembly Fund expenditure of up to $5,000 until the next Assembly to facilitate assisting the church in Western Australia with Assembly-level functions.
The motion was seconded and approved.

79. **Pastoral Relations Commission:** The report of the Pastoral Relations Commission was laid on the table and received.

80. **Presbyterian Youth:** The report of Presbyterian Youth was laid on the table and received.
At the invitation of the Moderator, Mr J. Turnbull, a member of the Presbyterian Youth Council, and Mr L. Murray, Camping Director of Presbyterian Youth, addressed the Assembly.
Mr M. Norman submitted the deliverance.
Clauses (1) and (2) were approved.
By leave of the house, Clause (3) was fallen from.
Pursuant to notice, Mr M. Norman moved:
That the Assembly:
(3) Encourage sessions to engage with the principals of the schools in their area to encourage them to consider applying for a school Chaplain through Generate Ministries, under the National Schools Chaplaincy Programme.
(4) Encourage sessions to engage with their Ministers Fraternal and Generate Ministries to look into placing a paid SRE teacher in their local High School.
(5) Adopt the document entitled "Special Religious Education Policy and Procedures".
(6) Encourage sessions to consider people in their congregations who could apply for a Timothy Partnership Diploma scholarship for Semester 2, 2015.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
(1) Encourage local sessions to appoint and send up to three representatives from their pastoral charge or home mission station as voting delegates to PY Annual Conference.
(2) Encourage local sessions to identify and encourage potential youth leaders to attend PY’s internship program, ‘Lead for Life’.
(3) Encourage sessions to engage with the principals of the schools in their area to encourage them to consider applying for a school Chaplain through Generate Ministries, under the National Schools Chaplaincy Programme.
(4) Encourage sessions to engage with their Ministers Fraternal and Generate Ministries to look into placing a paid SRE teacher in their local High School.
(5) Adopt the document entitled "Special Religious Education Policy and Procedures”.
(6) Encourage sessions to consider people in their congregations who could apply for a Timothy Partnership Diploma scholarship for Semester 2, 2015.

81. Notice of Motion: Notices of Motion 52 to 53 were laid on the table.

82. METRO: The report of the METRO Committee together with an addendum to the report was laid on the table and received.

83. Presbytery Records: The report of the Presbytery Records Committee was laid on the table and received.
Mr C.C. Short submitted the deliverance.
Clauses (1) to (5) were approved.
Pursuant to notice Mr C.C. Short moved:
That the Assembly:
Withdraw the current regulation D5.02 and replace it with the following:-

D5.02 Membership. The Committee shall consist of four members, at least one of whom shall be an elder, including a convener, elected annually by the Assembly.

The motion was seconded.
The Previous Question was moved, seconded and approved.
Arising from the debate, Rev. Dr. P.G. Logan moved:
That the Assembly:
(6) Request the Presbyterian Records Committee to review the membership of the Committee and bring a recommendation to the next Assembly.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
(1) Thank all Presbytery Clerks who diligently forward confirmed minutes to the Clerk of Assembly and the Convener of the Presbytery Records Committee.
(2) Encourage Clerks to forward proposed minutes to the Committee for checking before confirming.
(3) Remind all presbytery members that it is also their responsibility to ensure that the confirmed minutes of each presbytery are forwarded to the Clerk of Assembly and the Presbytery Records Committee immediately following the confirmation of the minutes.
(4) Determine that minutes sent by email do not have to be initialled on each page and signed but must be accompanied by the statement “these Minutes are an exact copy of the confirmed and signed Minutes”.
(5) Instruct the Presbyteries of Central Coast, Central West, Hunter and Sydney South to forward their Minute Books to the Clerk of Assembly for attestation by the Moderator.
(6) Request the Presbytery Records Committee to review the membership of the Committee and bring a recommendation to the next Assembly.

84. Friends of the Ferguson Library: The report of the Friends of the Ferguson Library was laid on the table and received.
Mr P.J. Graham submitted the deliverance.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
Amend the Constitution of the Friends of the Ferguson Library as follows:-
(a) Clause E2.01 Name: add to the end of the paragraph “and of the Presbyterian Church of Australia” so that the clause will read:-
E2.01 Name. The Society shall be called the “Friends of the Ferguson Library”. The Ferguson Memorial Library is the official records repository and archives of the Presbyterian Church in the State of New South Wales and of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

(b) Clause E2.04 Annual Meeting: add after the word “representative”, “the President of the PWA Heritage Committee or another member of the Heritage Committee designated as her representative” so that the clause will read:-

E2.04 Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting for the election of officers shall be called by the Council with one month’s notice given to members of date, time and place. Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and three members. The Convenor of the Business Committee or another member of the Business Committee designated as his/her representative, the President of the PWA Heritage Committee or another member of the Heritage Committee designated as her representative and the Archivist, by virtue of their office shall be ex officio members.

(c) Clause E2.08 Funds: Delete the third sentence viz: “The Society’s funds shall be allocated only at General Meetings in accordance with the objectives in the Constitution” so that the clause will read:

E2.08 Funds. The funds of the Society shall be deposited in a bank in the name of the “Friends of the Ferguson Library”. Signatories to the account to be appointed from the office bearers elected from time to time. No funds shall be distributed directly or indirectly to members of the organisation except as bona fide compensation for service rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Society. A copy of the Annual Financial Statement and Annual Report shall be sent to the Business Committee after their reception at the Annual General Meeting.

85. Elder’s Association: The report of the Elder’s Association was laid on the table and received.
Mr P.J. Graham submitted the deliverance.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
Confirm the election of Messrs. Peter Graham, Ben Greig, Ron Norman, Mesdames Jill Stevenson, Yvonne Forsyth, and Meredith Hill to the Executive of the Elder’s Association with power to co-opt.

86. Commission Empowered: Pursuant to notice, Mr P.J. Graham moved:
That the Assembly:
Empower the Commission of Assembly to make a determination on the recommendation from the Trustees for the appointment of a new General Manager in accordance with The Code 8.21.
The motion was seconded and approved.

87. Overture (v): An overture from seven members of the Assembly concerning the office of elder and the office of deacon was taken up and received.
Mr M. Smith and the Rev. D.A. Burke stated the overture.
Questions were asked of the overturists.
Pursuant to notice, Mr M. Smith moved:
That the Assembly:
Sustain the overture.
The motion was seconded and approved.
Pursuant to notice, Mr M. Smith moved:
That the Assembly:
(1) Establish a Special Committee to review the roles assigned to elders and deacons in The Code (PCNSW) in the light of the Scriptures.
(2) Request this Committee to:
(a) provide to the next Assembly a paper presenting the teaching of the Scriptures on the nature and functions of the offices of elder and deacon and examining The Code (PCNSW) in the light of this teaching, and;
(b) bring recommendations to the NSW General Assembly 2016 designed to clarify the nature and functions of elders and deacons, which recommendations may include possible amendments to The Code which, if adopted, could be sent down to presbyteries for consideration and report to the 2017 General Assembly.
Appoint the following people to the Special Committee:-

- Ministers – Kristian Hartberg, Benjamin Ho, Steven Mannyx; John McClean, Stephen Moore; Elders – Geoff Davis, Murray Smith (Convener), Graeme Wong-See, Rod Yager; Deaconess – Rebekah Earnshaw (corresponding member).

Allocate from the Assembly Fund a budget of up to $2,500 to cover expenses of committee members travelling to Sydney for up to four meetings.

The motion was seconded and approved.

88. Overture (iv): An overture from the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands to amend The Code by the deletion of 4.80 relating to Communion Vessels was taken up and received. The Rev. T. Abbey and Mr B. Greig stated the overture. Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice Mr B. Greig moved:

That the Assembly:
Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, Mr B. Greig moved:

That the Assembly:
Send the overture to presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31st March 2016.

The motion was seconded.

By leave of the house, the Rev. M.S. Oates moved as an amendment:

To delete all words and replace with “Send the overture to Presbyteries for consideration and report with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31st March, 2016.”

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

89. NCLS Funding: Pursuant to notice, the Rev. D.F. Maher moved:

That the Assembly:
In light of the Assembly’s decision (Min. 71) to instruct churches to complete the National Church Life Survey, that the cost of completing the survey be borne by the Assembly Fund.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

90. Overture (i): An overture from the Ministry and Mission Committee to amend The Code by reframing clauses 6.10-6.14 concerning the function of a Selection Committee and other call procedures was taken up and received. The Rev. B.M. Meller and the Rev. M.S. Oates 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:
Send the Overture to presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 March, 2016.

The motion was seconded and approved.

91. Overture (ii): An overture from the Business Committee to amend the Code Part II:8.02 concerning members of the Assembly was taken up and received. Dr R.I. Yager and the Rev. J.R. Irvin stated the overture. Questions were asked of the overturists.

Pursuant to notice, Dr R.I. Yager moved:

That the Assembly:
Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, Dr R.I. Yager moved:

That the Assembly:
Send the overture to presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 March, 2016.
The motion was seconded and approved.
Pursuant to notice, Dr R.I. Yager moved:
That the Assembly:
Grant the overture interim authority.
The motion was seconded.
The competency of the motion was challenged.
The Moderator ruled the motion incompetent.
The Moderator’s ruling was challenged.
The Rev. B.M. Meller raised a question of privilege.
The Moderator ruled there was no breach of privilege.
The Moderator’s ruling on competency was upheld.

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

93. Conciliation: The report of the Conciliation Committee was laid on the table and received. The motion was seconded.
The Rev. D.J. Hassan submitted the deliverance.
The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:
That the Assembly:
Commend to presbyteries that the Conciliation Committee is available upon request to assist in the case of a special visitation where a relational approach is preferred.

94. Communication (vi): A communication was received from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland concerning a proposed amendment to The Code of Discipline. Pursuant to notice, the Rev. B.M. Meller moved:
That the Assembly:
(1) Receive the communication from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and express appreciation for that Assembly’s careful concern for the integrity of the Church.
(2) Commend to the General Assembly of Australia the concern represented by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.
(3) Request the Code Committee (NSW) to report to the Assembly on the opportunity for the Presbyterian Church (NSW) to suspend a minister or office-bearer in advance of judicial process.
(4) Request the General Assembly of Australia to consider undertaking a comprehensive review of the Code of Discipline.
The motion was seconded and approved.

95. Northern Rivers Conference Centre Constitution:
Pursuant to notice, Rev. B.M. Meller moved:
That the Assembly:
(1) Note that the Trustees, acting in accordance with Clause 3.16 of the Constitution of the Northern Rivers Conference Centre (the Centre):
   (a) received a request from the Centre’s governing committee for amendments to be made to the constitution applying to the Centre;
   (b) approved a new constitution for the Conference Centre on 3 November, 2014 having been satisfied that all requisite conditions had been met; and
   (c) gave the new constitution interim authority on 1 December, 2014.
(2) Withdraw the existing constitution for the Northern Rivers Conference Centre and replace it with the following constitution newly approved by this Assembly:-

NORTHERN RIVERS CONFERENCE CENTRE

E3.01 Name. There shall be a committee known as the Northern Rivers Conference Centre committee.

E3.02 Property. The Committee shall have management and control of the property known as “Camp Drewe”, being the Presbyterian conference centre at Lennox Head.

E3.03 Object. The object of the Committee shall be to provide, maintain and develop the Conference Centre and to promote Christian education at the Conference Centre through
Church and community organisations.

**E3.04 Members.** The Committee shall consist of nine members, all of whom shall be active members of an evangelical church. Members shall be empowered to:

(a) recruit and appoint the committee’s members;
(b) maintain a spread of interest from all groups of the Presbyterian Church in the Northern Rivers district; and
(c) appoint up to three members (within the total of nine members) from local evangelical churches which are not part of the Presbyterian Church of NSW.

**E3.05 Advisers.** The Committee may associate consultants and/or advisers with the Committee but such persons shall have no voting rights.

**E3.06 Annual Meeting.** The Committee shall hold an annual meeting as soon as practicable after the commencement of each calendar year. The business of the annual meeting shall be to:

(a) receive a report from the Secretary,
(b) approve an annual report for submission to the General Assembly,
(c) receive and confirm audited financial statements,
(d) elect office bearers,
(e) appoint an auditor(s) for the year, and
(f) deal with all other business notified to members in the notice of meeting.

**E3.07 Office-bearers.** The office bearers of the Committee shall include Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom will be elected at the annual meeting. A vacant position may be filled by the Committee at any time.

**E3.08 Chairman.**
(a) Meetings will be presided over by the Chairman or in his absence by the Vice-Chairman, or in the absence of both, by a member appointed by the Committee.
(b) The Chairman shall have a casting vote but not a deliberative vote.

**E3.09 Meetings.** Meetings of the Committee shall normally be held monthly but may be held at such other frequency as may be decided by the Committee provided that not more than three months shall elapse between meetings. Notice of meeting shall be given to each member of the Committee at least three business days prior to the meeting.

**E3.10 Special Meetings.** A special meeting shall be convened by the Chairman (or in his absence or incapacity by the Vice-Chairman or Secretary) within seven days of receiving a request from any four members of the Committee that a special meeting be held.

**E3.11 Quorum.** A quorum for the Committee shall consist of four members of whom at least three shall be members of the Presbyterian Church.

**E3.12 Bank Accounts**
(a) The Committee shall maintain a bank account styled "Northern Rivers Presbyterian Conference Centre Account".
(b) The Committee may also establish a bank account styled "Northern Rivers Presbyterian Conference Centre Expense Account" the purpose of which shall be to provide funds to the manager of the Conference Centre for working expenses. This account shall be established and maintained in accordance with such rules as the Committee may determine from time to time.
(c) The Committee may establish and maintain such other bank accounts as it may determine to be necessary or desirable from time to time. All such accounts shall be maintained in accordance with such rules as the Committee may determine from time to time.
(d) Cheques shall be signed by two members of the committee duly authorised to do so. Operations on an account by electronic banking or debit card may be made by one person so authorised, provided that any such payment shall have been approved by the committee or any two members so authorised.

**E3.13 Expenditure.** Expenditure above $50,000 on any single project, improvement, repair or alteration shall require the prior approval of the Ministry and Mission Committee and, if above $100,000, the approval of the Trustees in addition.

**E3.14 Accounts.**
(a) Copies of the audited financial statements together with a signed copy of the report of the Auditor shall be forwarded to the Ministry and Mission Committee
and to the Trustees within 30 days after each annual meeting.

(b) The Trustees may determine from time to time the form of the report to be made by auditors appointed under this condition.

E3.15 Staff. The Committee shall have power to employ, and terminate the employment of, staff upon such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Committee from time to time and in accordance with the relevant award conditions relating to such employment.

E3.16 Amendment of Constitution.

(a) This constitution may be amended by a special resolution which is passed at any meeting of the Committee. Any such amendment shall not take effect unless and until it is approved by the General Assembly but the Trustees may upon request by the Committee give any amendment interim authority where there are special circumstances justifying such action.

(b) A resolution of the Committee shall be a special resolution if:

(i) one month's written notice is given to all members of the Committee which specifies details of the meeting and the proposed resolution, and

(ii) at least six members of the Committee vote in favour of the resolution.

For the purpose of this clause, written notice shall include notification by email or fax.

E3.17 Report to Assembly. The Committee shall report to the Assembly through the Ministry and Mission Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

96. Communication (iv): A communication was received from the Presbytery of the Central Tablelands seeking ratification for an ordination and induction due to irregularities in process. Pursuant to notice, the Rev. J.R. Irvin moved:

That the Assembly:

Confirm the ordination and induction of the Rev. Stephen Moore into the pastoral charge of Cowra on 5 June, 2015 despite irregularities in the reading of the edict.

The motion was seconded and approved.

97. Communication (v): A communication was received from the Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia advising that the Rev. J. Wilson of Victoria, is the Moderator-General Elect for the 2016 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Pursuant to notice the Rev. J.R. Irvin moved:

That the Assembly:

Congratulate the Rev. J. Wilson on being Moderator-General Elect of the 2016 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and assure him and Mrs. Wilson of the prayers of the Church in NSW as they minister in this role.

The motion was seconded and approved.

98. Communication (i): A communication was received from the Premier of New South Wales expressing congratulations to the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales on its 150th Anniversary.

99. Communication (ii): A communication was received from the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney and Armidale, expressing congratulations to the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales on its 150th Anniversary.

100. Presbyterian Minister’s Wives Association: The report of the Presbyterian Minister’s Wives Association was laid on the table and received.

101. Integrated Ministry: The report of the meeting on Integrated Ministry was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. J.R. Irvin submitted the deliverance.

The deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

(1) Thank Presbyterian Youth, METRO, the Presbyterian Theological Centre Committee, and the Ministry and Mission Committee for the complementary manner in which they have exercised
their specific roles in the training of people for ministry and leadership.

(2) (a) Rescind BB 2008 Min 65 (11), "Direct committees of the Assembly involved in training people for ministry and leadership (being the Metro Committee, the Ministry and Mission Committee, Presbyterian Youth, and the Theological Education Committee) continually to pursue an integrated approach to the recruitment, formation, deployment and development of persons for ministry, especially ministry in congregations, and require those committees to present to the Assembly each year a common report on the ways by which such an integrated approach to these matters has been pursued during that year, this function to be effected and ensured by the Moderator as Chairman with the Clerk as Secretary.", and

(b) Encourage Presbyterian Youth, METRO, the Presbyterian Theological Centre Committee, and the Ministry and Mission Committee to comment in their annual report to the Assembly on the ways in which they have co-operated during the reporting period with other named committees of the Assembly.

102. Minutes Commission: Pursuant to notice the Rev. J. R. Irvin moved:
That the Assembly:
Appoint a Commission consisting of the Clerk (Convener), Deputy Clerk, the Business Convener, Mr C. C. Short and the Rev. B. Ho to scrutinize the minutes of all the sederunts of the Assembly, with power to correct them and approve such minutes.
The motion was seconded and approved.

103. Minutes: The minutes of the First, Second and Third sederunts were laid on the table and approved.

104. Thanks: The Assembly recorded its thanks to Miss S. H. Jensen, Moderator’s Secretary, for her continued work in the organisation of the Assembly; the Principal, Staff and Students of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Sydney, for their valuable assistant in the smooth operation of the Assembly; the Rev. B. Ho for his assistance to the Clerks; Mr M. Quirk, Mr D. Davies and people from Presbyterian Youth for their help with the operation of sound and data projection equipment, photocopying, transport and other tasks; the music group who led the worship for the 150th Anniversary celebration; Mrs. J. Murray who led the worship for the Assembly Opening, the Communion Service and the opening devotions at each sederunt; the students of Christ College for the operation of the canteen; Mr J. A. Goodman for his arrangements for the Communion Service; and others who helped with many tasks at the Assembly; together with a note of appreciation to the Moderator for the covering of prayer he has intentionally brought over the General Assembly.

105. Moderator’s Address: The Moderator addressed closing remarks to the Assembly.

106. Close: After prayer, the Assembly joined in singing Psalm 122:6-9 after which the Moderator 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 4 July, 2016 in the Audrey Keown Theatre of the Performing Arts Centre at the Presbyterian Ladies’ College, Boundary Street, Croydon. 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.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.
JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.
DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.

The minutes of the fourth, fifth and sixth sederunts have been approved in terms of Minute 102.

KEVIN D. MURRAY, Moderator.
JOHN R. IRVIN, Clerk.
DAVID G.M. YU, Deputy Clerk.

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|                  |              |            |          |          |          |          |                 |
| Bexley-Rockdale  |              |            |          |          |          |          | NIL             | 74,855 | 100,755 |
| Camden           |              |            |          |          |          |          | 6,684           | 98,082 | 139,440 |
| Campbelltown     | 4            | 15         | 57     | 5        | 8        | NIL      | 8               | 10,226 | 125,314 | 186,642 |
| Caringbah-Helensburgh | 5 | NIL        | 53     | 4        | 4        | 1        | 9               | 5,531 | 70,640 | 122,878 |
| Chester Hill     | 3            | 10         | 55     | 4        | 3        | 2        | 7               | 10,499 | 82,961 | 204,343 |
| Como             | 2            | NIL        | 16     | 2        | 5        | NIL      | 6               | 3,269 | 60,915 | 91,667 |
| Cronulla         | 6            | 3          | 100    | 5        | 6        | 2        | 40              | NIL    | 162,901 | 226,005 |
| Engadine         |              |            |        |          |          |          | 440             |        | 28,682 |        |
| Hurstville       | NIL          | NIL        | 105    | 6        | 12       | 30       | 30              | 12,671 | 161,194 | 290,621 |
| Hurstville, Indonesian | NIL | NIL        | 30     | 5        | 7        | NIL      | 3               | NIL    | 25,103 | 25,125 |
| Ingleburn        |              |            |        |          |          |          | 9,730           | 120,998 | 163,452 |
| Kirkplace        | 37           | 25         | 176    | 9        | 1        | 4        | 50              | 29,369 | 371,474 | 500,131 |
| Lakemba, Samoan  |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 |        |        |        |
| Liverpool        |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 |        |        |        |
| Penshurst        |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 |        |        |        |
| Revesby          | 1            | 5          | 82     | 4        | 6        | 6        | 3               | 10,689 | 79,684 | 162,113 |
| Riverwood-Punchbowl |            |            |        |          |          |          |                 | 5,778  | 10,249 | 125,034 |
| Sutherland       |              |            |        |          |          |          | 2,078           | 77,527 | 74,550 |        |

### PRESBYTERY – WAGGA WAGGA

|                  |              |            |          |          |          |          |                 |
| Albury           | 5            | 15         | 155    | 12       | 9        | 1        | 26              | 14,330 | 289,287 | 365,995 |
| Cootamundra      | NIL          | NIL        | NIL    | 8        | 3        | NIL      | 5               |        |        |        |
| Corowa           |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 |        |        |        |
| Henty            |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 | 1,018  | 29,686 | 69,683 |
| Junee            | NIL          | NIL        | 23     | 3        | 5        | 1        | NIL             | 440    | 4,190  | 14,675 |
| South Wagga Wagga |            |            |        |          |          |          |                 | 16,061 | 144,902 | 268,772 |
| Temora           | 2            | NIL        | 49     | 6        | 8        | 2        | 9               | 2,100  | 42,331 | 72,980 |
| Tumut            |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 |        |        |        |
| Wagga Wagga      | NIL          | NIL        | 55     | 5        | 4        | NIL      | NIL             | 412    | 1,650  | 50,830 |
| West Wyalong     | NIL          | 7          | 54     | 3        | NIL      | 1        | 23              | 2,451  | 76,845 | 86,882 |
| Young            |              |            |        |          |          |          |                 |        |        |        |
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