



PROCEEDINGS

of the

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

MAY 2013

and of the

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 2013

**ASSEMBLY OFFICERS
2013**

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**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF VICTORIA
May 2013**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA**

At Melbourne, and within the Werner Brodbeck Hall, Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 10.30 am.

1. Constitution

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the previous General Assembly (BB 2012 min. 106). The Moderator, Rt Rev David John Palmer, constituted the Commission with prayer.

2. Devotions

Following the reading of Ephesians 4:1-16, Moderator's chaplain Rev Ken Brown led the Commission with the exposition of God's word, prayer and the singing of a hymn.

3. Roll

The Clerk intimated that the Roll of the Commission of Assembly consisted of those members whose names are on the Roll of the General Assembly, October 2012, and who remain qualified to be members of the Assembly.

4. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk intimated that the following apologies for non-attendance had been received:

Ministers: Keith Allen, Keith Bell, Dallas Clarnette, Graham Bradbeer, Rob Duncanson, Alan Every, Wally Gear, Brian Harvey, Marvin Hagans, Martin Hanse, Allan Harman, Neil Harvey, Ian Johnstone, Kevin Maxwell, Graham Nicholson, Richard O'Brien, Bob Thomas, John Sutherland, Peter Swinn, Michael Wharton, Walter Zurrer.

Elders: Doug Butcher, Alex Croft, Harold Evans, Tom Fleming, Ian McDonald, Alan McRae, Bruce Meyer.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

5. Associations

The Clerk advised that there were no associations.

6. Business Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Jared Hood, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30am to the finish of business, with:
lunch 12:30pm – 1:30pm, tea break 3:40pm – 4:00pm, dinner 5:30pm – 6:30pm, as required.
2. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:

Conveners	15 minutes
Seconders	10 minutes
Overturists	15 minutes (total time for Overture to be stated)

Appellants and Petitioners 20 minutes (total time for Appeal or Petition to be stated)
All other speakers 5 minutes.

3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Commission of Assembly consisting of:
Rev Philip Daffy (Convener), John Dekker, Matthew James.
Elders Bert Stasse, Doug Fraser.
4. Permit committee conveners and chair persons who are not members of the Assembly to address the Commission when the irrespective committee's report and deliverance is before the Commission.
5. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

7. Election of Moderator-Designate

The Clerk reported on the nomination procedure and returns from presbyteries and moved that his report be received.

The motion was seconded.

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

The motion was put and approved.

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Elect the Rt Rev David John Palmer as Moderator-Designate for the 2013 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Acting Moderator thanked Rt Rev Palmer for his willingness to serve, and assured him of the ongoing support and prayer of the church.

Rt Rev David Palmer resumed the chair, and thanked the Commission for its support.

8. Board of Investment and Finance

The report of the Board of Investment and Finance was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Elder Edward de Zilwa to the Assembly.

The Chairman, Elder Edward de Zilwa, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the Committee Budgets for all committees other than the Church Planting Committee for 2013/14 as presented.
2. Request the Board of Investment and Finance to report on the progress of the Church Planting Taskforce to the October 2013 General Assembly with recommendations for on-going allocations from the GAA fund.
3. Approve the Social Services Committee budget for 2013/14 as presented.
4. Approve the Church Planting Committee budget for the 2014 calendar year as presented.

The motion was seconded and approved.

9. Church and Nation Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Darren Middleton, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Request presbyteries, sessions and congregations to continue to take a prayerful and active interest in moral matters, urging and praying that the magistrate might do what all good magistrates do concerning legislation: suppress evil and promote good.

- Commend the Religion in the Public Square Colloquium to be held at the Assembly Hall on August 16-17 to the Church and request that presbyteries, sessions and congregations promote and where possible attend the conference.

The motion was seconded and approved.

10. General Mission Program Committee

The report of the General Mission Program Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Norm Sharp, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

- Resolve that the previous resolutions of the Assembly in relation to funding the Training Officer's position from GMP have served their useful purpose and need not continue to be applied.
- Resolve that the resolution of the Assembly in relation to the support of Mr Bill Meulenberg, Saltshakers and Australian Christian Lobby (GAV 2005 Min 89.6) from GMP have served their useful purpose and need not continue to be applied.
- Approve the General Mission Program for the financial year 2013/14 as follows:

	2013/14 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:	
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	47,000
State News	5,000
Theological Education – Bursary Fund	61,506
Theological Education (One third budget expenditure of Training Officer)	32,887
SUB-TOTAL: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	146,393
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:	
Australian Christian Lobby	11,100
ACCESS Ministries	24,800
Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions	500
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	560
SUB-TOTAL: INTERDENOMINATIONAL	36,960
OTHER GRANTS:	
Presbyterian Inland Mission	5,000
SUB-TOTAL: OTHER GRANTS	5,000
TOTAL	188,353
LEVY 10%:	
Property Development Fund	18,800
GRAND TOTAL	207,153

- Resolve that the formula for the allocation of the General Mission Program to Presbyteries as approved at the Commission of Assembly should continue for the year 2013/14, and that the equalisation factor for country presbyteries in country areas should not be applied to the Presbytery of Flinders.

5. Approve the allocation of the total General Mission Program for the financial year 2013/14 as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of total	2013/14 \$
Ballarat	4.42%	9,156
Benalla	5.84%	12,090
Flinders	14.40%	29,820
Geelong	3.97%	8,229
Gippsland	4.37%	9,045
Kilnoorat	7.02%	14,539
Maroondah	8.88%	18,385
Melbourne East	19.26%	39,895
Melbourne North	10.56%	21,878
Melbourne West	17.96%	37,211
North Western Victoria	3.33%	6,905
TOTAL	100.00%	207,153

6. Request presbyteries to allocate the General Mission Program to their several parishes, and instruct them to advise parishes in writing of their respective allocated amounts, and further, to advise the Church Office of such allocations.
7. Request presbyteries to recognise that the total of the approved General Mission Program, and thus the amount allocated to the presbyteries, is the minimum amount required by the committees of the General Assembly to perform their respective purposes, and therefore encourage parishes to subscribe more to the GMP where their circumstances permit or where special efforts provide additional funds.
8. Request presbyteries to ask parishes to pay their GMP allocations in full early in the financial year 2013/14, or where this is not possible, to pay the amounts by monthly or quarterly instalments.
9. Encourage our ministers and elders to give particular attention in their public ministry, to the biblical teaching on the responsibility of generous giving for the furtherance of the gospel, setting aside a particular Sunday in each congregation for this purpose.
10. Encourage boards of management to accept that the principle of presbyterianism is one of mutual support and responsibility and not of independence from one another, and therefore when dealing with the matter of their contributions to the GMP, to take into account the importance of supporting the collective effort of our church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was laid on the table and received.

Elder Reg Butcher sought leave to amend the proposed deliverance by

1. replacing the figure of \$32,532 in subclause b. with the figure '\$31,560', and
2. replacing the figure of \$16,020.00 in sub-clause c. with the figure '16,992.00.'

Leave was granted.

The Convener, Rev John Woodward moved the deliverance as amended:

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate (min. 16).

12. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Andrew Bray, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Appoint the following two persons to the General Assembly of Australia Finance Committee:
Rev Richard J O'Brien
Mr Andrew Letcher
2. Appoint the following six persons to the Commission of the General Assembly of Australia:
Rt Rev David J Palmer
Rev Peter W Phillips
Rev John P Wilson
Mr Brian D Bayston
Mr Edward de Zilwa
Mr G (Bert) Stasse

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Communication 1 – from the Presbytery of Maroondah, re: GAV BB 2012 Minute 95.8

Communication 1 was laid on the table and received.

14. Communication 2 – from the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise *Breaking the Silence*, re: progress thus far in the work assigned to it by the Assembly.

Communication 2 was laid on the table and received.

15. Communication 3 – from the Church Planting Committee, re: Officer Property.

Communication 3 was laid on the table and received.

16. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (min. 11)

It was agreed to resume the debate.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved to amend Clause 3 arising out of the debate

1. that the figure in sub-clause 3 a. be altered to \$49,176.00;
2. that the figure in sub-clause 3 b. be altered to \$32,184.00;
3. that the figure in sub-clause 3 c. be altered to \$16,992.00; and
4. that the figures in sub-clause 3 d. be altered to \$22,207.00 and \$9,977.00,

to reflect a 2% increase of stipend on last year's figure.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 3 as amended was approved.

Leave was sought to fall from Clause 5.

Leave was not granted.

Clause 4 was approved.

Clause 5 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Request presbyteries to actively follow-up the submission of Annual Parish Reports by the due date so that the committee can do the work the Assembly expects of it.
2. Request presbyteries to take seriously the need to review and process all grant and subsidy applications, and keep the record of ministers' long service leave up to date and inform the convener of any changes.
3. Declare that as from 1 July 2013:

- a. The minimum remuneration be \$49,176.00.
- b. The minimum stipend component of minimum remuneration be \$32,184.00 p.a.
- c. The maximum non cash benefit component of minimum remuneration be \$16,992.00 p.a.
- d. The sustentation qualifying stipend be \$22,207.00 p.a. thus making the maximum grant available \$9,977.00 p.a.
- e. The additional amount for travel over 6000km of the distance agreed between the minister and his parish as his annual distance of travel on church related matters increase to 47 cents per km.
- f. The rate of contribution to superannuation be maintained at 15% of actual remuneration for the year commencing 1 July 2013.
- g. Supply preaching fees for the year commencing 1st July 2013 remain the same rate as 2012-2013, namely:
 \$124 for one service
 \$144 for two services and
 \$170 for three services using the same sermon on the same day
 \$225 for two services or more, with separate sermons;
 and that the travel reimbursement for supply preachers be increased to 47 cents per km.
- 4. Set the Long Service Leave Levy for the financial year 2013-14 at \$350 per parish per minister, to be paid by
 - a. every parish whether there is a settled minister, a home missionary or a vacancy; and
 - b. any General Assembly committee that is responsible for the employment of any church worker who is entitled to receive Long Service Leave under the Maintenance of Ministry Committee regulations.
- 5. Continue the subsidy of up to 25% of superannuation per parish per annum for a further year (2014-15).

The motion was seconded and approved.

17. Commission to confirm minutes

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator and the Clerks of Assembly a Special Commission to scrutinise the minutes of this Commission with the power to make any necessary corrections and to confirm them, and that a copy thereof be sent to members of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

18. Ballot Committee discharged

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

19. Dissolution

The business of the Commission of Assembly now being concluded, after the singing of a hymn, the Moderator closed the meeting with the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Commission, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 17 thereof.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D J Palmer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

Rt Rev David John Palmer
Moderator

REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 6)

The Business Committee has met to receive and review all papers proposed to be submitted to the Commission of Assembly and is satisfied that they are duly attested, drawn up and in proper form and competent.

Outline of business

The Committee will present a proposed agenda at the start of the Commission. As a guide, the Committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline.

1. Devotions and Constitution
2. Roll
3. Apologies
4. Associations
5. Business Committee
6. Election of Moderator-Designate
7. Board of Investment and Finance
8. Church and Nation Committee
9. General Mission Program Committee
10. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
11. Selection Committee
12. Communication 1: Presbytery of Maroondah (re GAV BB 2012 Min. 95.8)
13. Communication 2: Ad Hoc Committee to Revise *Breaking the Silence*
14. Commission to confirm minutes
15. Ballot Committee discharged
16. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

NOMINATION FOR MODERATOR-DESIGNATE (Min. 7)

The following person was nominated by presbyteries for Moderator-Designate:

Rev David Palmer – Presbyteries of Geelong, Gippsland, Kilnoorat,
Maroondah and Melbourne North

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min. 8)

Office Bearers of the Board of Investment and Finance

At the annual meeting of the Board of Investment and Finance (the BIF) in December 2012, Rev Andrew Slater did not seek re-election as Chairman. Mr Dennis Wright did not seek re-election as Secretary. The BIF elected Mr Andrew Letcher as Secretary and Mr Edward de Zilwa as Chairman. The BIF wishes to publicly acknowledge the work done by Rev Slater and Mr Wright in their respective offices and to thank them for their extensive efforts in assisting the denomination in striving for the sound management of our gospel work.

Committee Budgets

In accordance with the Board of Investment and Finance Regulations the BIF presents the Committee Budgets for approval. These were reviewed by the BIF prior to being submitted to the GMP Committee for its consideration in cases where GMP was requested.

A number of committee budgets have been presented with deficits which in some cases are substantial. There are often good reasons for this. Each budget has been considered on its merits to determine whether this is reasonable taking account of the circumstances of each committee.

The BIF encourages committees in future years to include in their budget submissions explanatory notes as well as the financial projections, in order to better explain the thinking of the committee.

There are some matters in particular that the Commission should be aware of in considering the committee budgets.

Church Planting Committee

A number of matters have been raised with the Church Planting committee in relation to its budget. While the committee has responded to questions raised by the BIF, the responses have not adequately addressed the matters raised. Consequently the BIF is not in a position to be able to recommend the approval of this committee's budget to the Commission at this time. The BIF is continuing discussions with the committee and intends to submit a Supplementary report on this matter.

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The Maintenance of the Ministry committee submitted a budget requesting an allocation of \$40,000 from General Mission Program. While the BIF did not amend the budget prior to forwarding it to the General Mission Program Committee, it did express the view to the General Mission Program Committee that it considers the funding of the committee to be a significant issue with strategic consequences for the denomination. As the BIF reported to the Commission last year, 'The level of sustentation grants has risen over recent years. This combined with the lower distribution rates from the Common Fund is resulting in annual deficits of \$40,000 to \$60,000. While this is manageable in the short term it is not sustainable indefinitely. The implications of a reduction in sustentation may be significant.' The BIF does not believe an allocation from General Mission Program is the most appropriate way to address this issue and advised the GMP committee accordingly. Subsequently the GMP committee did not allocate any funding to the Maintenance of the Ministry committee which has resulted in larger deficits.

Ministry Development Committee

The Melva Thompson and Margery Thompson Evangelism Trust was created by the 2005 Assembly Funds (Min 81 2005 BB p85). The primary purpose of this trust is to pay the remuneration of the PCV Evangelism Officer. Subsequent to 2005, the positions of Training Officer and Church Planter/Evangelist were created by the Assembly. This Evangelism Officer's position has never been filled. Consequently, the Ministry Development committee has agreed that most of the funds (about \$800,000) are no longer required by the committee and could be applied to another purpose. However it sees an on going need for the second purpose of the trust to fund Presbytery approved evangelism. The budget has been formulated with this in mind. It is the intention of the BIF/Trusts Corporation to bring a recommendation to the October Assembly in relation to a reallocation of the \$800,000. The BIF acknowledges the co-operation of the Ministry Development Committee in its consideration of this matter.

Theological Education Committee

The TEC has included one third of the costs of the Training Officer in its general budget on the assumption that METRO and GMP will each fund one third. This represents an additional cost of approximately \$30,000 per year to the TEC budget.

At the end of 2012, six candidates exited the college. There were no new candidates commencing in 2013. This has temporarily reduced the financial pressure on the Bursary Fund which is now projected to be in surplus for at least the next two years. The 2012 Assembly approved GMP funding to help maintain the capital in the bursary trust to fund on going scholarships for candidate. This is a long term need which remains despite the short term surplus.

The level of student enrolments is a key factor in the financial viability of the college. The lower number of candidates is reflected in the overall enrolment figure and one of the key reasons why the budget is in deficit. The TEC is well aware of these dynamics and has the support of the BIF in seeking to address this and other challenges facing the college.

While the budget is in deficit, the cash position is being maintained, but there is insufficient cash being generated to cover future replacement and improvement of buildings. The TEC has included \$10,000 funding to develop a site master-plan in the coming budget year. It is acknowledged that funding of any future property development will need to come from somewhere other than the General Funds of the college.

Budget Presentation

Regarding the overall presentation of the budgets, committees have provided a revised projection of income and expenditure for the current year. This updated information provides a more accurate financial picture based on the currently available information but the original budget for 2012/13 remains as the only approved budget. Committees are reminded therefore that where they wish to spend funds which are not in the 2012/13 budget as originally approved, they should seek approval under the provisions of BIF regulation 5(g)(ii).

It will be noted that in the columns on the far right of each page, projections are included for two further years beyond 2013/14. This has been done to assist in assessing the ongoing viability of various programs from a financial perspective and

gives an indication of the sustainability of current expenditure proposals. However, it is only the columns headed '2013/2014 Proposed' that are being submitted for approval by the Commission at this time.

In view of the complexity of the budgets, the BIF would appreciate written notice of any questions being given to the General Manager before the Wednesday prior to the meeting of the Commission.

Additional Expenditure

The BIF has approved the following amendments to committee budgets in accordance with BIF regulation 5(g)(ii):

BIF Minute Committee		Amount \$	Purpose
263/12	HCCC	18,000	Chaplaincy Fees \$13,000; Retreats \$1,000; Wages and Rent \$4,100; Total \$18,100 largely funded by net reductions elsewhere totalling \$17,500.
264/12	CENC	1,700	Laptop computer and software
308/12	Archives	700	Restoration of photograph of Rev Dr J Paton
358/12	TEC	2,700	Staff wages
037/13	PYV	1,429	Apple iMac computer
039/13	Church Planting		Revision of budget for 2013 principally to bring forward funding of the SE Bendigo church plant. This resulted in a net reduction in expenses for the 18 months to December 2013 of \$72,641 with expenditure increasing in 2014.

Emergency Funding

The BIF approved emergency funding of about \$10,000 to update the Breaking the Silence policy under the provisions authorised by the Assembly in 2005 (Min 83.5 2005 BB p88). Part of the cost of this has been offset by a grant of \$5,000 from the V N Saunders Charitable Trust with the balance being met from General Assembly funds.

Property matters

Approval was given under BIF Reg. 9 (a) for the following urgent property transactions

- Sale of Daylesford church site at 37 Jamieson Street
- Sale of the North Geelong church and manse site at 60 Victoria Street
- Sale of the Bairnsdale manse site at 6 Woodward Street, Wy Yung
- Extension of the lease of the St Georges Geelong car park
- Leases of the manse sites at Ballarat South, Bairnsdale and Kaniva

Church Planting Committee Administration

The BIF is concerned about the way the Church Planting Committee has handled employment contracts for church planters and the liabilities which may flow from those contracts. The Church Planting Committee submitted to the BIF at its meeting on 19th February 2013, a request to approve the employment contracts for two new

church planters. The Church Planting Committee has authority under its regulation 7 to employ church planters.

Committees, including the Church Planting Committee, are also required under Rule 5:19B of the PCV Code and BIF regulation 5(e) to consult with the BIF concerning the appointment of committee staff.

After lengthy consideration of the Church Planting Committee request at its February meeting, the BIF resolved:

Item 8 – Church Planting Committee employment contracts.

It was agreed to reply noting that:

- there is a disparity in remuneration between the two contracts where the yet to be approved candidate is being paid a full stipend while the all but exited student is paid only 87.5% stipend
- both employments commenced on 1st January but the BIF is only now being asked to consider the employment arrangements
- it appears that the convenor of the committee may have exposed himself to personal liability in signing these contracts without reference to the BIF, and that he should consider the seriousness of his actions
- the BIF is not able to exercise its responsibility in the matter in accordance with BIF regulation 5(e) as the contracts have apparently already been signed and commitments have been made. Nevertheless, the BIF is supportive of the church plants and encourages Aaron Boyd and Russell Grinter (as well as Peter Owen) in their ministry, and will not stand in the way of seeing them paid in accordance with the contracts which have been drawn.

It was also agreed to advise the Assembly of this.

Apparently the existence of these employment positions was known around August 2012 but they do not appear to have been properly attended to by the committee until after the employment had commenced almost 6 months later resulting in hardship and uncertainty for those men employed and their families. The BIF was subsequently placed under great pressure and expected to act in contravention of its own regulations, and in contravention of the Code because the men appointed to do this important work would otherwise be unpaid. The BIF is encouraged that there are four new church plants within the state. Like all in the denomination, the BIF wishes to see this gospel work flourish and the Church Planting Committee succeed in all its endeavours, but we are greatly concerned at the manner in which the committee administers its business.

GAA Funds

The 2012 Commission of Assembly agreed to apply the income from the capital of the GAA Funds to support the Moderator General's Church Planting Task Force with a particular focus on the church in South Australia (Min. 12.5 to 12.9 2012 BB p10), and was awaiting further direction in that regard from the Task Force which was due to meet shortly after the Commission.

The matter has not progressed as quickly as was first thought. However a special purpose committee has been constituted to develop a plan to 'restructure' the PCSA to facilitate church revitalization and planting, particularly in Adelaide. There is also an initiative to set up a federal committee to enable the work to proceed more appropriately.

The BIF recommends that we wait until these initiatives have had a little more time to develop the work before taking any further decision to allocate funds, and asks the Commission to request the BIF to report on this matter to the next General Assembly.

Committee Budgets

Church Planting Committee

As reported to the Commission last year, the Church Planting committee has requested the Board of Investment and Finance to work with it towards moving to a calendar year for budget monitoring. The Board has attempted to accommodate this request and continues to work with the committee to further its implementation. Last year the Commission approved the budgets for both 2012/13 and 2013/14. This year, the committee has submitted its budget by a calendar year. The Church Planting Committee budget attached to this report represents the latest version of the budget submitted by the committee to the BIF. The question of how best to implement the committee's request is a work in progress. This year, the Commission is being asked to approve the budget for the 2014 calendar year, having already approved the budget covering 2013.

The presentation is unusual in that it shows the committee funding church plants through grants and at the same time also shows that the church plants will reimburse the committee. The reimbursement amounts are shown under each church plant against the label "Plant Reimbursement" and in some cases are for substantial amounts. The reason for this is that the committee has employed the church planters directly (with the exception of Point Cook) and is therefore responsible for the full employment cost. As the church plants become established, it is expected that they will be able to fund their operating expenses and no longer need to rely on the committee to meet the entire cost of employing the church planter.

While the BIF understands the reason for budgeting for church plants to reimburse the committee given the present circumstances, the mechanism for making this happen is not clearly defined and is not something which the BIF is able to monitor under its regulation 7.

The BIF is concerned that this may lead to a net over-expenditure of budget by the committee if the actual reimbursement is less than the figure which has been included in the budget. The BIF believes this highlights the difficulties that arise when the committee rules permit the employment of church planters by the committee but the BIF regulations impose an obligation on the BIF to monitor, and if necessary, restrain committee spending. While the regulations allow the committee to do so, the result of such action can create problems on a number of levels. This matter has been drawn to the attention of the Church Planting Committee and the Code Committee.

The BIF is continuing to engage with the committee to work through the various issues relating to the administrative functions associated with the committee's finances and thanks them for their participation in this process.

Social Services Committee

The budget for the Social Services committee is now available and is presented for approval by the Commission.

Theological Education Committee

The TEC budget for capital expenditure was not included in the original report to the Commission. It is included in this report.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Income								
1050	Bequests	7,792	210,765	167,442	210,765	207,153	210,000	210,000
1080	General Mission Programme	202,709	-	5,000	5,000	-	477,000	479,000
1160	Donations & Gifts	-	485,000	318,910	481,000	479,000	32,900	35,400
1359	Interest Common Fund General	490,860	29,800	22,876	35,415	31,500	150,985	155,514
1359	Interest Transfer ex Fraser Trust	19,911	143,012	99,154	148,731	146,587	75,000	75,000
1501	Management Fees	144,940	75,000	254	381	570	1,000	1,000
1601	Rental Trusts Corporation	279	67,161	63	92,161	75,000	1,000	1,000
1640	Scots Church Property Trust	71,700	1,000	577	1,000	-	946,885	955,914
1650	Sundry Income	23	938,889	681,438	974,516	940,810		
1652	Archival Fees	675						
Total Income								
Total Income		938,889	944,577	681,438	974,516	940,810	946,885	955,914
Expenditure								
1. Personnel Related Expenses								
2810	Salaries & Wages	321,295	330,823	208,480	305,401	314,201	325,026	336,175
2640	Non Cash Benefits	10,313	10,622	7,080	10,620	10,886	11,212	11,548
2245	Fringe Benefits (Employee)	16,235	16,050	19,700	30,563	32,100	32,100	32,100
2550	Long Service Leave	6,198	7,240	4,735	7,103	7,280	7,498	7,723
2870	Superannuation	33,839	35,009	22,478	32,951	34,330	35,499	36,704
2830	Staff Amenities	983	900	724	900	900	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	1,343	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2250	Fringe Benefits Tax	7,254	7,550	8,904	13,815	15,100	15,100	15,100
2541	Manse Energy - Clerk	1,932	2,000	1,098	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2140	Consultancy	5,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
2793	Housing Allowance	17,550	23,400	15,600	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400
2930	Temporary Staff	277	1,000	100	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2950	WorkCover Levy	3,755	3,826	3,247	3,247	3,329	3,428	3,531
2955	Disability Insurance	794	794	793	793	816	841	866
2920	Travelling Expenses	223	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Personnel Related Expenses		427,490	441,214	292,938	433,792	447,341	460,105	473,148

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected		
2. Office Related Expenses										
2010	Accounting & Audit Fees	20,054	23,100	17,678	23,100	24,255	25,468	26,741		
2055	Bad Debts	956								
2130	Computer & Software Costs	2,564	2,000	1,085	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
2180	Depreciation - Furniture & Equipment	2,159	2,200	1,499	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200		
2280	General Expenses	190	500	-	500	500	500	500		
2399	Insurance Public Liability, PI etc	3,239	3,500	3,456	3,456	3,500	3,850	4,235		
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	6,829	10,000	6,254	10,000	10,000	11,000	11,000		
2760	Maintenance Office Equipment	75	200	95	200	200	200	200		
2910	Telephone & Fax	10,565	11,000	4,508	11,000	11,000	11,500	11,500		
Total Office Related Expenses		46,632	52,500	34,576	52,456	53,655	56,718	58,376		
3. Grants										
2290	Grants o/s PCOV - Kilmore	11,000	25,000	-	-	25,000	-	-		
2292	Grants PWMU	10,333	10,500	7,129	10,500	12,000	12,360	12,731		
2294	Grants - Research Assistant	261,413	0	0	0	0	-	-		
2310&2311	General Mission Programme Distribution	202,709	210,765	167,442	210,765	207,153	210,000	210,000		
Total Grants		485,454	246,265	174,571	221,265	244,153	222,360	222,731		
4. Property Related Expenses										
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	230	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
2391	Insurance Fire & General	170	200	91	200	200	240	240		
2540	Light Power & Heating	1,395	2,600	1,601	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,700		
2710	Property Maintenance	-	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-		
Total Property Related Expenses		1,794	4,800	1,692	4,800	3,800	3,940	3,940		

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected		
5. Assembly Related Expenses										
2048	Church Architect	-	2,000	1,494	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
2285	Committee Expenses			230	230	400	400	400		
2302	General Assembly - The Fellowship	427	2,000	4,919	4,919	2,000	2,000	2,000		
2300	General Assembly Victoria Expenses	10,344	11,000	8,261	11,000	11,000	12,000	12,000		
2300	Ministers Wives Dinner		800	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100		
2131	Website Hosting	2,782	3,198	1,855	3,198	3,198	3,294	3,393		
	Breaking the Silence revision			2,727	10,000					
2350	Honoraria	3,650	3,760	3,605	3,760	3,854	3,970	4,089		
2270	General Assembly Australia Expenses	28,439	38,000	7,836	38,000	38,000	40,000	40,000		
2705	Postage, Printing, Photocopying	12,383	15,375	11,558	15,375	15,375	15,836	16,311		
2921	Travel Expenses - Assembly	6,072	7,035	3,450	7,035	7,035	7,500	7,500		
2925	Clerk's Denominational Travel & Hospitality	1,991	3,000	1,450	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		
2510	Legal Expenses	94,520	100,000	111,401	200,000	100,000	20,000	20,000		
Total Assembly Related Expenses		160,607	186,168	159,985	299,717	186,962	111,100	111,793		
Total Archive Related Expenses		59,035	52,820	34,287	53,279	53,627	51,619	52,641		
Total Expenses		1,181,012	983,767	698,049	1,065,308	989,538	905,841	922,629		
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(242,124)	(39,190)	(16,611)	(90,793)	(48,728)	41,043	33,285		
Capital Items										
	Office Shelving / Bookcases		5,000	3,560	3,560					
	Computer replacement		1,200		1,200	1,200	2,000	2,000		
	Increase in Current Assets			(54,529)						
	Increase in Current Liabilities			(65,782)						
	Increase in NonCurrent Liabilities			(3,990)						
	Capital to Church & Nation	250,000	0		0	0	0	0		
Total Capital Expenditure			6,200	(120,741)	4,760	1,200	2,000	2,000		
General Funds		3,989,308	3,953,358	4,094,937	3,904,058	3,864,610	3,914,352	3,956,561		
Perpetual Funds		2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996		

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

General Assembly General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%		Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
ARCHIVES									
Income									
1652	Archival Fees ex Private Researchers	665	1,000	577	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Total Archival Income		665	1,000	577	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Expenses									
2122	Cleaning & Preservation Costs	-	-	545	545	250	250	250	250
2132	Computer & Software Costs	-	250	52	250	200	200	200	200
2222	Education & Training	-	200	-	200	300	300	300	300
2282	General Expenses	292	300	251	300	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2552	Long Service Leave	8,577	1,000	544	1,000	200	200	200	200
2702	Printing & Stationery	686	200	304	200	500	500	500	500
2703	Archival Boxes & Wallets	-	500	-	500	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
2704	Retrieval	2,411	2,100	1,046	2,100	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2752	Rent	5,000	5,000	3,333	5,000	29,772	30,665	31,585	31,585
2812	Salaries	29,849	29,046	20,097	29,046	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2835	Storage	7,847	7,000	5,339	7,000	3,000	3,000	-	-
2706	Digitisation of Blue Books	-	3,000	-	3,000	100	100	100	100
2852	Subscriptions & Reference Books	-	100	-	100	2,977	3,067	3,159	3,159
2872	Superannuation	2,985	2,905	2,010	2,905	850	850	850	850
2912	Telephone & Fax	986	850	386	850	50	50	50	50
2922	Travelling Expenses	100	50	147	50	327	337	347	347
2952	WorkCover Levy	302	320	232	232	53,627	51,619	52,641	52,641
Total Archive Related Expenses		59,035	52,820	34,287	53,279	(52,627)	(50,619)	(51,641)	(51,641)
Surplus/(Deficit) on Archival Operations		(58,370)	(51,820)	(33,710)	(52,279)				

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

General Assembly Beneficiary Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14								Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No		Description	Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%				12%		12%
			2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Balfour Memorial Trust									
Income									
1351		Interest Common Fund Specific	124,010	126,600	84,964	128,500	130,300	133,600	140,200
1600		Rentals Received Ministers Holiday Homes	8,140	9,000	8,720	9,500	9,000	10,000	10,000
		Total Income	132,150	135,600	93,684	138,000	139,300	143,600	150,200
Payments									
2790		Rent Paid Ministers' Holiday Home	83,279	82,500	56,588	82,500	82,500	87,500	87,500
2810		Wages - Ministers Holiday Homes	1,427	1,545	787	1,545	1,584	1,631	1,680
2870		Ministers' Superannuation Contribution	18,791	27,000	6,850	27,000	27,000	0	0
2920		Travel Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Total Expenditure	103,496	111,045	64,225	111,045	111,084	89,131	89,180
		Surplus	28,654	24,555	29,459	26,955	28,216	54,469	61,020
		Balance of Funds	1,058,555	1,083,110	1,088,014	1,085,510	1,113,726	1,168,195	1,229,215
Donaldson Trust									
Income									
1352		Interest Common Fund Specific	395	600	207	300	600	600	600
1440		Other Income	76,593	100,100	61,107	100,100	104,700	110,900	117,700
1995		Unrealised Gains revaluation	(162,562)	0	87,558	87,558	0	0	0
		Total Income	(85,573)	100,700	148,872	187,958	105,300	111,500	118,300
Payments									
2291		Grants Paid	37,871	25,000	4,538	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
		Surplus	(123,444)	75,700	144,334	162,958	80,300	86,500	93,300
		Balance of Specific Funds in Comm Fund	2,068	5,000	2,806	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
		Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested)	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252
		Specific Balance (Separately Invested)	964,722	1,040,422	1,113,387	1,127,680	1,207,980	1,294,480	1,387,780
Forster Trust									
Receipts									
1353		Interest Common Fund Specific	3,645	3,700	2,496	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
Payments									
2292		Grants Paid	3,600	3,700	3,900	3,900	3,700	3,700	3,700
		Surplus	45	0	(1,404)	(200)	0	0	0
		Balance of Specific Funds	2,136	2,136	732	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936
		Perpetual Funds	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	Budget for Approval 12%	2014/2015 Projected 12%	2015/2016 Projected 12%
Pensioners Reserve								
Receipts								
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	16,947	18,100	12,130	18,600	20,000	22,000	24,400
Payments								
2814	Pensions - Ministers & Widows	2,700	2,700	1,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
	Surplus	14,247	15,400	10,330	15,900	17,300	19,300	21,700
	Balance of Specific Funds	150,482	165,882	160,812	166,382	183,682	202,982	224,682
Housing and Loan Fund								
Receipts								
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	371,509	370,000	262,542	393,000	392,000	389,000	386,000
	Total Income	371,509	370,000	262,542	393,000	392,000	389,000	386,000
Payments								
2510	Legal Expenses	1,842	2,000	2,210	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2710	Property Expenses	0	0	0	4,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Total Expenditure	1,842	2,000	2,210	6,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
	Surplus	369,667	368,000	260,332	387,000	378,000	375,000	372,000
Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments								
	Loans Advanced	500,000	400,000	284,841	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
	Balance Invested in Common Fund	3,276,552	3,244,552	3,252,043	3,263,552	3,241,552	3,216,552	3,188,552
J & E Walters (P Owen Trustee)								
Receipts								
1356	Interest Common Fund Specific	18,606	17,500	13,327	20,400	19,000	18,300	18,100
Payments								
2293	Grants Paid	8,000	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	20,000	20,000
	Surplus	10,606	(7,500)	13,327	(4,600)	(6,000)	(1,700)	(1,900)
	Balance of Specific Funds	39,345	27,245	52,672	34,745	28,745	27,045	25,145
	Perpetual Funds	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658
Surplus/(Deficit) Beneficiary Trusts								
		299,774	476,155	456,378	588,013	497,816	533,569	546,120
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds	4,529,138	4,527,925	4,557,079	4,557,125	4,574,641	4,621,710	4,674,530
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	12%	Budget for Approval 12%	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Deakin (Moderators) Trust										
Receipts										
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	23,933	23,600	15,662	23,700			24,400	24,400	24,400
Payments										
2590	Moderators Expenses	17,397	23,900	18,606	23,900			23,900	24,400	24,400
	Surplus	6,536	(300)	(2,944)	(200)			500	0	0
	Balance of Specific Funds	203,281	202,981	200,337	203,081			203,581	203,581	203,581
Fraser Trust										
Receipts										
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	93,470	94,800	63,443	96,500			96,500	98,900	101,400
Payments										
2791	Rent Paid Missionaries on Home Assignment	19,700	45,000	4,560	45,000			45,000	45,000	45,000
2400	Interest transfer to General	19,911	29,800	22,876	35,415			31,500	32,900	35,400
2870	Superannuation Missionaries	23,320	0	(1,500)	0			0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	62,931	74,800	25,936	80,415			76,500	77,900	80,400
	Surplus (Indexation of Capital)	30,539	20,000	37,506	16,085			20,000	21,000	21,000
	Balance of Funds	787,915	807,915	825,421	804,000			824,000	845,000	866,000
Insurance										
Receipts										
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	23,065	24,300	15,254	22,600			21,900	21,600	21,400
Payments										
2385	Insurance Claims & Risk Management	23,630	24,000	23,630	24,000			24,000	24,000	24,000
	Surplus	(565)	300	(8,376)	(1,400)			(2,100)	(2,400)	(2,600)
	Balance of Funds	192,226	192,526	183,850	182,450			180,350	177,950	175,350

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	Budget for Approval	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Capital Fund Reserve									
Receipts									
1340	Interest on Loans to Congregations @ 3%	135,462	233,750	56,065	78,974		97,500	112,500	120,000
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	175,582	187,000	118,596	178,000		189,000	198,000	207,000
1440	Other Investment Income	5,823	6,000	1,691	3,382		6,000	6,000	6,000
	Total Income	316,868	426,750	176,352	260,356		292,500	316,500	333,000
Payments									
2295	Grant to Property Development Fund	75,507							
2401	Interest on Loans from TC @ 6.5%	239,123	340,000	121,041	182,059		211,250	243,750	260,000
2402	Interest paid to Depositors	2,237	2,300	901	1,779		1,780	1,800	1,820
	Total Expenditure	316,867	342,300	121,942	183,838		213,030	245,550	261,820
	Surplus	0	84,450	54,410	76,518		79,470	70,950	71,180
	Balance of Funds	1,497,643	1,582,093	1,495,988	1,574,161		1,653,631	1,724,581	1,795,761
	Deposits from Congregations, PWMU etc	90,668	120,000	87,732	88,000		89,000	90,000	91,000
	Loans	3,097,187	4,000,000	2,632,455	3,000,000		3,500,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
	Break Even Loan Balance		6,843,251				7,555,975	7,937,431	8,277,991
Other Specific Trusts - GAA, Overseas Visitors									
Receipts									
1164	Pres-Aid Donations	86,768	0	44,233	44,233		0	0	0
1350	Interest - Overseas Visitors	15,945	12,800	4,668	7,002		13,600	14,100	14,600
1350	Interest - GAA	30,579	29,400	27,643	41,465		32,500	32,500	32,500
	Total Income	133,292	42,200	76,544	92,699		46,100	46,600	47,100
Payments									
2291	Grants Paid - Overseas Visitors Fund	0	10,000	0	10,000		10,000	10,000	10,000
2290	Grants Paid - GAA	5,000	29,400	0	41,465		32,500	32,500	32,500
2294	Grants - Pres-Aid	89,696	0	24,000	44,233		0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	94,696	39,400	24,000	95,697		42,500	42,500	42,500
	Surplus / (Deficit)	38,596	2,800	52,543	(2,998)		3,600	4,100	4,600
	Balance of Funds - O/S Visitors	116,727		123,835	113,729		117,329	121,429	126,029
	Balance of Funds - GAA	270,825		287,317	270,825		270,825	270,825	270,825
	Balance of Funds - Pres-AID Funds	60,545		20,741					
	Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts	75,107	107,250	133,139	88,005		101,470	93,650	94,180
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds	3,129,162	2,785,515	3,137,489	3,148,246		3,249,716	3,343,366	3,437,546

**Australian Presbyterian World Missions Vic
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Australian Presbyterian World Missions Vic General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0%									
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	Budget for Approval 12.0%
Income									
1089.19	General Mission Programme	45,264	47,000	35,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	
1162.19	Mission Lunch Income	1,553	2,500	1,505	1,505	1,500	1,500	1,500	
1169.19	Donations & Bequests	0	0	24,990	24,990	0	0	0	
1359.19	Interest Common Fund	59,864	57,100	39,905	60,600	59,400	59,800	60,400	
1440.19	Other Investment Income	256	0	122	122	0	0	0	
Total Income		106,937	106,600	101,522	134,217	107,900	108,300	108,900	
Expenditure									
Grants									
2290.19	Grants - Aboriginal	15,000	15,000	5,611	18,111	20,000	15,000	15,000	
2297.19	Grants - General - detail below	33,018	39,000	16,019	36,000	36,200	41,000	37,000	
2298.19	Grants - Christmas Gifts	6,650	7,000	7,200	7,200	7,500	7,500	7,500	
2870.19	Superannuation - Missionaries	12,962	14,500	4,855	14,500	14,500	15,000	15,000	
2928.19	PWMU Bursary Travel	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	
2928.19	Mission Trips	5,217	7,000	0	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Total Grant Payments		72,847	82,500	33,685	82,811	86,200	85,500	81,500	
Committee									
2130.19	Computer & Website Expenses	225	0	1,595	1,595	500	500	500	
2183.19	Depreciation Motor Vehicles	4,324	4,000	3,795	6,150	6,800	6,800	6,800	
2280.19	Mission Lunch Expenses	1,873	2,000	1,630	1,630	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2289.19	General Expenses-Committee	312	500	155	500	500	500	500	
2600.19	Motor Vehicle Expenses	8,932	10,000	6,296	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	
2705.19	Promotion - New Poster	0	2,000	1,609	1,609	0	0	2,000	
2709.19	Postage & Stationery	30	250	15	250	250	250	250	
2819.19	Salaries & Related Expenses	3,204	3,700	0	0	0	0	0	
2859.19	Subscriptions	794	700	150	150	150	150	150	
2929.19	Travelling Expenses	951	1,000	871	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2950.19	WorkCover Levy	278	300	309	309	350	350	350	
Total Committee Expenses		20,923	24,450	16,425	26,192	24,550	24,550	26,550	
Total Expenses		93,769	106,950	50,110	109,003	110,750	110,050	108,050	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		13,167	(350)	51,412	25,214	(2,850)	(1,750)	850	
Capital Expenditure									
Car				24,990	24,990				
General Funds (exc balance of Appeal Funds)		180,621	184,271	210,839	186,995	190,945	195,995	203,645	
Perpetual Funds		307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	

**Australian Presbyterian World Missions Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Australian Presbyterian World Missions Vic Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										Budget for Approval	
Account No		Description	Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:				12.0%	12.0%	12.0%		
			2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected		
Aboriginal Trusts											
Income											
1351	Interest Common Fund		1,451	431	219	219	0	0	0		
Expenditure											
2291	Grants		10,000	7,100	6,889	6,889	0	0	0		
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,549)	(6,669)	(6,670)	(6,670)	0	0	0			
Specific Funds		6,670	1	0	0	0	0	0			
Vanuatu Trusts											
Income											
1352	Interest Common Fund		21,298	21,300	14,137	21,300	21,200	18,800	17,300		
Expenditure											
2292	Grants		18,600	18,600	9,300	18,600	37,200	27,900	18,600		
2295	Blackwell Scholarship Grant		3,400	3,400	1,700	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400		
Total Expenditure		22,000	22,000	11,000	22,000	40,600	31,300	22,000			
Surplus/(Deficit)		(702)	(700)	3,137	(700)	(19,400)	(12,500)	(4,700)			
Specific Funds		135,586	134,886	138,723	134,886	115,486	102,986	98,286			
Perpetual Funds		41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451			
Beatty Trust											
Income											
1353	Interest Common Fund		15,907	15,900	10,549	16,000	15,900	15,400	14,900		
Total Income		15,907	15,900	10,549	16,000	15,900	15,400	14,900			
Expenditure											
2293	Grants - APWM National Office		16,000	16,000	8,000	16,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		
Total Expenditure		16,000	16,000	8,000	16,000	20,000	20,000	20,000			
Surplus/(Deficit)		(93)	(100)	2,549	0	(4,100)	(4,600)	(5,100)			
Specific Funds		132,496	132,396	135,045	132,496	128,396	123,796	118,696			
Sudan Appeal											
Income											
1357	Interest Common Fund		2,718	2,100	1,196	1,645	416	0	0		
Expenditure											
2326	Grants		12,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	8,822	0	0		
Surplus/(Deficit)		(9,282)	(7,900)	(3,804)	(8,355)	(8,406)	0	0			
Specific Funds		16,761	8,861	12,957	8,406	0	0	0			

**Australian Presbyterian World Missions Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Account No		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					Budget for Approval	
		2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Dehra Dun								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund	3,816	3,700	2,804	4,300	3,400	3,200	3,000
Expenditure								
2294	Grants	0	3,600	0	10,000	5,000	5,000	3,000
	Surplus/(Deficit)	3,816	100	2,804	(5,700)	(1,600)	(1,800)	0
Specific Funds								
		9,224	9,324	12,028	3,524	1,924	124	124
Perpetual Funds								
		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations								
		13,167	(350)	51,412	25,214	(2,850)	(1,750)	850
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts								
		(14,810)	(15,269)	(1,985)	(21,425)	(33,506)	(18,900)	(9,800)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)								
		(1,643)	(15,619)	49,427	3,788	(36,356)	(20,650)	(8,950)
TOTAL Specific Funds								
		300,737	285,468	298,753	279,312	245,806	226,906	217,106
TOTAL Perpetual Funds								
		66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451

**Christian Education & Nurture
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Christian Education & Nurture General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14								
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						12%		12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund General	80,746	83,600	55,959	84,800	87,600	88,300	89,100
1600	Rentals Received	4,992	4,992	1,248	4,992	4,992	4,992	4,992
1032	18/30 Camp Income	0	0	3,927	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
1660	Training Day Income / PYV Contribution	860	2,200	0	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Total Income		86,598	90,792	61,135	96,992	99,792	100,492	101,292
Expenditure								
Seminars								
2581	Reforming Arts	0	0	0	0	4,500	4,500	4,500
2582	Women's Ministry	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
2584	18/30 Camp Expenditure	0	0	117	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2583	Fuelled	1,914	4,200	0	4,200	5,000	5,000	5,000
2810	Fuelled - Casual Wages	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Seminar Expenses		1,914	4,200	117	9,200	21,500	21,500	21,500
Committee								
2133	Website	270	600	485	600	600	600	600
2180	Depreciation	1,783	1,589	1,185	1,589	1,589	90	90
2280	General Expenses	952	600	412	600	600	600	600
2392	Insurances Professional Indemnity	330	330	370	370	381	393	404
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	20	250	0	250	0	250	250
2920	Travelling Expenses	4,159	3,500	1,740	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Total Committee Expenses		7,514	6,869	4,192	6,909	6,670	5,433	5,444
Staff								
2813	Stipend - CEC	7,659	0	0	0	0	0	0
2640	NCB	4,125	0	0	0	0	0	0
2870	Superannuation	1,768	0	0	0	0	0	0
2790	Rent assistance	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	150	0	0	0	0	0	0
2950	Workcover Levy	263	436	0	0	0	0	0
2955	Disability Insurance	397	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Staff Expenses		19,361	436	0	0	0	0	0

**Christian Education & Nurture
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Christian Education & Nurture General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14								
Account No		Description	Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%				Budget for Approval 12%	
			2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected
Grants to PYV								
2294	PYV Operations Manager /Admin		28,600	0	0	0	0	0
2295	PYV Youth Worker Subsidy		0	43,550	29,032	43,550	48,719	50,181
2292	PYV Camp Fees		6,688	8,000	8,446	8,446	8,000	8,500
2292	PYV Camp Leader Subsidies		0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Total Grants to PYV			35,288	51,550	37,478	51,996	65,300	68,681
Total Expenses			64,077	63,055	41,787	68,105	93,470	95,625
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations			22,521	27,738	19,348	28,887	6,322	5,667
Balance of Funds at end of year								
General			431,568	460,895	452,101	462,044	467,955	480,142
Pepetual			268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250
TOTAL			699,818	729,145	720,351	730,294	736,205	748,392
Capital Items								
Office Equipment inc laptop						0	2,000	0
Enter Details Here						0	0	0
Enter Details Here						0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure						0	2,000	0

**Christian Education & Nurture
Specific Trusts - Allan Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Christian Education & Nurture Specific Trusts - Allan Trust Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%		12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Income									
1060	Sales - See For Yourself	2,195	500	2,077	3,115	3,000	500	500	
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	60,353	62,400	42,999	65,200	67,700	68,200	71,300	
Total Income		62,548	62,900	45,076	68,315	70,700	68,700	71,800	
Expenditure									
2030	Advertising & promotion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2031	SFY electronic marketing	528	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2782	Catechism design	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	0	
2071	Bursaries & Prizes	1,605	2,800	1,845	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	
2281	General Expenses	482	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2293	Contribution to Youth Worker	5,500	38,000	25,336	38,000	39,000	40,170	41,375	
2781	Production - ebook version of SFY	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	
2350	Honorarium - for Primary version of SFY	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	0	
2782	Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Expenses		8,115	40,800	27,181	40,800	66,800	42,970	44,175	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		54,433	22,100	17,895	27,515	3,900	25,730	27,625	
Balance of Funds at end of year									
Specific		508,830	530,930	526,725	536,345	540,245	565,975	593,600	
Peptual		27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	
TOTAL		536,682	558,782	554,577	564,197	568,097	593,827	621,452	

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										Budget for Approval 12%	
		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates					12%		12%		
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected			
Primary Camp (8-11 Jul 2011)											
1028	Income	11,375		0	0			0	0	0	
2732	Expenses	10,619		0	0			0	0	0	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Primary Camp	757	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Junior Camp (8-11 Jul 2011)											
1027	Income	27,025		0	0			0	0	0	
2727	Expenses	25,303		0	0			0	0	0	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Junior Camp	1,721	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Senior Camp (8-11 Jul 2011)											
1026	Income	19,884		0	0			0	0	0	
2726	Expenses	18,095		0	0			0	0	0	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Senior Camp	1,789	0	0	0	0		0		0	
Social (29 June 2013)											
1039	Income	4,409	2,000	(73)	1,927	2,000	2,060	2,122			
2729	Expenses	2,034	1,500	1,838	1,838	1,500	1,545	1,591			
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Social	2,375	500	(1,910)	90	500	515	530			
Ministers Family Camp (~Sep 2012)											
1029	Income	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,545	1,591			
2731	Expenses	595	1,200	452	452	500	515	530			
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Ministers Family Camp	905	300	1,048	1,048	1,000	1,030	1,061			
Training Days - Rain24 (27 Nov 2011)											
1023	Income	174		373	373			0	0	0	
2723	Expenses	40		0	0			0	0	0	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Training Days	134	0	373	373	0		0		0	
Summer Camp (27 Dec 2012 - 1 Jan 2013)											
1025	Income	61,269	63,289	46,734	46,000	47,000	48,410	49,862			
2725	Expenses	70,790	69,589	49,176	49,300	47,000	48,410	49,862			
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Summer Camp	(9,521)	(6,300)	(2,442)	(3,300)	0	0	0			
Youth Leaders' Conference (~Jan 2013)											
1031	Income	0	16,608	14,107	14,039	17,000	20,600	21,218			
2734	Expenses	516	21,608	19,320	19,314	20,000	20,600	21,218			
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Youth Leaders' Conference	(516)	(5,000)	(5,212)	(5,275)	(3,000)	0	0			

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates						12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	Budget for Approval 12%	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
EighteenThirty Camp (~Mar 2012)									
1032	Income	8,485		0				0	0
2735	Expenses	7,192		0				0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on EighteenThirty Camp	1,293	0	0	0		0	0	0
West State Camp (~Apr 2013)									
1033	Income	8,797	6,472	273	9,000		9,500	9,785	10,079
2736	Expenses	7,342	6,182	8	9,000		9,500	9,785	10,079
	Surplus/(Deficit) on West State Camp	1,455	290	265	0		0	0	0
East State Camp (~Oct 2012)									
1034	Income		11,049	6,683	6,683		8,000	8,240	8,487
2737	Expenses		11,068	7,291	7,291		8,000	8,240	8,487
	Surplus/(Deficit) on East State Camp	0	(18)	(608)	(608)		0	0	0
Volleyball (~Apr 2013)									
1020	Income	2,356	2,500	0	2,500		2,500	2,575	2,652
2720	Expenses	1,776	2,000	0	2,000		2,000	2,060	2,122
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Volleyball	580	500	0	500		500	515	530
North State Camp (~Sep 2012)									
1042	Income		11,049	9,185	9,185		12,000	6,365	6,556
2740	Expenses		10,853	7,464	7,220		12,000	6,365	6,556
	Surplus/(Deficit) on West State Camp	0	197	1,721	1,965		0	0	0
Bookstall & Tuckshop									
1021	Income	837	0	1,031	1,031		0	0	0
2724	Expenses	572	0	108	108		0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Merchandising	265	0	923	923		0	0	0
Merchandising									
1022	Income	833	500	723	800		750	800	800
2722	Expenses	0	730	643	730		1,000	1,500	1,500
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Merchandising	833	(230)	80	70		(250)	(700)	(700)
Internship									
1062	Income	1,957	2,500	102	0		0	0	0
2733	Expenses	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Internship	1,957	2,500	102	0		0	0	0
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on all Events		4,026	(7,261)	(5,661)	(4,215)		(1,250)	1,360	1,422

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates					12%		Budget for Approval 12%		
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Income									
1169	Donations Miscellaneous	6,510		0		0	0	0	
1170	Donations to Subsidise Campers	834	1,500	881	1,500	1,500	1,545	1,591	
1060	Equipment Hire	1,210	1,000	1,009	1,000	1,000	1,030	1,061	
1241	CENC Funding - Youth Worker	0	43,550	29,032	43,550	47,300	48,719	50,181	
1245	CENC Funding	28,600	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1248	Allan Trust Funding - Youth Worker	5,500	38,000	25,336	38,000	39,000	40,170	41,375	
1359	Interest Common Fund	49,670	49,400	32,286	48,500	48,700	48,800	48,800	
1990	Profit / (loss) on sale of Assets	(600)		0					
Total Income (excl Camps & Events)		91,724	133,450	88,544	132,550	137,500	140,264	143,008	
General Expenses									
2150	Council expenses	107	500	232	500	500	515	530	
2060	Bank Charges & Debits Tax	1,043	103	69	100	108	111	115	
2130	Computer / Website / Software	2,123	2,300	2,350	2,300	2,000	2,060	2,122	
2180	Depreciation - Furniture/Equip	1,431	1,357	988	1,357	1,500	1,000	1,000	
2220	Leader Training	0	1,920	670	0	2,500	2,575	2,652	
2275	First Aid	693	750	107	750	750	773	796	
2278	General Printing & Publicity	3,318	3,100	3,106	3,100	3,200	3,296	3,395	
2279	Music Expenses	553	1,000	553	1,000	1,000	1,030	1,061	
2280	General Expenses	0	200	100	200	0	0	0	
2392	Insurances	2,200	2,420	2,310	2,310	2,420	2,541	2,668	
2600	Motor Vehicle Expenses - Van	949	0	237	237	0	0	0	
NEW	PYV Mission Trip					1,000	1,030	1,061	
2601	Petrol Costs - PYV Bus	57	100	0	100	100	103	106	
2721	AGM Expenditure (~Dec)	0	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,545	1,591	
2738	Camper Subsidy (linked to 1170)		1,200	1,362	1,200	1,500	1,545	1,591	
2769	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	624							
Total General Expenses		13,099	16,450	12,085	14,654	18,078	18,124	18,688	
Office									
2910	Telephone	498	576	164	576	500	515	530	
2911	Internet access/usage	654	719	490	719	800	824	849	
2752	Rent	2,350	3,120	1,750	3,120	5,200	5,356	5,517	
2705	Office / Stationery	3,648	2,000	779	2,000	1,000	1,030	1,061	
Total Office Expenses		7,151	6,415	3,183	6,415	7,500	7,725	7,957	

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates					12%		Budget for Approval		
						12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Staff Related Expenses									
2810	Wages - Operations Manager	42,275	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2812	Administrative Support	1,109	25,000	16,663	25,000	25,700	26,471	27,265	
2871	Superannuation - PYV (Ops Manager)	4,228	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2872	Superannuation PYV Admin Off	100		1,500	2,250	2,300	2,382	2,454	
2811	Stipend Youth Worker	5,106	31,555	21,040	31,555	32,500	33,475	34,479	
2640	NCB Youth Worker	2,750	16,993	11,328	16,993	17,500	18,025	18,566	
2790	Rent assistance	3,294	19,760	13,176	19,760	19,760	19,760	19,760	
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	0	300	350	350	300	309	318	
2870	Superannuation - PYV (Youth Worker)	1,178	7,282	4,855	7,282	7,500	7,725	7,957	
2220	Training Expenses - Youth Worker	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2282	Hospitality/boos - Youth Worker	0	0	0	0	1,300	1,300	1,300	
2955	Disability Insurance	0	1,027	1,028	1,028	1,200	1,200	1,200	
2950	Workcover	761	1,402	608	608	800	824	849	
2920	Travel	2,506	6,000	568	1,700	4,440	4,573	4,710	
Total Staff Related Expenses		63,307	109,319	71,116	106,526	114,300	117,045	119,858	
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		12,193	(5,996)	(3,502)	739	(3,628)	(1,269)	(2,073)	
	Deposits in Common Fund	145,486	141,039	135,932	145,776	138,648	138,379	137,306	
	Paypal	192	0	8,079	0	0	0	0	
Total General Funds		145,678	141,039	144,011	145,776	138,648	138,379	137,306	
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	
Summary									
Camp Fees & Events Income		148,902	117,468	80,639	93,038	100,250	100,380	103,368	
		91,724	133,450	88,544	132,550	137,500	140,264	143,008	
Total Income		240,625	250,918	169,183	225,588	237,750	240,644	246,376	
Camp & Event Costs		144,875	124,729	86,300	97,253	101,500	99,020	101,946	
Other Costs		83,557	132,185	86,385	127,596	139,878	142,893	146,503	
Total Expenses		228,432	256,913	172,685	224,849	241,378	241,914	248,449	
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		12,193	(5,996)	(3,502)	739	(3,628)	(1,269)	(2,073)	

**Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Church & Nation Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14							Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected		2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Income									
1030	Colloquium Registration Fees	0	15,000	0	0		12,500	0	0
1240	Overseas Speaker Travel Grant	0	7,500	0	0		2,000	0	0
1068	Sales Booklets	12	300	0	0		14,500	0	0
1241	Grant from General Assembly	261,413	0	0	300		300	300	300
1359	Interest Common Fund	10,758	41,000	27,461	41,700		42,200	41,300	41,800
Total Income		272,183	63,800	27,461	42,000		57,000	41,600	42,100
General Expenditure									
2130	Computer & Software Costs	0	1,150	587	1,150		1,150	1,150	1,150
2180	Depreciation	49	69	164	492		250	250	250
2289	General Expenses	856	1,200	333	1,200		1,200	1,400	1,400
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	330	350	370	370		370	370	370
2580	Conferences	1,273	800	656	800		800	850	850
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery	90	450	220	450		450	500	500
2748	Publications Cost	0	600	0	650		600	650	650
2810	Research assistant wages	10,336	21,450	12,228	21,450		22,100	22,800	23,500
2870	Research assistant superannuation	1,034	2,145	1,223	2,145		2,210	2,280	2,350
2850	Journal Subscriptions (& Books)	72	600	164	600		600	650	650
2851	Books	318	1,200	0	1,200		1,200	1,200	1,200
2910	Telephone & Fax	340	750	0	750		750	800	800
2911	Research ast - internet, phone, cons	43	1,500	0	1,500		1,500	1,500	1,500
2920	Travelling Expenses	901	2,500	292	2,500		2,500	2,750	2,750
2950	Insurance W/Cover Premiums	185	193	172	172		200	200	200
Total General Expenditure		15,826	34,957	16,408	35,429		35,880	37,350	38,120

**Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Colloquium									
2030	Colloquium Advertising & Brochures	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	0
2281	Colloquium Miscellaneous	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0	0
2285	Colloquium Meals	0	4,500	0	0	4,500	0	0	0
2350	Colloquium Honorariums	0	7,500	0	0	7,500	0	0	0
2708	Colloquium Printing and Stationery	0	3,500	0	0	3,500	0	0	0
2921	Colloquium Travel	0	6,500	0	0	6,500	0	0	0
2922	Colloquium Accommodation	0	4,500	0	0	4,500	0	0	0
Total Colloquium Expenditure		0	29,000	0	0	29,000	0	0	0
Total Committee Expenditure		15,826	63,957	16,408	35,429	64,880	37,350	38,120	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		256,357	(157)	11,053	6,571	(7,880)	4,250	3,980	
General Funds		344,738	344,581	355,955	351,801	343,921	348,171	352,151	

Capital Items									
Capital Grant from Assembly						0	0	0	0
Office furniture		459				0	0	0	0
Laptop Computer		531				0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure				0	0	0	0	0	0

Church Planting Committee General Operations

Income & Expenditure Budget - Calendar 2014

Church Planting Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget - Calendar 2014									
		Budget for Approval		Calendar Year					
Acct No.	Description	2011/2012 Actual	18 Months 2012/2013 Budget	6 Months to Dec-12	18 Months 2012/2013 Projected	2013 Projected	2014 Proposed	2015 Projected	2016 Projected
Income									
1359	Interest Common Fund	83,643	123,800	42,684	131,130	88,446	77,413	53,493	42,463
1600	Rentals Received - Officer	23,903	34,950	13,038	39,576	26,538	26,600	27,100	28,000
1640	Scots Church Distribution	123,158	250,000	108,908	228,908	120,000	125,000	250,000	250,000
1660	Conference Income	1,062							
Total Income		231,766	408,750	164,630	399,614	234,984	229,013	330,593	320,463
Expenditure									
Committee operations									
2220	Training of committee members	2,525	4,500		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2221	Committee sponsored training of others	1,450	4,500		2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2130	Website expenses		1,500	2,300	4,300	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2860	National conference subsidy	4,670	9,000	582	4,582	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2700	Postage & Stationery	179							
2285	Geneva Push	20,000	22,500	7,500	22,500	15,000	15,000	17,500	20,000
2920	Travel reimbursements	3,114	7,500	307	4,307	4,000	3,000	2,500	2,500
Total Committee Operations		31,938	49,500	10,689	39,689	29,000	27,000	29,000	31,500
Church Planter Evangelist - VPC (CP1)									
2810	Church planter evangelist - Stipend	30,636	47,497	15,780	48,060	32,280	33,300	34,500	36,000
2640	Non-Cash Benefit	19,343	30,232	9,996	30,292	20,296	21,000	22,000	23,000
2870	Superannuation	7,070	10,961	3,641	11,032	7,391	7,750	8,550	9,200
2752	Rental/Manse Allowance	23,376	36,277	11,700	36,200	24,500	25,500	27,000	28,000
2541	Manse Energy Expenses	3,246	4,500	1,047	3,797	2,750	3,300	3,600	3,900
2550	LSL Levy	300	650	350	700	350	400	400	450
2955	Disability Insurance/Workcover	1,765	5,915	1,989	4,389	2,400	3,000	3,500	3,800
2910	Telephone/Fax	1,132	1,656	489	1,689	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,800
Plant Reimbursement							(59,000)	(78,000)	(100,000)
Total Church Planter Evangelist		86,868	137,688	44,992	136,159	91,167	36,650	23,150	6,150

Church Planting Committee General Operations

Income & Expenditure Budget - Calendar 2014

Church Planting Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget - Calendar 2014										Budget for Approval	
Acct No.	Description	2011/2012 Actual	18 Months		6 Months to Dec-12	18 Months		Calendar Year			
			2012/2013 Budget	2012/2013 Projected		2013 Projected	2014 Proposed	2015 Projected	2016 Projected		
	Church plant #1 (VPC- 2011)										
	Church planter - role funded above										
2291	Team members (not theologically trained)	8,708	43,500	8,000	2,750	5,250	14,000	6,000			
2290	Operating grants	8,316	21,000	6,180	565	5,615					
2180	Depreciation Furniture/Equipment	557		840	280	560	700	1,000	1,000		
2293	Capital grants		12,500	5,000		5,000					
	Total Church Plant #1 VPC	17,581	77,000	20,020	3,595	16,425	14,700	7,000	1,000	1,000	
	Church Plant #2 - Point Cook										
	Church Planter Stipend CP2		101,411	62,242		62,242	63,160	65,000	66,500		
2753	Rental/Manse Allowance - CP2		36,277	26,550	2,042	24,508	26,000	27,100	28,000		
2295	Team members (not theologically trained)		43,500				14,000	14,000			
2294	Operating grants		21,000	9,000		9,000					
2296	Capital grants		12,500	10,000		10,000	(3,000)	(24,000)	(40,000)		
	Plant Reimbursement										
	Total Church Plant #2 - Point Cook		214,688	107,792	2,042	105,750	100,160	82,100	54,500		
	Church Plant #3 - Darebin										
	Church Planter Stipend CP3		31,795	30,126		30,126	33,520	34,550	36,000		
2642	Non Cash Benefits - CP3		20,237	16,990		16,990	17,400	18,000	18,500		
2872	Superannuation Church Plant 3		7,337	7,067		7,067	7,500	7,882	8,000		
2754	Rental/Manse Allowance - CP3		24,285	40,833	3,033	37,800	39,000	40,000	42,000		
2543	Manse Energy Expenses CP3		3,000	3,000		3,000	3,200	3,400	3,700		
2552	LSL Levy CP3		300	300		300	320	400	450		
2912	Telephone/Fax CP3		1,108	1,720		1,720	1,750	2,000	2,200		
2957	Disab Ins/Wcover CP3		2,994	3,000		3,000	3,200	3,400	3,600		
			91,058	103,036	3,033	100,003	105,890	109,632	114,450		
2298	Team members (not theologically trained)		30,000				14,000	14,000			
2297	Operating grants		28,000	10,000		10,000					
2299	Capital grants		10,000	28,000	1,116	26,884	2,000	(22,000)	(43,000)		
	Plant Reimbursement										
	Total Church Plant #3 - Darebin		159,058	141,037	4,150	136,887	121,890	101,632	71,450		

Church Planting Committee General Operations

Income & Expenditure Budget - Calendar 2014

Church Planting Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget - Calendar 2014										Budget for Approval
Acct No.	Description	2011/2012 Actual	18 Months		6 Months to Dec-12	Calendar Year				
			2012/2013 Budget	2012/2013 Projected		2013 Projected	2014 Proposed	2015 Projected	2016 Projected	
	Church Plant 4 - SE Bendigo									
2813	Church Planter Stipend CP4				32,640	32,640	33,520	34,550	36,000	
2813	Non Cash Benefits - CP4				16,990	16,990	17,400	18,000	18,500	
2813	Superannuation Church Plant 4				7,445	7,445	7,500	7,882	8,000	
2813	Rental/Manse Allowance - CP4				15,600	15,600	16,100	16,600	17,500	
2544	Manse Energy Expenses CP4				3,000	3,000	3,200	3,400	3,700	
2553	LSL Levy CP4				300	300	320	400	450	
2913	Telephone/Fax CP4				1,500	1,500	1,700	1,900	2,200	
2958	Disab Ins/Wcover CP4				3,000	3,000	3,200	3,400	3,600	
2300	Operating grants				80,475	80,475	82,940	86,132	89,950	
2301	Team members (not theologically trained)				13,000	13,000	2,420			
2302	Capital grants				22,000	22,000	14,000	14,000		
	Plant Reimbursement						1,600	(19,000)	(35,000)	
	Total Church Plant 4 - SE Bendigo					115,475	100,960	81,132	54,950	
	Church Plant X (the unforeseen)						100,000	80,000	60,000	
	Property Expenses - Officer									
2390	Insurance - Fire & General	518	1,000	583	1,183	600	700	1,000	1,200	
2711	Property Expenses	1,991	3,000	919	2,919	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,700	
2750	Rates & Taxes	16,746	21,000	12,522	26,022	13,500	14,000	15,000	16,000	
	Total Property Expenses - Officer	19,255	25,000	14,024	30,124	16,100	17,200	18,500	19,900	
	TOTAL Expenses	155,642	662,934	79,492	590,296	510,804	518,560	422,514	299,450	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	76,124	(254,184)	85,138	(190,682)	(275,820)	(289,547)	(91,921)	21,013	
	Balance on General Funds	928,759	674,575	1,011,144	735,324	735,324	445,777	353,856	374,869	

Budget for Approval

Account No	Description	18 Months			18 Months			Calendar Year		
		2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	6 Months to Dec-12	2012/2013 Projected	2013 Projected	2014 Proposed	2015 Projected	2016 Projected	
	Income									
1080	General Mission Program	18,298	28,800	13,195	33,195	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
1162	Donations Property Development	13,086	20,250	7,322	21,822	14,500	14,500	14,500	14,500	
1240	Grant from Capital Fund	75,507								
1350	Interest Property Development Fund	118,771	107,700	65,697	204,697	139,000	115,900	101,500	85,400	
	Total Income	225,663	156,750	86,214	259,714	173,500	150,400	136,000	119,900	
	Expenditure									
2140	Consultancy	0	30,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
2292	Grants Property Development	320,978	375,000	0	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	
	Total Expenditure	320,978	405,000	0	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	(95,315)	(248,250)	86,214	(10,286)	(96,500)	(119,600)	(134,000)	(150,100)	
	Property Development Fund	1,072,391	824,141	1,158,605	1,062,105	965,605	846,005	712,005	561,905	

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee **General Operations** **Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/2014**

12%

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:

12%

12%

12%

Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Income								
1040	Family Camp Income	0	0	26,921	26,921	30,000	30,000	30,000
1160	Donations and Gifts	1,054	600	0	600	1,000	1,000	1,000
1161	Good Friday Appeal	16,068	15,000	2,102	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
1240	Grant : HCCVI Kirkbrae Internship-St Andrews Fund	12,500	12,750	0	0	0	0	0
1247	Grant: Application to St Andrews Foundation	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	0
1249	Grant : HCCVI	29,236	24,500	11,695	23,389	15,450	15,450	15,450
1359	Interest Common Fund General	86,309	86,400	57,376	86,100	86,800	86,900	86,500
1410	Interest Minister's Home Loan	346	215	152	152	0	0	0
Total Income		145,513	139,465	98,245	154,162	160,250	150,350	149,950
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising (inc Good Friday Appeal)	410	700	96	700	650	683	717
2110	Chaplaincy Fees - Hospitals	14,000	13,200	8,800	13,200	13,200	13,200	13,200
2111	Chaplaincy Fees - Prisons	0	1,200	2,600	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2112	Chaplaincy Fees - Police	1,200	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2113	Chaplaincy Fees - Sports	1,200	1,200	800	1,200	0	0	0
2114	Tertiary Chaplains (AFES Workers)	30,000	30,000	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2116	Community Chaplaincy (Deaf)	26,105	16,888	13,929	16,888	16,888	17,395	17,916
2180	Depreciation Furniture/Equipment	296	355	408	615	615	615	615
2226	Pastors Renewal Retreats	1,620	3,500	0	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000
2227	Chaplaincy Resources(Tracts,books,DVDs)	59	500	0	500	250	250	250
2228	Education & Training (Conferences/Seminars)	2,518	1,500	745	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
2280	General Expenses	841	1,000	108	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2282	Chaplains' Appreciation Luncheon	482	100	101	100	100	100	100
Chaplaincy Co-ordinator								
2815	Salary	20,700	25,286	16,667	25,286	26,470	27,264	28,082
2875	Superannuation	2,070	2,279	1,667	2,529	2,647	2,726	2,808
2954	Workcover Levy - General	454	465	426	426	320	515	515
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	880	900	985	985	900	900	900
2911	Phone (co-ordinator)	114	360	90	360	360	360	360
2752	Heathmont House office rental	2,340	2,600	1,733	2,600	3,900	3,900	3,900
2580	Ministers Family Camp Expenses	15,990	15,000	45,028	45,028	46,000	46,500	47,000
2580	MFC Administration Wages	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery & Secretarial Fees	1,447	1,000	368	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
2800	Professional Supervision(Development)	100	0	0	0	500	500	500
2830	Staff Amenities	78		0				
2921	Travel - Corrections	2,000	1,500	0	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,500
2922	Travelling Expenses - Committee	1,193	1,200	27	1,200	1,500	1,200	1,200

**Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/2014**

12% Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
2118 2874	Kirkbrae Chaplaincy- Junior Internship- total (Half social services committee) linked to funding Superannuation Kirkbrae Trainee	8,975 858	12,750	2,535	2,535	0	0	0	
Total Committee Expenditure		139,431	138,183	115,912	158,052	159,700	160,508	162,463	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		6,082	1,282	(17,666)	(3,890)	550	(10,158)	(12,513)	
General Funds		965,071	971,125	953,183	970,592	971,757	962,214	950,316	
Capital Items									
	Loan Repayments		(4,417)	(8,796)	(8,796)	0	0	0	
	Laptop	1,066	0		0	0	0	0	
	Camp Income received June		0	3,425	0	0	0	0	
Total Capital Expenditure			(4,417)	(5,371)	(8,796)	0	0	0	

**Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/2014**

P Burnett Trust

Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	Budget for Approval		
Income						2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	75,716	76,700	49,932	75,000	75,000	73,800	72,100
Total Income		75,716	76,700	49,932	75,000	75,000	73,800	72,100
Expenditure								
Pastoral Support Worker								
2142	Professional Supervision	260	650	0	650	300	350	400
2812	Pastoral Support Worker (Ministers' Wives) (Salary)	35,135	33,883	24,324	33,883	34,440	35,474	36,538
2872	Super PSW	3,513	3,388	2,432	3,388	3,444	3,547	3,654
2912	Pastoral Support Worker - Phone	440	360	318	360	360	360	360
2923	Pastoral Support Worker - Travel	4,000	4,000	2,769	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2924	Pastoral Support Worker - Accommodation	333	550	275	550	350	400	450
2952	Workcover	(43)	454	300	454	461	473	486
Kirkbrae Chaplaincy								
2115	Stipend	15,575	15,469	10,731	15,780	16,253	16,741	17,243
2641	NCB	9,250	9,361	6,331	9,496	9,781	10,062	10,352
2791	Manse Allowance	8,118	7,959	5,520	8,281	8,529	8,785	9,048
2871	Superannuation	3,535	3,724	2,428	3,641	3,905	4,020	4,139
2144	Professional Supervision	300	500	150	500	500	500	500
2221	Professional Development (ES & WG)	850	1,500	0	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
2551	Long Service Leave Levy	300	300	175	175	300	300	300
2956	Disability Insurance	1,027	1,027	1,077	1,077	1,110	1,143	1,177
2953	Workcover	450	803	395	395	385	396	408
2115	Kirkbrae Supply Fees		375	137	375	300	300	300
	Total Kirkbrae Chaplaincy	39,405	41,018	26,944	41,220	42,063	43,247	44,468
Total Expenses		83,044	84,303	57,363	84,506	85,418	87,852	90,356
Surplus/(Deficit)		(7,328)	(7,603)	(7,431)	(9,506)	(10,418)	(14,052)	(18,256)
Specific Funds - Burnett		634,544	626,941	627,113	625,038	614,620	600,568	582,313

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/2014

Harold Hughes Trust

Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	Budget for Approval		
Income						2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
1350	Interest Common Fund Specific	2,361	1,200	798	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200
1440	Other Investment Income	88,505	81,000	47,555	100,000	93,900	91,800	89,300
2570	Management Fee - Separate Investments	(15,903)	(15,600)	(7,678)	(16,000)	(18,100)	(17,600)	(17,200)
1995	Gain / (Loss) on Investments	(117,226)	0	157,909	157,909	0	0	0
Total Income		(42,262)	66,600	198,584	243,009	77,000	75,400	73,300
Expenditure								
2816	Salaries Chaplain Intern (Senior) total	0	27,643	0	27,643	0	0	0
2876	Intern Expenses	0	2,764	0	2,764	7,477	7,701	7,932
	Workcover: Senior Intern	0	304	0	304	0	77	79
	Western Health Chaplain Salary				7,900	28,100	28,943	29,811
	Superannuation				790	2,810	2,894	2,981
	Other oncosts				375	1,840	1,895	1,952
	North Health Chaplain Salary				5,250	18,750	19,313	19,892
	Superannuation				525	1,875	1,931	1,989
	Other oncosts				375	1,726	1,778	1,831
	RCH Chaplain				0	41,950	43,209	44,505
2220	Education & Training Expenses(Intern + KB)	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0
2143	Professional Supervision (Intern + KB)	525	1,650	165	1,650	0	0	0
2640	Non Cash Benefits (Senior Chaplain)	16,500	16,995	11,328	12,744	0	0	0
2790	Manse Allowance (Senior Chaplain)	16,896	17,400	11,264	12,672	0	0	0
2810	Senior Paediatric Chaplain Position - Stipend	30,636	31,555	21,040	23,670	0	0	0
2870	Superannuation- Senior Chaplain	7,070	7,283	4,855	5,462	0	0	0
2925	Travel & Accommodation: Senior chaplain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2950	WorkCover Levy: Senior Chaplain	520	562	628	628	0	0	0
2955	Disability Insurance: Senior Chaplain	1,027	1,027	1,077	1,077	0	0	0
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	300	300	350	350	0	0	0
Total Expenses		73,474	109,483	50,707	106,179	104,528	107,741	110,973
Surplus/(Deficit)		(115,736)	(42,883)	147,877	136,830	(27,528)	(32,341)	(37,673)
Common Fund - Hughes		3,550	10,000	7,207	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Separately Invested Funds - Hughes		349,900	300,567	387,162	322,371	294,843	262,502	224,829
Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested) - Hughes		723,857	723,857	830,814	881,766	881,766	881,766	881,766
Total Hughes Funds		1,077,307	1,034,424	1,225,183	1,214,137	1,186,609	1,154,268	1,116,595

**Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/2014**

Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/2014									Budget for Approval
Walton Trust									
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Jan-00	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
1352	Common Fund Interest	618	440	280	450	490	410	310	
2117	Chaplaincy- Ballarat (Woodward)	1,333	2,400	800	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(715)	(1,960)	(520)	(750)	(710)	(790)	(890)	
Specific Funds - Walton		4,844	2,884	4,324	4,094	3,384	2,594	1,704	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		6,082	1,282	(17,666)	(3,890)	550	(10,158)	(12,513)	
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		(123,780)	(52,447)	139,926	126,574	(38,656)	(47,182)	(56,819)	
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(117,697)	(51,165)	122,260	122,684	(38,106)	(57,340)	(69,332)	

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14

**Budget
for
Approval**

Description	2011/2012 Actual	Approved 2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed
INCOME					
Commonwealth Funding	5,644,015	5,844,972	4,310,665	6,465,998	6,659,977
Resident Fees	1,987,425	2,041,212	1,383,136	2,074,704	2,136,946
Interest Received	51,690	20,000	24,959	30,000	10,000
Other Operating Income	38,488	13,000	114,060	119,096	14,500
Total Operating Income	7,721,617	7,919,184	5,832,820	8,689,798	8,821,423
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Catering Costs	294,803	340,375	190,029	285,043	300,000
Administration Expenses	183,817	200,830	152,264	228,395	240,000
Motor Vehicle And Transport Expenses	10,387	20,000	6,597	9,896	14,000
Committee Expenses	8,851	8,000	7,629	11,444	10,000
Chemist And Medical	77,591	74,006	51,949	77,924	82,000
Continance Costs	74,711	70,171	44,962	67,443	70,000
Cleaning, Laundry, House & Infection Control	275,875	280,419	186,654	279,981	295,000
Consultants Fees	78,893	70,000	42,872	64,309	65,000
Contract Therapy	145,823	120,000	275,501	413,252	450,000
Insurance	76,717	85,000	53,357	80,035	90,000
Rates, Taxes And Utilities	219,016	250,000	158,518	237,777	270,000
Occupational Health & Safety	24,551	0	4,326	6,489	8,000
Maintenance Costs	273,074	412,000	237,421	356,132	402,000
Total Security Costs	31,162	35,000	33,493	50,240	55,000
Staff Costs	6,564,249	6,814,007	4,435,176	6,652,764	7,000,000
Total Operating Expenses Before Depreciation	8,339,521	8,779,808	5,880,748	8,821,123	9,351,000
Depreciation	753,924	770,000	481,207	721,810	730,000
Total Operating Result after Depreciation	-1,371,828	-1,630,624	-529,136	-853,135	-1,259,577
Commonwealth Subsidy - Capital	70,627	80,000	47,109	70,664	72,784
Accommodation Charge	691,191	618,117	509,796	764,694	787,635
Retentions On Bonds	308,046	300,000	192,780	289,169	290,000
Interest Received On Investments	1,060,459	700,000	599,890	1,050,000	640,000
Net Increase in Investments	-627,454	0	186,855	0	0
Other Income	44,643	10,000	8,245	10,000	10,000
Donations - Specified		25,000			
Non-operating expenses	-3,000		-4,667	-7,000	-7,000
Total Non-Operating Income	1,544,511	1,733,117	1,540,008	2,177,527	1,793,419
Surplus/(Deficit) For Period	172,684	102,493	1,010,873	1,324,392	533,842
General Funds - Common Fund	7,441	5,000	1,046	5,000	5,000
General Funds - Separately Invested	15,686,029	16,500,000	17,523,767	17,523,767	17,500,000
Perpetual Funds	39,150	39,150	39,150	39,150	39,150

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14							Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%		Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
General Operations												
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected				
Income												
1440	Other Investment Income	9,066		0		0	0	0				
1359	Interest Common Fund General	87,977	89,000	57,655	86,000	85,000	83,000	81,000				
1240	Grant from Balfour Trust (Grants Received)	18,791	27,000	6,850	13,000	27,000	0	0				
Total Income		115,834	116,000	64,505	99,000	112,000	83,000	81,000				
Expenditure												
2140	Consultancy	0	900	0	900	900	1,200	1,200				
2290	Grants Paid	7,930	0	7,400	7,400	0	0	0				
2401	Interest Subsidy Ministers Car Loans	14,464	20,400	6,878	11,000	15,000	15,000	15,000				
2700	Postage, Printing & Stationery	17	600	58	600	600	600	600				
2881	Sustentation Travel Grants	14,200	7,200	7,092	10,200	9,200	9,200	9,200				
2885	Superannuation Subsidy	18,791	27,000	6,850	13,000	27,000	0	0				
2889	Sustentation Expense General	110,232	96,000	39,107	85,000	116,000	116,000	116,000				
2910	Telephone/email Convenor					1,000	1,000	1,000				
2920	Travelling Expenses - meetings	0	240	246	240	1,200	1,200	1,200				
Total Expenses		165,634	152,340	67,631	128,340	170,900	144,200	144,200				
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(49,800)	(36,340)	(3,126)	(29,340)	(58,900)	(61,200)	(63,200)				
General Funds		836,600	800,260	833,474	807,260	748,360	687,160	623,960				
Peptual Funds		42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466				

**Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Long Service Leave Funds

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Income									
1130	LSL Levy	34,200	39,900	40,300	40,300	39,900	39,900	39,900	
1135	Entitlements tsf from other states	20,349	0	29,049	29,049	0	0	0	
1358	Interest Common Fund General	89,677	88,000	61,812	93,000	91,000	90,000	89,000	
Total Income		144,226	127,900	131,160	162,349	130,900	129,900	128,900	
Expenditure									
2550	Long Service Accrual - not cash	134,206	121,936	88,377	121,936	124,943	129,324	131,126	
Total Expenses		134,206	121,936	88,377	121,936	124,943	129,324	131,126	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		10,021	5,964	42,783	40,413	5,957	576	(2,226)	
	Long Service Taken - cash	142,187	180,000	35,128	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	
Provision for Long Service Leave		732,593	674,529	785,842	674,529	619,472	568,796	519,921	
General Funds									
		1,079,473	1,027,373	1,175,505	1,061,822	1,012,722	962,622	911,522	

**METRO Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

METRO Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14								Budget for Approval
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund	81,799	81,500	54,801	82,400	82,600	81,500	79,600
1650	Youth Metro Income	1,200	1,100	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500	1,500
1040	Events Income	0	0	575	0	250	250	250
1060	Conference Income / Book Sales	0	200	0	200	200	200	200
Total Income		82,999	82,800	57,076	84,300	84,550	83,450	81,550
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising & Website	3,041	500	225	500	500	2,000	500
2221	Youth Metro Expenses	4,904	13,500	11,187	13,500	15,000	15,000	15,000
2222	Adult Metro Expenses	0	750	60	750	750	750	750
2250	Events	0	1,000	1,479	1,479	1,500	1,500	1,500
2280	Convener's Expenses	0	500	0	500	500	500	500
2289	Contingency	0	500	0	500	500	500	500
2290	Grants for trainees	49,425	72,100	39,113	62,500	63,500	78,000	72,000
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery	410	500	0	500	500	500	500
2850	Subscriptions, Books & Journals	0	1,000	0	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
2920	Travelling Expenses	0	100	228	100	100	100	100
	Training Officer Wage	0	0	0	0	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total Committee Expenditure		57,780	90,450	52,292	81,829	113,850	129,850	122,350
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		25,220	-7,650	4,784	2,471	-29,300	-46,400	-40,800
General Funds		863,383	855,733	868,167	865,854	836,554	790,154	749,354

**Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Ministry Development Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Income									
1160	Donations and gifts Home Mission	0							
1359	Interest Common Fund	170,806	142,000	101,091	151,000	133,000	89,000	73,000	
1640	Scots Church Property Trust	492,632	500,000	435,633	435,633	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
1660	Embers to Flame Conference	5,519		160					
1990	Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	0		230	0				
Total Income		668,957	642,000	537,114	586,633	633,000	1,089,000	1,073,000	
Expenditure									
1. Grants									
2864	Second Ministry Workers (See Evangelism)	48,250	108,750	50,353	80,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
2865	Intentional Interim Ministry (See Evangelism)		10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
2867	Cross Cultural Subsidies	60,941	180,000	112,500	168,750	163,500	165,000	165,000	
2290	Grants Paid - Capital	340,464	900,000	357,388	600,000	900,000	600,000	600,000	
2860	Subsidies to Congregations	188,418	296,000	121,152	200,250	300,000	300,000	300,000	
Total Grants		638,073	1,494,750	641,392	1,059,000	1,473,500	1,175,000	1,175,000	
2. Ministry Development Director									
2181	Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	4,965	4,951	3,297	4,951	4,951	4,951	4,951	
2280	General Expenses	1,093	1,000	929	500	1,000	500	500	
2790	Manse Allowance	24,000	24,000	16,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	
2831	HM Director's Discretionary	14	1,000	239	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2850	Subscriptions	256	200	136	200	200	200	200	
2955	Disability Insurance	1,027	1,027	1,124	1,124	1,180	1,239	1,301	
2540	Light Power & Heating	2,823	4,000	3,434	5,152	4,000	4,800	4,800	
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	1,533	450	350	350	450	450	450	
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Costs	7,374	7,000	4,891	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
2640	Non Cash Benefits	17,084	17,845	11,894	17,845	18,377	18,928	19,496	
2710	Property Expenses			180	180				
2810	Salary	31,721	33,133	22,092	33,138	34,132	35,156	36,211	
2870	Superannuation	7,070	7,283	5,098	7,647	7,876	8,113	8,356	
2141	Professional Supervision	420	1,000	70	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,200	
2910	Telephone & Fax	3,808	4,000	2,866	4,400	4,000	4,400	4,400	
2920	Travelling Expenses	3,227	5,000	2,226	5,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	
2950	WorkCover	625	643	520	625	657	668	680	
Total Ministry Development Director Expenses		107,041	112,531	75,346	114,311	115,823	117,605	119,544	
3. Office									
2030	Advertising	489	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2060	Bank Charges	114	100	74	100	100	100	100	
2145	Contract Research for profiles	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	
2180	Depreciation Office Equipment	2,229	2,229	1,360	2,229	2,100	2,100	2,100	

**Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
2282	General Expenses	2,596	1,000	150	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2510	Legal Fees	900	0	0	0	0	0	0
2551	Long Service Leave Accrual	969	876	680	876	902	929	957
2752	Office Rental	15,600	16,224	10,816	16,224	16,873	17,464	18,075
2912	Telephone & Fax	1,149	1,500	727	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
2130	Computer & Software Costs	276	1,000	890	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	3,562	6,000	1,894	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2812	Salaries	42,845	47,765	30,165	47,765	49,198	50,674	52,194
2872	Superannuation	4,204	4,776	3,018	4,776	4,920	5,067	5,219
2952	WorkCover Levy	448	473	382	382	487	502	517
Total Office Expenses		75,381	87,943	50,156	82,853	85,080	87,335	89,662
4. Committee								
2830	Staff Amenities	970	1,200	647	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2922	Travelling Expenses	211	500	383	1,000	500	1,000	1,000
Total Committee Expenses		1,182	1,700	1,030	2,200	1,700	2,200	2,200
5. Miscellaneous								
2140	Consultancy	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	950	2,000	1,105	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2230	Evangelistic Materials	560	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2225	District Interim Moderator	0	40,000	0	0	44,875	68,692	70,114
2581	Training inc. Embers to Flame, ESL, Peacewise	19,065	25,000	4,706	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		20,575	69,000	5,811	14,000	58,875	82,692	84,114
Total Expenses		842,252	1,765,924	773,735	1,272,364	1,734,977	1,464,832	1,470,520
Surplus/(Deficit) Operations		(173,294)	(1,123,924)	(236,621)	(685,731)	(1,101,977)	(375,832)	(397,520)
Balance of General Funds								
		2,801,964	1,682,020	2,570,365	2,123,089	1,029,065	631,212	241,700
Capital Items								
	Computer	1,364	2,000			0		
	Photocopier		1,200		1,200	0		
	Other	2,682	0	315	0	0	0	0
	Motor Vehicle (less trade in)	10,672	0		0	0	30,000	0
Total Capital Expenditure			3,200	315	1,200	0	30,000	0

Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14

Ministry Development Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										
		12% Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected		
Church Extension Victoria										
Income										
1351	Common Fund Interest Specific	64,486	51,600	47,417	72,400	42,100	29,100	17,000		
Total Income		64,486	51,600	47,417	72,400	42,100	29,100	17,000		
Expenditure										
2291	Grants Paid	0	150,000	0	300,000	150,000	130,000	130,000		
Total Expenses		0	150,000	0	300,000	150,000	130,000	130,000		
Surplus/(Deficit)		64,486	(98,400)	47,417	(227,600)	(107,900)	(100,900)	(113,000)		
	Specific Funds	551,365	452,965	598,783	323,765	215,865	114,965	1,965		
	Perpetual Funds	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913		
Church Extension Other States										
Income										
1352	Common Fund Interest Specific	1,045	800	791	1,200	1,100	800	800		
Total Income		1,045	800	791	1,200	1,100	800	800		
Expenditure										
2292	Grants Paid	0	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	1,000	800	800		
Total Expenses		0	1,000	(1,000)	1,000	1,000	800	800		
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,045	(200)	1,791	200	100	0	0		
	Specific Funds	2,458	2,258	4,248	2,658	0	0	0		
	Perpetual Funds	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913		
Evangelism										
Income										
1353	Common Fund Interest Specific	141,644	144,100	96,975	146,600	52,300	51,300	49,100		
Total Income		141,644	144,100	96,975	146,600	52,300	51,300	49,100		
Expenditure										
2293	Grants Paid Evangelism	18,735	40,000	10,660	25,000	40,000	50,000	50,000		
2861	Second Ministry Workers	48,250	108,750	50,353	80,000	0	0	0		
2863	AFES Workers	20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		
2866	Intentional Interim Ministry	0	10,000		0	0	0	0		
Total Expenses		86,985	178,750	71,013	125,000	60,000	70,000	70,000		
Surplus/(Deficit)		54,659	(34,650)	25,963	21,600	(7,700)	(18,700)	(20,900)		
	Specific Funds	1,173,893	1,139,243	1,199,856	395,493	387,793	369,093	348,193		
	Perpetual Funds	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992		

Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14

Ministry Development Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
12% Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%		Budget for Approval 12%		
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Noble Trust									
Income									
1355	Common Fund Interest Specific	65,419	63,900	41,117	61,200	56,400	48,400	38,900	
Total Income		65,419	63,900	41,117	61,200	56,400	48,400	38,900	
Expenditure									
2813	Salaries (inc NCB)	51,294	50,985	36,443	50,985	52,505	54,080	55,703	
2281	General Expenses	2,250	1,000	120	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2814	Pension	885	885	0	0	0	0	0	
2873	Superannuation	50,501	50,978	32,021	50,978	52,509	54,084	55,707	
2953	Workcover Levy	395	459	371	371	473	487	501	
2586	Ministers Conference	210	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	
2295	Grants Paid	0	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	
2923	Travelling / Training Expenses	91	500	0	500	500	500	500	
2582	Fanning the Flame		1,500		0	0	1,500	0	
Total Expenses		105,626	122,306	68,955	119,834	122,987	127,851	129,611	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(40,207)	(58,406)	(27,838)	(58,634)	(66,587)	(79,451)	(90,711)	
Specific Funds		403,788	345,382	375,950	345,154	278,568	199,116	108,405	
Perpetual Funds		125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		79,982	(191,656)	47,333	(264,434)	(182,087)	(199,051)	(224,611)	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(173,294)	(1,123,924)	(236,621)	(685,731)	(1,101,977)	(375,832)	(397,520)	
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(93,312)	(1,315,580)	(189,288)	(950,164)	(1,284,064)	(574,884)	(622,131)	
Total Specific Trusts		2,131,504	1,939,848	2,178,837	1,067,071	882,226	683,175	458,564	
Total Perpetual Funds		198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	

**State News Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

State News Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14								Budget for Approval 12%		12%		12%	
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%													
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected					
Income													
1062	Advertising Income	846	500	0	500	500	500	500					
1080	General Mission Programme	4,815	5,000	3,723	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000					
1359	Interest Common Fund General	6,108	6,000	4,086	6,200	6,100	6,200	6,300					
Total Income		11,769	11,500	7,809	11,700	11,600	11,700	11,800					
Expenditure													
2130	Software & Website Costs	135	150	0	150	150	150	150					
2180	Depreciation	455	454	302	454	0	0	0					
2280	General Expenses	0	250	0	250	250	250	250					
2630	Newsletter Production Costs	9,632	10,000	5,321	10,642	10,000	10,000	10,000					
2920	Travelling Expenses	0	500	0	500	500	500	500					
Total Expenses		10,222	11,354	5,623	11,996	10,900	10,900	10,900					
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		1,547	146	2,186	(296)	700	800	900					
General Funds													
		50,471	50,767	52,959	50,629	51,329	52,129	51,529					

Capital Items							
Computer		1,362		0	0	0	1,500
Enter Details Here					0	0	0
Enter Details Here					0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		1,362	0	0	0	0	1,500

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Theological Education Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Account No		Description	Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:				Budget for Approval		
			2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected
Income									
1168		Donations and Gifts General	744	5,000	484	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
1080		General Mission Programme	96,781	98,485	73,340	98,485	32,887	33,485	34,225
1241		Grants received	1,000		0				
1242		LSL Grant received	17,872						
1359		Interest Common Fund-General	222,270	223,000	148,435	223,000	222,000	221,000	221,000
1600		Rental of TEC Manse	20,687	17,400	10,457	17,400	14,560	14,560	14,560
1601		Rental Income Accommm Units	66,735	48,946	34,204	49,990	62,560	64,437	66,370
1650		Sundry Income	105	1,000	127	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1655		Thanksgiving / Farewell Dinners	6,109		2,346				
		less proceeds to Overseas Mission			0				
1702		Tuition - Fee paying students	298,591	207,321	97,049	229,078	277,592	306,045	337,415
1700		Tuition ex Bursaries (Candidates)	136,217	151,414	67,087	115,227	81,982	94,294	99,575
		Israel Study Tour		0	0	0	0	0	0
		Study Tour airfares		0	0	0	0	0	0
1702		Audit, Overseas Students		14,000	0	0	0	0	0
1705		Tuition Expenses	(50,400)						
1703		Tuition Fees Short Courses	12,149	8,000	5,265	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
		TOTAL Tuition Fees	396,556	380,735	169,401	352,305	367,574	408,339	444,990
1709		Ministers Conference Income	4,045	3,000	320	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
1990		(Loss) on Sale of Motor Vehicle	0	(2,000)		(2,000)			
Total Income			832,904	775,565	439,114	748,180	708,580	750,821	790,144

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Theological Education Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0%			Budget for Approval 12.0%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected						
Expenditure														
Staff Related														
2810	Salaries	238,057	227,704	150,425	203,796	218,054	229,225	239,176						
2640	Non Cash Benefits	85,639	81,768	40,696	65,504	71,714	76,586	80,539						
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Expenses	6,199	9,000	5,784	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000						
2830	Staff Amenities	156	0	0	0	0	0	0						
2870	Superannuation	41,120	44,826	25,710	36,288	39,222	41,523	43,478						
2950	WorkCover Levy	5,201	5,345	5,215	5,215	5,371	5,533	5,699						
2955	Disability Insurance	4,293	4,293	5,713	5,713	5,885	6,061	6,364						
2550	Long Service Leave	9,286	1,500	2,554	2,974	3,120	3,276	3,440						
2840	Study Leave (non cash)	39,159	42,224	35,432	49,030	45,075	47,273	50,077						
2848	Study Leave Expenses (cash)		7,000	3,336	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000						
2181	Depreciation Motor Vehicle	4,409	5,250	2,927	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250						
2541	Lighting & Heating - Manses	10,418	10,000	7,573	10,000	9,000	11,000	11,000						
2911	Telephone & Fax-Manses	6,879	7,000	5,097	7,000	7,000	8,000	8,000						
2490	Lecturers' Fees	7,485	10,000	19,732	48,120	42,080	12,000	12,500						
2920	Travelling Expenses	12,256	12,000	7,424	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000						
2229	Education & Training	995	6,000	2,543	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000						
2810	Missions Course Funding		(25,000)	(16,993)	(25,000)	(25,000)	0	0						
Total Staff Related Expenses		471,552	448,910	303,169	447,892	460,772	479,727	499,522						
2792	Total Manse Expenses (not met by Fernside)	17,619	17,720	14,246	9,020	0	0	0						
2520	Total Library Related Expenses	0	36,068	26,451	49,065	53,200	53,871	54,697						
Office Related														
2910	Telephone & Fax	5,830	8,000	4,768	8,000	8,000	8,500	8,500						
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	10,486	15,000	10,808	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000						
2540	Light Power & Heating	12,755	17,000	10,149	17,000	17,000	18,700	20,570						
2760	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	702	500	218	500	500	500	500						
2130	Computer & Software Costs	9,033	8,500	7,297	8,500	8,500	6,000	6,000						
2850	CCLI, Copyright	1,863	2,100	698	2,100	2,100	2,300	2,300						
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	2,742	2,879	2,892	2,892	3,037	3,189	3,348						
Total Office Related Expenses		43,410	53,979	36,831	53,992	54,137	54,189	56,218						

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0%						Budget for Approval 12.0%		12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Property Related									
2183	Depreciation Plant & Equipment	6,465	6,459	4,292	6,459	6,459	3,859	3,859	
2186	Depreciation Buildings	33,535	33,600	22,265	33,600	33,600	33,600	33,600	
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	10,524	9,500	6,757	9,500	9,500	10,000	10,000	
2820	Security Costs	1,814	1,500	699	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Total Property Related Expenses		52,338	51,059	34,013	51,059	51,059	48,959	48,959	
Training Officer									
2815	Salaries	32,168	33,133	22,092	33,138	33,966	34,816	35,860	
2641	Non Cash Benefits	25,425	17,845	12,014	17,842	18,288	18,745	19,307	
2641	NCB - Extra Travel		8,343	5,400	8,100	8,303	8,510	8,765	
2752	Manse / Rent	24,865	23,400	15,600	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	
2555	Long Service Leave	300	300	350	350	300	300	300	
2545	Utilities	2,372	2,100	1,472	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	
2228	Office Expenses, Conferences, Materials	692	2,500	254	2,500	800	800	800	
2915	Telephone	2,359	2,000	1,353	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2925	Travel Expenses - Training		290	290	290				
2875	Superannuation	7,070	7,283	5,098	7,647	7,838	8,034	8,275	
2951	WorkCover Levy	466	509	477	477	516	568	625	
2956	Disability Insurance	1,073	1,073	1,115	1,115	1,149	1,183	1,242	
Total Training Officer Expenses		96,790	98,485	65,515	98,958	98,660	100,456	102,675	
Less funding by METRO						(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	
Miscellaneous Expenses									
2030	Advertising Magazines	10,865	7,000	8,065	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
2283	Principal relocation costs	16,583	0	0	0	0			
2032	Marketing		12,000		12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	
2045	ACT Admin Fees	33,507	35,873	12,972	35,873	35,957	40,034	43,699	
2050	Affiliation & Admin Fees	5,500	5,000	5,665	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
2060	Bank Charges, FID & Debits Tax	2,193	2,000	1,052	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2180	Depreciation	9,215	10,000	7,780	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
2240	Examination Fees - General	60		1,390	1,390				
2921	Hospitality	1,507	2,000	4,084	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2831	Student Expenses	1,984	2,000	1,394	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2280	General Expenses	3,217	2,000	6,208	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2586	Ministers' Conference Expenses	4,883	6,000	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		89,513	83,873	48,610	85,263	83,957	88,034	91,699	

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Account No		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					Budget for Approval		
		12.0%					12.0%		
Description		2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	
Residential Units									
2185	Depreciation (Residential Units)					27,730	27,730	27,730	
2542	Light & Power	656	1,000	18,412	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	27,730
2391	Insurance	934	981	483	1,080	1,134	1,191	1,191	1,000
2712	Maintenance & Cleaning	5,939	4,000	1,080	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	1,250
2350	Property Manager Honorarium	3,893	4,010	10,664	4,010	0	0	0	4,000
2751	Rates	695	1,800	1,671	1,800	1,800	2,000	2,000	0
Total Residential Units		39,850	39,520	32,832	39,620	35,664	35,921	35,980	
PTC Media Income									
1065	Book Shop Sales	33,436	31,000	11,449	31,000	31,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
1066	Less: Purchases (enter as negative)	(15,551)	(11,500)	(1,979)	(11,500)	(11,500)	(12,000)	(12,000)	(12,000)
1067	Less: Stock Variation	(1,239)							
Total PTC Media Income		16,646	19,500	9,471	19,500	19,500	20,000	20,000	20,000
PTC Media Expenses									
2184	Depreciation	308	833	136	833	833	833	833	417
2708	Printing & Stationery- Media	114	200	22	200	200	200	200	200
2812	Salary & Wages	14,159	14,428	9,619	14,428	14,428	14,861	14,861	15,307
2812	Bonus (% of adjusted profit)		600		600	600			
2872	Superannuation	1,401	1,503	962	1,503	1,503	1,486	1,486	1,531
2918	Office Expenses	293	331	145	331	347	365	365	383
2924	Travel Expenses	144	300	152	300	300	300	300	300
Total PTC Media Expenses		16,419	18,195	11,036	18,195	18,211	18,045	18,137	18,137
PTC Media Surplus(Deficit)		227	1,305	(1,565)	1,305	1,289	1,955	1,863	1,863
Total Expenses		810,846	828,309	563,229	833,565	806,160	829,202	857,887	857,887
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		22,058	(52,744)	(124,115)	(85,384)	(97,580)	(78,380)	(67,743)	(67,743)

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Theological Education Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:			12.0%		12.0%		12.0%		Budget for Approval
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	12.0%			12.0%			12.0%							
Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments																			
	Study Leave Payments	0	25,489	39,084	58,627	26,127	36,077	31,721											
	Motor Vehicle (less trade in)		13,000		0	13,000	0												
	Computer Equipment & IT		10,000	11,125	11,125	10,000	10,000	10,000											
	Accounting/Student Records Software		5,000		5,000	0													
	Library Security		22,730	550	22,730	0													
	Less funding from Capital Trust		(10,063)	(10,133)	(10,133)	(0)													
	Furniture & Equipment		0	1,276	1,276	0													
	Sound Equipment - Lecture Theatres		0			0													
	Strategic Masterplan (property)			(15,681)		10,000													
	Increase in debtors																		
	Total Capital Expenditure	0	66,156	26,222	88,625	59,127	46,077	41,721											
Non-Cash Items																			
	Depreciation	81,665	83,873	55,812	83,873	83,873	81,273	80,856											
	Long Service Leave Accrual			804	1,224	1,260	1,292	1,330											
	Study Leave Accrual	39,159	42,224	38,768	49,030	45,075	47,273	50,077											
	Total Non-Cash Items	120,824	126,096	95,384	134,127	130,208	129,837	132,263											
	Cash Movement	142,882	7,196	(54,953)	(39,882)	(26,499)	5,380	22,799											
	General Funds	1,493,036	1,500,232	1,438,083	1,453,154	1,426,654	1,432,034	1,454,833											
	Perpetual Funds	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159											

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%		Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected	12%
Building Fund									
Income									
1160	Donations & Gifts	13,714	20,000	10,037	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
1350	Interest Common Fund	10,687	8,000	6,736	10,100	9,100	7,500	5,700	
Total Income		24,401	28,000	16,773	30,100	29,100	27,500	25,700	
Expenditure									
2061	Bank Charges	265		180	270	270	270	270	
2390	Insurance Fire & General	4,288	4,261	4,917	4,917	5,163	5,421	5,692	
2750	Rates & Taxes	3,829	4,200	2,358	4,200	4,200	4,400	4,400	
2710	Property Maintenance	14,139	30,000	10,452	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	
2711	Property Maintenance - Gardening	2,815	2,500	2,335	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
Total Expenses		25,336	40,961	20,242	41,887	42,133	42,591	42,862	
Surplus/(Deficit) Building Fund		(935)	(12,961)	(3,469)	(11,787)	(13,033)	(15,091)	(17,162)	
Specific Funds		87,542	74,581	83,335	75,755	62,722	47,631	30,469	
Library Fund									
Income									
1161	Donations & Gifts	3,500	3,000	2,694	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
1351	Interest Common Fund	11,876	12,000	7,938	11,900	11,900	11,900	11,900	
Total Income		15,376	15,000	10,632	14,900	14,900	14,900	14,900	
Expenditure									
2062	Bank Charges	265	200	180	240	240	240	240	
2182	Depreciation Library Equipment	667	540	525	2,484	7,525	7,420	7,300	
2521	Library Books	14,018	25,000	9,616	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
2529	Library Magazines & Journals	20,882	15,000	12,744	22,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery	1,976	1,000	1,367	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2814	Library Wages	14,606	8,971	14,923	22,477	24,418	25,028	25,779	
2871	Library Superannuation	1,461	897	1,451	2,248	2,442	2,503	2,578	
Total Expenses		53,875	51,608	40,805	66,449	75,625	76,191	76,897	
Surplus/(Deficit) Library Fund		(38,500)	(36,608)	(30,174)	(51,549)	(60,725)	(61,291)	(61,997)	
2535	Expenses paid from General Budget		(36,068)	(26,451)	(49,065)	(53,200)	(53,871)	(54,697)	
Specific Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Perpetual Funds		98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						
		2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	12%
****Fernside Trust***						
Income						
1353	Interest Common Fund	130,975	136,000 (33,000)	88,031 (21,117)	133,000 (33,000)	
	Less: Indexation of Capital				138,000 (34,000)	
Total Income		130,975	103,000	66,914	100,000	
Expenditure						
2793	Manse Allowances	115,650	93,600	58,500	81,900	
2754	Principal's Rent	15,820	27,120 (17,720)	18,080 (14,246)	27,120 (9,020)	
2794	Funding (From) General Budget Funds				0	
Total Expenses		131,470	103,000	62,334	100,000	
Surplus/(Deficit) Fernside Trust		(495)	0	4,580	0	
	Specific Funds	0	0	0	0	
	Perpetual Funds	1,097,769	1,130,769	1,118,886	1,130,769	
****Bursary Trusts***						
Income						
1162	Donations & Gifts	33,577	39,404	6,335	36,102	
	GMP funding					
1352	Interest Common Fund	85,903	86,200	54,400	82,100	
Total Income		119,479	125,604	60,735	118,202	
Expenditure						
2072	Bursaries Specific	32,551	25,000	16,685	25,000	
2073	Bursaries - Scholarships for Tuition	123,695	134,518	65,682	107,622	
Total Expenses		156,246	159,518	82,367	132,622	
Surplus/(Deficit) Bursaries		(36,767)	(33,914)	(21,632)	(14,420)	
	Specific Funds	176,983	143,069	155,351	162,563	
	Perpetual Funds	538,297	538,297	538,297	538,297	

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%		12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected		
***Prizes Trusts ***										
Income										
1354	Interest Common Fund	12,888	13,500	9,194	13,900	14,500	15,500	16,700		
Total Income		12,888	13,500	9,194	13,900	14,500	15,500	16,700		
Expenditure										
2084	Prizes Specific	5,500	6,100	5,273	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100		
Total Expenses		5,500	6,100	5,273	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100		
Surplus/(Deficit) Prizes		7,388	7,400	3,921	7,800	8,400	9,400	10,600		
Specific Funds		82,689	90,089	86,610	90,489	98,889	108,289	118,889		
Perpetual Funds		30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515		
Capital Items										
Income										
1165	Donations & Gifts		0	0	0	0	0	0		
1355	Interest Common Fund	1,112	300	158	158	0	0	0		
Total Income		1,112	300	158	158	0	0	0		
Capital Expenditure				10,133	10,133	0	0	0		
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	10,133	10,133	0	0	0		
Cash Surplus/(Deficit) Capital Items		1,112	300	(9,975)	(9,975)	(0)	0	0		
Specific Funds		9,975	6,275	0	0	0	0	0		
Diaconal Fund										
Income										
1357	Interest Common Fund	14,718	15,200	10,419	15,900	16,500	17,100	17,800		
Total Income		14,718	15,200	10,419	15,900	16,500	17,100	17,800		
2075	Expenditure	9,990	16,896	1,405	7,605	11,083	11,718	12,374		
Total Expenses		9,990	16,896	1,405	7,605	11,083	11,718	12,374		
Surplus/(Deficit) Diaconal Fund		4,728	(1,696)	9,014	8,295	5,418	5,382	5,426		
Specific Funds		129,078	127,382	138,092	137,373	142,791	148,173	153,598		

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14**

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2013/14										Budget for Approval	
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:							12%	12%	12%		
Account No	Description	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Budget	8 Months to Feb-13	2012/2013 Projected	2013/2014 Proposed	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Projected			
****Miscellaneous Trusts***											
Income											
1166	Donations & Gifts	2,535	0	0	0	0	0				
1356	Interest Common Fund	23,241	30,100	14,588	24,600	28,800	27,600	29,300			
1358	Interest O/S Student Fund	7,271		5,255							
Total Income		33,046	30,100	19,843	24,600	28,800	27,600	29,300			
Expenditure											
2076	Bursaries Miscellaneous	12,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000			
2811	Missions Course	24,746	25,000	16,993	25,000	25,000	0	0			
2296	Ministers' Conference Expenses (Grants)	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000			
Total Expenses		36,746	37,000	24,993	39,000	39,000	14,000	14,000			
Surplus/(Deficit) Miscellaneous		(3,700)	(6,900)	(5,150)	(14,400)	(10,200)	13,600	15,300			
	Specific Funds	202,535	195,635	197,385	188,135	177,935	191,535	206,835			
	Perpetual Funds	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225			
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations											
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		22,058 (67,169)	(52,744) (48,310)	(124,115) (26,434)	(85,384) (36,971)	(97,580) 64,846	(78,380) 63,206	(67,743) 46,771			
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(45,111)	(101,054)	(150,549)	(122,355)	(32,734)	(15,175)	(20,971)			
Total Specific Funds											
Total Perpetual Funds		688,802	637,032	660,773	654,315	726,686	797,312	851,383			
		1,817,770	1,850,770	1,838,886	1,850,769	1,884,770	1,919,770	1,955,770			

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (Min. 9)

Each year the Church & Nation Committee is requested:

to report to the Commission of Assembly on any emerging important and urgent matters relating to their brief as set out in the Committee's regulations.

There are three such matters we wish to report on.

Same Sex Marriage

As it stands, all three homosexual marriage bills were defeated as we hoped and prayed for. However, the matter will not go away and maintaining marriage laws as they stand is predicated on the Coalition maintaining its current opposition to homosexual marriage. Disconcertingly, Tony Abbott recently stated *"Coalition party policy is that marriage is between a man and a woman. Now, if future party rooms decide that it is no longer party policy, well then, obviously, there won't be a whipped vote, but it will be up to future party rooms to determine what the policy is."* (Sky News April 1, 2013). Continue to lobby local members to maintain their current policy.

Federal Consolidation of Anti-discrimination Laws

The Federal Attorney General Mark Dreyfus has delayed the introduction of the consolidation of the five anti-discriminations laws into one controversial bill. This was good news as it was a terrible piece of legislation that limited free speech, reversed the assumption of innocence, and introduced gender orientation and political opinion among other new attributes that would have stifled both freedoms of speech and religion and potentially led to vexatious claims. It is understood by many that the consolidation process has been abandoned although technically it has just been delayed.

However, the government has pushed ahead with a single bill that intends to 'better protect the rights of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex people' by amending the Sex Discrimination Act 1984. It will endeavour to make 'sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status' protected attributes under federal laws. At the time of writing, the Bill is being considered by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, with a report to parliament due by 17 June, 2013.

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium

Please make every effort to attend the Religion in the Public Square Colloquium on August 16-17, 2013. We have a brilliant line-up of speakers on a plethora of interesting topics. Our two keynote speakers are Dr Mark Durie who will give three talks on hate speech, Islam and anti-racism, and Marxism, relativism and religious violence. Our other keynote speaker is the Hon. John Anderson AO who will also give three talks on loss of faith and culture, moral decline of the West, and practical reflection on Christians in the public square.

Our speakers are as follows: Dr Mark Durie, Hon John Anderson AO, Prof Nicolas Aroney, Dr Kevin Donnelly, Dr Peter Barnes, Dr John Mclean, Chelsea Pietsch, Elizabeth Kendall, Fleur Letcher, Rev Peter Hastie, Rev David Palmer and Rev Darren Middleton.

Darren Middleton
CONVENER

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Min. 10)

1. Distribution of the General Mission Program

1.1 Introduction

In introducing its report, the Committee again wishes to emphasise that the total of the General Mission Program (GMP) which it recommends to the Commission, and thus the amount allocated to each Presbytery, should be seen as the **minimum** amounts required by the benefiting Committees of the General Assembly to perform their respective purposes. Parishes therefore are encouraged to subscribe more to the GMP, as some have done, where their circumstances permit or special efforts provide.

1.2 Current Year 2012/13

At the May 2012 Commission of the General Assembly, the amount of \$210,765 was approved as the total of the GMP allocated to Presbyteries for the financial year 2012/13. To the end of February 2013 approximately 79% of the total has been received compared to 76% to February 2012 against a total GMP of \$209,042.

1.3 Assembly Resolutions

Over recent years the General Assembly has approved various resolutions directing the committee to fund certain areas of ministry through the GMP program. In 2012, the Assembly approved additional funding of the TEC Bursary Fund from GMP (GAV 2012 Min 85.12 BB p108). The Assembly agreed that this arrangement should be reviewed in five years time. Based on the formula approved by the Assembly, the cost of this funding for 2013/14 is \$61,506.

The Assembly in 2005 and subsequently determined that the funding of the Training Officer's position would also come from GMP (GAV 2005, Min 69.8 BB p77; GAV Commission 2006, Min 18.2 BB p14; GAV 2007 Min 66.13 p84). Unlike the most recent resolution concerning the Bursary Fund, no review period was specified for any of these resolutions. According to the TEC budget, the full cost of funding the Training Officer for 2013/14 is \$98,660. In recent years, the question of how to best fund the Training Officer's position has been raised. After discussions this year involving the Theological Education Committee, METRO and Board of Investment and Finance an alternative proposal has been put forward. The proposal is to fund the position in three equal parts from TEC, METRO and GMP. We understand that this has the support of each of the committees involved as well as the BIF. The GMP committee also supports this proposal particularly from the point of view that it increases the flexibility of the committee in permitting it to recommend allocations for other uses within the denomination without increasing the overall GMP budget.

In framing its recommendation to the Commission, the GMP committee has worked on the assumption that this proposal may gain the support of the Commission. However, in the event that the Commission is of a mind to continue to fund the position in accordance with the previous decisions of the Assembly and Commissions, an alternative GMP allocation has been calculated and is included in the report below.

In 2005 the Assembly resolved to support Mr Bill Muehlenberg (\$2,000), Salt Shakers (\$2,000), and Australian Christian Lobby (\$5,000), adjusted for CPI increases, and subject to the Church and Nation Committee certifying that they should continue to be supported (GAV 2005 Min 89.6 BB p104). The committee wrote to the Church and Nation Committee in August 2012 inviting them to review these allocations and consider whether they remained relevant. The response from the Church and Nation Committee was unclear and not consistent with the terms of the 2005 resolution. The recommendation of the GMP

Committee is to support ACL with an amount equivalent to \$9,000 indexed from 2005. The committee is of the view that the 2005 resolution of the Assembly has served its useful purpose and need not continue to be applied, and recommends that the Commission support this proposition.

1.4 Year 2013/14

After considering the applications and budgets put forward in the submissions of the Assembly Committees, and in light of the above, the Committee is recommending a total amount of \$207,153 for the financial year 2013/14, which is slightly less than in 2012/13.

The committee received an application from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for \$40,000 support from GMP. The committee resolved to decline this request. The application from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee made reference to projected expenses for sustentation grants of \$116,000 which will cover about 11 grants, and expressed concern about the serious state of many congregations' finances especially in country areas. While the committee shares the concerns expressed, it does not believe that it follows that GMP funding is the appropriate response. The committee is of the view that this issue deserves a full and thorough investigation to identify the extent of the matter and canvas a variety of responses for consideration within a broad forum including presbyteries and the Assembly. In the meantime, the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee appears to have adequate financial resources to fund its projected deficit in the short term. The committee also noted the comments of the BIF, when referring the budgets to the GMP Committee, which were not in support of this request.

The resulting net total of the General Mission Program for 2013/14 is proposed to be \$207,153 distributed as follows, with the 2012/13 amounts shown for comparison:

	2012/13 \$	2013/14 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:		
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	47,000	47,000
State News	5,000	5,000
Theological Education – for Bursary Fund	0	61,506
Theological Education (one third actual expenditure: Training Officer)	98,485	32,887
SUB-TOTAL : ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	150,485	146,393
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:		
Australian Christian Lobby	5,990	11,100
W Muehlenberg	2,470	0
ACCESS Ministries	24,410	24,800
Council for Chaplaincies in Tertiary Institutions	500	500
Saltshakers	2,470	0
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	540	560
SUB-TOTAL : INTERDENOMINATIONAL	36,080	36,960
OTHER GRANTS:		
Presbyterian Inland Mission	5,000	5,000
SUB-TOTAL : OTHER GRANTS	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	191,565	188,353
LEVY 10%:		
Property Development Fund	19,200	18,800
GRAND TOTAL	210,765	207,153

Should the position of the Training Officer continue to be funded from GMP, the General Mission Program for 2013/14 would be as follows:

	2012/13 \$	2013/14 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:		
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	47,000	47,000
State News	5,000	5,000
Theological Education – for Bursary Fund	0	61,506
Theological Education (to match actual expenditure: Training Officer)	98,485	98,660
SUB-TOTAL: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	150,485	212,166
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:		
Australian Christian Lobby	5,990	11,100
W Muehlenberg	2,470	0
ACCESS Ministries	24,410	24,800
Council for Chaplaincies in Tertiary Institutions	500	500
Saltshakers	2,470	0
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	540	560
SUB-TOTAL: INTERDENOMINATIONAL	36,080	36,960
OTHER GRANTS:		
Presbyterian Inland Mission	5,000	5,000
SUB-TOTAL: OTHER GRANTS	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	191,565	254,126
LEVY 10%:		
Property Development Fund	19,200	25,400
GRAND TOTAL	210,765	279,526

2 Allocation of the General Mission Program to Presbyteries

2.1 Formula

The 2012 Commission of Assembly approved the formula for the allocation to Presbyteries of the total of the General Mission Program until further recommendation is brought from the committee as follows:

the total GMP to be apportioned according to the number of communicant and adherent members in the respective Presbyteries as published in the most recent report to the General Assembly after applying an equalisation factor of 0.6 for Presbyteries in country areas to take account of the different situation faced in those areas.

The committee does not see any reason to vary the formula. However, in the past, the Presbytery of Flinders has been treated as being in a country area. The committee does not consider this to be a proper application of the formula and proposes that the equalisation factor should no longer be applied to this Presbytery.

2.2 Allocation of GMP for Financial Year 2012/13

In accordance with the approved formula, it is recommended that the net General Mission Program proposed for 2012/13, i.e. \$207,433, be allocated as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of LY total	Percentage of total	2013/14 \$
Ballarat	4.84%	4.42%	9,156
Benalla	6.25%	5.84%	12,090
Flinders	9.16%	14.40%	29,820
Geelong	4.47%	3.97%	8,229
Gippsland	4.98%	4.37%	9,045
Kilnoorat	7.94%	7.02%	14,539
Maroondah	8.97%	8.88%	18,385
Melbourne East	20.45%	19.26%	39,895
Melbourne North	11.31%	10.56%	21,878
Melbourne West	17.92%	17.96%	37,211
North Western Victoria	3.71%	3.33%	6,905
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	207,153

Should the position of the Training Officer continue to be funded from GMP, the recommended allocation to Presbyteries for 2013/14 would be as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of LY total	Percentage of total	2013/14 \$
Ballarat	4.84%	4.42%	12,354
Benalla	6.25%	5.84%	16,314
Flinders	9.16%	14.40%	40,238
Geelong	4.47%	3.97%	11,104
Gippsland	4.98%	4.37%	12,206
Kilnoorat	7.94%	7.02%	19,618
Maroondah	8.97%	8.88%	24,808
Melbourne East	20.45%	19.26%	53,833
Melbourne North	11.31%	10.56%	29,521
Melbourne West	17.92%	17.96%	50,211
North Western Victoria	3.71%	3.33%	9,318
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	279,526

Presbyteries should note that while the total GMP is slightly less than the previous year, the allocation to a particular Presbytery may increase or decrease. This is a consequence of the relative changes in communicant and adherent numbers between Presbyteries and application of the formula. Congregations should also note that the manner in which the Presbytery allocates its total GMP may contribute further to the difference in comparison to the previous year. The relative percentage allocation to each Presbytery is shown in the above table.

Norm Sharp
CONVENER

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min. 11)

The Committee reports the following matters to the Commission of Assembly 2013

1. Committee

Your Committee re-established itself in Ballarat following the October 2012 General Assembly and notes the following changes of membership;

- Mr John Angelico retired from the committee as convener after nine years of faithful service. John graciously agreed to assist us at our first meeting and will continue to advise us of CPI increases and oil prices. A motion of generous appreciation was carried in thanksgiving for John's work.
- Mr Reg Butcher continues as a member and has been appointed Registrar.
His address is: 4 Summit Drive, Bulleen, Vic. 3105.
Annual Parish Reports should be transmitted to him in the first instance. Reg has been present at both meetings held in Ballarat and we value his contribution.
- We received a resignation from Mrs Jenny Bell as she and Keith are to shortly begin a new PIM ministry in Alice Springs. We are grateful for her years of service.
- The October Assembly appointed new members Keith Allen, Mark Crabb and Robert Taylor.
- Mary Woodward has been appointed a non-member secretary.
- Your committee has had to cancel many of its meetings in the past due to lack of a quorum. We expect to come to the October 2013 Assembly with a request to increase the membership of the committee from 6 to 8 persons.

2. Declaration of Terms of Settlement

Again your committee notes that there are many Parishes who are yet to submit Annual Parish Reports at 20 February 2013. In order to have terms of settlement declared, Presbyteries are reminded that the last date for lodgment was 28 February. We request Presbyteries to be more vigilant in following up outstanding returns and in checking their accuracy.

3. Annual Parish Reports

It should be noted that approval of grants and subsidies is dependent upon the lodgment of Annual Parish Reports and that this is a requirement for all Parishes, Appointment Parishes and Home Mission Stations. The overall quality of figures presented is poor and considerable confusion occurs with federal boards and there is considerable difficulty in the presentation and verification of budget figures. We urge all Presbyteries to be more pro-active and rigorous in the collection and assessment of returns, and we note with pleasure that the Presbytery of Flinders has appointed a registrar whose task is to facilitate this. Your Committee recognizes that many parishes do not have suitably qualified treasurers and administrators. We are continuing to endeavor to produce a more user friendly form in both paper and electronic form.

4. Long Service Leave

In recommending the continuance of the Long Service Leave levy at \$350 per Parish per minister per annum as set by the 2012 General Assembly your committee notes that under its regulations this levy is to be paid by every Parish

whether there is a settled minister, a Home Missionary or a vacancy, and by any General Assembly Committee that is responsible for the employment of any church worker who is entitled to receive Long Service Leave under these Regulations. Your committee notes that some Presbyteries have not given enough consideration to ministers' long service dates and have been found lacking in forwarding current details to this committee. We encourage ministers and sessions to arrange Long Service Leave at mutually convenient times.

5. Non Cash Benefits

Mr Angelico has reminded the committee that there remains a possibility that the Federal government may either withdraw the Non-Cash Benefit exemption or even tax them more heavily. It is one example of bureaucracy failing to appreciate the needs of the not for profit sector, and is a need for prayer for our whole Church.

6. Superannuation

Your committee recommends that the rate of superannuation remains at 15% of actual remuneration as set last year.

7. Ministers' Remuneration

The previous convener submitted a report to this committee with two options:

- An increase of 2% of base stipend (not including NCB) bringing total base remuneration up to \$49,176.00 with NCB re balancing:

STIPEND: \$32,948.00 NCB: \$16,228.00 TOTAL: \$49,276.00
OR

- Make no change in remuneration from the 2012-2013 figure.
We recommend the latter course of action for 2013-2014 as a 'one off'. The effect is some \$10.00 per week. It is only a minimal adjustment and whilst we acknowledge other benefits offered to its ministers (e.g. holiday housing) we are also acutely aware of the financial challenges being faced by many parishes. We also note that this item was debated in the 2012 General Assembly, and that the net reduction in stipends is partly offset by taxation. We also remind parishes that stipends declared are minimum and as always we encourage parishes to pay above minimum where this can be afforded.

8. Fuel Prices

Whilst there are long term positive effects for oil prices in Australia, we note that fuel costs increased by 2.71% over the past year, and we recommend an increase in excess travel from 46 cents to 47 cents per kilometre.

9. Supply Preaching Fees

In accordance with the above we recommend

- Supply preaching fees remain unchanged
- Travel reimbursement for supply preachers be 47 cents per kilometre.

10. Thanks

We warmly thank the PCV Office staff for all their assistance given to a 'new' Convener and Committee.

John S Woodward
CONVENER

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min. 12)

As a matter of urgency, at the request of the Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia (GAA), this Assembly is required to elect:

1. Two persons to serve the GAA Finance Committee, and
2. Six persons, being three ministers and three elders, to serve the Commission of the GAA.

Andrew J Bray
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 1 (RE GAV BB 2012 MIN. 95.8) (Min. 13)



Presbytery of MAROONDAH

Moderator **Rev Dean Carroll** 1/9 Sunset Ave Heathmont 3135 Mob 0408 104 372
Clerk: **Mr. Douglas Fraser** - 10 Zina Gve. Mooroolbark 3138 ph./fax 9728 3374

Rev Dr John Wilson
Clerk of Assembly
156 Collins St
Melbourne 3000

6th March 2013

Dear John,

Greetings in our Lord's Most Wonderful Name.

Re Proposed sale of part of land held in Tivendale Rd Officer October 2012 GAV Minute 95.8

In response to the October Assembly's effectual invitation through the above minute, for this Presbytery to express its opinion on the matter, following is an extract of minute from the meeting of Maroondah Presbytery held at Belgrave Heights on 5th March 2013.

Officer Property

13:077 Resolved that Presbytery, advise the Clerk of Assembly for inclusion in the business papers of the May 2013 Commission of Assembly, that in the opinion of the Presbytery no portion of the Tivendale Road Officer property should be contemplated for excising and sale at this time for the following reasons-

1. The proposal is contrary to the original intention of Assembly in buying the land as expressed in the October 2006 Assembly minute 82.17 (BB p113) – "Permit the Church Planting Committee and Healthy Churches Committee acting in concert to purchase the Tivendale Rd property in Officer for a new church plant in the district"
2. While at the same Assembly in 2006 it was resolved to "Encourage the Church Planting Committee to recruit a suitable person to start work in the Officer area" (minute 82.18 BB p.113), there has been no report by the committee of any action in regard to this.
3. Although the property at Officer is still very strategically located, having regard to the actual and planned growth in the Berwick corridor, Presbytery is advised that development infrastructure is not expected to reach Tivendale Rd until 2018 and therefore sale of portion of the land at the present time would be likely at a "fire sale" price.
4. In negotiations for the 2006 purchase, the vendor was particularly considerate because, as a Christian man, he was favourably disposed towards the intended use of the property and looked forward to seeing a church building erected on the site. Therefore, Presbytery believes that, in these circumstances, the honourable thing to do is to maintain the purpose and strategy associated with the original purchase and, in the mid to longer term, very much the evangelistically responsible thing to do.
5. The Presbytery is beginning to consider possible options for beginning a work in the region and has received written advice from the Church Planting Committee of "...desire to help with a church plant in Officer in the future".

Testimony from the original vendor, Mr Andrew V. Sleeman is enclosed with this letter

Yours in His Service

J. D. Fraser
Clerk

18 Portsmouth Street
Heathmont VIC 1315
14th December 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I would like to put down in writing my understanding of the events surrounding the sale of my property at 104 Tivendale Officer 3189

This was one of the most unusual property transactions I have ever been involved in my life. While most property transactions are handled by a real estate agent this sale was transacted based on a friendship that was developed between Robert Carner and myself. In fact we proceeded on several handshakes during the deal and I gave extended time for him to get the necessary approval through the church processes which meant effectively holding the property 'off the market' for certain periods as we went through a very long and extended approval process

I remember that I found out that there would be various types of buyers for our property and we were hoping to sell to a property developer because they would pay the highest price. When I found out that a church was a potential buyer I really warmed to the notion that I could be a part of extending the kingdom in Officer and I decided I would do everything that I could in order to help the Presbyterian Church buy our property. I remember going to the church general office to speak with a number of ministers and sharing with them the value of the property and how suited it would be to having a church there. We remarked together that churches had traditionally been built on a hill and that our property represented the top of the rise in Officer.

I have to say that I was excited about partnering with other kingdom minded people to see a church built in the Officer area and I asked them to make sure that I got an invitation to the opening. In fact I've driven past the property a number of times since the sale and visualised a church on the hill. I have always felt that as Christians we have the opportunity to be a light on the hill for a community so selling to a church made real sense to me.

I also knew that the price would rise quite steeply if we sold to developers so I was pleased to partner with a church and make sure that the land was set aside to build a church for one of the fastest growing communities around Melbourne.

I was aware of the plan to sell part of the land to finance the building of the church which I felt was a very good strategy and in fact I was aware this strategy had been adopted by another church group in the area. In talking over the sale with Robert Carner I suggested that if he needed to find the finance to build a church then it would be an easy matter of selling part of the land to finance the building. So buying our property which had more land than he needed would 'cement' the funding for the whole project.

Overall I'm looking forward to the day that the church is built on the hill at Officer as this was a very big reason why I sold to the church and why I went to rather unusual lengths to do everything I could to help them buy it.

ANDREW M. SELLMAN



COMMUNICATION 2 (Min. 14)

AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVISE *BREAKING THE SILENCE*

The 2012 General Assembly approved a clause in the deliverance of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee (Minute 70.2), “that the Assembly:

Appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of the Moderator, the Law Agent (or other legal advisor), the Clerk of Assembly, a member of the Trusts Corporation/BIF, and a member of the Code Committee, to revise the document '*Breaking The Silence*' to ensure it is up to date and meets all the requirements of state and federal regulations and statutes.”

The Ad Hoc Committee has met three times since October 2012 adding to its membership Youth Ministries Director, the Rev Brian Harvey.

In addition to the oral evidence given at Assembly as to the shortcomings of our *Breaking The Silence* document, the Committee also received written evidence as to these shortcomings from attendees at Fuel Day events in which *Breaking The Silence* training had been given.

With the agreement and financial support of the Board of Investment & Finance, the Committee has engaged Dr Denise Cooper Clarke as a consultant to assist us with fulfilling the remit given the Committee.

Dr Cooper Clarke is an ethicist, has been a lecturer at Ridley College and other institutions with knowledge of Anglican procedures in relation to creating a child-safe (and vulnerable person-safe) environment.

The problem with our version of *Breaking the Silence* is that in being restricted to “protecting against and dealing with sexual abuse within the church”, it fails to take into account the requirements of two pieces of Victorian legislation, *Working with Children Act 2005* and *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*, both of which cover more than just sexual abuse. The Child Safety Commissioner, established by the *Working with Children Act 2005*, issued *A Guide for Creating a Child-safe Organisation (Guide)* in July 2006 based on Victorian legislation including the two aforementioned Acts.

The *Guide* provides guidance for the construction of a process for achieving a child-safe environment which includes elements of developing a child safety policy, code of conduct, choosing suitable staff (whether paid or voluntary), support, supervision and performance monitoring of staff and the reporting of child safety concerns.

Regarding child safety concerns, the *Guide* specifies not just sexual abuse but physical, emotional, psychological, racial, cultural and religious abuse.

Our current version of *Breaking the Silence* is a revision of an early version developed by the PC(NSW) Social Services Committee in the 1990s and was approved by the 2001 Victorian General Assembly (2001BB, Minute 28.11).

During 2005/6 there was a proposal under consideration for the introduction of the latest PC(NSW) version of *Breaking the Silence* (version 3). At the 2006 General Assembly it was decided to remain with the earlier version.

Having now viewed the Victorian statutory requirements for child safety, the Anglican child-safe material and *Breaking the Silence*, version 3, the Committee is able to advise the Commission of Assembly that *we will need to significantly upgrade our version of Breaking the Silence to satisfy the requirements of Victorian law*. The PCA (NSW) *Breaking the Silence*, version 3 adjusted according to the specific

requirements of Victorian law provides a basis for proceeding in the task with confidence.

At this stage we need to do further work, work including how the implementation aspect which realistically is likely to have a 2-3 year time frame.

The Committee will bring forward to 2013 General Assembly its proposals for upgrading *Breaking the Silence* to the required standard and probably under a more appropriate name. At the same time we will give an indication of the likely shape of:

- a) possibly more stringent requirements for selecting staff to work with children and other vulnerable people;
- b) their training, including ongoing training. This training will need to be extended to all persons in positions of authority in the Church;
- c) regular child-safe auditing of all church organisations including churches, home mission stations and
- d) the process for achieving transparent and independent assessment of all complaints.

Items b), c) and d) will almost certainly involve the employment of suitably professionally qualified person(s), whether fulltime or part time, possibly in partnership with the existing Conduct Protocol Unit which manages *Breaking the Silence* for the PCA (NSW).

The advantage of *Breaking the Silence* version 3 is that it fits with Presbyterian polity and in particular its complaints handling procedures neatly dovetail in the GAA code of discipline should the code need to be initiated.

By providing this report to the Commission of Assembly we are doing three things:

- 1) confirming the inadequacy of our version of *Breaking the Silence*;
- 2) advising that a report with deliverance will be brought to the October 2013 General Assembly, and
- 3) informing Commissioners that the response to the mandate given by the 2012 General Assembly will require a substantial reordering of the way in which we go about providing a child-safe environment in our churches and related organisations that satisfies our own expectations as a Christian organisation as well as meeting the requirements of Victorian law.

Having said that, the success of the PCA (NSW) in moving to these new measures should give us the needed confidence that we can do likewise.

David J Palmer
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 3 (Min. 15)



Church Planting Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

Secretary

Rev Ben Johnson
15 Booval Dr
Warrnambool, VIC 3280
Ph 5562 2029
ben@wboolpresychurch.org.au

30th April, 2013

Re: Officer Property

To the Clerk of the Assembly,

In light of not having received a final ruling on the nature of the implied trust over the Officer property, the CPC moved that we would like to reserve the option to further investigate the partial sale of the Officer property.

This Motion was passed at the CPC meeting on 15th of April. Minute 54/13

Yours in partnership,

Ben Johnson
Secretary

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF VICTORIA
OCTOBER 2013**

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
1st Sederunt: Monday 7 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, Monday 7 October 2013 at 7.30pm.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the last Assembly (BB 2012 min. 107). Past Moderator Rev Andrew Bray constituted the Assembly with prayer.

2. Roll

The Clerk laid on the table the certified rolls of presbyteries and the Roll of Assembly compiled from them and moved that it be given interim authority and be submitted for confirmation at the 2nd sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Apologies

The Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For sederunts 1-6: Nello Barbieri, Robert Boan, Neil Chambers, Dallas Clarnette, Mark Crabb, Cameron Garrett, Martin Hanse, Neil Harvey, Ben Johnson, Hui Lim, Peter Locke, Philip Mercer, Douglas Robertson, Peter Swinn, Walter Zurrer.

For this sederunt: Keith Allen, Neil Benfell, John Cromarty, Phil Daffy, Theo Fishwick, Douglas Milne, Mark Smith, Gary Stephens, Mark Tonkin.

Elders:

For sederunts 1-6: Philip Betts, Doug Butcher, Ian McDonald, Alec McRae, Peter Winstanley.

For this sederunt: John Angelico.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Assembly Papers

The Clerk laid on the table Assembly Paper 2, and Assembly Paper B, together with the agenda for the 2nd sederunt.

5. Election of Moderator

The Clerk intimated that Rev David John Palmer, retired minister, had been elected as Moderator Designate of this General Assembly by the Commission of Assembly in May 2013 (min. 7).

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev David John Palmer, retired minister, as Moderator of the 2013 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Past Moderator Rev Andrew Bray put the moderatorial questions to Mr Palmer, inducted him into his office with prayer, and, together with the ex-moderators, gave him the right hand of fellowship.

The Moderator signed the Assembly Bible, which has been signed by every Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria since its formation in 1859.

The Moderator addressed the Assembly.

6. Worship

The Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer, conducted public worship, and invited the Moderator-General, Rt Rev David A Cook to preach the occasional sermon: "Next", based on Psalm 78:5-8.

7. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Tuesday 8 October 2013 in The Scots' Church Melbourne and thereafter in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street Melbourne, which having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
2nd Sederunt: Tuesday 8 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, and afterwards in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 8 October 2013 at 9.30am.

8. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer, constituted the Assembly with prayer.

9. Communion Service

The Assembly met for a communion service. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer, led the worship and conducted the Lord's Supper, and Rev Dr Jared Hood, Business Convener, led the Assembly in the first of his Assembly expositions, "*A New Relationship – Partaking of Christ*" based on Song of Songs 2:16.

10. Roll

The Clerk laid on the table the certified rolls of presbyteries and the Roll of Assembly compiled from them, and moved that it be declared to be the Roll of the Assembly. The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Apologies

The Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: Neil Benfell, Graham Bradbeer, Phil Daffy, Mark Tonkin.

Elders:

For this sederunt: Rex McCarron.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. Associations

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Associate the following for all sederunts:

1. Rev David Currie, minister of the Church of Scotland and assistant minister at The Scots' Church Melbourne.
2. Rev Kevin Murray, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales.
3. Rt Rev David Cook, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Welcomes

The Moderator welcomed all present especially associated members.

14. Business Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Determine that the hours of meeting be:

First Sederunt	Monday 7 October, 7.30pm
Second Sederunt	Tuesday 8 October, 9.30am to 5.30pm
Third Sederunt	Tuesday 8 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Fourth Sederunt	Wednesday 9 October, 9.30am to 5.30pm
Fifth Sederunt	Wednesday 9 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Sixth Sederunt	Thursday 10 October, 9.30am to the finish of business.
2. Determine that lunch be taken daily from 12.30pm to 2.00pm, that refreshments be taken daily from 3.30pm to 3.50pm, and that a dinner break be taken on Thursday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, as necessary.
3. Determine that the time for speakers be as follows:

Conveners	15 minutes
Seconders	10 minutes
Overturists	15 minutes (total time for Overture to be stated)
Appellants and Petitioners	20 minutes (total time for Appeal or Petition to be stated)
All other speakers	5 minutes
4. Carry the Royal address with the singing of the Royal Anthem, and the Loyal addresses with the singing of Rejoice! 613, *God of Eternity*, vv. 1–2, 5–6.
5. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:

Ministers:	Philip Daffy (Convener), John Dekker, Matthew James
Elders:	Bert Stasse, Doug Fraser
6. Permit committee conveners and chairpersons who are not members of the Assembly to address the Assembly when their respective committee's report and deliverance is before the Assembly.
7. Encourage Assembly members to attend the remaining Assembly prayer meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, 8.30am, in the Robert White Meeting Room.
8. Appoint an ad hoc Special Committee on Judicial Matters for the hearing of the Graham appeal consisting of the Deputy Clerk, the Business Convener, and Rev Grant Lawry, BCom, LLB, BTh, and determine that this ad hoc Special Committee should, on this matter, act in the same way as the Special Committee referred to in Rules 5:50 and 5:78.
9. Approve generally the outline of business as given in the report.
10. Approve the Order of Business for the second sederunt, Tuesday, 8 October, 2013.
11. Thank retiring or retired members of the Business Committee, Rev Tony Parle and Elder Douglas Fraser, for their many years of outstanding service to the Committee and to the Church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

15. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the 1st Sederunt.

16. Minutes of the May 2013 Commission of Assembly

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the Commission of Assembly, held 7 May 2013, and moved that they be received.

The motion was seconded and approved.

17. New Members

New members of the Assembly were introduced to the Moderator.

The Moderator welcomed the new members to the Assembly and led the Assembly in prayer for them.

18. Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

The Clerk advised the Assembly that he has been notified that:

1. Rev Peter Locke celebrates 60 years since ordination to the ministry. Peter Locke was ordained in July 1953 by the Presbytery of Gippsland, and served two lengthy pastorates in Dromana and Balaclava.
2. Rev John Cromarty celebrates 50 years since ordination as an elder in March 1963 in the Hunter/Barrington Charge of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and he now serves as a minister in the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
3. Elder Rex McCarron celebrates 50 years as an elder. Rex was ordained an elder in Caringbah (Sydney) in 1963 during the ministry of Rev Dr Clyde Paton and continues in service today.
4. Elder Wally French celebrates just over 50 years as an elder. Wally was ordained an elder in Ashburton in 1961 by Rev J B Edwards, and has served continuously in the Ashburton session ever since.
5. Elder Neil Hamilton celebrates 60 years as an elder of the Church. Neil was ordained into the eldership at Cheltenham Presbyterian Church in July 1953, and continues to serve to this day as Session Clerk.
6. Elder Elizabeth Cutler celebrates just over 40 years as an elder. She was ordained an elder in St Leonards Presbyterian Church, Brighton Beach in 1972, under the ministry of Rev Reynold Waters, and continues in service today at St Cuthbert's Brighton.
7. Elder Gilbert Bell celebrates 65 years as an elder at Sunshine. He was ordained an elder in Sunshine Presbyterian Church in 1948 by Rev Frank Sadler, and continues in service today, 65 years later, as Session Clerk.

The Moderator presented certificates commemorating the long-standing service of these elders, and led in prayer.

19. Ministerial and Elders' Deaths

The Clerk reported that Rev Alex Stevens died during the sittings of the previous Assembly and that home missionaries Rev Henri Joyeux and Mr John Gething and Assembly elders Mr Harold Evans and Mr Jac Louws had died during the year since the last meeting of Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Note the passing of Rev Alex Stevens, Rev Henri Joyeux, Mr John Gething, Mr Harold Evans and Mr Jac Louws and record the following as a tribute in the minutes:

Rev Alexander Thomas Stevens (1919 – 2012)

Alex was born on September 20th 1919. His mother had a daughter already and had made a Hannah-type promise, that if the Lord gave her a son, she would give him up to the Lord's service and encourage him into ministry.

His parents sent him to Scotch College to complete his VCE, especially so that he could learn Greek (his mother seeing it as part of his preparation for ministry), and at 17 years of age, and through a few key events in his life, including Isaiah 53, the Lord brought Alex to faith in Jesus and to salvation. At Ascot Vale West Presbyterian Church he taught Sunday School and was elected to the Session.

From 1941 – 1943 Alex studied at Ormond College. He was appointed to the Woodville congregation in Adelaide S.A. in 1944.

In 1950 Alex accepted a call to Wangaratta, and then to Balaclava in 1959. During this time he had many opportunities to teach at Melbourne Bible Institute, Presbyterian Deaconess College and Ormond College. Eventually he took up a full-time teaching position at MBI teaching Greek and New Testament, which he did for about ten years. During this time he preached at various Presbyterian Churches.

In 1979 Alex accepted a call to Canterbury, and was there until his retirement in 1985. Alex and Malcia moved to Doncaster East, and continued preaching and lecturing part-time. He served as the clerk of the Presbytery of Melbourne North and then the first clerk of the Presbytery of Maroondah.

He is remembered by all as a learned scholar, yet a humble and gracious man. Alex loved the gospel and the Word of God. He was a man of humility and patience. He was a gentleman – a selfless man of sincere faith, gentleness and godliness.

Rev Henri Antoine Joyeux (1931 – 2013)

Born in Belgium, as a young man Henri served in the army in the Belgian Congo and then stayed on after his service working as an architect. Then, after a period of time back in Belgium, he and his wife migrated to Australia in 1961.

They became Christians through the faithful witness of a persistent couple with a heart for Jesus Christ who kept dragging them off to church every Sunday.

In the early 1970s Henri Joyeux became a minister with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church where they served for many years in the ACT and in Melbourne.

In the early 1990s he met Reg Mathews and not long after became a home missionary with the Presbyterian Church in the Seaford and Dandenong congregations.

Henri Joyeux served the Presbyterian Church of Victoria with faithfulness and dedication until his retirement in 2002.

Mr John Harold Gething (1942 – 2013)

John was born a South Australian in 1942, and it was in his early adult years that he came to know the Lord as Saviour. He studied at the Adelaide Bible Institute under Geoffrey Bingham who had a profound spiritual impact on John's life and ministry.

In 1996, he began his service with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as home missionary. Over the course of the next 15 years he served in Daylesford, Castlemaine, Mt Prospect and Carisbrook.

John Gething was a man who faithfully preached the Word of God, was always interested in the welfare of God's people, and engaged well in pastoral visitation.

He was also a very practical man who was generous with his carpentry skills, and he leaves us a legacy by his construction of the pulpit at Carisbrook church.

Mr Harold Evans

Harold Evans was a long-serving, faithful, cheerful elder in Cobram Presbyterian Church for 64 years. He was nominated for the eldership in 1949 when he was 25. He first declined owing to his age, but the Session came back and told him they would be embarrassed if he did not accept as 89% of the congregation had voted for him. At that stage had already been Sunday School superintendent for four years.

Later that same year Harold was commissioned as representative elder to the Presbytery of Goulburn Valley and had served continuously on Presbytery, sometimes as Moderator, for 63 years from 1949 until his death in May this year.

He had served for many years as Assembly elder as well.

Mr Jacobus Louws

Born in Holland, serving in the Dutch navy during the war, Jac was a bold and at times a wild young man.

The Lord tamed him and brought him to genuine repentance and faith during the 1959 Billy Graham crusades in Melbourne – to which he attended with the specific purpose of ridiculing the preacher. The Lord had other plans, and Jac was thoroughly converted.

Jac Louws was always a reader, a thinker and a debater. Through reading nearly every book that Banner of Truth ever published, his convictions grew very soundly reformed. God used his strong and bold, and at times boisterous character to witness to many of the love of Christ. Jac Louws did not fear any man, but only God.

Jac served faithfully and prayerfully as elder at Reservoir Presbyterian for over 30 years. He was a member of this General Assembly and a member of the Home Mission Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.
The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

20. Royal Address

The Clerk moved the royal address, as follows:

That the Assembly:

Request the Moderator to transmit through his Excellency the Governor of Victoria the following address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,

May it please Your Majesty:

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, now convened in Melbourne in the year of our Lord two thousand and thirteen do respectfully renew our expression of loyalty to Your Majesty's person and to the throne.

We are mindful of the responsibilities laid upon you by the duties of Your Majesty's high office as Queen of Australia. Therefore we, in our Assembly, in our local congregations and in our private devotions, do pray that the Sovereign Triune God will by His Holy Spirit grant Your Majesty every grace needful for discharging the duties of your office to His pleasure and glory, and in obedience to His most Holy Word.

In these days of political uncertainty in many nations, we give thanks for all the liberties that flow from our Christian heritage. In the light of this heritage, and with an earnest desire for the further Glory of Christ in the world, it is the prayer of our Assembly that Your Majesty, as Queen of Australia, will do all in your power to affirm that Jesus Christ alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

It is our sincere prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, may in His mercy, continue to bless Your Majesty, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip and the members of your family, and sustain you in body and mind for His service in the days ahead.

We, the ministers and elders of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria have the honour and humble privilege to be Your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects.

Signed in our name and at our appointing.

Moderator

The motion was seconded and approved with the singing of the Royal Anthem, "God Save Our Gracious Queen."

21. Loyal addresses

The Clerk moved the Loyal addresses as follows:

That the Assembly:

1. Request the Moderator to transmit to Her Excellency the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia the following address:

To the Governor General,

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, send respectful greetings to you.

It is our prayerful desire that, in fulfilling the many and varied duties of your office, you will know, trust and follow the guidance God gives in his Holy Word.

For over 110 years the Governor-General has played an important role in the life of our nation, and your grace, dignity and wisdom have served us well in recent years.

We seek God's enabling grace for you, so that all you say and do will express grace, mercy and peace.

2. Request the Moderator to transmit to the Prime Minister of Australia the following address:

To the Prime Minister,

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, meeting in Melbourne respectfully send greetings to you, your ministers and to all the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Triune God, who is the true Lord and sovereign of the whole world, has entrusted you with a high responsibility. He has ordained that for the time being you should lead our nation under Him, and make the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ the defining principle of its public good. To that end you have the responsibility to encourage all that He calls good and to restrain that which He defines as evil. In the performance of these tasks, you are of course ultimately accountable to Him.

You are our 28th Prime Minister, and, like those have done before you, you daily take up this responsibility in the face of many calls for wise leadership. We remind you that ultimately "wisdom is from above" and we commend to you to call upon the wisdom of the God of the universe, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that "prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all in high position, that we may live peaceable and quiet lives, in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). To that end, we pray constantly that you and your government will govern with that sense of righteousness, honesty and integrity which comes from God's Law and the knowledge of

Jesus Christ, and that you will know and trust God's saving grace, mercy and peace as you govern.

3. Request the Moderator to transmit to the Premier of Victoria the following address:

To the Premier,

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, meeting in Melbourne respectfully send greetings to you, your ministers and to all the members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

The Triune God, who is the true Lord and sovereign of the whole world, has entrusted you with a high responsibility. He has ordained that for the time being you should lead our state under Him, and make the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ the defining principle of its public good. To that end you have the responsibility to encourage all that He calls good and to restrain that which He defines as evil. In the performance of these tasks, you are of course ultimately accountable to Him.

You are our 47th Premier of this state, and, like those have done before you, you daily take up this responsibility in the face of many calls for wise leadership. We remind you that ultimately "wisdom is from above" and we commend to you to call upon the wisdom of the God of the universe, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that "prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all in high position, that we may live peaceable and quiet lives, in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). To that end we pray constantly that you and your government will govern with that sense of righteousness, honesty and integrity which comes from God's Law and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and that you will know and trust God's saving grace, mercy and peace as you govern.

The motion was seconded and approved with the singing of the hymn, "*God of Eternity*" vv. 1-2, 5-6 (Rejoice! 613).

22. Moderator-General, Rt Rev David Cook

The Moderator welcomed the Moderator-General, Rt Rev David A Cook, to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Cook addressed the Assembly.

23. Presbytery of Melbourne North – Permission to Meet

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant permission for the Presbytery of Melbourne North to meet for a Special Purpose Meeting outside its bounds (see rules 4:20 and 6:12) and during the sittings of the General Assembly (see rules 5:51 and 6:13), namely, at 5:30pm on Tuesday 8 October in the Assembly Hall, in order for the Presbytery to commission Rev Keith Bell for the work of PIM in Alice Springs, noting the urgency of the case.

The motion was seconded and approved.

24. Past Moderator

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

The report of the Past Moderator, Rev David J Palmer, was laid on the table and received.

Mr Palmer spoke of his year in office.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr Palmer.

Mr Palmer resumed the chair.

25. Moderator's Committee

The report of the Moderator's Committee was laid on the table and received.

The convener, Rev Graeme Weber, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Record warm appreciation for the moderatorship of Rt Rev David Palmer.
2. Recognise the support and assistance given by the Moderator's wife, Mrs Chris Palmer.
3. Congratulate the Moderator on his election to a further term of office.
4. Request the Moderator to visit the Presbyteries of Benalla, Gippsland and Maroonah.
5. Request the Moderator to visit one of the mission fields of our church in consultation with the APWM (Vic) Committee.
6. Request conveners of all Assembly committees to invite the Moderator to a meeting of their committee during his moderatorial year.

The motion was seconded and approved.

26. Ministry Development Committee

The report of the Ministry Development Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Acting Convener, Rev Grant Lawry, moved the deliverance:

It was agreed to adjourn the debate (see min. 29)

27. Assembly Catering Committee

The Clerk introduced the Assembly Catering Committee to the Moderator, explaining that they are retiring from this role.

The Moderator thanked the committee for all their years of faithful service.

The Clerk announced that the entire dinner service set of crockery and cutlery was to be donated to Scots Church for their use, and as a token of this gift a symbolic hand-over was made to the Session Clerk Miss Rae Anstee.

28. Archive Committee

The Clerk's report was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed the PCV Archivist, Mrs Chris Palmer, to the Assembly, and invited her to speak.

Mrs Palmer introduced voluntary archivist helpers, Mr Val Kentler, Mrs Irene Blaikie and Mrs Marilyn Weber, to the Assembly.

Mrs Palmer addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Palmer.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the PCV Archivist, Mrs Chris Palmer, together with her volunteers, for the way they apply themselves with professional expertise, faithfulness and cheerfulness to the job of supervising the PCV Archive on our behalf.

2. Continue to remember God's gifts and blessings to this church over the years, and to recall God's mercy and the kindness of his grace toward us, by keeping and maintaining a faithful record of past events in the life of the PCV.

The motion was seconded and approved.

29. Ministry Development Committee (min. 26)

It was agreed to resume debate.

The motion to approve the deliverance was put:

That the Assembly:

1. Encourage healthy and resourced congregations as well as struggling congregations to consider sister church relationships.
2. Encourage all declining churches to address the situation immediately, seeking help from their presbytery and the MDC, before the decline becomes part of the church culture, and irreversible.
3. Encourage all aid-receiving parishes to re-assess their ministry paradigm, and to engage in the Ministry Tool Box and Embers to a Flame.
4. Encourage ministers and sessions to prayerfully search out and challenge suitably gifted members of their congregations and to intentionally disciple such members, with the goal that the Lord may lead them to consider Home Mission service and/or training and candidating for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.
5. Encourage congregations to engage in evangelism training and to use opportunities to share their faith by engaging the participation of the Ministry Development Committee (or other agency) for training, and applying for an evangelism grant from the Ministry Development Committee.
6. Encourage congregations to make use of the MDC seminar resources, particularly Vision and Mission, Discipleship, Spiritual Gifts, and Forgiveness.
7. Encourage presbyteries with vacancies to consider an Intentional Interim Minister where such a ministry would be beneficial.
8. Encourage vacant churches and the presbyteries of jurisdiction to consider a District Interim Moderator to provide consistent and efficient guidance in their time of vacancy and to release Interim Moderators to focus on the congregation that has called them.
9. Give thanks to the Lord for the faithful ministry of the Ministry Development Director, Rev Dr Robert Carner.
10. Thank Mr Ben Palmer for his secretarial support to the Director and Committee.
11. Thank Mrs Rosslyn Grant, Mrs Sharee Barnett, Mr John Vandenberg, and General Manager Mr Michael Ellison for the invaluable help, support and advice that the Church Office gives to the committee.
12. Thank Rev Dr Tony Bird for his diligent and wise service as Convener of the committee (2006-2013).

The motion was seconded and approved.

30. Board of Investment and Finance

The report of the Board and Investment and Finance was laid on the table and received.

The Chairman, Mr Edward de Zilwa, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-4 were approved.

Clause 5 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for the continuing blessings given to the church.
2. Approve that an Assembly Rate of nil be set for the 2014-2015 year.
3. Approve the following honoraria:

Deputy Clerk	\$2,640
Business Convener	\$810
4. Make grants from funds held for GAA purposes in each year of the GAA triennium 2014 -2016 as follows:
 - a. \$25,000 to the Presbyterian Church of South Australia towards the cost of appointing an Intentional Interim Minister within the Presbytery of Torrens;
 - b. \$10,000 to the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia towards church planting.
5. Strongly encourage sessions to ensure that the registration of their congregation with the ACNC is properly recorded prior to 31st December 2013.

The motion was seconded and approved.

31. Privilege

Elder Robert Belcher raised a question of privilege, in that the appeal from the Session of Caulfield Elwood against certain decisions of the Presbytery of Melbourne East had not been included in Assembly Paper 3.

The Moderator ruled that Mr Belcher's privilege had been infringed.

The Deputy Clerk moved that Mr Belcher's appeal be included as appeal 7 with the appeals to be considered by the Assembly on Thursday.

The motion was seconded and approved.

32. Trusts Corporation

The report of the Trusts Corporation was laid on the table and received.

The Chairman, Mr Edward de Zilwa, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Allocate the balance of the bequest from William Aitken (\$28,129) to the General Assembly for its general purposes.
2. Approve the following guidelines in accordance with the terms of the will for the administration of the David and Sarah Donaldson Trust:

David and Sarah Donaldson Trust Fund – guidelines

1. The David and Sarah Donaldson Trust is administered by the Board of Investment and Finance.
2. The trust is for the benefit of Ministers of Religion and or their wives or widows who shall be in needy circumstances
3. Enquiry as to possible access to the Trust funds is open to:
any minister (whether retired or serving) or their wives or widows, OR;
presbyteries, committees or individuals within the PCV on behalf of
any minister, his wife or widow whom it is thought to be eligible
according to the terms of the Trust.
4. All enquiries and any ensuing discussions will be held in strictest confidence.
5. Enquiries should be made to the General Manager of the PCV who will in the first instance advise what further actions or information may be appropriate. Enquiries may be made verbally or confidentially in writing. The General Manager will forward requests for assistance to the Board of Investment and Finance for consideration.

6. In considering requests the Board of Investment and Finance takes into account all the relevant circumstances in order to determine whether the situation can be considered as meeting the provision of the trust, specifically whether it constitutes "needy circumstances". In normal situations, it is considered within a minister's ability to meet most regular expenditures from his remuneration if he is full time, given he exerts reasonable care in his budgeting and expenditure. Therefore, a request may not be entertained if it transpires a history of fiscal carelessness was the primary cause of the "needy circumstances". Nevertheless, enquiries will always be reviewed in a spirit of flexibility and sensitivity as befits the intent of the Trust.
7. The Board of Investment and Finance undertakes to be as generous as the terms of the Trust allow. Examples of situations where funds may be applied include such needs as funeral costs, unexpected loss of employment, significant medical expenses, matters arising from family emergencies, etc.
8. Those who may be in need are encouraged to make enquiries as soon as the need is first discerned. Inquiries and requests need not be delayed until a minister, his wife or widow finds themselves in financially deprived or impoverished circumstances.
3. Declare that the property at 159 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale (Vol 1882 Fol 245) be held under the terms of the Model Trust Deed for a church site.
4. Permit and suffer the property at 159 Nicholson Street Bairnsdale (Vol 1882 Fol 245) be used as a site for the public worship of God by the Bairnsdale congregation.
5. Declare that the property at 330-334 Barkly Street Ararat (Vol 3955 Fol 899) be held under the terms of the Model Trust Deed for a church site.
6. Permit and suffer the property at 330-334 Barkly Street Ararat (Vol 3955 Fol 899) be used as a site for the public worship of God by the Ararat congregation.

The motion was seconded and approved.

33. Thanks to Rev Andrew Slater

The Clerk sought leave to move without notice a motion of thanks to Rev Andrew Slater. Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank Rev Andrew Slater for giving years of service to the Church as Trustee of the General Assembly and especially for his thorough, wise and faithful leadership as Chairman of the Trusts Corporation.

The motion was seconded and carried with acclamation.

34. METRO Committee

The report of the METRO Committee was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Convener (Rev Nello Barbieri) Elder Andy May moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the ministry of METRO and youth METRO.
2. Pray for the trainees presently engaged and all those who will be training, God-willing, in 2014 and beyond.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's Chaplain Rev David Brown led the Assembly in prayer.

35. Commission for Church Institutions

The report of the Commission for Church Institutions was laid on the table and received.
The Clerk moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator (Chairman), Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Law Agent, Rev D Robertson, I H Barker, A J Bray, J Cho, T Cox, P Daffy, J Dekker, G Nicholson, C Siriweera, G Weber and elder Dr R Baldock with five members to form a quorum as the Commission for Church Institutions, a commission to exercise the powers of the General Assembly:

1. with respect of or conferred by constitutional documents of Scotch College and Presbyterian Ladies' College, and instruct the Commission that in making appointments to Group A and Group C of the Council of these schools it should appoint persons committed to upholding the trusts on which those schools are held;
2. with respect to the constitutions of any other school or institution in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as may be necessary or expedient from time to time and in particular powers of appointment or removal of officers and directors.

The motion was seconded and approved.

36. Code and General Administration Committee

The report of the Code and General Administration Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev John Wilson, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

Elder Reg Butcher moved that the Assembly amend clause 3 by deleting all words and inserting in their place the following:

3. Circulate the following points as a general guide to all presbyteries should the need arise for a presbytery to recommend allocations from property sales or other funds:
 1. Principles
 - a) it should be careful to act transparently and in a way that is open;
 - b) it should determine the matter without undue haste;
 - c) it should act in a way that neither privileges the apparently strong nor penalises the apparently weak (see Revelations 2 and 3);
 - d) it should remember that the strong ought to help the weak, so that there may be no lack (see 2 Corinthians 8:1-15);
 - e) it should recognise that the immediate need is not always the most prudent;
 - f) it must be careful always to guard against the subtlety of the love of money (1 Timothy 6:9-10);
 - g) it should act in a way that minimises factionalism (1 Corinthians 1:13a);
 - h) it should discourage members from congregations who benefit from the distribution to vote on that matter (in the general spirit of Rule 5.34);
 - i) it should aim at unanimity.

2. Recommendations respecting the above principles:

That a presbytery should:

- a) formulate a minute describing that all the procedural steps of all prior motions concerning the proposed allocations have been fulfilled, and making note that, as far as possible, the principles outlined in 3.1 above have been observed;
- b) circulate at least 7 days before the meeting at which Presbytery decides to make the allocation recommendations:
 - i. the proposed minute of description formulated in 3.2 a) above;
 - ii. all reports and data concerning the allocation recommendations;
 - iii. the proposed minute detailing the recommendations;and that the above steps should be the order in which the business is considered.
- c) forward all the information and resolutions of 3.2 b) to the BIF to assist them in making the final allocations.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Clauses 4-7 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Endorse the Committee's plan to produce a Code revision that is more in line with the changing policy of the church, a Code revision that includes the following:
 - a) improvements in the nomenclature and definitions applied to churches and congregations;
 - b) inclusion in the Code recognition of a church plant;
 - c) bringing scattered and misplaced prescriptions into their proper place within the rules instead of being partially hidden in regulations;
 - d) providing more logic in the order of procedures where there is a perceived disconnect in the sectioning of the rules;
 - e) introducing appropriate rules reflecting the changing era in which we live.
2. Instruct the Committee to report fully, according to GAV 2012.28.5, to the 2014 General Assembly, following consultation with the Trusts Corporation and the Ad Hoc Committee (re: Sites Reserve), but after they have considered the expected legal opinion.
3. Circulate the following points as a general guide to all presbyteries should the need arise for a presbytery to recommend allocations from property sales or other funds:
 - a) it should be careful to act transparently and in a way that is open;
 - b) it should determine the matter without undue haste;
 - c) it should act in a way that neither privileges the apparently strong nor penalises the apparently weak (see Revelation 2 & 3);
 - d) it should remember that the strong ought to help the weak, so that there might be no lack (see 2 Corinthians 8:1-15);
 - e) it should recognise that the immediate need is not always the most prudent;
 - f) it must be careful always to guard against the subtlety of the love of money (1 Timothy 6:9-10);
 - g) it should act in a way that minimises factionalism (1 Corinthians 1:13a);
 - h) it should discourage members from congregations who benefit from the distribution to vote on that matter (in the general spirit of Rule 5.34);

- i) it should aim at unanimity.
- 4. Include this list (see clause 3 above) in the section of the next edition of the Code Book called "Assembly Decisions".
- 5. Delete reference to the PCV Training Officer in clause 2 of the METRO Committee Regulations (p. 183 of the Code Book, 2013 edition), so that clause 2 shall read:

Membership

- 2. The committee shall consist of six members.
- 6. Make the following alterations to the regulations of the Theological Education Committee:
 - a) Delete clause 6(b)(vi) of TEC regulations and in its place insert the following:

"The appointment of a lecturer shall be for an initial period of seven years, with subsequent appointments of seven years or such lesser period as may be negotiated. Before the appointment expires the Theological Education Committee shall interview the lecturer and review his work. Following a satisfactory review and with the concurrence of the lecturer the committee shall recommend to the General Assembly that the lecturer be reappointed."
 - b) Add the following after clause 5(b)(ii) 7, namely:
 - 8) a Working With Children's Check (WWCC).
- 7. Appoint the Selection Committee, in the following terms:

Rev Cameron Garrett (Rt 16) (Convener), Rev John Rickard (Rt 15),
 Rev Dean Carroll (Rt 14), Elder Reg Butcher (Rt 16), Elder Bert Stasse (Rt 15)
 NON-METRO: Rev Hui Lim (Rt 15), Rev Neil Harvey (Rt 14)

The motion was seconded and approved.

37. Presbyterian Ladies College

The report of Presbyterian Ladies College was laid on the table and received.

38. Scotch College

The report of Scotch College was laid on the table and received.

39. Petition 1 – from Presbytery of Kilnoorat re: Dissolution of Hawkesdale Congregation

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

- 1. Agree to the decision of the Presbytery of Kilnoorat taken on 14 August to dissolve the Hawkesdale congregation (in accord with rule 4:90).

2. Declare that this decision shall have immediate effect (in accord with rule 6:15).
The motion was seconded and approved.
The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.
The petitioners were removed from the bar.

40. Petition 2 – from Presbytery of Kilnoorat re: Sale of Hawkesdale Property

The petitioners were brought to the bar.
The petition was taken as read and received.
The petitioners stated the petition.
Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give permission to the Presbytery of Kilnoorat (in accord with BIF regulation 9(a) and rule 4:105) for the sale of the property at Hawkesdale, namely: Allotments 11, 12 and 13 in Austin Street Hawkesdale.
2. In the matter of the proceeds of sale, draw the attention of the Presbytery to BIF regulation 10(c) and (d).

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

41. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 8 October 2013, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

Clerks
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
3rd Sederunt: Tuesday 8 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 8 October 2013 at 7.00pm.

42. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Ken Brown, led the Assembly in worship and constituted the Assembly with prayer.

43. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: Trevor Cox, John Cromarty, Phil Daffy, Mark Tonkin, Andrew Vines.

Elders:

For this sederunt: Brian Bayston.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

44. Business Committee

The Business Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

45. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the 2nd Sederunt.

46. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Dr John Woodward, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

The Moderator was asked to rule on the competency of the clause.

The Moderator ruled that the clause was competent.

Rev Ian Leach sought leave to move an amendment to clause 1.

Leave was not granted.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was moved and seconded.

Rev Ian Leach moved that the Assembly amend the deliverance by inserting a new deliverance 2, and renumbering the following clauses accordingly, as follows:

2. Declare that the changes specified in 1(b) and 1(c) above take effect as of 1 July 2014.

The amendment was approved.

Clauses 2-5 were approved.

Clause 6 was moved and seconded.

Rev David Brown moved that the Assembly amend clause 6 of the deliverance by deleting all words and inserting in their place the following:

6. Direct the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to assist the Church Office in updating ministers' employment records without involving presbyteries.

The Moderator was asked to rule on the competency of the amendment.

The Moderator ruled that the amendment was competent.

The amendment was disapproved.

Clause 6 was approved.

Clauses 7-8 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following process for grant applications:
 - a) the APR is to be approved by the Presbytery; AND
 - b) if the APR is submitted to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee within the period 1 July to 30 September, a full year of monthly sustentation payments may be made; OR
 - c) forms submitted after 30 September may be approved with a monthly rate not greater than the maximum Sustentation Grant Amount (\$9,977 for 2013-14) divided by 12 and for the rest of the financial year.
2. Declare that the changes specified in 1(b) and 1(c) above take effect as of 1 July 2014.
3. Ask presbyteries to encourage timely auditing of parish finances and completion of the Annual Parish Report Form as early as possible after the completion of their financial period and no later than the due date (APR page 1), but noting the requirements of clause 1 above.
4. Encourage each member of boards of management to take an active role in the budget preparation and approval prior to presentation at their congregational meetings for approval and to be mindful of the budget when considering income and expenses throughout the financial year.
5. Further encourage presbyteries to establish standing committees with appointed conveners to assess the finances of parishes on a consistent basis, and to evaluate all applications for assistance and make recommendations to their presbytery concerning the same.
6. Warmly thank all the PCV Office staff for their advice and time spent in the administration of the work of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee especially in the support and encouragement of a new convener.
7. Request all presbyteries to review their minister's employment records and update the General Manager PCV of any details not yet advised.
8. Warmly thank all members of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for their diligence in attendance and contributions, especially the registrar, Reg Butcher, who carries an enormous work load on behalf of the Committee, and also thank Mary Woodward (non-member secretary).
9. Approve the increase in travel costs of 1 cent to 48 cents from 1st November 2013 and amend Terms of Settlement and preaching supply costs accordingly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

47. Social Services Committee

The report of the Social Services Committee was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Convener (Elder Robert Lowe) Elder Dennis Wright moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Rev Wally Gear and Rev Andrew Bray.
2. Pray for guidance and direction for the Social Services Committee as they continue to oversee the development of Kirkbrae.
3. Give thanks to Miss Rae Anstee who is retiring under the nine year rule, for her faithful service to the Social Services Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

48. General Mission Program Committee

The report of the General Mission Program Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Norm Sharp, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend those parishes and presbyteries which have fully subscribed their allocations for the 2012/13 General Mission Program.
2. Request presbyteries, when considering allocations to parishes, to consider each parish's ability to meet their allocation irrespective of the formula used in deciding the respective allocations.
3. Request presbyteries to remind sessions, boards of management and congregations of the need for this vital missions program and encourage ministers and sessions to designate one Sunday in the current year as GMP Sunday for the purpose of promoting the General Mission Program in their congregations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

49. Petition 3 – from Presbytery of Kilnoorat re: Dissolution of Woolsthorpe Congregation

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved:

(1) That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(2) That the Assembly:

1. Agree to the decision of the Presbytery of Kilnoorat taken on 14 August to dissolve the Woolsthorpe congregation (in accord with rule 4:90).
2. Declare that this decision shall have immediate effect (in accord with rule 6:15).

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

50. Petition 4 – from Presbytery of Kilnoorat re: Sale of Woolsthorpe Property

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved:

(1) That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(2) That the Assembly:

1. Give permission to the Presbytery of Kilnoorat (in accord with BIF regulation 9(a) and rule 4:105) for the sale of the property at Woolsthorpe, namely: Allotment 10 in Manifold Street, Woolsthorpe.
2. In the matter of the proceeds of sale, draw the attention of the Presbytery to BIF regulation 10(c) and (d).

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

51. Breaking the Silence Ad Hoc Committee

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

The report of the Breaking the Silence Ad Hoc Committee was laid on the table and received.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate (see min. 59)

52. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Wednesday 10 October 2012, which having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
4th Sederunt: Wednesday 9 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 9.30am.

53. Constitution:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer, constituted the Assembly with prayer.

54. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev Dr Jared Hood, led the Assembly in the second of his Assembly expositions, "Justification", based on Genesis 15:6.

55. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: Felix Chung.

For this and all subsequent sedurunts: Paul Ridgewell.

Elders:

For this sedurunt: Edward de Zilwa.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies:

The motion was seconded and approved.

56. Business Committee

The Business Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

57. Minutes of Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table minutes of the 3rd sederunt.

58. The Bible Society in Australia (Victoria)

The report of the Bible Society Representative, Rev Keith Allen, was laid on the table and received.

Rev Keith Allen moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Affirm its recognition of the important work done by Bible Society Australia in making the Scriptures available and read in every language and among every people in the world and express to Bible Society Australia our prayerful support in its continuing task.
2. Encourage individuals and representatives of congregations where appropriate to make their own contact with Bible Society Australia for purposes of support and information through its website (www.biblesociety.org.au).
3. Request the Assembly's Bible Society Representative to arrange for a Bible Society staff member to speak to the 2014 Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

59. Breaking the Silence Ad Hoc Committee (min. 51)

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

It was agreed to resume the debate.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-9 were approved.

It was agreed to take up the fixed order of the day (see min. 64)

60. Church and Nation Committee

Rt Rev David Palmer resumed the chair.

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

The Convener, Rev Darren Middleton, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for the blessing of the Colloquium and pray it will continue to be useful for informing, encouraging and equipping those from our congregations to take an active role in the Public Square.
2. Request presbyteries, sessions and congregations to continue to take an active and prayerful interest in moral matters, urging and praying that the 'magistrate' might do what all good 'magistrates' do concerning legislation: 'suppress evil and promote good.'
3. Encourage all Christians to be informed about the policies and platforms that their parliamentary candidates support, giving particular attention to the important issue of same-sex marriage.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator introduced Patrick Sookhdeo of the Barnabas Fund, and invited him to address the Assembly.

Dr Sookhdeo spoke of the appalling situation for Christians, especially in Syria, but also in Egypt and Pakistan, where the church is enduring great persecution with little relief.

The Moderator thanked Dr Sookhdeo, invited him to put his request for assistance for the persecuted Christians in these lands in writing for consideration by the Assembly.

At the invitation of the Moderator, Rev Michael Jensen led the Assembly in prayer.

61. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee

Rev Dean Carroll presented the following missionaries to the Assembly:

Len and Wendy Pearce

David Pearce

Alan and Faye Canavan

Douglas and Jeanette Bennett

Motor Isaac Yat

Andrew Vines

The Moderator led in prayer.

Rev Kevin Murray, National Director, APWM, addressed the Assembly.

The report of the APWM(Vic) Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Phil Simmonds, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-15 were approved.

The Clerk moved that the Assembly amend the deliverance by approving the following additional clause:

16. Recognise God's providence in bringing many Southern Sudanese to Victoria with a Presbyterian heritage and encourage APWM (Vic) to explore ways in which to build up the partnership relationship with the Presbyterian Church of

South Sudan (PCOSS) through short term and longer term mission, with an emphasis on biblical teaching.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Very Rev Bob Thomas moved that the Assembly amend the deliverance by approving the following additional clause:

17. Commend the PresAID 2013 Christmas Appeal to all congregations and boards of managements:
 - a. for the benefit of providing safe water through PresAID to villages by the shore of Lake Victoria, Uganda; and
 - b. for purchase of additional land in Dilli for the headquarters of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Praise God for our missionary team, and commend to God and the wider church those who serve the Lord Jesus as part of that team.
2. Request the Moderator to give the greetings of the Assembly to all our serving missionaries.
3. Praise God for his blessing upon Coins for Mission and the support it provides for our missionaries to his glory.
4. Praise God for strengthened relationships with the Partner Churches of the South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Vanuatu and Japan.
5. Remind the church that Partner Churches will greatly benefit from regular financial gifts that will fund the continuing need of maintenance and/or renovation and for equipping church leaders (e.g., pastors' seminars), noting that, where possible, these funds should be directed via APWM Federal.
6. Encourage ministers, sessions and mission committees to seriously consider a short-term mission trip as a method of increasing interest and involvement in world mission.
7. Encourage all congregations to remember in prayer our Partner Church, Partner Agency and Associate missionaries.
8. Encourage all congregations to extend financial and prayerful support for our missionaries who minister to the Aboriginal community, especially Rev Rick and Kaylene Manton.
9. Praise God for the work of the PWMU State Council and branches in the support of missions.
10. Praise God for the ministry of the APWM National Office in Sydney, and encourage the wider Church to extend financial and prayerful support for the ministries of the APWM National Director and our partner churches and missionaries within Australia and overseas.
11. Commend the regular APWM publications to the wider church.
12. Give praise to God for the ministry of the 'Youth partners' and Trades partners' short-term mission trips and commend these to the Victorian church.
13. Encourage presbyteries, ministers, sessions to promote attendance of the APWM (Vic) prayer meetings at the Heidelberg Church.
14. Encourage all churches and church prayer meetings to pray the Lord of the harvest to raise up and send out labourers into his harvest fields all over the world, especially to the countless millions who have still not heard the Gospel.

15. Give thanks to God for the faithful and valued service of Rev Michael Jensen, Rev Peter Orchard, Rev Chuol Yat and Mr Tom Cunneen, who are retiring under the nine year rule.
16. Recognise God's providence in bringing many Southern Sudanese to Victoria with a Presbyterian heritage and encourage APWM (Vic) to explore ways in which to build up the partnership relationship with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS) through short term and longer term mission, with an emphasis on biblical teaching.
17. Commend the PresAID 2013 Christmas Appeal to all congregations and boards of managements:
 - a. for the benefit of providing safe water through PresAID to villages by the shore of Lake Victoria, Uganda; and
 - b. for purchase of additional land in Dilli for the headquarters of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

The motion was seconded and approved.

62. Belgrave Heights Christian School

The report of Belgrave Heights Christian School was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Mr Andrew Callow, Principal, to the Assembly.

Mr Callow addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mr Callow for his remarks, and expressed an interest in visiting the School.

Moderator's Chaplain Rev Ken Brown led the Assembly in prayer.

63. Home Mission Workers Association

The report of the HMWA was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Miss Rion Jennings and Miss Barbara Firth to the Assembly.

Miss Jennings and Miss Firth addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Miss Jennings and Miss Firth for their report and led in prayer.

64. Breaking the Silence Ad Hoc Committee (min. 59)

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

It was agreed to resume the debate.

Rev Andrew Slater moved that the Assembly amend the deliverance by approving an additional clause 10 as follows:

10. Fund the cost of the Safe Church Unit by an annual levy on parishes which is to be based on the number of communicants and adherents in a similar manner to the way the insurance costs are recovered from parishes, with the initial levy to be based on the budget approved at the next Commission of Assembly and thereafter to be adjusted to match actual expenditure.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The Convener, Rt Rev David Palmer, moved the deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve in principle the replacement of the Victorian *Breaking the Silence* policy and procedures with the proposed "*Safe Church – PCV*" Policy, Code of Conduct and procedures for handling complaints modelled on the PCA(NSW) version (July 2011) of *Breaking the Silence*, adjusted according to Victorian law.
2. Note that, during the interim period, the principles and practices of PCV's existing *Breaking the Silence* policy apply in so far as they are appropriate.
3. Approve the establishment of a Safe Church Unit (SCU) located at suitable premises, according to the projected cost, with suitable staff to be appointed.

4. Approve the following “Our Policy Statement”:

Our Policy Statement

1. We commit ourselves to respect other people’s minds, emotions and bodies. We have established *Breaking the Silence* as the public criteria according to which the community may judge the resolve of the church to address issues of abuse within the church.
2. We acknowledge and accept the trust granted to us by those who are taking part in church activities, their families, and the wider community. We therefore commit ourselves to striving to ensure that all our actions are morally upright.
3. We acknowledge that, as a church, our responses to victims in the past may have varied greatly. We express regret and sorrow for any hurt that may have been caused whenever the response appeared to be inappropriate or inadequate.
4. We are committed to establishing a process that strives for truth and confidentiality. We will ensure as far as possible that a compassionate response is the first priority in all allegations, even at a time when it is not yet certain that the allegations are accurate, through offering assistance, protection and care without passing judgment or prejudicing the rights of the alleged offender. We acknowledge that concealing the truth is contrary to the character of God, unjust to victims and a disservice to offenders.
5. We understand and value the need for support to all parties involved in an allegation, including the aggrieved person and the alleged offender, and we actively seek to provide this support.
6. We acknowledge the personal and public difficulties that a false, misconceived, malicious or vexatious allegation can cause for the person accused. We will take whatever steps are possible to address these difficulties.
7. We are willing to know the full extent of the problem of abuse and the causes of such behaviour within the church. We will strive to be aware of our legal responsibilities and obligations in relation to prevention, reporting and processing requirements and seek to meet them at all times.
8. We acknowledge that we have had to make changes in the way that we relate to children and young people and others. As a result, some good things have been lost. However we will bear this loss to ensure as far as possible that the vulnerable are safe.
9. We will ensure as far as possible that all people in positions of authority within the church and/or working with children and young people are aware of the appropriate standard of conduct and boundaries. We require those who work on behalf of the church to

indicate their agreement with this policy statement and work towards providing an environment that prevents abuse.

10. We believe that churches ought to be places of safety and refuge for children, young people and others, where they should be and feel safe from any threat when on church property or involved in activities operated by the church, or accessing services provided by the church. We believe that the church should be a place where people can disclose abuse and have it dealt with effectively.
11. We will establish a prevention strategy that includes screening, sound recruitment and selection procedures, clear boundaries, risk identification and management, education, support, supervision and training.
12. We acknowledge that the age of consent for sexual activity is determined by legislation. However, we are mindful that this must be read in the light of our moral and spiritual responsibility. All people in a position of authority within the church, be it real or perceived, paid or unpaid, have a moral and spiritual responsibility towards those over whom they have authority. In this situation it is never appropriate to take part in sexual activity of any kind, regardless of the person's age. We affirm that sexual behaviour belongs in a marriage relationship only and that in this context it is a good gift of God.
13. All allegations will be notified to the appropriate external authorities, overseen by the CPU[^], investigated thoroughly and determined as described in *Breaking the Silence*.
14. Irrespective of any other action that may be taken by authorities outside the church, the church reserves the right to exercise its powers according to the Code of Discipline and *Breaking the Silence* wherever this action is deemed necessary.

* It is to be understood that, as the policy and practice of this new approach is rolled-out, that each time the title "*Breaking the Silence*" is used, it will be replaced by "Safe Church – PCV"

[^] It is to be understood that, as the policy and practice of this new approach is rolled-out, that each time the title "Conduct Protocol Unit" or "CPU" is used, it will be replaced by "Safe Church Unit" or "SCU"

5. Approve the following "Our Code of Conduct":

Our Code of Conduct

The following constitutes the church's Code of Conduct for behaviour for a person in a position of authority within the church:

1. As a person in a position of authority within the church you must always be concerned about the integrity of your position, likely perceptions of the church and the wider community, and the need to acknowledge the real or perceived power given to you as a result of

holding this position. You should avoid situations where you are vulnerable to temptation or where your conduct may be construed to be a breach of this Code of Conduct. You will make yourself familiar with the provisions of *Breaking the Silence**.

2. You must not fail to take action to prevent to the best of your ability, and report as required, the following:
 - a. child abuse,
 - b. a child or young person at risk of significant harm,
 - c. reportable conduct,
 - d. sexual misconduct, and/or
 - e. conduct that breaches the *Breaking the Silence* Code of Conduct.
3. Sexualised behaviour is any behaviour that may reasonably be perceived to be of a sexual nature according to the standards of the time by the person to whom it is directed. Sexualised behaviour is only permitted as set out in the Word of God. Except with one's own marriage partner, all sexualised behaviour is forbidden. If you are not married you must abstain from all sexual or sexualised behaviour.
4. You must not engage in or condone any behaviour that could be considered to be:
 - a. child abuse,
 - b. putting a child or young person at risk of significant harm,
 - c. reportable conduct, and/or
 - d. conduct that breaches this *Breaking the Silence* Code of Conduct.
5. You must not engage in or condone any behaviour that could be considered to be sexual misconduct, understanding that sexual misconduct is contact or invitation, via any means, of a sexual nature which is inconsistent with the integrity of a person in a position of authority within the church. Sexual misconduct includes any behaviour that could be reasonably considered to be sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, coercion or grooming of an adult or a child or young person.
6. Sexual exploitation refers to any form of sexualised behaviour with an adult, child or young person, whether or not there is consent and regardless of who initiated the behaviour, where that behaviour is contrary to the Word of God. Therefore, you will not among other things engage in or condone any of the following:
 - a. behaviour or a pattern of behaviour aimed at the involvement of others in sexual acts, including but not limited to coercion or grooming behaviour,
 - b. sexualised behaviour with a person below the age of consent,
 - c. sexualised behaviour with a person with whom there is a supervisory, pastoral care, or counselling relationship,
 - d. the production, distribution, possession of or accessing of pornographic material of any kind,

- e. taking advantage of the conscious or unconscious use of sexually provocative behaviour that some victims of abuse display,
 - f. engaging the services of a prostitute, or soliciting or providing such services,
 - g. visiting, without legitimate reason, a brothel or any place maintained for the abuse-of-sex industry,
 - h. viewing or reading, in print or otherwise, material of a sexually explicit nature, except for a legitimate purpose,
 - i. participating in sexually explicit conversation via social media, chat rooms, gaming or any other means, and
 - j. asking, without legitimate reason, any questions about the intimate details of a person's sexual life or providing details of your own sexual life.
7. Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexualised behaviour, whether intended or not, in relation to an adult, child or young person where that person reasonably feels in all circumstances offended, belittled or threatened. Such behaviour may consist of a single incident or several incidents over a period of time. Therefore, you will not, among other things engage in or condone:
- a. implicit or explicit demands or suggestions for sexual activities,
 - b. making any gesture, action or comment of a sexual nature to a person or about a person in their presence,
 - c. making jokes containing sexual references or innuendo using any form of communication,
 - d. exposure to any form of sexually explicit or suggestive material, including but not limited to pornography of any kind,
 - e. physical contact that is inappropriate to the situation or uncomfortable or confusing for the receiver, including kissing, hugging, touching, pinching, patting or aggressive physical conduct,
 - f. touching any sexual part of the body, including the "only kidding" or accidental occasions of sexual touch,
 - g. generating or participating in inappropriate personal correspondence (including electronic communication) in respect of sexual or romantic feelings or in breach of the Code of Conduct,
 - h. inappropriate giving of gifts, including those of a sexual, suggestive or romantic nature that is in breach of the Code of Conduct,
 - i. inappropriate or unnecessary discussion of, or inquiry about, personal matters of a sexual nature,
 - j. inappropriate intrusion of personal space or physical privacy, including being alone in a bedroom or bathroom or allowing inappropriate exposure during activities that require dressing or changing clothes,
 - k. voyeurism, and
 - l. persistent following or stalking.
8. Coercion or grooming behaviour refers to physical or psychological actions intrinsic to initiating or hiding abusive behaviour, which

involved the manipulative cultivation of relationships with vulnerable adults, children and/or young people, their carers and others in authority. You will not exhibit any behaviour that could be considered to be coercion or grooming behaviour.

9. With regard to children and young people:
 - a. You will not visit a child or young person in their own home unless a parent is present or you visit with another person in a position of authority within the church with parental permission.
 - b. You will not conduct a camp or other activity involving overnight accommodation without appropriate “camp parents” (ideally a married couple over the age of 25 years, of known maturity and Christian commitment) approved by the supervising body.
 - c. You will not provide any form of accommodation for any reason where there is not strict segregation by sex, with the exception of married couples and families. Supervision of children and/or young people must be provided by a person of the same sex.
 - d. You will ensure that any activity involving children and/or young people is open to observation by parents and other adults with a legitimate interest.
10. With regard to adults, children and young people:
 - a. 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.
 - b. You will not participate in or allow nude swimming or other such activities.
 - c. You will not participate in or allow initiations and secret ceremonies.
11. With regard to adults, children and young people, either the Presbytery or Session may make temporary variations in respect to the details of the following. These temporary variations will be formally recorded by the Presbytery or Session and will be made on a restricted basis for individuals in specific circumstances for a specific period of time. Where no temporary variation is formally recorded, the following will apply without change:
 - a. You will take care to ensure an appropriate balance of transparency and confidentiality so that the private concerns of others are not disclosed or revealed improperly. In ordinary circumstances, when you are providing pastoral care to, or working with members of the opposite sex, you will strive to do so in an environment that allows visual surveillance and, where reasonable, have other people within hearing distance.
 - b. You will not allow a child to sleep in close proximity to an adult, other than a parent or guardian, unless there is a significant separation, and privacy of all parties is respected.

- c. You will not allow an adult to share accommodation with one child or young person only unless they are a parent or guardian of that child or young person.
- d. You will not drive a child or young person unaccompanied.

Where specified provisions cannot be followed in an emergency, the circumstances of the emergency and the actions taken should be reported to and approved by the supervising body. Where the actions taken are not approved they will be considered to be a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Any breaches of this Code of Conduct for any reason will be reported to the appropriate supervising body as soon as possible. The supervising body will then report the matter to the CPU[^].

* It is to be understood that, as the policy and practice of this new approach is rolled-out, that each time the title "*Breaking the Silence*" is used, it will be replaced by "Safe Church – PCV"

[^] It is to be understood that, as the policy and practice of this new approach is rolled-out, that each time the title "Conduct Protocol Unit" or "CPU" is used, it will be replaced by "Safe Church Unit" or "SCU"

6. Place the Safe Church Unit organisationally under the Assembly Clerk.
7. Maintain the Ad Hoc Committee re: Revision of *Breaking the Silence* in operation until such time as the Safe Church Unit is fully functional.
8. Direct the Ad Hoc Committee re: Revision of *Breaking the Silence* to report progress on the establishment of the Safe Church Unit, staffing and procedures for training and auditing to the 2014 General Assembly.
9. Thank Mrs Elizabeth McClean, the trustees of the V N Sanders Charitable Trust and Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke for their valuable assistance.
10. Fund the cost of the Safe Church Unit by an annual levy on parishes which is to be based on the number of communicants and adherents in a similar manner to the way the insurance costs are recovered from parishes, with the initial levy to be based on the budget approved at the next Commission of Assembly and thereafter to be adjusted to match actual expenditure.

The motion was seconded and approved.

65. Witness to Jews

Rev Michael Jensen moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Recognise the mission field of approximately 50,000 Jews living in Melbourne, as a vital field of ministry.
2. Encourage ministers, sessions and congregations to support the work of Christian Witness to Israel (CWI) in fulfilling the call of the scriptures to take the gospel to the Jew first, and to prayerfully uphold the ministry of the recently appointed CWI worker in Melbourne, Rev Stephen Holmes, and his wife, Lana.

Rev Peter Owen sought leave to move an amendment.

Leave was granted.

Rev Peter Owen moved that the Assembly amend the motion by removing the word 'first', and add the letter 's' to the word 'Jew'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was put:

That the Assembly:

1. Recognise the mission field of approximately 50,000 Jews living in Melbourne, as a vital field of ministry.
2. Encourage ministers, sessions and congregations to support the work of Christian Witness to Israel (CWI) in fulfilling the call of the scriptures to take the gospel to the Jews, and to prayerfully uphold the ministry of the recently appointed CWI worker in Melbourne, Rev Stephen Holmes, and his wife, Lana.

The motion as amended was seconded and approved.

66. Clerkship Committee

The Clerk left the Assembly.

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

The report of the Clerkship Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rt Rev David Palmer, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Reappoint Rev John Wilson as Assembly Clerk for a five year term on a full time basis from the rising of the 2013 General Assembly.
2. Approve the following job description for the Assembly Clerk

Role of the Clerk:

1. The Clerk is the chief administrative officer of the Assembly.
2. The Clerk is the convener of the Code and General Administration Committee; secretary of the Commission for Church Institutions and provides support to the Assembly Moderator and Presbytery Moderators and Clerks.
3. The Clerk proactively seeks the peace and good government of the denomination.
4. The Clerk liaises with the General Assembly of Australia and other state Assemblies.
5. The Clerk supervises the work of the Safe Church Unit.
6. The Clerk is the Church's second representative to the Victorian Church Leaders meeting.
7. In carrying out 1-6 above, the Clerk, where appropriate, exercises a pastoral responsibility towards the ministers and members of the denomination.

Specific Duties of the Clerk

1. As the chief administrative officer of the Assembly, the Clerk shall:
 - a. keep an accurate roll of Assembly;
 - b. receive, examine, record and report to the Assembly all documents, papers or communications addressed to it;
 - c. prepare the White Book;
 - d. attend all sittings of the Assembly;
 - e. keep a correct record of all proceedings of the Assembly;
 - f. prepare the minutes after each sitting of the Assembly, for

- publication;
 - g. notify the assumption of office by the Moderator to the Governor, state and civic authorities, and such other public authorities as may be required;
 - h. be Clerk of the Commission of Assembly and the Committee of the Whole;
 - i. make such statutory declarations and affidavits as may from time to time be required by law;
 - j. keep in safe custody all books, records and documents of the Assembly, excepting those for the custody of which the Assembly makes other provision, and to produce the same or furnish certified copies of or extracts from the same when legally required to do so;
 - k. see that the decisions of the Assembly are notified to presbyteries, committees and congregations concerned;
 - l. provide annual training of presbytery clerks and committee representatives in all relevant matters of the Code, and in meeting procedures in order to expedite the business of presbyteries and committees in an efficient and responsible manner;
 - m. teach church polity at PTC, Box Hill North as required;
 - n. correspond with and supply information to all who require official information concerning the business of the Assembly;
 - o. make available to the press, radio and television, information concerning the Church;
 - p. facilitate the flow of information through The Presbyterian Church of Victoria email network;
 - q. be responsible for The Presbyterian Church of Victoria archives (but the funding of them is to be by General Assembly decision on the recommendation of the Board of Investment and Finance);
 - r. inform the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages of those to be registered under the Marriage Act as marriage celebrants and any changes to their status.
2. As Convener of the Code and General Administration Committee, the Clerk:
 - a. shall ensure the work of the committee is fulfilled according to its regulations;
 - b. shall in terms of Rule 6.5f provide advice to parties who wish to bring business to the court;
 - c. is the first point of contact by presbytery clerks, committee conveners, and others for interpretation and application of the church rules as set out in Rule 5:12.
 3. The Clerk (along with the Deputy Clerk), in the first instance, provides timely assistance and guidance for members of the church, and for the church's courts and committees, in all matters of the rules, practice and procedure of the church (see rule 5.12).
 4. In liaising with General Assembly of Australia and other state Assemblies, the Clerk shall seek:

- a. the good government of the Presbyterian Church of Australia;
- b. the advancement of the kingdom of God throughout the nation.

Relationship with the Clerkship Committee

The purpose of the Clerkship Committee is to provide pastoral and other support for the Clerk and to administer the Clerk's terms of settlement – details of the Clerkship Committee's function are provided in the Committee's Regulations.

Additional Matters concerning the Clerk in Relation to Outside Bodies (2007 BB, Min. 95)

1. The Clerk of the Assembly is appointed as the second representative to the Victorian Church Leaders meeting.
 2. The Clerk of the Assembly and the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee are directed to consult with one another and the Moderator on upcoming business of Heads of Churches, including the possibility of adding new business to the Agenda of Heads of Churches.
 3. The recognition that from time to time the Moderator, the Clerk and the Convener will individually represent the Church in communication with Government, the Media and other outside bodies on matters of social and ethical concern in accordance with the relevant clauses in the regulations of the Church and Nation Committee.
 4. The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Convener of the Church and Nation Committee are requested to undertake periodic training in regard to the Church's relations with the Media and other outside bodies.
3. Approve the following revised terms of settlement for the Assembly Clerk:
1. **Appointment**
 - a. **Initial**
That the Clerk be appointed to a full time position from the rising of the 2013 General Assembly for a 5 year period.
 - b. **Review**
The review of
 - i. the roles and specific duties of the Clerk
 - ii. the performance of the Clerk during his time in office, and
 - iii. the terms of settlement for the Clerk, and
 - iv. the reappointment of the Clerk.
 is undertaken by the Clerkship Committee which reports each year to the General Assembly.
 - c. **Reappointment**
On receiving the report and recommendations of the Clerkship Committee, the Assembly may re-appoint the Clerk to his position for up to a further five years on such terms and conditions as it may determine. The Clerk may be re-appointed for subsequent periods of up to five years after further review.

2. Remuneration

The remuneration for the position of Clerk of Assembly will be a package based on providing the same after tax benefit as Minimum Remuneration with a 25% loading and the after tax equivalent of a full manse allowance and payment of manse energy. In addition to the remuneration, the Assembly will meet the cost of providing a home phone and internet connection and additional travel over 6000 km pa at the nominated rate.

3. Termination of Appointment

a. By the Assembly

If after review of the Clerk's performance, the Assembly resolves that the Clerk not be re-appointed, the Assembly shall give him through the Moderator six months written notice of termination.

b. By the Clerk

If the Clerk desires to resign his appointment, he shall give the Assembly in writing through the Moderator at least six months' notice of his desire.

4. Clerical Assistance

Clerical assistance for the Clerk shall be provided by the office of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

5. Seat on Presbytery

The Clerk, if he is a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria or an elder who is a member of a session, shall have a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides.

4. Approve payment to the parish of the minister appointed Acting Clerk, in the event of the absence of the Clerk due to leave taken, illness or otherwise incapacity to perform the duties of his office for a period of five weeks or more, of an amount calculated on the basis of 10% of the Clerk's remuneration for the period so served.
5. Request the Clerkship Committee to report to the 2014 Assembly on succession planning.
6. Express its gratitude to God and its appreciation and confidence in its Clerk, Rev John P Wilson, in the performance of his diverse and often complex duties.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator called Mr Wilson into the Assembly and informed him of the Assembly's decision.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

67. Building and Property Committee

The report of the Building and Property Committee was laid on the table and received.

It was agreed to vary the order of the day to take up the report of the PIM.

68. Communication 1 – Presbyterian Inland Mission, re: the work of the PIM

Communication 1 was laid on the table and received.

(1) Rev Rob Duncanson moved:

That the Assembly:

Commend the Presbyterian Inland Mission for its initiative in establishing the witness of the Presbyterian Church in Alice Springs.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Rob Duncanson moved:

That the Assembly:

Accept jurisdiction over the Presbyterian Gospel ministry in the Alice Springs area.

The motion was seconded.

(3) The Clerk moved

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by the addition of the words 'upon notification of the GAA'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved:

(4) That the Assembly:

Accept jurisdiction over the Presbyterian Gospel ministry in the Alice Springs area upon notification of the GAA.

(5) Rev Rob Duncanson moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Request the Presbytery of Melbourne North to exercise presbyterial function and authority over Alice Springs in relation to and consistent with the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission, at and from the first meeting of the Presbytery after the approval of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is given.
2. Acknowledge that the work of the Presbyterian Church in Alice Springs is under the authority and management of the PIM committee but such to be consistent with the Practice and Procedure of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
3. Request the PIM committee to provide the Presbytery of Melbourne North and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria with reports from time to time in respect to its work in Alice Springs.
4. Urge the members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to pray earnestly, consistently and with perseverance for the remote mission churches of the PIM, namely Alice Springs, Darwin and Mount Magnet Presbyterian Churches.

The motion was seconded and approved.

At the invitation of the Moderator, Rev Keith Bell addressed the Assembly on the PIM work in Alice Springs.

At the request of the Moderator, Rev Robert White led in prayer for the work of the PIM.

69. Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Martin de Pyle, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Urge ministers, home missionaries and lay preachers to keep praying for military chaplains as they minister in the name of Christ to ADF personnel in Australia and overseas.
2. Express thanks to Rev Allan M Harman for the faithful leadership he provides to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services.
3. Encourage ministers to consider and apply for ministry as Defence Force chaplains, both full-time and as reservists.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led in prayer for the work of Defence Force Chaplaincy.

70. Christian Education and Nurture Committee

The report of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Scott Kroeger, moved the deliverance, including additional clause 4: That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the harmonious working relationships evident within the Committee.
2. Thank Ms Fiona Nicholson for her work as the PYV administration officer over the last year.
3. Approve the following Aim and Objectives restatement for the PYV:
 - a. PYV aims to glorify God by assisting the congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the development and nurture of youth for the service of Christ Jesus.
 - i. We believe that God continues to draw people to himself through Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit, so we will provide opportunity and assistance to youth to commit their life to Jesus as their Saviour.
 - ii. We value unity in the body of Christ, so we will provide opportunities for fellowship and shared experiences in a Christian context.
 - iii. We believe that youth have the ability to lead and serve in their local church, so we will provide training and opportunities to lead within PYV in the hope they will use this experience elsewhere.
 - iv. We know that youth are still developing, so we will provide whatever support we can to help them “grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (2 Pet 3:18)
 - v. We value local church ministry, so we will seek to provide whatever support and resources we can to individual churches. (Training; Books; Guidance)
 - vi. PYV is a part of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, so we will do what we can to represent the needs of youth within the courts of the church.
4. Thank retiring committee members Rev Matt James and Rev Michael Wishart for their faithful service over many years over a variety of committee portfolios.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's Chaplain Rev David Brown led the Assembly in prayer for the work of CENC and PYV.

71. Petition 5 – from Presbytery of Flinders re: Dissolution of Lyndhurst Congregation

Past Moderator Andrew Bray took the chair.

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

The Moderator was asked to rule on the competency of the petition.

The Moderator ruled that the petition was competent.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

- Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Agree to the decision of the Presbytery of Flinders taken on 27 August 2013 to dissolve the Lyndhurst congregation (in accord with rule 4:90).

2. Permit the property at 214 Western Port Highway to be used as a church site in conjunction with the South East Samoan Congregation under the terms of the Model Trust Deed for church sites.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

72. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9 October 2013, which having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

Clerks:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
5th Sederunt: Wednesday 9 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 9 October 2013 at 7.00pm.

73. Constitution:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. Moderator's Chaplain Rev David Brown led the Assembly in worship and constituted the Assembly with prayer.

74. Apologies

The Clerk noted the following apologies:

Ministers:

For this sederunt:

Felix Chung, John Cromarty, Stephen Deroon, Andrew Slater, Mike Wharton.

Elders:

For this sederunt:

Edward de Zilwa.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

75. Business Committee

The Business Convener laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

76. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table minutes of the 4th sederunt.

77. Theological Education Committee

Rev Dr Jared Hood left the Assembly.

The report of the Theological Education Committee was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Convener (Rev Neil Chambers) Rev Mark Smith moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-10 were approved.

Clauses 13-14 were approved.

Clause 11 was approved with acclamation.

Clause 12 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the nine and a half years' service of Mrs Mignon Goswell as the founder and manager of PTC Media, and for the support she has offered to students, ministers and members of the denomination in pursuing study of God's Word through this service.

2. Note with sadness the retirement of Mrs Heather Rickard from the post of librarian due to ill health, thank her for her faithful service to the College through her work in the library, and join in praying for an improvement in health in her retirement.
3. Give thanks to God for the Principal Peter Hastie and the Faculty, and pray that our Lord would continue to sustain their strength, grant them continuing faithfulness in life and teaching, and the joy of seeing their labour fruitful in the lives of their students.
4. Give thanks to God for the work of Alicia Noble and Sophia Urbano in the College Office and for the support they offer the Principal, Faculty and students.
5. Give thanks to God for the continuing work of the training officer Rev Nello Barbieri and pray for his continued health and wisdom as he seeks to develop training for service throughout the denomination.
6. Thank Rev Dr Bruce Winter, Prof Allan Harman, Prof Douglas Milne, Rev John Wilson, Dr Karl Hood, Mrs Gillian Asquith, Mrs Wendy Bytheway for the assistance they have given to the College over the last twelve months as part time lecturers.
7. Thank, on the occasion of their retirement from the Committee, Rev Phil Daffy and Rev Mark Smith for their service on the TEC and the contribution they have made to the continued operation of the PTC.
8. Note and thank the METRO Committee for their generous support as the TEC seeks to normalise the funding of the Training Officer within their budget.
9. Note and thank the Assembly Office for their assistance and especially their continuing help in formulating our Budget.
10. Urge all members of the Assembly to continue in diligent prayer asking the Lord Jesus to continue to provide us with those He has gifted to be pastors and teachers, and encourage all members of the Assembly to draw the attention of suitably gifted men to the need of the Lord's people for pastors and teachers.
11. Appoint Rev Dr Jared Hood [Dip ChrisStud, BTh (Hons), Dip Theol (Past Min), MTh (ACTh), ThM (Westminster, 1st), GradDipIS, MA (Th), PhD (Melb)] to the position of Old Testament Lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological College, Victoria for a term of seven years.
12. Declare the Lecturer in Old Testament Studies remuneration package to be:
 - a. 1.05 times the minister's remuneration package as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly.
 - b. manse provided or benefit as set by the Theological Education Committee.
 - c. telephone rent plus all calls.
 - d. superannuation at the ministerial rate.
 - e. six-months' paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of appointment.
 - f. removal costs paid by the Theological Education Committee within Australia but a negotiated figure if from overseas.
 - g. annual leave equivalent to ministerial annual leave as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly, currently five weeks.
 - h. Workcover.
 - i. payment of manse energy bills up to \$2,000 per annum as a non cash benefit.
 - j. any other provision the Assembly may determine.
13. Grant permission to the TEC to bring to the Commission of Assembly the names of suitable people to be members of a sub-committee to assist the TEC by both developing a Master Plan for the College property and also suggesting

ways of funding the implementation of the Master Plan when adopted. The committee would bring a separate report to the Assembly through the TEC.

14. Continue to consider ways of restructuring its administrative and committee structure to reduce the burden on ministers and increase the coherence and effectiveness of the Assembly's operations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Dr Jared Hood was recalled to the Assembly.

The Moderator informed Dr Hood of the Assembly's decision.

At the invitation of the Moderator, Dr Hood addressed the Assembly.

Very Rev Dr Allan Harman led the Assembly in prayer.

78. Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Fund

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Fund was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Andrew Bray, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

Approve an extension of time to receive a report at the 2014 Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

79. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Andrew Bray, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to Almighty God for the operations of the Assembly's committees, boards and councils in the 2012-2013 Assembly year.
2. Confirm the appointment of those members appointed by the Selection Committee to fill casual vacancies on committees since the 2012 Assembly.
3. Appoint all those nominated to committees, boards, councils and other bodies and positions as in the Selection Committee's report.
4. Extend the term of the Convener of the Moderator's Committee by one year to 2014 (i.e. exceed the 7 year rule for conveners).
5. Thank all outgoing conveners for their work as conveners of their respective committees.

The motion was seconded and approved.

80. Conciliation Committee

The report of the Conciliation Committee was laid on the table and received.

81. Petition 6 – from Presbytery of Flinders re: Ordination of Licentiate Peter Roberts

Past Moderator Rev Andrew Bray took the chair.

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the Presbytery of Flinders, given the special circumstances of the situation, to ordain Peter Roberts under the terms of rule 4A:49 and grant him a seat on the Presbytery for as long as his appointment as Home Missionary to Cranbourne continues.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Mark Smith moved:

That the Assembly:

Give thanks to God for the growth of the Cranbourne parish under the ministry of Mr Peter Roberts, and commend the presbytery for its diligent oversight of this growing ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

Rev Ken Martin led the Assembly in prayer.

It was agreed to vary the order of the day to take up Communication 6.

82. Communication 6 – from Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA, re: advising of the decision of the GAA to sustain an appeal by Rev Dr Peter Barclay from a 2010 decision of the GAV to the GAA.

Communication 6 was laid on the table and received.

83. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Thursday 11 October 2013, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
6th Sederunt: Thursday 10 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Thursday 10 October 2013 at 9.30am.

84. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer, constituted the Assembly with prayer.

85. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev Dr Jared Hood, led the Assembly in the third of this Assembly Expositions, 'Sanctification', based on 2 Corinthians 7:8-11.

86. Thanks to Assembly Expositor

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express its sincere thanks to its Assembly Expositor, Rev Dr Jared Hood, for his memorable preaching in the Assembly Communion Service and for his equally memorable Assembly Expositions, and its deep appreciation of his sustained focus on Christ, the mediator of the covenant of grace, our beloved, and the salvation that is the fruit of our union with him, with clarity, earnestness, passion and purpose.

The motion was seconded and approved with acclamation.

The Moderator added his thanks to Dr Hood for his expositions.

87. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies for this sederunt:

Ministers: Stephen Deroon, Wally Gear, Ian Hutton, Mark Tonkin, Rod Waterhouse, Mike Wharton.

Elders: John Angelico, Brian Bayston, Craig Coates, Tom Cunneen, Edward de Zilwa, John Lagerwey, David Selman.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

88. Business Committee

The Business Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

89. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table minutes of the 5th sederunt.

90. ACCESS Ministries

The report of the Presbyterian Representatives on the ACCESS Ministries Council was laid on the table and received.

Rev Grant Lawry and Mrs Alison Thomas introduced Mrs Alyson Prescott, Area Leader, Manningham and Whitehorse, to the Assembly.
Mrs Prescott addressed the Assembly on the work of CRE in schools.

91. Exit Students Committee

The report of the Exit Students Committee was laid on the table and received.

92. Petition 7 – from Presbytery of Ballarat re: MDC funding for Kaniva-Nhill

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the Ministry Development Committee at its discretion and subject to MDC guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Kaniva-Nhill parish for the current 2013/2014 financial year, as well as the 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 financial years (if subsidies are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Michael Jensen moved:

That the Assembly:

Encourage the Presbytery of Ballarat to hold a time of prayer in the Kaniva-Nhill parish for the revitalisation of Kaniva-Nhill ministry and Christian witness.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly's decision.

The petitioners were removed from the bar.

93. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

The report of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Miles Fagan, introduced Rev Peter Clarke to the Assembly.

Mr Clark addressed the Assembly on the subject of workplace chaplaincy.

Mrs Kathy James addressed the Assembly on the proposed reappointment of Elspeth Slater, and the PCV's engagement with the Health Care Chaplaincy Council of Victoria (HCCVI).

The Convener moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-3 were approved.

Clause 4 was approved with acclamation.

The Moderator informed Elspeth Slater of the Assembly's decision, and thanked her for her pastoral care of ministers' wives.

Clauses 5-15 were approved.

Moderator's Chaplain Rev Ken Brown led the Assembly in prayer for the work of the HCCC, chaplains and chaplaincy in Victoria.

Rev David Schulz moved that the Assembly amend the deliverance by the addition of a further clause 16 as follows:

16. Encourage our churches to pray for and support the work of Red Frogs during schoolies week and encourage our young people to attend the training and participate in this ministry.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the faithful work of all our paid and voluntary chaplains and ask for his blessing on their continued labours in a variety of fields in the coming year.
2. Pray for Christine LePage and Ian Waller as they settle into their pastoral care roles at Northern and Western Hospitals respectively.
3. Express our thanks and support to Rev Keith Bell for his long ministry in Paediatric Chaplaincy on behalf of the PCV and pray that the Lord will bless him and Jenny in their new role in Alice Springs.
4. Reappoint Miss Elspeth Slater to the position of Pastoral Support Worker, PCV Ministry Wives for a two year term from 1/7/2013 (retrospective).
5. Give thanks to God for the talent that he has provided us with on this committee.
6. Thank Rev Evan Prentice and Rev Jeremy Dover for their service to this committee.
7. Praise God for the overwhelming generosity of PCV congregations in contributing to this year's Good Friday Appeal and for grace and wisdom for the committee in the faithful administration of these funds.
8. Pray for guidance and direction for the HCCC in all future endeavours relating to the recruitment, development and training of future chaplaincy and pastoral care workers.
9. Give thanks for the provision of suitable office and meeting spaces for HCCC at both Heathmont House and Scots Church.
10. Pray for AFES; for the outreach, pastoral care and training of students that occurs.
11. Pray for God's leading and guidance in our ongoing engagement with external chaplaincy providers and government linked organisations including Converge International, HCCVI, ACCESS Ministries and the Victorian Council of Churches.
12. Pray that HCCVI's strategies and future directions and HCCC's engagement with chaplaincy at the coalface will be in unison.
13. Give thanks for many opportunities for collaboration with other Assembly committees in the mutual support of important denominational work and pray for God's help and blessing on all such endeavours in the future.
14. Encourage all presbyteries to consider establishing a Pastoral Care Committee.
15. Continue to provide encouragement for those ministers who are participants in the Pastor's Renewal Retreat Group programs.
16. Encourage our churches to pray for and support the work of Red Frogs during schoolies week and encourage our young people to attend the training and participate in this ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

94. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU)

The report of the PWMU was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Elaine Blythe, President of the PWMU, and Mrs Fiona Bligh, Secretary of the PWMU, and the other ladies of the PWMU to the Assembly.

The Moderator invited Mrs Blythe to address the Assembly.

Mrs Blythe addressed the Assembly on the work of the PWMU over the past year.
The Moderator thanked Mrs Blythe for her report and led in prayer.

95. Federal Vision Ad Hoc Committee

Past Moderator Rev Andrew Bray took the chair.

The report of the Federal Vision Ad Hoc Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Adopt the statement prepared by the Ad-Hoc Committee re: Federal Vision as this Assembly's position on Federal Vision/Auburn Avenue Theologies and determine that it be placed on the PCV website.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take up the fixed order of the day for St Andrews Christian College (see min. 99)

96. St Andrews Christian College

The report of St Andrews College was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed invited Mr James Bligh, Board Chairman, to the Assembly.

Mr Bligh addressed the Assembly on present gospel opportunities available through Christian schools, and challenged the Assembly in that there is no Assembly Committee which has the promotion of Christian education in its regulations.

The Clerk invited members interested in taking up this challenge to submit their names to him.

97. Conflict in Egypt and Syria

Rev Darren Middleton sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

Rev Darren Middleton moved:

That the Assembly:

Disturbed and grieved by the ongoing conflict in Egypt and Syria and the devastation of war in Syria, resulting in loss of life, property, freedom and peace,

1. Assure our Christian brothers and sisters in Egypt and Syria of our ongoing prayers and concern during these current tribulations and communicate this to the Barnabas Fund and relevant church bodies in both nations.
2. Encourage congregations of the PCV to give generously towards the Barnabas Fund as a practical expression of our love and concern for our fellow Christians.

The motion was seconded and approved.

98. Appeal 1. – Dr Mary Frances Graham re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne North of 19th February 2013, minute 13.020

The parties were called to the bar.

The petition was received.

(1) The Acting Clerk moved:

That the Assembly

1. Sit in private.
2. Allow Richard Ely, Jean Ely and Bev Hawke, members of the Mernda Congregation, to remain in the Assembly while it sits in private for this matter.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.

The appellant was heard.

The respondents were heard.

The appellant was heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(2) The Acting Clerk moved:

That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Assembly deliberated on the case.

(3) The Acting Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the appeal.

Privilege:

Rev Ken Martin asked the Moderator to rule on a point of privilege.

The Moderator ruled that there had been no question of privilege.

Rev John Dekker moved that the Moderator's ruling be departed from.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The motion to sustain the appeal was seconded and approved.

Dissent:

Rev Brian Harvey

Rev Ken Martin

Elder Robert Herweynen

Rev Brian Harvey gave reasons for his dissent as follows:

I, Brian Harvey, record my dissent on the sustaining of the appeal from the Mernda congregation on the grounds that sections 4 and 5 of the appeal make comments about two ministers. I believe matters raised in these two points are false and were declared to be false by the presbytery in their response to the appeal.

The Acting Clerk read these reasons for dissent to the Assembly.

(4) The Acting Clerk moved:

That the Assembly

1. Note with satisfaction the steps taken since that time to rectify the matters raised by the petition, especially the restoration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the congregation, and the return to the 9.15am Sunday service time;
2. Ask the presbytery to inform the petitioner of the outcome of its enquiry into the effect of the Church Plant on the Whittlesea / Mernda parish;
3. Recommend to the appellant that she raise the other matters of concern mentioned in the course of the presentation of her appeal with the presbytery as the court of first instance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(5) Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Assembly:

Encourage the Mernda congregation to pray for the health of its minister.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(6) Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Assembly:

Direct the Mernda congregation to give all due respect to their minister and Session.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and informed them of the Assembly's decision.

The parties were removed from the bar.

It was agreed to resume meeting in open court.

99. Federal Vision Ad Hoc Committee (min.95)

It was agreed to resume the debate.

(1) The motion,

“That the Assembly:

Adopt the statement prepared by the Ad-Hoc Committee re: Federal Vision Theology as this Assembly’s position on Federal Vision/Auburn Avenue Theologies and determine that it be placed on the PCV website.”

was put and approved.

Appeal:

Rev John Dekker indicated his intent to appeal.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Consider that the appeal is evidently without sufficient substance and that it therefore proceed without regard to the appeal.

Rev David Brown asked the Moderator to rule on a question of privilege.

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

(3) Very Rev Bob Thomas moved

That the Assembly:

Amend the proposed motion by the deletion of words ‘Consider that the appeal is evidently without sufficient substance and that it therefore’.

The amendment was seconded.

Rev David Brown asked the Moderator to rule that the proposed amendment was incompetent.

The Moderator ruled that the amendment was competent.

The amendment was disapproved.

The Clerk’s motion

“That the Assembly:

Consider that the appeal is evidently without sufficient substance and that it therefore proceed without regard to the appeal.”

was disapproved.

The Deputy Clerk sought leave to move a motion without notice arising from the debate.

Leave was granted.

(4) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Refer the report to the Committee for clarification on this point and further report to the Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(5) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank the Committee for their thorough, discerning and helpful work.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(6) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint as respondents Principal Peter Hastie and Professor Douglas Milne.

The motion was seconded and approved.

100. Records Committee

The report of the Records Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Graham Nicholson, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Note that records for the Presbyteries of Benalla, Flinders, Geelong, Kilnoorat, Maroondah, Melbourne East, Melbourne North, Melbourne West, have been examined.
2. Request the Committee to give attention to the examination of Assembly Committee records, and to bring a report of such examination to the Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

101. State News Committee

The report of the State News Committee was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Convener (Rev Neil Harvey), Rev Philip Daffy moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank Mr Kevin Childs for his faithful service on the committee.
2. Express its appreciation of the work of Mrs Chiara Bilyj as Editor of *fellow workers*.
3. Thank Mr Mike Timmins for his efforts in helping the committee to operate within its budget.
4. Encourage individuals, families, congregations and presbyteries to use *fellow workers* as a basis for prayerful interest and support of the spread of the gospel throughout the state, across Australia (particularly via PIM) and further a field (particularly via APWM).

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator asked Mr Daffy to convey the Assembly's appreciation to Mrs Chiara Bilyj for her work as Editor of *fellowworkers*.

102. Church Planting Committee

The report of the Church Planting Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Don Elliott, moved the deliverance, including additional clauses 2 and 3.

Rev Don Elliott introduced Russ Grinter, Church Planter in South-East Bendigo, and Rev Peter Owen, Church Planter in Point Cook, to the Assembly.

Mr Grinter and Mr Owen addressed the Assembly with regard to their church planting ministries.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-2 were approved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Rev Neil Benfell moved that the Assembly amend the deliverance by the addition of a further clause 4 as follows:

4. Establish an Ad-hoc committee of investigation into various models of church planting and Church Planter assessment used in the UK, the USA and Australia, with a view to developing a PCV Church Planter assessment process for the 2015 General Assembly, the committee to consist of Richard O'Brien, Robert White, Andrew Venn, Dennis Wright, and two members of the Church Planting Committee selected by the Church Planting Committee.

The amendment was seconded.

The previous question was moved, seconded and disapproved.

Rev Rob Duncanson raised a question of privilege.

The Moderator ruled that there had been no breach of privilege.

Rev Rob Duncanson moved that the Assembly depart from the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

The amendment was disapproved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note with gratitude to God the progress of all four church plants and be especially prayerful for Darebin Presbyterian Church, Point Cook Presbyterian Church and Reforming Church, Bendigo as they enter into their second years.
2. Thank Rev David Martin and Mr Peter Graham for their time of service to the committee.
3. Thank Geneva Push for the useful contribution it makes to the work of the committee and to our church planters, and note the committee's continuing financial support as in its approved 2014 budget of Geneva Push to enable it to continue its contribution to our work here in Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev David Brown led the Assembly in prayer for the committee and its work.

103. Hearing of Appeals 2-7

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Proceed to hear Appeals 2-7, notwithstanding that 30 days' notice has not been given (rule 5:78).

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

104. Private Papers

The Moderator ruled that private papers should be handed in.

Rev Ken Martin moved that the Moderator's ruling be departed from.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

105. Adjournment

The Clerk moved that at the conclusion of business the Assembly adjourn to meet on Wednesday 6 November 2013 at 10.00am to hear Appeals 2-7, with the closing formal motions.

The motion was seconded and approved.

106. Effect of Decisions Taken to This Point

The Clerk moved that the Assembly declare that decisions made to this point take effect at the closing of this sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

107. Presbyterian Schooling Committee

The Clerk sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Dr Allan Harman, David Schulz, Scott Kroeger, Peter Owen, Mike Wishart, James Bligh, John Cho, Adele Withers (with Dr Allan Harman to convene the first meeting at which the permanent convener will be elected) as an ad hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria, for the purpose of:

1. Producing an initial response to the challenge of developing Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria, exploring the scope of this challenge.
2. Drafting a set of regulations, outlining the constitution, purpose, function and work of a permanent committee of the same name.
3. Reporting back to the next meeting of the General Assembly in October 2014.

The motion was seconded and approved.

108. Communication 2 – from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, re: thanks

Communication 2 was laid on the table and received.

109. Communication 3 – from Rev K Hui Lim, Skipton Lismore Presbyterian Church, re: thanks for Moderator's visit and message

Communication 3 was laid on the table and received.

110. Communication 4 – from Mr Greg Clarke, CEO, Bible Society Australia, re: reporting process

Communication 4 was laid on the table and received.

111. Communication 5 – from Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison, CEO, ACCESS ministries, re: thanks

Communication 5 was laid on the table and received.

112. Alternative Venue for 6 November 2013 Sederunt

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Business Committee Convener a committee to consider a suitable venue for the 6 November 2013 sederunt should the Assembly Hall not be available.

The motion was seconded and approved.

113. Adjournment

After the singing of Psalm 122, the Moderator pronounced the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
7th Sederunt: Wednesday 6 November (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 6 November 2013 at 10.00am.

114. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer, constituted the Assembly with the reading of scripture and prayer.

115. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies for this sederunt:

Ministers: Keith Allen, Keith Bell, Neil Benfell, John Brennan, Robert Carner, Dallas Clarnette, Martin de Pyle, Theo Fishwick, Wally Gear, Marvin Hagans, Keith Hamill, Martin Hanse, Neil Harvey, Ian Johnstone, Bill Medley, Darren Middleton, Douglas Milne, Kainano Opetaiia, Peter Owen, Paul Seiler, Mark Smith, Ian Stewart, John Sutherland, Graeme Weber, Richard Wilson, Willem Vandenberg, Andrew Venn, Wally Zurrer.

Elders: John Angelico, Robert Baldock, Doug Balharrie, Brian Bayston, Phil Betts, Doug Butcher, Alex Christian, Craig Coates, Alex Croft, Bruce Downes, Tom Fleming, David Hayward, Rob Herweynen, Karl Hood, Paul Humphreys, Ben Nelson, Robert Prout, Arnold Rowntree, David Selman, Norm Sharp, Roger Symons, Peter Winstanley, Edward de Zilwa.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

116. Business Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Declare the Wednesday, 6 November, meeting of the 2013 General Assembly of Victoria to be a new sederunt, the seventh, which shall extend from 10.00am to the finish of business.
2. Determine that a lunch break be taken from 1.00pm to 2.00pm, and a dinner break be taken from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, as necessary.
3. Determine that the time for speakers be as follows:

Conveners	15 minutes
Appellants	15 minutes
Respondents	15 minutes
Appellants in reply	5 minutes
Question time	20 minutes
All other speakers	5 minutes
4. Approve the Order of Business for the seventh sederunt, Wednesday, 6 November, 2013.

The motion was seconded and approved.

117. Meet in private

It was agreed to meet in private.

118. Privilege

The Clerk raised a matter of privilege under three heads.

The Moderator ruled that in relationship to the reputation of Rev Evan Prentice there had been a breach of privilege, and undertook to pay him a pastoral visit before Christmas, and to write to the other persons concerned.

The Moderator ruled that in relation to the other two heads there had been no breach of privilege.

The Moderator thanked the Clerk for raising these important matters.

(1) Rev Rob Duncanson moved:

That the Assembly:

Request the Moderator to pay a pastoral visit to Rev Evan Prentice.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend Rev Evan Prentice for persevering in ministry at Whittlesea-Mernda in the face of extreme stress and personal injury.

2. Request the Moderator to convey this to Rev Prentice.

The motion was seconded and approved.

119. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the 6th Sederunt.

120. Conciliation Committee

The report of the Conciliation Committee was laid on the table and received.

121. Hearing of the Appeals

The Clerk brought to the Assembly advice from the Special Judicial Committee.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Hear Appeal 2 (stated, defended, questioned, and then remove the parties from the bar and adjourn).

2. Hear Appeal 7 (stated, defended, questioned, and then remove the parties from the bar and adjourn).

3. Hear the report and advice of the Special Judicial Committee, and dispose of appeal 2 (one way or the other).

4. Hear the report and advice of the Special Judicial Committee, and dispose of appeal 7 (one way or the other).

The motion was seconded and approved.

122. Declaration re: Appeal 7

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare that although Appeal 7 says that it is an appeal by the Kirk Session of Caulfield/Elwood, it is to be read as an appeal in the name of Elder Robert Belcher.

The motion was seconded and approved.

123. Appeal 2 – Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 11

It was agreed to receive the appeal.

The parties were called to the bar.
The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.
The appellants were heard.
The respondents were heard.
The appellants were heard in reply.
Questions were asked.
The parties were removed from the bar.
The Deputy Clerk moved:
That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.
The motion was seconded and approved.
It was agreed to adjourn the business to take up Appeal 7. (min. 125)

124. Appeal 7 – Elder Robert Belcher, re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 11

The parties were called to the bar.
It was agreed to receive the appeal.
The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.
The appellant was heard.
The respondents were heard.
The appellant was heard in reply.
Questions were asked.
The parties were removed from the bar.
The Deputy Clerk moved:
That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.
The motion was seconded and approved.
It was agreed to adjourn the business to resume Appeal 2. (min. 126)

125. Appeal 2 – Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 11 (min. 123)

The hearing of the appeal was resumed.
The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.
The Assembly deliberated on the case.
The Clerk moved:
(1) That the Assembly:
Dismiss the appeal.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and announced the Assembly's decision to them.

Appeals:

Very Rev Bob Thomas stated his intention to appeal.
Rev Phillip Chang stated his intention to appeal.
The parties were removed from the bar.
(2) The Clerk moved:
That the Assembly:
Consider that the action of the appellants to be evidently without sufficient substance, and proceed without regard to the appeals.
The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:
That the Assembly:
Appoint its Clerk and its Deputy Clerk as respondents.
The motion was seconded and approved.

126. Appeal 7 – Elder Robert Belcher, re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 11 (min. 124)

The hearing of the appeal was resumed.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Assembly deliberated on the case.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Dismiss the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and announced the Assembly's decision to them.

Appeal:

Very Rev Bob Thomas stated his intention to appeal.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Consider that the action of the appellant to be evidently without sufficient substance, and proceed without regard to the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint its Clerk and its Deputy Clerk as respondents.

The motion was seconded and approved.

127. Appeal 3 – Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 23.

The parties were called to the bar.

It was agreed to receive the appeal.

The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.

The appellants were heard.

The respondents were heard.

The appellants were heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(1) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Assembly deliberated on the case.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare clause 3 of the Special Visitation Committee's report to be invalid and that no proposal in this clause or action consequentially flowing from it can be considered to be valid.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and announced the Assembly's decision to them.

The parties were removed from the bar.

128. Appointment of Clerk as Contact Person – PC of South Sudan

Rev Chuol Yat sought leave to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

Rev Chuol Yat moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint its Clerk as the contact person for the Partner Relationship between the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

The motion was seconded and approved.

129. Ordination of Licentiate Gary Wentworth

Rev Cameron Garrett sought leave to move a motion.

Leave was granted.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the May 2014 Commission of Assembly to receive and deal with a petition from the Presbytery of Gippsland regarding the proposed ordination of Licentiate Gary Wentworth.

The motion was seconded and approved.

130. Appeal 4 – Rev Bob Thomas re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 29.

The parties were called to the bar.

It was agreed to receive the appeal.

The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.

The appellant was heard.

The respondents were heard.

The appellant was heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(1) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Assembly deliberated on the case.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare minute 29 of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th of September 2013 to be null and void.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and announced the Assembly's decision to them.

The parties were removed from the bar.

131. Appeal 5 – Rev Bob Thomas re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 36.

The parties were called to the bar.

It was agreed to receive the appeal.

The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.

The appellant was heard.

The respondents were heard.

The appellant was heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(1) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Assembly deliberated on the case.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare minute 36 of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th of September 2013 to be null and void.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and announced the Assembly's decision to them.

The parties were removed from the bar.

132. Appeal 6 – Rev Bob Thomas re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 18th September 2013, minute 42.

The parties were called to the bar.

It was agreed to receive the appeal.

The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.

The appellant was heard.

The respondents were heard.

The appellant was heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(1) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the parties be permitted to hear the discussion of the case.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Assembly deliberated on the case.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Dismiss the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator recalled the parties to the bar and announced the Assembly's decision to them.

Appeals:

Very Rev Bob Thomas stated his intention to appeal.

Rev Phillip Chang stated his intention to appeal.

The parties were removed from the bar.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Consider that the action of the appellants to be evidently without sufficient substance, and proceed without regard to the appeals.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint its Clerk and its Deputy Clerk as respondents.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Andrew Vines sought leave to move a motion.

Leave was not granted.

Moderator's Chaplain Rev Ken Brown led the Assembly in prayer.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

133. Rt Rev David and Mrs Christine Palmer

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express its best wishes to its Moderator and his wife for God's blessing on them both for the coming year.

The motion was seconded and approved.

134. Commission to Confirm Minutes

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator and the Clerks of Assembly a Special Commission to scrutinise the minutes of this Assembly with the power to make any necessary corrections and to confirm them, and that a copy thereof be sent to members of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

135. Appointment of Commission of Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint a Commission of the General Assembly consisting of the members of this Assembly, with a quorum of sixteen (eight of whom must be ministers), representing at least four Presbyteries.
2. Empower this Commission of Assembly to consider and determine every matter referred to it by any decision or order of the General Assembly, and instruct the Commission to be careful to follow all instructions given to it by the General Assembly. With the exception of urgent matters, as permitted in clause three below, the Commission is not entitled to take up any matter that has not been referred to it.
3. Empower this Commission of Assembly to consider and determine all matters that have emerged since the last meeting of the Assembly that are considered urgent and in need of executive or judicial action. In taking up these emergent matters the Commission is to consider the best interests of the church on every occasion.
4. Charge this Commission of Assembly in all its actings and decisions to proceed according to the rules and constitution of this church. For all its actings and decisions, this Commission is accountable to and censurable by the next General Assembly.
5. Charge this Commission of Assembly that it must not enact, amend or repeal any rules or regulations of the General Assembly nor enter into the consideration of any overture or motion proposing legislation.

6. Direct the Commission of Assembly to submit its minutes duly confirmed, and relevant papers, to the next General Assembly through the Clerk.
7. Instruct the Commission to meet and convene in the Werner Brodbeck Hall, within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, Tuesday 6 May, 2014, at 10:30am, or at such other times and places as the Moderator of the General Assembly shall determine.

The motion was seconded and approved.

136. Appointment of Next Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the next General Assembly to convene within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday, 6 October, 2014, at 7:30pm for the opening sederunt, and thereafter for business in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

The motion was seconded and approved.

137. Ballot Committee Discharged

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

138. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator intimated that the next General Assembly would meet on Monday, 6 October, 2014, at 7:30pm for the opening sederunt, and thereafter for business in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

The Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer.

I certify that the minutes of 7, 8, 9 and 10 of October and of 6 November 2013, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 134 thereof.



Rt Rev David Palmer
Moderator

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY 2013

Charges and Home Mission Stations

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT

Ararat	Grant Vayne	Jeff Hardy
Ballarat North		Robert Taylor
Ballarat South	Steve North	Gordon Barry
Ballarat West	Ian Hutton	Norm Sharp
Carisbrook-Castlemaine		
Daylesford	Mark Crabb	Doug Balharrie
Horsham-Marnoo		Ian McDonald
Kaniva-Nhill		Bruce Meyer
Skipton-Lismore	Hui Lim	Stewart McKerrow
Retired Ministers	Keith Allen John Woodward	

PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA

Benalla	Ken Martin	Stan Roberts
Broadford-Kilmore	James Playfoot	
Numurkah		
Seymour-Nagambie-Yea		Bill Sangster
Shepparton-Stanhope- Kyabram	Kyung Ee	Phil Betts
Tatura	Kevin Maxwell	James Finster
Wangaratta- Yarrawonga-M'ford	Paul Seiler	Malcolm Browning
Wodonga		
Retired Minister	Neil Harvey	Parity: Ralph Kop

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS

Aspendale	John Dekker	Kevin Savage
Brighton	Graeme Weber	Elizabeth Cutler (Mrs)
Cardinia-Koo-Wee-Rup		
Cheltenham	David Brown	Roger Symons
Clarinda		Andrew Forrester
Clayton	Michael Jensen	Alex Christian
Assistant	Chuol Yat	
Cranbourne/Lyndhurst		
Dandenong	John Rickard	
Dromana-Mornington	Michael Wishart	Rex McCarron
Frankston	Bill Medley	
Mordialloc	Michael Wharton	Barbara Firth
Somerville	Ken Brown	Robert Vines
Sorrento-Rye	John Brennan	
South East Samoan	Kainano Opeteia	
Retired Ministers	Peter Barclay	Parity: Edward de Zilwa
	Dallas Clarnette	
	Steven Giles	
	David Palmer	
	Frank Savage	
	Wally Zurrer	
Defence Force Chaplain	Andrew Robinson	

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG

Colac	Marvin Hagans	Arnold Rowntree
Geelong North	Darren Middleton	Bert Stasse
Geelong St Georges	Robert Waterhouse	Peter Anderson
Geelong West Scots	Robert White	Drew Chittenden
Moorabool		Colin Baker
The Leigh	Willem Vandenberg	Alan Helyar
Retired Ministers	Andrew Bray	Parity: Luke Rolley
	John Cromarty	Peter Winstanley
	Graham Hamill	Leigh Higgins
	Allan Harman	
	Peter Orchard	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND

Bairnsdale
Drouin
Assistant
Leongatha
Moe-Yarram
Morwell
Sale

Gary Stephens
Mark Smith
Heath Easton

Stephen Deroon
Cameron Garrett

Bruce Downes
Karl Hood
Merv York

Maitland Vertigan
John Lagerwey
Alan Caldwell

Retired Ministers

Robert Boan
Peter Swinn

PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT

Camperdown-Terang
Hamilton
Heywood-Portland
Koroit-Port Fairy
Noorat
Warrnambool
Associate

Peter Phillips
David Schulz
Ian Johnstone
Ian Leach
Miles Fagan
Ben Johnson
Toby McIntosh

Tom Fleming

Alex Croft
Alec McRae
David Selman
David Hayward

Retired Minister

Neil Benfell

Parity:

Craig Coates
Robert Prout

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH

Belgrave Heights
Blackburn
Croydon Hills
Donvale
Assistant
Heathmont
Kilsyth-Kirkbrae
Mt Evelyn
Warburton
Woori Yallock

Mark Tonkin

Matthew James
Gerald Vanderwert
Clinton Le Page
Dean Carroll
Wally Gear

Paul Humphreys
Gerry Drew
Peter Prendergast
Doug Fraser

Julian Dunn
Walter Lawrence
Albert Meeuwissen

Retired Ministers

Ivan Barker
Martin Hanse
Peter Locke
Andrew Slater
Arthur Stamp
Cor Vanderhorn
Andrew Venn

Parity: Russell Gray

Theological College
Lecturer
Lecturer

Tony Bird
Jared Hood

Ministry Development
Director

Robert Carner

Youth Ministries Director Brian Harvey

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST

Arabic	Botros Botrosdief	Emad Mehanni
Ashburton		John Angelico
Auburn	Trevor Cox	
Burwood Community	John Elnatan	Paul Wong
Camberwell	Philip Mercer	David Perry
Canterbury	Grant Lawry	Kevin Childs
Caulfield-Elwood	Phillip Chang	Robert Belcher
Deaf	Tony Salisbury	
Gardenvale East		Bill Thompson
Hawthorn	Graham Nicholson	John Singleton
Korean	Stephen Kim	Soo Hong Kwon
Malvern	Philip Daffy	Ken McClimont
St Kilda/Balaclava	Bob Thomas	Brian Mills
South Yarra	John Stasse	Ben Nelson
Surrey Hills	Chris Siriweera	Noel Johnston
Retired Ministers	Girgis Girgis Douglas Milne	
Chaplains		
Scotch College	Graham Bradbeer	
Scotch College	David Assender	
PLC	Charles Green	
Naval Chaplain	Barry Porter	
Theological College Lecturer	Felix Chung	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH

Alice Springs/PIM	Keith Bell	
Bundoora	Neil Chambers	Andrew May
Assistant	Theo Fishwick	
Eltham	Don Elliott	Robert Herweynen
Epping		Peter Haberfield
Heidelberg		Tom Cunneen
Hume	Scott Kroeger	
Kangaroo Ground		Robert Baldock
Reservoir	Andrew Vines	Reg Butcher
Samoan	Simalu Cowley	Malolo Uili
Templestowe		
Valley	Richard Wilson	
Whittlesea-Mernda	Evan Prentice	

Retired Ministers	Alan Every
	Tony Parle
	Ian Stewart

Clerk of Assembly	John Wilson
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Defence Force Chaplain	Martin de Pyle
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Theological College Principal	Peter Hastie
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Training Officer	Nello Barbieri
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PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST

Brimbank	Adam Humphries	Paul Ridgewell
Clifton Hill/Essendon		Victor Drobis
Darwin/PIM	Robert Duncanson	
Melbourne Scots/ Flemington	Douglas Robertson	Neil Gilmour
Assistant	Philip Court	
Melton	Richard O'Brien	Dennis Wright
Point Cook	Peter Owen	
Sunshine	John Cho	Gilbert Bell
Williamstown	Bruce Riding	Jennifer Homewood (Mrs)
Wyndham	Peter Greiner	Peter Stanton

Retired Ministers	Len Pearce
	Philip Simmonds

Law Agent	Brian Bayston
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Social Services Convener	Robert Lowe
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**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA

Bendigo	Philip Burns	Andrew Kerr
Eaglehawk		Steven Arbuckle
Kerang/Pyramid Hill		Stephen Dyer
Rochester	Stuart Withers	Doug Butcher
South East Bendigo		Russ Grinter
Sunraysia		Anton Zirngast
Swan Hill		
Retired Ministers	Ian Brown	
	John Sutherland	

REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 14)

Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. (Colossians 3:23)

The Business Committee has received all papers of a non-judicial nature currently proposed to be submitted to the Assembly. It has resolved to transmit to the Assembly in the form of this 'White Book' those papers which seem competent and respectful.

Assembly expositor

The Committee is pleased to report that the business convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, has agreed to be the Assembly expositor for 2013. He will preach at the Tuesday morning communion service, and at the opening of the Wednesday morning and Thursday sederunts.

Lunches (including the Mission lunch)

The Tuesday lunch for Assembly members will be held in the Robert White Hall. Booking is required. Details will follow.

The Wednesday lunch is the Mission lunch, held in the Robert White Hall, during the usual lunchtime slot (12.30pm–2.00pm). Motor (Isaac) Yat will be the guest speaker. Booking is required.

Thanks

The Committee takes this opportunity to thank:

- the Minister, Session and members of the Scots' Church, Melbourne, for the use of its facilities, and especially for hosting the opening and communion services and organizing the supper after the opening service;
- the Assembly Office staff members for their work in assisting in the smooth running of the Assembly;
- APWM for organizing the Mission Lunch, and the various speakers at the lunch;
- Bruce Riding and any others who are assisting with data projection;
- David Brown, who assists with the audio system; and
- David Schulz and others who assist with music.

Guest speakers and fixed orders of the day

In recent years, committees have increasingly supplemented their reports by inviting guest speakers, who have been warmly received. However, to secure the presence of the guests, fixed orders of the day for committee reports have multiplied. This can make the flow of business stilted, interrupting other committee reports.

Committee conveners are reminded that reports are 'taken as read unless the Assembly desire otherwise' (Standing Order 17). The focus is on deliverances (in which committees seek the instructions they need for the year ahead). Conveners are encouraged to think of guest speakers as an occasional pleasure rather than an annual necessity.

Graham Appeal – appointment of Special Committee on Judicial Matters

Dr Mary Frances Graham has appealed to the General Assembly against a decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne North. The Code provides (rules 5:50 and 5:78) that a

special committee on judicial matters consisting of the clerks and the Law Agent prepare as necessary appeals for hearing by the Assembly, recommend how they may be dealt with, and place before the Assembly a suggested course of action in each case.

However, both the Clerk and the Law Agent have recused themselves from the Special Committee on Judicial Matters in regard to this matter, the Clerk because he is a member of the presbytery concerned, and therefore unable to be part of the committee, and the Law Agent because he has given advice to the appellant and others from the Whittlesea Mernda Parish in relation to this and other matters.

This leaves the Special Committee on Judicial Matters with the Deputy Clerk as its only member. This is obviously unsatisfactory, and so the Business Committee recommends that the Assembly appoint an ad hoc Special Committee on Judicial Matters for the hearing of this appeal only, consisting of the Deputy Clerk, the Business Convener, and Rev Grant Lawry, BCom, LLB, BTh.

Commission and next Assembly

The Committee recommends that:

- the ordinary Commission of Assembly meet on Tuesday, 6 May, 2014, at 10.30am in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall; and
- the 2014 General Assembly convene in the Scots' Church, Melbourne, at 7.30pm on Monday, 6 October, for worship and the induction of the Moderator, and thereafter in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall for business.

The clerk will move motions to this end at the close of the Assembly.

Outline of business

The Business Committee will present an agenda at the start of each sederunt (other than the first). As a guide, the Committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline.

FIRST SEDERUNT

Monday, 7 October, 2013, at 7.30pm in the Scots' Church, Melbourne
Service of worship and the induction of the Moderator

SECOND SEDERUNT

Tuesday, 8 October, 2013, 9.30am—5.30pm

Assembly Communion Service (constitution)

11.00am Roll

Apologies

Associations

Welcomes

Business Committee

Minutes of previous sederunt

Minutes of the 2013 Commission of Assembly

New members

Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

Ministerial and Elders' deaths – Prayer

Royal address and Loyal addresses

Moderator General, Rt Rev David Cook

Past Moderator

Moderator's Committee

Ministry Development Committee
FOD 12.20pm Assembly Catering Committee retirement thankyou
[12.30pm—2.00pm Lunch]
FOD 2.05pm Archive
Board of Investment and Finance
Trusts Corporation
METRO Committee
State News Committee
Commission for Church Institutions
Code and General Administration Committee
[3.30pm—3.50pm Refreshments]
Belgrave Heights Christian School
St Andrew's Christian School
Scotch College
Appeals, Overtures, Communications, References, Petitions
Business Committee

THIRD SEDERUNT

Tuesday, 8 October, 2013, 7.00pm—9.00pm

Constitution
Apologies
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Social Services Committee
General Mission Program Committee
Assessors Committee
Petition 1: Presbytery of Kilnoorat—Hawkesdale dissolution
Petition 2: Presbytery of Kilnoorat—Sale of Hawkesdale property
Breaking the Silence ad hoc Committee
Building and Property Committee
Unfinished business from previous sederunt
Business Committee

FOURTH SEDERUNT

Wednesday, 9 October, 2013, 9.30am—5.30pm

Constitution
Assembly expositor
Apologies
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
The Bible Society in Australia (Victoria)
Clerkship Committee
FOD 11.00am Church and Nation Committee
 Patrick Sookhdeo, Barnabas Fund
FOD 11.30am Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic)
 Rev Kevin Murray (National Director, APWM)
 Presentation of missionaries
FOD 12.15pm Ballot (if required)
[12.30pm—2.00pm Mission Lunch]
FOD 2.05pm Belgrave Heights Christian School
 Mr Andrew Callow, Principal

FOD 2.15pm Home Mission Workers' Association
Petition 3: Presbytery of Kilnoorat—Woolsthorpe dissolution
Petition 4: Presbytery of Kilnoorat—Sale of Woolsthorpe property
[3.30pm—3.50pm Refreshments]
FOD 3.50pm Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee
FOD 4.00pm Communication 1: Presbyterian Inland Mission
FOD 4.10pm Christian Education and Nurture Committee
Unfinished business from previous sederunts
Business Committee

FIFTH SEDERUNT

Wednesday, 9 October, 2013, 7.00pm—9.00pm

Constitution
Apologies
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
Ad Hoc Committee re Sites Reserve Fund
Selection Committee
Conciliation Committee
Petition 5: Flinders Presbytery—Dissolution of Lyndhurst congregation
Petition 6: Flinders Presbytery—Ordination of Peter Roberts
Unfinished business from previous sederunts
Business Committee

SIXTH SEDERUNT

Thursday, 10 October, 2013, 9.30am to the finish of business

Constitution
Assembly expositor
Apologies
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
ACCESS Ministries (CCES)
Mrs Alyson Prescott, Area Leader, Manningham and Whitehorse
Theological Education Committee
Exit Student Committee
FOD 11.00am Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee
Mr Lindsay McMillan, Managing Director, Converge International
Federal Vision ad hoc Committee
Records Committee
FOD 11.45am Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union
[12.30pm—2.00pm Lunch]
FOD 2.05pm Appeal 1: Dr Mary Frances Graham
Church Planting Committee
Communication 2: Governor-General—Thanks
Communication 3: Rev K Hui Lim—Thanks
Communication 4: Bible Society—Thanks
Communication 5: ACCESS Ministries—Thanks
[3.30pm—3.50pm Refreshments]
Closing formalities
Commendation
Commission to confirm minutes
Appointment of Commission of Assembly

Appointment of next Assembly
Ballot Committee discharged
Dissolution

The Business Committee believes that the Assembly's meeting of November 6, 2013, is a new sederunt, the seventh, and not the continuation of the sixth. For the sake of clarity, the Committee recommends that the Assembly make a declaration to that effect.

The Committee also recommends that more particular time limits be set for this sederunt, including a limit on question time. The Committee envisages that a question time could be extended by a resolution of the Assembly to that effect after a motion moved without notice (paralleling the practice of extending a speaker's time).

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

ACCESS MINISTRIES (Min. 90)

Day by day and week by week through the work of ACCESS Ministries in both CRE and Chaplaincy, CRE teachers and chaplains have contact with over 250,000 young people in primary and secondary schools in Victoria, providing the opportunity to bring them into contact with the Christian message of life and hope in Jesus Christ.

Since our last report to the Assembly more than 80 new schools have entered the ACCESS Ministries Chaplaincy program, and the establishment of the ACCESS Ministries Training Institute has enabled chaplains to update, and learn some new skills required for compliance with the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP). Currently there are 305 Chaplaincy and Wellbeing positions with schools (both primary and secondary) made up of 288 Chaplaincy positions and 17 Student Wellbeing Worker positions. There are still more vacancies to be filled, with some difficulty being experienced in finding adequately trained and experienced workers in some remote and rural areas. Although Scripture Union Victoria has provided chaplains for some of these remote and rural areas, most new schools coming onto the Program have opted for the higher level of education and experience that an ACCESS Ministries chaplain can offer to their school community. ACCESS Ministries is working towards ensuring that each of its chaplains will be supported by a local or regional committee.

At the time of writing this report, there was some uncertainty surrounding the continuation of Chaplaincy funding in schools. The Labor Party had given no assurance that the NSCSWP would continue beyond the end of 2014. The CEO of ACCESS Ministries, Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison, had written to Prime Minister Rudd asking for an undertaking similar to that given by the Liberal Party that the NSCSWP will continue for their next term of government if they are re-elected.

The new ACCESS Ministries Training Institute is offering a number of courses at both postgraduate and undergraduate level in the Chaplaincy course/stream. The most popular is the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology. A submission has recently been sent to ACOM for accreditation of a Pastoral Care Certificate IV (School Ministry) course. This specialty course is not being offered by other training institutes. The Institute is also developing courses to train students for chaplaincy and Christian education teaching in the independent school sector. The aim is to become the specialist training provider for Chaplaincy and Christian Education in Australia. A partnership agreement has already been reached with Ridley to take effect in 2014, with the expectation that the other training colleges will do the same. Courses undertaken through the ACCESS Ministries Training Institute will be cross-credited by the various higher education institutions under which the students/sponsoring theological colleges are enrolled, in the case of Ridley, the Australian College of Theology.

A census of schools in relation to Special Religious Instruction (including Christian Religious Education) conducted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) in 2012 showed that 77% of State Primary School principals were satisfied with the program and 71% were satisfied with the quality of instruction provided. In May and June this year, 12 CRE Interim Area Leaders were appointed for the remainder of 2013 for those regions in the State which had previously had vacancies (some for an extended period). This will make a huge difference in ensuring quality of service and better relationships with principals, teachers and schools.

The CRE Partnership Program has been running for 12 months now with nearly 1,000 teachers currently taking part. This is providing not only financial support for the work of CRE but has meant more people are involved in supporting CRE teachers on the ground through taking a real interest in what the teacher is doing and in encouraging them and praying for them. The aim is not to put a burden on the wonderful volunteers but in fact to give others the opportunity to share with them and help lighten their loads. Of course, it is a program in its infancy but already it has generated over \$250,000 for the work of CRE as well as a greater interest in, and prayer for the work in local schools.

The changes introduced by DEECD in 2012 to the opt in / opt out requirement for CRE (now requiring parents to opt for their children to be involved in the program) has resulted in a drop in the numbers of students attending CRE classes, especially in Grades 5 and 6. The matter has been raised with DEECD which has agreed to reconsider ACCESS Ministries' requested changes to the relevant form in order to lessen the impact on CRE work in schools.

Ongoing work is being done to ensure that the CRE curriculum is contemporary, educationally sound and is particularly seeking to use the Bible to address the life issues faced by Grades 5 and 6 children. The new curriculum for these upper primary years is currently being trialled.

The financial difficulties which led to a fairly large deficit for ACCESS Ministries in the 2011 year have been addressed by the Board so that the deficit in 2012 was reduced to \$85,000 and in 2013 ACCESS Ministries is on track for a small surplus. Please pray for Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison in her work as CEO and for Ms Elida Brereton (former Principal of Camberwell High School and a former National President of the Australian College of Educators), the new Chairman of the Board, and other Board members as they provide leadership at this crucial time.

Grant Lawry and Alison Thomas
Presbyterian Representatives on the
ACCESS Ministries Council

AD HOC COMMITTEE RE: BREAKING THE SILENCE REVISION (Min. 51)

Remit

The 2012 General Assembly approved a clause in the deliverance of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee (Minute 70.2):

“Appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of the Moderator, the Law Agent (or other legal advisor), the Clerk of Assembly, a member of the Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment and Finance, and a member of the Code Committee, to revise the document *'Breaking the Silence'* to ensure it is up to date and meets all the requirements of state and federal regulations and statutes.”

Discussion

The Ad Hoc Committee has met five times since October 2012 adding to its membership Youth Ministries Director, the Rev Brian Harvey.

In addition to the oral evidence given at Assembly as to the shortcomings of Victorian *Breaking the Silence* document, the Committee also received written evidence as to these shortcomings from attendees at Fuelled Day events in which *Breaking the Silence* training had been given.

With the agreement and financial support of the Board of Investment and Finance, the Committee initially engaged Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke as a consultant to assist us with fulfilling the remit given the Committee.

Dr Cooper-Clarke, an ethicist, former lecturer at Ridley College and other institutions, and possessing knowledge of Anglican procedures in relation to creating a child-safe (and vulnerable person-safe) environment also confirmed the inadequacy of *Breaking the Silence*.

The problem with the Victorian version of *Breaking the Silence* is that in being restricted to “protecting against and dealing with sexual abuse within the church”, it fails to take into account the requirements of two pieces of Victorian legislation, *Working with Children Act 2005* and *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*, both of which cover more than just sexual abuse. The Child Safety Commissioner, established by the *Working with Children Act 2005*, issued *A Guide for Creating a Child-safe Organisation (Guide)* in July 2006 based on Victorian legislation including the two aforementioned Acts.

The *Guide* provides guidance for the construction of a process for achieving a child-safe environment which includes elements of developing a child safety policy, code of conduct, choosing suitable staff (whether paid or voluntary), support, supervision and performance monitoring of staff and the reporting of child safety concerns.

Regarding child safety concerns, the *Guide* specifies not just sexual abuse but physical, emotional, psychological, racial, cultural and religious abuse.

The Victorian version of *Breaking the Silence* is a revision of an early version developed by the PCA(NSW) Social Services Committee in the 1990s and was approved by the 2001 Victorian General Assembly (2001BB, Minute 28.11).

During 2005/6 there was a proposal under consideration for the introduction of the latest PC(NSW) version of *Breaking the Silence* (version 3). At the 2006 General Assembly it was decided to remain with the earlier version.

Having now:

- a) considered the Victorian statutory requirements for child safety;
- b) viewed the extensive Anglican child-safe material;
- c) carefully considered the latest PCA(NSW) version of *Breaking the Silence* (July 2011 edition), including three folded DL sized brochures summarising *Our Policy*, *Code of Conduct* and *Speak out, Seek Help* (advice on how to proceed with a complaint);
- d) carried out an in depth discussion with Mrs Elizabeth McClean, Director of the PCA(NSW) Conduct Protocol Unit, the custodians of the NSW version of *Breaking the Silence*;
- e) visited Sydney to observe the operation of the Conduct Protocol Unit - this being done by the Rev Brian Harvey;

the Committee is able to advise the General Assembly that:

- a) the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's version of *Breaking the Silence* does not satisfy the requirements of Victorian law;
- b) furthermore, there will need to be a substantial reordering of the way in which we go about providing a child-safe environment in our churches and related organisations that satisfies our own expectations as a Christian organisation as well as meeting the requirements of Victorian law;
- c) the current PCA (NSW) *Breaking the Silence*, July 2011 edition, adjusted according to the specific requirements of Victorian law, provides a basis for proceeding in the task of providing a safe environment for children and other vulnerable people with confidence.

There are several advantages in adopting *Breaking the Silence* July 2011 edition suitably modified for Victorian law. The first is that the work undertaken by PCA(NSW) means that we are saved the expense of developing a policy, code of conduct and procedures from scratch. We are availing ourselves of an existing, established policy, code of conduct, and importantly, tried and tested procedures. A particular virtue of *Breaking the Silence* July 2011 edition is that it fits with Presbyterian polity and in particular its complaints handling procedures neatly dovetail in the Code of Discipline of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Once we realised this we brought the initial work being undertaken by Dr Cooper-Clarke with her Anglican background to a conclusion.

Renaming *Breaking the Silence*

The Committee does not believe, given the present day context of Government enquiries into child abuse that the title, *Breaking the Silence* continues to be appropriate. The 'silence' has been well and truly broken.

It is proposed that the new title should be *Safe Church - PCV*.

What will implementation of *Safe Church - PCV* mean for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, its churches and other organisations?

It needs to be stressed that the Committee, whilst it has done a great deal of work in getting to this stage, has not fully worked through all the details of what *Safe Church - PCV* will entail. The details will become more evident in the implementation of

actions for which the Assembly's approval is sought. Progressively, as all the details are worked through, approval by the Police, Child Safety Commissioner and the Church's Insurer of *Safe Church - PCV* and its various elements will be sought.

However, we can say the following:

- a) there will be more stringent, yet to be defined, requirements for selecting staff, whether paid or voluntary, to work with children and other vulnerable people;
- b) there will be specific training, with annual 'top up' training for staff working with children and other vulnerable people;
- c) all persons in positions of authority in the Church will undergo training on a triennial basis;
- d) there will be regular auditing of all church organisations including churches and other church-related organisations;
- e) a process for achieving transparent and independent assessment of all complaints will be established.

Items b), c), d) and e) will involve the employment of suitably professionally qualified person(s), whether fulltime or part time in a Victorian equivalent of the PCA(NSW) Conduct Protocol Unit, and certainly in partnership with the Sydney Unit. As much as possible we propose making use of the PCA(NSW) Conduct Protocol Unit, its procedures and paperwork.

(The Director of the PCA(NSW) Conduct Protocol Unit has advised that the PCA(NSW) Conduct Protocol Unit does not have the capacity with its present staffing levels to provide a service to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, but will provide assistance in the setting up of our own Safe Church Unit, in particular in providing the initial training for trainers and auditor. They are making available their paperwork including brochures free of charge.)

Negotiations are well underway on the housing of the Safe Church Unit and will be further reported on at the meeting of the Assembly.

Organisationally, the Committee has concluded that the Safe Church Unit is best placed under the Assembly Clerk. For the time being it is proposed to continue the Ad Hoc Committee as a support to the Assembly Clerk through the establishment phase of *Safe Church - PCV*.

Based on PCA(NSW) experience it will take two, possibly three years to have all staff trained and auditing of all churches and other church-related organisations completed.

It will take the first year to establish the Safe Church Unit with staffing and the procedures for handling complaints defined and made available to the churches and other church-related organisations. Until this phase is completed it will be necessary to remain with the current *Breaking the Silence* procedures for handling complaints.

It needs to be understood that with the Victorian Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that at some stage the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is likely to be required to give an accounting of its handling of child abuse claims made against persons involved in the church, and further, that

eventually recommendations will be forthcoming that may require adjustment to our procedures. The church office maintains a register of claims of abuse.

How much will *Safe Church - PCV* cost the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, its Churches and other Organisations?

According to the attached three year projection, devised on the basis of data supplied by the Director of the PCA(NSW) Conduct Protocol Unit, *Safe Church - PCV* will cost \$385,000 for the first three years of full operation. The principal cost is associated with staffing requirements (one fulltime equivalent person), office space, travel, brochures and associated paperwork, and use of consultants - counsellors/investigators as required.

Certain aspects of this three year projection need to be appreciated:

- a) the projected three year cost has been devised on the basis of “no surprises down the track”;
- b) some costs have been included - such as the need for counselling, mediation, legal and investigation services, we have not had to provide for up to the present time. They have been included because provision for them has been found necessary by PCA(NSW) working with *Breaking the Silence* (July 2011 edition);
- c) the build up in costs to projected first year cost will occur over the course of the year following the Assembly’s approval of *Safe Church – PCV*.

The three year projected cost for *Safe Church - PCV* has been supplied to the Board of Investment and Finance and approved in principle by them.

The Board of Investment and Finance is separately reporting on the funding of *Safe Church – PCV*. The Board has already indicated that there will need to be a levy on churches in order to recover the actual cost of running the Safe Church Unit.

The Committee’s expectation is that following the Assembly’s approval of the Committee’s deliverance, the Committee will proceed to advertise for staff. This process, with advertising, interviewing, selection, appointment, initial training and bringing the *Safe Church – PCV* documents into conformity with Victorian legislation is likely to take up 6 - 9 months.

Early 2014, the Committee will prepare a budget for the 2014/15 financial year which will go to the Board of Investment and Finance for approval and the setting of the levy, both of which will go to the 2014 Commission of Assembly for approval.

The administration of *Safe Church – PCV* needs to be placed under the supervision and authority of a committee, or other appropriate organisation or office bearer. The Committee suggests that this be placed, at least initially, organisationally within the role of the Clerk of Assembly.

In time, the Committee is open to the possibility of inviting other churches, such as Independent groupings, to join this scheme to enlarge the range of churches benefiting from the system and the possibility also of spreading the costs.

The Committee is keeping our Church insurers fully briefed on these developments and proposals.

Policy Statement

This statement applies to all persons holding a position of authority within the church, and all congregations, presbyteries, organisations, and committees within the church. It is our commitment to dealing with abuse within the church.

This policy statement relates to abuse as defined in *Breaking the Silence**. It does not apply to any other forms of abuse, grievance or personal injury claim.

Our Policy Statement

- We commit ourselves to respect other people's minds, emotions and bodies. We have established *Breaking the Silence* as the public criteria according to which the community may judge the resolve of the church to address issues of abuse within the church.
- We acknowledge and accept the trust granted to us by those who are taking part in church activities, their families, and the wider community. We therefore commit ourselves to striving to ensure that all our actions are morally upright.
- We acknowledge that, as a church, our responses to victims in the past may have varied greatly. We express regret and sorrow for any hurt that may have been caused whenever the response appeared to be inappropriate or inadequate.
- We are committed to establishing a process that strives for truth and confidentiality. We will ensure as far as possible that a compassionate response is the first priority in all allegations, even at a time when it is not yet certain that the allegations are accurate, through offering assistance, protection and care without passing judgment or prejudicing the rights of the alleged offender. We acknowledge that concealing the truth is contrary to the character of God, unjust to victims and a disservice to offenders.
- We understand and value the need for support to all parties involved in an allegation, including the aggrieved person and the alleged offender, and we actively seek to provide this support.
- We acknowledge the personal and public difficulties that a false, misconceived, malicious or vexatious allegation can cause for the person accused. We will take whatever steps are possible to address these difficulties.
- We are willing to know the full extent of the problem of abuse and the causes of such behaviour within the church. We will strive to be aware of our legal responsibilities and obligations in relation to prevention, reporting and processing requirements and seek to meet them at all times.
- We acknowledge that we have had to make changes in the way that we relate to children and young people and others. As a result, some good things have been lost. However we will bear this loss to ensure as far as possible that the vulnerable are safe.
- We will ensure as far as possible that all people in positions of authority within the church and/or working with children and young people are aware of the

appropriate standard of conduct and boundaries. We require those who work on behalf of the church to indicate their agreement with this policy statement and work towards providing an environment that prevents abuse.

- We believe that churches ought to be places of safety and refuge for children, young people and others, where they should be and feel safe from any threat when on church property or involved in activities operated by the church, or accessing services provided by the church. We believe that the church should be a place where people can disclose abuse and have it dealt with effectively.
- We will establish a prevention strategy that includes screening, sound recruitment and selection procedures, clear boundaries, risk identification and management, education, support, supervision and training.
- We acknowledge that the age of consent for sexual activity is determined by legislation. However, we are mindful that this must be read in the light of our moral and spiritual responsibility. All people in a position of authority within the church, be it real or perceived, paid or unpaid, have a moral and spiritual responsibility towards those over whom they have authority. In this situation it is never appropriate to take part in sexual activity of any kind, regardless of the person's age. We affirm that sexual behaviour belongs in a marriage relationship only and that in this context it is a good gift of God.
- All allegations will be notified to the appropriate external authorities, overseen by the CPU[^], investigated thoroughly and determined as described in *Breaking the Silence*.
- Irrespective of any other action that may be taken by authorities outside the church, the church reserves the right to exercise its powers according to the Code of Discipline and *Breaking the Silence* wherever this action is deemed necessary.

* It is to be understood that, as the policy and practice of this new approach is rolled-out, that each time the title "*Breaking the Silence*" is used, it will be replaced by "Safe Church – PCV"

[^] It is to be understood that, as the policy and practice of this new approach is rolled-out, that each time the title "Conduct Protocol Unit" or "CPU" is used, it will be replaced by "Safe Church Unit" or "SCU"

Our Code of Conduct

The following constitutes the church's Code of Conduct for behaviour for a person in a position of authority within the church:

1. As a person in a position of authority within the church you must always be concerned about the integrity of your position, likely perceptions of the church and the wider community, and the need to acknowledge the real or perceived power given to you as a result of holding this position. You should avoid situations where you are vulnerable to temptation or where your conduct may be construed to be a breach of this Code of Conduct. You will make yourself familiar with the provisions of *Breaking the Silence**.

2. You must not fail to take action to prevent to the best of your ability, and report as required, the following:
 - child abuse,
 - a child or young person at risk of significant harm,
 - reportable conduct,
 - sexual misconduct, and/or
 - conduct that breaches the *Breaking the Silence* Code of Conduct.
3. Sexualised behaviour is any behaviour that may reasonably be perceived to be of a sexual nature according to the standards of the time by the person to whom it is directed. Sexualised behaviour is only permitted as set out in the Word of God. Except with one's own marriage partner, all sexualised behaviour is forbidden. If you are not married you must abstain from all sexual or sexualised behaviour.
4. You must not engage in or condone any behaviour that could be considered to be:
 - child abuse,
 - putting a child or young person at risk of significant harm,
 - reportable conduct, and/or
 - conduct that breaches this *Breaking the Silence* Code of Conduct.
5. You must not engage in or condone any behaviour that could be considered to be sexual misconduct, understanding that sexual misconduct is contact or invitation, via any means, of a sexual nature which is inconsistent with the integrity of a person in a position of authority within the church. Sexual misconduct includes any behaviour that could be reasonably considered to be sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, coercion or grooming of an adult or a child or young person.
6. Sexual exploitation refers to any form of sexualised behaviour with an adult, child or young person, whether or not there is consent and regardless of who initiated the behaviour, where that behaviour is contrary to the Word of God. Therefore, you will not among other things engage in or condone any of the following:
 - behaviour or a pattern of behaviour aimed at the involvement of others in sexual acts, including but not limited to coercion or grooming behaviour,
 - sexualised behaviour with a person below the age of consent,
 - sexualised behaviour with a person with whom there is a supervisory, pastoral care, or counseling relationship,
 - the production, distribution, possession of or accessing of pornographic material of any kind,
 - taking advantage of the conscious or unconscious use of sexually provocative behaviour that some victims of abuse display,
 - engaging the services of a prostitute, or soliciting or providing such services,
 - visiting, without legitimate reason, a brothel or any place maintained for the abuse-of-sex industry,
 - viewing or reading, in print or otherwise, material of a sexually explicit nature, except for a legitimate purpose,
 - participating in sexually explicit conversation via social media, chat rooms, gaming or any other means, and

- asking, without legitimate reason, any questions about the intimate details of a person's sexual life or providing details of your own sexual life.
7. Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexualised behaviour, whether intended or not, in relation to an adult, child or young person where that person reasonably feels in all circumstances offended, belittled or threatened. Such behaviour may consist of a single incident or several incidents over a period of time. Therefore, you will not, among other things engage in or condone:
- implicit or explicit demands or suggestions for sexual activities,
 - making any gesture, action or comment of a sexual nature to a person or about a person in their presence,
 - making jokes containing sexual references or innuendo using any form of communication,
 - exposure to any form of sexually explicit or suggestive material, including but not limited to pornography of any kind,
 - physical contact that is inappropriate to the situation or uncomfortable or confusing for the receiver, including kissing, hugging, touching, pinching, patting or aggressive physical conduct,
 - touching any sexual part of the body, including the “only kidding” or accidental occasions of sexual touch,
 - generating or participating in inappropriate personal correspondence (including electronic communication) in respect of sexual or romantic feelings or in breach of the Code of Conduct,
 - inappropriate giving of gifts, including those of a sexual, suggestive or romantic nature that is in breach of the Code of Conduct,
 - inappropriate or unnecessary discussion of, or inquiry about, personal matters of a sexual nature,
 - inappropriate intrusion of personal space or physical privacy, including being alone in a bedroom or bathroom or allowing inappropriate exposure during activities that require dressing or changing clothes,
 - voyeurism, and
 - persistent following or stalking.
8. Coercion or grooming behaviour refers to physical or psychological actions intrinsic to initiating or hiding abusive behaviour, which involved the manipulative cultivation of relationships with vulnerable adults, children and/or young people, their carers and others in authority. You will not exhibit any behaviour that could be considered to be coercion or grooming behaviour.
9. With regard to children and young people:
- You will not visit a child or young person in their own home unless a parent is present or you visit with another person in a position of authority within the church with parental permission.
 - You will not conduct a camp or other activity involving overnight accommodation without appropriate “camp parents” (ideally a married couple over the age of 25 years, of known maturity and Christian commitment) approved by the supervising body.
 - You will not provide any form of accommodation for any reason where there is not strict segregation by sex, with the exception of married couples and families. Supervision of children and/or young people must be provided by a person of the same sex.

- You will ensure that any activity involving children and/or young people is open to observation by parents and other adults with a legitimate interest
10. 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 participate in or allow nude swimming or other such activities.
 - You will not participate in or allow initiations and secret ceremonies.
11. With regard to adults, children and young people, either the Presbytery or Session may make temporary variations in respect to the details of the following. These temporary variations will be formally recorded by the Presbytery or Session and will be made on a restricted basis for individuals in specific circumstances for a specific period of time. Where no temporary variation is formally recorded, the following will apply without change:
- You will take care to ensure an appropriate balance of transparency and confidentiality so that the private concerns of others are not disclosed or revealed improperly. In ordinary circumstances, when you are providing pastoral care to, or working with members of the opposite sex, you will strive to do so in an environment that allows visual surveillance and, where reasonable, have other people within hearing distance.
 - You will not allow a child to sleep in close proximity to an adult, other than a parent or guardian, unless there is a significant separation, and privacy of all parties is respected.
 - You will not allow an adult to share accommodation with one child or young person only unless they are a parent or guardian of that child or young person.
 - You will not drive a child or young person unaccompanied.

Where specified provisions cannot be followed in an emergency, the circumstances of the emergency and the actions taken should be reported to and approved by the supervising body. Where the actions taken are not approved they will be considered to be a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Any breaches of this Code of Conduct for any reason will be reported to the appropriate supervising body as soon as possible. The supervising body will then report the matter to the CPU[^].

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Projected *Safe Church* - PCV Cost

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Case Management				
	40,000	40,000	45,000	
Administration & Compliance				
	41,900	41,900	36,900	
Administration Training & Auditing Counselling, Mediation & Investigation Staff training	10,000	20,000	20,000	
	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Travel				
	5,000	5,000	3,000	
Postage etc				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Professional services (legal)				
	5,000	10,000	10,000	
Computer costs				
	1,500	200	200	
Printing & stationary (ex resources)	600	600	600	
Rent				
	3,900	4,095	4,300	
License for copyright material (to NSW to rebrand their material)	5,000			
Telephone				
	1,200	1,200	1,200	
Self-production of PCVic resources	10,000	5,000	5,000	
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	Total 3 Yrs
	126,600	130,495	128,700	385,795

David J Palmer

AD HOC COMMITTEE RE: FEDERAL VISION (Min. 95)

At the 2012 General Assembly of the PCV an *ad hoc* committee was appointed “to investigate the soteriology of the Federal Vision/Auburn Avenue theologies and determine whether these viewpoints and formulations conform with or are compatible with the system of doctrine taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith read in the light of the Declaratory Statement, whether they are hostile to or strike at the very heart of the gospel”. The following is the committee’s “declaration or statement regarding the issues raised by these viewpoints.”

1. Introduction and orientation

The *ad-hoc* committee was asked specifically to focus on the soteriology (salvation teaching) of the Federal Vision (FV hereafter) movement, not to make an assessment of the whole movement or its total theology. As a result the committee has selected those topics for analysis that in some way affect or state the movement’s views on salvation. Those who wish for an understanding of the movement as a whole can find this from the sources listed at the end of this paper.

FV is essentially a movement that has arisen within the Reformed family of churches and assumes from the beginning that people are aware of and committed to the confessional teachings of the Reformed tradition that dates from the 16th and 17th centuries, including the Westminster Confession of Faith. Their title ‘Federal Vision’ expresses a belief in the covenant theology of that tradition along with a new vision or way of seeing it in today’s world and church. FV spokesmen claim to be within the historic stream of the Reformed tradition and do not wish to be charged with heresy. Its leading spokesmen have been Douglas Wilson, Peter Leithart, Steve Schlissel, James Jordon, John Barach, Rich Lusk, Steve Wilkins, and Ralph Smith.

The views of FV are not entirely new. Some of their leading ideas can be found in streams of 20th century Dutch theology such as those of Klaas Schilder and Herman Hoeksema, that have in turn found a home in some of the smaller Reformed denominations in Canada and America. Some of the proponents of FV have also belonged to Reconstructionism with its strong attachment to the laws of the Old Testament and the political significance of the national covenant with Israel for nation states today. Yet FV is its own movement, or conversation, as its advocates would prefer to say, and should be heard in its own voices and terms. We say ‘voices’ because FV does not speak with one voice, its spokesmen not always agreeing among themselves about the tenets and goals of the movement. However, public statements have been made and there is enough shared perspective within the movement to critique it as a single entity.

FV owes its existence in part to the innovative teachings of Norman Shepherd in the 1970s in Philadelphia, USA, teachings that he has continued to defend. In the last decade these ideas have been taken up by other ministers in Presbyterian churches in America, leading in some cases to the formation of break-away denominations and disciplinary proceedings. A range of critical responses have been made to FV both by individuals and churches because of the perceived possibility of FV giving rise to new forms of sacramentalism, synergism, formalism and legalism. The movement has spread to other parts of the world and is making an impact in Presbyterian, reformed and confessional churches. FV spreads its message through modern media channels along with books, journals and articles, symposia, conference papers, sermons, and reviews, both in hard-copy and on-line.

FV is a reactionary movement against what it sees as some bad expressions of traditionalism in Calvinistic churches and excesses and deficiencies in evangelical churches in the North American scene generally. Some of these supposed errors have to do with doctrines like election and covenant, others with practices like baptism and evangelism. Like all intentionally corrective movements FV is in danger of over-reacting so that itself becomes in need of theological and practical correction. The larger agenda of FV is the ecumenical one of founding a catholic orthodoxy that would work together with and learn from other ecclesiastical traditions such as Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox, for the ultimate goal of a Christian culture and civilisation patterned after the Christendom of the first 1000 years of the Christian era.

FV raises questions not only of a theological kind but of a variety of hermeneutical issues such as the qualities of the Semitic mind compared to the Hellenistic, the relation of John Calvin's teachings to those of 17th century Protestant Scholasticism, as represented by the Westminster Confession (WCF hereafter), the supposed impact of the philosophical Enlightenment on Reformed and Evangelical theologies, and the place of reason and logic in doing theology. FV shows an aversion to systematic theology in favour rather of reading the Bible as story, a preference for the literal sense of biblical language, and a critical attitude to the use of common sense principles like good and necessary inferences from Scripture statements.

These issues lie outside the field of this report and so will not be addressed directly. However, briefly in response to these sorts of issues, the working principles of the committee have been that FV polarises the Hebrew and Greek cultures in unwarranted ways, argues for a false conflict between systematic theology and biblical theology, exaggerates the differences between Calvin and the Westminster theologies, charges the Evangelical and Reformed theological traditions unfairly with philosophical principles, and undervalues rationality and coherence in doing exegetical, biblical and systematic theology.

In aiming to follow its remit the committee has made the following findings in relation to certain errors and inconsistencies in representative statements of FV advocates, with references to the body of the report for easier reference:

In relation to **the Covenant (2)** FV alters the meaning of covenant because it:

1. Separates the covenant and election (2.1)
2. Wrongly makes the Trinity its paradigm of covenant (2.2)
3. Denies a covenant of works (2.3)
4. Denies merit, affirms maturity (2.4)
5. Flattens the biblical covenants (2.5)
6. Underestimates the new covenant (2.6)

In relation to **Election (3)** FV confuses election because it:

1. Introduces two elections (3.1)
2. Denies that election can be known (3.2)
3. Preferences corporate election (3.3)
4. Believes that election is losable (3.4)

In relation to **Justification (4)** FV changes the meaning and method of justification because it:

1. Limits justification to forgiveness (4.1)
2. Believes justification can only be known at the Last Day (4.2)
3. Blends justification with sanctification (4.3)
4. Moves the focus from Christ's death to his resurrection (4.4)

In relation to **Faith (5)** FV fails to clarify faith because it:

1. Denies that justification is by faith alone (5.1)
2. Confuses justifying faith with obedience, faithfulness, etc (5.2)
3. Preferences James over Paul (5.3)

In relation to the **Assurance of salvation (6)** FV prevents well-grounded assurance because it:

1. Denies infallible assurance (6.1)
2. Ignores biblical cases (6.2)
3. Limits the covenant promises (6.3)

In relation to **the Work of Jesus Christ (7)** FV clouds the glory of Jesus Christ as Mediator because it:

1. Opposes the active obedience of Christ (7.1)
2. Denies the imputation of Christ's righteousness (7.2)
3. Makes the resurrection the centrepiece of the Gospel (7.3)

In relation to **Baptism (8)** FV exaggerates the place and power of the sacrament because it:

1. Confuses the thing signified with the sign (8.1)
2. Believes the WCF teaches baptismal regeneration (8.2)
3. Speculates about covenant children (8.3)

In relation to **the Church (9)** FV holds to a one-sided ecclesiology because it:

1. Opposes the invisible/visible church distinction (9.1)
2. Believes apostates have been united with Christ (9.2)

2. Covenant

FV is about rethinking the concept of covenant in relation to salvation, and changing our categories and terminology as a result. The idea of covenant lies at the heart of the biblical narrative in both Testaments, and it is biblical covenant that shapes the doctrine taught in the WCF (ch. VII), a system of doctrine that is biblical, covenantal and evangelical. FV does cast a new vision for covenant theology and the reformed churches but its actual statements and reformulations undermine biblical soteriology and the system of doctrine of the WCF that it claims to be exegetically based upon.

2.1 Covenant and election

'Election is unconditional but the covenant is *never* unconditional.' (P. Andrew Sandlin) Contrary to the biblical teaching and the WCF (III/5-6) FV separates God's

eternal election of his people in Christ (Rom 9:10-24, Eph 1:3-5) from the history of the covenant of grace. Speaking of the various salvation covenants of the Bible FV states: 'There is an aspect to such covenants which we may postulate as settled in the mind of God. For example, God knew and foreordained from the foundation of the world who the elect would be at the end of the world. But this foreknowledge is not the covenant itself, but rather God's ultimate knowledge of the outcome of the covenant.' (Douglas Wilson) Such a qualified statement about the divine purpose actually nullifies the sovereign grace of God to make room for a church covenant that is conditioned on human decision and life-long obedience. Since God's election is unknowable FV argues for the greater importance of the historical covenant that depends on life-long faithfulness on the part of the members of the visible covenant community.

But the New Testament traces back our salvation to God's eternal election (Rom 11:5, Eph 1:4, 2 Tim 1:9-10) so that all the glory of salvation, in all its aspects, may be given to the Triune God alone (1 Cor 1:26-31). Salvation is either by grace alone or by human works of righteousness; it cannot be both (Rom 11:6, Eph 2:8-9). The new covenant of the Gospel is the means God has ordained for bringing about his eternal purpose to save a people for himself who will share the glory of his Son forever in a new creation. The new covenant achieves that purpose perfectly just because it is grounded in God's own purpose and the grace that he gave us unconditionally in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Tim 1:9-10).

2.2 The Trinity as the new model for covenant

'The Triune God is the archetype of the covenant. The Trinity, not Ancient Near Eastern suzerain treaties, must define our view of the covenant . . . The covenant within the Trinity is the model for extra-Trinitarian covenants . . . The creation covenant is just the loving outreach and overflow of the inter-Trinitarian covenant.' (Rich Lusk) The attraction of this idea is that it validates the desire of FV to define covenant purely in term of natural relationship and love without legal aspects. But this is a false dichotomy, as reflection on one of the favourite analogies of FV will show, that of marriage. It is the legal aspect of a marriage that actually safeguards and defines the relationship of love and trust; the covenant is not the relationship, as FV suggests, but rather the formal instrument through which the relationship exists and flourishes.

All God's covenants in the Bible show legal and formal aspects such as promises, obligations, sacrifices, sacraments, sanctions and oaths. A covenant is a legal relationship that guarantees the relationship itself. So the New Testament speaks of God's covenants being 'founded upon' legal structures such as priesthood and promises (Heb 7:11, 8:6). It is a mistake to reduce covenant to the idea alone of fellowship between two parties because this confuses the goal of the covenant with the covenant itself. In the case of the Godhead it is difficult to see how the idea of biblical covenant could be applied meaningfully to the ontological Trinity in its intra-Personal life, without falling into some form of tri-theism where the Trinity would be reduced to a loving community of three distinct Persons. Simply, covenant is a judicial instrument that the sovereign and all-wise God has selected and employed with which to relate to his human creatures and to redeem them by his grace.

Further, the teaching of the WCF (VII/1) is that there is such a distance between us and God, as creatures and Creator, that we could never have any enjoyment of God as our blessedness and reward without an act of "voluntary condescension" on his

part, which he has made to us in the form of a covenant. If covenant were internal to the being of God then he would not have had to condescend to it as a special instrument for saving his creatures; instead it would have been there all along. We may conclude by saying that covenant is extrinsic to God but he has made it intrinsic to us as his creatures, both in creation and redemption (Rom 2:14-15, Heb 13:20-21).

2.3 The covenant of works

'We deny that continuance in this covenant in the Garden was in any way a payment for work rendered. Adam could forfeit or demerit the gift of glorification by disobedience, but the gift of continued possession of that gift was not offered by God to Adam conditioned upon Adam's moral exertions or achievements.' (A Joint Federal Vision Profession) Basic to this rejection of a covenant of works is the FV view that the covenant expressed a natural, filial relationship of trust and love between God and Adam. On this view the covenant of works should be seen as one of grace in which God intended Adam to attain maturity, but not to reward him for anything done in obedience to the explicit command of God. 'He was a favoured son awaiting an inheritance, not an employee seeking an earned wage.' (Rich Lusk)

But this is a caricature which fails to reckon with the specific engagement of God with Adam in the Garden (Gen 2:16-17) and after the Fall. Grace does not adequately account for all the biblical evidence and the aftermath in the judgement of Adam, Eve and the whole of creation (Gen 3:14-19), nor the typological reasoning of the New Testament about Adam's act of disobedience being the type of Jesus Christ's active obedience (Rom 5:12-21, 8:19-23). Grace in the Bible is more than God's goodwill, it is his special and unmerited favour to those who have violated his covenant and forfeited any right to his blessings. By so accentuating the gracious nature of the covenant of works FV is in danger of turning it into a covenant of grace, while their later stress on the covenant obedience of the Christian in the real covenant of grace is in danger of turning it into a covenant of works.

Although the term 'covenant' is never used in the biblical narrative in Genesis 1-3 the standard elements of later divine covenants are present here, such as promises, conditions and sanctions. Genesis 2 and 3 indicate that, in addition to being created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27), Adam was placed under a special command to which was attached a sanction of death for disobedience, along with an implied promise of life for obedience (Gen 2:16-17). Because Adam represented all humanity as covenant head (Rom 5:12-19) his decision to disobey the divine command brought down the guilt of his sinful act, a human nature now corrupted by sin, and the penal sanction of total death, upon the whole human family. As the WCF expresses it, 'The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offers to sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give to all those that are ordained to eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.' (VII/2-3) By disowning the covenant of works FV removes the corner-stone of the soteric theology of the WCF.

FV remains largely silent about Genesis 3 where the legal and universal nature of the covenant appears. A tribunal (Calvin) is set up where God acts as Judge by hearing evidence, pronouncing verdicts and invoking the sanctions of the broken covenant

towards the creatures, the woman and the man, and the whole creation (Gen 3:11-19). This historic passage provides the redemptive context for the saving work of Jesus Christ when he comes as the promised seed of the woman who will overturn the destructive work of the serpent (Gen 3:15, 1 John 3:8, Rom 16:20). It also provides the foil for Paul's eschatological belief in a restored cosmos through the resurrection of the children of God as the final stage in their redemption through Jesus Christ (Rom 8:18-23). Rejection of a covenant of works at the beginning of creation greatly hinders our understanding and believing acceptance of the saving work of Jesus Christ as the Second Adam (Rom 5:12-21, 1 Cor 15:20-22, 45-49).

2.4 Maturity and merit

FV opposes the idea of merit that it claims is integral to the idea of a covenant of works; instead it wants to champion the idea of human maturity. Having argued for a covenant of a purely natural kind FV moves easily to the idea of maturation as the goal of the covenant. As created Adam was infantile in his knowledge but through a process of testing and covenant faithfulness he would eventually develop into the ideal of glorious humanity that God had in mind for him. But in order to reach this conclusion FV reverses the order of the trees in the Garden, arguing that by eating from the Tree of Life Adam would have sustained his life before God, and then eventually by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would have arrived at the final stage of his development in wisdom. The objection of FV to the idea of merit is that it would mean that Man could put God in his debt, and that can never be.

But the biblical narrative suggests a formalising of the filial relationship with God that Adam undoubtedly enjoyed from the beginning (Luke 3:38). The Creator-Judge initiated such an agreement with a specific command, a generous permission and a definite penal sanction (Gen 2:15-17, 3:17-19). Undoubtedly Adam would have gained a new maturity in knowledge and holiness in his relation to God by choosing deliberately to obey the specific command of God, but this was also that in doing so he would proclaim his love for his sovereign Creator-King and so secure the promise of eternal life contained in the covenant.

FV objects to this interpretation on the ground that it gives rise to two ways in which man might gain eternal life, an original one of works and a later one of promise and faith. But the New Testament appears to support this antithesis by setting law and gospel, faith and works, as alternative ways to gain righteousness with God (Matt 19:16-19, Rom 10:5-8, Gal 3:10-14, 4:21-26). The original condition of salvation by works remains in principle though not in possibility due to the loss of that first promise through Adam's disobedience. The law of that first covenant remains in order to make known to us all our inability to fulfil the law of works in order that we may embrace the law of faith in Jesus Christ revealed in the Gospel. The Saviour regains for us the right to the Tree of Life in the new Paradise of God that the first Adam lost to us in the first Eden (Rev 2:6, 22:1-5). We are can no longer be saved by works except the works of Jesus Christ, the Lord our Righteousness.

As for merit, apart from the fact that the WCF does not bring merit into the covenant of works, merit is not the same as works the Creator-King might require from man as his servant-son. If God decided to place Adam under conditions, promises and commands of God's own choosing there can be nothing ungracious or objectionable about that. Through this freely chosen arrangement God intended to honour the man by rewarding his work of obedience with eternal life even although that obedience

was inherent in the Creator-creature relationship and strictly deserved no such return. On the same principle the Lord has promised to reward the good works of his people in the Day of Christ despite their inherent imperfections (Matt 25:19-23, 1 Cor 4:5, Rev 14:13). The WCF (VII/1) speaks of all God's covenants as acts of 'voluntary condescension' on his part, with a view to man's enjoying God as his 'blessedness and reward'. In a similar way, the Bible presents Christ's resurrection, enthronement and glory as the reward for his incarnation, obedience, and death (Isa 53:11-12, Acts 2:32-33, Phil 2:8-11, Heb 2:9).

2.5 God's covenants

FV holds that all the biblical covenants are the same and reduces their content to one of faith and faithfulness 'The relationship between works and faith is the same in every covenant' (Ralph Smith). Overall, FV reads covenant history in a unilateral way by reducing all the covenants to the simple slogan "trust and obey". And yet the discontinuities between the covenants, no less than their continuities, help us to see the meaning, necessity and greatness of salvation in Jesus the Son of God. In particular, (though this is denied by FV), the Mosaic covenant forcefully reiterates the principle of obedience that was first enunciated in Adam's covenant. Likewise, the WCF (XIX/1-2) finds a correspondence between the binding law of 'personal, entire, exact and perpetual obedience' in the covenant of works with the moral law, summarised in the Ten Commandments, that was given to Israel as 'a perfect rule of righteousness'. This perfect revelation of the will of God in the Mosaic covenant serves to highlight the plight of human beings under sin and death, due to their failure under the covenant of works (Rom 3:20, 5:20, 7:7, Gal 2:19), and so to prepare the world for the revelation of God's saving righteousness in his Son for all who believe (Rom 1:1-4, 16-17, 3:21-22, 8:3, 10:3-4, Gal 3:22-25).

FV denies that God has ever required perfect righteousness from his people: 'the law did not require perfect obedience. It was designed for sinners, not unfallen creatures. Thus, the basic requirement of the law was covenant loyalty and trust, not sinless perfection.' (Rich Lusk) But this stance contradicts several biblical authorities such as Jesus (Matt 19:16-17), Paul (Gal 3:10), John (1 John 2:1) and James (Jas 2:10-12). So although the human race now lives under the curse of the broken covenant of works the requirement of perfect obedience to our Creator-King still stands, a moral obligation that is written indelibly on every human mind, to which natural conscience bears witness (Rom 2:14-15). For the same reason we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ as the Servant-King of his people was born under this law and did perfectly fulfil it by the perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself (Gal 4:4-5, Phil 2:5-8), and so proved himself to be the promised seed of the woman (Gen 3:15), the second Adam and the true Israel, God's faithful Servant and Son (Rom 5:18-19, WCF VIII/4-5).

Again, just as Adam was banished from the Garden of Eden and Israel exiled from the land of promise so will all those be banished from the presence of the Lord, who have not fulfilled the law of human righteousness (Rom 1:18, 2 Thes 1:8-9). Paul can argue from the Jewish Scriptures that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin (Rom 3:9-18), and conclude that by the deeds of divine law, generically considered, no flesh can be justified, since this is the message of the law itself (Rom 3:19-20). Although the Mosaic covenant should be understood as a particular historical edition of the covenant of grace it did lend itself to being used as a covenant of works by those who failed to respond in faith to its true goal which was always Jesus Christ and his righteousness (Rom 10:4). The prominence of divine commandment in the Law covenant was intended to highlight the sinfulness of the human heart and

human inability to please God. In itself, apart from Christ, the Law was weak and inadequate (Rom 8:3, Gal 3:12, 4:22-26, Heb 7:19, 8:6-7) because it could neither take away the guilt of sin nor change the human heart (Deut 9:6, 29:4, Ezek 36:24-27, 2 Cor 3:12-14, Heb 10:1-4), hence the need to replace it (Jer 31:31-32, Heb 8:7-13). For this reason such texts should be read as more than *ad hominem* arguments that are responding to *misunderstandings and misusings* of the law (so FV); they should be read as timely reflections on the in-built limitations and ambiguities of the law-covenant of Sinai in serving the interests of the better covenant with its better promises and better hope (John 1:17, Gal 3:19-25, Heb 8:6-13).

In practice FV does make some distinctions between the covenants in its tendency to privilege the old covenant over the new, especially in its doctrine of the Christian church, its beliefs and practices. This same bias for the Old Testament helps explain other distinctives of FV such as making the covenant of grace conditional on the covenant faithfulness of the individual, the high status given to water baptism as the source of assurance of salvation, prioritising the corporate nature of salvation over the individual, making the visible covenant rather than God's eternal election the key to salvation, stressing the historical church over any invisible church made up of elect believers, and obsessing over apostasy from Christian profession along with the curses of the new covenant.

But these emphases reverse the biblical order of things generally where the progression of redemption and revelation move from the outward to the inward, from the visible to the invisible, from the historical to the eschatological, from the earthly to the heavenly as an overriding principle of faith (2 Cor 3:7-4:6, Heb 11:1). The WCF makes the same point in speaking about the Gospel: 'This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel' (WCF VII/5) when it is administered 'with more simplicity, and less outward glory' with 'more fullness, evidence, and spiritual efficacy, to all nations' (WCF VII/6). Christians do not focus on the things that are seen but the unseen, where Christ is seated at God's right hand (2 Cor 4:17-18, Col 3:1-4).

2.6 The special grace of the Gospel covenant

In spite of repeatedly mentioning the need for covenant faithfulness on the part of members of the church covenant FV fails to highlight the special grace of the Gospel covenant that meets that particular need. Part of the glory of the new covenant is the gift of the Holy Spirit who inscribes God's law of love and righteousness on human hearts, and dwells there Personally as the Sanctifier of his people by transforming them progressively into the image of God's own Son (Rom 8:29-30, 2 Cor 3:17-18). This is essentially the gift of regeneration that Jesus described (John 3:3,5), the prophets of Israel predicted in the age of the Messiah (Ezek 36:25-28, 37:12-14, 24-28) and that the effectual call of the Gospel brings about by uniting the believing soul to Christ in an act of spiritual resurrection (1 Cor 1:9, 2 Thes 2:13-14).

The Gospel therefore gives what the Law could never do – it internalises God's law, democratises knowledge of God, and really forgives sins (Jer 31:31-34, Heb 8:7-13). What the law could not do because it was weak through human sinfulness, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and condemned sin in human nature through making him an offering for sin (Rom 8:2-3), with the result that God's people live and conduct themselves in the Holy Spirit by fulfilling the righteous demands of the law (v 4).

By flattening the covenants of redemptive history FV does not allow the greater power, glory and effectiveness of the Gospel properly to appear, instead giving the impression that the effectiveness of all the covenants ultimately depends on the covenant faithfulness of its human members instead of the covenant faithfulness of the God of the covenant, his only Mediator and the Holy Spirit of promise (John 1:16-17, Eph 1:13-14, 1 Cor 1:8-9, Col 1:9-10, Heb 8:6-7, 13:20-21). God's grace in the covenant of grace is not synergistic (depending on man as much as God) but monergistic (God giving freely what he commands). See WCF XIII.

3. Election

We have seen how FV separates God's election of his people in Christ from before creation (Eph 1:4-5) from the covenant of grace that becomes a reality in the visible church. There are other errors in connection with election to salvation that we should address.

3.1 Are there two elections?

FV distinguishes between decretal election from eternity and covenantal election through being a member in the historical church. The first is unknowable, the second comes with visible church membership. 'We admit we only have a creaturely knowledge of God's decree. We can never, in this life, know with absolute certainty, who the elect are. So we have to make evaluations and declarations in terms of what has been revealed namely the covenant.' (Rich Lusk) But this distinction lacks biblical backing and renders decretal election in practice virtually irrelevant. Clearly God's election in Christ determines the outcome of evangelistic preaching (Acts 13:48, 1 Thes 1:4-5, 2 Thes 2:13-14), a view shared by the WCF where decretal election is the backdrop to its soteriology at every point – VII/3, VIII/5-6, X/1, 3, XI/4, XIV/1, XVII/2. Divine election from eternity grounds the evangelical covenant in its historical outworkings, not the reverse.

Nor do we learn from Scripture itself any criteria by which we might decide which passages refer to the one kind of election and which to the other. Instead the one type of divine election to salvation prevails across the apostolic writings, an election that comes to reality in the covenant of grace so as to make them co-equal (John 6:37, 39, Rom 8:29, 11:5-6, 1 Cor 1:27-29, 2 Thes 2:13-14, Jas 1:18, 1 Pet 1:2, 2 Pet 1:10). Further, since eternal election is largely irrelevant because it is unknowable we may well ask why this doctrine appears so clearly in Scripture and why Christians should go on believing in it at all? This wedge between election and covenant leads to an Arminian interpretation of election as conditional and undermines the sovereignty of the saving grace of God.

3.2 Election is to be known from visible signs

But is a person's election unknowable? FV argues that a person's inclusion in the elect number of God's saved people cannot be known from introspection but only from the visible evidences of it in water baptism, Christian profession, and membership in the visible church. But this direction fails to reckon with a whole book of the New Testament (1 John) that was written in order to give sure knowledge of being born by God (1 John 5:13). John holds up three clear signs of the new birth so that people may be able to say truly, 'I know God' and he is 'my God and Saviour' (1 John 1:6, 2:3-5). See also WCF XVIII.

Elsewhere Scripture calls for self-examination so that people may have sound reasons for claiming Christ's name (Psa 139:23-24, 1 Cor 11:28, 2 Cor 13:5). Not all

self-examination has to be morbid as FV argues; there is a right kind of self-examination that is essential if a believer is to grow in grace and knowledge. Separating eternal election in Christ from the historical covenant of grace in favour of sacramental membership in the visible Church, without discriminating between true and false membership, will only lead to churches filled with nominal Christians who know and care nothing of the experience of Christ and his grace.

3.3 Corporate election and individual election

Because the New Testament transfers the description of covenant Israel to the Christian churches (1 Cor 10:1-11, 1 Pet 2:9-10) FV argues that election passages in the New Testament that address and describe the Christian churches should be true for every member indiscriminately just because they belong to the community of faith. Corporate election here overrides individual election and yet is supposed to lead to the knowledge of it. For this reason, it is mistaken for a pastor to try to decide among his congregation who the elect people of God might be. He should indiscriminately encourage them to believe in their own election and salvation, until and unless they actually apostatise. If individuals are troubled about their own election they should be reminded of their participation in the visible symbols of the Christian church.

But the election passages in the apostolic letters (e.g. Rom 8:28-30, Eph 1:4-5, 2 Tim 1:9-10) express a judgement of charity towards the individual members of those churches, a pastoral practice that FV chooses to deny in favour of a literal and indiscriminate reading of these Scriptures. Holy Scripture does make election (and reprobation) an individual thing as the classic example of Jacob and Esau illustrates (Rom 9:10-13). It is true that the elect are one body in Christ but they are individuals whom the Father chose and Christ has loved (Gal 2:20). There was indeed a corporate election of Israel as a people (Deut 7:7-8) but also a remnant of elect individuals who represented the true people of God who found salvation (Rom 11:1-7). Transferring the covenant promises and privileges of the ancient people to the Christian churches (1 Pet 2:9-10) does not mean that they apply to everyone within those churches in the same way; belonging to a nation by birth does not correspond exactly to being born again into a heavenly kingdom. The New Testament infers eternal election from clear signs in their lives rather than simply from membership in the visible church (1 Thes 1:4-5, 2 Thes 2:13-14, 2 Pet 1:5-10). Further, Scripture does make distinctions among the members of the covenant community (Matt 7:14, 1 John 2:19-20, 1 Pet 5:13). Pastors, like apostles, are to encourage and guide their people to make their call and election sure by every effort (2 Pet 1:5-10).

3.4 Is election losable?

'The elect are those who are faithful in Christ Jesus. If they later reject the Saviour they are no longer elect – they are cut off from the Elect One and thus, lose their elect standing. But their falling away doesn't negate the reality of their standing prior to their apostasy. They were really and truly the elect of God because of their relationship with Christ.' (Steve Wilkins) FV uses Israel as a covenant people to illustrate this point. Israel was chosen by God in the Exodus but then became reprobate at the Exile. FV, in effect, makes God's grace in election conditional on the faithful and sustained response of the individual. This belief runs counter to both the Scriptures and the WCF where God's election to salvation means the certainty of salvation for those so chosen (Rom 8:29-30, 9:23, 11:2-5, Eph 1:4-5, 1 Thes 1:4-5, 2 Thes 2:13-14, 1 Pet 1:2, WCF III/6). The way FV articulates its doctrine of election is closer to an Arminian understanding, despite using reformed categories and terminology in doing so. When all the biblical teaching is brought under review it

seems best to say that the visible churches will always include members who are not true believers (Acts 8:18-23), who belong to Christ's Church outwardly but not inwardly (1 John 2:18-19), yet God's purpose of election is secure (2 Tim 2:17-19).

4. Justification

By placing the message of the righteousness of God for believers in Jesus Christ at the forefront of his summary of the Gospel in his letter to the Romans Paul implies that this theme that we call justification leads us into the Gospel as a whole (Rom 1:16-17, 3:21-22) and that it is paramount in the life of the individual and the church.

4.1 Justification is more than forgiveness

Having preferenced relational categories over juridical ones, as in the doctrine of the covenant of works, or (see below) the active obedience of Christ, FV is consistent in limiting justification to being forgiven by God. 'To have righteousness imputed means that sins are forgiven.' (Rich Lusk) But while forgiveness is included in justification it fails to express the complete blessing that justification gives which concerns our legal standing before God. The Bible's teaching on sin tells us that we are sinners in a double sense - because we constantly fail to live up to God's standards and because we repeatedly breach those standards (Matt 6:12, Rom 2:13, 3:9-19, 23, 13:8, Jas 4:17). God's law presents us with God's standards and so all our sin is some form of lawlessness (1 John 3:4). We are both debtors and transgressors in respect of God's law, and it is this dual aspect of sin that Jesus Christ answered for us in his personal obedience even to the death of the Cross. Our debts have been paid in full and our transgressions have been fully obliterated (Rom 4:5-8). Justification is more than the negative blessing of forgiveness; it is also the positive blessing of being accounted righteous, as though we had personally fulfilled all God's commands of love and righteousness (Rom 5:18-19). God does not reckon our sin, he does reckon Christ's righteousness (Rom 4:5-8); he reckoned our sin to Christ, he reckons Christ's righteousness to us (2 Cor 5:19, 21). So the WCF distinguishes in justification two aspects: God's pardoning our sins *and* accounting and accepting our persons as righteous before him (XI/1).

4.2 Justification is completed now

'Final justification is *to the (faithful) doers of the law* (Rom 2:1ff.) and *by those good works which make faith complete* (Jas. 2:14ff). Justification will not be fully realized until the resurrection . . . Final justification is, however, according to works. This pole of justification takes into account the entirety of our lives. God's verdict over us will be in accord with, and therefore in some sense based upon, the life we have lived.' (Rich Lusk) It was the teaching of late Judaism that justification was God's secret until the judgement day, while life on earth was a preparation for it. FV teaches something disturbingly similar when it makes covenant salvation conditional on the life-long faithfulness of the believer in Jesus. While acknowledging the place of faith and a present justification FV yet strongly affirms the eschatological nature of justification. This means that our initial faith needs to be supplemented with a course of faithfulness in works for that justification to be secured in the last day. Our works of faith will have more than evidentiary value at the judgement.

In sharp contrast the New Testament links justification with the death of Christ as its ground and his resurrection as its validation (Rom 4:25, 5:1, 8:31-34). Because of this Paul speaks with absolute certainty about the future judgement for believers (Rom 5:9-10, 8:38-39). Jesus anticipated this future certainty when he already on earth authoritatively forgave and reconciled men and women to God (Matt 9:6, Luke

7:48-50). Justification is the verdict of the last day brought forward into the present, so that the believer in Jesus can be assured here and now of his safety in the last day (Rom 5:9). The judgement of the last day will only make public what is assured and settled now through faith in Jesus Christ the righteous One.

Further, contrary to this reticence about a believer's complete justification now is the glorious resurrection of believers in Christ when he comes again (Phil 3:20-21). But this event will itself already attest to the righteous standing of those who are Christ's since resurrection is God's vindication and acceptance first of Christ and then of his people (1 Cor 15:20-23). Since their glorious resurrection must precede the final judgement the verdict of that judgement will be already known. The intermediate state of believers in Jesus in their going immediately to be with Jesus when they die, in the same way points to a justified standing with God through Jesus before death or final judgement (Luke 16:22, 1 Thes 4:14,16-17, Phil 1:23, see WCF XXXII). From the biblical evidence we can confidently conclude that the justification of believers in Jesus is a judicial verdict of acquittal before God once for all made by God in the moment of their first believing in Christ, to which the transfigured bodies of believers will give eloquent witness in the Day of Christ's appearing. Full salvation is "not yet" but justification is "now already".

FV confuses being justified by faith alone and being judged according to our works. For the saints being judged according to their works is the same as their being rewarded according to their works (Rom 2:6-11). Our justification is wholly and alone because of the works of obedience, completed in his death, done by Jesus Christ as our Representative before God; our good works, though imperfect and unworthy of any reward because they are always mingled with self-love and sin, will yet be rewarded as though worthy, by God in his grace in Jesus (Matt 25:14-30, 1 Cor 3:14, Rev 11:17-18).

4.3 Justification and sanctification

'Justification is rooted in our entanglement in a perichoretic communion. Christ in us, we in Christ; the Spirit in us, we in the Spirit. It is all one: Christ the righteous in us, we in the righteous Christ . . . When Paul says "Christ lives in me", then too he is talking about Justification.' (Peter Leithart) While it is the case that the Holy Spirit represents Jesus Christ to us as our righteousness it is on the basis of his substitutionary death that he does this (Rom 5:5-10). We ought to differentiate clearly without confusing or separating them what Christ has done *for* us and what he is doing *within* us through the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we will confuse justification (the external, legal blessing) with sanctification (the internal, transformative blessing).

'Faith never exists on its own, even at its inception . . . Indeed, given that faith is a gift of God, its presence in us is proof that the Spirit has already begun his work of transforming us.' (Rich Lusk) While it is true that the regeneration that takes place in effectual calling is a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit that generates that new life that expresses itself in evangelical believing and repenting (WCF X/2), FV's way of stating this connection is constantly in danger of confusing the forensic with the transformative aspects of salvation. Jesus Christ is the whole cause and source of the righteousness (justification) and holiness (sanctification) of the believer united to him (1 Cor 1:30). We could even say that justification is the legal warrant for sanctification, the legal aspect preceding the moral in the logical ordering of salvation (Rom 8:29-30). Sanctification is always given with justification but never as part of what justification is, nor as prior to it. Otherwise there is the real possibility of falling

into a synergistic view in which justification is based in part on what the believer has become *in himself* through grace, instead of being based entirely on what the God of grace has done once for all in Jesus Christ.

4.4 Justification, Union with Christ and imputation

‘This justification requires no transfer or imputation of anything. . . Rather because I am in the Righteous One and the Vindicated One, I am righteous and vindicated. My in-Christness makes imputation redundant. I do not need the moral content of his life of righteousness transferred to me; what I need is a share in the forensic verdict passed over him at the resurrection. Union with Christ is therefore the key.’ (Rich Lusk)

But several things have changed in this FV rendition of justification. First, the relational experience of union with Christ has taken the place of the judicial blessing of being justified freely though the imputation of Christ’s righteousness. The forensic world cannot be merged into the participationist one, however inseparable they may be. Secondly, transferring justification to the resurrection of Christ as the point where believers find their vindication by God runs into conflict with Paul who tells us that justification took place in Christ’s death (Rom 5:9). “In my place condemned he stood, Sealed my pardon with his blood.” There is nothing equivalent in Paul’s teaching about the resurrection of Christ to what he exclaims about the Cross (Gal 6:14). The death of Jesus is the real trigger for Paul’s Gospel. Thirdly, Paul does speak of righteousness being reckoned to the believer in Jesus (Rom 4:5-8), which is what we believe imputation language is saying too. Just as our sins were imputed or debited to Christ, so his righteousness is imputed or credited to those who are united to him (Rom 5:18-19, 2 Cor 5:18-21). Fourthly, being in Christ does not mean to say that we may not distinguish different ways in which the several blessings of union with Christ are mediated to us. There is room in union with Christ for forensic (justifying righteousness) and transformative (heart holiness) categories, in fact union with Christ opens a progression of different blessings from initial enlightenment (wisdom) to bodily resurrection (redemption) (1 Cor 1:30). Fifthly, Christ’s resurrection in relation to his death has declaratory power in proclaiming that Christ fully satisfied divine justice when he died (1 Cor 15:12-19, *Larger Catechism* Q/A 52). While it is the Christ who was justified in his resurrection (Rom 4:25, 1 Tim 3:16) whose righteousness is credited to the believer, yet to claim that ‘we have the forgiveness of sins in his cross and justification in his resurrection’ (Rich Lusk) is misleading because the justifying verdict of Christ’s resurrection is grounded in the justice of his obedient life and death.

For all of the above reasons we cannot assent to the view that the inclusion of the Gentiles in the people of God is either the meaning of justification or the main theme of the New Testament. ‘It is not grace that is new in the New Testament. It is not faith that is new in the New Testament. It is not justification that is new in the New Testament. What is new is that Gentiles are fully incorporated into Israel by faith alone.’ (Steve Schlissel) While it is true that the new covenant is characterised by Gentile inclusion, its greatest glory is found in the Personal incarnation of the Son of God, his life, death and resurrection, along with the coming of the Holy Spirit and the free gift of righteousness in him (2 Cor 3:4-18, Heb 8:6-13). Justification is not a sociological issue but a redemptive one in the deepest sense of the word, a matter of eternal life or death.

5. Faith

Just as FV merges justification with sanctification so FV brings works into faith in the justifying act of the believer.

5.1 *By faith alone*

‘Faith alone, faith without works is a theological abstraction that does not exist in the experience of converted sinners.’ (Norman Shepherd) This is a man of straw because whenever Paul discusses justification he always refers to faith in opposition to works, that is, faith alone in Jesus Christ (Rom 3:27-28, 4:2-5, 10:3-7, Gal 2:15-16, 3:10-14, 5:2-5, Phil 3:7-9). What FV states here may be true when we consider salvation as a whole, but in justification we receive from God the whole gift of righteousness which is Jesus Christ himself, by faith alone (Rom 3:21-22, Phil 3:9). By constantly qualifying justifying faith in various ways FV actually undermines the sole instrumentality of faith. It is the very nature of faith in the Gospel to receive from God and not to give to God initially (Gal 3:14, 22). This is what we mean when we speak of the fiducial/trusting nature of justifying faith, a faith that rests in and accepts Jesus Christ alone for righteousness. So says the WCF XI/2.

‘The only kind of faith that justifies is a faith that lives – that is to say, a faith that loves, obeys, repents, calls, and seeks.’ (Rich Lusk) The reason why we are justified by faith alone is that in justification what we receive – Christ and his righteousness – is wholly *external* to ourselves. In repentance, good works of obedience or covenant faithfulness, however, we offer something *to* God. The righteousness of faith is such because it is wholly taken up with Jesus Christ the righteous Saviour offering himself to us in the Gospel message. As the case of Abraham shows justification has always been by faith alone in the merciful promise of God in Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16, Heb 11:7). ‘Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which always accompany it, or of good works which are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act of it, were imputed to him for his justification; but only as it is an instrument by which he receives and applies Christ and his righteousness.’ (*Larger Catechism* Q/A. 73)

We can all agree that justifying faith is a living and not a dead faith but the real question is, What makes it a living faith? FV answers this by pointing to other qualities such as penitence, love and obedience that faith brings with it. But that is not the answer of classic Reformed theology which appears, for example, in chapter 15 of the *Second Helvetic Confession* (1566). In comparing James with Paul it says: ‘Wherefore, in this matter we are not speaking of a fictitious, empty, lazy, and dead faith, but of a living, quickening faith. It is and is called a living faith because it apprehends Christ who is life and makes alive, and shows that it is alive by living works.’ By opposing the principle of faith alone in justification FV in effect denies that it is by Christ alone, since these are the two faces of the one reality of justification. In adding human qualities into justifying faith, even at its inception, FV comes perilously close to the medieval doctrine of congruent grace with its mixture of grace and works.

5.2 *The obedience of faith*

‘Neither obedience without faith, nor faith without obedience will justify or save.’ (Norman Shepherd) In support of such notions FV likes to appeal to the phrase ‘the obedience of faith’ in Romans 1:5, 16:26 where they take obedience as the substance of faith so that ‘faith is obedience’. However, the phrase ‘of faith’ is best understood as a subjective genitive, as in ‘the righteousness of God’ (Rom 1:17, 3:21) where God is the source of righteousness, or ‘the hope of righteousness’ (Gal

5:5) where hope is what righteousness generates. It is true that we are commanded to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation (Acts 16:31). It is also true that no one is able by themselves to comply with that command (Rom 8:11). However, the covenant of grace promises “to give to all those that are ordained to eternal life his Holy Spirit to make them willing and able to believe” (WCF VII/3). In fact, the little phrase ‘the obedience of faith’ may be understood as summing up the two major themes of the Gospel in Romans 1-8, namely, justification (‘faith’) chapters 1-5, and sanctification (‘obedience’) chapters 5-8, where the latter is the outworking of the former, but distinct from it.

By aligning faith and obedience so closely FV virtually makes them interchangeable, even in the initial justifying act of faith, the implication being that faith is justifying because it obeys. But the reason Paul never qualifies faith in any such way, instead always linking it simply with Jesus Christ (Rom 3:21-22, Phil 3:9), is that any such definition or qualification turns justification into a faith *and* works scheme, in Pauline reckoning. All the blessings of salvation are in Jesus Christ, alone and altogether (Eph 1:3, Col 2:3-4, 9-10). Even 1% of human additive to the completed work of Jesus Christ threatens that finished work of the covenant Mediator which he has accomplished once for all (Heb 10:14). The Gospel calls us not to rely on our faith in Christ but on Christ himself who covers all our deficiencies and gives us his perfect righteousness instead. Just as Jesus Christ died for the ungodly who were without any strength of their own (Rom 5:6) so God justifies the ungodly who have no righteousness of their own (Rom 4:5). Both are absolute pronouncements regarding the ungodly. Otherwise, God is robbed of his exclusive glory (1 Cor 1:31).

In similar fashion it is said that the faith that saves is ‘a faith that includes faithfulness.’ (Andrew Sandlin) But although faith can be translated as ‘faithfulness’ (Gal 5:22) and although faithfulness belongs to the practice of covenant, Paul’s uses of ‘faith’ in the places where he explains and defends justification by faith have normally been understood as describing the trusting response of the sinner to the free promise of God’s mercy in Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16-17, Rom 3:21-22, Gal 2:16). While it is true that Christ’s faithfulness in life and death grounds and justifies justification (Rom 3:24-26) it is only by trusting for oneself in that justifying righteousness that the individual believer can gain possession of it. The Gospel of the righteousness of God is equally the Gospel of the righteousness of faith.

The first ecumenical council of the Christian Church (Acts 15) quite properly debated the terms of salvation. Some said it was by faith in Jesus Christ plus human works (vv. 1, 5); the apostles said salvation was by faith alone in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ alone (vv. 7, 9, 11). The question was decided in favour of the second position. The few requirements that were added (vv. 19-21, 28-29) were not works of the law necessary for salvation but prudential requirements aimed at avoiding needless friction between Jewish and Gentile churches. Justification must be by faith alone because Jesus Christ is the sole ground of justifying righteousness.

5.3 Paul and James

We no doubt arrive at a different conclusion about justification than that of ‘faith alone’ when we start with James (Jas 2:14-26) over Paul (Rom 4:1-8, Gal 2:15-16, Eph 2:8-9). But since Paul writes most of all the New Testament writers about justification it seems natural to start with him (WCF I/9 – ‘where there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture [which is not manifold, but one] it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly’). Further, FV

interprets Paul through James because it assumes that the two authors are using the same vocabulary (faith, justification, and works) in the same way. But this leads to some dangerous conclusions: 'James has in view the same kind of justification as Paul – forensic, soteric justification. . . . he says their persons will *not* be justified by faith alone, but *also* by good works of obedience they have done . . . In other words, in some sense, James is speaking of a justification in which faith and works *combine together* to justify.' (Rich Lusk) On this view Paul and James clearly conflict, with James stating the very opposite of Paul (Jas 2:24). Andrew Sandlin does not see any need to harmonise James and Paul since the Bible is often a rather imprecise Book, and anyway there is no special virtue in being precise in theology.

In response, we should understand that the same key terms (faith, works, and justification) are being used by the two writers to denote different realities because they are writing for different audiences in addressing different problems. Paul was defending justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ for people who imagined that their own works made them righteous before God; James was writing for people who professed faith in Jesus Christ and imagined that they were right with God from this notional faith but failed to show the natural fruit of true faith in works of love. The faith that James condemns is not the faith that Paul commends, and the works James commends are not the works Paul condemns. The issue for James is a faith that shows itself to be true by good works (Jas 2:18) which is why we can paraphrase verse 24 as: 'You see [then] that a person is [shown to be] justified by what he does and not by [a rational] faith alone.' Both writers can in this way select the same example of Abraham and quote the same verse (Gen 15:6) but take complementary truths from them. So James no more commends human works as the reason for being justified than Paul does.

6. Assurance of Salvation

FV emphasises the objectivity of the covenant in an attempt to save people from a morbid introspection that seeks for signs in the believer himself to show that he is in a state of grace. Instead, people are counselled to look to the outward signs of their membership in the visible Church.

6.1 Infallible assurance

The New Testament proclaims a joyful faith that results from the saving acts of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in the economic Trinity (Eph 1:3-14) and the believing acceptance of these works in the mind, heart and conscience of the Christian (Heb 10:19-23). The WCF (XVIII) likewise expects and encourages all believers to attain to an evangelical assurance (XVIII/3), and grounds it in the truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidences of those graces to which these promises are directed, and the independent witness of the Holy Spirit with the Christian's own spirit. This is a rather different list from the FV one, in not being afraid of mentioning subjective signs and helps to assurance of salvation. This is in line with the general avoidance of experiential categories or arguments in the teachings of FV. But believers do not have to wait until the Judgement Day before being fully assured of their salvation.

This infallible assurance is opposed to the FV claim that we can never know our salvation by using such criteria. 'You cannot know if you were ever sincere. You cannot know if you really meant it when you asked Jesus into your heart. Those questions are unanswerable. Were you really given a new heart? Well, you can't answer that question. God knows. You don't know. What you can know is that you

have been baptised and you have the Lord's Supper.' (Steve Wilkins) But this kind of pastoral counsel will only lead to carelessness and presumption in the Christian churches where it is given, while members who are honestly troubled about their spiritual condition will receive no proper comfort and guidance. Further, without a strong theology of regeneration by the Holy Spirit through the outward preaching of the Gospel (effectual call) the mission work of the churches will falter and fail.

6.2 Outward apostates

The Bible gives several examples of individuals who belonged to the ranks of God's people visibly through circumcision or baptism, for example, Esau (Heb 12:16-17) and Simon (Acts 8:13, 20-23), who yet fell away from their faith and so proved to be strangers to God's grace and covenant. By denying the outward/inward distinction when it comes to deciding authentic membership in the community of faith, FV actually hinders true believers from coming to a well-grounded assurance of their salvation. Contrary to the assertion of FV, giving credibility to personal elements in a Christian assurance is not the same as giving way to a doctrine of works righteousness. But speaking of false members of the churches as being 'in Christ' and 'members' of the covenant in a soteric sense, and attributing genuine Christianity to such persons, on the basis of passages like John 15:2, Hebrews 10:29, is misleading because it implies that a person may be chosen by God for salvation and really be in Christ, and yet lose everything.

6.3 Future grace

In the teaching of FV there is nothing that separates the Christian from eternal damnation except his own perseverance in covenant faithfulness. There is always the possibility of final apostasy from Christ and the blessings of salvation that currently belong to him. This being the case a believer can never be certain of his final salvation until he dies since he can never be sure of his perseverance for as long as he lives. But the covenant of grace promises and provides for the life-long perseverance of the believer in Christ (John 6:44-51), due to the three-fold bond of the covenant in the Father's election, the Son's vicarious atonement, and the Holy Spirit's regeneration and indwelling (WCF XVII/2). By so accentuating the need for covenant faithfulness throughout the course of a person's life FV reads suspiciously like the covenantal nomism that is attributed to Second Temple Judaism. According to the Scriptures believers are being kept by God's power for their future salvation and can confidently praise God for this living hope (1 Pet 1:3-5).

7. Christ's Saving Work

There is a disturbing loss of focus in the writings and pronouncements of FV on the Person and work of Jesus Christ the Mediator of the new covenant. This results from the greater interest of FV in the human side of things in its doctrine of the Church, the Covenant and Baptism. In some respects a higher and clearer Christology would have answered some of FV's discontents.

7.1 Christ's obedient life

FV is opposed to any doctrine of the active obedience of Christ in fulfilling God's commands *for us*. FV accepts the biblical witness to Christ's obedience as the second Adam (Rom 5:18-19, Phil 2:8) but either explains this as vocational and so peculiar to himself as promised Messiah (and so not saving) or as referring to Christ's death only. There are undoubted tensions and ambiguities within the ranks of FV here since members agree, for example, that Christ needed to be personally blameless so as to fulfil the symbolism of sacrificial animals that were offered on

Israel's altars and that foreshadowed his death, an obedience that was also necessary to guarantee his resurrection on the other side. Nevertheless, that active obedience of Christ was not saving *in itself*.

It seems ironical that FV on the one hand wants to excise the doctrine of Jesus Christ's active obedience on our behalf while at the same time preaching up the necessity of an active and obedient faith on the part of the Christian. Is this not an unfortunate substitution of anthropology for Christology, that results in the focus of attention being shifted away from Christ and his work to the Christian and his, as though the second was equally or more important than the first? The objectivity of the covenant of grace, as the historical outworking of God's eternal, saving decree is lost in doing so.

7.2 The imputation of Christ's righteousness

In Reformed theology the cumulative obedience of Jesus Christ at the end of his life answers for the disobedience of Adam at the beginning of his (Rom 5:18-19). In the Reformed theology of the WCF the covenant of works, Christ's active obedience and the imputation of his righteousness to the believer all hang together. The principle underlying this way of reasoning is that righteousness is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 2:13), whether we think of that law as natural or Mosaic. The works of the law (Gal 2:16) are more than the rituals that marked the Jews, such as circumcision and the food laws, because these were part and parcel of the whole law that circumcision obliged a Jew to keep (Gal 5:3, Jas 2:8-11); the works of the law are the works of the moral law that was first given to Adam in the covenant of works, delivered to the Jewish people in the Mosaic covenant and that remains 'a perfect rule of righteousness' (WCF XIX/1-2). This was the law that Christ was born under (Gal 4:4, Heb 10:5-10), obedience to which he learned through suffering (Heb 5:8, Phil 2:8) and the curse of which he bore in his death (Gal 3:13, Deut 27:14-26). His obedience thus has a dual aspect, that of 'doing and suffering' (Robert Rollock). This is Christ's covenant faithfulness that ended climactically at the Cross, and which is the righteousness credited to the believer in Jesus (Rom 4:5, 22-25). It is Jesus' own righteousness, credited fully and freely to the one who is united to him by faith that grounds the believer's standing before God forever (Rom, 1:17, 3:21, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:9). The good news is that the Gospel is the law fulfilled, while the Cross is the summary, reality and symbol of Christ's justifying righteousness. See WCF VIII/3-5.

7.3 Christ's resurrection

'The resurrection is the real centrepiece of the gospel since it is the *new* thing God has done.' (Rich Lusk) At his resurrection Jesus became the first mature man in possession of that humanity that God intended for Adam at the beginning of creation but which he forfeited through his own fault. By union with Christ the believer shares in the maturity of Christ and gains true human wisdom. So, says FV, instead of relying on Christ's active obedience Christians should pay more attention to the soteric meaning of his resurrection (Rom 4:25, 1 Tim 3:16). But in making the resurrection of Jesus Christ rather than his death the real centre piece of the Gospel FV fails to reflect the repeated focus of the apostolic gospel on the Cross of Jesus (1 Cor 1:17-18, 23-25, 2:1, 5:21, Gal 3:1, 13, 6:14).

'The New Testament is clear throughout that what is given to the saints is the Spirit, who comes from the glorified Jesus. It is not Jesus' earthly life and "works and merits" that are transferred to us, but his glorified and resurrected life in the Spirit that is transferred to us.' (James Jordan) But this is a false antithesis between the

righteousness of Christ and union with him in his resurrection, as well as failing to reckon with the forensic significance of Christ's resurrection (1 Tim 3:16). The resurrection was the point of Christ's public vindication by which the charges against him in his death were shown to be fraudulent, just as his human judge had declared (Luke 23:22), and the death penalty which he bore for others was reversed (Acts 2:24). The resurrection was declarative of Christ's righteousness and innocence, the verdict on his righteousness made visible on our behalf (Rom 4:25). By union with Christ through faith and the Holy Spirit that verdict becomes ours but its forensic nature is never lost in the mystical union.

As a general observation here we can say that in its soteriology FV prefers participationist categories to judicial ones, or transformative ones to imputation ones. This is because FV began by eliminating moral law/commandment as dispensable for understanding salvation history and Christian experience, and wants to escape from any idea of merit in the way it interprets the covenants and construes salvation. But the overview of biblical teaching is that man was created with the law written on his heart and conscience (Rom 2:14-15), Adam was obliged to obey God's law (Gen 2:16-17), Israel was locked up under law until faith came (Gal 3:23), Christ fulfilled the law for us and endured its curse (Gal 3:13), and the believer has God's law rewritten on his heart through the Holy Spirit (Heb 8:10).

8. Baptism

Some would say that the whole FV debate centres around its distinctive views of children in the covenant and what baptising them actually achieves and means.

8.1 The sign and the reality

'Baptism is the work of both water and the Spirit (cf. John 3:5). Water alone is not baptism, it is an empty symbol. Nor is the work of the Spirit apart from the means of water a baptism. The sacrament includes both. Baptism is more than just a sign; it is also the grace signified.' (Rich Lusk) This teaching is part of the high ecclesiology that typifies the theological statements of FV but it runs counter to biblical teaching and the WCF. According to both Standards saving faith is the work of God's Spirit in the heart and usually comes about through the medium of the Gospel message (Acts 11:14-15, Rom 1:16-17, 10:14), whereas Baptism plays the role of strengthening and increasing that faith (WCF XIV/1-2). Baptism is not a converting ordinance but secondary to the Word of God from which it derives its effectiveness and meaning. Generally FV plays down the preaching of the Word and plays up the sacraments.

FV is sceptical of any teaching that draws attention to the fruits of saving faith in a person's life as a way of deciding those who are worthy of the sacrament. 'It is true that when a person is a believer, the external sign does conform with these internal spiritual realities. But what *are* these realities? Regeneration? Christ is our Regeneration. Redemption? Christ is our Redemption. Forgiveness? Christ is our Forgiveness.' (Douglas Wilson) The problem here is that Jesus Christ as our Representative in salvation is so one-sidedly affirmed that salvation in its objective *and subjective* aspects is wholly said to be found in him, with the result that those who profess his Name can but presume that these are true for them. But that is a nominal faith, a spectator faith, rather than the fiducial trust, the participant faith that is the heartbeat of biblical religion.

There is a real danger of FV falling into some form of baptismal regeneration in its desire to exalt water baptism. Thus FV claims that all the blessings of salvation come

to those who are baptised with water, which makes baptism a kind of 'objective regeneration'. On this view Christian baptism is coming close to having the same kind of justifying virtue as Jewish circumcision did in the Galatian heresy (Gal 5:2-4, 6:12-16). But if we substitute 'Christian' for 'Jew' in Romans 2:28-29 and 'baptism' for 'circumcision', we gain a proper perspective on the relative significance of baptism for salvation. No Christian rite is essential to salvation anyway and yet FV virtually makes it so. People will be eternally condemned because of their final unbelief, not because they were unbaptised (Mark 16:16).

In Reformed theology Abraham is paramount for understanding the meaning and role of baptism because of the belief that circumcision foreshadowed it as the sacrament of the covenant of promise (Col 2:11-12). Paul reasons that Abraham was justified by faith years before he received the rite of circumcision which was meant to be the sign and seal of the righteousness that he already possessed by faith (Rom 4:10-11). By the same reasoning we must conclude that baptism operates as the sign and seal of a faith and righteousness that a true believer already possesses through Christ; it is by faith and not by baptism that a person is united to Christ and comes to enjoy the blessings of the covenant of grace. Anyway, the term 'seal' is almost exclusively used by Paul to refer not to water baptism but to the spiritual reality it signifies – Spirit baptism (Eph 1:13, 4:30). FV has turned the New Testament teaching on water baptism inside out by preferencing the outward at the expense of the inward.

8.2 That the WCF teaches baptismal regeneration

'The Westminster divines viewed baptism as the instrument and occasion of regeneration by the Spirit, of the remission of sins, of ingrafting into Christ (cf. 28.1). The Confession teaches baptismal regeneration.' (Rich Lusk) Actually, the WCF carries a highly nuanced statement on baptism that, in respect to baptismal regeneration, teaches that 'grace and salvation are not so tied to the rite that no person can be regenerated or saved without it, or that all who are baptised are undoubtedly regenerated.' (XXVIII/5) The same chapter further safeguards the integrity of baptism by warning that the Holy Spirit only confers the grace promised in the sacrament to 'such as that grace belongs to, according to the counsel of God's own will', which is code for the electing purpose of God in Christ. Likewise the WCF claims that 'the efficacy of Baptism is not tied to that moment of time in which it is administered' but is administered by the Holy Spirit 'to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongs to, according to the counsel of God's own will, in his appointed time.' (XXVIII/6) These careful qualifications (see also WCF XXVII/3) rebut the charge of baptismal regeneration.

8.3 Infant baptism

In particular, FV holds the highest view of the status of baptised covenant children, stating that it is normal for God to give such children faith in the womb. 'God is already in the process of drawing the child to Himself from the moment of conception. The examples of David and John the Baptist show God's *in utero*, pre-sacramental work. But the work isn't complete until the child receives the sign of initiation . . . The threshold into union with Christ, new life in the Spirit, and covenant membership in the family of God is actually crossed when the child is baptised.' (Rich Lusk)

However, the WCF speaks of 'elect infants' (X/3), implying that not all infants may be so, as well as limiting the grace of baptism to those individuals to whom it belongs in the covenant of grace and election (see above). In addition there are the biblical examples of Isaac and Ishmael as well as Jacob and Esau, who all confirm this

distinction (Gen 25:23, Rom 9:10-13). FV rhetoric on this theme is therefore excessive in presuming on the regeneration of covenant children, an error that has come about, not only in reaction to bad theology and practices in some Christian homes and churches, but because FV has already severed God's eternal will to save from the local and individual church covenant. Because of this severance FV can come to the view that 'The Bible teaches that children of believers are members of the New Covenant.' (Douglas Wilson) It would surely be wiser to respect the silence of Scripture about the way or time in which elect infants may be saved, remembering that with God all things are possible (WCF X/3).

9. The Church

Due to its revisionist views of the covenant and of God's grace FV opts for a revised view of the Christian Church in which, unfortunately, ecclesiology threatens to take the place of soteriology.

9.1 The church visible/invisible

Douglas Wilson argues against the pair of terms 'visible/invisible' since the Church of Christ is always a reality in history and on earth; he prefers to speak of the 'earthly/historical' Church simply. This is consistent with the FV commitment to an earthly/historical covenant of grace free from considerations of either an eternal decree of salvation or subjective, existential signs of worthy membership. Instead, the point of interest is in the objective over the subjective, and the historical over the eternal. So, 'Entry into the church is always a soteriological fact for the person who enters.' (Peter Leithart)

But without a visible/invisible distinction in the doctrine of the Church, which the WCF clearly maintains (XXV/1-2), church members will have to presume on their eternal election and saved status in Christ. The place and need of 'credible profession' will also have to be rejected as leading to the kind of morose and useless introspection that FV condemns. The serious danger inherent in the FV view is that instead of coming to God through Jesus Christ and so becoming true members of his Body the Church, individuals will come to God through formal membership in the Church and so presume that they are united to Christ. This is a fundamental reversal of the apostolic order of salvation.

'The question of when a man is "regenerated", or given "saving faith", or "truly converted", are ultimately questions we cannot answer and, therefore, they cannot be the basis upon which we define the Church or identify God's people.' (Steve Wilkins) Yet the Bible in both Testaments (Rom 9:6, Acts 8:13, 20-23, Heb 10:26-31), not to speak of the evidence of church history and pastoral observation, teaches us that the local church does not always coincide with the Church as the Body of Christ, made up of living believers who are united to him and to one another through him (Eph 4:16, 1 Pet 2:4-5). For this reason the apostles insist in their letters to the churches on high and specific moral principles and standards being maintained as the practice of faith, in the community of believers and the wider world (Rom 6-8, 12-15, 1 Cor 5-6, Gal 5, Col 3, 1 Thes 4, 1 Tim 2-3). Nowhere do the apostles direct converts to the simple fact of their physical presence in the local church as the reason for believing that they are also in God's favour. Instead, their attention is directed to the great heavenly realities which saving faith and hope appropriate and live by (2 Cor 4:16-18, Heb 11:1). A Christian profession must be credible to be real, otherwise formalism and externalism will take over in our churches and worship.

9.2 When Church members apostatise

While religious apostasy has always been a problem for Christian churches FV has created a real dilemma here because of the way that it equates baptised membership in the visible Church with membership in the covenant of grace, being united with Christ and receiving all the blessings of salvation. The assumption is that until and unless a person finally apostatises they can lay claim all that is said to be true of believers in Christ. So what happens when someone falls away irretrievably? FV argues that such an individual has chosen to renounce the covenant of salvation and the Christ in whom he really possessed eternal life. As a result the curses of the new covenant fall upon that person in this life and the next. Incidentally, FV never addresses the common pastoral experience of church members who never apostatise outwardly but appear never turn to Christ savingly either. On the FV model pastors should encourage such persons to believe that they have a saving relationship to Christ.

The exegetical basis for these views are supposedly found in passages like John 15:1-8, Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-31, read in such a way that we should conclude that an actual union with Christ has taken place in the case of all the branches in the parable of the Vine and the parties described in the Hebrews passages. But such an interpretation brings these texts into direct conflict with others that affirm the indefectibility of God's grace in his people, the completed nature of Christ's mediatorial work and the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in true believers. Traditionally, the distinctions made in these passages have been understood as referring to nominal members of the visible churches who have never accepted or appropriated the promises of salvation for themselves. What these people have experienced are the common effects of the Holy Spirit that do not result in regeneration and conversion (Mark 4:16-17). In the Vine parable of Jesus branches are rejected because they *never* bore fruit from the Vine, and in the parable (verses 7-8) in Hebrews 6 the apostates described in the warning passage (verses 4-6) are represented by soil that *only* produces thorns and thistles; there is no hint of salvific realities being experienced or lost by them, in contrast to those who *have* obtained salvation and shown it by works of love (verses 9-12).

These warning passages are part of God's purpose for spurring his chosen people to greater effort in obeying him and for rendering apostates inexcusable for their rejection of the Gospel covenant. Again, Scripture refers to those who in the Day of judgement will be disowned by Christ because although they appeared to belong to him covenantally they were all along unknown to him; there was no living union with him (Matt 7:21-23, 25:41-46, Luke 13:26-27). This invalidates Douglas Wilson's favourite illustration of a marriage to explain the relation of apostates to Christ before they defected from their faith; it is still a marriage even when adultery takes place, he says. But Jesus' words indicate that the so-called marriage was never consummated because such people never united with him by a living, personal faith. By contrast, the covenant of grace promises God's faithfulness in preserving his people to the end (1 Cor 1:8-9, 1 Thes 5:23-24, Heb 10:23) so that true believers may be persuaded that nothing in time or space, present or future, will ever separate them from God's love for them in Jesus Christ (Rom 8:38-39). See WCF XVII.

10. Conclusions

The committee has found it difficult sometimes to be sure whom or what FV is targeting with its criticisms and objections. Sometimes its targets look like straw men or the views and practices of minority groups within the Christian world. Sometimes

FV uses traditional terms (like regeneration) in loose or novel ways. Sometimes the views expressed seem to be more imbalanced than wrong, an over-reaction to bad practice or misunderstandings in other parts of the evangelical and reformed community. Sometimes the arguments advanced and the conclusions put forward are poorly constructed from biblical texts or are assumed in trying to prove them true. But in some of their assertions and claims FV does appear to challenge Biblical and Confessional standards.

In general, FV tends to take the human side of salvation rather than the divine side, it places ecclesial matters like baptism and visible membership ahead of soteriological ones like saving faith and its moral fruits; it makes God's sovereign grace contingent on human decision and perseverance, it wants works added to simple faith in justification, it draws its ecclesiological vision from the old covenant more than the new, it objects to the active obedience of Jesus Christ but insists on the active obedience of the Christian. Such clear tendencies in FV are evidence of a skewed vision both of biblical and Reformed theology which, if left unchecked, will lead in time turn into Roman Catholic synergism, Arminian soteriology, Church sacramentalism, presumptive regeneration of covenant infants, formalism in worship and nominalism in Christian profession. Paul's principle still stands that a little can leaven the whole lump (Gal 5:8-9).

For the above reasons, particularly because of its recasting of covenant theology and the biblical teaching on faith and justification, the committee has come to the view that the soteriology of the FV is incompatible with the system of doctrine taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith, and that the Declaratory Statement grants no liberty of opinion on those matters since they are integral to the doctrine of the Confession. We believe therefore that the soteriology of FV does strike at the heart of the Gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

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Douglas Milne
CONVENER

AD HOC SITES RESERVE COMMITTEE (Min. 78)

As a Committee, we regret that we have been unable to bring a definitive report to this Assembly. Because of the complex nature of seeking to effect a suitable, workable and equitable change to our Sites Reserve that will serve the church well into the future, the committee decided to seek a Queen's Counsel Opinion. Whilst the time-frame to achieve this outcome has been longer than expected, we are given to understand this Opinion should be in the committee's hands soon.

Andrew Bray
CONVENER

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC.) COMMITTEE

(Min. 61)

1. Committee Structure

Committee has met each month and apart from regular items of business, the Committee has also met with and interviewed the following missionaries on home assignment, as well as our National Director and Victorian moderator;

John and Sue Steendam - ORBUS / STAMP

Carol Whipp - WEC

Andrew and Suzy Vines - Pioneers

Ashley and Sarah Manly - MECO

David and Lalit Clarke - APWM

Tony and Shona Archer - Pioneers

Paul and Anthea Pearce - Pioneers

Kevin Murray - APWM National Director

John and Lynette Ellis - APWM

Ian and Dorcas Denness - Reachacross

David and Lisa Pearce - MAF

Sue Poynter - OMF

David Palmer - PCV Moderator

Motor Isaac Yat - APWM

The Committee greatly values these meetings which are seen as an essential part of our pastoral care to our missionaries, providing both the Committee and our missionaries with the opportunity to review and discuss first hand their experiences and/or concerns.

A recurring concern for some of our missionaries being they find themselves “on the fence” between APWM and their Mission while they are at home, not knowing who is responsible for what.

The Committee, following a review of its portfolio's, resolved to implement additional autonomous portfolios, resulting in the following composition;

- Convener (Phil Simmonds)
- Secretary (Dean Carroll)
- Motor Vehicles (Douglas Bennett)
- Personnel (Elspeth Slater)
- Assembly Mission Lunch (Kyung Ee)
- Coins for Mission (Len Pearce)

2. Retiring Committee Members

The Committee would like to thank God for the faithful and valued service of the following members, who, as required by the Assembly Code, will be retiring from the APWM Vic Committee: Rev Michael Jensen, Rev Peter Orchard, Rev Chuol Yat and Tom Cunneen.

Consequently, the Committee has provided the Selection Committee with names as replacement members to the Committee, for the consideration of the 2013 Assembly.

3. Prayer meetings

Prayer for our missionaries continues to be an important part of all our meetings. However, the attendance of the Mission Prayer meetings, held at various church

venues during the year, was disappointing.

Consequently, the Committee, hoping to encourage greater participation from the Assembly, resolved to hold all future Mission Prayer Support meetings at the Heidelberg Church premises, on every Fifth Saturday commencing 31st August 2013 10.00am – 12 Noon.

4. Missionary Poster

Newly produced and updated Mission posters have been distributed this year throughout the state, which we believe plays an important part in promoting/keeping our missionaries' faces before our congregations. Congregations are asked to be sensitive about leaving these posters in public places where people can walk off the street and obtain a listing along with photos.

5. Finances

The Committee praises God for His wonderful provision through the Victoria Assembly Simon Fraser Trust funds of \$45,000, which enables the Committee, on behalf of the Assembly, to offer funding assistance to our missionaries whilst on home assignment, that is, up to \$5000 per missionary unit for rental and utilities costs. This provision has recently been extended to include assistance toward Telephone and Internet costs.

The Committee again resolved to use the budget surplus \$25,000 to provide as 'one off' donations toward our Missionaries Superannuation Funds (with the voluntary exception of the Pearces and Ellises) - \$1,000 per couple and \$500 per single.

Trust Funds continue to provide support for our Vanuatu Partner Church missionaries plus Scholarship assistance for Talua MTC and PTS Dehra Dun students.

However, due to the Aboriginal Trust Funds being fully utilized, the Committee resolved to continue to provide funding support for the Mantons from the General Funds.

The Committee greatly appreciates the continued prayer/financial support of the Victorian Assembly.

6. Coins for Mission (C4M)

The Committee praises God for the Vic Churches response to C4M, to date 31 Churches have responded and contributed approx. \$36,600 since September 2012. This amount has been distributed, via several allocations, to our Vic missionaries according to known needs – such as;

- Initial allocation \$175 per missionary unit.
- Individual allocations toward costs re Health, Education and Retirement/resettlement costs.

The Committee will continue to promote and encourage churches to prayerfully consider supporting C4M, through the congregation member's sacrificial giving of \$2.00 per week, via the C4M collection boxes provided to all participating churches. Please ask our APWM "Coins" representative, Rev and Mrs Len Pearce, to visit your congregation to promote this programme if you are not already participating and would like to do so.

7. Cars for missionaries on Home Assignment

By God's grace, the Committee has been blessed with the provision of two additions to our small fleet of motor vehicles, enabling the Committee to retire two well worn vehicles, so that we can retain a fleet of four vehicles. The Committee has also been provided with loan of another vehicle, which enabled the Committee to meet the increasing requests for assistance from many missionaries on Home Assignment.

8. Mission Lunch

The Mission Lunch will be held on Wednesday 9th October 2013, in the Function Room – 1st floor 156 Collins Street, Melbourne. Details re the guest speaker will be made available at a later date.

9. Overseas Mission Relationship

The Committee has continued, in conjunction with APWM Federal, to support and encourage our relationship with our Partner Churches in the South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Vanuatu and Japan.

We are also seeking to develop a closer working relationship with the Victorian Partner Mission Societies, in order to provide a more comprehensive pastoral service to our missionaries – whilst in the field and on home assignment.

10. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

The PWMU State Council has continued to take a strong interest in the work of our Committee and our missionary team across to the world, and continues to place a representative on the Committee. We thank them for their support and generosity, interest in and love for our missionaries while on the field and at home.

11. Federal APWM

APWM Vic. has two members (Convener and an elected Committee member) on the Federal Executive Committee which meets annually in Sydney (AGM). The Convener, as a member of the Federal Executive, also travels to Sydney for an additional 3 Executive meetings per annum. The Committee has appointed either Rev Dean Carroll or Douglas Bennett to accompany the Convener to these meetings.

This year, at the initiative of the Federal Executive, additional meetings have been organized, with the purpose of reviewing the Federal/State organizational structure, seeking to provide a more effective use of resources and procedures.

Consequently, the APWM State Committees have recently been authorized to approve new Partner Agency applications. The approval of Partner Church applications remains under the authority of the Federal Executive.

12. The Future

1. The Committee has become increasingly aware of the need to provide increased pastoral care to our missionaries, especially those on Home assignments. This also involves discussions as to what should be the role of the local church, and especially the sending local church.

But the Committee is also aware that some missionaries have stress and medical related conditions which are beyond the capabilities and resources of the Committee, and require specialist attention. This will require further investigation and the possible

consideration, in conjunction with the Federal Committee, of seeking the assistance and/or appointment of specialist Medical/Counsellors.

2. The Committee has resolved, due to the increasing number of missionaries returning Home within the normal four year mission field term, to pro-rata the \$5000 Home Assignment amount according to the number of years completed in field since the last deployment date – at the rate of \$1250 per year.

This is necessary to ensure that adequate funds remain available to assist full term missionaries returning Home at any time, especially later, during the Financial Budget year.

3. The Committee recognizes that the above matters could/will place an increasing demand upon the Local Church resources, traditionally the recognized primary support base for missionaries, who are now, due to a number of circumstances, themselves struggling to provide this support to our missionaries.

Whilst the C4M funds has and will, God willing, continue to provide some assistance to our Missionaries support, the responsibility for missionary Home Assignment support may increasingly fall upon their families and the wider Church.

Phil Simmonds
CONVENER

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	61,161
General Donations and Gifts	26,495
General Mission Programme	42,273
Total Income	129,929

Expenditure:

Grants	60,304
Missionaries Superannuation	14,283
Missionaries Motor Vehicle Expenses	14,120
Committee General Expenses	6,959
Total Expenditure	95,665

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

34,263

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	180,621
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	34,263
Purchase of Vehicle	(24,990)
Add Back Depreciation	6,145
Accruals	

Balance 30/6/13

196,040

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/13

307,671

Overseas Appeals

	Opening Balance	Donations	Payments	Balance
Malawi	2,935	15,379	15,314	3,000
Coins for Mission	3,455	25,355	26,750	2,059
Zambia	375	6,500	6,875	0
	6,765	47,234	48,939	5,059

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	<u>Aboriginal Trusts</u>	<u>Vanuatu Trusts</u>	<u>Sudan Appeal</u>	<u>Beatty Trust</u>	<u>Dehra Dun Trust</u>
Income:					
Common Fund Interest	219	21,210	1,645	15,895	4,260
Total Income	219	21,210	1,645	15,895	4,260
Expenditure:					
Grants	6,889	22,000	10,000	16,000	3,500
Total Expenditure	6,889	22,000	10,000	16,000	3,500
<u>Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts</u>	<u>(6,670)</u>	<u>(790)</u>	<u>(8,355)</u>	<u>(105)</u>	<u>760</u>
<u>Movements in Funds</u>					
Balance 1/7/12	6,670	135,586	16,761	132,496	9,224
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(6,670)	(790)	(8,355)	(105)	760
<u>Balance 30/6/13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>134,795</u>	<u>8,405</u>	<u>132,391</u>	<u>9,985</u>

Perpetual Trust Accounts

	<u>Vanuatu Trusts</u>	<u>Dehra Dun Trust</u>
<u>Balance 30/6/13</u>	<u>41,451</u>	<u>25,000</u>

ARCHIVE – PCV (Min. 28)

The PCV archivist, Mrs Chris Palmer, writes:

“This last year has seen steady progress in the work of the archive. God has been good and there have been over 200 requests for information or research access and donations of records.

Donations have increased, and continue to cause a space and time problem in getting them to the appropriate place in the collection, followed by disposal of records if there are duplicates.

My voluntary helpers, Val Kentler, Irene Blaikie and Marilyn Weber have supported the work magnificently. Always, this work is a team effort.

I thought this year I would try to give you an idea of the kinds of requests I receive. Because of time constraints I am very careful about how I answer, and what I do. I also answer as quickly as I can after receiving the request. I make referrals often eg. Uniting Church Archive, or my opposite number in NSW, if I think the client will do better elsewhere.

July, 2012 Sample

Mr Peter Anderson indicated that a family history was being written about one of our ministers, Rev Joseph [Ringland] Anderson who had arrived in Melbourne on 1/1/1881 and donated one guinea to Scots, Melbourne. Did I have anything on Scots, Melbourne? I sent him a copy of “The story of Scots Church” by post. I asked that he send me a copy of the history when it was finished. He didn’t, but I received it from Rev Rowland Ward, who thought I might be interested in it – I was!

Mavis Blackie, aunt of Rev Phillip Court asked if John Flynn had attended the Footscray P.C. because she needed information for a brief church talk about AIM and Frontier Services. I sent her a paragraph of information about John Flynn’s early days as a teacher at Sunshine, Braybrook and Melbourne West, then his time as a Home Missioner for the PCV at Beech Forrest (Otways), Buchan and Montegue Mission at South Melbourne.

Lorraine Coleman of Seymour P.C. Board of Management made an enquiry about old books, receipts, Minute books etc. in the church cupboards. What to do with them?

I wrote back the following reply:

“All records earlier than 2007/8, Minute Books plus congregation Annual Reports including annual financial reports with auditor’s report plus other congregational material comes to me.

You need Board of Management approval, ring me on 98674637(answer phone) to make an appointment and discuss delivery with me. I work out of South Yarra Presbyterian Church, and usually I am here on Mondays and Tuesdays. If the records are delivered and I am not here, they risk loss and damage – there is no external sheltered area. Postage is also an alternative method. Post them to me at Mrs. C. Palmer, PCV Archivist, PO Box 9044, South Yarra VIC 3141”.

October, 2012 Sample

Meryl Chilcott from WA was researching her grandmother and her sisters who were born in Purnim, near Warrnambool. She wondered if there were any records relating to their baptism, confirmation, etc.

I was unable to help this lady, because I only have a thin file for Purnim, and there is no baptismal register in it. I checked if there were any baptismal records for the 1870's for the Mortlake and Warrnambool congregations (actual records are held off site), but we don't have them. There are many gaps in the records, but its always worth asking, and we should be grateful for what has survived.

A lady called Hyaeweol Choi, Professor and Director at Australian National University for Korean Studies, School of Culture, History and Language was interested to research records of missionary work in Korea, particularly "Rescue Work" and "Rescue Home" for girls and women, Industrial School Farm Tongnai Farm School" for girls, and the role of "Tearoom" (where needle work and crafts made by Korean girls and women were sold). She also was interested in individual women missionaries' records and activities such as Edith A Kerr, Isabella Menzies, Elizabeth "Bessie" Stewart Moore, Ida McPhee, Mrs. Jessie McLaren (nee Reeve), Margaret L. Alexander, Margaret Sandiman Davies, Agnes Brown, among others. Hyaeweol Choi made several visits from Canberra to do the research required. PWMU records and periodicals were of great importance to the project which would become the basis of lecture material."

As you may see from her report, above, Chris Palmer is a very hard working archivist and gives personal attention to each approach for her services. Chris' work is valuable and valued.

Digitisation

We are able to say that this task of creating a digital record of every General Assembly Blue Book is under way and look forward to the job being completed.

Seminar

Each year, the PCV Archive endeavours to bring something of interest to the General Assembly:

2011 – a tour and talk through the Assembly Gallery paintings

2012 – presentation of an historic photo portrait of John G Paton presented to the church by his great grand-daughters.

This year we are conducting a seminar, with input from Fiona Bligh (author of the history of PWMU Cookery Books) on **How to Write a History** – either parish or personal. This seminar will be held during the Wednesday dinner break 6 pm – to 7 pm.

John P Wilson
(Clerk of Assembly)

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Min. 62)

"Do not despise the day of small things." Zechariah 4:10

This is so easy to do; in a day when we are constantly seeing major developments in the life of BHCS, it is easy to forget the seemingly small but, in reality, huge steps that were taken to set this school on the path to what it is today: by the grace of God, a highly respected provider of quality education from a Christian world view.

Thankfully, we are frequently reminded of our origins, never more so than on the weekend of the school's thirtieth anniversary, held in March. The wonderfully well attended Fete, held on the Saturday, brought together people who had played significant roles throughout the various periods in our development. Then, at the Sunday afternoon Celebration service, our attention was drawn to the highlights of the three decades by speakers who had had major roles in those decades. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the merciful provision of God for all our needs.

If the school community ever needed an illustration of the importance of the strong foundations that need to be laid in the establishment of any worthwhile project, it has been before our eyes for many months as the exciting new Trade Training Centre has emerged from the ground. There was little to see for the first couple of months as an unexpected amount of subsidence was encountered. Wisdom dictated meticulous attention to the issue so that the substantial development that can now be seen is based on a foundation that can support the superstructure of a facility that will provide amazing opportunities to students, both in the school and in the wider community, to study hospitality.

The continuing major development phase of the school's life has again this year required enormous commitment of time and energy from the school's executive officers who have continued to give of themselves to plan new buildings and extensions of current buildings. The completion of the Arts Complex Expansion and the application for funding for classrooms to be built in the undercroft of the Trade Training Centre are examples of such ongoing commitment. A marvellous adjunct to the manual arts complex has been the enclosure of a large area to house Automotive Studies as well as the Metal Jewellery elective.

It is easy, in the light of the demands of this growth phase, to be looking for a time when we can see the job done and have a rest. The reality is that, in a dynamic field like education, there is always a new task before us. An indication that the Board of BHCS is not willing to sit back at any stage is the fact that members of the Board have undertaken a series of training days with a focus on School Governance. This process, under the guidance of Resolve Education consultants, has involved a thorough review of the school's mission and objectives, in preparation for establishing long-term plans. One very valuable outcome of the review has been the endorsement of the vision and the principles on which the school was founded.

The school has, throughout the past twelve months, continued to draw admiring responses from a number of visitors, including representatives of Independent Schools Victoria, local members of Parliament and leaders of Christian schools from other parts of Australia. The school's work in the area of environmental studies, in particular, has received glowing praise. The leaders of BHCS have continued to make excellent contributions to Christian Schools Australia.

Belgrave Heights Christian School continues to owe a great deal to its dedicated teaching staff who make the process of learning a delight for the students, and no less to all the other members of staff, whether in administration, in technical support or in the many areas of maintenance. These people, whose work is often unseen, help to provide a secure and stable environment for the whole school community.

As Board Chairman, I can only repeat the refrain from previous years in saying that the humble and unified service given by Board members is a key factor in the blessing that the school enjoys. As always, our greatest debt is to the Lord who turns the day of small things into days of great achievement.

Warwick Davidson
CHAIRMAN

BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA (Min. 58)

As requested in Blue Book 2012, minute 56.3 the CEO of the Bible Society in Australia, Dr Greg Clarke responded in the terms of Communication 4 in this year's White Book, indicating that the matter of communication and relationship with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria was under consideration by Bible Society Australia. We await further correspondence on this matter.

Contact with the Bible Society and access to its reports and prayer material can be made through its website.

Bible Society staff who are available for visits to parishes and church organisations in Victoria are Mr Geoff Warren and Ms. Jan Peddersen. Arrangements should be made for regular visits of Bible Society staff to the General Assembly.

Keith D Allen
BIBLE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min. 30)

Background

The Board of Investment and Finance is elected by the General Assembly. Its regulations are approved by the General Assembly as for any other of the Committees. The Board consists of ten members, each of whom is required to retire after 5 years from date of appointment but is eligible for re-election for a second 5 year term. Members of the Board form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

The duties of the Board are to:

- Administer the financial affairs and act as Treasurer of the General Assembly
- Maintain the office of the General Assembly including engaging staff for this purpose
- Co-operate with other committees of the Assembly in the appointment of office or other staff and determine the salary conditions and employment of such staff
- Present to the Commission of the Assembly a recommended Budget for approval
- Manage the property of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for which responsibility is not vested in another committee.
- Take steps to prevent committees from incurring expenditure beyond their means or in unauthorised ways
- Approve urgent applications for the sale, mortgage or lease of property
- Hold the proceeds of sale of property in the Sites Reserve account and approve applications for the use of interest and (in conjunction with presbyteries) the capital.
- Administer the Capital Fund including the approval of loans from the fund.

Membership of the Board of Investment and Finance (and Trusts Corporation)

Membership and committee responsibilities in the past year were as follows:

Mr Edward de Zilwa	Chairman, Audit Committee
Mr Tony Arnold	Investment Committee
Mr Iain Bramley	Vice-Chairman, Investment Committee (Convener)
Mr David Brown	Vice-Chairman, Audit Committee (Convener)
Rev Stephen Deroon	Represents the BIF on various church committees
Mr Andrew Letcher	Audit Committee, Secretary
Rev Andrew Slater	Chairman, Audit Committee (to December 2012)
Rev Mark Smith	Audit Committee
Rev Andrew Venn	Investment Committee
Mr Dennis Wright	Investment Committee

Rev Andrew Slater and Mr Dennis Wright have served on the Board for the last ten years and are due to retire at the end of this Assembly.

Rev Slater has previously been a member of the BIF for an extended term. His current term commenced in October 2003. He served as Chairman from December 2007 to December 2012, and as a Vice Chairman from December 2004 to December 2007. He has also served for many years on the Audit Committee, in addition to numerous other committees, both as chairman and as a member.

Mr Wright has been a member of the BIF since November 2003. He served as Secretary from December 2008 to December 2012. He served on the Investment Committee from December 2008 to October 2013, as well as being chairman of that committee in 2009. He too, has served on several other ad hoc committees.

Both Rev Slater and Mr Wright have contributed generously with their time and talents in the service of the BIF, the Trusts Corporation and the wider Church. We thank God for all that they have done.

Mr Geoff Cox and Mr Matthew Duke have been nominated to fill the vacancies arising and we are confident that each of them will be worthy replacements:

Mr Geoff Cox BA, LLB is a partner at McCracken & McCracken lawyers where he has been employed for 10 years. He is an active member of the Bundoora congregation and was formerly on the Board of Management at Reservoir Presbyterian Church. He is involved in a number of Christian organisations including board positions with Scripture Union and Melbourne School of Theology

Mr Matthew Duke CA, BCom, BComp is the business manager at Northside Christian College and has experience in accounting, finance and auditing. He is actively involved in the Valley Presbyterian Church where he serves on the Board of Management as treasurer.

Mr David Brown is at the end of his current 5 year terms and is re-nominated a further term. He is a Vice Chairman and serves as convener of the Audit Committee.

Church Office

The Board continues to be grateful to God as well as to the persons involved for the efficient and cheerful operation of the Office of the General Assembly under the leadership of Mr Michael Ellison, General Manager. The work of all, including Mr John Vandenberg, Accountant, Mrs Ros Grant, Administrative Assistant and Mrs Sharee Barnett, part-time book-keeper, is much appreciated.

Administrative Services

For some years the office has been offering an administrative service to congregations to assist them in processing the payments relating to the ministers remuneration. This is to relieve the local treasurer of the burdens that come with administration and compliance associated with the payment of the stipend, NCB and superannuation. Forty ministers and seven PIM staff are currently being paid under this system.

In addition to that assistance, the office has been providing book keeping services for the congregation at Kirkbrae and the Deaf congregation. In response to a short term need, the office is also providing book-keeping services for another congregation as an interim measure.

Honoraria

The Board recommends that honoraria paid to the Deputy Clerk and Business Convener be revised in accordance with the normal practice based on the CPI to the following amounts:

Deputy Clerk	\$2,640
Business Convener	\$810

The Board in accordance with the Code 5.16c has fixed the Law Agent's retainer for the 2013/14 year at \$30,000.

Sites Reserve Accounts

The Sites Reserve Account holds funds which are the proceeds of sale of church property. The following is a summary of movements in the accounts for the year:

	2012/13	2011/12
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	16,519,205	18,326,147
Plus		
Deposits from Sale of Property	1,620,386	907,122
Interest & Other Income	1,166,728	1,247,022
Capital Gain/(Loss) on Separate Investments	1,033,182	(826,515)
Less		
Capital purchases / works as per BIF Reg10 (b)(i)	(2,065,647)	(2,416,963)
Any other purpose as per BIF 10 (b) (ii)	(68,190)	(5,000)
Interest paid to congregations BIF Reg 10 (a)	(525,931)	(712,609)
Balance at 30 June	17,679,733	16,519,205

The BIF is continually challenged by the need to interpret the Sites Reserve regulations and looks forward to the outcome of the Assembly's ad hoc committee which is looking into this matter.

Capital Fund

The interest rate charged on Capital Fund loans is 5.5% per annum. A subsidy of 2.5% was applied for the year to all outstanding loans, thus reducing the effective rate to 3.0%. The costs of funds borrowed from the Trusts Corporation also reduced from 8% to 6.5% so that a surplus similar to the previous year was generated. The surplus of \$83,924 for the year was transferred to the Property Development Fund (2012 \$75,507). The summary accounts in relation to the Capital Fund are as follows:

	2012/13	2011/12
	\$	\$
Receipts		
Interest on loans to congregations	81,883	135,462
Interest from Common Fund	177,683	175,582
Other Investment Income	3,091	5,823
Total Income	262,657	316,867
Payments		
Interest paid on loans from Common Fund	176,953	239,123
Interest paid on depositors funds	1,780	2,237
Grant to Property Development Fund	83,657	75,507
Total Expenditure	262,657	316,867
Surplus	0	0
Balance of Capital Fund Reserve	1,497,308	1,497,643
Deposits held for congregations, PWMU, etc	88,426	90,668
Loans to Congregations and Schools	2,585,420	2,989,245

The Capital Fund continues to have considerable capacity to lend to congregations, and welcomes applications for appropriate projects. Monthly repayments for new loan applications are calculated based on an interest rate of 3% over 20 years.

Assembly Rate

The Board recommends that a zero rate be set for the 2014-15 year.

Property matters

Since the last meeting of the Assembly approval has been given under BIF Reg. 9

(a) for the following urgent property transactions

- Sale of Shelford manse site (Vol 10730 Fol 062)
- Sale of North Geelong church and manse site (Vol 10544 Fol 089)
- Sale of Bairnsdale manse site (Vol 9697 Fol 089)

- Lease of manse sites at Kaniva, and Ballarat South
- Extension of the lease of the St Georges Geelong car park

Ministers' Holiday Housing

We commend Mr Ben Palmer's administration of this scheme that is evidently much appreciated by serving ministers who benefit from it for a week each year.

GAA Finances

Originating in 2004 from Minute 49.4 (BB p. 48), Assembly has set aside \$125,000 for GAA purposes over 5 years, which amount with compounded interest distributions from the Common Fund, has now accumulated to \$304,815 at 30 June 2013. Advice from the BIF, in recent years has been to apply the funds to help the weaker states with church planting and with priority to South Australia, following the lead of the Moderator General's church planting taskforce. However, as events have turned out, it has become evident that the Presbytery of Torrens needed to be strengthened and the Moderator General appointed 3 assessors for the purpose, including Dr Allan Harman from the PCV.

We have been advised by Dr Harman that the Presbytery of Torrens now considers that stabilisation of present congregations is needed before church planting can be considered and to that end has recently decided to seek an Intentional Interim Minister. As the several congregations involved would be unable to fully cover the cost of such an appointment, Dr Harman has recommended that the Victorian Assembly assist with a grant of \$25,000 for each year in the GAA triennium 2014-2016. The BIF endorses this proposal. If the stabilisation is successful, the Assembly could consider grants to assist with church planting at a later date.

The BIF further recommends that grants of \$10,000 per year to assist with church planting in Western Australia be made over the next 3 years, with continuation beyond that being subject to satisfactory review of the situation around the middle of 2016.

Additional Expenditure

Since reporting to the Commission of Assembly in May 2013, the Board has approved an amendment to the APWM committee budget to broaden the purpose of "STAMP mission travel" to "mission expenses". The BIF commends the APWM committee for their diligence in seeking the approval of the BIF in accordance with the regulations despite the fact that it did not involve a change in the budget amount.

Emergency Funding

The Board approved expenditure of \$600 for travel expenses in relation to the Ad Hoc committee to review the Breaking the Silence policy under the emergency provisions authorised by the Assembly in 2005 (Minute 83.5, Blue book p.88)

Belgrave Heights Chapel Relocation

In October 2006 the Assembly made a provision of \$60,000 to help fund the relocation of the Belgrave Heights Chapel. In the 2008 year \$6,000 was expended leaving a balance of \$54,000. The Chapel has since been demolished and cannot be relocated. The original provision has been reversed.

BTS Review

The ad hoc committee to review the Breaking the Silence policy has submitted a cost estimate to the BIF for consideration. The BIF relied on the representations made by the ad hoc committee and did not have information available to it to form a view on whether the recommended strategy is appropriate or otherwise. That is a matter for the General Assembly. The estimates and financial assumptions were reviewed and approved in principle. In doing so, the BIF noted that the costs was considerable and suggested that the ad hoc committee consider ways this might be reduced.

The estimate provided resulted in an annual cost of approximately \$125,000 to \$130,000 annually for the next three years. This is a similar size to the cost of the insurances which are arranged on behalf of congregations and ultimately charged to them (\$126,000). After reviewing possible sources of funding the program proposed by the ad hoc committee, the recommendation is that the cost be met by a levy on congregations calculated on a similar basis to the insurance charge. This would mean a charge to each parish between \$700 and \$4,200 per annum based on number of communicants and adherents. Most parishes (90%) would be charged either \$700 or \$1400 in the first year. (Figures are indicative). At the appropriate time when the ad hoc committee makes its report the BIF will move that the cost be funded in this manner.

Insurance

This year we were asked to complete a Supplementary Prevention of Abuse Questionnaire when renewing the insurances. In some instances our responses to the insurer were regarded as inadequate. Questions asked included the following:

- Are all your personnel (employees/volunteers/contractors) aware of the policy and do they have access to it? If yes, how is this done?
- Do you provide or facilitate formal training on the policy including formal refresher/procedure update training based on current “best practice” and changes to legislation for all of your personnel? If Yes, how is this done and at what intervals and what records are kept of this training?
- Do new appointees receive formal induction Client Protection training prior to engagement in their duties and are they supervised during their probationary period? If Yes, what records are kept of this induction and training?
- Do you comply with all relevant state child/vulnerable person protection legislation?
- Does your Client Protection policy confirm that:
 - Where practicable, you ensure that all employees and volunteers will be a member of the organisation for a minimum of 6 months before you permit them to work with children or vulnerable adults, unless working

- in the same room as an employee or volunteer who has worked for your organisation for a minimum of 6 months?
- You undertake a formal interview of all candidates including analysis of past experience working with children or vulnerable adults.
- You enquire with at least two previous employers regarding suitability for position?
- You contact at least two referees supplied by the candidate, obtain a criminal records check and working with children check?
- You prohibit the employment or engagement of any person from working in your organisation if they have prior convictions relating to violent or sexually related offences. If No, please provide a full explanation
- The appointment of an independent person to investigate any incident.
- A documented reporting process with escalating procedures, including the automatic suspension from all work or other duties within your organisation of any person while under investigation by you, or by the police, for committing abuse, and the automatic termination of their employment, or involvement with your organisation if found guilty of committing abuse, either by your internal investigation or by a court.
- A policy for employees and/or volunteers to report **reasonable suspicion** of abuse to the senior management of your organisation and that police authorities and Ansvar Insurance will be notified
- A policy that ensures the details of those reporting abuse will be kept private and confidential

While we were able to answer affirmatively in some instances, this was not the case for all questions. The insurer has placed an endorsement on our policy stating that “Cover for Sexual Abuse is provided subject to you being able to satisfactorily answer our “prevention of abuse questionnaire” within 6 months of the date of this renewal notice”.

Following subsequent discussions with the insurer, they have agreed “based on PCV’s commitment to making improvements to current practices and the ongoing development of your Client Protection Policy publication ‘Safe Church’, our technical Liability Underwriter has agreed to continue to provide uninterrupted cover for the time being.”

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

The ACNC is a government agency which was established to regulate charities and not-for profit organisations under federal legislation enacted in late 2012 under the title “Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 No 168, 2012” (the Act). The description of the Act is “An Act to establish the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and a national regulatory framework for the not-for-profit sector, and for related purposes”. The ACNC has in the first instance used data from the ABN register to identify those organisations which may fall within the scope of the legislation. This includes religious organisations and therefore each congregation within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (assuming it has an ABN).

The ACNC has requested charities to provide additional information related to their registration. Our professional advice is that while the transfer of registration has already been done automatically the current tax benefits and entitlements will not automatically transfer. The continuation of tax benefits and exemptions will be

dependant on completing the registration by providing additional information to the ACNC. These benefits include exempt fringe benefits which we refer to as non-cash benefits. Conservatively this benefit alone is worth \$22,000 a year to each affected congregation, based on the minimum remuneration for a full time minister. It is important that congregations ensure that their registration with the ACNC properly records the congregation as “a charity for the advancement of religion” in order to be eligible for these concessions. Registration under this category will also enable the congregation to be treated as a Basic Religious Charity (BRC) which exempts the congregation from various reporting and other obligations which would otherwise apply. (It is not yet clear how the ACNC will identify which charities are BRCs but a pre-requisite is that the purpose of the charity is for the advancement of religion.) There are significant benefits in being correctly registered with the ACNC.

For the time being the ACNC is taking a relaxed approach to registrations while it gets on top of its own administration procedures. Our advice is that they will continue to do so until the end of December when they may start to become more focused on compliance than they currently are. The BIF asks the Assembly to strongly encourage Sessions to ensure that the registration of their congregation with the ACNC is properly recorded with the appropriate details prior to the end of this calendar year. Further information is available on the ACNC website at www.acnc.gov.au Our experience has been that the ACNC responds promptly and reasonably to inquiries which can be made by email or phone.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

General Assembly

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Archival Fees	823
Common Fund Interest	535,061
Donations & Gifts	5,000
General Mission Programme	193,699
Management Fees	144,318
Scots Church Properties Trust	92,161
Sundry Income	115
Total Income	<u>971,177</u>

Expenditure:

Accounting and Audit Fees	24,868
Archives & Historic Records	50,898
General Assembly	86,368
General Mission Programme Distributions	193,699
Grants Paid	(43,254)
Insurances	3,547
Legal Expenses	292,348
Office	23,177
Personnel	426,369
Property	2,242
Total Expenditure	<u>1,060,263</u>

Surplus on General Operations

(89,086)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	3,989,308
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(89,086)
Add back depreciation	2,267
Decrease / (Increase) in Current Assets	1,191
Decrease / (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(3,878)
(Decrease) / Increase in Current Liabilities	(59,430)
(Decrease) / Increase in Non-Current Liabilities	5,400
Balance 30/6/13	3,845,772

Perpetual Funds

<u>Balance 30/6/13</u>	2,286,996
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General Assembly

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	Beneficiary Trusts	Special Trusts	Unallocated
Income:			
Bequests			28,129
Pres-AID Donations		75,478	
Interest Capital Fund Loans		81,884	
Common Fund Interest	560,290	317,536	67,559
Other Investment Income	89,487	3,091	
Rental Ministers' Holiday Homes	10,370		
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	199,663		
Total Income	859,810	477,989	95,689
Expenditure:			
Grants	59,578	158,903	
Insurance and Risk Management		23,630	
Interest Paid - Capital Fund		178,733	
Legal Fees	3,765		
Ministers' Holiday Homes Expenses	101,337		
Missionaries on Home Assignment		9,795	
Moderator's Expenses		27,602	
Pensions Ministers & Widows	2,700		
Rental Assistance	2,500		
Superannuation	16,085	16,000	
Total Expenditure	185,964	414,663	-
Surplus on Specific Trusts	673,846	63,326	95,689
Movements in Funds			
Balance 1/7/12	4,529,138	3,129,162	538,283
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	673,846	63,326	95,689
Housing Fund Loans	(484,841)		
Movement in Pres-Aid fund owing		(60,545)	
Increase in Capital Fund Deposits		(2,245)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Separate Investments	(279,150)	1,909	
Balance 30/6/13	4,438,992	3,131,608	633,971
Separately Invested Funds - Donaldson Trust	1,216,260		
Separately Invested Funds - Capital Fund		89,666	
Perpetual Funds			
Balance 30/6/13	394,522		

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (Min. 67)

The Committee endeavours to advise and assist congregations applying, contemplating or seeking approval of plans for proposed alterations or new buildings in as timely and helpful manner as possible.

The Committee does most of its work by email and phone, as its members are scattered far and wide, and meeting to consider applications would not only be impractical, it would also slow the rate at which the committee could offer assistance and approve plans.

Throughout the year past the Committee has again been greatly helped by the excellent work and advice of the Church Architect, Mr Les Oliver, whose wise counsel and assistance is invaluable to both the Committee and to congregations who have sought his advice.

The Committee reported to the 2012 General Assembly that it planned to carry out a review of the present Minimum Manse Standards (which were approved by the General Assembly in 1986) with the intention of reporting on this matter to the 2013 General Assembly. However, while the Committee has commenced this review, at the time of writing this report it seems unlikely that it will be possible to have it completed in time for consideration by the Assembly this year. The Committee hopes to have it completed for the 2014 General Assembly.

Peter Phillips
CONVENER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE (Min. 70)

This is my last report as convener of the CENC after a longer-than-planned period in this position. I will stay on in the portfolios of PYV and Eighteen-Thirty Camps. The Rev Douglas Robertson will be taking over as convener at the beginning of 2014 upon the return from his long service leave. However, our committee will take several hits with personnel rotating off the Committee. Retiring due to the 9 year rule are:

1. Rev Matthew James our treasurer, and who also served in the portfolio of Music.
2. Rev Michael Wishart serving the SFY and Catechism portfolios.
3. Rev Michael Wharton serving the Websites portfolio.

Additionally, Rev Robert White has indicated that because of other commitments he will not be continuing on the committee. This leaves us four members down and this is not enough to run the important ministries of this committee. So we are in the process of seeking new members. We are looking for members who have a passion in one or more of our portfolios and who have some experience or expertise that will further the work of this committee. We are in need of ministers, elders, and skilled men and women church members. If members of the Assembly know of potential additions to our committee, please give us their details and we will contact them. We need people in the following portfolios:

- Website portfolio – looking after all CENC websites and updating them as necessary.
- Fuelled portfolio – organising and implementing Fuelled training days in Melbourne and regional areas.
- Reforming Arts portfolio – Promoting the arts in the lives and worship of members and churches.
- Treasurer portfolio – looking after budgeting and finances of the CENC & PYV.
- SFY Primary portfolio – development of the Catechetical based primary and secondary Sunday School training materials known as See For Yourself (SFY).

*Portfolio – **See For Yourself** (SFY)*

Announcing two new developments in ‘See For Yourself’.

1) SFY available as a CD Rom.

The CENC is delighted to report a change in the format of the four-year, youth-aged (years 7 to 10), Bible study course, “See For Yourself”.

This year the CENC have moved to make this wonderful Bible study resource more accessible by releasing it as a CD Rom with printable PDF files for the teacher and student books. This will not only drastically reduce the cost but also the storage required for this four-year, 32 book course. It is our aim to launch this CD Rom at this General Assembly.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to examine this material you can access sample lessons on www.seeforyourself.com.au or view the complete course at PTC Media 0400 880 515 or ptcmedia@presbyteriancollege.org

This new development will also mean we will be selling-off our stock of teacher and student books at markedly reduced prices, so keep an eye on PTC Media for this sale.

2) New Kinder to year 6 Bible course.

The CENC is excited to announce the development of a new series of kinder to year 6 Bible studies designed to complement and prepare the children for the year 7 to 10 series of “see for yourself”.

This material is being developed under the godly expertise and dedication of Rev Neil Benfell who has already laid the foundations of the curriculum and gathered together a team of enthusiastic and gifted writers.

Our prayer before the Lord is for God’s blessing on Neil and his dedicated team as they undertake this great task for the glory of our Lord.

Again we are indebted to the godly foresight of Mr Robert Allan who by God’s grace and for His glory has left a bequest to our denomination that continues to bless our children by funding these publications, the catechism exams, our Youth Ministry Director and the PYV.

Michael Wishart

Portfolio – PYV

PYV goes from strength to strength. The present PYV Council is one of the more efficient and mature groups in recent years and are a joy to work with. The Youth Ministries Director has added a tight dimension to this group that has seen it more productive and confident. After years of training and working with the Office General Manager, PYV is now consistently developing and staying within budgets and yet establishing new and exciting avenues of ministry.

We had some smashing Summer and regional camps this year and several other well attended social events that marked the growth and development of our young PYV-ers. With the training of young leaders now in the hands of Youth METRO we are seeing quality training in our young people coming through that will be enjoyed by the churches of our denomination for many years to come.

Scott Kroeger

Report From PYV Council

2013 has been a wonderfully encouraging year as we’ve enjoyed the blessings of ministry among young people in the PCV. Our council has worked hard to manage all the different aspects of our ministry, and I’d like to thank them for their service and initiative across this year. We’ve had a number of staff working alongside us. I’d like to express thanks to Rev Brian Harvey for his work as Youth Ministries Director, and the way he invests himself across many local churches, seeking to encourage and equip young people and leaders. Thank you also to Fiona Nicholson, and more recently, Sonja Otto, for their service in the office as they have faithfully contributed to our ministry.

Possibly the most impacting endeavor we were involved in this year was the Engage ’13 conference. PYV had a significant role in the launch of this new ministry, and it’s been exciting to be involved in. Imagine if every single leader in our Churches were trained in how to read and teach the Bible faithfully! As a Church, we have such a high priority on preaching and teaching the Word faithfully, it’s wonderful to see that legacy as the same priority for those involved in youth ministry. I would commend the

Engage Conference in January 2014 to you, as something worthwhile to send your leaders along to. Can I encourage you to be proactive about making this a priority in both your calendars and your budgets.

We've been continuing our regional camp model for our camping ministry this year, and have seen many encouragements as to how these camps have been a blessing to local Churches, especially in regional areas. It's been great to see the way city churches have connected with country churches and established good relationships. We are excited about the long term benefits these camps could have on youth ministry across Victoria and have been encouraged to see many young leaders developing leadership and ministry skills on these camps.

We are encouraged by the continuing support of the ministry by various committees of the Presbyterian Church. We especially thank the CENC for their continued guidance and wisdom, as well as financial support, the Social Services Committee for financial support and encouragement, to the PWMU and APWM for continued support in the area of mission, various congregations for use of facilities and providing resources, the METRO committee for the partnership and encouragement in leadership development, the PTC for use of their facilities and resources, and the Assembly for their prayer and encouragement.

Joy Venning
PYV Council Convener

Portfolio – Youth Ministries Director (YMD)

Ministry to youth within the PCV continues to flourish in areas of the state. We thank God for all that is happening, and pray we will see more local churches having vibrant youth ministry.

Development and Nurture

The main aim of PYV, and therefore something which I see to be vitally important in my own work, is “the development and nurture of youth for the service of Jesus Christ.” We work for this in a number of ways, and two key elements to this are PYV Camps and Engage youth leadership conference.

Our 2012 Summer Camp focused on the Psalms and this gave me an opportunity to bring these ancient words to the minds of our teenagers to show how relevant they still are for our life in the 21st Century.

By the time we reach the GAV, we will have had a second year of regional camps. Churches in these regions have wonderfully supported these and we have seen a number of young people attending their first PYV camp through the regional events. It also means that a group of new leaders have received some training and experience. You will be interested to know that in 2013 our theme has been “Finding God's Will for your life”, with the sub-title “Why good theology matters.” Rev Andrew Vines gave excellent and practical messages at West Camp. John Huynh at North Camp and Rev Darren Middleton at East Camp will also speak on this theme.

In January 2013, the first Engage Youth Leaders Conference was held. Through this conference, we aim to equip leaders to be able to create and lead an effective Bible study. We were incredibly excited to see so many people gather together for our first conference, and look forward to what will happen through future conferences. I was

also delighted to see people putting this teaching into practice through the year.

A third element is supporting the work of local church youth ministry. I have greatly enjoyed visiting a number of youth groups on Friday nights, sometimes to speak and other times to just be there. On any Friday night, you should be praying for the youth of the PCV. I have also enjoyed meeting with youth leaders to help them. In particular, we have spent time with our brothers and sisters in Mt Gambier as they seek to build an effective youth ministry.

I would like to record my thanks to the members of CENC and the council members of PYV for their support and encouragement. I also acknowledge the work of Fiona Nicholson who worked as an Administrative Officer for some months, and Sonja Otto who is currently our Administrative Officer.

PYV Aim and Objectives:

The PYV Council has reviewed its Aim and Objectives and include these below for Assembly's approval. Our Aim is unchanged, but the objectives have been updated.

PYV aims to glorify God by assisting the congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the development and nurture of youth for the service of Christ Jesus.

1. We believe that God continues to draw people to himself through Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit, so we will provide opportunity and assistance to youth to commit their life to Jesus as their Saviour.
2. We value unity in the body of Christ, so we will provide opportunities for fellowship and shared experiences in a Christian context.
3. We believe that youth have the ability to lead and serve in their local church, so we will provide training and opportunities to lead within PYV in the hope they will use this experience elsewhere.
4. We know that youth are still developing, so we will provide whatever support we can to help them "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2 Pet 3:18)
5. We value local church ministry, so we will seek to provide whatever support and resources we can to individual churches. (Training; Books; Guidance)
6. PYV is a part of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, so we will do what we can to represent the needs of youth within the courts of the church.

Brian Harvey
Youth Ministries Director

Portfolio – Catechism Exam

This is the first year that I have taken on the responsibility for the annual Catechism Exam. My thanks to those ministers who actively promoted this amongst the young people in their congregations. I know that many more were invited than eventually took the time to work through the exam. I have received 15 completed papers and, as I write, am waiting for three more.

If you would like to suggest other ways we can help young people to know the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and to promote this within the PCV, please feel free to contact me. Our desire is to see these biblical truths being taught and learned by our denomination.

Brian Harvey
Youth Ministries Director

Portfolio – Fuelled Training Days

Fuelled Training Days have not come together this year as we had planned. Initially, the problem was not having a portfolio holder who could do the job, which delayed preliminary planning. When planning to conduct a Fuelled day in a country presbytery did commence we were advised that there would not be enough interest to make it worth while proceeding with the event. This presents CENC with somewhat of a dilemma as regret has been expressed in the past that such training has not been available to our outlying regional areas. Clearly there is a need to assess whether or not this ministry is still needed and desired. We invite members of Assembly to give us feedback on what they would like to see and how often.

This year we are excited to provide an opportunity for members of the Assembly to come together on the Monday of Assembly week to consider issues of importance to our church and its continuing ministry. In consultation with members of the Assembly Business Committee the following timetable has been adopted to provide country members the best opportunity to attend and to allow adequate time before the commencement of the evening sederunt of Assembly.

11:30 - 12:30 - Workshop 1 in Robert White meeting room.

12:30 - 1:30 - Catered Lunch.

1:30 - 2:20 - Workshop 2 in Robert White meeting room

2:20 - 2:40 - Coffee break

2:40 - 3:30 - Prayer meeting in Robert White meeting rooms.

We ask members of the Assembly to provide feedback on this initiative with a view to ascertaining whether to make it a regular feature of Assembly week.

We wish to expressed our thanks to the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly and to the Convener of the Business Committee for their encouragement and support in this endeavour.

Portfolio – Websites

CENC Websites

The Committee continues to encourage Assembly Committees and churches to utilise the CENC as well as the PCV and PCA websites. Some Committees have made use of the website to provide access to forms and other material for the members of the PCV. We would love to see more of our Committees doing the same. We encourage Assembly Committees to supply downloadable information or forms to the Webmaster to put up onto the denominational website.

Online Resources

If pastors or committees have resource materials for public dissemination, they can be uploaded to the CENC website where people may download them for free. Just send them to resources@cenc.org.au.

Michael Wharton

Webmaster - mwharton@pcvic.org.au

Portfolio - Finances

The net surplus for the year in General Operations after depreciation was \$32,107. Income and expenditure were generally in line with our budget. Committee funds available for General Operations at the end of the financial year were \$465,264, continuing to provide a solid base for the committee to maintain the existing programs and employees.

The Allan Bequest net surplus for the year was \$27,511. Again, income and expenditure were generally as detailed in our budget. The balance of the Allan Bequest Common Fund is now at \$536,341. The Allan Bequest continues to be in good shape to fund those appropriate ministries that we trust will arise in the future.

Matt James

Portfolio - Women's Ministries

Due to some unexpected events in 2013, things are moving very slowly with Women's Ministries. The committee is intending to meet during the Assembly week. We are all very anxious to get things moving.

I am grateful to CENC for their support and encouragement, and am thankful for their commitment.

Mrs Anne Harvey

Portfolio – 18-30 Retreat

This age group within our denomination contains young professionals, couples and students who are emerging leaders. Many of them have come through church youth groups and PYV and now are looking for opportunities to serve their local church. The CENC seeks to provide some key training in this area through regular gatherings for such purposes.

This year's retreat plans started well, until the retreat convener Scott McNab was informed that our inter-state speaker was ill and not able to come. The only person I could think of who had the ability and skills to step up on such short notice was Rev Richard O'Brian, who graciously agreed to the challenge and did an amazing job by all accounts. In addition to Richard's teaching were several workshops with an assortment of challenging ideas, thoughts and ministry opportunities.

It was very hot weather and the location at Belgrave Heights Conference Centre without air-conditioning for sleeping and eating made things a bit difficult. The dining facilities were changed to allow the caterers to be able to do their work. The location was not ideal, but everyone seemed to get along anyway.

Feedback from several attendees (including our guest speaker) was that the CENC needs to "step-up" and make this a really "high quality" Retreat with very high profile speakers. To that end, the CENC is seeking to develop the next 18-30 Retreat in a better location with better facilities. There will be an improvement on the model and the choice of speakers as well.

We urge all sessions and presbyteries to support the next Retreat by urging those appropriate to attend.

Scott Kroeger
CONVENER

Christian Education & Nurture

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	84,813
Eighteen Thirty Camp Income	7,316
Rentals Received	1,248
Total Income	93,378

Expenditure:

Committee Expenses	4,316
Grants to PYV	51,994
Eighteen Thirty Camp Expenses	5,735
Office	1,862
Total Expenditure	63,907

Surplus on General Operations

29,471

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	431,568
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	29,471
Add back depreciation	1,588
Balance 30/6/13	462,627

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/13	268,250
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Allan Trust

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	65,206
See For Yourself	2,224
Total Income	67,430

Expenditure:

General Expenses	71
PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	38,004
Prizes	1,845
Total Expenditure	39,920

Surplus on Specific Trusts

27,511

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	508,830
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	27,511
Balance 30/6/13	536,341

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/13	27,852
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Presbyterian Youth in Victoria

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

CENC Subsidies	81,552
Common Fund Interest	48,862
Donations	1,090
Equipment Hire	1,236
Fundraising for Campers	881
Total Income	133,621

Expenditure:

Activities Deficit/(Surplus)	
Training Day	(373)
Youth Leaders Conference	5,374
East State Camp	1,156
West State Camp	3,018
North State Camp	(1,406)
Social	1,116
Internships	(102)
Family Camp	(1,048)
Summer Camp	2,494
Merchandising	(1,144)
Volleyball	(300)
Total Activities Deficit/(Surplus)	8,786
Computer & Software	2,450
Depreciation	1,625
Insurance	2,310
Personnel Expenses	103,850
Office and Administration Expenses	12,983
Total Expenditure	132,004

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

1,618

Movements in Funds

	Common Fund	Paypal	Total
Balance 1/7/12	145,486	192	145,678
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)			1,618
Add back Depreciation			1,625
Decrease/(Increase) Current Assets			622
Assets (Purchased)/Disposed			(3,297)
Balance 30/6/13	146,245	0	146,245

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/13 **268,250**

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (Min. 60)

Same Sex Marriage (SSM)

As it stands, the Labor party is committed to SSM, and the Coalition party policy is currently 'that marriage is between a man and a woman.' However, it is important to note that Mr Abbott continues to 'hedge' on this issue, potentially 'leaving the door open' to future party-room policy-changes. It seems likely that sometime in the next parliament, a conscience vote will be held and this may increase the probability of a SSM bill succeeding.

Therefore, in the upcoming election, it seems prudent to consider, as ACL has urged, what local candidates *themselves* believe, rather than whether they are Labor or Coalition. Individual candidates' views are what will be pivotal in a conscience vote. We need to continue to lobby local members and candidates on this issue, and we need to seek our God in prayer, asking that SSM will be resisted in Australia for the good of our nation.

Same-sex marriage is *potentially the biggest threat to freedom of speech* in the Western World. We've seen overseas how free speech is quashed once SSM is legalised, and those speaking out from a Christian viewpoint often end up on the wrong side of the law.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, SSM by design will eliminate the right of the child to know and be raised by their biological parents. A corollary of this, is the severing of biological links to siblings, grandparents and family medical history. We need to both pray and vociferously oppose in our opposition to redefining marriage.

Federal Matters

The issue whether the PCA and its ministers should maintain registration as marriage celebrants, in the event that the government redefines marriage, will be debated at the upcoming GAA. Whilst marriage is a federal matter, it is the view of our own Committee that *we should consider, as a denomination, withdrawing from our position as marriage celebrants*; thereby refusing to be seen as supporting a new definition of marriage that will, by design, rob children of either a mother or father. Such a stance would be seen as 'taking a stand' against a proposal that we believe is, not just both immoral and unbiblical, but also extremely unloving for all children involved and destabilising for society. The alternative is to expose our ministers to future litigation, harassment and coercion.

There will also be an effort to put together a statement that gives expression to Christian concerns over the treatment of asylum seekers arriving in Australia, whilst at the same time acknowledging the problem of people smugglers and the lives endangered by such journeys.

Federal Consolidation of Anti-discrimination Laws

The proposed legislation relating to a Consolidation of Anti-Discrimination laws into one mega-bill has essentially been abandoned at this point, due to public opposition to the proposal. It was a terrible piece of legislation that limited free-speech, reversed the presumption of innocence and introduced 'gender orientation' and 'political opinion' as some of the controversial new 'protected attributes.' We believe the passing of such a bill would have stifled both freedom of speech and freedom of religion, and would no doubt have led to frivolous and vexatious claims. While the bill

has been shelved for now, there is every likelihood it will appear again, in amended form, in the future.

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium

On August 16 and 17 the *Religion in the Public Square Colloquium* was held. There were around 150 folk who attended to hear Dr Mark Durie give three talks on hate speech, Islam and anti-racism, as well as Marxism, relativism and religious violence. In addition, the Hon John Anderson AO gave three talks on loss of faith and culture, moral decline of the West and practical reflection on Christians in the public square.

Other speakers also included the following: Prof Nicolas Aroney, Dr Kevin Donnelly, Dr Peter Barnes, Dr John Mclean, Chelsea Pietsch, Elizabeth Kendall, Fleur Letcher, Rev Peter Hastie, Rev David Palmer and Rev Darren Middleton.

The committee believes that a regular Colloquium such as this provides the wider church with opportunities to engage with issues relevant to Christians, and encourages them to participate in the Public Square in a meaningful way, to the glory of God. We plan to have another one in 2016.

New Website – www.yourCaN.org.au

The Church and Nation Committee has updated its website. We also have a new URL address www.yourCaN.org and www.yourCaN.org.au to reflect our responsibility to serve you as **your Church and Nation (CaN) Committee**.

Persecuted Christians

The committee continues to be concerned about the plight of Christians in other nations who are undergoing persecution; particularly in Sudan, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan and many other nations.

The committee is continuing to look at ways in which we as Presbyterians can assist those overseas who are suffering for their faith. Patrick Sookhdeo from the Barnabas Fund will address the Assembly in greater detail on these issues.

Committee Finances

During the 2012/13 fiscal year CaN produced a surplus. The 2013/14 budget is expected to run a deficit largely due to the expenses of running the Colloquium. However, given our fiscal restraint in the non-Colloquium years, this should not pose a concern for the Assembly.

Research Assistant

The Committee has now had a Research Assistant for 2 years. The position was funded by a capital grant of \$250,000, making use of interest to fund the position. Our research assistant, Mrs Fleur Letcher, has exceeded our expectations for this role. She has been extremely busy, not just in research, but in preparations for the Colloquium which have taken up a huge amount of the Committee's time. We thank God for her work on the Committee.

Membership of the Committee

All members of the Committee have been regular in their attendance, with the exception of one member due to serious illness. There are, however, vacancies on the Committee that could be filled.

Darren Middleton
CONVENER

Church & Nation Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Colloquium Receipts	505
Common Fund Interest	41,862
Total Income	42,367

Expenditure:

Conference and Colloquium Expenses	1,712
Office Expenses	2,042
Personnel - Research Assistant	21,612
Travel	506
Total Expenditure	25,872

Surplus on General Operations

16,495

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	344,738
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	16,495
Add back depreciation	246
Balance 30/6/13	361,478

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE (Min. 102)

Church Plants

Valley Presbyterian Church

Valley Presbyterian Church is in its third year and consistently sees attendance over one hundred people, with a high attendance of 121. VPC continues to pursue and develop ways to connect with the local community for the sake of the Gospel. They are working towards electing their first local elders, an important step in the history of the congregation.

Darebin Presbyterian Church

Under Aaron Boyd's leadership, Darebin Presbyterian Church started with a core team of twenty-eight people; they now average in the mid forties, with a high attendance of fifty-eight. They mainly have university students, young adults and young couples, with only one person over fifty. As well as a number of Gospel-focussed ministries, they are also involved in existing community based programs like *Friends of Merri Creek* and *Sprout Community Garden*, where they present themselves as Christians who care about, and want to be involved in, the local community.

Pt Cook Presbyterian Church

This is Peter Owen's first year as full-time Church Planter for the Pt Cook Presbyterian Church (services had been held there prior to Peter being appointed full-time). The average attendance is about 25 and there is a high level of commitment shown in their faithful giving. At one special occasion there were 90 people. A Chinese couple has recently joined the church, hopefully opening avenues into that cultural group. They are also rejoicing in the recent conversion of a lady from an Indian background. The congregation is considering the possibility of a different venue as the Air Force base is not as ideal as was expected.

Reforming Church

Reforming Church is the new name for South East Bendigo Presbyterian Church. The new name is targeted at a tertiary audience and seeks to convey their primary goal: *Reforming by the power of Jesus*. Russ Grinter and his team, along with about ten people from St John's, form the core group. Apart from the semester break where attendance dropped, they have been averaging about forty-five people, with unbelievers joining almost every week. While the primary focus has been university students, they are also turning their attention to young families in the area through ministries like *Mums 'n Bubs*.

Expression of Interest

We are currently processing an expression of interest for a grant to start a fifth church plant in 2014. If this comes to fruition it will be our second plant outside the Metropolitan area.

Web Site

We have developed a web site (www.reviveaus.com.au) to give ourselves a public presence and an online location for church planting resources. Here we have links to, and news about, PCV church plants. There are also important forms for presbyteries and churches planning to plant new congregations with the help of the CPC.

We have called the site REVIVE instead of simply naming it after the committee because it is a more dynamic way to represent our aims: we want to revive communities through the power of the Gospel through the planting of Gospel-minded congregations. We believe a commitment to church planting will revive the PCV as well.

Forms for presbyteries and congregations

Please note that we now have set procedures for approaching the CPC about a church plant. There is an *Initial Expression of Interest* form to notify us of the intent to plant a new church. This will help with forward planning in terms of our budget, and makes clear to the presbytery some of our expectations. The *First Grant Application* is more detailed, and is the formal application for financial help to start a new work. Even if there is no expectation that CPC funds will be required, we believe that the forms are helpful for churches and presbyteries to think through the process of church planting and recruitment.

There is also the *Annual Grant Application* form for the ongoing funding of existing church plants. All these forms have a September 30th due date. (See appendix for these forms.)

Importance of Assessment

When the Presbyterian Church in America started in 1973, it suffered a 40% failure rate with its new congregations. After developing assessment procedures for church planters and providing coaches, the failure rate for church plants has now dropped to 10%. Ed Stetzer, a prominent researcher in church planting, says that planters in the US who aren't carefully assessed have only a 35% success rate, whereas those who are assessed and follow the recommendations have a success rate of over 85%!

We believe it a matter of due diligence that all prospective church planters undergo careful assessment before being approved as a church planter. Due to the time and effort it would take to create and implement an effective assessment process ourselves, we use Geneva Push's assessment process. The *Ministry and Mission Committee* of the PCNSW has also dropped their own assessment procedure in favour of Geneva Push's. By involving people from outside our denomination there is the added advantage of increased objectivity.

Geneva Push as a Resource

We continue to see Geneva Push as a valuable resource to help us in our work in the PCV. We would not be in the place we are without the benefits of our association with them. (A web page article included in the appendix.)

Assessment

The Geneva Push assessment process provides an invaluable service to us as the first step in considering a potential planter. Assessment involves written assessments and a meeting with experienced church planters. The key aspect of this assessment is the focus on aptitude and readiness for planting a church. As our own church planters gain experience, we will end up having more of our own people involved in the face-to-face meetings in the assessment process. While Geneva Push is committed to the Reformed faith, it is the responsibility of the CPC and presbyteries to pursue in greater detail matters we consider distinctive to our denomination's theology and governance.

Coaching

Geneva Push links up those who have gone through their assessment procedure and planted a church with a coach who has experience in church planting. The coach provides regular encouragement and feedback, and helps keep the church planter focussed on the main goals he has set. Church planting can be a lonely job and it is easy to become distracted under the pressure of ministry. Our planters who have coaches greatly value this support and may one day become coaches themselves.

Refresh Conference

The annual Refresh Conference is provided free of charge to current church planters and their wives who have gone through the Geneva Push assessment process. This is a valuable ministry to encourage and strengthen their marriages and ministry focus.

Recruiting help

Until recently it has been difficult for our denomination to be recognised as an option for those interested in church planting. Now that we have four plants we are gaining a positive reputation which is catching the attention of those with a passion for planting. Scott Sanders, General Manager of Geneva Push, promotes the PCV as a serious option to young men considering church planting. As our reputation for planting new churches grows, Scott's ability to make nation-wide contacts will be increasingly valuable.

One Day Conferences

This year Geneva Push ran twelve one-day events and nine webinars (web seminars). These provide encouragement and stimulation for everyone interested in Gospel ministry. Recently in Melbourne we had *Church Planting and Failure* (where all the speakers were Presbyterians) and *Church Planting in the Western Suburbs* with Ray Galea from Rooty Hill Anglican Church. More recently *The Gospel Driven Church* was held at RTC, Geelong. Most of the talks from these events are available free of charge on the Geneva Push web site.

National Conference

Each year a national conference is held, which is now called *Multiply*. This event brings together people from all parts of Australia to encourage and promote church planting. It is a great opportunity to mix with others and hear what God is doing in many places. Last year's keynote speaker was Don Carson and this year it will be prominent church planting researcher, Ed Stetzer. We have funds set aside to cover the cost for a number of people to attend Multiply, particularly our current church planters. On their website you can enjoy the messages from Don Carson as well as great expositions by David Jones and Andrew Reid from previous occasions on Joshua 1 and Jonah 3 respectively.

Property

The search for a suitable property in the Doreen area has turned into a bit of a saga. The local Council's position on a number of properties makes the search more difficult. We were told that one option we thought to be ideal was one they would definitely oppose because of their future plans for that area. While pointing out a few other possibilities, the Council's preferred option is a piece of land at the gateway of the Laurimar shopping precinct. While the location is brilliant, it is less than an acre, has a \$1.6 million asking price, and would require a two or three story building to meet their site requirements. An option like this would put us in the heart of the

community, but would require the type of creative development the PCV has little experience in.

The property we were focussing on last year ended up with a number of unresolved issues, but still remains an option because of its location. A recent sworn valuation indicated that its value is significantly less than what the vender is asking. This leads us to think we should keep an open mind regarding this property as it now falls within the scope of the purchasing power of the Property Development Fund. There are a few other possibilities for land that still require investigation.

We have decided not to continue exploring the idea of using some of the land at Officer to help consolidate the progress being made by Valley Presbyterian Church in the Doreen area. The question of how to resolve the general lack of funds to purchase property still remains an issue without a ready solution. As other church plants become established the issue will become increasingly pressing.

The committee has been presented with a concept of paying deposits for manses on the basis that paying off a loan is more cost effective than paying rent. Owning the manse provides the church planter's family more security than renting from a landlord who can terminate the lease. We believe this idea is worth pursuing, and hope to do so next year.



Church Planting Committee Expression of Interest for Grants

[Due 30th September each year]

Name of Parish OR Presbytery: Session OR Presbytery Clerk:

Email: Mobile: Phone:

Proposed Church Plant: Extract Minute approving request? Yes / No

Proposed PLANTER:

If no one is in mind yet do you want CPC to assist you in finding someone? Yes/No

Has the proposed planter been assessed by Geneva Push yet? Yes / No [This is a requirement of the CPC]

Has the proposed planter been interviewed by the CPC yet? Yes/No

Anticipated Grant Request: 1st year = \$

*Amounts expected under CPC planned reductions:

2nd yr = \$ 3rd yr = \$ 4th yr = \$ 5th yr = \$

TOTAL = \$

Sample budget for a first year plant is available online for guidance

*Funding over five years as defined by the CPC is based on a 20% reduction of grants each year. The goal is for the plant to be self sufficient by its sixth year. Please note that application for a grant must be made each year. Grants are also subdivided under three categories: Planter remuneration and expenses, operating costs, capital costs.

Instructions: Please type your answers in under each question and provide additional material as required.

1. Briefly describe where and when the Session or Presbytery proposes to plant a church. [Attach Map]
2. Why does the Session or Presbytery think this is a viable church planting opportunity?
3. What has convinced you that the planter, in addition to being godly and faithful, is the right person for the job of Church planter? Provide evidence please.
4. What progress has been made thus far towards gathering a suitably godly, gifted and mature core team?
5. How does the Session or Presbytery propose to plant this church? [i.e. What plans are in place?]
6. Is an interim Session ready to be activated in line with CPC Regulation 9?

Expression of Interest must be lodged by 30th June each year (three months prior to the closing date of Grant Applications), to:-

The Secretary: Rev Ben Johnson
Church Planting Committee [PCV]
25 Manifold St, WARRNAMBOOL, VIC, 3280.
Email: ben@wboolpresychurch.org.au
Mobile: 0405 546 513



Church Planting Committee First Grant Application Form

(Due 30th September each year)

Name of Parish:

Session Clerk: Email:

Mobile: Phone:

Name of Presbytery:

Clerk of Presbytery: Email:

Mobile: Phone:

Please attach Extract Minute from Session and/or Presbytery approving grant request? Yes / No

Proposed Church Plant:

Proposed PLANTER:

Has the proposed planter been assessed by Geneva Push yet? Yes / No [This is a requirement of the CPC]

Has the proposed planter been interviewed by the CPC yet? Yes/No

Amount of Grant Requested: 1st year = \$

* Amounts expected under CPC planned reductions:

2nd yr = \$ 3rd yr = \$ 4th yr = \$ 5th yr = \$

TOTAL = \$

Please include a full budget for CPC's consideration as per CPC Regulation 8.

*Funding over five years as defined by the CPC is based on a 20% reduction of grants each year. The goal is for the plant to be self sufficient by its sixth year. Please note that application for a grant must be made each year. Grants are also subdivided under three categories: Planter remuneration and expenses, Operating costs, Capital costs.

Instructions: Please type your answers in under each question and provide additional material as required.

1. Outline any changes and further developments to the Church Planting proposal made since the Expression of Interest. Indicate why these changes were thought necessary.

2. How has the mother church demonstrated in the past that they are deliberately evangelistic?

The Church Planter

3. Has the Presbytery or Session conducted an extensive interview with the proposed planter? YES / NO
Please report on the findings and outcome of the interview process? [Exclude strengths and weaknesses]

4. What unique strengths and gifts does the church planter have that make him suited to this church plant?

5. What weaknesses have been identified in the planter? How will these weaknesses be addresses?

6. What has the Geneva Assessment indicated about the suitability of the proposed planter? What are the areas of strengths and weaknesses indicated by this assessment [in addition to above]?

Planning and Preparing to Plant

7. What research has the Planter, Session or Presbytery done on the demographics of the area in the proposed plant?

8. What strategic plan has been developed to plant this church?

9. *Experience has shown that having a strong core team significantly increases the likelihood of success.*

What steps have been taken to gather and build a core team? How has the development of the core team progressed? Demonstrate that this core team have Christian maturity, sacrificial service and a range of gifts necessary for a church plant?

Training and Equipping to Plant

10. What reading and other training on church planting has the proposed planter completed thus far?

11. What training and equipping has the core team received about church planting?

Finances for a Plant

12. What financial resources do the Session, Presbytery and other parishes within the presbytery have in reserves other than working capital?

13. How much money is the Session, Presbytery and other parishes prepared to invest into this church plant from their own reserves?

14. How much money is the Core Team prepared to contribute on a monthly basis into this church plant?

Administration Matters

15. Has an Interim Session been formed yet in line with CPC Regulation 9? Yes/No

16. Is the moderator of the Session willing to sign a BIF approved employment contract for the planter if required? Yes/No

17. Has a treasurer been lined up? Yes/No

First Grant Applications must be lodged by 30th September each year to:-

The Secretary: Rev Ben Johnson
Church Planting Committee [PCV]
25 Manifold St, WARRNAMBOOL, VIC, 3280.
Email: ben@wboolpresychurch.org.au
Mobile: 0405 546 513



Church Planting Committee

Annual Application Form

(Due 30th September)

Name of Parish:
Treasurer: Email:
Mobile: Phone:

Please attach Extract Minute from Session and/or Board requesting a grant for the coming year.

Have you submitted an APR to the presbytery? Yes / No

Have the presbytery approved the request for a grant in the light of the APR? Yes/No

(Please provide extract of minute from the presbytery.)

Financial Assessment of the Plant

If the grant request is less than a 20% reduction from last years total grant package please provide justification for the current level of the request.

Growth Assessment of the Plant

What are the current numbers of people attending on a regular basis?

How does this compare when last year's grant was applied for?

How many of the new people come from other churches?

How many of the new people are converts as a result of the work of the church and its members?

Current Activities of the Plant

What are the outreach focussed ministries and actives currently happening?

What are the positive signs that the members of the church are talking to unbelievers about Jesus?

What is the status on the number of locally elected elders and Board members?

Ministry Goals and Focus for Next Year

Outline your plans and goals for next Year.

Annual Grant Applications must be lodged
by 30th September each year to:-

The Secretary: Rev Ben Johnson
Church Planting Committee [PCV]
25 Manifold St, WARRNAMBOOL, VIC, 3280.
Email: ben@wboolpresychurch.org.au
Mobile: 0405 546 513

PCV Church Planting and the Geneva Push

Good news and Bad News

First the good news: The Presbyterian Church of Victoria has planted 49 new congregations since 1982. The bad news is that many of these plants have folded and most of the rest are still relying on external support to survive. Sadly, few of these church plants are thriving today. It is tempting to just say it is all too difficult and give up.

Yet the task before us is vast and urgent. The Australian population is growing fast – we are the fastest growing nation in the OECD with a population growth of 1.7%. The population of Victoria is growing at 95 000 people per year. 60% of these people are new immigrants. Melbourne is one of the fastest growing cities in the fastest growing nation in the developed world. The fields are ripe for harvest.

PCV Church planter Aaron Boyd recently wrote:

“Currently Melbourne is home to 4.17 million people. Optimistically about 2% or 83,000 of those people are born-again believers. Many people suggest that to be an influential minority, a group has to represent about 10% of the population, in this case, 417,000 people. So for the church to be an influential minority group in Melbourne we need something like 333,000 new believers or 3,300 new churches with a 100 people. On top of this, over the past 10 years, on average, Melbourne has grown by about 70,000 people each year. So every year we need an extra 70 new churches of 100 people to cope with population growth. And all this is only to reach 10% of Melbourne’s population!”

Seventy new churches a year in Melbourne just to keep up with the population growth! Currently we have almost 100 PCV congregations in our state. Church planting researcher Ed Stetzer reports that for a denomination to grow and reach more people the number of new churches it starts each year must equal at least 3% of the denomination’s existing churches. That means for the PCV *unless we plant 3 new churches every year we will stagnate and go backwards as a denomination over time.*

What is the way forward?

The church planting committee seeks by God’s grace to plant healthy churches that will grow to be self-sustaining and seed other churches. As Presbyterians in Victoria we have a strong history of doing this in the 19th century but less so in the 20th century. By God’s grace we can do it again in the 21st century.

Assessment is the key

The experience of several different denominations, both in Australia and overseas, is that assessment of the church planter is critical. Not every successful pastor is gifted for the unique challenges that come with church planting.

The Presbyterian Church in America experience

When the PCA began in 1973 church planting was an urgent task. However in the initial decade only 60% of their churches survived leading to much pain for the planters, their families and their teams. They evaluated what they were doing and began assessing and coaching their planters. Since then they have achieved a 90% success rate. *Jay Kyle*

The Tasmanian Experience:

The Presbyterian Church of Tasmania has seen some remarkable new initiatives in church planting. Their experience is that assessment of the church planter is critical and that money set aside for church planting is most fruitfully spent on assessment.
Rev David Jones

Ed Stetzer, Church planting researcher writes:

"In the US the national average of church starts that result in a successful plant is only 35%. Candidates who are successfully assessed and follow through on the recommendations are experiencing a success rate of over 85%"

"In the US the average success rate for a church plant surviving increases by 400% when the church planter has realistic expectations of the church planting experience. Rigorous assessment is the easiest way to impart these realistic expectations."

What is the Geneva Push?

The Geneva Push is a nondenominational Australian church planting movement that is reformed and evangelical. The PCV has developed a healthy relationship with the Geneva Push in recent years. The Geneva Push includes many Presbyterians across Australia. The Presbyterian Church of NSW is now using Geneva Push to help them with the assessment of potential church plants as we also do.

The Geneva Push assists us in three key ways.

1. Assessment of potential church planters
2. Coaching of church planters and training coaches
3. Running Church planting conferences which share the vision with potential church planters, train and refresh existing church planters, and train Coaches.

We have had a very positive experience of working with the Geneva Push. They have given us great help in assessing suitable church planters and helping them work out effective strategies and plans for launching new churches and reaching the lost. They have begun training our people in the task of coaching existing church planters.

The annual Multiply Conference (formerly "In the Chute"), held in different parts of the country each year, has proven to be an excellent place to take potential young church planters to help them catch the vision for church planting in Victoria.

PCV church planter Richard Wilson writes:

The assessment process I underwent was thorough and very helpful for me and my wife Bronwyn. It alerted us to issues we hadn't sufficiently thought through and was good for our marriage. Since planting in 2011 our experience of having a Geneva coach was a critical factor in helping us to plant more successfully in Doreen.

Denominations partnering with the Geneva Push planted 26 new churches by 2012 with a further 22 churches planned or planted in 2013. Four of these church plants are in the PCV. This is great news and something to give much thanks to God for.

The Geneva Push does not:

- A. Seek to be a church or provide the accountability structures that only a denomination can provide.
- B. Plant churches – rather it partners with existing denominations to help them plant more skilfully.
- C. Shape our doctrine – the Presbyterian basis is the Westminster Confession.
- D. Affect who we ordain for ministry – that is determined by each Presbytery.

Don Elliott
CONVENER

Church Planting Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	85,457
Rentals Received	26,076
Scots Church Property Trust	108,908
Total Receipts	<u>220,441</u>

Expenditure:

Church Plant - Valley PC	3,691
Church Plant - Darebin	76,564
Church Plant - Pt Cook	43,384
Church Plant - SE Bendigo	49,091
Committee Expenses	2,714
Donation - Geneva Push	7,500
Education and Training	782
Evangelism Officer	89,755
Property Expenses - Tivendale Rd Officer	23,932
Total Expenditure	<u>297,412</u>

Surplus on General Operations

(76,971)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	928,759
Add back Depreciation	556
Decrease/(Increase) Current Assets	(3,033)
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(76,971)
Balance 30/6/13	<u>849,310</u>

Property Development Trust

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	136,514
Donations	13,931
General Missions Programme	17,269
Grant from Capital Fund	83,924
	<u>251,638</u>

Expenditure:

Grants Paid	0
Total Expenditure	<u>0</u>

Surplus on Specific Trusts

251,638

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	1,072,391
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	251,638
Balance 30/6/13	<u>1,324,029</u>

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE (Min. 66)

Remit of Clerkship Committee

Listed under the function of the Clerkship Committee as approved by the 2012 Assembly (Min. 84) was the item:

- g. Perform the role of the Clerkship Review Committee as specified in the Terms of Settlement for the Clerk of Assembly.

The complete list of functions for the Clerkship Committee, including those of the Clerkship Review Committee, are listed as follows:

- 3. The functions of the Committee shall be to:
 - a. Provide counsel, pastoral care and support to the Clerk;
 - b. Provide a body from whom the Clerk can seek advice between meetings of the Assembly;
 - c. Receive annual reports from the Clerk on the performance of duties as determined by the Assembly and specified in the 'Statement of Duties' as published by the Assembly from time to time;
 - d. Recommend to the Assembly, in consultation with the Board of Investment and Finance, the remuneration to be paid to the Clerk;
 - e. Receive and determine any requests for leave made by the Clerk;
 - f. Appoint an Acting Clerk whenever the Clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office;
 - g. Perform the role of the Clerkship Review Committee as specified in the Terms of Settlement for the Clerk of Assembly, viz to review
 - i. the roles and specific duties of the Clerk, and
 - ii. the performance of the Clerk during his time in office.

Under the terms of the 2006 General Assembly minute (Min. 88), the Clerkship Review Committee was to conduct the review as a once off event approximately two years after appointment. This was completed with a report to the 2009 Commission of Assembly (Min. 17).

The present membership of the Clerkship Committee has concluded on the basis of the 2012 Assembly decision (Min. 84) that it is required to perform the function set out in item 3g *annually*.

Review of the Clerk's Position

The Committee has held two meetings since the 2012 Assembly and concluded as follows in respect of the functions of the Clerk as listed above:

Item 3a. Provide counsel, pastoral care and support to the Clerk

It was agreed it will normally be the Moderator who will provide counsel, pastoral care and support upon request or as required, with reference back to the full Committee when necessary.

Item 3b. Provide a body from whom the Clerk can seek advice between meetings of the Assembly

It was agreed that the Clerkship Committee would provide advice to the Clerk upon request as required between meetings of the Assembly.

Item 3c. Receive annual reports from the Clerk on the performance of duties as determined by the Assembly and specified in the 'Statement of Duties' as published by the Assembly from time to time

This was requested of the Clerk and complied with.

Item 3d. Recommend to the Assembly, in consultation with the Board of Investment and Finance, the remuneration to be paid to the Clerk

As a result of the review of the Clerk's duties both as defined in his job description and actual working plus the proposed additions to his duties (see below) it was concluded that there is sufficient work to require full time working by the Clerk and this is recommended to the Assembly in the Committee's deliverance.

The Committee asked the Clerk a) whether he thought the position of Assembly Clerk on the basis of the revised job description and the general operation of the role was now a fulltime position; and b) if so, whether he would be willing to serve as fulltime Assembly Clerk.

He answered in the affirmative to both questions.

Item 3e. Receive and determine any requests for leave made by the Clerk

It was agreed to require the Clerk to make all requests for the taking of leave (annual, sickness, long service and study) to the Moderator for approval with the Church Office to maintain the Clerk's leave record.

It was agreed to request the Clerk to provide the up to date position on his leave entitlements – this has been provided.

Item 3f. Appoint an Acting Clerk whenever the Clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office

It was agreed that the Clerkship Committee through the Moderator will arrange for the appointment of an Acting Clerk whenever the Clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly that in the event of the absence of the Clerk due to leave taken, illness or otherwise incapacity to perform the duties of his office for a period of five weeks or more, the Parish of the minister appointed Acting Clerk be compensated financially by a payment calculated on the basis of 10% of the Clerk's remuneration for the period so served.

Item 3g. Perform the role of the Clerkship Review Committee as specified in the Terms of Settlement for the Clerk of Assembly

i. To review the roles and specific duties of the Clerk

The Committee reviewed the roles and specific duties of the clerk and adds as an appendix to this report a new job description for the Clerk of Assembly

In the review it became apparent that there were existing duties that needed to be added, At the request of the Ad Hoc Committee for the review of *Breaking the Silence*, we have added supervision of the proposed Safe Church Unit to the Clerk's list of duties. The Clerk is already involved in the handling of complaints, something currently missing from the Clerk's job description. Under the proposals for the establishment of the Safe Church Unit, the Clerk's involvement will be increased, perhaps considerably.

The Committee is also proposing to add to the list of Clerk's duties the provision of annual training of Presbytery Clerks and Committee representatives in all relevant matters in the Code and Regulations, meeting procedures in order to expedite the business of Presbyteries and Committees in an efficient and responsible manner.

ii. the performance of the Clerk during his time in office

The Clerkship Committee notes that the Clerk has served the Assembly for some eight years in a part-time capacity, and is very pleased with his performance and conscientious commitment. He has demonstrated a whole-hearted approach to his listed duties and committed himself to the peace, welfare and ministry of the Church over and beyond that which has been required. His giftedness under God, combines the collective strengths of both administrative and pastoral skills that has gained for him a high respect within our denomination and beyond. He has every confidence of this committee and we believe we speak for this Assembly at large. The Committee wishes to record its thankfulness to God for having called the Rev Dr John P Wilson to serve this Assembly in the capacity of Clerk.

Review of the Clerk's Terms of Settlement

Given the proposed extension to full time working for the Clerk's position, new terms of settlement are required and following consultation with and consent of the Board of Investment and Finance these are set out below.

Our professional advice is that the role of the Clerk is primarily an administrative one. While there is some pastoral element to the job, it is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Taxation Act in relation to payment of tax exempt fringe benefits (non cash benefits). This means that the remuneration for the position will be largely paid as a taxable wage. In order to provide the same net benefit to the Clerk, this means an increased cost to the Assembly. Never the less it is appropriate that the Clerk be properly remunerated and it is the responsibility of the Assembly to ensure that this is the case. Moving from half time to fulltime employment plus the additional amount to make up for the loss of non cash benefits means an increased cost to the Assembly of approx. \$58,700.

The committee recommends to the Assembly that the remuneration be based on the after tax equivalent of the declared minimum remuneration with a 25% loading, plus manse allowance and utilities, and superannuation contributions equivalent to 15% of the minimum remuneration plus the 25% loading.

In addition to the remuneration, the Assembly would meet the cost of providing a home phone and internet connection and additional travel over 6000 km pa at the nominated rate.

The Board of Investment and Finance has advised that "there is no expectation that (these terms of settlement) would require an Assembly levy, but could be met from current funds all else being equal".

Re-Appointment of the Clerk

The 2009 Commission of Assembly re-appointed the Rev Dr John Wilson to serve a five year term from 1st January 2011.

The Committee is pleased to recommend the reappointment of the Clerk for a five year term on a full time basis from the rising of the 2013 General Assembly.

Succession Planning

The Committee noted the need for succession planning and proposes that the Assembly request the Clerkship Committee to take this matter up.

David J Palmer
CONVENER

CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Min. 36)

Since the 2012 meeting of the General Assembly, the committee has met five times for general business and to respond to matters referred to it. The meetings were well attended and contributions were made by each member. The Committee has dealt with letters of inquiry from members and courts of the church throughout this year. There were no remits to presbyteries from last year's General Assembly.

1. Review process under way – keeping the Code in line with changing policy of the church

Part of core Committee business is to “take necessary action to keep the Code in line with the changing policy of the church” (reg 3(b)(i)), and we have made this a focussed item on the Committee's agenda.

We are grateful to the General Assembly for agreement to a moratorium on any (non-urgent) Code changes in order for an extensive review to take place. We expect the moratorium to be extended for only a second year with the view of bringing to the 2014 General Assembly a major review proposal for consideration.

The Committee has consulted widely with the people and committees that are most directly involved in the areas under revision.

The review process is multi-faceted and is being shaped by the different aspects of code that the Committee has identified and given serious attention to, including:

- a) nomenclature and definitions applied to churches and congregations – picking up a previous suggestion (which was not ultimately successful) by the Ministry Development Committee that the General Assembly should alter how the Code refers to the status of a congregation;
- b) the suggestion from the Church Planting Committee that the General Assembly include recognition of a church plant in the Code;
- c) bringing scattered and misplaced prescriptions into their proper place within the rules whereas some now sit, partially hidden, in the regulations;
- d) providing more logic in the order of procedures where there is a perceived disconnect in the sectioning of the rules;
- e) introducing appropriate rules reflecting the changing era in which we live, for example in the areas of electronic records and also the use of internet medium for decision-making.

It is the Committee's desire, in the coming year, to consult with presbyteries to listen and gather feedback on the general direction of this review. It is the intention that either the Clerk or Deputy Clerk will visit each presbytery for consultation in this regard before the next General Assembly report is prepared.

Clause 1 seeks endorsement of this proposal.

2. Rule 4:89

The General Assembly requested the Code Committee to consider Rule 4:89 (Union, readjustment or dissolution of congregations) according to minute GAV 2012.28.5.

This we have done at length. The Committee is beginning to formulate an opinion on the matter. However, it must be pointed out that a fully ripened report on this subject will now have to wait until the 2014 General Assembly. The General Assembly

directive (GAV, 2012, 28.5(b)) says that the Code Committee is to consult with the Trusts Corporation and the Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Funds. The ad hoc Committee (Sites Reserve) has not finalised its report and so, while we are waiting for this final report on Sites Reserve to be formulated, the Code Committee cannot complete the Assembly's directive.

The Committee is aware that the General Assembly considers the matter to be 'urgent' (GAV 2012, 28.5(d)). However, the Committee's opinion is that the General Assembly would not be advantaged by receiving a tentative proposal on this matter that might then need to be amended or corrected in the light of the report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Sites Reserve. The Committee feels its work is hamstrung by the delay in the Ad Hoc Committee (Sites Reserve) being presented with its requested legal opinion.

Clause 2 of the deliverance seeks permission for this directive to be extended for another year.

3. Presbytery procedure to be followed in the allocation of funds of the proceeds of sale

This matter arose in particular within the Presbytery of Melbourne North with the sale of the Pascoe Vale North Property, and a subsequent petition (GAV, 2012, petition no 8) to the Assembly alleging defects in the way in which the Presbytery handled the matter. The Assembly determined to refer the petition to the Code Committee directing it to report to the 2013 General Assembly on what ought to be done in the future (see GAV 2012, min 103).

a) A brief narrative

The Pascoe Vale North property was sold and the Presbytery of Melbourne North at its August 2010 meeting subsequently invited congregations within the presbytery to make submissions as to the use of this money so that distribution could occur. Submissions were to be in by 12 October 2010. A form to assist congregations in making submissions was adopted at the September meeting, and the return date was altered so that submissions should be in by the November meeting of Presbytery, so that following circulation, decisions on allocation might be made at the December meeting. At the October meeting, a revised form was adopted, and the submission deadline was brought forward in that it was resolved that all parishes applying for an allocation from the Pascoe Vale sale funds should circulate their applications to all presbyters by 22 October. An extension until 13 November was granted at the November meeting of Presbytery for outstanding forms.

At the December meeting of the Presbytery, recommendations for allocation by the BIF were determined in line with the presbytery committee's recommendations, dissents were recorded and a direction was given that the submission forms be destroyed. Subsequent attempts to make submissions directly to the BIF and to alter the allocation recommended by the Presbytery led to the Petition. The BIF followed the recommendations of the Presbytery except that two of the congregations had their allocation amounts varied from what the Presbytery recommended.

b) BIF regulations

The relevant regulation of the BIF is as follows:

- d) When moneys are held in a Sites Reserve account by operation of clause 10(c), the BIF:

- i) shall notify the amount to the Presbytery of the deceased congregation, which shall in turn notify all congregations within its bounds. After considering any submissions those congregations may make for local use to the money, Presbyteries may refer any such proposals to the BIF, which may approve them and then notify the Assembly;
- ii) shall if in the opinion of the BIF no reasonable proposal emerges after the operation of the preceding clause, give opportunity by similar procedure to all other Presbyteries and Congregations of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria. After considering any further submissions received in this way, the BIF shall consider them and make recommendation to the Assembly.

The regulation does not specify the procedure a Presbytery should adopt in determining the basis of its recommendations to the BIF. Clearly some sort of orderly process should be followed, and it is here that problems could occur, especially when “value judgments” as to the importance, viability, methodology, prospects, *et al* of existing congregations are made.

c) Danger of subjectivity and bias

It seems to this Committee that the form used by the Presbytery was inherently problematic in that it left the Presbytery open to the possibility that its determination was subjective. In our opinion, it also tends to reward those who might be less hard on themselves and penalise those who might assess by a higher standard. For example, the questions on a 1-10 scale were all answered by different people who would have had differing scales for “effectiveness”, “urgency”, “strategic value”, “high need” “likelihood” of funds from elsewhere, “inability” and something called “dominance” (*sic*). Such scales also reward “thought- inflation” in that the higher the score, the higher aggregate before an assessing committee. Furthermore, in the event that every application rated each of questions 1-4 as the same rating out of 10, which is entirely possible, these questions would have been of no help. The form made no reference to the more spiritual aspects of congregational life, but these too are open to subjective assessment.

But that said, is it possible to remove this subjectivity?

It should be noted that the presbytery committee responsible for the initial recommendation comprised no inducted ministers within the Presbytery, and involved one outside member. In this, the Presbytery was showing that it recognised the sensitivity of the matter, and was attempting to remove temptations to act in self-interest. However, once the recommendations of this committee were to be voted on, all careful attempts at objectivity were diluted by allowing interested parties to vote on the matter.

The Rules of the Church recognise the danger of voting in self interest. Rule 5:34 expressly precludes members of committees from voting to advantage their own congregations, and it would be absurd to assume that decisions in a Presbytery should be treated differently. The rule says:

Disqualified by personal financial interest

34. No member of a committee shall:

- a) vote at any of its meetings on financial matters in which he or she is

personally interested, or which directly affect the congregation of which he is minister or to which he or she belongs; or
b) be paid a wage or a salary by the committee, except by resolution of the General Assembly.

In this case, then, it seems clear to this Committee that no member of Presbytery ought to have participated in the voting if their own congregation was on the list of recommended recipients.

We note that there is some difference of opinion as to whether the Presbytery recommendation **MUST** be followed by the BIF, or whether they **MAY** follow it. If the BIF is allowed its own discretion, then it surely follows that parties not receiving a Presbytery recommendation are allowed to make their own representations to the BIF in pursuit of their claim. This could clearly become endlessly complicated in a way that no-one would want.

The BIF wisely required that the funds be applied to the nominated project within 24 months.

d) Biblical principles for equitable distribution

It is notable that in Acts, early problems arose out of property and equity matters.

Acts 5

In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira sought undeserved praise and status for their self-proclaimed “generosity”. Peter’s rebuke was not that they apportioned it as they chose, which was their right (Acts 5:4), but that they did so deceitfully, pretending a righteousness and gospel interest which they did not have. This is a sobering incident, and warns all who might seek notoriety for the way in which property proceeds are determined.

Acts 6

Perhaps more relevant to this case is the incident in Acts 6 when a low level dispute (involving “edible property”) arose over the equitable distribution to the needy. The apostles seem to have unanimously agreed to commit the entirety of the management of the distribution to those who could have been deemed “biased” towards the complaining party! All the names of the Deacons are of Greek rather than Hebrew origin, yet it was the “Hellenic” party that was complaining. Were there no men “of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom” amongst the Jewish party? Should not there have been 3 and 3? Such questions betray a lack of trust, but allegations involving questions of trust cannot be settled by responses which themselves betray a reciprocal lack of trust.

The Apostles devoted themselves to prayer, no doubt including the matter of equitable distribution in their prayers, and we hear no more of the matter. It was clearly resolved.

We must note that Acts 6 simply reports that there was a complaint. It does not say that the complaint was legitimate, or that if it was, that it was grounded in anything other than accidental factors. We should not assume, therefore, that the appointment of the Seven implies any sense of failure on the part of those previously responsible. Not every complaint arises out of another’s deliberate wrong.

e) What should a presbytery do?

The following principles seem self evident:

- it should be careful to act transparently and in a way that is open;
- it should determine the matter without undue haste;
- it should act in a way that neither privileges the apparently strong nor penalises the apparently weak (see Revelation 2 & 3);
- it should remember that the strong ought to help the weak, so that there might be no lack (see 2 Corinthians 8:1-15);
- it should recognise that the immediate need is not always the most prudent;
- it must be careful always to guard against the subtlety of the love of money (1 Timothy 6:9-10);
- it should act in a way that minimises factionalism (1 Corinthians 1:13a);
- it should discourage members from congregations who benefit from the distribution to vote on that matter (in the general spirit of Rule 5.34);
- it should aim at unanimity.

Writing a Rule to ensure a wise process for the future allocation of funds is itself problematic. How does one legislate wisdom from the bullet points above? We doubt that we can.

In clauses 3 and 4 the Committee brings to the Assembly a response, as directed. But it does so without any criticism, either direct or implied, of the Presbytery's decisions that were the subject of the Petition.

4. Regulation in need of immediate change (METRO)

The METRO Committee informed the Committee that changes are being made that see the Training Officer now being funded partly by the METRO Committee. As a result, this means that it is wiser that the PCV Training Officer no longer be a member of the committee.

This Committee, with agreement of all parties concerned, advances to the Assembly the alteration of METRO regulations so as to remove reference to the Training Officer being part of the Committee. See clause 5 of the deliverance.

5. Regulation in need of immediate change (TEC)

The Theological Education Committee informed the Committee of an anomaly concerning the appointment of lecturers in regulation 6.b.vi. The TEC is concerned about the inconsistency within this regulation in that when it was formerly seeking amendment to allow for subsequent appointments of seven years the intention was to remove the expectation that reappointment would be for life.

This Committee, with agreement of all parties concerned, advances to the Assembly the alteration of TEC regulations so as to remove the expectation that the reappointment of lecturers is a reappointment for life. See clause 6 of the deliverance.

The Theological Education Committee also informed the Committee that it would like to see an eighth qualification inserted at 5 (b) (ii) of its regulations requiring an applicant for candidacy to obtain a Working With Children's Check. This addition is also advanced in clause 6 of the deliverance.

6. Selection Committee

Each year the Code and General Administration Committee is responsible for bringing names to the General Assembly for positions on the Selection Committee. Following consultation, these names are advanced in clause 7 of the deliverance.

John P Wilson
CONVENER

COMMISSION FOR CHURCH INSTITUTIONS (Min. 35)

The Commission made the following appointments for the year 2013/2014:

1. Presbyterian Ladies' College Council

Group A appoint:

Mr Brian Bayston
Rev Andrew Bray
Mrs Catherine O'Leary
Mrs Fiona Pearse
Mr Russell Walley

Group B appoint:

Ms Mui-Chun Chew
Mrs Carolyn Elvins
Mrs Christine Hopper
Dr Andrew McDonald
Mrs Jan Markham

Group C approve & appoint:

Prof Greg Barton
Mr Graeme Boyles
Rev Mark Chew
Dr Christopher Morgan
Mrs Janice Smith
Mrs Gail Thannhauser
Dr Jillian Webster

2. Scotch College Council

Group A appoint:

Rev Ivan Barker
Mr Brian Bayston
Mr John Ireson
Mr Duncan McGregor
Rev John Wilson

Group B appoint:

Mr Jonathan Buckley
Hon Dr David Kemp
Mr John Simpson
Mr Alex Sloan
Mr David Tyrrell

Group C approve & appoint:

Mrs Sarah Bernard
Prof Andrew Holmes
Mrs Susan Hughes
Mr Richard Loveridge
Mrs Fiona Pearse
Mr Michael Sim
Mr Hamish Tadgell

3. St Andrews Christian College Board

a) Nominator, the Presbytery of the bounds:

Mr James Bligh, *term concludes 2014*
Mrs Anne Elliott, *term concludes 2015*
Rev Brian Harvey, *term concludes 2015*
Rev Douglas Robertson, *term concludes 2016*

b) Nominator, retiring members of the Board:

Mr Geoffrey Hui, *term concludes 2014*
Mr Wes Cassidy, *term concludes 2014*
Mr Peter Lewis, *term concludes 2015*
Mr Jerry Tharapos, *term concludes 2016*

c) Nominator, the Company in General Meeting (Parent Group):

Mrs Sharon Rowland, *term concludes 2014*
Mr Alan MacGavin, *term concludes 2015*
Mr Sab Ambrosino, *term concludes 2016*
vacancy

4. Belgrave Heights Christian School Association (Board)

a) General Assembly – Presbyterian nominees (5/6):

Mr Ian Birchall
Mr Ian Byles
Mr Iain Chaney
Rev Warwick Davidson
Mr Dirk Jackson

c) BHCS Association (Parents Association) nominees (4):

Mrs Yolanda Cox
Mr Stephen Dunn
Mrs Naomi Eagar
Mrs Melissa Pors

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

CONCILIATION COMMITTEE (Min. 120)

Committee membership consists of: Rev Dr Robert L Carner (Convener), Rev Graeme Weber, Rev Peter Orchard, Rev Peter Phillips and Mr Norm Sharp. At the time that our meetings were held Rev Weber was on leave and could not attend. Rev Phillips absented himself due to his Assembly duties in connection with the Appeal of one of the parties to the Conciliation.

Appellant: Dr Mary Francis Graham of Mernda Presbyterian Church. Support persons for Dr Graham who presented were: Dr's Richard and Jean Ely and Mrs Bev Hawk.

Respondents nominated by the Presbytery of Melbourne North: Rev Dr John Wilson and Rev Nello Barbieri.

Robert Carner attended all meetings, Elder Norm Sharp attended the first but was an apology for the second. Rev Peter Orchard attended the second meeting and both Rev Orchard and Elder Sharp attended the third two-stage meeting. Rev Nello Barbieri was an apology for the joint conciliation meeting, leaving Rev Dr John Wilson to singularly represent the Presbytery's position.

Meeting one - information gathering, attended by R Carner, N Sharp, the appellant and support persons.

Meeting two - information gathering, attended by R Carner, P Orchard, the appellant and support persons. This was followed by R Carner and P Orchard visiting the Mernda property and surrounding community.

Meeting three part a R Carner, N Sharp and P Orchard met with the Presbytery representative J Wilson to review their data and process of seeking resolution.

Meeting three part b R Carner, N Sharp and P Orchard met jointly with Presbytery Representative J Wilson, and the appellant and support persons.

Resolution: Although Dr Graham appeared to be more understanding of the situation, no resolution was attained.

Robert L Carner
CONVENER

DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 69)

The past twelve months has seen many encouragements for your chaplains working in the Australian Defence Force. There remains for them ongoing opportunities for gospel ministry both publically and at an individual level. They are running or facilitating Bible studies, discipleship programs, prayer meetings with their pastoral care and pastoral counselling much sought after. Overwhelmingly, the work and ministry of chaplains is highly valued at all levels of command.

Committee membership has undergone a number of changes. Barry Porter received a posting to HMAS Coonawarra at Larrakeyah NT at the end of 2012 and we thank him for his work at HMAS Cerberus over the past three years. The committee is pleased that the Rev Miles Fagan has been accepted by Navy as a Chaplain. He is presently undergoing the four stage Reserve Entry Officers Course (REOC) at HMAS Creswell (NSW) which will conclude with time at sea. We are looking forward to him receiving his posting back in Victoria. Committee members Mr Rob Myers and Rev Jeremy Dover have concluded their involvement and we thank them for their service. We look forward to the input and support from Rev Philip Mercer and Mr John Cawood. RACS member, Rev Allan Harman, has continued to supply valued leadership and pastoral support to Defence Force Chaplains throughout Australia.

In the last twelve months the committee met together once. Chaplains reported on various aspects of their work and RACS member Rev Allan Harman reported on his work within the senior leadership of Defence.

Full time ADF Chaplains posted to Vic have appreciated the numerous offers from a number of congregations to come and speak about the work of military chaplaincy. If other congregations would like to know more then please contact the convener.

There are many unique ministry opportunities afforded to Chaplains working in the Defence environment. There are still vacancies for ordained ministers of our Church to serve as Chaplains in our Defence Force in either a part or full time capacity. If anyone would like to know more about this unique ministry please speak to any of the chaplains listed below.

Chaplains currently posted in Victoria are:

Navy

Chaplain Miles Fagan	RANR	HMAS Creswell
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Army

Chaplain Martin de Pyle	ARA	DCSTC
Chaplain Andrew Robinson	ARA	DFSS
Chaplain Trevor Cox	ARES	4CER

RAAF

Chaplain Peter Phillips	RAAFSR	21 SQN RAAF Williams
Chaplain Peter Owen	RAAFSR	21 SQN RAAF Williams

Martin de Pyle
CONVENER

EXIT STUDENTS COMMITTEE (Min. 91)

Last year we reported five exit appointments that had been made for 2013, with one remaining to be made. Subsequent to the Assembly, we appointed Mr Gary Wentworth, with his wife Carolyn, to the Leongatha Home Mission Station in the Presbytery of Gippsland.

Although the process has begun, Exit Appointments for 2014 have not been made at the time of writing.

Due to Rev Dr Tony Bird's sabbatical year, Rev Grant Lawry replaced him as acting convener of the MDC and therefore the ESC. Thank you to our Committee members and to Mr Ben Palmer for his administrative assistance.

Grant Lawry
CONVENER

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Min. 48)

1. General Mission Program receipts – 2012/13

The total of the General Mission Program for 2012/13, as fixed by the 2012 Commission of the General Assembly, was \$210,765. As at 30th June 2013, the subscriptions against the allocations for 2012/13 have amounted to \$193,299 or approximately 92% of the total General Mission Program allocated to presbyteries. Of the allocated sums \$17,518 was not received. In addition to the sums received for 2012/13, a further \$400 was received in relation to the prior year bringing the total received to \$193,699 or 92% of the allocation for 2012/13, compared to 97% the prior year. The Committee commends the great majority of congregations which have responded so well to this program of the Church in Victoria. The Committee strongly commends those presbyteries and parishes which have subscribed their allocations in full.

As instructed by the General Assembly, the attached schedule shows for each parish, the amount allocated by presbytery, the amount subscribed against the allocation, any payments above allocation, and any balance remaining as at 30 June 2013.

2. Promotion of General Mission Program

The General Mission Program is an important program for our Church and is a way in which all members of the denomination can be involved in the wider work of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Of the 2013-14 GMP allocation of \$207,153, 30% of the funds to be raised are to provide funding to meet the tuition costs of candidates at the Theological College, 23 per cent is provided to *Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Victoria)*, 16 per cent is designated to meet part of the cost of the *Training Officer*, 12 per cent goes to *ACCESS Ministries*; 9 per cent to the Property Development Fund, with the balance of the funds raised through the GMP split between *the State News Committee*, *Australian Christian Lobby*, the *Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions*, *Presbyterian Inland Mission* and *Victorian Council of Churches for chaplaincy*.

The Committee believes it is imperative that this very important mission program of our Church is brought to the notice of sessions and boards of management and members of congregations so that an enhanced understanding of its purpose and importance is more widely held. The Committee trusts that ministers and sessions will promote the program in their congregations so that even stronger support for the GMP may be achieved.

3. Property Development Fund.

Since 2007, with the exception of 2008, when framing the budget for the General Mission Program for approval by the Commission of Assembly, a 10% levy has been charged on the total GMP which is then applied to the purposes of the Property Development Fund. The committee is conscious that this places an increased burden on presbyteries and ultimately congregations. While the GMP is supportive of the objectives of the Property Development Fund, its preliminary view is that it does not consider GMP the best way to fund this. The contribution from GMP to the Property Development is small and relatively insignificant in relation to the funds required to purchase and develop property. At the same time, the increased burden on all congregations is 10% which is significant, especially for those congregations which struggle to meet their annual expenses. The only argument in support of this practice

which the committee is aware of is that it keeps the Property Development Fund before the Assembly and in its thinking. The committee does not consider this to be a compelling argument. While the committee has not yet made any decision concerning allocations for 2014/15, it signals its intention to give this matter close scrutiny prior to the 2014 Commission of Assembly.

Norm Sharp
CONVENER

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2012/2013
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2012/13	Received for 2012/13	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2012/13	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2012/13 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	10,192						
Ararat	578	578	-		578	-	100.0%
Ballarat North/Mt Prospect/Smeaton	1,707	1,707	-		1,707	-	100.0%
Ballarat South	2,043	2,043	-		2,043	-	100.0%
Ballarat West/Lexton	1,515	1,515	-		1,515	-	100.0%
Carisbrook/Castlemaine	1,033	1,033	-		1,033	-	100.0%
Daylesford	312	312	-		312	-	100.0%
Horsham/Marnoo	793	793	-		793	-	100.0%
Kaniva/Nhill	1,225	1,228	3		1,228	-	100.2%
Skipton/Lismore	986	986	-		986	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	10,192	10,195	3	-	10,195	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	13,172						
Benalla	3,459	3,459	-		3,459	-	100.0%
Broadford	825	825	-		825	-	100.0%
Numurkah	1,357	1,357	-		1,357	-	100.0%
Seymour/Nagambie/Yea	931	931	-		931	-	100.0%
Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram	1,464	1,465	1		1,465	-	100.1%
Tatura	2,235	2,235	-		2,235	-	100.0%
Wangaratta/Yarrawonga/Myrtleford	1,969	1,969	-		1,969	-	100.0%
Wodonga	931	931	-		931	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	13,172	13,173	1	-	13,173	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	19,302						
Aspendale	1,226	1,226	-		1,226	-	100.0%
Brighton	1,226	1,226	-		1,226	-	100.0%
Cheltenham	2,016	2,016	-		2,016	-	100.0%
Clarinda	190		-		-	190	0.0%
Clayton	4,163	4,163	-		4,163	-	100.0%
Cranbourne	537	537	-		537	-	100.0%
Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup	216	216	-		216	-	100.0%
Dandenong	779	779	-		779	-	100.0%
Dromana/Mornington	1,226	1,226	-	400	1,626	-	100.0%
Frankston	2,316	2,316	-		2,316	-	100.0%
Mordialloc	1,248	1,248	-		1,248	-	100.0%
Somerville	965	965	-		965	-	100.0%
Sorrento/Rye	2,316	2,316	-		2,316	-	100.0%
SE Samoan	878	878	-		878	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	19,302	19,112	-	400	19,512	190	99.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2012/2013
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2012/13	Received for 2012/13	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2012/13	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2012/13 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,423						
Colac	1,894	1,894	-		1,894	-	100.0%
Geelong - St George's	1,036	1,036	-		1,036	-	100.0%
Geelong North	1,347	1,347	-		1,347	-	100.0%
Geelong West	1,687	1,687	-		1,687	-	100.0%
Moorabool	1,885	1,885	-		1,885	-	100.0%
The Leigh	1,574	1,574	-		1,574	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,423	9,423	-	-	9,423	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						-	
PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	10,504						
Bairnsdale	1,492	1,492	-		1,492	-	100.0%
Drouin	5,357	5,357	-		5,357	-	100.0%
Leongatha	451	451	-		451	-	100.0%
Moe/Yarram	1,460	1,460	-		1,460	-	100.0%
Morwell	1,492	1,492	-		1,492	-	100.0%
Sale	252	252	-		252	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	10,504	10,504	-	-	10,504	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						-	
PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	16,730						
Camperdown/Terang	1,040	1,040	-		1,040	-	100.0%
Hamilton	3,054	3,054	-		3,054	-	100.0%
Heywood/Portland	1,420	1,420	-		1,420	-	100.0%
Koroit/Port Fairy	1,850	1,850	-		1,850	-	100.0%
Noorat	1,342	1,342	-		1,342	-	100.0%
Warrnambool	8,024	8,024	-		8,024	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	16,730	16,730	-	-	16,730	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						-	
PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	18,909						
Belgrave Heights	1,463	1,463	-		1,463	-	100.0%
Blackburn	952	1,000	48		1,000	-	105.0%
Croydon Hills	2,381	2,381	-		2,381	-	100.0%
Donvale	9,013	9,013	-		9,013	-	100.0%
Heathmont	1,225	1,225	-		1,225	-	100.0%
Kirkbrae	100	100	-		100	-	100.0%
Mt Evelyn	1,190	1,190	-		1,190	-	100.0%
Warburton	1,020	1,020	-		1,020	-	100.0%
Woori Yallock	1,565	1,565	-		1,565	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	18,909	18,957	48	-	18,957	-	100.3%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						-	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2012/2013
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2012/13	Received for 2012/13	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2012/13	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2012/13 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	43,106						
Arabic	1,337		-		-	1,337	0.0%
Ashburton	1,841	1,841	-		1,841	-	100.0%
Auburn	1,953	1,953	-		1,953	-	100.0%
Burwood Community	2,767	2,767	-		2,767	-	100.0%
Camberwell	8,534	775	-		775	7,759	9.1%
Canterbury	4,354	4,354	-		4,354	-	100.0%
Caulfield/Elwood	3,793		-		-	3,793	0.0%
Gardenvale East	430	430	-		430	-	100.0%
Hawthorn	2,204	2,204	-		2,204	-	100.0%
Korean, Balwyn	2,548		-		-	2,548	0.0%
Malvern	3,728	3,728	-		3,728	-	100.0%
South Yarra	4,440	4,440	-		4,440	-	100.0%
St Kilda / Balaclava	1,891		-		-	1,891	0.0%
Surrey Hills	3,286	3,286	-		3,286	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	43,106	25,778	-	-	25,778	17,328	59.8%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0	
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	23,837						
Bundoora	4,934	4,934	-		4,934	-	100.0%
Eltham	4,005	4,005	-		4,005	-	100.0%
Epping	2,193	2,193	-		2,193	-	100.0%
Heidelberg	2,646	2,646	-		2,646	-	100.0%
Hume	548	548	-		548	-	100.0%
Kangaroo Ground	2,050	2,050	-		2,050	-	100.0%
Reservoir	2,598	2,598	-		2,598	-	100.0%
Samoan, Fawkner	2,670	2,670	-		2,670	-	100.0%
Westminster Community Tem'towe	477	477	-		477	-	100.0%
Whittlesea/Mernda	1,716	1,716	-		1,716	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	23,837	23,837	-	-	23,837	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						-	
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	37,778						
Brimbank	1,265	1,265	-		1,265	-	100.0%
Clifton Hill	1,315	1,315	-		1,315	-	100.0%
Essendon	2,010	2,010	-		2,010	-	100.0%
Gisborne	1,450	1,450	-		1,450	-	100.0%
Melbourne, Scots/Flemington	20,710	20,710	-		20,710	-	100.0%
Melton	3,250	3,250	-		3,250	-	100.0%
Sunshine	2,545	2,545	-		2,545	-	100.0%
West Footscray	1,490	1,490	-		1,490	-	100.0%
Williamstown	1,808	1,808	-		1,808	-	100.0%
Wyndham	1,935	1,935	-		1,935	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	37,778	37,778	-	-	37,778	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						-	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2012/2013
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2012/13	Received for 2012/13	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2012/13	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2012/13 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	7,866						
Bendigo	2,250	2,250	-		2,250	-	100.0%
Eaglehawk	1,160	1,160	-		1,160	-	100.0%
Kerang/Pyramid Hill	1,570	1,570	-		1,570	-	100.0%
Rochester	1,580	1,580	-		1,580	-	100.0%
Sunraysia	562	562	-		562	-	100.0%
Swan Hill	690	690	-		690	-	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	7,812	7,812	-	-	7,812	-	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							

SUMMARY

Total Allocated to Presbyteries	210,765						
BALLARAT	10,192	10,195	3	-	10,195	-	100.0%
BENALLA	13,172	13,173	1	-	13,173	-	100.0%
FLINDERS	19,302	19,112	-	400	19,512	190	99.0%
GEELONG	9,423	9,423	-	-	9,423	-	100.0%
GIPPSLAND	10,504	10,504	-	-	10,504	-	100.0%
KILNOORAT	16,730	16,730	-	-	16,730	-	100.0%
MAROONDAH	18,909	18,957	48	-	18,957	-	100.3%
MELBOURNE EAST	43,106	25,778	-	-	25,778	17,328	59.8%
MELBOURNE NORTH	23,837	23,837	-	-	23,837	-	100.0%
MELBOURNE WEST	37,778	37,778	-	-	37,778	-	100.0%
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA	7,812	7,812	-	-	7,812	-	100.0%
unallocated	-						
TOTALS	210,765	193,299	52	400	193,699	17,518	91.7%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 93)

Introduction

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 NASB)

The Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (HCCC) takes the words of Jesus seriously, as should every Christian, in declaring the purposes of Christ in the area of ministry that this Assembly has charged HCCC with. There is a twofold approach, firstly to engage with hospital and community groups (including AFES) in order to place and support the chaplains and pastoral carers of the PCV in the field; and second to care for and support Ministers and their families.

Chaplaincy in a secular multi faith environment, such as a public hospital, prison or sporting club can be challenging. But in those confines, the pastoral carers of the PCV fulfil a remarkable role of bringing care to those in need while not hiding the light of the gospel. Through their conversations, the salt of the gospel is not left out.

Supporting ministers and their families is of great importance. At times, this means that ministers retreat and pray for each other either at a formal retreat group or privately together. At other times, minister's wives are listened to and provided with biblical counsel. In September many ministers and their families gather at Philip Island Adventure Resort for the annual family camp. Not all participate in these activities and it is completely voluntary, but the building up and sharing of cares and concerns is of great value, and not one to be underestimated.

HCCC thanks the many people who keep the chaplains before them in prayer and we remind the Assembly of those PCV funded chaplains and pastoral care workers during 2012/2013 below:

- Rev Keith Bell – Paediatric chaplaincy funded by the Hughes Trust (1.0 EFT) until March 2013. Keith has now taken up the role of Church Planter with PIM in Alice Springs.
- Mrs Christine LePage – Paediatric pastoral care at Northern Health funded by Harold Hughes Trust (0.4 EFT) from April 2013.
- Mr Ian Waller – Paediatric pastoral care at Western Health funded by the Hughes Trust (0.6 EFT) from April 2013
- Rev Wally Gear – Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes funded jointly with the Social Services Committee (1.0 EFT)
- Ms Janine Motyer – Pastoral Care Intern at Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes funded jointly with Social Services Committee and St Andrew's Foundation (0.5 EFT). Janine successfully completed her internship at Kirkbrae and is now employed full time by Kirkbrae as a pastoral care worker.
- Miss Elspeth Slater – Pastoral Support worker to PCV Ministry Wives (0.6 EFT)

- Rev Tony and Anne Salisbury – Ministry to the Deaf Community funded jointly with the Ministry Development Committee and the Deaf Presbyterian Church (1.0 EFT)
- Mrs Kathy James – HCCC Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Coordinator (0.4 EFT)

As part of our ongoing performance review and to ensure that our Chaplains are pastoring well, reports are regularly received and reviewed by the HCCC. These reports highlight the complexity of the workplaces while demonstrating how important it is for those placed in them to be salt and light, not losing the grace or hiding the truth of the Gospel.

We will report on several areas and urge the Assembly to continue to pray for this amazing work.

Part A - Ministry

Harold Hughes Trust / Paediatric Chaplaincy

After settling in at the Northern and Sunshine (Western Health) Hospitals as Paediatric Chaplain, Rev Keith Bell was led by the Lord to Alice Springs as the Church Planter for PIM (Presbyterian Inland Mission). While HCCC was sorry to see such a talent of a man leave, one result has been some new opportunities for the work of HCCC.

HCCC has been working with several people interested in CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) to gain accreditation to work in hospitals. As a result, two excellent candidates were selected by both HCCC and each hospital. Mrs Christine LePage (Northern) and Mr Ian Waller (Western Health) started their ministry in April 2013. Early indications are very promising and we look forward to continued ministry to children, their families and staff in the months ahead.

The HCCC continues to seek to develop opportunities for expanding our work, in Metropolitan Melbourne particularly in the area of Paediatric Chaplaincy, sponsored by the Hughes Trust.

Burnett Trust / Pastoral Care

The Burnett Trust funds both Rev Wally Gear (Kirkbrae Chaplain) and Miss Elspeth Slater (Minister's Wives Pastoral Care Worker). While their spheres of ministry are different, their pastoral care ministry is both vital and encouraging.

Wally's ministry is received very well at Kirkbrae. He visits regularly, has creative and innovative ways of engaging with those at Kirkbrae, leads some Bible studies and conducts church services at the grounds. The Presbytery of Maroondah is very supportive of Wally and the ministry that he conducts.

It is attested by many (both published and testimonies) where the Minister's wife is settled well, home life in the Manse is settled. As we are all aware many tricky and tense situations arise in the Manse. To help pastorally care for the wives of our Ministers, Miss Elspeth Slater brings a wide array of experience and expertise, and is actively on hand to help many get through often difficult and troublesome times. Elspeth is one who goes about her work quietly with great emphasis on confidentiality. Often we hear that Elspeth has been to a particular Presbytery with many wives being thankful for the visit.

In 2012 Elspeth ran a day conference on issues that arise for ministry families'. This was well received and another one is scheduled for August 2013. Elspeth also seeks to meet regularly with the wives of ministry candidates and those who are in their first years of ministry.

June 2013 marked the end of Elspeth's first 5 year term in her role as Pastoral Support Worker to PCV Ministry Wives. She has prepared the summary report below for the Assembly. It is the HCCC's desire that the Assembly would ratify with great thanksgiving to God, the re-appointment of Elspeth to her current position for a further two years, from 1/7/2013 (retrospective)

"Five years ago the position of Pastoral Support Worker for Ministry Wives was created. The work has primarily been one of listening and prayerful encouragement for the wives of ministers and home missionaries, rather than dispensing advice or assuming a role of problem solver. Keeping confidentiality is my chief concern. As Jonathan did for David (1Sam.23:16), the desire has been to go to where people are and help them to find strength in God. The work has developed from the initial stage of introducing myself and the position through individual visits to around 100 women all over the state, to a place where women now make contact to ask for prayer or a visit, to give updates on their situation, to suggest that someone else would benefit from some support or to seek resources for particular needs.

In addition to individual visits, meetings have been held in each presbytery providing opportunities for fellowship, sharing and prayer. A day conference on "Balancing Ministry and Marriage" was held last year. The subject for our August 2013 conference being "Privileges and Pressures in Ministry". Email or postal contact 5-6 weekly through "Food for Thought" serves as a reminder of my availability and invites contact. A visit is made with the wife of each exiting ministry student, in order to establish a basis for subsequent visits and support as they move into a parish. Ministry is limited to what individuals choose to share with me.

I thank the Victorian Assembly for the privilege entrusted to me in this ministry through HCCC. I am grateful for God's protection in over 32,000 kilometres of solitary driving. I have personally benefited from the necessity of being alert to the Holy Spirit's prompting in a task requiring wisdom and sensitivity and from interaction with many fine women of faith.

Your sister in Christ,

Elspeth Slater"

Deaf Community Chaplaincy

Rev Tony and Anne Salisbury (Deaf Community Church based at Surrey Hills) continue to see growth both in the congregation and the number of schools that they visit. Tony now engages regularly with deaf students as a school chaplain employed by Access Ministries in various schools across Melbourne. There are several significant issues to deal with, including bullying and knowing how a deaf person can live life to the full in a hearing world.

Tony and Anne bring the salt and the light of the gospel into a community that cannot hear. Please continue to uphold the Salisbury's in your prayers. The work is intense and demanding on them both.

Tertiary Chaplaincy: Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES)

The HCCC devotes a significant block of funding each year to the work of tertiary chaplains through its semi-annual grants to Presbyterian AFES workers across several Victorian campuses. During 2012/13 this funding was shared with the Ministry Development Committee (MDC), allowing us to continue funding this vital work. The names of the AFES workers, along with their field of mission and field of service in the PCV are as follows:

- Latrobe - Bundoora – Peter Leslie (at Valley PC) and Helen Bell - Int'l students (at Bundoora PC)
- Deakin - Geelong – David Martin (at Geelong West PC)
- Deakin – Burwood – Pete Sorrenson (at Surrey Hills PC)
- RMIT Melb – Alan Green (at Bundoora) and Steve Denness (at Donvale)
- Monash - Clayton – Ken Lim - Int'l students (at Donvale)

The HCCC encourages the Assembly to continue to grasp the vision of AFES and its vital gospel work amongst the universities of Victoria.

This year has seen several personal tragedies for a number of Victorian AFES workers. Please pray for each of them as they come to terms with great loss and for those who support them, including AFES leaders and their local congregations.

Emergency Ministries

Several PCV emergency trained chaplains were again called to assist in fires during the early part of 2013. We commend them for their efforts and seek Assembly's prayer support for their ministry.

Several ministers have become further trained in relief centres and are able to deliver short term debriefing. Many emergency responders have utilized a method called Psychological First Aid (PFA). Its intention is to move the person from a heightened state of awareness to a more normal level where they can function and make decisions.

There are several Ministers who are chaplains to the Country Fire Authority through a chaplaincy provider called Converge International. This provides a unique opportunity to gain access to the lives of many families in the bush. Chaplains work alongside the CISM (Critical Incident Support Management) teams throughout the state. The beauty of being a chaplain is that you can pray privately for those who you meet and minister to. It is salt and light of the gospel in action for an extended period of time.

Sports Chaplaincy

We praise God for the amazing doors being opened in sports chaplaincy in Victoria with many sporting organizations requesting chaplains. The opportunities to engage with the local community through the hub of sport are endless. The question we need to ask ourselves is where and when can I make myself available or encourage others in the congregation to do so.

Ministers Family Camp

We also wish to highlight and acknowledge God's wonderful provision of joint committee funding in relation to the annual Ministry Family Camp. Significant contributions from both the CENC (PYV camp costs) and PWMU (Missionary families) have enabled the ongoing financial security of the Camp and this important annual ministry of pastoral care to PCV ministry families. We again acknowledge with thanksgiving the work of Mrs Anne Elliott in her role as Camp Co-ordinator, whose efficient administration and tireless efforts are of vital importance to the effective functioning of the camp each year.

The timing of the Minister's Family Camp has been an issue with its close proximity to Assembly, the AFL Grand Final and families with VCE students. Unfortunately,

Philip Island Adventure Resort is not available in the July holidays and there are no other suitable camp sites available that fit all the criteria relevant for our camp.

Pastor's Renewal Retreats

Pastor's Renewal Retreats provide a place of safety where pastors can share their personal and ministry burdens with their peers. It is a safe place to do so as the pressures of parish life are removed (hence retreat), where things said remain confidential within the group and where stories of persistence and pain bring encouragement and strength as we see yet again the faithfulness of the Lord. Prayer is one of the most vital of all activities – followed closely by food!

From the stories and experiences of many who have been involved in Retreat Groups, the benefits have been highly significant. Not all choose to be involved for a variety of reasons. But experience suggests the positives of being involved significantly outweigh the negatives as each participant brings part of something that brings strength and hope back into their ministry.

The Retreat Group is a three year cycle. The first year is telling and listening to each other's stories. This is a great way to hone in our pastoral skills of listening. During the second year different participants bring theological or biblical reflection as well as updates of their personal stories and situations. There is discussion about the multiplication / splitting of the group after year three. The third year seeks to build on all that has happened and if possible multiply the group into two groups, with new people coming in. This is important as the same people do not fall into the same cliques each time.

HCCC would be interested in seeing whether in future PCV Minister's Wives might be interested in forming/participating in a retreat group. There are several wives who make use of various interdenominational groups such as CWCI for encouragement and pastoral support.

Presbytery Pastoral Care Committee

Last year, we made mention of Presbyteries to consider establishing a Pastoral Care Committee. We suggested the following last year.

The operation of the committee is not prescriptive but some of the activities could include prayer days, making regular contact other than Presbytery meetings, and a sub-committee of pastoral sensitive people to support and pray for minister / elders in pastoral situations that may require an early intervention.

There have been some success with this and we continue to encourage those Presbyteries who have to champion this model for others to follow.

Chaplaincy Co-ordinator

Mrs Kathy James serves the PCV HCCC with a high degree of professionalism and strategic thinking. Many of the reforms and training strategies have come from her collaboration with others. Kathy's intuitive skill of combining the best of several divergent ideas and bringing them together is unique. We are very pleased with her enthusiasm for the role of Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.

Kathy continues to support the various chaplains and meet one on one with many. These meetings are crucial for times of prayer and raising concerns for all. If there is

an issue to deal with, Kathy, in consultation with the convener, will work through a solution that brings grace and dignity for all.

This section of ministry finishes with Kathy. Ministry never functions without sound administration. But administration without ministry is just office work. Kathy is the person who keeps ministry and administration in their correct proportions.

Part B - Administration

HCCC Good Friday Appeal 2013

Awareness of chaplaincy ministry continues to grow as each church begins to understand the impact that a Chaplain may have in various settings. In 2013 the HCCC Good Friday appeal, through the generosity of the PCV congregations raised a staggering \$22,675 for which we could not be more thankful. We plan to use this wisely in support the HCCC budget for a range of chaplaincy and ministry workers.

Congregations who would like to have a Chaplain come and speak at a meeting / service are most welcome to contact one of the chaplains directly or Mrs Kathy James (chaplaincy@pcvic.org.au).

Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria (HCCVI)

The PCV retains one seat on the HCCVI (currently held by Mrs Kathy James). The Council exists to promote the development of chaplaincy and pastoral care services by faith based providers in Victoria and to channel State Government funding to participating groups each year. In October 2012, Kathy was elected as Chairman of the Board of HCCVI. This brings recognition of her skills and understandings of the hospital chaplaincy sector and is strategic to furthering this important area of ministry as she works with the board to develop infrastructure and promote good governance for this 100% government funded organisation. Please pray for this work- the multi-faith council is a highly challenging arena with many complex issues around understandings and boundaries in the provision of spiritual care by member groups to patients in Victorian Healthcare settings. The HCCC is thankful for this opportunity to be working at the coal-face of health chaplaincy development in Victoria and to maintain a strong Christian presence and voice at the decision making level. We give thanks to God and ask for his ongoing grace and help for Kathy and other Christian representatives on the HCCVI.

Training, recruitment and development

The HCCC continues to encourage those with an interest in chaplaincy ministries to undergo professional training which will allow them to gain accreditation and work in the highly regulated public sphere in years to come. Several members of the PCV have undergone training in Clinical Pastoral Education for hospital based ministries this year or have undertaken chaplaincy training units for schools, sports and other forms of Chaplaincy.

One direct result of this is Ms Janine Motyer who has successfully completed her internship at Kirkbrae. So thrilled were Kirkbrae that they have employed Janine full time as a Pastoral Care Worker from 1 July 2013. This is the type of vision that HCCC seeks to fulfill, to train and place future pastoral care workers in significant and strategic ministry placements.

We hope to continue to engage with the Presbyterian Theological College in developing pathways for identifying and training of chaplaincy and pastoral care

workers within existing degree structures and look forward to an ongoing collaboration with the PTC in the future development of these important streams of ministry training.

HCCC venues of operation

HCCC Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Mrs Kathy James continues to enjoy the benefits of operating out of an office at Heathmont House. HCCC is grateful for the support of the Board of Management of Heathmont Presbyterian Church for the provision of these excellent facilities at very reasonable rental rates.

HCCC is also very thankful to Scots Church who regularly make available one of their rooms to hold our bi-monthly committee meetings. All of the facilities are well maintained and arranged to cater for our meetings. HCCC would find it otherwise difficult to hold our meetings as several travel from the country to attend.

To both Heathmont and Scots, we are thankful under God as they enable HCCC and our workers to function well for the provision of chaplaincy across the PCV.

Committee Membership and Structure

The committee's membership has seen some changes in 2012/13. Sadly, since our last report, Rev Evan Prentice and Rev Jeremy Dover have resigned. Their knowledge and experience in pastoral care ministry are sorely missed. Rev Grant Vayne and Rev Phil Court have joined our committee and together bring a rich array of pastoral care and chaplaincy experience and knowledge. Therefore, our committee presently stands at eight members (including Convener) being (alphabetically): Ms Barbara Brown, Rev Phil Court, Mrs Anne Elliot, Rev Miles Fagan (Convener), Rev Clinton LePage, Mrs Toni Orchard, Mrs Alison Robertson, and Rev Grant Vayne.

Words of Jesus

In everything we do, we seek to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:36,

"I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" and Paul's words in Galatians 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers".

Miles Fagan
CONVENER

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	86,268
Donations & Gifts	22,675
Family Camp Income	28,257
Grants & Subsidies	27,691
Interest Ministers' Home Loan	152
Total Income	165,043

Expenditure:

Chaplaincy Fees & Grants	71,229
Education & Training Chaplains	1,445
Ministers' Family Camp	48,028
Renewal Retreats	3,328
General Expenses	1,963
Insurance	985
Secretarial, Postage & Stationery	838
Committee and Travel	4,731
Chaplaincy Co-ordinator	28,570
Total Expenditure	161,117

Surplus on General Operations

3,926

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	965,071
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	3,926
Add back Depreciation	613
Accruals	(3,425)
Loan Repayments	9,159
Balance 30/6/13	975,344

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	Walton	P Burnett	H Hughes
Income:			
Common Fund Interest	540	74,802	1,482
Income on Separate Investments			58,222
Realised and Unrealised Gain on Investments			224,933
Total Income	540	74,802	284,637
Expenditure:			
Personnel Related	1,200	78,789	71,690
Committee and travel Expenses		4,358	
Office Expenses		498	
Total Expenditure	1,200	83,645	71,690
Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts	(660)	(8,843)	212,947

Movements in Funds

	P Burnett+ Walton Common Fund	H Hughes Common Fund	Separately Invested	Total
Balance 1/7/12	639,387	3,550	349,900	992,838
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,503)	(70,208)	283,155	203,444
Index Perpetual Balance	0	0	(152,362)	(152,362)
Transfers	0	73,566	(73,566)	-
Balance 30/6/13	629,884	6,908	407,127	1,043,920

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/13	876,219
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HOME MISSION WORKERS ASSOCIATION (Min. 63)

By the grace of God I present the report on behalf of the HMWA.
We thank God for his continual guidance as we report on another year in His work.

The **Thanksgiving and Dedication Service** was held on 8th November 2012 in Scots' Church, Melbourne. The Victorian Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer brought greetings from the Assembly also an encouraging report on growing congregations.

The guest preacher, Rev John Wilson, preached from Psalm 61, noting David's cry for help. "From the ends of the earth, lead me to the rock, our refuge, to be close to God." God promised, "to rise up a kingdom which would last for ever with commitment, to serve God all the days." Our thanks to the Moderator, and the Guest Preacher for their greetings and preaching also to Scots' Church for holding the service there. Thanks to Mr John Meyer for his inspiring organ music and to the people who encourage the work of HMWA by attending and enjoying fellowship over lunch.

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on 19th March 2013 in the Robert White Hall. The guest speaker, Dr Karl Hood, spoke about his involvement in the Drouin Church and how his work in Medicine and Counselling has evolved into his studies as a candidate for the Ministry. He spoke of his strong belief that Christ can help in the problems of the world. Mr Norm Sharp, a member of the Ministry Development Committee, gave an encouraging report on the work of Home Missioners and their congregations. We thank them for attending.

Allocations for the year were given to – West Footscray towards the payment for a ramp, Templestowe towards purchase of hymn books, Bibles and children's books and Eaglehawk towards the purchase of a screen and blind for outreach mission work.

Book grants and Christmas cheques were given to Candidates for the Ministry and Home Missionaries. Relocation grants were given to students exiting to their first parish.

The new Brochure has proved of great interest in promoting the work of the HMWA.

Life Membership – It was a privilege at the AGM to bestow Life Membership on Miss Rion Jennings who was elected President again this year. Rion has been a member of the Committee for 30 years including 25 years as President. A Certificate for her loyalty and devotion to the aims and objectives of the H.M.W.A. was presented by Rev Graham Nicholson, minister at Rion's church, Hawthorn, who spoke about Rion's Christian journey.

Links – It is with deep sadness we note the passing of some of our long term links.

We give thanks for their commitment, loyalty and devotion to the work of the H.M.W.A. also for their regular attendance at Annual Meetings and Thanksgiving and Dedication Services and for assisting at luncheons. Their contributions were most appreciated.

Links that have faithfully served at churches that have now closed have also felt a sense of loss. We thank them also for their loyalty and devotion.

The Executive thank all who contribute and encourage the work of HMWA through funds and prayer and pray for the Candidates for the Ministry and Home Missionaries.

Barbara Firth
HON SECRETARY

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min. 46)

The Committee reports the following matters to the October Assembly 2013.

1. Membership and meetings of the Committee

The Committee has undergone a significant change in membership with all members except one being country located and with meetings being held in Ballarat. Even with the changes and new members, the Committee is still short of its complement of 6 members.

As mentioned in the previous Convener's report, there has been a significant learning curve for most members as all the functions are new to most of the members. This has caused some delays in processing the various requests including Annual Parish Reports that come to the Committee. The backlog of APRs took a while to process and work through with a degree of confusion as to what year the APR was reporting.

2. Vehicle Running Costs

The best prediction (and thanks to John Angelico) concerning bowser prices are that they will remain in the 140-155c/L price range for the rest of the year. That probably means a need for an increase of up to 48c/km reimbursement from 1 November. A further review will be undertaken after the election and a supplementary report and a possible additional deliverance will be brought to the Assembly.

3. Annual Parish Report Compliance

Of the approximate 100 parishes in the Victoria Presbyterian church, 55% complied with Assembly resolutions to complete and send their APR to Presbytery and then, if approved, to the MMC. There is need for much improvement both in percentage compliance and timeliness.

4. Congregational Annual Financial Reports

At the end of a Parish's financial period, the Treasurer finalises the books, prepares and prints the annual reports and arranges the books to be audited by the Congregation's appointed auditor(s). The APR is prepared using data from the previous year's APR; the centre column (column B) of the financial summary page (now page 3) is transferred to the left column (column C) of the same page and from the latest audited report, the centre column is filled in. A reasonable budget is entered in the right column (column A). When the church's approved chart of accounts is used, the filling in of this form is easy. The terms of settlement page are filled in (now page 2) and totals transferred to page 3. The APRE (computer form of the APR) does the totals transfer automatically. In this process which includes other information, the Board of Management approves the APR (if using the APRE, the printout is then the APR) and it is signed by the Secretary or the Treasurer. The audited annual financial statements and the APR budget are reported to the congregation for approval. After approval the APR is signed by the Moderator and sent to Presbytery. The parish must keep a copy. The Presbytery does its own checking of the APR and if satisfied, approves and sends it to the MMC for its appraisal. Any reasons for requests for grants must be supported by the Presbytery.

5. Requests for Sustentation and other Grants

The process of receiving, assessing and paying sustentation has been reviewed and for a smoother and timely operation the following is the protocol that is being followed for this and subsequent financial years. Congregational Annual Financial reporting is described above and is a required first step in the request for sustentation which should be carried out ASAP at the end of the financial period. The Board of Management should be continuously aware of their financial position throughout the year and should understand a need for haste. The following are the cut-offs.

The MMC will receive applications for grants (Sustentation etc) up to its meeting in late September and the church office notified of any that are approved and payment will be back paid to the commencement of the financial year (1-July). Any subsequent applications for such grants will be considered at the next MMC meeting which will be about 2 months later and the monthly rate will commence in that month (no back dating) when the church office is notified. For sustentation, the maximum monthly rate is the maximum Sustentation Grant Amount (\$9,977 for 2013-14) divided by 12.

Urgent applications can still be made and unaudited current financial information (in column B) can be supplied but the previous years audited information (column C of the financial information page) must be supplied and urgent APRs with a blank column C will be returned to Parish and Presbytery unless the Committee is notified by resolution including documented reasons.

6. APR forms and APRE program on the Web

The latest APR (manually filled in form) will be available from the pcv.org.au website and will be available in two versions i.e. Calendar year and financial year and will have the budget year filled in, so please select the correct one. Initially there will be versions for the financial year 2013-14 and calendar years 2013 and 2014.

If downloading the APRE Excel Program, there is also a MS Word instructions file that goes with it and should assist in using the program. The Registrar can be contacted for assistance if required.

7. Last Financial Year Sustentation, Travel and Superannuation Grants

Eight applications for sustentation were received, approved and paid for in the 2012-2013 financial year. Three travel grants and eight superannuation subsidies were also approved and paid.

8. Long Service Leave

A total of seven ministers requested long service leave in the past year and all requests were granted. In addition, two ministers were transferred interstate, and five received from interstate.

Again the Committee thanks Mr Michael Ellison and the PCV Office staff for supplying this and other information on our behalf, particularly in respect of Long Service Leave entitlements.

Presbyteries are again encouraged to urge ministers to take their ordinary leave and long service leave as soon as possible in a reasonable time frame after it is

due to them.

Your Committee particularly points out to presbyteries and parishes that 'Long Service Leave must be taken before retirement.' (MMC regulation 28). Despite this, your Committee has received several requests in the past year for the pay out of accrued LSL entitlements. While such pay outs can be made for 'retirement due to sickness' or in 'exceptional cases', it is not the normal practice. There is, in fact, quite an extensive list of ministers who retired without expiring their LSL entitlements beforehand and who were paid out. In the interest of fairness and equality the Committee will, unless directed otherwise by the Assembly, adhere to past precedents and the requirement of Clause 28.

9. Interest Free Component of Ministers' Car Loans

The Ministers' Car Loans scheme continues to be operated by the TC/BIF. A subsidy, overseen by this Committee holds the rate payable to a maximum of 5% on the first portion of the loan.

In all, \$10,446 was used to subsidise loans under this scheme during the past year. Six new loans were made, and there are 22 loans totaling \$182,936 outstanding at the beginning of this financial year.

10. Finance

Your committee notes an Income on General Operations for the year ended 30 June, 2013 of \$109,718 (budget \$116,000) Expenditure \$129,851 (budget \$153,340) resulting in a deficit of \$20,133 (budget \$36,340). Long Service Leave funds achieved a surplus of \$16,344 (budget \$5,964). We were unsuccessful in our application for a grant from G.M.P. Committee. We praise God for this generous provision of the financial needs of the Committee and look forward to the future with confidence and hope in support of the work of the Ministry of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

11. Individual Parish Assistance

The Registrar is willing on an availability basis to give help to local church treasurers and even arranging a visit preferably in daylight hours during the week and can include if possible some country visits. During this year a basic set of church treasurer's books are envisaged to be described with a model set of books and data.

12. Other Matters

The Committee does consider a variety of matters at and between its meetings and tries to respond appropriately according to the scope of its responsibilities.

Vehicle Running Costs

As indicated in our Report to the 2013 Commission of Assembly your Committee advised of the likelihood of petrol prices increasing. Our current advice from the Former Convener is that such prices will stabilise at 140-155 c/l range for the remainder of this current financial year. Your Committee therefore recommends an increase of 1 cent per litre from 1st November 2013, to 48 cents per kilometre. Such will have the effect of increasing Terms of Settlement by \$60 p.a. or \$5 per month.

John S Woodward
CONVENER

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

	<u>General</u>	<u>Long Service Leave</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income:			
Common Fund Interest	86,177	93,194	179,371
Grant from Balfour Trust	16,085		16,085
Long Service Leave Levy		40,300	40,300
LSL Benefit Transferred from Other States		29,049	29,049
Other Investment Income	7,456	-	7,456
Total Receipts	109,718	162,543	272,261
Expenditure:			
Grants	7,400	-	7,400
Interest Subsidy Car Loans	10,445	-	10,445
Sustentation Expense General	95,321	-	95,321
Grants for Superannuation	16,085		16,085
Committee Expenses	600	-	600
Long Service Leave	-	146,199	146,199
Total Expenditure	129,851	146,199	276,050
<u>Surplus on General Operations</u>	<u>(20,133)</u>	<u>16,344</u>	<u>(3,789)</u>

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	836,600	1,079,473	1,916,072
(Decrease) / Increase in Liabilities	-	43,754	43,754
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(20,133)	16,344	(3,789)
<u>Balance 30/6/13</u>	<u>816,467</u>	<u>1,139,570</u>	<u>1,956,037</u>

Perpetual Funds

<u>Balance 30/6/13</u>	<u>42,466</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42,466</u>
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METRO COMMITTEE (Min. 34)

God has richly blessed us as a denomination with the unique privilege of knowing Him through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This Gospel has been given to us, not just to enjoy the privilege of proclaiming it amongst ourselves, but also to a world desperately needing salvation. As good stewards of the gospel, it is our task to see that it is entrusted to the next generation of word ministers, so that the task of Gospel proclamation can continue (2 Timothy 2).

One of the ways we can fulfil our Gospel commission is through the Ministry training strategy known as METRO. METRO is a two-year, partly funded, full-time traineeship designed to give people a taste of local church ministry and theological study to determine if that is where God wants them to serve.

METRO's function is to identify and train faithful and competent gospel workers. METRO recognises that developing evangelistic ministries is not the primary task of the PTC. These skills need to be developed at the local church level and prior to college. Therefore METRO is pre-theological training that aims to engender a theology of evangelistic ministry within a potential ministry candidate. Indeed many of the practical components of the METRO traineeship are best learnt through one-to-one training.

METRO is not an alternative to formal theological education but rather prepares and complements it. For the METRO trainees the METRO experience becomes a filter through which theological study is viewed. The trainee understands theology within the proper context of evangelism and church.

For any of this training to occur we need trainers. Indeed trainers are essential to the success of METRO. Trainers are usually those in full time ministry who have an ability and willingness to impart ministry skills and a desire to share their lives with METRO trainees. It requires a commitment of about six hours per week to mentor one METRO trainee plus ongoing training to hone their ministry and training skills.

youthMETRO continues to be exciting and profitable. youthMETRO is a one year traineeship focussed on preparing and growing youth leaders in local churches. Like METRO, youthMETRO aims to prepare trainees to be, think and serve like Jesus, with a specific focus on doing this within youth ministries.

Whether a trainee is involved in METRO or youthMETRO the same three basic strands are covered:

1. **Being like Jesus - Personal Godliness:** The main focus in this strand is daily personal bible reading, prayer and personal evangelism. Trainees and trainers will spend time in their catch ups discussing issues arising from this crucial daily time with God and documenting prayer points.
2. **Thinking like Jesus - Theological Reflection:** To be able to teach the Bible, first trainees must understand the Bible, its history and content. This is the main focus of this strand.
3. **Serving like Jesus - Ministry Skills:** In this strand the trainees will develop their ministry skills. Fundamental to the progress made, will be the transition of the trainee into a trainer role. A basic pattern in each ministry skill is for the

trainee to pass on what they have learnt with another person - learning through teaching others.

While METRO continues to be an encouragement, it has of late been an administrative challenge. The committee has had to navigate the implications of recent Federal Government taxation rulings. We have tried to resolve the matters but our efforts have thus far failed. The committee is considering working with MTS to enable us to comply with the Federal Government's regulations relating to minimum wage entitlements and our traineeships. The issues are complex but we are confident of finding a way forward.

Currently the METRO committee has five funded METRO trainees:

Mr Joel Otten
Mr Nicholas Arundall
Mr Jesse Walz
Mrs Stephanie DeRoos
Mr Jordan Brown

And 14 youthMETRO trainees:

Betty Lee
Elijah Roberts
Phil Schulz
Lenely Mwale
Sam Daffy
Bec Fagan
Maikel Botrosdief
Sherif Makar
Lexie Adlawan
Phoebe Jones
Shona Misso
Sam Moody
Ashley Willis
Clancey Missen

It is encouraging to have such a long list of trainees and to see a number of former trainees deciding to come to the PTC and candidate. Please pray for them and us.

I will not be in attendance at Assembly this year. While those presenting this report are more than capable of answering your questions, please feel free to contact me prior to Assembly if you feel the need. For more information about METRO, youthMETRO and your involvement please visit www.metrotraineeship.org.au or Nello Barbieri 0403569946.

Nello Barbieri
CONVENER

METRO Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	82,437
Events	575
Youth Metro Income	1,700
Total Income	<u>84,712</u>

Expenditure:

Grants Paid	61,113
Youth Metro Expenses	11,187
General Expenses	2,072
Total Expenditure	<u>74,371</u>

Surplus on General Operations

10,341

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	863,383
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	10,341
Balance 30/6/13	<u>873,724</u>

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Min. 26)

A. Personnel

1. Composition of the Team

The Committee, as constituted by last year's Assembly, consists of a Convener and 6 Committee members. With Dr Tony Bird on sabbatical from the PTC in 2013, Rev Grant Lawry is acting as Convener for the year, although Dr Bird has attended Committee meetings, except when he was overseas. The other members are Mrs Michelle Brennan, Dr Bruce Ellis, Rev Ian Hutton, Rev John Rickard and Mr Norm Sharp. Our Ministry Development Director, Rev Dr Robert Carner, attends committee meetings, along with our Secretary, Mr Ben Palmer.

The hospitalisation of Robert Carner for neurological surgery on 1 March came as a shock and made us aware of the heavy and crucial load that he bears. We thank the Assembly and congregations for their prayers for his recovery which necessarily has been measured and carefully monitored. This has had a significant impact on the work of the committee, but we are very grateful to our secretary, Ben Palmer, who was willing and able to take on additional secretarial and other duties. Dr Carner is gradually returning to full strength and capacity. He will miss the Assembly to attend Intentional Interim Ministry training in Chicago with Rev Rod Waterhouse, to visit churches in the USA to speak on Sister Church partnerships with PCV congregations, and to represent the PCV at the World Congress of Evangelism Explosion in South Africa. As part of that trip he will also take 3 weeks of accumulated annual leave, including a week with his mother in Florida. The committee is encouraging Dr Carner to take a further 4 weeks of his annual leave in the period November 2013 to March 2014, so that he is fully recovered and able to focus on the work of the committee throughout 2014.

2. Core business of the Ministry Development Committee

"The Ministry Development Committee shall be responsible to the General Assembly for the work of building, revitalising and promoting healthy churches in the state of Victoria. Such work is to be in conjunction with the presbytery which has the primary responsibility for the health of congregations within its bounds..." from the MDC's Regulations.

The Ministry Development Committee has a wide-ranging brief to use its resources for ministry development through training, encouragement, general consultancy, implementation of the IIM & DIM and funding of churches where necessary. Ministry Development Committee services and support are available to all churches: Sanctioned Charges, Appointment Parishes, and Home Mission Stations. In each case and in particular for Home Mission Stations, we seek, as always, to work in cooperation with the session and presbytery of jurisdiction.

Confidential congregational consultation is offered which includes assessment of the community demographics and a more personal assessment of the current ministry is available with the primary tool being the Ministry Tool Box. The authors of Ministry Tool Box state: "Ministry Planning is the result of mobilizing believers (People) who effectively and efficiently relate to and engage their ministry environment (Perspective), to meet the objectives of their church's mandate (Philosophy) using the most appropriate action plans (Projects), in the pursuit of fulfilling the Great Commission."

'Ministry is not complicated but it is complex.' Each part is relatively easy to manage on its own but the church world becomes very complex when you take people and programs that are used to 'doing their own thing' and attempt to integrate them together to gain maximum impact. That integration is what the Tool Box attempts to achieve."

3. Home Mission Stations, Home Missionaries and their current appointments.

	Home Missionary	Moderator
Blackburn	(vacant)	Rev M James
Cardinia - Koo-Wee-Rup	(supply)	Rev C Yat
Cranbourne- Lyndhurst	Peter Roberts	Rev B Medley
Carisbrook-Caslemaine	Hugh Price	Rev Dr J Woodward
Clarinda	(supply)	Rev G Weber
Eaglehawk	Steven Arbuckle	Rev P Burns
Footscray West	Richard Jeganathan	Rev J Cho
Gisborne	(vacant)	Rev D Robertson
Kaniva-Nhill	Ian Smith	Rev W Vandenberg
Kerang-Pyramid Hill	(vacant)	Rev Dr J Woodward
Leongatha	Gary Wentworth (licentiate)	Rev M Smith
Sale	(vacant)	Rev G Stephens
Seymour-Nagambie-Yea	(supply)	Rev J Playfoot
SE Samoan (Lyndhurst)	Rev Kainano Opetai	Rev K Opetai
Sunraysia	(vacant)	Pending
Templestowe	Adrian Kebbe	Rev A Every
Wodonga	(supply)	Rev P Seiler

In addition, Home Missionary Kamran Nazir served as a cross-cultural pastor in the Dandenong parish until his transfer to the Heidelberg Presbyterian parish late in 2012.

Elder and Home Missionary, Pastor John Gething passed into the Lord's presence in May 2013 after a long struggle with health issues. He will be greatly missed by many within the churches and the communities that he served. John started his Home Mission service long after he had already dedicated his time to the Lord as a Lay Preacher. He was an elder at the Ararat Congregation and his "official" appointments included Marnoo (1996-98), Daylesford, Castlemaine, Mt Prospect Home Mission Station and then from 2005 at the Carisbrook-Castlemaine Home Mission Station where he served out his time.

We continue to remember John's wife Rosalie and his two adult children through the difficult time they have experienced, and their continued grief and loss.

4. Home Missionaries

It still remains our goal (along with Queensland and NSW) to standardise the qualifications for a Home Missionary sufficiently to recognize them between the states without having to go through the process of re-qualifying. This may help alleviate the shortage of Home Missionaries and will enable men who sense a call to serve as a Home Missionary in different parts of the country. After years of discussions, this is coming closer to realisation with the matter being brought to the GAA in September.

The number of applicants for Home Mission service continues to be very low. An

advertising/information campaign is planned for late 2013 and early 2014.

B. Key Challenges

1. Staffing/Recruitment

The PCV currently has 99 employed Ministers, Licentiates, Home Missionaries and one registered long term supply minister.

For the readers ease of tracking the information in Staffing and Finance, in the future we hope to provide tables that list the previous few years data.

The estimates and predictions below are reported as a reminder to the wider church that we must increase the intake at the Presbyterian College. In the past we have reported this and been asked, "What are we doing about it?" The MDC can encourage potential candidates to enrol in the PTC but it is just as much the responsibility of every one of our churches to pray for the Lord to raise up suitable men and proactively promote this need.

We are also very thankful for a number of retired ministers who are still active in serving the Lord through short term ministry appointments, interim moderatorships, committee work and other consultative ministries. As many of them are doing volunteer work they fall out of the superannuation records and subsequently our calculations on serving ministers. We owe a debt of gratitude to them.

In assessing future personnel needs we need to factor in the time period to recruit and prepare a man for training as a parish minister. The whole process could take between four and six years. Some of the men who put their hands up for training in 2014 may not be ready to exit/serve until 2020.

The PCV office (based on superannuation records) calculates that we may potentially progressively lose 33 men to retirement by 2020 (7 years from now). This is only a forecast with the understanding that some men will retire at 65, some will have to work up to 67 and others will choose to serve significantly longer; and yes, we may lose some early due to health, death or personal reasons.

Age Range	No. of Mins/HMs	Comments
70 and over	4	<i>In total, we have 18 ministers 64 or older, who could retire any time soon</i>
67 – 69	3	
64 – 66	9	
60 - 63	17	<i>Planning must be put in place for their retirement</i>
58 - 59	7	<i>Candidates entering the PTC today may be the ones replacing these ministers</i>
51 - 57	28	
43 - 50	12	
30 - 42	18	

There are currently a total of 12 candidates training for ministry at our Theological College. 3 of these will exit the College into PCV ministry at the end of 2013. On average the PTC exits between 3 and 4 candidates per year. In addition there are ministerial candidates entering through the Reception of Ministers committee, as well as PCA ministers coming from interstate.

PCV Churches

99 parishes, some with multiple churches or preaching places.

Presbytery	# of parishes	total # of churches
Ballarat	9	18
Benalla	8	12
Flinders	14	18
Geelong	6	10
Gippsland	6	7
Kilnoorat	6	11
Maroondah	8	8 (plus Kirkbrae)
Melbourne East	15	17
Melbourne North	11	11
Melbourne West	10	11 (plus Darwin)
North Western Victoria	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
Totals	99	130

To maintain the “status quo” we estimate that we may need no fewer than 40 candidates for the ministry between now and 2020, this includes only a small margin for men who will be posted into the growing (slow) number of multiple pastor churches. This estimate does not include workers for church planting work. These figures have not changed much over the past 4 years. The numbers still lag behind the intake of candidates at the Presbyterian Theological College. In order to meet anticipated needs an annual output of up to 7 candidates for the next 7 years would be required.

2. Financial Viability of Churches

Churches using Sites Reserves Funds and Investments in 2012-13

2 churches used Sites Reserve funds to pay their minister.

7 churches used Sites Reserve to pay Manse Allowances.

21 churches withdrew funds from their investment accounts for a variety of reasons.

20 used Sites Reserve funds for "general purposes", some of which may have included repairs & maintenance (these figures do not include withdrawals for capital works).

Churches receiving Ministry Development Committee Subsidies in 2012-2013

12 churches are dependent upon MDC subsidies to sustain ministry. This figure represents churches dependent on MDC funds to retain a minister or home missionary.

Churches receiving Maintenance of Ministry (Sustentation) 2012-2013

8 Churches received full MOM sustentation or equivalent support. (\$9720pa).
(4 churches receive both MDC and MOM grants).

Churches receiving Superannuation and Travel Subsidies from MOM

6 churches received 25% of Superannuation Subsidy, 2 received 25% of Superannuation and a Travel Subsidy, and 1 received a special travel grant only.

Conclusion

Financially: We may conclude from the above figures that there may be up to one third of 99 parishes experiencing financial stress. To list the financially anaemic vacant churches would boost this figure even higher.

Spiritually: What is happening with the majority of our parishes if the above data reflects our current trend? At what point does every presbytery have to address their struggling parishes?

C. Finance

1. Financial Summary

The Common Fund balance of the committee's General Fund as at 30 June 2013 was \$2,291,188, down by just over \$500,000 from the previous year. The budgeted deficit of just over \$1,120,000 was not realised because only half of the \$900,000 in capital grants budgeted to be expended in 2012-2013 was actually drawn down, because of delays experienced by a number of the receiving churches (e.g. obtaining council permits, quotes from building contractors and finalizing contracts and schedules for the works).

In addition, subsidies paid to congregations (including second ministry worker and cross-cultural worker grants) were \$145,000 less than expected for a number of reasons, including an inability to secure a home missionary or to find a suitable applicant to fill a second worker position.

We have budgeted for capital grants of \$900,000 in 2013-2014, a large part of which will be continuing payment of grants for projects approved in 2011-2012. We have budgeted for further capital grants of \$600,000 in both 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. It is possible that the amount for 2014-2015 may well be increased when that budget is finalised early in 2014.

2. Assessment of Grant Applications

MDC Subsidy grants are to be used by parishes in support of the minister, not to have equipment and capital works loaded into the budget. An approved MDC grant may fill the void between a well thought out budget and their actual income. For additional assistance, parishes may separately apply for specific capital works grants and evangelism grants; but these needs must not be included in subsidy requests.

Subsidy applications must also include a statement/strategy regarding plans to build the church spiritually and in numbers as well as a challenge to the members to give generously of their time and their resources to their church.

Questions were asked at last year's Assembly in relation to the committee's assessment of grant applications, especially concerning subsidies to parishes. The committee has given this careful consideration and decided to implement a number of measures:

1. In future, any grant applications for an amount of \$20,000pa or more will be subject to congregational assessment carried out by the Ministry Development Director with the primary tool being the Ministry Tool Box (as referred to earlier in our Report).
2. The grant application form used by the committee has been revamped with an additional question in relation to the measures being implemented by the applicant congregation about how they are reaching into the community and the inclusion of a format (based on the categories employed in the APR) for a projected budget for the forthcoming financial year. One of the problems that the committee has experienced in assessing grant applications is the inadequate presentation or lack of relevant financial information.

3. The 10-Year-Rule continues to ensure that congregations in receipt of grants over a long term must come to the Assembly after 10 years to justify the continuation of grants for their work.
4. Churches must remember that the regulations state that the MDC should not fund a declining church for more than one year.

3. Capital Grants

Following on from the Capital Grants cycle begun in 2011-12 and reported to last year's Assembly, two further Capital Grants were made during 2012-13 on the basis of new information or presenting needs. These were grants of \$400,000 to Fawkner Samoan Church to purchase a new Church site, and \$40,000 to Melton to complete works to their Ministry Centre.

Belgrave Heights and Sorrento-Rye are unable to go ahead with their projects so their grant allocations (\$160,000 and \$75,000 respectively) will be available in the future for other projects.

Capital Grants Paid Out (entirely or mostly) over 2012 and 2013		
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Grant Approved</i>	<i>Project</i>
Bendigo	\$140,000	Major Renovation of Hall, Kitchen and Toilets
Broadford	\$70,000	Completion of new Hall project
Bundoora	\$150,000	Fit out of new Church Building
Clayton	\$160,000	Expand Worship area and new Church Kitchen
Cranbourne	\$155,000	Outdoor stage and new Church Kitchen
Fawkner Samoan	\$400,000	Purchase new church site
Kaniva-Nhill	\$30,000	New Church Kitchen and Toilets at Kaniva
Melton	\$40,000	Completion of Ministry Centre
Capital Grants yet to be Paid Out		
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Grant Approved</i>	<i>Project</i>
Ballarat West	\$300,000	Second Stage Church Building
Dandenong	\$175,000	Expand Worship area, Renovate Toilet block
Frankston	\$145,000	Extend Hall and Car Park
Mornington	\$300,000	New Church and Manse project
South Yarra	\$35,000	ESL Classroom within Church

Following recent correspondence with the parishes whose grants are yet to be paid out, we are assured that they remain committed to expending their grants in a timely manner, having been subject to delays beyond their control.

We hope to move towards inviting applications for capital grants in the second half of 2014, but it would be helpful if parishes could advise the committee of their needs in advance. Projects should be genuine, realistic and sustainable, and should be aimed at enabling parishes to enhance, develop and extend their gospel ministry; with the parish clearly making a commitment of its own to the project.

4. Subsidies to Parishes

The stated amounts are paid over twelve months unless stated otherwise.

Congregation(s)	Paid in 2012-13	Rate Approved for 2013-14 (PA)
Ararat AP	\$17,000	\$13,500
Bairnsdale AP	\$12,000	\$10,000
Brimbank AP	\$10,000	\$15,000
Broadford AP	\$13,000	\$10,000
Carisbrook-Castlemaine HMS*	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Cranbourne HMS*	\$28,778	Pending
Daylesford AP	-	\$45,000
Deaf Church	\$22,000	\$18,000
Eaglehawk HMS*	-	\$ 8,504
Gisborne HMS#	-	\$15,000 Jan-Jun 2014
Horsham AP	\$20,000	\$19,000 (pending appointment)
Kaniva-Nhill HMS*	\$16,000	Pending
Leongatha HMS	-	\$39,350 rate Jul-Dec 2013 \$35,000 rate Jan-Jun 2014
Skipton-Lismore	-	\$25,000
Templestowe*	\$30,000	\$36,504

*These Home Mission Stations receive an additional grant of half of their Home Missionary's basic Non Cash Benefit entitlement, from the MDC's Home Missionaries' Beneficiary Fund

#If there is an exit appointment

5. Cross-Cultural Ministry Funding

Congregation(s)	Paid in 2012-13	Rate Approved for 2013-14 (PA)
Canterbury Japanese Subsidy	\$24,000	\$24,000pa rate from Jan-Jun 2014 only
Canterbury (Michael Lee, CC Worker)	\$12,000	\$10,000
Clayton (Rev ChuolYat)	\$27,000	\$23,000
Dandenong (Rev Kamran Nazir)	\$12,250 Jul-Oct 2012	N/A
Donvale (David Pell)	\$15,000	\$15,000
Heidelberg (Rev Kamran Nazir)	\$21,437 Nov 2012 - May 2013	N/A
Korean North Balwyn Subsidy	\$12,000	\$12,000
Samoan South-East Subsidy	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sunshine (Rev Charles Okwo)	\$17,000	\$18,500

6. Second Worker Grants

Congregation/Worker	Paid in 2012-13	Rate Approved for 2013-14 (PA)
Canterbury (Joy Venning, Youth Worker)	\$12,000	\$10,000
Clayton (James Jensen, Youth Worker)	\$23,000	\$18,000
Donvale (Leanne Pell, Women's Worker)	\$2,000	-
Dromana (Rev Stephen Giles, Pastoral Worker)	\$2,240	-
Drouin (Rev Heath Easton, Assistant Minister)	\$35,000	\$18,000
Eltham (Ministry Assistant, Appt pending)	-	\$18,000
Frankston (Jared Keath, Associate Minister)	\$40,000 Jan-Dec 2013	\$25,000 Jan-Dec 2014
Heathmont (Dean Carroll, colleague/successor)	\$40,000 Mar-Aug 2013	-
Surrey Hills (John Huynh, Pastoral Assistant)	\$10,000 Jul-Dec 2013	-

7. Evangelism Grants

A total of \$17,717 in Evangelism Grants was given to the following parishes; Bairnsdale, Belgrave Heights, Bendigo, Clayton, Croydon Hills, Daylesford, Donvale, Drouin, Frankston, Geelong West, Koroit/Port Fairy, Moorabool, Reservoir, Shepparton, Bendigo South-East, Surrey Hills, as well as the Presbytery of Gippsland. Single grants to parishes are normally capped at \$1000, though parishes may receive up to \$1500. Activities or events supported by grants must be intentionally evangelistic.

8. ESL Ministry Start-up Grants

\$1500 Grants were made to Ashburton and Frankston.

9. AFES Workers

\$20,000 was given by the committee to support AFES senior campus staff workers connected with PCV congregations. The committee provides these funds to supplement the support provided by the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee.

10. Other Grants

\$7000 was approved for Frankston, to assist with necessary improvements to the Seaford Manse for the benefit of their appointed Exit Student and his family.

D. Initiatives

1. District Interim Moderator (DIM)

The committee has appointed Rev Andrew Venn as the first DIM, commencing on 1 September 2013, and another candidate is in view.

2. Intentional Interim Minister (IIM)

Rev Rod Waterhouse was appointed as IIM to the St Georges Geelong Parish in February 2013, and will travel with Dr Carner to Chicago for training in October 2013.

3. ESL Ministries

We are pleased to see more parishes taking up the opportunities presented by ESL Ministries. At least 600 students attended at least one ESL class in a PCV church in 2012, with an average of 109 students attending classes at one of our churches each week (in those parishes that have provided their statistics to us). 13 parishes are currently operating classes.

As a means of encouraging and equipping our churches for this ministry, we again invited Mrs Judy Rowlands of Sydney to run a series of training events for us in early 2013. These were very well-attended at Canterbury, Donvale and at the Assembly Hall. We intend to offer similar events in the future.

We have obtained an Educational Copyright Licence to cover all PCV congregations for the photocopying and use of copyright material. To be covered all your ESL Coordinator needs to do is provide the MDC every year with figures for your total number of students attending over the previous year, and your weekly average attendance. Also, we invite applications for up to \$1500 in start-up funding from parishes that are ready to commence an ESL ministry.

4. PeaceWise

The PeaceWise Training we had planned for the PCV in 2013 had to be postponed to 2014. Dates will be announced soon. PeaceWise is about facilitating reconciliation between fellow Christians looking at the model and instructions of Jesus who has brought us the greatest reconciliation of all; peace with God. Units available will be; Personal Peacemaking (introductory; 1 day), Conflict coaching (assisting others to respond to conflict in a biblical way; 2 days)), Mediation (2 days). Each unit is a prerequisite for the next.

5. Evangelism Training

"Knowing your Neighbour and Xee" was presented in Ballarat in late 2012. It continues to be available through 2013 and beyond. The Evangelism Explosion, Xee paradigm will be presented in a modified and expanded manner from 2013 onward. At the direction of the Xee Board, future presentations will include assessments, suitable trainers being identified and commissioned. It will move beyond the two weekend teaching sessions to include additional coaching and potential cultural change for participants.

6. Embers to a Flame

We remain committed to the Embers to a Flame program as a biblical and pastoral approach to church revitalisation, and offer Embers coaching on a church by church basis. Engagement with individual churches remains available and encouraged. This is an ideal follow up to the Ministry Tool Box assessment. The MDC is fully committed to working with our churches in assessment and developing new healthy ministry paradigms.

7. Sister Churches

We continue to encourage parishes to form Sister Church relationships, with mutual

prayer at the centre. Through such relationship, stronger churches can encourage and mentor weaker churches, and smaller and less viable churches can help their larger church family understand the struggles of small and sometimes isolated churches. Sometimes parishes of similar viability and culture can connect for encouragement. It is our hope that some of these relationships will help in our understanding of cross cultural or ethnic differences (however small or large) and our similar objectives; we are one body. Engaging in a sister church relationship should not include any expectation to provide or be the recipients of funds. A Sister church relationship may open the doors for mutual visitation between the sister churches.

Our Director will visit a number of churches in the United States of America later this year to encourage them to form Sister Church relationships with PCV parishes; like that between Dromana/Mornington and Briarwood PCA, in Birmingham, Alabama.

E. Supply Preachers

Dr Murray Adamthwaite, Carrum Downs, 9773 5448

Robert Belcher, Armadale 9500 9806

Gilbert Bell, Sunshine 9311 4103

Rev Neil Benfell, Warrnambool, 5562 7771

Kevin Childs, Hawthorn 9819 4802

Carey Cox, Hawthorn 9818 1131

David Cox, Ivanhoe, 9497 4785

Fraser Diack, Warrnambool, 5561 0525

Ken McClimont, Ormond 9578 5580

Bruce Miller, Mill Park 9494 2003

Keith Mitchell, Ballarat, 5335 9379

Charles Okwo, St Albans 0407 543 221

Colin Phillips, Bacchus Marsh 5367 7323, Mobile 0438 536 770

Arnold Rowntree, Colac 0428 164 518

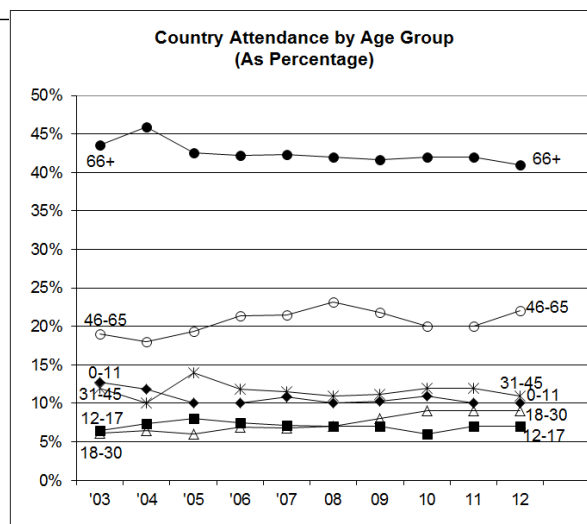
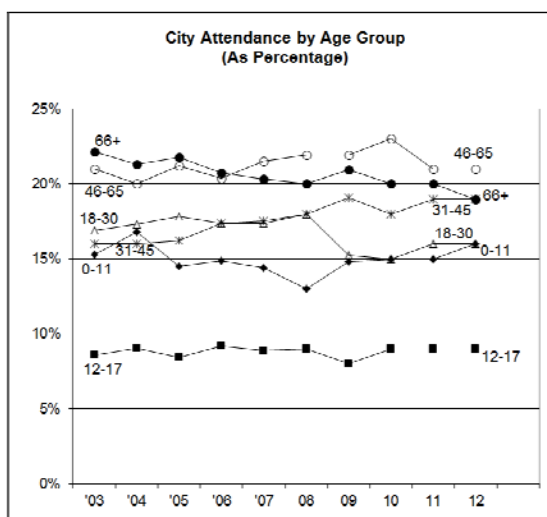
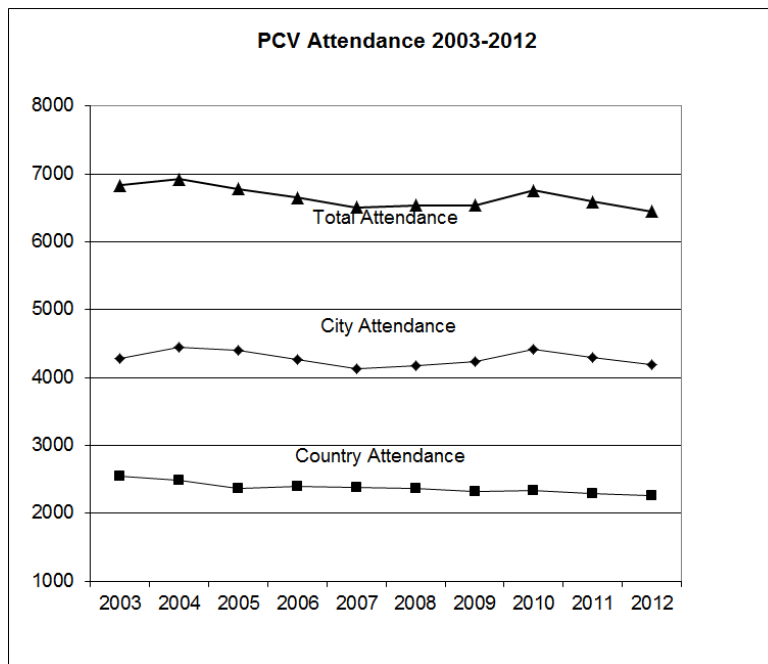
Norm Sharp, Ballarat, 5334 3747

Dennis Wright, Melton 9746 9706, Mob 0417 571 809

Statistical Returns for 2012

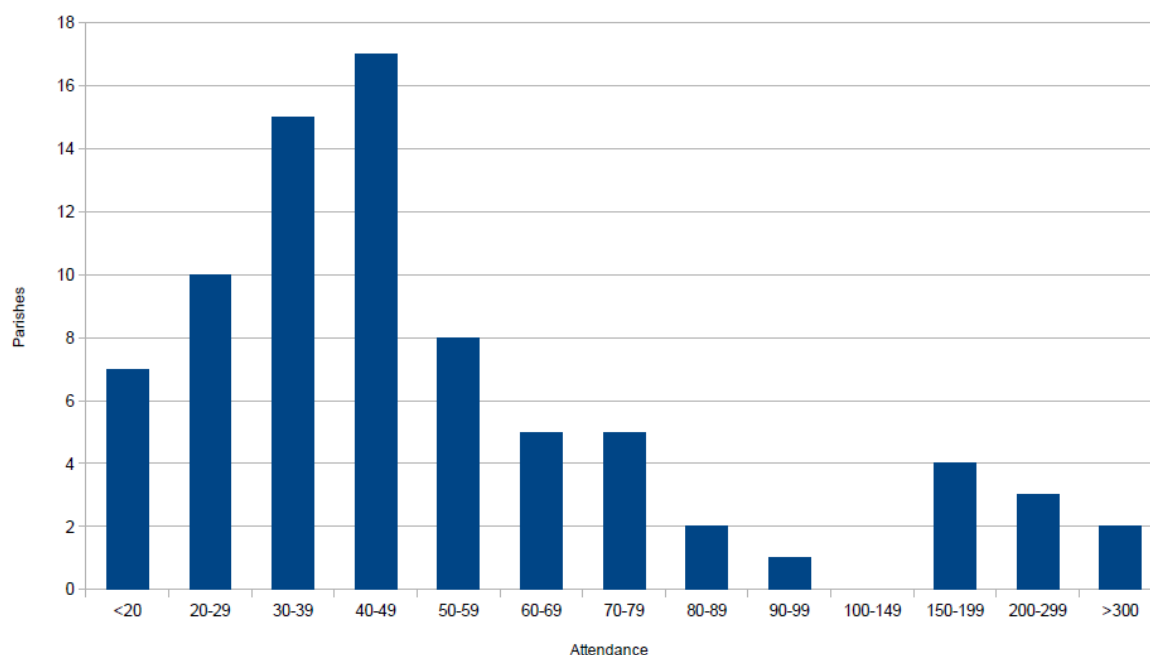
The MDC is exploring a new way of collecting the Statistical Returns online; whereby the reporting church or presbytery representative can directly enter their data on a website. Rev Cam Garrett is advising us on this. We hope to bring a fully developed proposal to next year's Assembly.

Attendance



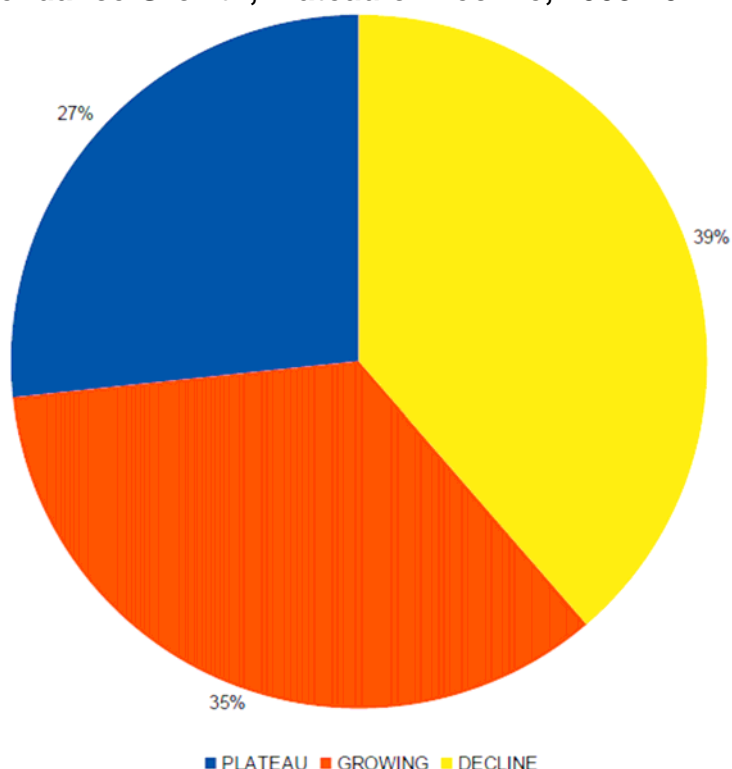
In City Presbyteries the percentage of attendees aged between 31 and 45 has grown from by 3% over the last 10 years, whereas the percentage aged 66 or older has fallen by 3%. The age profile for Country Presbyteries is more skewed to older attendees.

Parish Attendance in 2012: number of parishes at different levels of attendance



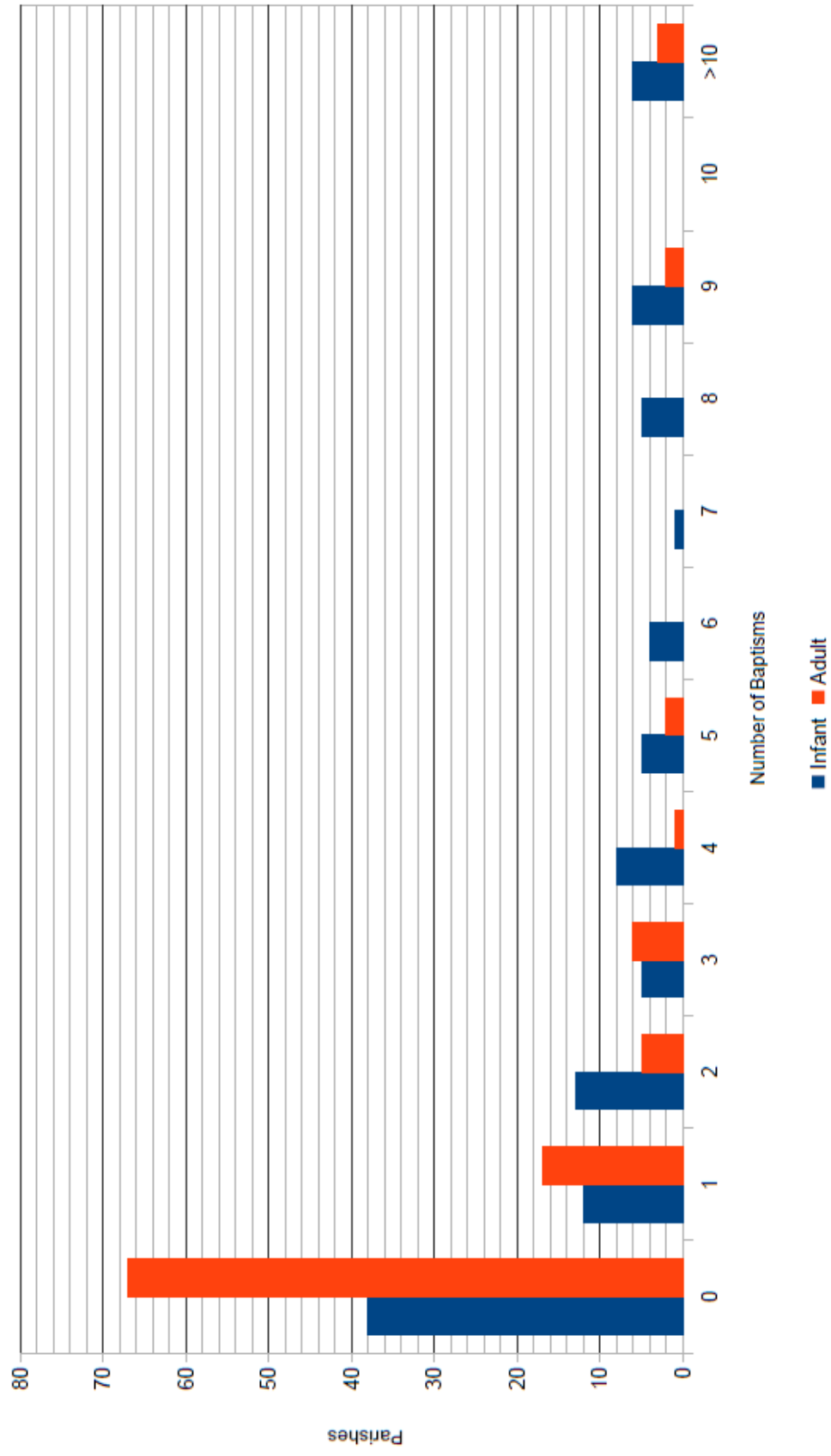
We are thankful to Cam Garrett for producing the graphs on this and the following page from the collected Parish Statistical Returns from 2008-2012.

Parishes in Attendance Growth, Plateau or Decline, 2008-2012



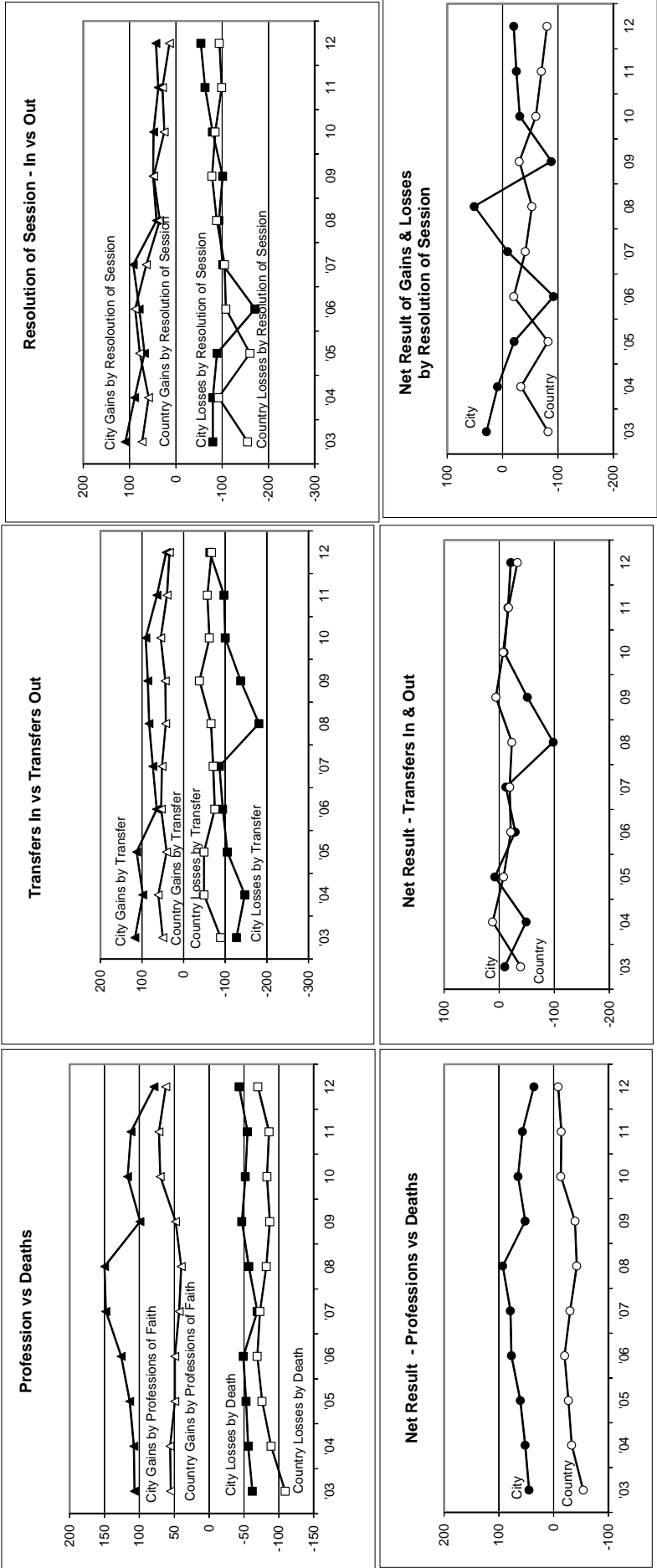
This chart demonstrates that it is hard to generalise about growth or decline in parishes in the PCV. Similar percentages of congregations are growing and declining, while a significant percentage are in-between, holding steady.

Baptisms 2008-2012

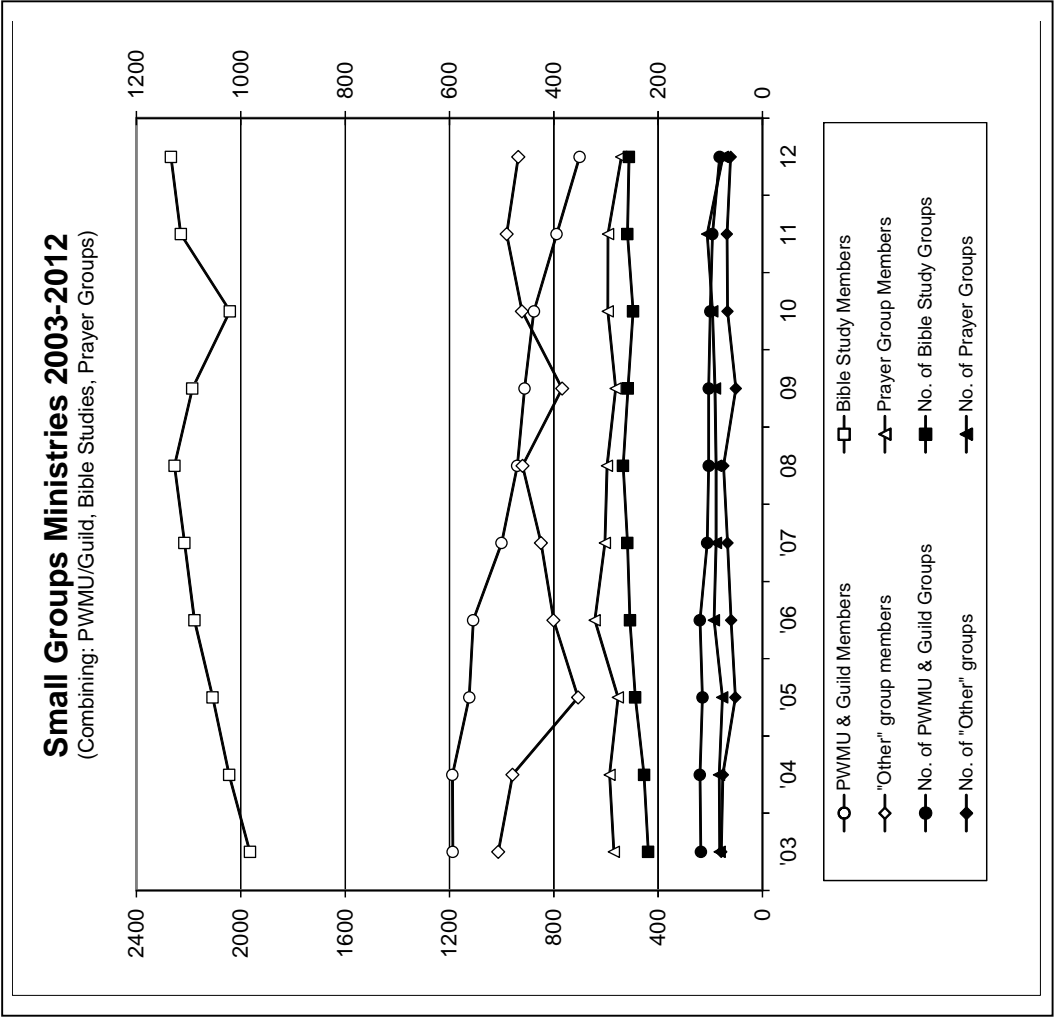
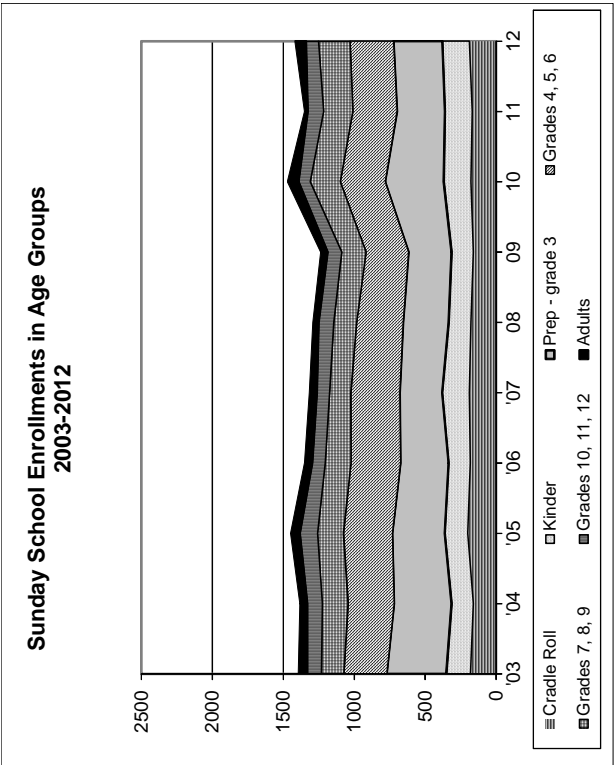
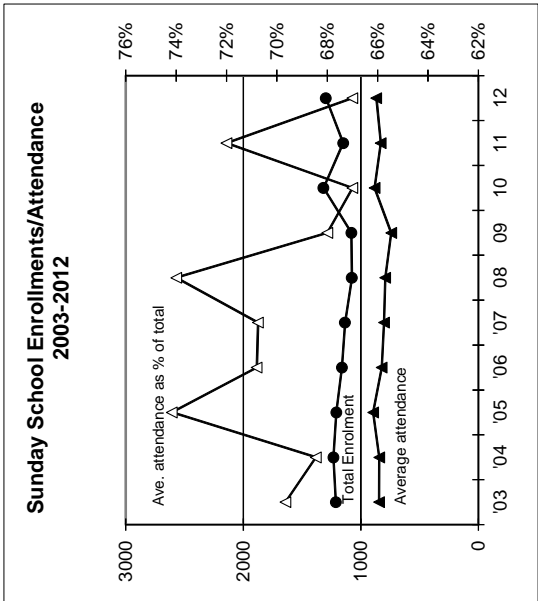


38 parishes have had no Infant Baptisms in the last 5 years, and 67 parishes have baptised no Adult believers over that period.

Membership Gains versus Losses 2003-2012



There is a small decline in the number of Professions of Faith in both city and country presbyteries this year, though in the city they continue to outnumber membership losses due to death.



The “open” markers on the graph above are to be read against the left-hand axis, and the “closed” ones against the right-hand axis.

It is encouraging to see so many of our people involved in Bible Studies.

Year 2012 Tallies - Membership

	A	B	C				D	E	F							
Presbytery	Start of Year		Membership Gains				Membership Losses									
	Communicants as at 1st Jan.	Adherents as at 1st Jan.	Profession of Faith	Txf from other PCA	Txf from other Denom.	by Resolution of Session	Total Gains	by Death	Resolution to PCA	Transfer to other	Total Losses	A + B + C - D	Communicants as at 31st Dec.	Adherents as at 31st Dec.	E + F	
Ballarat	361	54	14	2	0	3	19	13	15	4	3	35	399	348	52	400
Benalla	421	132	8	0	2	1	11	19	8	3	0	30	534	409	117	526
Flinders	672	112	18	7	4	2	31	20	30	6	8	64	751	645	106	751
Geelong	305	68	16	7	10	7	40	7	23	3	5	38	375	315	60	375
Gippsland	348	81	5	4	2	1	13	11	16	3	5	35	407	329	74	403
Kilnoorat	561	102	12	3	2	2	19	12	27	5	4	47	635	540	95	635
Maroondah	356	48	1	0	1	2	7	3	8	10	4	25	386	338	48	386
Melb. East	913	184	27	14	3	29	73	7	12	6	18	43	1127	955	172	1127
Melb. North	492	330	30	7	1	7	45	5	2	8	11	26	841	513	328	841
Melb. West	890	61	3	4	1	3	11	8	2	10	5	25	937	874	63	937
Nth Wst Vic	277	35	7	2	0	0	9	8	5	3	6	21	300	266	34	300
Totals 2012	5596	1207	141	50	26	57	278	113	148	61	69	389	6692	5532	1149	6681
City	3323	735	79	32	10	43	167	43	54	40	23	183	4042	3325	717	4042
Country	2273	472	62	18	16	14	111	70	94	21	46	206	2650	2207	432	2639

Year 2012 Tallies - Attendance etc

Presbytery	G	H		Estimated Age Group of Tot. Av. Indiv. Attendance							K	L	M	N	O	P	OFFICE BEARERS					CAMPS HELD		SACRAMENTS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
		Av. Other (weekday, afternoon etc)	Av. Evening Attendance	Extra at Other and Evening	G + H	0-11	12-17	18-30	31-45	46-65							66+	K + L + M + N + O + P	ELDERS	Elected Board Members	Lay Preachers	Pastoral Carers Deacons etc.	Camps Held	Attendance	Infants Baptised	Adults Baptised	Av. Attendance at Communion																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							

Year 2012 Tallies - Children's Work

	Playgroups (Age 0-4)			Children's Clubs (Primary Sch. Age 5-11)			Youth Groups (High Sch. Age 12-18)			Young Adults (Age 19- 30)				Cradle Roll ✕or Creche	Enrolment in Sunday School						C.R.E.			
	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	Kinder		Prep - grade 3	Grades 4, 5, 6	Grades 7, 8, 9	Grades 10, 11, 12	Adults	Total Enrolment	Average Attendance	No. of Teachers	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers
Presbytery																								
	2	20	9	1	12	4	1	6	2	1	10	3	0	3	6	6	5	7	0	27	6	13	11	6
	0	0	0	1	43	9	4	26	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	17	9	1	0	35	20	8	7	4
	2	25	6	3	45	14	6	89	30	3	43	6	21	29	53	67	64	13	3	229	167	37	21	14
	3	31	3	2	25	6	2	18	4	0	0	0	6	1	7	11	1	0	0	20	13	6	18	11
	3	148	23	3	74	6	4	64	13	0	0	0	11	8	25	20	27	32	0	111	60	22	28	12
	2	30	15	0	0	0	5	73	13	1	10	2	15	7	13	7	8	1	4	43	29	11	14	10
	3	48	6	1	80	10	1	30	5	1	7	1	5	16	33	22	4	0	0	88	61	30	5	1
	4	56	11	7	65	12	6	102	23	4	59	8	54	48	78	47	36	41	27	278	229	69	40	27
	6	72	14	1	8	2	5	91	18	2	10	2	38	63	91	66	39	26	38	321	200	60	22	11
Melb. West	3	28	7	1	6	2	2	17	4	1	6	3	38	12	19	29	20	18	0	108	64	33	6	10
Nth Wst Vic	1	25	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	12	14	9	1	0	37	19	8	3	1
Totals 2012	29	483	97	20	358	65	36	516	120	13	145	25	191	188	345	306	222	140	72	1297	868	297	175	107
City	18	229	44	13	204	40	20	329	80	11	125	20	156	168	274	231	163	98	68	1024	721	229	94	63
Country	11	254	53	7	154	25	16	187	40	2	20	5	35	20	71	75	59	42	4	273	147	68	81	44

Year 2012 Tallies - **Small Groups**

	PWNMU		Guild		Ladies Bible Study		Christianity Explained		Mixed Bible Study		Men's Bible Study		Other Groups			Prayer Groups		Communicant Classes		Teacher Training		Special Outreach Occasions	
	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	Attendance	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Leaders	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	No of Members	No of Groups	No of Members	Total No Attending or Contacted	
Presbytery																							
Ballarat	6	37	6	49	4	35	0	0	7	44	1	4	3	36	6	9	46	1	2	1	8	26	1202
Benalla	2	20	10	84	7	50	0	0	14	106	1	8	1	9	0	2	51	3	7	1	8	3	132
Flinders	4	47	8	60	5	38	1	8	21	176	1	7	12	132	18	12	80	3	13	0	0	28	3091
Geelong	3	23	7	58	6	39	0	0	10	109	2	15	5	65	1	3	48	0	0	1	6	7	308
Gippsland	3	21	1	10	4	39	2	15	10	91	1	12	7	122	0	6	31	1	18	0	0	11	1324
Kilnoorah	6	57	7	70	10	77	0	0	12	85	1	10	2	34	2	6	19	0	0	0	0	11	1315
Maroondah	0	0	0	0	5	42	0	0	24	272	0	0	5	135	8	6	35	1	5	0	0	5	215
Melb. East	4	35	2	19	8	66	0	0	32	309	2	15	13	225	26	12	111	1	18	4	26	24	765
Melb. North	2	17	1	6	10	78	12	40	29	286	3	24	5	51	3	11	69	1	3	0	0	14	325
Melb. West	3	40	2	12	5	24	0	0	12	123	1	6	6	100	9	8	39	2	14	0	0	116	2548
Nth Wst Vic	3	18	2	18	1	10	0	0	7	68	0	0	2	27	0	1	12	1	5	0	0	1	60
Totals 2012	36	315	46	386	65	498	15	63	178	1669	13	101	61	936	73	76	541	14	85	7	48	246	11285
City	13	139	13	97	33	248	13	48	118	1166	7	52	41	643	64	49	334	8	53	4	26	187	6944
Country	23	176	33	289	32	250	2	15	60	503	6	49	20	293	9	27	207	6	32	3	22	59	4341

Grant Lawry
ACTING CONVENER

Ministry Development Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	151,803
Scots Church Property Trust	435,633
Sundry Income	2,138
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	230
Total Income	<u>589,804</u>

Expenditure:

Grants & Subsidies to Congregations	435,985
Capital Grants	467,860
Home Missions Officer	109,582
Office and Staff	70,362
Conferences	18,265
Committee	3,120
Total Expenditure	<u>1,105,173</u>

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

(515,369)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	2,801,964
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(515,369)
Add Back Depreciation	7,001
Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities	(1,139)
Decrease (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(1,269)
Balance 30/6/13	<u>2,291,188</u>

Ministry Development Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2013

<u>Statement of Income & Expenditure</u>	<u>Church Extension Vic</u>	<u>Church Extension Other States</u>	<u>Evangelism</u>	<u>Beneficiary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income:					
Common Fund Interest	69,579	1,171	146,085	60,176	277,011
Total Income	69,579	1,171	146,085	60,176	277,011
Expenditure:					
Grants	300,000	3,377	121,776	18,089	443,243
Home Missionaries Expenses				119,617	119,617
Total Expenditure	300,000	3,377	121,776	137,706	562,859
Surplus on Specific Trusts	(230,421)	(2,207)	24,309	(77,530)	(285,848)
Movements in Funds					
Balance 1/7/12	551,365	2,458	1,173,893	403,788	2,131,504
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(230,421)	(2,207)	24,309	(77,530)	(285,848)
Balance 30/6/13	320,944	251	1,198,201	326,259	1,845,656
Perpetual Funds					
Balance 30/6/13	26,913	6,913	39,992	125,000	198,818

MODERATORS COMMITTEE (Min. 25)

The Assembly wishes to thank the Right Rev David Palmer for presiding over the 2012 Assembly and for being willing to nominate for a further term of office to which he was duly elected at the May 2013 Commission of Assembly.

During the past year the Moderator, ably assisted by his wife Chris, has brought the greetings of the Assembly to parishes and home mission stations within the Presbyteries of Ballarat and Melbourne West. He has also, along with Chris, visited and brought the greetings of the Assembly to our missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

In 2013-2014 the Moderator is requested to visit the Presbyteries of Benalla, Gippsland and Maroondah.

The Moderator is also asked to visit one of the mission fields of the PCV in consultation with the APWM (Vic) Committee.

The Moderator is also asked to attend at least one meeting of our Assembly committees during his year of office. He is also invited to visit our schools and represent our Assembly at appropriate ecumenical activities.

Graeme Weber
CONVENER

PAST MODERATOR'S REPORT (Min. 24)

It is quite a privilege to serve as the Church's Moderator. The job itself in part is determined for you and in part is what you wish to make of it.

The part determined for you is visiting the parishes and home mission stations in two presbyteries, in my case Ballarat and Melbourne West. This has been pure joy. The abiding impression gained is that in all, both large and small congregations - and in truth overall we have small congregations – we have good people who love our Lord Jesus and therefore are serious Christians. The best part of being Moderator is all the opportunities to preach Christ and His Gospel. We have some very interesting congregations. I was student assistant at Donvale 20+ years ago when there were about 50 people attending Sunday morning. On the 2nd June, Chris and I attended Donvale's 50th anniversary and maybe 400-500 were present. How has this come about? Food for thought! As I write last Sunday, we attended Sunshine Presbyterian Church with people from China, Korea, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Eritrea, Iran, South Sudan and Samoa present. I thought this the closest I had come to heaven in a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria! The eight men present from Iran had arrived in Australia in the past year via Indonesia and boat provided by people smugglers. They have been caught up in Isobel Bell's ESL class. Of the eight, a number have already professed Christian faith; one told me his new Christian name was Matthew.

During the course of the year, I attended meetings of various Assembly Committees including APWM, Board of Investment and Finance, Christian Education and Nurture Committee, Church Planting Committee, Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee, Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee, Ministry Development Committee, Social Services Committee and the Theological Education Committee.

All these Committees are doing excellent work. It is certainly worth noting that Mrs Kathy James is a Board member and Chair of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria which gives us a seat on the body responsible for the setting of policy and direction for the provision of chaplaincy services in Victoria as well as negotiating with the Government over funding.

Also it does no harm to recognise the exemplary work of the Board of Investment and Finance in keeping close watch over the Assembly's finances. At a time when the Uniting Church of Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania has been forced into the sale of property in order to eliminate debt of \$50 million by the end of 2015, we continue as a denomination free of debt.

It was a particular pleasure to attend the meeting of the Social Services Committee at Kilsyth and to observe the progress in upgrading and extending the facilities, a far cry from the mid 1990s when it was necessary for the Assembly to appoint the Board of Investment and Finance as the Social Services Committee in order to address issues of governance.

I want to write a little bit more about our Church in a moment.

Also determined for you are school assemblies, invitations to the Moderator to the opening of the Melbourne Anglican Synod, various RSL functions, and so on.

I wrote the required letters to the Prime Minister, Premier, Governor General, and State Governor with a letter for the Queen, all with the appropriate loyal/royal greetings. Whilst the Premier had no time to meet me, our State Governor did and proved interested in learning about our Church, its concerns and core convictions.

Organising the mission trip proved somewhat torturous, mainly I think because I had no fixed determination to go anywhere in particular.

In the end we restricted the trip to PNG and flew direct to SIL's leased property at Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands at an elevation of 1,500 m. There is an expat population of about 400-500, 19 nationalities all told in Ukarumpa with American predominating with a similar number of PNG nationals all engaged in Bible translation and/or linguistics as well as support services such as aviation and running a small town.

The houses in Ukarumpa reminded me of the mining town I grew up in the 1950's – really quite basic with fibro predominating. There is one store, very basic food supplies. Life is certainly not glamorous in Ukarumpa but we did witness the good fellowship as well as the enthusiastic end of school year concerts and the dedication of a new aircraft.

There are more than 1,000 languages in PNG, varying in complexity. We met a couple who have been in PNG 40 years, about to return to the US on home furlough, hoping to complete their translation on their return. Typically, SIL translators spend extended periods in village settings working with nationals, returning periodically to Ukarumpa to work with consultants. The whole process of translation is more complex than I ever expected.

We benefited tremendously from all the work that Noel and Catherine Carpenter from St John's, Hobart did on our behalf, Noel in general advice and in making all travel arrangements within PNG and Catherine in chaperoning us during the first week - Noel and their children remained in Australia, being on furlough.

For the second week we travelled by plane, truck (appalling roads) and helicopter to a remote group of villages inland from the north coast, northwest of Madang. This was for a mini Bible dedication for the 2,500 Maia speakers among whom Mavis Price has been working with her Canadian colleague, Linda, the main translator.

This was thatched cottage country. It was a great privilege to see the ladies in this environment and the obvious high regard in which both were so evidently regarded by the villagers. Dedication of the Bibles and accompanying speeches, dancing, singing and play acting and feasting took up most of Saturday and then overflow church Sunday morning.

The ladies have now left, Mavis back to Melbourne, Linda to Canada, but the people have an abbreviated Bible in the Maia language in both book form and audio form – loaded into a solar powered MP3 player.

It became very clear to us that there remains a great need for the Holy Spirit to now work among the people – Word and Spirit together for a great spiritual harvest.

This is a Lutheran area and we met the Pastor. I got to preach twice - Saturday (Luke 19 - Zacchaeus) and then by invitation late Saturday night at the well attended church service on the Sunday (Luke 7 - the woman anointing Jesus with perfume) with Mavis as interpreter. Luke 7 was read from the brand new Maia translation with those having purchased the translation closely following the reading.

On our last day we caught up with Calvin and Ruth Mathys, their two lively boys and Petra closing in on her first birthday. Calvin is doing well as an aircraft engineer. Noel Carpenter is a pilot. Catherine Carpenter and Ruth Mathys are involved in linguistics as well as being home makers.

I think there was virtue in restricting the mission trip to just one country. Earlier suggestions had us visiting missionaries in four different countries. We actually got close to Mavis, the Carpenters and Mathys family. We could see that their work was valuable; it involves definite renouncing of things that most of us take for granted. We watched Catherine making sure all leftover food reappeared at the next meal! We both lost a welcome couple of kilos each.

In addition to the PNG visit, we have invited a good number of missionary families whether home based or on furlough to our home for a meal and fellowship.

Chris has been my loyal and treasured companion in all this visiting.

Being Moderator, you find yourself the recipient of letters, some from people with axes to grind and some with well considered suggestions. As Moderator this year I picked up convenership of two new Committees: one on the review of *Breaking the Silence* and the other called the Clerkship Committee. Both have involved a deal of work, the first in particular.

There are three matters in particular I wish to take the opportunity presented by the necessity of furnishing a Moderator's Report to address.

- What it means to be a Reformed Church
- Enriching worship according to our Reformed heritage
- The structural challenges facing the Presbyterian Church of Victoria requiring attention

What it means to be a Reformed Church

I did not grow up Presbyterian. My family were not church going, but I was sent to a Church School for secondary education, Trinity Grammar in Sydney, and while there was converted and started attending a typical Sydney Anglican church. Somewhere early on I was introduced to and embraced the so called five points of Calvinism (total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints).

Presbyterianism historically understood, whilst embracing the 5 points, is something more. I make three observations.

Presbyterianism involves a certain polity that is very different to the Vicars or Rectors of Anglicanism (who if the truth be told tend to operate as 'mini popes'!) or the congregationalism found amongst Baptists and independents.

Presbyterianism involves a certain understanding of worship that cannot be contained within bare words such as ‘meeting’ or ‘assembly’ because we understand our meetings on the Lord’s Day *are a meeting with God*. In other words, to borrow Calvin’s imagery, God’s people in worship ascend to the very throne room of God in communion with the ascended Christ.

Presbyterianism involves a certain understanding of the Sacraments. Baptism signifies a gracious God who looks with favour upon the children of believers, incorporating them into the body of believers through the rite of Baptism, whilst our celebration of the Lord’s Supper which, despite some variability, *does not equate* to some sort of ‘remembrance thing’ as we meditate upon the crucified Christ. The Reformed understanding of the Lord’s Supper is a far richer understanding in that whilst we partake of the bread and the wine (and yes, the bread always remains bread and the wine, wine), *spiritually we are being fed with the body and blood of our ascended Lord Jesus*. Our participation in the Lord’s Supper is a beautiful realisation of our union with Christ.

Hopefully we are all on the same page with respect to these matters, though of course there is an array of expression with which we may choose to describe the same truths.

I have made these observations because there are distinctions that properly belong to Presbyterianism. So whilst we share much in common with evangelicalism broadly understood, our heritage lends us certain particularities which we do well to understand, maintain and contend for.

Enriching worship according to our Reformed heritage

In visiting so many different churches over the past year I have come to appreciate that there is considerable variability in the elements contained within the worship service, and further that such variability is always going to exist, no doubt for reasons that seem good to pastor and people.

My concern is that our times of worship demonstrates the full diet of elements that worship in the Reformed tradition, at its best, has contained.

A good starting point is Calvin’s order of worship (La Forme 1545) which contained the following elements:

- Scripture Sentences
- Confession of Sins
- Scripture sentences re remission of sins
- Absolution
- 1st table of Decalogue sung in metre*
- Prayer for instruction in the Law of God and grace to walk always therein
- 2nd table of Decalogue sung in metre during which Minister goes to pulpit*
- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture reading and Sermon
- Long Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
- Apostle’s Creed
- Psalm in metre
- Benediction

* at a later date (1559) the singing of the Decalogue was placed at the commencement of the service and replaced in its former position by a metrical

Psalm. Lord's Supper, when celebrated, proceeded immediately before the Benediction.

Clearly Calvin's order of worship contains some elements that have been largely lost in our services. Only once this year have I heard the service leader pronounce the forgiveness of sins (or better expressed as *assurance of pardon*). On several occasions there has been no confession of sin. Often the Lord's prayer is omitted, the Apostle's Creed invariably omitted and I can't remember the last time I heard any explicit reading of the law of God.

The point I would like to make is that the re-incorporation of these elements would greatly enrich our peoples' experience of corporate worship.

There should always be confession which can be by way of prayer (including from time to time the opportunity for silent confession) or the singing of an appropriate Psalm, e.g. Rejoice! 396 based on Psalm 51:1-15 after which our people need to hear the assurance of pardon for which a number of texts exist: Psalm 103:8-13; Isaiah 44:22 and 1 John 1:7-9 are good examples. The declaration of the assurance of pardon can be done within the prayer of confession, or better still as a separate element following the prayer of confession.

A reading of the law can be included either in its first use, i.e. exposing sin, driving us to Christ immediately before the prayer of confession or in its third use as our response of gratitude to God's pardon and therefore follow the assurance of pardon.

I am surprised to observe how, in so many of our churches, the Lord's Prayer is not said. There are good reasons for including the Lord's Prayer: a) as a recitation by the congregation in which all the chief parts of Christian doctrine are enunciated b) in doing so, we follow Jesus' instruction for prayer (Matthew 6:9a); c) nor is the pedagogical value of learning this prayer so easily to be dismissed – as matters stand we have young people who will not have this prayer to fall back upon when in difficulty; d) it provides a model for our own prayers; e) it is the prayer common to all Christians from various traditions to pray when coming together for some united purpose.

The other matter I raise that within our services, certainly in the celebration of the Lord's Supper we include, as a profession of faith, the recitation of either the Apostles Creed or, occasionally, the Nicene Creed.

In addition to the testimony of earlier forms of worship, I am particularly encouraged to make these points about the inclusion of the law/confession/assurance of pardon, the Lord's prayer and the Creed in our services of worship given the prominence given to them in our Confession of Faith as well as the Shorter and Longer Catechisms

I intend developing this discussion in a paper to be prepared for the *Preaching Christ* conference to be held in Sydney in the first week of September and which I hope to make available in booklet form for Commissioners during the Assembly.

The structural challenges facing the Presbyterian Church of Victoria requiring attention

In visiting churches I have been giving a 10 minute snapshot view of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria 35 years after church union which while not soft pedalling on a number of our difficulties such as church closures, declining numbers in some of congregations, difficulty in finding new elders, does include examples of rejuvenated congregations and new church plants, and then more specifically I make the following points:

- a basic unity exists across the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, though of course there is always room for improvement;
- the broadening out of our historic Anglo Celtic roots through new arrivals from overseas – mainly a metropolitan development;
- the rejection of a theologically liberal, Biblically uncertain past and in its place the development of theological education that is Biblically and Confessionally bound;
- the retention of young people in the church who marry and in their turn have children contra the Church's experience in the 1960's and into the 1980's; mentioning the crucial role of PYV;
- the truly amazing number of missionaries that a denomination of about 6,500 Sunday attendees supports – 20 couples, 10 singles and 28 children;
- In contrast to declines of between 15% and 20% since 2000 being reported by a number of other denominations, we know that our own attendances over the same period have increased in Melbourne, though alas not so in country Victoria;
- Further analysis indicates that *the average age* across all our congregations had actually *fallen by 3 years* between 1995 and 2011;
- Scots Church Properties money to fund home missions and church planting work in Victoria.

However, having said all this, we do have to acknowledge a number of structural difficulties facing the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, *which rather sooner than later we will need to give attention to.*

My concern here is not about the spiritual life of the Church, the unity we share in Christ, the quality of theological education or the preaching ministry or pastoral care we offer or the assessment of ministerial candidates, but rather a narrower focus regarding how we are organised *structurally* in ways that benefit the church and its congregations moving forward according to its mission statement with due regard to a) what we can reasonably ask of our people – minister, elders and members, given their giftedness and availability, b) meeting the requirements of civil law and c) what might be financially feasible (and prudent).

I suspect there are a number of concerns broadly shared across the denomination.

The Christian Education and Nurture Committee is running two sessions followed by a time for prayer on the Monday of Assembly week in the Robert White meeting room. I will lead the first session on restructuring the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, basically to present material for consideration and discussion hopefully leading to the development of proposals for consideration at the 2014 General Assembly.

In order to stimulate thinking I present the following specific concerns that directly relate to structural issues

- congregational shape – whilst a reasonable number of charges are healthy or well on the way to being healthy (both in the financial and people resource sense) we have a long tail of small charges and home mission stations that are under resourced both in terms of a lack of people with the required gifting and in being financially unsustainable with cash injections being required from the MDC and MMC. A number of congregations are almost entirely elderly and as matters stand will, at some point in the not too distant future, be closed for lack of people. It is worth pointing out that, using the statistical summary in the 2012 Yearbook, the combined number of Communicants, Adherents, Youth and children per congregation for the PCA(NSW) is 108 persons; PCQ is 85 persons and the PCV is 67 persons. This I suggest is a telling statistic for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. We know that we have Parishes with numbers above 67 persons; the corollary is numbers of Home Mission Stations and Parishes have less than 67 persons.
- a recent sharp increase in parishes requiring sustentation grants which in the longer term, given the resources of the MMC, are unsustainable.
- since 1984, despite only a modest gain in total attendance of about 10%, maybe 20%, the number of church workers has increased by about 60% - is this an over correction? The cost to a Parish of having a minister is between \$75,000 and \$100,000 pa.
- a continuing reduction in number of elders, a problem in itself at the local level but a feature resulting in an unreasonable demand for assessors, chiefly ministers, across the board thereby drawing ministers away from their own charges. At the present time in many of our churches, we simply do not have sufficient men volunteering as long serving elders which include women retire or pass on to glory.
- small and under resourced Presbyteries with a number in the country requiring assessors, usually city ministers. It is noteworthy in the history of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria that there were constant changes in boundaries and numbers of Presbyteries, with the need for larger (and therefore less) Presbyteries counter balanced by distances to be travelled by Presbyters.
- demands placed on Boards by Red Books, this on top of the earlier requirement for ABNs, GST recovery through quarterly BAS statements
- the proposal before the 2013 General Assembly to upgrade our child/vulnerable person policy to meet both regulatory requirements and the likely findings of the Royal Commission and the Victorian Government enquiry into child abuse – a requirement which involves *substantial cost* and again places another demand on congregations, *disproportionately more challenging for small congregations*.
- many congregations, especially smaller congregations, struggling to produce accounts for auditing, let alone fill in the Annual Parish Return correctly (see report of Maintenance of Ministry Committee to 2013 Commission of Assembly). A similar difficulty exists with correctly completing grant applications.
- I suspect we do not maintain adequate personnel records for ministers, HMs, paid staff (personal details, annual leave, sick leave, study leave, LSL entitlement, etc)
- the question of whether we are using our (not inconsiderable) financial resources wisely in supporting works which have not prospered for one reason or another – I have considerable detail going back 20 years on this.

No doubt other members of the Assembly will add to and/or modify this list.

Potential Solutions

Without in any way seeking to restrict the perceptions of others, here are some suggestions for consideration.

The biggest thing we could do with significant upside is to reduce the number of Presbyteries, perhaps altering boundaries and add to each a part time officer paid by, say, a levy on congregations. The duties of a Presbytery officer would include preparation, in cooperation with the Presbytery Clerk, meeting agendas, write up minutes, collect statistics including those for ministers, assist as required with producing APRs and grant applications – all of this to reduce administration work all too often currently being performed by ministers. (Note: the part time officer and Presbytery Clerk could be the same person). It is imperative that the Presbytery Clerk knows and operates on basis of the Code and further, advisably, with the Presbytery Moderator proposes motions in response to the business including correspondence on the Agenda paper – this is good procedure, helping to facilitate the business of Presbytery in an orderly and timely fashion.

The second thing is require church accounts to be drawn up on the basis of the APR chart of accounts and in the case of a congregation without a person with the necessary ability to audit church accounts make available to such congregations somebody qualified to do the work (such as the Presbytery officer should he/she possess these skills).

The third thing is to reorganise country charges and HMS to reduce the number of separate charges/HMS without necessarily closing congregations (e.g. consider a PIM type patrol, or a UCA type consolidation (i.e. a District Moderator). Maybe there are situations, not only in the country, where it might be appropriate to fold a congregation into another. The detail of this would need to be conducted within Presbytery but with MDC involvement. Certainly given the costs associated with employing a minister and the demands of the regulatory authorities we need to increase the numbers of persons in each (enlarged) charge.

There is a clear case to be made for the Assembly Clerk to assist Presbyteries and Committees procedurally, including the training of Presbytery Clerks, perhaps with an annual conference.

The above proposals, which if adopted, will inevitably lead to a reduction in the clergy/membership ratio which will relieve financial pressure whilst increasing the scope of ministerial responsibility in providing a greater number to minister to. Proceeding in this fashion would make more funding available for new church plants and rejuvenation of churches with potential. We need to and can think more strategically about these issues. There are locations where we are and ought to remain, there are locations where we are not and where we should be and other locations where we might have to say, “we tried hard here but for whatever reason, we would best withdraw”. These are hard issues, they are the sort of issues the church has always faced going back to apostolic times. The availability of the SCPT money has been a blessing but it can cloud our judgment. Ultimately, congregations and parishes need to be self supporting within our polity.

Inevitably, issues of property arise. Former generations of Presbyterians provided the property and a number of our older churches benefited from 19th century land grants by Government. It is vital that we retain our property in the collective sense and according to the model trust deed. This remains true whether we sell in one location in order to support with property a new or expanding work elsewhere.

Well, these are just a few suggestions and observations to start a discussion hopefully leading to concrete action, always remembering that we confess the Church is not our Church but that of its Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One who said He would build His Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. For our part we Presbyterians know we are plain folk without great pretensions but we do take our place as “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” (Eph. 2:19-21).

David J Palmer

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE (Min. 37)

Chairman's Report to Council: May 2013

In accordance with Article 13 of the College's Articles of Association, the Chairman presents this report to the Council, asking it be adopted as Council's "Annual report on the Life and Work of the College" for 2012 to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church as per Article 41.

Presbyterian Ladies' College continues its heritage as one of Australia's top independent schools for girls. Providing opportunity through outstanding academic excellence, broad co-curricular programmes, innovative thinking, and developing leadership skills with a focus on service of others. Everything we do is within a clear Christian foundation promoting Christian values and faith.

Principal and Staff

Our Principal, Mrs Elaine Collin, continues to provide passionate, visionary and professional leadership in every aspect of College life. She gives vision and delivery to such broad and diverse areas of College life as senior staff positions, curriculum and other aspects of the academic program, and in the physical infrastructure of the campus.

Council is delighted to have renewed her contract as Principal for a new 5 year term as from the start of 2012, for her to continue her leadership of the College inclusive of carrying out the current Strategic Plan "Towards 2015". She has confident and prayerful support as she carries out her critical role.

Mrs Collin has provided outstanding leadership across all departments and aspects of the life of the College. Enrolments are high, our financial situation is sound, and academic outcomes continue to be amongst the best in the country. Mrs Collin is widely respected as a leading Australian educator and has recently been appointed Chair of the Association of International Baccalaureate Diploma World Schools Victoria and Tasmania.

We are also thankful for the supporting leadership provided by the College Deputy Principals' Ms Keiron Jones and Mr Tim Argall.

Mrs Cheryl Penberthy has completed her first year as Head of Junior School and we thank her for such dedicated, enthusiastic and talented leadership.

We are also grateful to the leadership of Mr John Law ongoing role as Deputy Head in support of Mrs Penberthy.

Our Business Manager, Mr John Shelton retired at the end of 2012 having run the administrative functions of the College with great capability, discipline, and effectiveness. His personable nature, wisdom, attention to detail, and people skills have been of the highest standard. His Christian character, integrity have always shone through. We have admired, respected, valued and now formally thank him for being Business Manager and Company Secretary of Presbyterian Ladies' College for the past twelve years

At the beginning of 2013 we welcomed Mr Hamish Blair as the new Business Manager. He possesses extensive corporate experience and engages in an active Christian life. We look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

At every level, working under this leadership team, we are blessed with staff, both teaching and support, who invest outstanding professional and personal qualities in the education, nurture and development of the students' academic abilities and character, through diligent delivery of the formal curriculum plus a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Thus we believe they are unfailing in their commitment to fulfil the College's mission.

Students

The students of the College continue to astound us with all that they are able to achieve in every field. Music, drama and sports performances are always very impressive, with many students winning awards or competitions at state and national level.

The girls of graduating year 2012 have again achieved extraordinary results well above their peers. A quarter of the girls achieved an ATAR of 98 or above, half the girls achieved an ATAR score of 95 or above placing them in the top 5% of all Australian students, and 70% achieved an ATAR of 90 or above. Reflective of this high achievement 100% of girls received a first round tertiary offer of their choice, with 80% receiving a first round offer to the University of Melbourne or Monash University. The fruit of their hard work and talent, combined with the teaching quality and culture of PLC.

We congratulate the 'Class of 2012' on their outstanding results in VCE and IB exams and wish them well as they embark on this new stage in their life, whether working, studying or new endeavours.

Financial

The necessary audited financial statements have been submitted to the Council, through its Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee, and will be attached to this report when submitted to the Presbyterian Church. The provision for doubtful debts is considered to be adequate and the audit report is unqualified.

We record here our gratitude to Mr Hamish Blair, Business Manager, and the staff working under him to manage the business, financial and practical affairs of the College. They work with grace and efficiency, and we note that the operating activities for the year returned a surplus which is used to fund the capital works programme.

Property Development

During 2012, a major new building project was completed, the new Learning Resource Centre. It is a state-of-the-art library and information technology centre, making use of the latest technology. The architecture is striking yet sympathetic with the existing building structures. The interior is engaging with soaring ceilings, lots of learning spaces, and purpose designed rooms. The learning resources include everything from books, to databases, to DVDs, to ebooks which have been indexed so the girls can access the best materials first up as they research their topics.

The old library space is being redeveloped into a new Year 7 area and the works should be finished middle of 2013. Year 7 girls will enjoy six huge new class rooms,

and there will also be some great common space perfect for relaxing, studying and for group information and performances.

Staged works on major upgrades to the science laboratories will also start in 2013.

Council

The College Council consists of 17 volunteers, five of whom are appointed directly by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, five are nominated by a selection committee that represents the Old Collegians and the Parents' Association, and seven are nominated to the Church by the Council itself. They set the vision, principles, values and priorities that govern the school, in continuity with the Christian and academic aims that are enshrined in the school's constitution. All appointments are for one year, although there is no restriction on being re-nominated.

The Council operates several sub-committees: the Executive and Finance Committee is chaired by the Council Chairman; the Property and Planning Committee is chaired by Mr Graeme Boyles; the Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee is chaired by Ms Fiona Pearse.

The Council has also created an independently incorporated company to hold in trust accumulated scholarship funds. The membership of the Board of Directors of 'Charles Pearson Pty Ltd' consists of the members of our Executive and Finance Committee plus the Principal. It is chaired by Mrs Christine Hopper, who also serves as vice-chair of the College Council.

Dr Andrew McDonald and Mrs Christine Hopper represent the College Council on the Board of the PLC Foundation Ltd, and Dr McDonald serves as its President.

During 2012, Mrs Catherine O'Leary, a member of Council since 2009, accepted the important role as Chair of the Selection Committee which nominates members of Group B (Old Collegians and the Parents' Association) on Council.

Mrs Janice Smith and Prof Greg Barton were appointed in 2012 and we look forward to the contributions they will make in the coming years to the work of the Council.

With great gratitude for his service but with great sense of loss to the College, I convey the retirement of Greg Garde from College Council. We are privileged for the College to have received his leadership, counsel, and service over the past 20 years. His leadership has been demonstrated in so many areas:

1993 -2012	Member of Council
1994 -2006	Member of Executive and Finance Committee
1994 -2012	Inaugural member of Property and Planning Committee. Chairman since 2002
2004 -2006	Inaugural Chairman of Charles Pearson Pty Ltd
2006 -2011	Inaugural Chairman of Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee
1993 -2001	Director of PLC Foundation Ltd and Chairman from 1998 -2001
Special Committee for the Appointment of two Principals	
Provision of work experience for PLC students	

His invaluable advice and legal counsel has been freely given from a generous heart and a gifted mind.

It is certainly an extraordinary contribution Greg Garde made to the College over such an extended period and ultimately positively impacted the outcomes to the girls of

PLC. Greg Garde is a Supreme Court Judge and President of VCAT and we wish him the Lord's enabling and blessing as he continues such a distinguished life of service and impact for our society.

Conclusion

It is a biblical principle of stewardship that we are to protect, grow and advance what we have been given responsibility for, and by God's Grace this is what we will continue to do.

I thank God for the many gifts and talents of the Council members, the gifted and passionate staff who educate and guide the girls at the highest possible levels to each generation of students. I thank God for the girls of the school and for their families.

It is a great joy to report Presbyterian Ladies' College continues to provide excellence in education to girls from both local and overseas homes, maintains a culture of encouragement and respect, and all within a framework of Christian values and ethos.

Russell Walley
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (Min.94)

Once again we have had another busy and exciting year.

In October we dedicated our new council at the AGM with an inspirational talk from the Rt Rev David Palmer challenging us to continue in our work with missionaries. Then Barbara Brown addressed the meeting with "what it takes to get a missionary into the field" – very informative.

This year our council was small in number with everybody doing multiple jobs!! Thank you especially to Miss Robyn Crocker, who helped me with the secretary's convenership and we were both relieved when Mrs Fiona Bligh took over this role in April.

As a result of a break-in at the PWMU office and a hacking of our website, council decided to update all security measures. We have taken steps to tighten access to the PWMU computer, we have hired a locked P O Box for our mail, we keep a minimum of money on the premises and finally installed security locks on door with only three people having keys (the office manager, the PWMU secretary, and the PWMU treasurer). The council feels that we have been proactive rather than reactive in keeping information on missionaries and members as secure as possible.

Council is also pleased to welcome our new office manager – Mrs Belinda Morden. She is a delight to work with and she has settled in quickly to her role and has now a good working knowledge of our beloved PWMU - with all its quirks. We look forward to a long working partnership with her.

We have had many joyous state level meetings this year

March – Mrs Faye Canavan – "Is God big enough for you"

May Country Rally at Terang – Mrs Dorcas Denness

June – Rev Michael and Mrs Kerry Jensen "How good is God – their travels to Africa and India

August Thanksgiving Rally

- St Andrews School

- Mr Oliver Blythe AFES worker at RMIT "the future is in good hands"

AGM – Rev Richard O'Brien

Dayspring Day

Thank you to Mrs Cassie Hood for running yet another successful Dayspring Day. The theme this year was "Not of this world". The children were challenged to think about what their mission is in their life, how do they get to their ultimate destination. We had our usual treasure hunt, biblical characters, prayer twins and ice cream!! The children were sent home with their showbags and the challenge to read their Bibles and use their missionary prayer cards throughout the year until we meet again.

"From Suet to Saffron"

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of the History of the PWMU Cookbook (July 24 2013) It was written by Mrs Fiona Bligh, who is a member of PWMU, and all proceeds from the sale of the books goes to the PWMU Bursary Fund – as does the PWMU Cookbook royalties. PWMU would like to publicly thank Fiona for her hard work and generous donation to the Lord's work. The updated edition of the PWMU Cookbook is set to be launched on December 5 2013.

In 2013 the PWMU council resolved to conduct a census of all members of the PWMU in order to update current PWMU records and to aid in future planning. One census form was created for branch and affiliated group members and another census form for lone members. The census was sent to all PWMU branches and affiliated groups and lone members listed on the current PWMU office databases in early May 2013. You will find this report as an appendix to the Assembly reports. A précis of the reports' results are as follows:

Data for lone members

Total number of lone members – 80

63% aged 70+

29% aged 50-70

91% receive PWMU newsletter 0 14% via email and 82% via post

Financial giving

33% use PWMU as sole avenue for supporting missionaries

55% prefer to give missionaries through their church

Data for branch members

Total number of branch members 259

Number of branches - 26

PWMU

Census Report 2013

Authorised by
PWMU State Council

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. Census 2013 for Branch & Affiliated Groups
3. Census 2013 for Lone Members
4. Census 2013 Data Report

Introduction

In 2013 the PWMU State Council resolved to conduct a Census of all members of the PWMU in order to update current PWMU records and to aid in future planning.

One census form was created for Branch & Affiliated Groups members and another census form for Lone Members (those not in either a Branch or an Affiliated Group).

The Census was sent to all PWMU Branches, Affiliated Groups and Lone Members listed on current PWMU office databases in early May 2013. All members were asked to return completed Census forms by June 30 2013.

Copies of the two Census forms are within this report. A separate report showing the Census data collected follows.

Census for PWMU 2013- Lones

1. Please estimate how many years you have been a member of PWMU:

2. Please circle which avenue you **mostly** use to support APWM missionaries:

Giving through my church congregation

Giving through PWMU

3. Please indicate your age in the boxes provided:

30-40	<input type="text"/>	40-50	<input type="text"/>	50-60	<input type="text"/>	60-70	<input type="text"/>
70-80	<input type="text"/>	80-90	<input type="text"/>	90-100	<input type="text"/>		

4. Your home church is: _____

5. Please give us your name and email address:

6. Do you receive the newsletter? _____

7. Do you receive the newsletter via email or by post? _____

Thank you for participating in the PWMU Census. This information assists in future planning for PWMU.

Census for PWMU 2013 – Branches

Name of Branch: _____

1. Number of current members:

2. Please indicate in the boxes provided the number of members in each age group in your branch:

30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70

70-80 80-90 90-100

3. Please estimate an average number of members that attend a regular branch meeting:

4. Please indicate how often the Branch meets:

5. Which P.A. is your branch in?

6. Please indicate the number of members who pay the \$5 membership fee only _____

7. Please indicate the number of newsletters the branch receives _____

Thank you for participating in the PWMU Census. This information assists in future planning for PWMU.

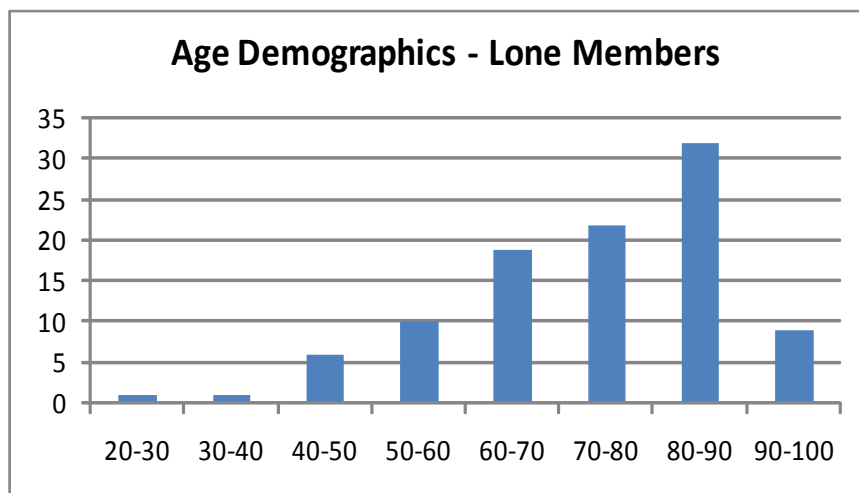
PWMU Census Data 2013

Data for Lone Members (members not in a Branch or Affiliated Group)

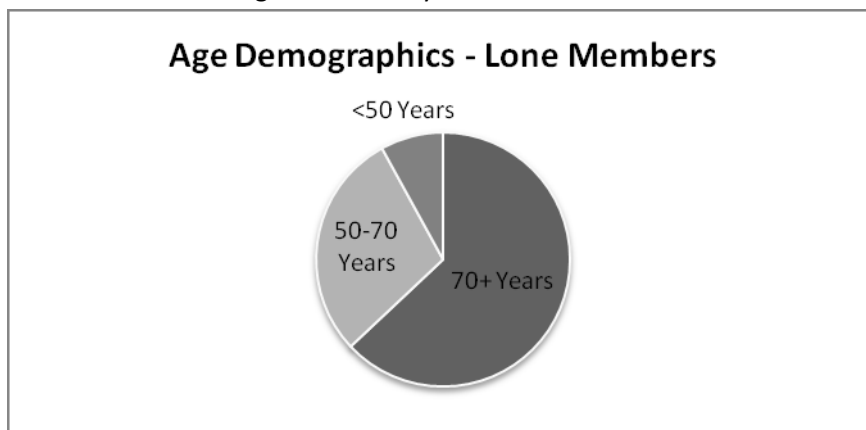
Total Number of Lone Members: **80**

Age Demographic of Lone Members:

Age Group in Years	% of total Lone Members
20-30	1
30-40	1
40-50	6
50-60	10
60-70	19
70-80	22
80-90	32
90-100	9



- **63%** of Lone Members are aged 70+ years
- **29%** of Lone Members are aged 50-70 years
- **8%** of Lone Members are aged below 50 years



PWMU Newsletter Data for Lone Members:

% of Lone Members who receive the PWMU newsletter: 91

% received by email: 14

% received by Australia Post: 82

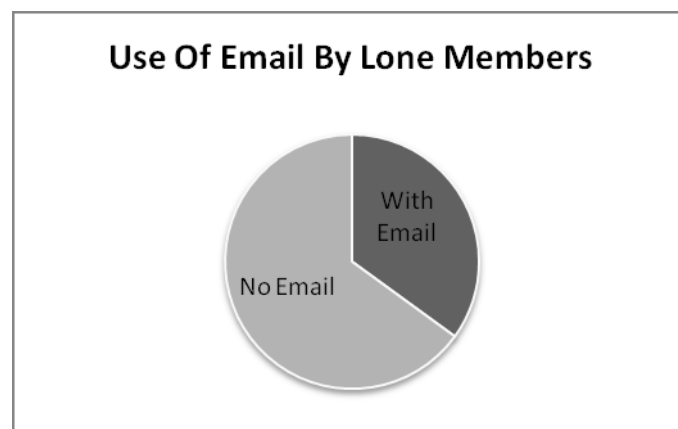
% received via both email and Australia Post: 4

- 1 respondent noted that she preferred to receive the newsletter by email.
- 2 respondents noted that they preferred to receive the newsletter by Australia Post.

Use of email by Lone Members:

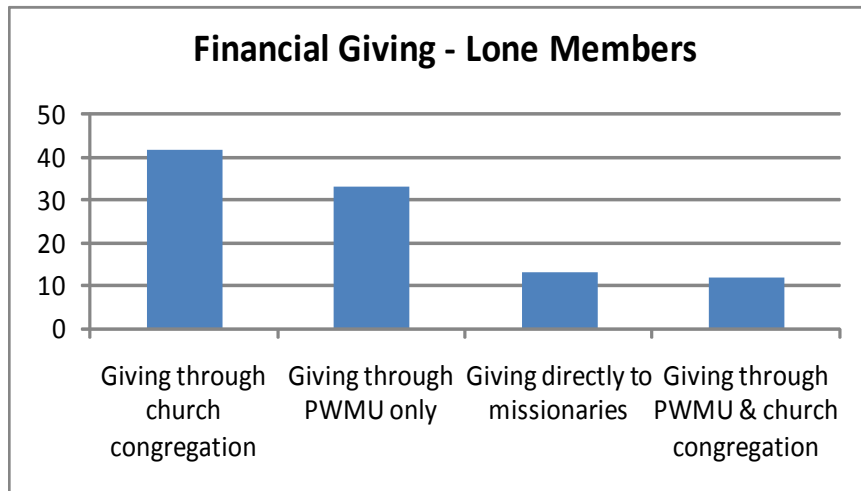
% of Lone Members with an email address: 35

% of Lone Members without an email address: 65

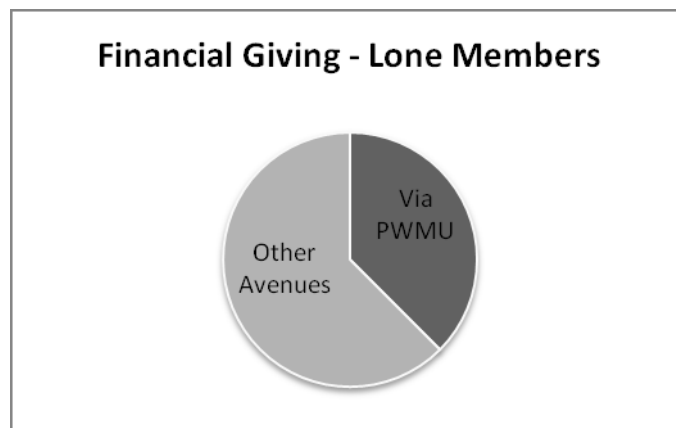


Avenue Used for Financial Giving to Missionaries Data for Lone Members:

Method used by Lone Members to financially support missionaries	% of Lone Members
Giving through PWMU only	33
Giving directly to missionaries	13
Giving through church congregation	42
Giving through PWMU & church congregation	12

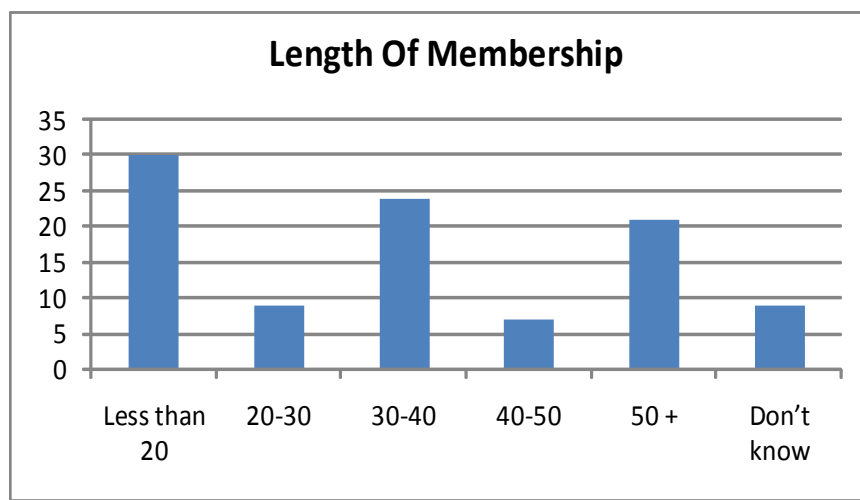


- 33% of PWMU Lone Members use PWMU as their sole avenue for financially supporting missionaries.
- 55% of PWMU Lone Members choose not to financially support missionaries through PWMU, preferring to give through their church congregations or direct giving to missionaries.



Years held a PWMU Membership Data for Lone Members:

Number of years a member of PWMU	% of Lone Members
Less than 20	30
20-30	9
30-40	24
40-50	7
50 +	21
Don't know	9



- 52% of Lone Members have been members more than 30 years.
- 39% of Lone Members have been members less than 30 years

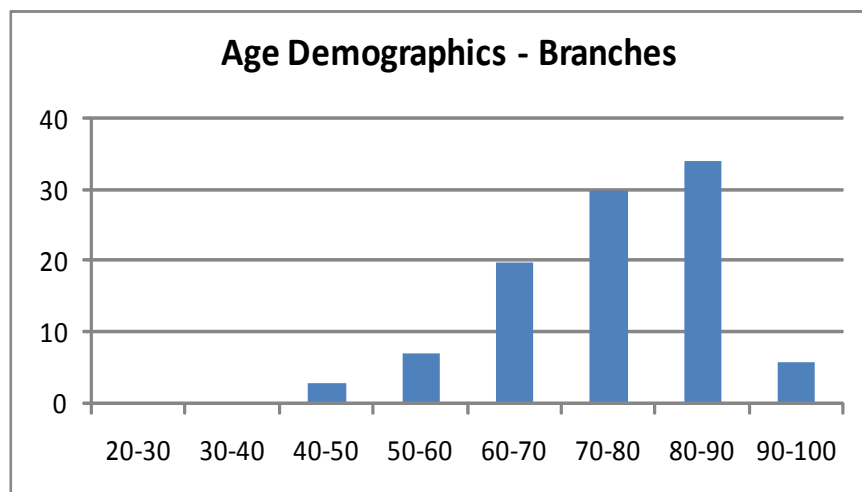
Data for Branch & Affiliated Groups Members

Number of Branch & Affiliated Group Members: **259**

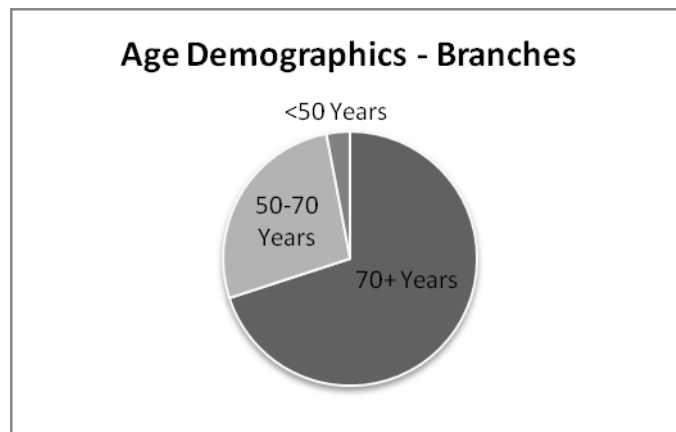
Number of Branches & Affiliated Groups: **26**

Age Demographic of Branch & Affiliated Group Members:

Age Group in Years	% of Branch & Affiliated Group Members
20-30	0
30-40	0
40-50	3
50-60	7
60-70	20
70-80	30
80-90	34
90-100	6



- **70%** of Branch & Affiliated Group Members are aged 70+ years
- **27%** of Branch & Affiliated Group Members are aged 50-70 years
- **3%** of Branch & Affiliated Group Members are aged below 50 years



PWMU Newsletter Data for Branch & Affiliated Group Members:

% of Branch & Affiliated Group Members who hold an individual paid subscription for the PWMU newsletter: 73

% of Branch & Affiliated Group Members who do not hold an individual paid subscription for the PWMU newsletter: 27

% of Branches & Affiliated Groups who pay one subscription for the PWMU Newsletter and then photocopy it for all their members: 27

Other Branch & Affiliated Groups Data:

Membership Fees

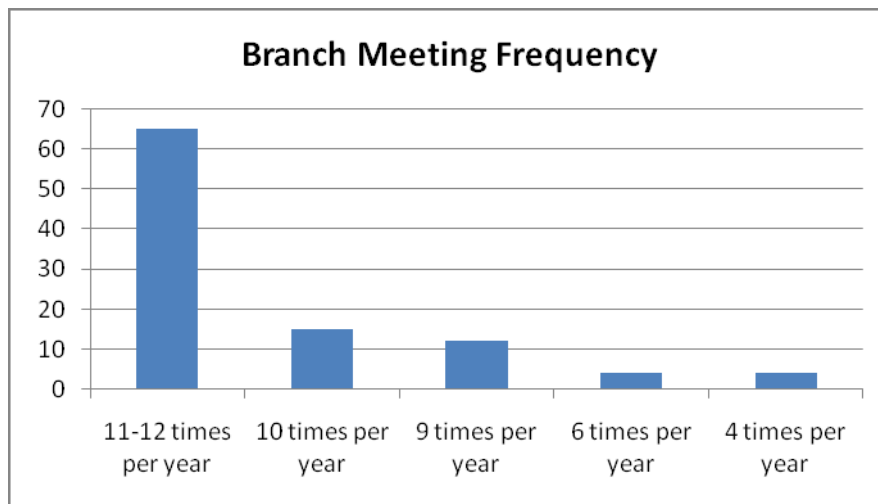
% of Branches & Affiliated Groups where individual members each pay the \$5 individual membership fee: 92

% of Branches & Affiliated Groups that do not pay the \$5 individual membership fee for their members and instead pay one \$5 membership fee for the entire branch: 8

*Note: Paying a single membership fee for an entire branch is not constitutional – section 2 of the PWMU Constitution states: “**Anyone** who is member or adherent of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and united with PWMU in prayer and effort can be a member, on payment of a membership fee.” [Emphasis added]

Frequency of Branch & Affiliated Group Meetings:

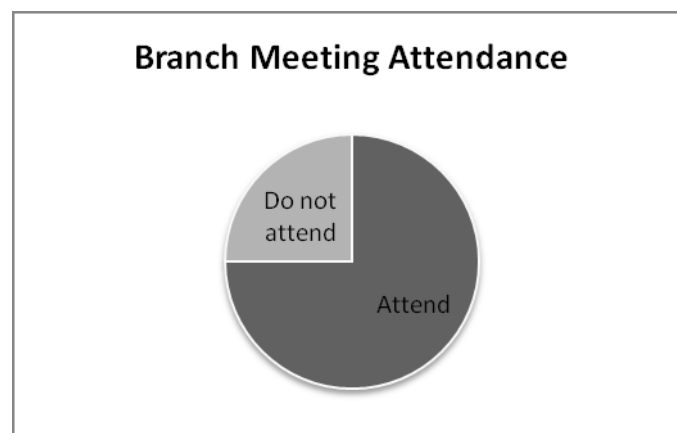
Frequency	% of Branches & Affiliated Groups
11-12 times per year	65
10 times per year	15
9 times per year	12
6 times per year	4
4 times per year	4



Meeting Attendance by Branch & Affiliated Group Members:

% of Branch & Affiliated Group members regularly attend meetings: 75

% of Branch & Affiliated Group members do not regularly attend meetings: 25



Use of email by Branch & Affiliated Group Members:

% of Branch & Affiliated Group Members with an email address: 18

% of Branch & Affiliated Group Members without an email address: 82

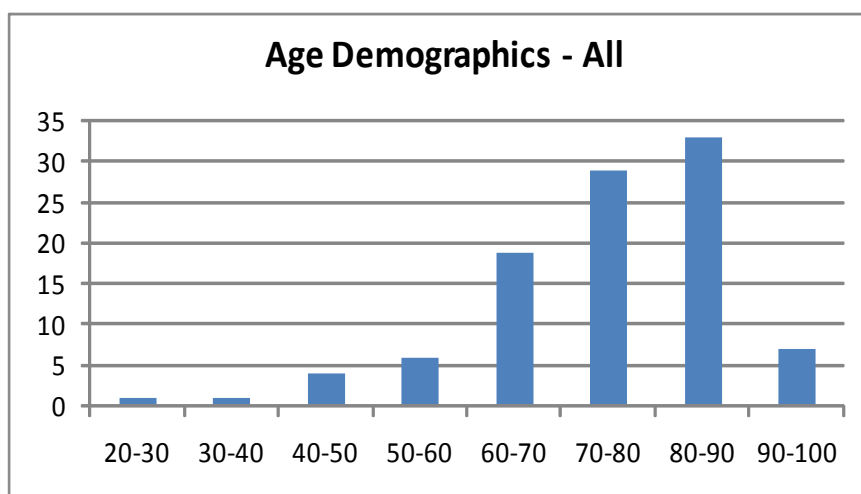
Email Use - Branches



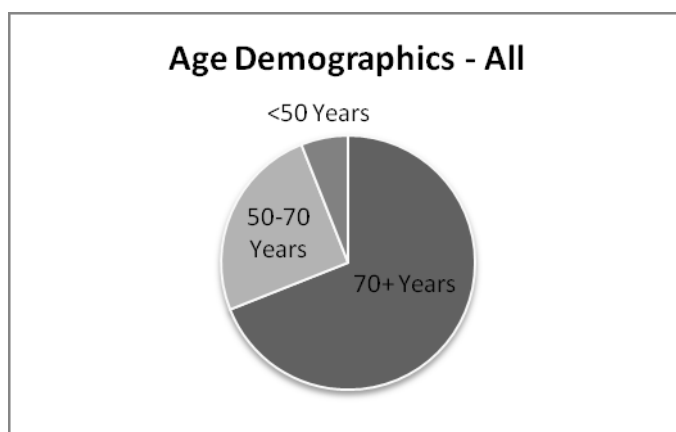
Data for All PWMU Members

Total Members (Lone and Branch & Affiliated Group Members): 339

Age Group in Years	% of All PWMU Members
20-30	1
30-40	1
40-50	4
50-60	6
60-70	19
70-80	29
80-90	33
90-100	7



- **69%** of All PWMU Members are aged 70+ years
- **25%** of All PWMU Members are aged 50-70 years
- **6%** of All PWMU Members are aged below 50 years



Number of PWMU Members since its creation in 1890

1890: approximately 1500 members^{*1}

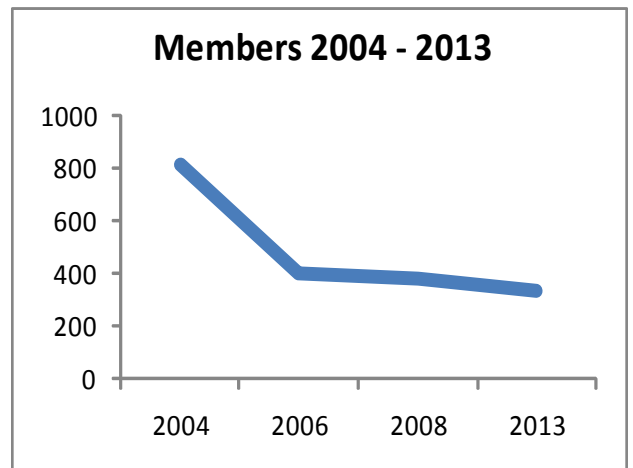
1950: approximately 8000 members^{*2}

2004: 814 members^{*3}

2006: 405 members^{*4}

2008: 387 members^{*4}

2013: 339 members^{*5}



^{*1} Source: Official History of the PWMU: *After 50 years – a record of the work of the PWMU of Victoria*, by Elizabeth M Campbell, published 1940.

^{*2} Source: Second Official History of the PWMU: *The Changing Years 1940-1950*, by Elizabeth M Campbell, published 1950.

^{*3} Source: PWMU Office document, compiled by the former Office Manager, Mrs Joan Milne, showing a record of members renewing membership for the 2004-05 year.

^{*4} Source: Approximate figures derived from PWMU financial records.

^{*5} Source: 2013 PWMU Census data.

Eileen Blythe
PRESIDENT

RECORDS COMMITTEE (Min. 100)

The Committee has examined the minutes of the Presbyteries of Benalla, Flinders, Geelong, Kilnoorat, Maroondah, Melbourne East, Melbourne North, Melbourne West, for a total of over 11 Presbytery years.

No records of Assembly Committees have been examined.

In general the minutes are well kept and record Presbytery practice and decisions clearly. A variety of minuting and numbering styles are in use. In the event that the recommendations in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Clerkship are adopted by the Assembly, it may be helpful for Presbytery Clerks to consider some agreed standardisation in minuting styles.

Some General Points to Note

There was one case where an induction proceeded without the Formula being signed at the time, owing to the absence of the official minute book. The Formula subsequently was officially signed in the presence of the Presbytery concerned, but there is no record of whether anything was signed at the time of induction. It seems to the Committee that it would have been prudent to have such a signing, and for the official record to be attended to later by a second signing if necessary. Other Presbyteries do not always formally record the signing of the Formula, on the assumption that the listing of such an event in an approved Order of Service is sufficient. The Committee believes that minutes should always record the signing of the Formula as a separate item.

The identity of the Clerk is not always clear from minutes, and we recommend that the Clerk be identified in the list of those attending by a simple notation in parenthesis.

Rule 4.129 provides that Presbytery is to make provision for the annual examination of the records of each congregation, Board of Management and Session from within its bounds. Some do so on a rotating monthly basis, while others appoint the entire Presbytery as a committee and meet specifically for the purpose at an annual event. It is evident that not all Presbyteries follow this procedure and the Committee has noted one Presbytery where this annual inspection has not occurred for many years.

This annual examination also presents a difficulty when minutes of non-English speaking congregations are taken in a language other than English. The Committee suggests that it may be prudent to obtain an executive summary of the minutes in English and to have this appended to the minutes of each meeting.

With a variety of editions of the Code in circulation, the Committee urges all members of Assembly to ensure that they are using the most up to date version of the Code before proceeding. An up to date e-version is always available from the Clerk.

One Presbytery adopted the practice of asking candidates for the ministry under its care to bring the devotional exposition at the commencement of some of its meetings. This is a commendable way of making sure all members of the Presbytery have opportunity to be more familiar with their candidates and their skills in the proper handling of Scripture.

One Presbytery has experimented with a Quarterly evening service in order to develop a greater sense of cohesion.

In one case, a Ministry Team was appointed as Interim Moderator, presumably allowing a degree of flexibility as to who in any one instance would fulfil the duties. The Committee believes that only an individual can be appointed to such a position. There is some variation over the application of the rules governing the occasional procedures of Meeting in Conference and Meeting as Committee of the Whole (Rules 4.25 & 4.26 and S.O 7.83). The distinction between the two procedures is sometimes slight. Each comprises the entire Presbytery at the time being, each can formulate resolutions, etc. but only those decisions taken in Committee are reported back to the Presbytery. The practice of some Presbyteries is merely to “adopt” the report and with that to deem the decisions taken by the reported Committee as also “adopted” and by virtue of that “adoption” automatically taking on the status of Presbytery decisions. Other Presbyteries will receive the report of the Committee of the Whole, which report treats decisions taken in Committee as recommended resolutions to be moved afresh when the Presbytery has resumed. In both cases, the report and decision of the Committee as a Whole might be deemed as adopted, however, the value of the second method is that it leaves no doubt that decisions taken are formal Presbytery decisions, and clearly preserves rights of dissent and appeal. The Committee recommends this second method.

Graham Nicholson
CONVENER

SCOTCH COLLEGE (Min. 38)



The Hon Dr D A Kemp
Chairman

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Fax: +61 3 9810 4333
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Web: www.scotch.vic.edu.au
ABN 86 852 826 445

September 2013

Scotch College

Report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria 2013

I am pleased to present this report to the General Assembly, my first since becoming Chairman of the Scotch College Council.

With an enrolment of 1449 boys in the Senior School and 430 boys in the Junior School, Scotch College has had a full enrolment for 2012. The boarding enrolment of 142 of whom 22 are from overseas, is down from last year, reflecting the difficult economic environment in which Australian boarding schools have been operating. The reduced numbers of boarding students from overseas is explained by the relative affordability of education in UK and USA. The fall in boarding numbers has been more than compensated by enrolments from the extremely high demand that exists for day student places. This demand is pleasing but will require careful management. There are 7 indigenous students at the School.

The strong demand for places at the School is likely due in no small part to the excellent academic results achieved by Year 12 boys. In 2012 the median ATAR score was 91.65 and three boys scored the maximum possible of 99.95. 13.1% of the cohort scored 99.00 or more placing them in the top 1% of students in the country. There were 28 perfect scores of 50 across 12 subjects and 12 boys won 15 Premiers Prizes between them. Beyond VCE results, boys continue to excel in national academic competitions. These were fine results from an outstanding group of young men. Whilst the individual journeys behind these statistics are as unique as the young men themselves, there are, from securing a VCE to achieving the maximum ATAR, common traits: a sense of purpose, responsibility and good humour.

However excellent its academic results, Scotch as a school is committed to continuous improvement. The Principal, Mr Tom Batty, provides strong leadership, and the Scotch Improvement Plan, an educational strategy developed by Mr Batty, continues to guide the development of teaching and learning as well as the physical development of the college. The engagement of students and staff in the common pursuit of improved learning outcomes is at the core of the strategy. Perhaps the most notable educational development over recent years has been the use of data to drive improvement. Testing of student aptitude and achievement, student surveys of responses to their learning, parent surveys and staff surveys all inform conversations

and plans for development. The physical development of the campus is designed to express the educational philosophy of continuous improvement.

An education at Scotch College seeks to foster a sense of spirituality throughout the school's life, based upon Christian principles and the teaching of Christ's message. The Scriptures continue to be read in the three assemblies held each week, at the weekly Boarders' Chapel service and at Year Group Chapel services. A staff prayer group led by the Chaplain, Rev Graham Bradbeer, meets weekly. The provision of Christian Education continues at all year levels and the weekly activities of the Christian Student Fellowship have been extended by the work of Mr Geoff Dans, Rev David Assender and the Head of Christian Education, Mr Brian Ahern, to include an annual camp at the Cowes property. Mr Brian Ahern continues to coordinate our Year 9 Retreats held at our Healesville site and the annual Prayer Breakfast remains a significant occasion on our calendar bringing together parents, former students, boys and staff.

Sport remains an integral part of the school programme of the school. This year our 1st Rowing VIII achieved remarkable success in winning the Victorian Schools Championship, the NSW Schools Championship, the Head of the River and the National Schoolboys Championship. The 1st VIII were then chosen to represent Australia at the World Junior Rowing Championships where they defeated the USA to come fifth in the final. For a crew from one school to achieve such a result was a remarkable achievement. Other team successes at the national level have been enjoyed in chess, snow sports, swimming and by our pipes and drums band. Music, drama and debating programmes remain very strong with the Show Band being judged as the second best school band in Australia. Individual success at the national level has been in fields as diverse as baseball, cycling, debating, informatics, sailing, science and water polo. Such levels of achievement place challenges in front of all boys.

International tours by our orchestra to Europe, pipes and drums to Scotland and Ireland, trekkers to Nepal, swimmers to New Zealand, soccer players to Spain, the rugby XV to New Zealand, army cadets to the UK, budding astronauts to NASA, language students to Indonesia and debaters to Singapore continue to expand the horizons of our boys, while exchanges to France, Germany, England, USA, India and South Africa provide individual challenges as boys move out of their comfort zones.

Outreach programmes continue to be a feature of the school and are enthusiastically embraced by the boys, staff and many parents. The STAR Camp, a holiday respite camp provided for children with severe disabilities was again held at the Scotch boarding houses. Year 12 Students from six schools were joined by volunteer staff and parents, including two doctors and two nurses, to provide support and care for the 'campers'. The Indigenous Programme has boys developing awareness of indigenous issues via activities during National Reconciliation Week, the continuing relationships with Tiwi College and Worowa College and attendance at the Arnhem Land Gama Festival. This year's gruelling 24 Hour Hike raised \$20,000 for the Clontarf Foundation which supports education scholarships for indigenous children.

Further afield, support for an orphanage in Mongolia, health services and a school in Nepal, another building project in Cambodia and the on-going work with World Vision in Zambia lift the boys sights to those in need beyond Australia. It was in 2005 that Scotch first joined in partnership with World Vision to build an elementary school in the village of Kapumfi in Zambia. The success of this appeal resulted in the Kapumfi School opening its doors to students in 2006. In 2010 we turned our attention to an existing high school at Chitulika, some 80km from Kapumfi, and a destination for many Kapumfi students wanting to extend their education. Again in partnership with World Vision, the Scotch community raised funds to enable the Chitulika School to construct a Science building. The second stage of the Chitulika project was launched by World Vision CEO, Rev Tim Costello and the school is well on the way to raising \$92,000 to provide the school with a library.

The school is giving close attention to the future physical development of its campus, and earlier this month the Scotch College Development Plan was approved by the Boroondara Council. The School Council decided at its meeting on 21st August to proceed with a world-leading Centre for Science and has engaged Cox Architects to design the Centre. A campaign to raise capital to support such a project will commence shortly.

This year six long serving members of staff are retiring: Ms Suzette Boyd, Head of Library (14 years), Rev Graham Bradbeer, Chaplain (30 years), Mr Robert Diver, mathematics teacher (25 years), Mr Doug Galbraith, Dean of Boarding (37 Years), Mr Jeff Watson, geography teacher (24 years) and Mr Ian Savage, Vice Principal (34 years). Mr Robert McLaren will be our new Vice Principal from 2014. Currently, Robert is the Head of Upper School and prior to taking on oversight of Years 9 -12 in 2010, he spent four years as Head of our Middle School. Earlier in his Scotch career, Robert was Head of Year 8 and a Head of House.

The retirement of Rev Graham Bradbeer brings to a close 30 years of outstanding service to Scotch and our wider community. I paraphrase the words written to the Scotch community by the Principal, Tom Batty.... 'whether from the pulpit in Assembly or a chapel service, across a table at Morning Tea, in a written reflection or amongst quiet private conversation, Graham's words and faith have inspired, challenged, comforted and cajoled boys, thoughtful reflective members of staff and grieving parents alike. He has 'rejoiced with those that do rejoice, and wept with those that weep' and drawn our minds to the blessings in doing likewise. He has been welcomed into boys' lives as Chaplain, teacher of Christian Education and of Text and Traditions, coach of cricket and soccer teams, and as a leader of expeditions to Nepal. Generations of boarders have felt loneliness lifted by love at Sunday Chapel, where Graham has them singing praises while bopping to the beat of the Boarders' Chapel Band. In the rich tartan of our school, Graham's has been the thread pulling us closer together, closer to God.' We have been blessed by Graham's presence in our community and our heartfelt thanks go to him and Christine.

Since assuming the Chairmanship of the School Council I have been impressed with the sense of collegiality that infuses all the Council's activities, and Scotch continues to be the beneficiary of the commitment of all Council members to its interests.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Kemp". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "David" and last name "Kemp" clearly legible.

The Hon. Dr. David Kemp
Scotch Council Chairman

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min. 79)

The Selection Committee has met as required since the 2012 Assembly by email, to attempt to fill casual vacancies which have arisen in the membership of Assembly committees.

After consulting the respective committees, boards, councils and other bodies, the Selection Committee brings the following nominations to the Assembly for their appointment on those bodies. Any alterations notified after the deadline for the white book will be presented via an Assembly paper and/or notice of motion.

Ad hoc Committee to Investigate Federal Vision Theology

[Rev Dr D J W Milne together with all members of PTC (Vic) faculty]

Rev P W Hastie, Dr A E Bird, Dr F W K Chung, Dr J C Hood

Convener: Rev Dr D J W Milne

Ad hoc Committee to Revise 'Breaking the Silence' Document

[Moderator, Law Agent, Clerk of Assembly, member of Code Committee, member of Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment and Finance]

Rev B Harvey

Convener: Moderator

Ad hoc Committee for Sites Reserve Funds

[Immediate Past Moderator (Convener), Clerk of Assembly, Law Agent, General Manager (Secretary), Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance and one nominee from each interested Presbytery.]

Ballarat	Rev Dr J S Woodward
Benalla	Rev K R Ee
Flinders	Rev D J Palmer
Geelong	Very Rev Dr A M Harman
Gippsland	Rev C Garrett
Kilnoorat	Rev I Leach
Maroondah	Rev D A Slater
Melbourne East	Rev Dr C R Thomas
Melbourne North	Mr B Miller
Melbourne West	Mr D Wright
North Western	Rev B Riding

Assessors Panel

[Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Convener of the Selection Committee, Convener of the Business Committee]

Convener: Moderator

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Vic] Committee

[10 Members appointed by the Assembly, 2 by P W M U]

RT 14: Mr D Bennett [17], Rev P J Burns [22], Rev D Carroll [19]

RT 15: Mrs W Pearce [22], Miss E Slater [17], Rev Kyung Ee [20]

RT 16: Mr N Johnston [22], Mrs S White [22], Rev P Simmonds [17], Rev L H C Pearce [19]

Convener: Rev P Simmonds [17]

Board Of Investment And Finance [Trusts Corporation]

[10 Members, eligible for a second consecutive 5 year term]

RT 14: Mr E De Zilwa [15], Rev A Venn [19]

RT 15: Mr T Arnold [20], Mr A Letcher [20]

RT 16:

RT 17: Mr I Bramley [17], Rev S Deroon [22], Rev M Smith [22]

RT 18: Mr D Brown [18], Mr Geoff Cox [23], Mr Matt Duke [23]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property [Architectural] Committee

[3 Members]

RT 14: Mr G Nixon [17]

RT 15: Rev P Phillips [17]

RT 16: Mrs J Bell [17]

Convener: Rev P Phillips [15]

Business Committee

[Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, 3 Members of Assembly not conveners of other reporting committees, Clerks of Presbyteries during Assembly]

RT 14: Mr K Childs [22]

RT 15: Rev P Mercer [19]

RT 16: Rev D Carroll [22]

Convener: Rev Dr J Hood [16] [Convener appointed for 3 years and eligible for reappointment, notwithstanding other regulations]

Christian Education and Nurture Committee

[11 Members, at least 6 members of Assembly]

RT 14: Vacancy, Rev M Wharton [17], Rev H Lim [18], Vacancy

RT 15: Rev S Kroeger [15], Vacancy [00], Vacancy

RT 16: Rev R White [22], Rev D Robertson [22], Mrs A Harvey [20], Vacancy

Convener: Rev D Robertson [20]

Church and Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 14: Mr N Sharp [21], Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 15: Mr J Ballantyne [15], Rev D Combridge [15], Mr B Palmer [20], Vacancy

RT 16: Rev P G Barclay [14], Rev D R Middleton [19], Vacancy

Convener: Rev D R Middleton [19]

Church Planting Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 14: Rev B P Johnson [15], Rev C Garrett [22]

RT 15: Rev R J O'Brien [15], Mr P Leslie [15] Rev D W Elliott [15]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev N Barbieri [17]

Convener: Rev D W Elliott [15]

Clerkship Committee

Moderator (Convener), Law Agent, Business Committee Convener, Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Convener, Chairman Board of Investment and Finance, plus 2 immediate past moderators.

Code and General Administration Committee

[3 Members, plus ex officio the Clerks of Assembly, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, Chairman of Trusts Corporation]

RT 14: Rev Dr J Woodward [15]

RT 15: Rev J Dekker [17]

RT 16: Rev G Nicholson [17]

Convener: The Clerk Of Assembly

Conciliation Committee

[3 Ministers and 3 Elders appointed annually, plus the Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly as convener]

Ministers: Vacancy, Rev P Orchard [17], Rev G Weber [19]

Elders: Mr N Sharp [18], Mr B Downes [22], Vacancy

Convener: Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, plus all full-time and part-time Australian Defence Force Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 14: Rev B Riding [16]

RT 15: Mr J Cawood [22]

RT 16: Rev P Mercer [22]

Convener: Rev M De Pyle [17]

Exit Students Committee

Convener of the Ministry Development Committee, Ministry Development Officer, Principal of the Presbyterian Theological College [or his faculty representative], Training Officer, Convener of the Church Planting Committee [whenever a Church planting placement is being considered], Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee [whenever a chaplaincy placement is being considered], a representative of each candidate's Presbytery [preferably the convener of the Presbytery's Candidates' Committee or equivalent]

Convener: Convener of Ministry Development Committee

General Mission Program Committee

[6 Members]

RT 14: Rev G Vayne [21], Mr N Sharp [20]

RT 15: Mr R Lowe [15], Mr B Kilmartin [15],

RT 16: Rev P Court [19], Mr K Davidson [22]

Convener: Mr N Sharp [20]

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Persons]

RT 14: Mrs A Elliott [16], Rev M Fagan [18], Rev C Le Page [18]

RT 15: Miss B Brown [14], Mrs T Orchard [17], Mrs A Robertson [19], vacancy

RT 16: Rev G Vayne [22], Rev P Court [22], vacancy

Convener: Rev M Fagan [18]

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

[6 Members]

RT 14: Rev M Crabb [21], Mr R Taylor [21],

RT 15: Mr R Butcher [16], Mr D Wright [22]

RT 16: Rev K D W Allen [21], Rev Dr J S Woodward [21]

Convener: Rev Dr J S Woodward [21]

METRO Committee

[6 Members]

RT 14: Rev C Le Page [19], Mr A May [17]

RT 15: Vacancy, Rev T McIntosh [22]

RT 16: Mr B Haughey [17], Rev B Harvey [22]

Convener: Mr A May

Ministry Development Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 14: Dr B Ellis [20], Rev J Rickard [15]

RT 15: Rev G Vanderwert [22], Mr N Sharp [21]

RT 16: Mrs M Brennan [16], Rev I Hutton [21]

Convener: Rev G D Lawry [14]

Moderator's Committee

[2 Elders, 1 Minister as Convener, plus the Moderator and Moderator Designate]

RT 14: Mr A Forrester [19]

RT 15: Mr R Belcher [15]

RT 16: Rev G Weber [14] (one year extension notwithstanding the 9 year rule)

Convener: Rev G Weber [14] (one year extension notwithstanding the 7 year rule)

Records Committee

[6 Members of Assembly, at least 3 Ministers]

RT 14: Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 15: Rev G Nicholson [13], Mr D Fraser [14]

RT 16: Rev J Dekker [19], Vacancy

Convener: Rev G Nicholson [13]

Social Services Committee

[10 Members]

RT 14: Miss R Strother [22], Mr D Wright [14], Mr G Hamilton [22]

RT 15: Mr B Miller [18], Mr D Gibb [19], Mrs R Rodgers [21]

RT 16: Mr R Lowe [15], Miss B Firth [15], Mr J Nuske [21], Mr B Evans [21]

Convener: Mr R Lowe [15]

State News Committee

[4 Members, 2 Ministers and 2 Elders]

RT 14: Rev P Daffy [15]

RT 15: Rev N Harvey [18]

RT 16: Mr A Zirngast [22], Mr Phillip Betts [19]

Convener: Rev N Harvey [16]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, plus ex officio the principal and 1 other member of the Faculty]

RT 14: Rev C Siriweera [22], Vacancy, Rev N Chambers [17]

RT 15: Vacancy, Rev B Oakes [15], Rev I H Barker [22], Mr C Manners [22]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev K Maxwell [18], Mr B Georges [22]

Convener: Rev N Chambers [15]

ACCESS Ministries

Rev G Lawry, Mrs A Thomas

CCAP Blantyre Synod Malawi

Trustee for Orbus: The Clerk of Assembly

Council For Chaplains In Tertiary Institutions

Mr P Leslie, Rev D Martin

Family Council Of Victoria

[Appointee to report to Assembly through the Church and Nation Committee]

Mrs J Manners

Leaders Of Churches

The Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator

Press Officer

The Moderator in consultation with the Clerk of Assembly and the convener of the Church and Nation Committee

PWMU Cook Book Committee

Rev J Wilson

St Andrews Foundation

Mrs M Conradi, Rev R O'Brien, Mr C Morrow

The Bible Society

Rev K Allen

Victorian Inter-Church / Immigration Committee

Rev Dr J Elnatan

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Min. 47)

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes

The Social Services Committee's commitment to Aged Care is best expressed by Kirkbrae's Mission Statement.

"The mission of Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes is to provide the highest quality care to our residents within the values of a caring Christian community."

Property development

Kirkbrae is bisected by a Melbourne Water easement. Three water mains run through this easement. In March, Melbourne Water notified the committee, after giving initial approval to use the easement as an access road for the development, changed their position as they feared the weight of the trucks and machinery to be used for earth works and construction could cause damage to the water mains.

On the 30th March the committee received a letter from the Shire of Yarra Ranges stating that they would also not consent to allow us to use the easement for building works.

Kirkbrae currently has a lease agreement with Melbourne Water over their easement where the existing car park is now situated. The committee were told at a meeting on the 1st May with Melbourne Water if an application was now made to construct a car park over their easement, it would not be approved.

Fortunately the committee received notification from Melbourne Water in July that they had agreed to extend their lease agreement granting permission to use the easement for "Vehicle Access" for a further five years.

Additionally Melbourne Water informed us that we had to make provision in our plans to allow for the possibility of 1 in 100 year flood. This overlay and the restrictions placed on using the easement for an access road has meant that we have to resubmit our plans to the Shire of Yarra Ranges for the development, thus causing a further delay.

Also after the committee received an adverse survey report of poor ground conditions where four of the units were to be built it was decided not to go ahead to build in this area due to the added costs involved.

As soon as the committee has received approval from the Shire of Yarra Ranges with our resubmitted plans to build the eight cluster units and administrative building we will call for tenders and make arrangements to meet with the Board of Investment and Finance, Law Agent and Maroondah Presbytery.

Maintenance Building

Given the delay in receiving approval to commence the development, the committee decided to go ahead and build the Maintenance Building as this project had already received approval from the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

The Maintenance Building of 300 square metres was completed in July providing for the storage of equipment, materials, tractors and staff amenities all under one roof. A vast improvement compared with the previous maintenance buildings.

Presbyterian Aged Care National CEO network

CEO Mr Neil McConville attended the CEO network meeting held in Perth 8th & 9th November. From the meeting a joint submission was made to the federal government agency, the Aged Care Financing Authority in response to the proposed changes to Accommodation payments to nursing homes.

Appointment of new CEO.

At the February meeting Mr Neil McConville informed the committee that he wished to retire as CEO. It was with regret the committee received this news from Mr McConville. After receiving submissions from two recruitment providers a sub-committee selected Mercury Executive Recruitment to act on its behalf. The position was then advertised in the 'Age' and through the internet. Many applications were received and ten profiles of candidates with the necessary qualifications and experience were considered by the sub-committee.

From this number the sub-committee selected three candidates to interview. Each of the candidates had the attributes to fill the role of CEO. Mr Mark Sketcher impressed the most with his background and experience in Aged Care working for the Melbourne City Mission as Director of Aged Care and Palliative Care, Eltham Retirement Centre (formally Judge Book Village) and was the unanimous choice of the sub-committee.

With his commitment to Aged Care combined with his Christian faith the committee looks forward to a long and fruitful association with Mr Mark Sketcher as CEO of Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes.

Financial Position.

With an emphasis by the committee and the executive team to monitor expenditure whilst still maintaining high quality care to the residents has enabled the committee to report to the Assembly that Kirkbrae has ended the financial year in a strong position.

The Social Services Committee wishes to thank Mr Michael Ellison and members of the Trusts Corporation for their advice and support.

Poor of Melbourne Fund

The fund is presently assisting the Ingoing Retention costs for a retired missionary couple at Kirkbrae.

St Andrew's Foundation- Application for Grant

The committee was pleased to receive the news in June that it had been successful in receiving a grant of \$55,360 from the St Andrew's Foundation to fund the Alzheimer's Australia Sundowner's program; expansion of the provision of Pastoral Supply to Kirkbrae; Kirkbrae Pastoral Care Program and purchase of safety equipment.

Thomas Hall Bequest

This bequest enables congregations to apply for financial assistance for their young members to attend camps. To broaden the support for congregations the committee is now encouraging applications from 18, 19, 20 year olds to assist in promoting youth leadership within their membership.

During the year the committee financially supported the following congregations:

Bendigo Presbyterian Church	\$950
Morwell Presbyterian Church	\$120
Wyndham Presbyterian Church	\$400
Frankston Presbyterian Church	\$3,580
Sunshine Presbyterian Church	\$800
Bundoora Presbyterian Church	\$250
St. Andrews Clayton	\$2,975
Hume Presbyterian Church	\$1,000
Skipton Lismore Parish	\$125
St. Stephens Surrey Hills	\$2,335
Heathmont Presbyterian	\$240
Canterbury Presbyterian Church	\$1,300
Warrnambool Presbyterian Church	\$925
Broadford Presbyterian Church	\$240
 Total payments 2012/2013	 \$15,240

To download an application go to www.Kirkbrae.org.au and click on application forms. The committee would encourage congregations to take advantage of the bequest.

Pastoral Care Kirkbrae and Tannoch Brae, Geelong

The Rev Wally Gear Chaplain at Kirkbrae has continued to provide faithful Christian outreach with Chapel services, Bible studies, home and hospital visits and worship services in the Hostel and Nursing Home.

The committee is encouraged by his active participation in the needs of the residents with his visits, fellowship and prayers. We are blessed that he serves the Lord at Kirkbrae.

Mrs Janine Moyter who joined Kirkbrae in February as our first Pastoral Care training intern has delighted the committee by accepting our invitation to become a full time member of our pastoral care team.

Mrs Moyter has been warmly received by the residents and staff in the Nursing Home and with her background in nursing and her concern for the elderly, she has proved a fine addition to our pastoral care team.

The committee is very appreciative of the Chaplaincy of the Rev Andrew Bray at Tannoch Brae, Geelong (formerly Kirkbrae, Bellarine). Conducting regular church services there the committee is indeed pleased to support the ministry of Rev Bray at Tannoch Brae.

A Chapel for Kirkbrae

Since receiving approval from the Assembly last year to conduct a state wide appeal to build a Chapel at Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes the committee has:-

1. Formed a sub- committee to co-ordinate and formulate a program of fund raising.
2. The Rev Andrew Bray has accepted the role as patron of the Appeal.
3. Commenced publicity in church publications.
4. Set up a Trust Fund for the acceptance of donations.
5. Received donations from a number of congregations.

6. To speak with church groups about what is happening at Kirkbrae and the building of a Chapel.
7. Received a pledge from the Kirkbrae congregation to financially support the furnishing of the Chapel.

The committee believes that with prayer, support of individuals, congregations and various trusts we can build a Chapel to the Glory of God at Kirkbrae.

Social Services Committee

After ten years of service on the Social Services Committee it was with regret the committee farewelled Mr Ron Patterson and Mr Barry Kilmartin.

Both Ron and Barry joined the committee in 2002. Ron accepted the role of Convener and served in that capacity for six years. During the years 2001 to 2004, a difficult and challenging time for Kirkbrae, Ron and Barry with the support of the committee helped turn Kirkbrae around from a very uncertain future. Both deserve our heartfelt thanks for their years of dedicated service on the committee.

With two vacancies, the Social Services Committee was pleased to welcome Mr Bruce Evans and Mr Greg Hamilton as new members. Mr Evans and Mr Hamilton are both members of Scots' Presbyterian Church Melbourne.

Appreciation

To members of the committee who are faithful and enthusiastic in their caring attitude to the residents of Kirkbrae, a very big thankyou.

In Mr Neil McConville the committee was very fortunate in having him as Kirkbrae's CEO for the past ten years. A first class administrator, who led by example and was committed to making Kirkbrae a respected Aged Care facility in the eastern suburbs.

Neil's legacy as CEO was to leave Kirkbrae with an executive team well versed and committed to the standards he believed should be maintained for the welfare of the residents.

The committee will miss Neil for his generosity of spirit, compassion for his fellow man and strong Christian faith and we ask for God's blessing on him in his retirement.

Committee Membership

Mr Robert Lowe / Convener
Mr Bruce Evans
Miss Rae Anstee
Mr Greg Hamilton
Mr Bruce Miller

Mr David Gibb / Secretary
Mr Dennis Wright
Miss Barbara Firth
Mrs Roberta Rodgers
Mr Jim Nuskie

In Conclusion

We give sincere thanks to Almighty God for those who have prayed, served or given support to the residents of Kirkbrae.

Robert Lowe
CONVENER

Social Services Committee

Kirkbrae

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Donations & Gifts	36,779
Grants & Subsidies Received	6,420,120
Interest & Investment Income	1,199,322
Fees, Ingoings & Meals	3,393,335
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	976,138
Net Unrealised Gain on Revaluation of Investments	442,593
Total Income	<u>12,468,287</u>

Expenditure:

Accounting & Audit Fees	27,570
Depreciation	725,974
Doubtful Debts	11,300
Education & Training	66,655
Fees Chaplaincy & Consulting	53,515
Insurance Fire & General	77,539
Residents Expenses	932,418
Legal Fees	117
Office Expenses	256,016
Personnel Related Costs	6,690,001
Property Expenses & Improvements	839,797
Total Expenditure	<u>9,680,904</u>

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

2,787,383

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	7,441
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	2,787,383
Decrease / (Increase) in Current Assets	(451,980)
Decrease / (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(305,456)
Decrease / (Increase) in Separately Invested Funds	(2,870,898)
(Decrease) / Increase in Current Liabilities	792,753
(Decrease) / Increase in Non-Current Liabilities	51,489
Balance 30/6/13	<u>10,730</u>

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/13

39,150

Separately Invested Funds

Balance 30/6/13

18,556,927

Social Services Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Interest & Investment Income

Total Income

Residential

**Care for
Children**

**Poor of
Melbourne**

35,326

6,240

35,326

6,240

Expenditure:

Grants

Total Expenditure

15,240

7,324

15,240

7,324

Surplus on Specific Trusts

20,086

(1,085)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12

Plus Surplus/(Deficit)

Balance 30/6/13

285,135

53,268

20,086

(1,085)

305,220

52,184

ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (Min. 96)

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of St Andrews Christian College. It also sees the consolidation of a number of years of hard work and planning. The College is now in a very healthy position and is delivering excellent outcomes, which is reflected in the key objective metrics used by the College Board for ongoing governance.

Achievements

From a financial perspective the College is on track for its first operating surplus since moving to the Knox site and is actively looking at further capital investment. 20% of the initial \$1 million loan provided by the PCV to assist in the move has now been repaid and we are well within our debt per student thresholds.

The College has also been consistently growing. Enrolments passed 500 students this year, which represents a 25% increase since the move. The Junior and Middle Schools are effectively at capacity with waiting lists in different year levels. The Senior School is growing with an additional class to begin operation in 2014.

From an educational perspective the College has also performed well. In June, when this year's NAPLAN results were published, St Andrews was listed within the top 50 of all schools in the nation for every category for which the College was eligible. In particular, the College ranked 18th nationally for all coeducational schools with 15 of the 17 higher ranked institutions being selective enrolment schools.

Organisationally, the College has now been restructured into a Junior, Middle and Senior School model, to lay the foundations for ongoing growth. The community is also strengthening, based on the trends noted in our annual survey of parents and the wider community. Satisfaction in the performance and ongoing operations of the College are good and trending positively.

The results of these measures are excellent and very important to those, like the Board, who are concerned with the ongoing health and stewardship of the College. They are also a testament to the wonderful efforts of the Principal, Mrs Catriona Wansbrough, and her staff.

The College Mission

These numbers do not, however, tell the entire story of St Andrews. The real story of St Andrews cannot be articulated in numbers on a balance sheet or in NAPLAN statistics. It lies in the mission of the College to share the gospel and to disciple the next generation of the Kingdom of God.

In recent times the traditional mechanisms for reaching out to youth, both inside and outside of the Church, have become less effective as the outlets for children have increased in number. Attendance at youth groups, sporting clubs and other such social activities are in decline and the gospel is systematically excluded from the curriculum in secular schools.

In this context, a Christian school, where attendance and attention is required, is an effective mechanism for sharing the gospel. At St Andrews the curriculum is based on a biblical worldview and devotional time is set aside to focus on issues of faith. At the same time, critical thinking regarding issues of faith is encouraged to give students

the best opportunity to explore their faith and own it for themselves rather than rely on the faith of their parents or Church family. This also gives our students a grounding to stand strong in their Christian values in the face of a humanistic society, becoming leaders who influence others for Christ.

Christian Schooling

In summary, St Andrews is a case study that demonstrates the value of Christian Schooling.

- From a financial perspective it is profitable and more than able to provide a return on the initial seed capital provided.
- From an educational perspective it demonstrates that excellent outcomes can be achieved without the need for high fees or sophisticated facilities.
- From a spiritual perspective it shows that a school is an effective ministry tool for sharing the gospel with the youth in our society.

Belgrave Heights and Kings College are equally compelling examples. These institutions were each established by people of faith with a God-given passion to reach out with the word of God to the children in their community.

Unfortunately the maximum capacity of St Andrews is 650 students. Each school has a limit to the number of children that can be accommodated. The challenge for both the College and the Church is how to take advantage of this ministry opportunity and expand the reach of Christian Schooling.

In light of the successful outcomes demonstrated at St Andrews over recent years, we request that the Assembly consider the opportunity for ministry that Christian education represents. Just as the establishment of new Churches is an active and proper concern of the Assembly we believe that the establishment and furtherance of Christian Education should also be prayerfully considered.

Acknowledgements

The St Andrews College Board, parent community and staff body pass on their thanks and acknowledgement for the support of the PCV. We acknowledge the ongoing advice of the Trusts Corporation in helping ensure the College remains financially stable and the assistance of the Education Commission in helping ensure high standards of governance.

Finally, we give thanks to God who established the College three decades ago and continues to bless and lead the College today.

James Bligh
CHAIRMAN

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE (Min. 101)

The publication of the December, 2012, edition of *fellow workers* presented the church with its first full colour issue, fulfilling, to a large extent, the desire of the committee to produce a magazine that was attractive not only because of its content but also because of its presentation.

As in previous years, we are indebted to our editor, Mrs Chiara Bilyj, for her efforts in reaching and maintaining that quality of readability.

The very next issue, March, 2013, saw a further improvement when *fellow workers* moved from a 12 page to a 16 page magazine. This was made possible with the active cooperation of the National Director of Australian Presbyterian World Mission, Rev Kevin Murray and the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission, Rev Stuart Bonnington, both of whom were keen to increase the level of prayerful interest in the spread of the gospel both within and without Australia.

This increase in volume led to an unexpectedly large increase in the cost of production which, had it continued, would have taken the Committee well over its budget. However, once again due to the contributions of APWM and PIM, as well as the diligence of Mr Mike Timmins, it appears that those costs have been contained, much to the relief of the Convener and the Trusts Corporation!

After the matter was raised with the committee by the editor, it has been decided, in view of the discretionary nature of its provision, to discontinue the website. Previous issues of *fellow workers* can easily be obtained from the Editor.

The last two issues of 2012 and the first two of 2013 have seen the inclusion of news from all of the state's presbyteries except one, with Maroondah taking out the title of 'Most Publicity Minded Presbytery'.

This year also brings to an end Mr Kevin Childs' membership of the committee. Kevin's contributions have, over many years, been consistent, appreciated and encouraging. We express our thanks to him.

Neil Harvey
CONVENER

State News Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Advertising	780
Common Fund Interest	6,200
General Mission Programme	4,497
Total Income	11,477

Expenditure:

Depreciation	453
Newsletter Production Costs	9,984
Total Expenditure	10,436

Surplus on General Operations

1,041

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	50,471
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	1,041
Add back Depreciation	453
Balance 30/6/13	51,965

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Min. 77)

The TEC continues to be grateful to God for the resources He has entrusted to the denomination for the training of our pastors and for the gifted faculty He has provided for that purpose. The Principal, Faculty and Staff have all served ably and diligently over the last twelve months in a very demanding context, and through their efforts the PTC continues to be a place that prepares and equips our ministers and others for the service of God's people through teaching His word.

Old Testament Lecturer

As the Assembly knows after many years faithful and distinguished service Rev Dr Greg Goswell resigned from the College at the end of last year to commence work at the NSW College. The TEC, having advertised the position of Old Testament Lecturer from January 2013, received four applications for the position and interviewed three candidates. As a result of those interviews it is with pleasure and gratitude to God that the TEC brings to the Assembly the name of Rev Dr Jared Hood [Dip Chris Stud, BTh (Hons), Dip Theol (Past Min), MTh (ACTh), ThM (Westminster, 1st), Grad DiplS, MA (Th), PhD (Melb)] for appointment as the Old Testament Lecturer. Dr Hood is well known to the Assembly and many of its members have already benefited from his teaching. He was the outstanding candidate for the position and his presentation on preaching Christ from the Old Testament [required of all applicants] was both learned and encouraging.

Candidates

The Principal has indicated that we have had an encouraging number of men applying to be candidates for the ministry and seeking to enrol in the College. Nevertheless we are well short of the numbers the MDC in previous Assembly reports have indicated are needed just to replace ministers who will retire in the coming years, let alone commence new work. The TEC cannot generate candidates, nor can the Faculty, although we have a role in creating a college where people will want to study in preparation for ministry and in producing graduates who will persevere in faithful preaching that will itself, under God, encourage others suitably gifted to take on training. But it is congregations from which candidates come, and we would encourage ministers and Sessions to put before suitably gifted men the needs of God's people for Pastors and teachers, and ask all of us to ask the risen Lord Jesus to give us such men.

Committee's needs

The TEC expresses its thanks to all who have served on the Committee over the past 12 months, especially our retiring members Phil Daffy and Mark Smith. We are also grateful for Rev Ivan Barker and Chris Siriweera for coming on to the Committee during the year. The committee, however, continues to be understaffed, and particularly lacking in some of the skills we need to manage and develop the College. We do not really need more ministers on the Committee at the present time. We need people with particular skills in higher education, property and finance to help us manage and maintain the property, give appropriate oversight of the educational activities of the College, and raise and manage funds for the College's development. The Faculty, who are doing a great job, need and deserve the support of a well balanced governing committee who can give both time and skills to ensure the orderly development and continuing compliance of the college with external accrediting agencies.

In a personal aside, as Convener I continue to wonder about the wisdom of our committee system which entrusts the running of busy and complex enterprises requiring long term planning and investment to ministers who are also busy in their congregations, often in contexts where their congregations need their undivided attention if they are going to grow. It creates, in my experience, delays and frustrations in the administration of the enterprise (felt both by the College and the Church Office), and competition with the needs of the parish for time and attention. This may be just my own experience of what is a busy committee, but I note it to invite further reflection on how we might improve the running of activities that are essential to the whole denomination.

Property

Last year we raised the need to expand the library and our hope to develop a new Master Plan for the College property. We have not yet been able to attend to either of these needs, and the needs of the Library are now acute. The view of the TEC is that the TEC has neither the finances nor the personnel to develop the property, and will not be able to do so without help either from within the PCV or from external sources. The TEC is therefore proposing that more expertise from across the denomination is enlisted from the outset to assist with the planning of the property and its development and is seeking permission to bring to the Commission of Assembly names for what would be a sub-committee of the TEC that could advance the development of a Master Plan for the property and ways of funding the implementation of that Master Plan. This sub-committee, which would have the Principal and another member of the TEC amongst its members, would have the advantage of being able to focus just on the development of the Master Plan without being burdened by any of the routine activities of the TEC. It would report to the Assembly through the TEC.

If the College is going to make and execute plans that will keep its property as one that serves the training of ministers by providing for a first rate theological education over the next two decades then it will need the support of the whole denomination, and for this reason we desire the Assembly's permission and support in establishing a sub-committee to consider the Master Plan and bring a separate report to the Assembly.

Budget

The College is currently running a deficit budget. This can be turned around with an increase in enrolments in the coming years, and that is our hope. We are grateful for the help of the BIF and office in examining our costs and helping prepare the budget, and also for the support shown. Despite our budget position we are committed to bringing the funding of the Training Officer within the committee's budget and out of GMP. In our current circumstance we would not be able to do this in one year as it would involve too great a drain on available funds. The plan, unless our budgetary position improves, is to do this over the next three to six years. We want to thank the Metro Committee for their help over the next three years with this. Our plan is to increase the TEC funding of the Training Officer [currently one third TEC, Metro and GMP] by \$10,000 per year over the next three years, and at the end of three years assess whether we can fund the final third ourselves or seek the continuing help of the GMP committee while we continue the same rate of increasing the funding from our own budget.

PTC media

PTC Media was established from July 1 2004, and Mrs Mignon Goswell was the foundation manager who got PTC Media up and running and who then continued to develop the service offered to the College and the denomination through PTC Media. All of us, I suspect, have patronised PTC Media at some time over the last nine years and been the beneficiaries of Mrs Goswell's personable and efficient service, whether it has been buying books and CDs at Assembly, ordering materials over the phone, or obtaining the works of the speakers at the conferences the PTC has run over that time. Now that she is retiring from the position to join Rev Dr Goswell in Sydney the TEC wishes to express its thanks for her service to the College and the Assembly and the drive she has shown in starting and continuing PTC Media.

The TEC is very conscious that the world of media and communications changes very rapidly, whether that is the means by which students purchase books or the public access the offerings of the College, and so we have decided to take Mrs Goswell's retirement from PTC Media as an opportunity to review the functions and means of delivery of PTC Media within the College's overall strategy as that strategy is itself developed in the coming year.

Accommodation

The accommodation units continue to be a great blessing to the college and the student community. Accommodation at a reasonable cost is however a scarce resource and so we continue to review the operation of the units to ensure that they meet the College's goals for them – facilitating the study of candidates and contributing to the community life of the college. We are working on the development of a policy that will mean the units are available for full time students, with a priority for candidates, especially those who would otherwise have to travel long distances to the college, or have had to move to commence their studies at the College.

Neil Chambers
CONVENER

TRAINING OFFICER Together Training Trainers

1. Pre college/ METRO

In many ways the work of identifying future gospel workers may not appear to be particularly exciting. It involves many hours of talking, drinking coffee and praying. As easy as this sounds it is a vital and time consuming work. We need to continue to pray that God will raise up people who desire to serve Jesus in full-time gospel vocations.

We have a number of churches that are intentionally identifying people and preparing them for full-time ministry. This, in addition with our partnerships with 'AFES', 'MTS' and 'Geneva Push', means that quite a number of future gospel workers are being identified. I praise God for all their efforts and long for more.

METRO continues to be both an encouragement and an administrative challenge, especially as we navigate the implications of recent federal tax rulings. We currently have five funded trainees and ten youthmetro trainees. A number of our former trainees have decided to come to the PTC and candidate. Please pray for them. Refer to the METRO report for more information or visit

2. College

My ministry at the college consists of a time of discipleship with our candidates, overseeing their practical placements and teaching a number of practical subjects.

My great desire in our discipleship time is to ensure that our candidate's spiritual formation continues. This year we have been working through Jerry Bridges book 'Respectable Sins' and I count it a privilege to be involved in their spiritual development. It is a slow work with discussions turning to sermon reviews, matters of ministry skills or theological development as it relates to forming an intentional discipling ministry.

In addition to meeting with the candidates, I oversee their practical placements or SFE. SFE stands for "Supervised Field Education". As part of SFE candidates have their sermons reviewed, attend college mission, attend one summer placement of 4-6 week and are placed in a church for two years as an SFE placement. If you are interested in having a candidate for a two year SFE placement then please contact me.

My final area of responsibility at the college, this year, has been the teaching of a number of practical subjects (congregational field education, pastoral care field education and introductory preaching).

3. Broader Church

I continue to meet with some of our most recent exit appointments. They are a quality group of men that are a blessing to their congregations. I am grateful for the continued opportunity that I have to work with them and for the mutual encouragement that comes from working with them. As a general rule those that have been exited to a team ministry have not seen the need to meet with me as often. This is entirely understandable. In addition to meeting with our recent exited students, I try to made contact with all our recent graduates at least once a month.

I generally do not run a lot of weekend training courses. I prefer to work with individual ministers asking them to identify specific ways I can help them in their task of being intentional disciple makers.

To that end, I have worked with the Broadford and Tatura Churches helping them, over two weekends, to develop their young preachers. What a genuine joy that was. I am continuing to help a church implement their 'Embers to Flame' project. I pray that our time together has been helpful to them as we seek to develop healthy churches that are intentional about making disciples. If you are interested in being assisted in revitalising your church via the "Embers to a flame" process then please contact me.

A new venture has been the formation of a weekly meeting of 5 pastors. During this time we seek to encourage each other to 'preach the Gospel to ourselves daily.' This has been a wonderful time of caring and training as we assist each other in our discipling ministries.

Last year a number of us established the Engage Conference of which I am the chairperson. The 'Engage' conference seeks to train youth leaders, and future

leaders, to have Bible focused and gospel driven ministries. The best way to do this is to teach the Bible well and to model how to teach the Bible well. The Engage conference features three main parts: strand groups, electives and Bible talks. Strand groups are the heart of “Engage.” In strand groups, delegates will learn to teach the Bible well. To learn more about “Engage” please visit <http://engageyouthleaders.org.au/>

It has also be my privilege to help run an XEE launch event and to train a number of people in this evangelistic tool. I have also run a Kids EE training weekend. To hear your stories of how these two tools have impacted your ministries is a cause of prayerful thanksgiving. Moreover, our association with EE has led to Narelle and I being invited to teach at their recent “Pacific Internship” in Fiji. It was wonderful to see young people from all over the world taking God’s call to serve Him in the gospel seriously. There are tentative plans for Narelle and me to return next year.

If you are at all interested in being better equipped as a disciple-maker, being trained to revitalise your church, evangelism or the training of preachers then please contact me. I would appreciate the opportunity to chat with you and to see if there might be some way in which I could be of assistance to your ministry.

Nello Barbieri

FACULTY

Introduction

This is my second report to the General Assembly since assuming the role of Principal of the College at the beginning of 2012. I wish to thank our faculty and staff for their warm encouragement of me. I feel privileged to serve in my role and I am especially grateful for such capable, enterprising and loyal fellow-workers.

I also wish to record my thanks to Dr Douglas Milne, my immediate predecessor, for his generous support of me and to Dr Allan Harman, another former Principal, for his helpful advice and friendship throughout the last year.

College Commencement and Conferral of Degrees

The 2013 academic year commenced on 15 February in the Werner Brodbeck Hall in the Assembly Hall building. The change of venue was designed to make it easier for people in the metropolitan area to travel to the event. We also wished to hold the ceremony in the setting of the Assembly Hall since the College is the servant of the General Assembly of Victoria, its major sponsor. From 1978 until the early 1980s, when the College was located at 156 Collins St, the College graduation took place in the Assembly Hall. We saw the shift back to the Assembly Hall as reverting to a precedent that was more accessible to the wider church. The service in 2014 will be held in the same venue.

We are grateful to the Scots’ Church for allowing us to use the Werner Brodbeck Hall as well as the Robert White Hall upstairs for the reception. Our guest speaker for the occasion was Dr Bruce Winter, the former principal of QTC. Dr Mark Harding, the Dean and CEO of the ACT, was also a special guest and addressed the gathering.

Accreditation

The College underwent a process of re-accreditation with the Australian College of Theology in 2012 and retains its present status until 30 December 2016. The College is now authorized to offer 27 different diplomas and degrees, ranging from a Diploma of Ministry to the Doctorate of Theology. The main courses that we offer are a series of graduate diplomas, the Bachelor of Ministry, the Bachelor of Theology, the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theology, the Master of Theology and the Doctor of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy.

The College is also in negotiation with the ACT to plan for the establishment of a WA campus, an online diploma and a specific Chinese course under the direction of Dr Chung. This latter course will be in addition to his present teaching responsibilities.

Enrolments

The College began this year with 52 students (+5 on the previous term), of whom 21 were full-time and 31 part-time. There were 12 Presbyterian candidates for the ministry, of whom 7 were full-time and 5 part-time.

In second semester enrolments increased slightly to 59 students (+ 7 on the previous term), 15 full-time and 44 part-time.

We have also recently enrolled a ThD candidate from the Lutheran Church of Australia in the field of New Testament studies and the Lutheran Church is very happy for his candidature to proceed through the PTC Victoria.

The College also offered short courses in the evenings. In first semester Dr Felix Chung taught the Chinese short course on Expository Studies in the book of Acts. 20 people attended this course. Dr John Wilson also taught a short course in Church History, entitled 'Walking with the Giants', that attracted around 60 students. Both the short courses were well received and the evaluations were encouraging.

In second semester Dr Chung taught a Chinese short course on 'Theology for Everyday Life'. This course drew 20 students.

The MA (Theol) Intensive, taught by Dr Guy Waters from Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, created significant interest. Approximately 115 people attended the Wednesday night public lecture during this course. The course itself generated \$23,000 in fees. Dr Waters has agreed to return in 2015 to teach a course in Biblical Theology, focusing on the unfolding of God's plans through His covenants.

Administrative Positions

The following administrative positions are held within the College – Rev Peter Hastie (Principal and Pastoral Dean), Dr Jared Hood (Academic Dean), Dr Tony Bird (Postgraduate Dean), Dr Jared Hood (Librarian), Dr Felix Chung (Pastoral Studies and Missions Co-ordinator/Projects Supervisor/Director of Postgraduate Studies), Rev Nello Barbieri, (Assembly Training Officer), Mrs Alicia Noble (Administrative Officer), Mrs Sophia Urbano (Registrar) and Mrs Heather Rickard (Assistant Librarian). The faculty meet as a team weekly to read the Bible, pray and discuss the work of the College. The staff also meets on regular basis to pray, read the Bible, plan and build stronger relationships within the College. A good team spirit has developed.

Staff in 2013

With the departure of Dr Greg Goswell in late 2012 and Dr Tony Bird taking sabbatical leave, Dr Bruce Winter, Dr Allan Harman, Dr Douglas Milne, Rev Martin Pakula and Rev Mark Smith were invited to lecture at the College in semesters one and two in 2013. Dr John Wilson also taught church history and Dr Karl Hood taught courses in foundations of pastoral care and pastoral skills. The TEC endorsed all these arrangements.

Teaching Staff

The following Faculty were lecturing in the College throughout 2013:

Semester one – Rev Peter Hastie, Dr Jared Hood, Dr Felix Chung, Rev Nello Barbieri. Adjunct lecturers – Dr Bruce Winter, Dr Allan Harman, Dr Douglas Milne, Dr John Wilson, Dr Karl Hood, Rev Martin Pakula, Ms Wendy Bytheway and Ms Gillian Asquith

Semester two – Rev Peter Hastie, Dr Jared Hood, Dr Felix Chung, Rev Nello Barbieri, Adjunct Lecturers – Dr Douglas Milne, Dr Allan Harman, Dr Bruce Winter, Rev Mark Smith, Ms Gillian Asquith. MA Intensive – Dr Guy Waters.

Teaching Program

The full program for the Graduate Diploma, Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity has run throughout the year. In addition, two short courses have been run in each semester. Dr Bruce Winter also taught an MA(Theol) subject in semester one on 'Theology and Practice in 1 Corinthians' based on a study of the text and background documents. In Semester 2 Dr Guy Waters, from RTS Jackson, took an MA (Theol) Intensive in late July entitled, 'The True Perspective on Paul' based on Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Post-graduate Seminars

Several post-graduate seminars have been scheduled for 2013. The first one took place in semester one, and two others have occurred in semester two. Presenters were: Kevin Maxwell, John Dekker and Bruce Riding.

Academic Issues

Throughout 2012-13 the staff addressed a number of issues that have the potential to extend the range and the accessibility of our academic program.

1. Intensives

The first issue that the staff reviewed was the academic load for students who are Presbyterian candidates. The load of courses at each of the Presbyterian colleges in Victoria, NSW and Queensland has risen significantly over the last few decades. The main reason behind the increase has been the decision by the Australian College of Theology to introduce the semester system a number of years ago. Subjects are now taken on a semester basis, as opposed to a full year, and consequently the demands imposed by assignments have in some cases almost doubled. This has meant that students are now engaged in considerably more research and writing than they were a decade or so ago.

The Faculty spent considerable time devising a plan that would ensure that the GAA College Committee requirements for course content in each subject were met, while at the same time decreasing the pressure of academic load on students during the normal semester time-frame.

The solution that the Faculty proposed was to hold a series of intensives prior to the start of each academic year throughout a candidate's training. These intensives include such subjects as study skills, grammar and language, biblical theology, introduction to Greek language, polity, apologetics, Christian worship, introduction to Hebrew language, philosophy, ethics and Presbyterian Church History.

The first stage of this program was held in early February 2013. The concentrated instruction period over two weeks and the different assessment methods enabled students to complete several subjects satisfactorily before first semester commenced, thus reducing their stress throughout February to May 2013. Keeping the academic load at a reasonable level certainly helped to improve the learning environment within the College.

2. Timetable

In 2013 we have introduced a three-day timetable for lectures, running from Tuesday to Thursday each week. Lectures also run on each of the evenings. Our rationale for introducing this change was cut students' travel time during the week, provide more space for uninterrupted reading, reflection and writing, enable students to prepare for week-end ministry and also time to rest and recover after the demands of preaching and pastoral care, as well as to afford our part-time students more opportunities to undertake evening courses.

3. E-Learning

The Faculty has also decided to roll-out an E-learning program in 2014 to expand the range of services that we are able to offer to the wider church. While other colleges have already entered this field we have been concerned to ensure that we produce a user-friendly e-platform for any course that we offer. Some delivery platforms that we have observed have not been particularly satisfactory. Details of this course, which has some attractive content, will become available soon.

Spiritual Formation

The College Faculty believes that the study of Christian theology must issue in godliness, worship and mission. To this end, we have sought to integrate a range of activities within the academic programs to facilitate this process.

A voluntary student prayer meeting is held weekly.

Chapel services are held daily where members of the College meet for prayer, praise, Bible reading and preaching. Staff and students have shared the preaching responsibility in semesters one and two. We have also invited guest preachers from the Presbyterian Church, missionary agencies, international visitors, as well as speakers of special interest. We have had the State Moderator visit twice, the Clerk of the General Assembly on two occasions, representatives from Pioneers, Christian Witness to Israel, Rev Conrad Mbewe from Zambia, Chaplains to the Defence Force, local Presbyterian ministers and a number of specialist speakers on subjects such as bioethics and the worldwide persecution of the church.

Every Thursday the Chapel service is based around 10 minute video presentation from the mission field, entitled 'Dispatches From the Front', followed by 15 minutes of prayer, involving staff and students in prayer triplets. This has proved very popular. Even students who do not have lectures on this day will often come to College to attend chapel. In first and second semesters we have had 17 episodes

where we have visited churches in Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Albania, Romania and Nepal. Our aim is to engender within students a passion to fulfil the Great Commission and a burden for a lost world and to remind them that our only hope.

Rev Nello Barbieri makes a special contribution to the life of College students and the wider church as the Assembly Training Officer (see his separate report to the Assembly). In this capacity he meets with students on an individual basis to mentor and prepare them for a life of Christian service in the ministry of the Word. He meets with Presbyterian candidates (12 in total) by arrangement, as well as a number of other students. He has also conducted training sessions for a number of our churches and plays an important role in METRO and Presbyterian Youth.

Ministry Formation

One of the most important elements in developing a ministry mindset and identity is through the ACT subject of Ministry Formation, taught by the Principal. This course explores the biblical and theological foundations of ministry, the idea of calling, the imperative of Gospel-preaching, and the ideals and ethics associated with pastoral office. This course has been popular with students.

In addition, the Training Officer also mentors seven candidates who are in the supervised field education program (SFE). He meets with these candidates on an individual basis and maintains contact with their supervisors. All Presbyterian candidates are required to attend the annual College mission where they gain first-hand experience in preaching, leading public worship and Bible study groups, children's ministry, evangelism, and home visitation. Dr Felix Chung has responsibility for the Mission program, which normally involves a six-month work-up.

Candidates' Wives

Throughout 2012-13, many of the wives of Presbyterian candidates have met regularly for Bible study, prayer, and mutual support. These meetings take place twice a month – one during the day and one in the evening.

They hold two planning meetings each year at the beginning of each semester. On occasions, the group has invited guest speakers who have addressed them on important issues relating to their future ministries. The Principal's wife attends these meetings to provide support and encouragement to the group.

College Mission

In July 2013, Drs. Felix Chung and Jared Hood led six students on the College mission to Darwin Presbyterian Church to engage in ten days of ministry. Preparations for the mission took place from February to July 2013 and included a presentation from Rev Martin de Pyle on army chaplaincy. Students preached in a several Presbyterian churches – Kormilda, Palmerston and Bees Creek churches - and engaged in evangelism in the Darwin city centre, Nightcliff, Coolinga and Palmerston markets. They also attended Robertson Army Barracks to meet soldiers and to receive a briefing from the Chaplains. They also attended a briefing on indigenous missions in the Northern Territory. The College is grateful for the assistance of Rev Rob Duncanson and his wife, Jeanette, in making the mission such a helpful exercise.

Ministry Conference

At our annual Ministry Conference in March, 85 people attended the program. Dr Bruce Winter gave the Bible studies on 'The Pastoral Paradigm' in 1 Corinthians. Dr Andrew Reid from Holy Trinity, Doncaster, gave three studies on Old Testament biblical theology, Dr Noel Weeks spoke twice on ANE studies and the implications for biblical studies and Dr Peter Moore made several presentations on what can be learned from Chrysostom and Calvin on preaching. We also had a guest panel that addressed a range of pastoral issues.

Special Events

One of the highlights of the year was the visit of Dr Ligon Duncan, the Chancellor-Elect of Reformed Theological Seminary in the USA. Dr Duncan attended the College in early September and on Friday 6 September addressed a variety of issues that were of interest to those involved in the teaching ministry of the church.

Australian College of Theology

Rev Peter Hastie and Dr Jared Hood attended the annual Consortium Conference in Sydney in June 2013. This is a valuable meeting that involves a significant interchange of information on the present higher education context, best practice in teaching and learning at a tertiary level, ACT academic data, business planning and cost of program change, board – faculty relationships and planning for strategic change in theological education. One of the most useful aspects of the conference is the extent to which we are able to engage with other educators in theological education on an informal basis.

One of the interesting aspects of the Conference was the report by Dr Mark Harding, the Dean and CEO of the ACT, which revealed that the federal government accreditation agency, TEQSA, rates the ACT as one of the top providers of tertiary education in Australia. The ACT is more highly regarded than many of our universities for its quality of degrees etc.

Professional Development

Dr Tony Bird has taken study leave in semesters one and two, 2013, and has visited Tyndale House, Cambridge. He is completing a book on the subject of miracles in the New Testament and has attended an intensive course at the Cornhill School of Preaching, which is sponsored by the Proclamation Trust.

Engagement with the Denomination

The College staff plays a significant role in the denomination. Apart from their work at the College, which is quite intense and demanding, they also maintain commitments in the wider church.

Rev Peter Hastie attends Bundoora Presbyterian Church and has preached in more than twenty different churches in both Melbourne and regional Victoria. He has attended the ordination and inductions of Richard Wilson (Valley Presbyterian), Stuart Withers (Rochester) and Adam Humphries (Brimbank). He participates in the Presbytery of Melbourne North (when available) and attends the Ministers' Family Camp at Phillip Island. He participated at the recent Religious Colloquium in Melbourne as one of the speakers. He is a member of the GAA College Committee and compiled the report on the QTC after a visitation with Dr Ian Smith and Mr Bill MacRae in March 2013. He also convenes the Victorian Sub-Committee of the Reception of Ministers' Committee and serves on the National Journal Committee.

Dr Jared Hood serves the Assembly as Business Convener and is Interim Moderator for Essendon-Clifton Hill. Jared also preaches from time to time in a number of Presbyterian congregations.

Dr Felix Chung attends Canterbury Presbyterian Church and is a member of the Presbytery of Melbourne East. He has spoken at a number of Church Family Camps, a Missions Conference and has been invited to preach in more than ten Chinese and evangelical churches in and around Melbourne throughout the last year.

Dr Tony Bird plays an active role in Donvale Presbyterian Church and convenes the Ministry Development Committee and Dr Felix Chung maintains active contacts with Chinese churches in Melbourne.

Rev Nello Barbieri attends Bundoora Presbyterian Church, is a member of the Presbytery of Melbourne North. He has served there as the Moderator in 2013. He is in constant contact with ministers of the church and runs seminars and consultancies on a regular basis. He is a member of the Assembly Church-Planting Committee, METRO and PY.

Dr Douglas Milne plays an active role in Canterbury church and leads a weekly Bible study. He is also the author of the 15,000 word report on Federal Vision for the General Assembly. This has been a massive work and is a tribute to his scholarship and commitment to assisting the wider church.

From July to November both staff and students will be visiting around thirty Presbyterian churches throughout the state, at no cost to the local churches, to preach and to share with the churches the ministry of the College in the life of the denomination. We have been pleased by the high rate of take-up of our invitation to serve the churches of Victoria in this way. We wish to build solid partnerships within the denomination all around the state.

Engagement with Wider Church

Since October 2012 the Principal has represented the College at the Geneva Push Church-Planting Conference at Erina, NSW, the Wattle Park Gospel Chapel, various ACT meetings in Sydney, the CMI Conference in Melbourne (as a speaker) and preached at the Ridley College Chapel. He continues to provide interviews for AP and is a Trustee of the Geneva Trust.

Dr Jared Hood serves as the editor of The Reformed Theological Review. Jared performs a vital role in maintaining theological direction and certainty within the church. He has also contributed an article to The Churchman, 'The Methodical George Whitefield'. He represents the College on the important Academic Committee of the ACT, which makes recommendations on curriculum and course design.

Dr Felix Chung represents the College on the Research and Ethics Committee at the ACT and serves as the Chinese moderator for courses in Chinese offered by the ACT. He has been a guest speaker at the Sydney College of Divinity Conference in 2013 on Mandarin Theological Education in Australia. This year he has published a book, 'Missions, Multiculturalism and Hermeneutic' in Chinese, and has contributed three academic articles to His Way Journal, 'The Challenges of Entering the Mission

Field', 'The Biblical Foundations of Short-Term Missions' and 'The Biblical Concept of Missions'.

Practical Training

Over the last year I have become I have become concerned that there are limited training requirements for candidates in their first two years in the SFE program. Apart from the requirement that they preach twice and have their sermons reviewed by faculty, there is no mandated study program and no specific responsibilities that they need to fulfil. This means that the default position is that there is no clear expectation provided to the supervising minister in terms of any planned training arrangements. This is hardly a satisfactory situation and needs to change.

It seems to me that we are losing a lot of valuable time in the first two years of training, especially if candidates have not come through an MTS program prior to coming to College. We are wasting too many critical learning opportunities. The end-result is that candidates have had no reading program or discussion/coaching with a supervising minister in the areas of prayer, pastoral vocation, preaching, training/discipling and pastoral strategy. The result is that by third year our students are academically oriented but tend to be undeveloped in a practical sense. Commencing in 2014 we intend to introduce some additional requirements that mean that supervising ministers will play a greater role in the development of students, especially in the areas of the development of prayer, preaching, training/discipling and pastoral strategy.

John Paton Fellowship

The JPF is the fellowship of students at the College. Luke Brownley is the president, Stephen Jones is the social events organiser, Daniel Dixon serves as treasurer and Mario Kasih is the Prayer Co-ordinator. This group plays an important role in the life of the College, especially in organising social events for staff and students and for arranging support for missionaries that we support – Lazlo and Eva Mihalyi in Europe and Daniel and Courtney Denness in Nepal.

Need for Candidates

I have been impressed by the quality of the students that we have at the College, especially those who graduated in 2012. The College has done a fine job in preparing them for the ministry. However, there are simply not enough of them. We need many more.

One of the pressing needs facing the church is the need for candidates from within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. It should be of some concern that many of our students do not come from within the denomination.

Further, quite a few of the candidates that do come from within the denomination tend to come from some predictable sources. It would be good if we saw a rise in the number of Presbyterian students from Victoria and Tasmania coming to the College to study for the ministry as well as an increase in women students and those who wish to be better equipped within their congregations in ministries of the Word that supported the minister.

Jesus reminds us that the solution to this problem lies in persistent and effectual prayer: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field." (Matthew 9:37, 38) It would be

good if the Presbyterian Church of Victoria instituted in 2014 at least four major meetings for prayer for a new generation of ministers, at least two of which should be held in Melbourne and two in regional Victoria. The meetings could also serve as opportunities to pray for new church planting and church revitalisation.

College Property

The Library Facilities have almost reached their current limit and the usage of the house at the rear of the property needs to be re-considered in the light of student accommodation needs. My hope is that in 2014 we will complete a strategic plan for the College as well as a master plan for the property.

During the Christmas vacation 2012-13 a significant amount of work was done on the property, but an overall assessment needs to be done in the next twelve months.

Thank you

I would like to record my thanks to the TEC, especially its Convener, Rev Neil Chambers, for its warm support of me, the staff and students of the College. I am deeply grateful for their constant encouragement. I would also like to thank the staff in the Church Office for their helpfulness, both to me and to the College. I am particularly indebted to David Palmer, Michael Ellison and Dr John Wilson for their generous assistance.

The Faculty and the staff at the College are a very able team who perform cheerfully at a high level, even though they often work under greater constraints than other institutions. They have a very high commitment to the church and to the mission that we have been charged with by the Assembly. I would like to record my special thanks to our hard-working and friendly office staff, Mrs Alicia Noble and Mrs Sophia Urbano, who make it a pleasure for staff and students to come to the College.

Peter Hastie
PRINCIPAL

Theological Education Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Bookshop Trading Profit	11,555
Common Fund Interest	222,266
Donations & Gifts	1,984
General Mission Program	88,580
Rental Income	73,558
Sundry Income	2,473
Tuition Fees	359,471
Total Income	759,888

Expenditure:

Accommodation Units Expenses	44,327
General Expenses	87,088
Library	51,952
Office	49,612
Personnel	425,884
Property	52,081
PTC Media Expenses	16,466
Training Officer	97,796
Total Expenditure	825,206

Surplus on General Operations

(65,318)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	1,493,036
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(65,318)
Add Back Depreciation	83,918
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	(12)
Assets Purchased (exc. Capital fund items)	(21,618)
Increase/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities	(11,361)
Increase/(Decrease) in Non-Current Liabilities	(8,975)

Balance 30/6/13

1,469,671

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/13

965,159

Theological Education Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2013

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Library Trusts</u>	<u>Fernside Trust</u>	<u>Bursary Trusts</u>	<u>Prizes Trusts</u>	<u>Diaconal</u>	<u>Miscella- neous Trusts</u>
Income:							
Common Fund Interest	10,021	11,876	133,158	82,072	13,996	15,938	30,020
Donations & Gifts	11,078	5,444	-	42,608	-	-	-
Total Income	21,099	17,319	133,158	124,680	13,996	15,938	30,020
Expenditure:							
Bursaries	-	-	-	37,621	-	8,005	12,000
Expenses paid from General Fund	-	(51,952)	-	-	-	-	-
Library Expenses	-	76,526	-	-	-	-	-
Manse Allowances	-	-	106,654	-	-	-	-
Missions Lecturer Stipend	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,490
Prizes	-	-	-	-	5,273	-	-
Property Expenses	38,788	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scholarships	-	-	-	129,574	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	38,788	24,574	106,654	167,194	5,273	8,005	37,490
Surplus on Specific Trusts	(17,688)	(7,255)	26,504	(42,515)	8,723	7,933	(7,470)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/12	87,542	-	-	176,983	82,689	129,078	212,510
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(17,688)	(7,255)	26,504	(42,515)	8,723	7,933	(7,470)
Plus Decrease (Increase) in Bank	1,286	3,314	-	-	-	-	-
Add back depreciation	-	3,941	-	-	-	-	-
Assets purchased	-	-	-	-	-	-	(10,133)
Index Perpetual Balances	-	-	(26,504)	-	-	-	-
Balance 30/6/13	71,140	-	-	134,468	91,412	137,011	194,907

Perpetual Funds

	<u>Library Trusts</u>	<u>Fernside Trust</u>	<u>Bursary Trusts</u>	<u>Prizes Trusts</u>	<u>Miscella- neous Trusts</u>
Balance 30/6/13	98,964	1,124,273	538,297	30,515	52,225

TRUSTS CORPORATION (Min. 32)

Introduction

The Trusts Corporation was formed by resolution of the General Assembly having been empowered to do so by the State of Victoria which enacted the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890. The main functions of the Trusts Corporation are to:

- Hold in trust the property, including money, belonging to the Church and also to hold congregational property where it has been so requested by the relevant congregation
- Establish a register of Trustees of Congregations
- Facilitate the conveyance and transfer of church property.

The Trusts Corporation is a corporate body and must act in accordance with the prevailing legislation including the provisions of the Trustee Act (Victoria) 1958 and the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890. The legislation sets out the manner in which trustees in general and the Trusts Corporation in particular must act. Responsibilities and obligations of the Trusts Corporation therefore include:

- Exercising care, diligence and skill in investing funds held in trust
- Exercising its powers in the best interests of all present and future beneficiaries of each trust
- Acting impartially towards beneficiaries and between different classes of beneficiaries

Under the 1890 Act as amended the Trusts Corporation may at its discretion invest funds either separately or in a Common Fund.

With very few exceptions, the Trusts Corporation does not have authority over the use of the funds, except to see that the funds are expended consistently with the intended purpose. It is the committees of the General Assembly and the congregations and presbyteries which have the power to authorise expenditure in accordance with the terms of the trust. The Trusts Corporation is responsible to manage and invest the funds which it holds in trust for the benefit of these other bodies.

Membership of the Trusts Corporation

The members of the Board of Investment and Finance form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

Investment Funds Held

The **funds held** by the Trusts Corporation include:

- i) Trust funds held on behalf of the General Assembly and its Committees
- ii) Trust Funds held on behalf of Congregations and PWMU
- iii) Sites Reserve Funds
- iv) Amounts held in relation to the Capital Fund
- v) Deposits held on behalf of Congregations
- vi) The Common Fund Reserve
- vii) The Common Fund Income Suspense Account.

Broadly speaking, **investment of these funds** is channelled in one of two ways at the discretion of the Trusts Corporation under the powers given to it by the 1890 Act (as amended). Funds may be either:

- a) separately invested on behalf of each individual trust. Each trust receives the income and capital gains or losses which arise from the investment of the funds which are made in the name of the trust, and
- b) invested in the Common Fund. These funds are grouped together and invested as a whole. It is not possible to identify individual investments relating to each trust. The Trusts Corporation in accordance with the 1890 Act (as amended 1965) determines the interest rate to be applied to each different type of fund. Capital gains and losses are borne by the Common Fund and are not charged against the individual trust balances.

The Common Fund

The Common Fund is a convenient mechanism for investing smaller sums collectively. By grouping them together an appropriate diversification of investment can be achieved to reduce the risk, while maximising income potential through having larger sums to invest.

Included in the Common Fund is a Reserve account to which any capital gains and losses are charged. This is called the Common Fund Reserve. The Common Fund Reserve provides a level of protection for the funds invested in the Common Fund against the loss of capital in times when the investment market experiences a downturn. The Common Fund Reserve also generates additional income which can be distributed across the funds which are invested in the Common Fund.

Investment returns generated by the Common Fund (including the Reserve) are distributed as interest to the beneficiaries of the various trusts at rates determined by the Trusts Corporation. Funds invested in the Common Fund are not entitled to capital gains (or losses).

Separate Investments

Funds in the hands of the Trusts Corporation will generally be invested separately where the funds are sufficiently large. The level which has been established in relation to Sites Reserve balances is \$1,000,000. Sites Reserve balances exceeding this figure will be invested separately. For other funds, a variety of factors are considered in determining whether to invest the funds separately.

Funds Held on Behalf of Committees, Congregations and Other Church Bodies

The investments which are managed for the benefit of the Committees of the Assembly and other church bodies are shown in the table below. These represent the funds available to the church for the support of its ministry. The Assembly has allocated the funds to each committee and given the committees authority to spend the funds within the specific purposes relevant to each trust and in accordance with the committee's regulations.

	June 2012	Balance as at 30 June 2013				
	Total Invested	Common Fund	Separate Investments	Total Funds Invested	% of Total	% Change
Social Services	16,071,023	407,284	18,556,927	18,964,211	23%	18%
Sites Reserve	16,393,327	11,096,785	6,457,071	17,553,855	21%	7%
GA - Beneficiary & Special	9,619,789	8,357,229	1,547,790	9,905,019	12%	3%
Congregations	8,039,556	630,963	7,737,604	8,368,567	10%	4%
General Assembly Operations	6,276,304	6,132,767	-	6,132,767	7%	-2%
Theological Education	4,964,768	4,908,043	-	4,908,043	6%	-1%
Ministry Development	5,132,286	4,335,662	-	4,335,662	5%	-16%
Health & Community						
Chaplaincy	2,681,766	1,612,137	1,283,346	2,895,483	4%	8%
Church Planting	2,001,149	2,173,339	-	2,173,339	3%	9%
Maintenance of the Ministry	1,958,538	1,998,502	-	1,998,502	2%	2%
Christian Education & Nurture	1,236,500	1,295,070	-	1,295,070	2%	5%
METRO	863,383	873,724	-	873,724	1%	1%
APWM (Victoria)	862,245	860,798	-	860,798	1%	0%
PWMU	662,297	685,011	-	685,011	1%	3%
Presbyterian Youth in Victoria	413,736	414,495	-	414,495	1%	0%
Church & Nation	344,738	361,478	-	361,478	0%	5%
State News	50,471	51,965	-	51,965	0%	3%
Total Deposits	77,571,877	46,195,252	35,582,737	81,777,989	100%	5.4%

Funds held in Trust on behalf of Committees, Congregations and other church bodies

Annual Results

The annual interest rates paid on amounts invested in the Common Fund for the year ended 30 June 2013 were:

Perpetual and Specific Trusts	12%
General Trusts – first \$600,000	12%
General Trusts - balance above \$600,000	4%
Sites Reserve accounts and Deposits - first \$600,000	8%
Sites Reserve accounts and Deposits - balance above \$600,000	4%

Common Fund interest rates paid on funds

In addition to the funds held on behalf of committees and other bodies the Common Fund Reserve which increased from \$19,902,772 to \$27,000,495; and the Income Suspense account of \$4,509,655 also form part of the investments.

Common Fund Movements

		\$
Opening Balance 1 July 2012		70,231,535
Net Income	4,285,241	
Capital Gains/(Losses)	6,805,563	
Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Assets	(109)	
		11,090,694
Distributions		(4,350,131)
Increase in Committee & Other Funds		733,304
Closing Balance 30 June 2013		77,705,402

The investment markets performed well in the year to June 2013 with the ASX 300 accumulation index gaining 22% (2012 loss of 7%). The performance of the Common Fund was approximately 15% (2012 loss of 1%) for the year.

The total funds invested by the Trusts Corporation at 30 June 2013 was \$113,288,139 (2012 \$102,341,463).

The Trusts Corporation will be happy to answer questions on the accounts at the Assembly. Because of the amount of detail in the accounts, it would appreciate notice being given so that accurate and full answers can be provided.

Investment Committee

The Trusts Corporation is responsible for ensuring that the investment of funds is prudent, and to periodically review the investment objectives and performance. The Investment Committee has met regularly throughout the year with our financial advisers and has continued to monitor the Trusts Corporation's investment portfolio in the light of our advisers' recommendations.

We work with appropriate asset allocation benchmarks and targets against which investment performance can be measured. We continue to give careful attention to maintaining ethical investment guidelines. Following the revision of the asset allocation targets which was reported last year, the adjustments to the portfolio were made over a number of months. The position of the Common Fund at 30 June is reflected in the table below.

Asset Classes	Portfolio %	Benchmark %	Range %
Australian Equities	39.4	40.0	37.5-42.5
International Equities	11.7	10.0	9.0-11.0
Fixed Interest Securities	44.2	45.0	42.5-47.5
Cash	4.7	5.0	3.0-7.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	

The default asset allocation for separately invested funds has been adjusted to 70% of the funds in growth assets (equities) and the balance in cash and fixed interest securities.

Insurance

The insurances for 2012/13 have been renewed with Ansvar Insurance Ltd. Overall premiums for policies for which the Trusts Corporation is responsible have increased by approximately 7% from the previous year.

Congregations are reminded that the local Board of Management is responsible for ensuring that adequate property insurance cover is arranged for church buildings. Each year the Trusts Corporation negotiates terms on an insurance policy with Ansvar, through OAMPS Insurance Brokers, which is available to all Boards for this

cover. Although the premium increases with respect to this policy have been significant this year, the Trusts Corporation still believes this is competitively priced, especially when considering the terms which have been negotiated on this policy. Boards are free to participate in this program or arrange the property cover elsewhere.

Bequests

The Trusts Corporation received the following bequest during the year which it recommends be allocated to the General Assembly for its general purposes:

Bequest from	Amount	Purpose
William Aitken	\$28,129	General Purposes

Scots' Church Properties Trust

A mediation under the terms of minute 63.1 of the October 2011 Assembly (BB page 130) was held on September 7 2012. The Hon Bruce McPherson, a retired judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and member of the Ann Street Presbyterian Church in Brisbane, was selected as the mediator under the process outlined in that minute.

In preparation for the mediation the Trusts Corporation prepared a comprehensive paper detailing the questions and issues as well as stating its position. This was prepared on an open basis and delivered to the Scots' Church Trustees in August 2012, encouraging them to respond in a similar manner. The paper went beyond the terms of defining questions and outlined a proposal to resolve the issues which are in dispute. The mediation was not successful.

At the request of the Scots' Church Trustees a second mediation under Hon Michael McHugh, a retired Justice of the High Court of Australia, was held on 4 December 2012. That mediation was also unsuccessful.

The mediations and related responses and correspondence from SCPT have been on a confidential and "without prejudice" basis.

It was with great regret that on 7 May 2013 a proposed Writ and Statement of Claim was sent to the Attorney-General requesting his fiat to issue proceedings in his name on the relation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation. The statement of claim was based on the position paper of August 2012 and subsequent material. The Attorney-General granted his fiat on 7th June 2013 subject to the Trusts Corporation undertaking to be responsible for any costs which may be ordered against the Attorney-General in the proceeding and confirmation that it is able to meet any such costs.

The Writ and Statement of Claim was lodged in the Supreme Court of Victoria on 25 June 2013 and served shortly after through the agency of the solicitor for the Scots' Church trustees.

At the time of writing this report, the trustees of the Scots' Church Properties Trust have not yet filed their defence. Once this is done we expect the Court to set a timetable for the matter to proceed.

The Trusts Corporation hopes that through this litigation the parties can overcome what has been a hindrance to the work and witness of the Church, and establish the basis for a better working relationship between the Scots' Church Properties Trust, the Trusts Corporation and the Church generally which will last long into the future.

Donaldson Trust

The Trusts Corporation is holding funds for the David and Sarah Donaldson Trust which are to be applied "for the benefit of Ministers of Religion and or their wives or widows who shall be in needy circumstances". These funds are administered by the Board of Investment and Finance. For some time the BIF has been concerned that the existence of this trust has not been widely known and has sought a way to address this and bring it to the broader attention of the denomination. Further inquiry has revealed that the will which established the trust stated that the trustee was to make regulations for administering the fund in a form acceptable to the Assembly. It appears that this has not been done previously.

The Trusts Corporation proposes the following guidelines for the administration of the trust and presents them to the Assembly for approval.

David and Sarah Donaldson Trust Fund - guidelines

1. The David and Sarah Donaldson Trust is administered by the Board of Investment and Finance.
2. The trust is for the benefit of Ministers of Religion and or their wives or widows who shall be in needy circumstances.
3. Enquiry as to possible access to the Trust funds is open to:
any minister (whether retired or serving) or their wives or widows, OR;
presbyteries, committees or individuals within the PCV on behalf of any minister, his wife or widow whom it is thought to be eligible according to the terms of the Trust.
4. All enquiries and any ensuing discussions will be held in strictest confidence.
5. Enquiries should be made to the General Manager of the PCV who will in the first instance advise what further actions or information may be appropriate. Enquiries may be made verbally or confidentially in writing. The General Manager will forward requests for assistance to the Board of Investment and Finance for consideration.
6. In considering requests the Board of Investment and Finance takes into account all the relevant circumstances in order to determine whether the situation can be considered as meeting the provision of the trust, specifically whether it constitutes "needy circumstances". In normal situations, it is considered within a minister's ability to meet most regular expenditures from his remuneration if he is full time, given he exerts reasonable care in his budgeting and expenditure. Therefore, a request may not be entertained if it transpires a history of fiscal carelessness was the primary cause of the "needy circumstances". Nevertheless, enquiries will always be reviewed in a spirit of flexibility and sensitivity as befits the intent of the Trust.
7. The Board of Investment and Finance, undertakes to be as generous as the terms of the Trust allow. Examples of situations where funds may be applied include such needs as funeral costs, unexpected loss of employment, significant medical expenses, matters arising from

family emergencies, etc.

8. Those who may be in need are encouraged to make enquiries as soon as the need is first discerned. Inquiries and requests need not be delayed until a minister, his wife or widow finds themselves in financially deprived or impoverished circumstances.

MDC Properties

In 2004 the former Home Missions Committee purchased a place of worship for the Bairnsdale Congregation. At the time the property was to be held in trust for the Home Missions Committee (2004 Blue Book p6). In 2005 the committee purchased a property to be used as a place of worship for the Ararat congregation (2005 Blue Book p108, 111).

The Ministry Development Committee has now resolved to relinquish any future claim on these properties and grant them for use by the respective congregations. In addition the Committee has requested the Trusts Corporation to arrange for these properties to be held under the Model Trust Deed.

The Model Trust Deed states that properties are held by the trustee upon trust for the religious purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to be used by such persons as the Assembly may from time to time direct, such persons being a congregation within the Church. The Trusts Corporation as trustee of these properties, proposes that the Assembly make the directions in accordance with the terms of the Model Trust Deed.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

COMMUNICATION 1 (Min. 68)

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

2013 Report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia And Communication to the State Churches.

"The urgent problem of the hour is how to organize and carry out effective evangelisation in the remote regions of our continent. In the western areas of New South Wales, in the north and the west of Queensland, in the Northern Territory and northern parts of South Australia, in all the vast territory outside the chief towns of Western Australia, the state of things can only be fairly described as spiritual destitution." Home Mission Committee report to the 1902 General Assembly of Australia.

While these remote regions have in some ways been tamed, there still remains an enormous void of the gospel in many remote parts of our country. As Australian Christians this evangelism of the whole of our country is our responsibility. The church as a whole takes up the remotest parts of this ministry through the agency of the PIM. The work is hard and the challenges are many, but we rejoice to report to the Assembly that through your mission, you have born witness of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to an increasing number of people over the last triennium.

The Field

Dust, flies, sweat, mosquitoes and primitive living conditions cannot be experienced from an idyllic outback post-card, but they are the daily experience of your patrol teams. They combine these physical hardships with loneliness, a lack of spiritual support, and the strain of never knowing what will await them at the next property - it could be a family going through tragedy, or rejection or the open arms of lonely Christians. In expressing these challenges, it is not our intention to induce sympathy for your men and women of the bush, for that is far from their minds, rather it is to encourage you to pray for them so that the Lord of the harvest may be pleased to use them wonderfully for His glory as they lay down their lives as a fitting sacrifice for Him.

There have been a number of resignations since our last report. PIM lost the valued services of Mr Ian and Mrs Michelene Tyson (TAS); Mr Stephen and Mrs Rosalie Goldsmith (NSW); Mr Derek and Mrs Joan Douglas (QLD); and Rev Rudi and Mrs Heila Schwartz (NSW).

There are a number of factors which lead to a higher rate of turnover of workers than in other ministries, not least of which are the rigours of the work environment. However, we are thankful to God that there were half the number of departures compared to the previous triennium.

The following patrols and associated ministries are currently being conducted or awaiting appointments by the PIM:

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Southern Patrol (full-time)	Mr Chris and Mrs Sandra Woonings
Mid-West Patrol (full-time)	Mr Bert and Mrs Penny Pierce
North-West Patrol (full-time)	Vacant
Kimberley Patrol (part-time)	Vacant

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

John Flynn SA Patrol (full-time) Mr David and Mrs Gae McDonald

TASMANIA

Regional Ministry (part-time) Vacant

NEW SOUTH WALES

Darling Patrol (full-time) Vacant

Mungo Patrol (full-time) Vacant

QUEENSLAND

North Patrol (full-time) Mr Roger and Mrs Margaret Crane

Central Patrol (full-time) Vacant

South Patrol (full-time) Mr Greg and Mrs Janet Cripps

Leichhardt Patrol (part-time) Rev Laurie and Mrs Gwen Peake

NORTHERN TERRITORY

North Patrol (part-time) Vacant

Central Patrol – (part-time) Vacant

Darwin Mission Church Rev Rob and Mrs Jeanette Duncanson

Alice Springs Mission Church Rev Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell

Centenary

It is impossible to mention all the highlights from the Centenary Year (2012). Many events were held throughout the country including a very well supported major rally at the Scots' Church, Melbourne, where the first AIM rally was held and the first volunteer came forward, and then the place of the mission's conception — the Smith of Dunesk Mission at Beltana in South Australia.

Many churches hosted events, and some of these were specifically honed to become opportunities for gospel presentation as the purpose of the Mission was explained.

We are thankful to God for the work of Rev. Major Martin de Pyle for co-ordinating much of the Mission's Centenary celebrations, and all those who helped him.

Rev Robert Benn did much research on John Flynn and spoke on numerous occasions over the width and breadth of the country throughout the Centennial Year. We are very appreciative of his work, and pray that it may have captured the spiritual passion and vision of John Flynn and the AIM in such a way that these gospel fires will be re-kindled in the lives of many. For some this may be seen in Kingdom service here or in other parts of the world. For others maybe they will have been encouraged to faithfully support those on the front line.

Committee

Over the last triennium we have received the resignation of our Secretary, Rev M Smith. Mark has been an exceptional secretary and we will be very sorry to lose his ministry to us. Mr AD Turner finished his service with the committee at the 2010 GAA. His nine years of faithful service were greatly appreciated.

The following members of the PIM Committee have indicated their willingness to serve a further term, and will be nominated to the GAA accordingly. Please note this will not preclude further nominations being made by GAA Commissioners in the usual manner.

NEW SOUTH WALES Mrs E Mill, Rev D Bullen, Rev L G Fowler

QUEENSLAND	Mrs H Ross, Rev P Barber, Mr B Clarke
VICTORIA	Rev R S Duncanson, Rev M de Pyle
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Rev A Clarkson
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Rev R Fraser
TASMANIA	Rev C Kennedy
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Dr L Greenwood
CONVENER	Rev R S Duncanson

Superintendent

The Rev Stuart Bonnington has been the PIM Superintendent since 1 April 2005. During the last triennium the committee resolved to reappoint him for a further six years from 1st April 2011 until 31st March 2016. We are deeply grateful to God for Stuart's ongoing, consistent and self-sacrificing ministry for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Administration

Mr Michael Timmins has continued to work in the PIM office as Office Manager. Mr Timmins' role has also been very significant as a point of contact for the Patrol Teams and also for the wider church. We also have a part-time Secretary, Mrs Sabine Bruce, who joined the team in September 2012. She is proving to be a great asset to the organisation.

Support from the Church

The work of the PIM could not continue to expand and develop, if it were not for the expanding and developing support given the PIM by the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The Committee records its sincere thanks to all who have supported the Padres and their work – all worshippers in congregations and fellowships, elders, ministers. The interest of the women of the Church and their organisations has been especially generous and is sincerely appreciated. The gifts of toiletries and other goods have been passed on by the Padres in many places and have often brought encouragement far beyond their intrinsic value.

We are especially thankful for those who pray regularly for the work. Prayer points are always available. Please contact the Superintendent in the first instance.

Legal Matters

Your Committee continues to be grateful to the Law Officers of the GAA, Mr Gregory Burton SC, BCL, BA, LLB and Mr Simon Fraser BA LLM for their on-going interest in and assistance to the PIM.

Finance

The range of ministries we undertake is limited by financial constraints. We walk a tightrope between financial responsibility and trusting God to provide finances for visionary projects.

We struggle with ever increasing fuel costs, and our return on capital investments has decreased considerably. We ask the church as a whole to continue to provide the means necessary for ongoing ministry.

Due to our severe financial constraints we have undertaken a number of cost cutting measures. These include some pruning in the administration area, and we also now ask incoming patrol teams to raise a significant part of their own support before commencing.

In the 2007 - 2010 triennium PIM received an allocation from the GAA through the Finance Committee of \$10,000 for administrative assistance. In the 2010 - 2013 triennium we received no allocation. We have applied for much needed support for the upcoming triennium.

The PIM is particularly grateful to the Victorian Assembly which has given a \$350,000 loan to PIM on excellent terms for the Darwin Manse.

Publicity

Since the last GAA, the Executive has worked hard to raise the profile of the PIM. This included of course the major effort of the Centennial year in 2012.

Other promotional activities include Christmas Cards, Promotional DVD's, the work of PIM Presbytery Representatives, large amounts of deputation, Dollars for Diesel and production of publicity materials.

We have also upgraded our website to make it more useful as a resource for the wider church.

Each year we hold a Rally in Sydney at the time of the GAA Committee meetings in late January / early February. The Rally is now held at the Church offices.

Of special importance is the DVD produced in the Centennial Year. It is a thoroughly researched production on the life of John Flynn, presenting the man and his gospel motivation. It is not only useful and challenging for Christians, but can also be given to non-Christians as a useful conversation starter. We trust that it will be used widely for many years to come.

As part of the Centennial celebrations the committee produced a magnificent coffee table book - *Views Beyond the Furthest Fence*. Our deep appreciation goes to Stephen Dyer who travelled throughout the country to research the book and photograph the scenes. He managed the project to bring about a wonderful outcome which will be a collector's item in years to come.

Future Developments

We are delighted with the excellent work being done by our existing patrol teams, but we are also constantly aware that if every patrol was filled, there would still be room for double the number of workers, and then they would still be spread very thinly across the inland.

We are always on the lookout for people who have a practical grasp of the Scriptures and are able to help others to know the Saviour and apply the truths of His Word with a heart of compassion firstly for their spiritual needs, but also for physical needs.

We pray that the Lord of the harvest will continue to send out workers.

The challenges of life in the Inland for Aboriginal and other people continue. In some ways life is easier than it was 30 years ago, but in other ways, with severe climate conditions, drought, flood or fire or depressed prices for produce, rural and remote area depopulation, and sometimes combinations of all of the above, along with many organisations, including churches, offering less assistance to the bush, life can be very tough and the needs very great.

Mission Churches

With the approval of the PCSA the PIM has taken over responsibility for the Smith of Dunesk Mission Church in Beltana.

The Presbyterian Church in Albany (WA) was started in late 2009. It developed quickly and was soon handed over to be a congregation of the PCWA. It has its own minister and remains as the home church of our WA Patrol team, Chris and Sandra Woonings.

The Denmark (WA) congregation continues to meet.

The Darwin Presbyterian Church commenced in 2007. It now has three preaching places - Berrimah, Palmerston and Bees Creek. If it was not for the large mortgage required to buy real estate in Darwin, the congregation would be nearing financial self-sufficiency. The mortgage costs \$34,317 p.a.

The Mount Magnet congregation continues to meet. It is a very significant spiritual oasis in an area the size of the State of Victoria which is almost totally bereft of the ministry of the Water of Life.

The committee is actively exploring the use of the Meekatharra church building.

Rev Keith Bell will have been in Alice Springs for some months by the time the GAA meets. The Alice Springs church plant has been a project of PIM which began about 7 years ago, and has involved much hard work in its preparation. It was flagged in the previous GAA report that we hoped to commence work in Alice Springs before the General Assembly of Australia met again. The Lord has graciously allowed this plan to come to fruition. We pray for great fruit in this ministry, but are prepared to persevere in faithfulness in what is a very challenging project.

Highpoints

We are thankful to Almighty God for the ability to report the following highpoints of the work of the PIM:

1. That the Presbyterian church has been able to give thanks to God for His sustenance through 100 years of continuous ministry to Inland Australia;
2. At the core of the work are the pastoral interactions that the Padres and their wives have with the people who live in their patrol areas. Again and again the good news of Jesus has been spoken and demonstrated by the Padres across the vast Outback;
3. The Lord has continued to give the PIM very dedicated and gifted Padres who have built on and extended the work of those who have gone before them;
4. We continue to long for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to go throughout EVERY part of the Commonwealth of Australia, including the spiritual deserts of the Inland;
5. There is now PIM work conducted in all States and the Northern Territory;
6. Mission Churches in Albany, Alice Springs, Darwin, Beltana, Denmark, Meekatharra and Mt Magnet continue to proclaim the gospel in remote localities and act as a base for patrol ministry;
7. The PIM continues to enjoy committed support from right across the Presbyterian Church of Australia and beyond;
8. Deputations and fund raising functions have been hosted and held in all States and mainland Territories;
9. The PIM advocates in the presbyteries have continued to give vital assistance in publicising the PIM;
10. Despite financial challenges, the Lord has provided for every step of the way;
11. Some very generous bequests have been received which have done much to further the work;

This is the LORD'S doing and it is marvellous in our eyes!

The task of the evangelisation of our country has a long way to go. We should not make a choice as to whether we, as a church, work in the cities, rural or remote areas, but we have a responsibility to take the Good News to the WHOLE of our country. Let us pray, give, go, work together and sacrifice that the gospel of grace will go forth further and more thoroughly throughout our nation.

Sincere thanks go to the church for its support by prayer and giving. We are very encouraged as we view the prospects for the continued growth and development of this unique ministry.

Alice Springs

We are thrilled with the great work being done in Alice Springs by Rev Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell. The church services generally have an attendance of around 20. The commencement service was particularly well attended with four State Moderators, the Moderator General and various other interested people travelling from around the country to express their support for the work of the Gospel through the PCA being done there.

The PIM has been approached by two Victorian Presbyteries which have shown interest in taking Presbyterian oversight of the Alice Springs congregation. The PIM committee has resolved to express its desire that the congregation be placed under the Victorian Assembly and the Presbytery of Melbourne North if the Presbyterian Church of Victoria so desires.

The PIM has planned for the commencement of the work in Alice Springs for many years, and our concern for the advance of the Gospel has been shared with the Assembly on many occasions.

We pray that not only will a thriving congregation come into existence, but that this will also be a base of further Patrol Ministry in the Northern Territory. Your committee sees the work in Alice Springs as a huge challenge, and a pressing responsibility of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

We urge the Assembly to pray earnestly and with perseverance for this work and the other remote congregations under the oversight of the PIM.

R S Duncanson
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 2 (Min. 108)

From Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

My dear Moderator.

Thank you for sending to me
the kind thoughts and
greetings of the General Assembly.
I want you to know how much
it means to me to receive
your message of generous
spirit and reassurance.

I wish you and the Commissioners
an enriching and rewarding
year. With my warm regards

GOVERNMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE +61(2) 6283 3525 FACSIMILE +61(2) 6283 3595

Quentin 04.1.13

COMMUNICATION 3 (Min. 109)

From Rev K Hui Lim



SKIPTON-LISMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
46 Montgomery Street
Skipton 3361
53402252
yeaboh@hotmail.com

20 Nov 2012
Rev Dr. John Wilson
PCV, Clerk
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
Melbourne
Vic 3000

Dear John

RE: Thank you for the Moderator's Visit and Message

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of Session at Skipton and Lismore, I want to thank your office very much for the ministry of our Moderator, the Rt. Rev. David Palmer and Mrs Chris Palmer on the 10th of Nov 2012 to 11th of Nov 2012.

David brought an encouraging message, which was both pastoral and personal from John 15 on "Abiding In Christ".

Both David and Chris were well-received and appreciated by people in Skipton and Lismore. They made a special effort to speak to everyone at church.

May God continue to bless David and Chris as they serve the wider church in Victoria, Australia and Overseas.

Thanks once again for your leadership and ministry as the Clerk of the Assembly.

With Warm Christian Greetings


Yours in Christ,

K. Hui Lim

Session Clerk/ Minister, Skipton-Lismore

COMMUNICATION 4 (Min. 110)

From Bible Society



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**
Live light

Level 1, 8-10 Loftus Street
Sydney NSW 2000
T. 02 9241 7288
W. biblesociety.org.au
ACN 148 058 306

Rev John P Wilson
Clerk of Assembly, PCV
Office of the General Assembly
Mezzanine Level
156 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

19 December 2012

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your letter of 30 November 2012 asking about the implications of the nationalization of Bible Society for denominational representation.

You are correct that the nature of our connection with the denominations has changed somewhat, although be assured we are extremely keen to maintain very strong relationships with all of the churches.

Thank you for the expression of prayerful support from your General Assembly in October.

Since you are the first denomination to request a manner in which we can communicate with you from hereon, I will come up with a simple reporting process for 2013 and be in touch again when we have done this.

Every blessing for Christmas and the year ahead.

Regards,

Greg Clarke
CEO Bible Society Australia

COMMUNICATION 5 (Min. 111)

From ACCESS Ministries



18 December 2012

Level 5, 695 Burke Road
Hawthorn East Victoria 3123 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9804 0733
Freecall™ (Australia): 1800 063 341
Facsimile: +61 3 9804 0722
Email: info@accessministries.org.au
Website: www.accessministries.org.au

Rt Rev Andrew Bray
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
156 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Andrew

I wish to thank the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for their wonderful support of **ACCESS ministries** and, in particular, for the grant of \$24,110.00 received for 2012.

As of this month the Presbyterian Church of Victoria have kindly supplied (173) volunteer Christian religious education teachers to conduct CRE classes each week across Victoria.

With only 7% of children attending church, it is vital that they are given access to the Christian message via their school. Please pray with us that next year more church members are inspired to serve by volunteering as CRE teachers in government schools.

In addition, (5) **ACCESS ministries** chaplains are members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The announcement late last year that the Federal Government will fund another 1,000 chaplains nationally means that there are further opportunities to ensure that students have access to the spiritual and practical guidance that chaplains offer.

Again, thank you to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for their grant for 2012.

Kind regards

PP Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison
CEO **ACCESS ministries**

With grateful
thanks for your
continued support.

COMMUNICATION 6 (Min. 82)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA

Re: Appeal from Rev Dr P Barclay

Presbyterian Church of Australia

168-180 CHALMERS STREET, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 2196, STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012 | DX 22502 SURRY HILLS

Telephone: (02) 9690 9371 | Facsimile: (02) 9310 2148
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au | Web: www.pcnsw.org.au

3 October, 2013

The Clerk of Assembly
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
156 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3000

Dear Dr Wilson,

I write to advise you that the 2013 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia heard an appeal from the Rev. Dr P. Barclay against a decision of the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Enclosed please find an extract minute of the General Assembly of Australia dealing with that appeal.

Yours sincerely,



(Rev. Dr) Paul Logan
Clerk of Assembly

Presbyterian Church of Australia

EXTRACT MINUTE

At *Sydney*..... and within *the Chinese Presbyterian Church*
on *Thursday* the *12th*..... day of *September*....., 20*13*....., at *9.30 a.m.*,
the *General Assembly of Australia* met *pursuant to adjournment*
..... and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

85. Private Sitting: The Assembly sat in private.

86. Suspension of Standing Orders: Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr Paul Logan moved:
That the Assembly:

- (1) Suspend sufficient of Standing Orders as is necessary to allow reconsideration of the Appeal of the Rev. Dr. Peter Barclay against a decision of the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
 - (2) Rescind the earlier minutes relating to the appeal of Rev. Dr. Peter Barclay.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

87. Parties at the bar: Commissioners to this Assembly from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and presbyteries within its bounds were placed at the bar in the matter of the appeal by the Rev. Dr Barclay against a decision of the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

88. Appeal (i): An appeal from the Rev. Dr P. Barclay against a decision of the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr P. Barclay appeared as the appellant.

The Rev. P.W. Phillips and the Rev. Dr Jared Hood appeared as the respondent from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Questions were asked of the appellant and the respondents.

The Rev. Dr Paul Logan moved:

That the Assembly:

Allow Rev. Dr P. Barclay to remain in the House during deliberation on his appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr Paul Logan moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the appeal.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr B. Greig moved:

That the Assembly:

Dismiss the appeal.

The motion was seconded.

The Rev. B.M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

Refer to the Presbytery of Flinders the appeal of the Rev. Dr P. Barclay and direct the Presbytery to consider, under the Code of Discipline, rule 3.05(b), the desirability of investigating the behaviour complained against in this appeal, or, as an alternative, to seek to engage competent Christian mediators beyond its own membership with the possible assistance of Peace Wise Australia.

The motion was seconded.

The Moderator declared the motions to be counter motions.

The motion of the Rev. B.M. Meller having received the majority of votes became the motion.

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

The parties were informed of the decision and removed from the bar.

89. Open Court: The Assembly resumed in open court.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the *General Assembly of Australia*
this *3rd* day of *October*, 20*13*, by me.

 Clerk of Assembly.

PETITION 1 (Min. 39)

From the Presbytery of Kilnoorat

Re: Dissolution of the Hawkesdale Congregation

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a. There is a congregation called Hawkesdale.
- b. The congregation of Hawkesdale has been in decline over a long period of time.
- c. At the 26th October 2010 Annual General Meeting the decision was made to cease services at Hawkesdale as of 31st December 2011.
- d. On 29th March 2011 the Session of Koroit/Port Fairy Charge also passed a motion that services will cease at Hawkesdale at the end of December 2011, the final service would be conducted by Rev Ian Leach on the 1st January 2012.
- e. At the Koroit/Port Fairy Charge Session meeting held on the 18th October 2012, it was resolved that the names of all members of Hawkesdale be added to the Koroit congregational roll.
- f. The Presbytery of Kilnoorat resolved at its August 2013 meeting (minute 13/369(a)) to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to dissolve the congregation of Hawkesdale.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Kilnoorat humbly petition the General Assembly of Victoria to take these premises into consideration and agree with the decision of the Presbytery of Kilnoorat taken on the 14th August 2013 to dissolve the congregation of Hawkesdale (rule 4.90), or do otherwise as in their wisdom they consider appropriate.

Rev Ian Leach and Peter Phillips were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 2 (Min. 40)

From the Presbytery of Kilnoorat

Re: Sale of the Hawkesdale Property

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a. The congregation of Hawkesdale is dissolved. Sunday services have not been held there since 1st January 2012.
- b. The property associated with the former congregation of Hawkesdale consists of a Brick church and a weatherboard hall in three lots on one title.
Address: Austin St, Hawkesdale, Vic.
Trustees: The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation
Certificate of Title Volume No. 11007
Folio No. 595
Allotment No. 11, 12 & 13
Subdivision: Section 4
Parish: Kangertong
- c. The Presbytery of Kilnoorat resolved at its 14th August 2013 meeting (minute 13/369(b)) to petition the General Assembly of Victoria for its consent to the sale of the property at Hawkesdale as per regulation 10(c) and rule 4.105 of the Board of Investment and Finance.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Kilnoorat humbly petition the General Assembly of Victoria to take these premises into consideration and grant its consent to the sale of the property at Hawkesdale or do otherwise as in their wisdom they consider appropriate.

Rev Ian Leach and Peter Phillips were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 3 (Min. 49)

From the Presbytery of Kilnoorat

Re: Dissolution of the Woolsthorpe Congregation

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a. There is a congregation called Woolsthorpe.
- b. The congregation of Woolsthorpe has been in decline over a long period of time.
- c. At the 26th October 2010 Annual General Meeting the decision was made to cease services at Woolsthorpe as of 31st December 2011.
- d. On 29th March 2011 the Session of Koroit/Port Fairy Charge also passed a motion that services will cease at Woolsthorpe at the end of December 2011, the final service would be conducted by Rev Ian Leach on the 1st January 2012.
- e. At the Koroit/Port Fairy Charge Session meeting held on the 18th October 2012, it was resolved that the names of all members of Woolsthorpe be added to the Koroit congregational roll.
- f. The Presbytery of Kilnoorat resolved at its August 2013 meeting (minute 13/370(a)) to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to dissolve the congregation of Woolsthorpe.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Kilnoorat humbly petition the General Assembly of Victoria to take these premises into consideration and agree with the decision of the Presbytery of Kilnoorat taken on the 14th August 2013 to dissolve the congregation of Woolsthorpe (rule 4.90), or do otherwise as in their wisdom they consider appropriate.

Rev Ian Leach and Peter Phillips were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 4 (Min. 50)

From the Presbytery of Kilnoorat

Re: Sale of the Woolsthorpe Property

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a. The congregation of Woolsthorpe is dissolved. Sunday services have not been held there since 1st January 2012.
- b. The property associated with the former congregation of Woolsthorpe consists Sandstone church and a concrete block hall on one title.
Address: Manifold St, Woolsthorpe, Vic.
Trustees: The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation
Certificate of Title Volume No. 00883
Folio No. 530
Allotment No.1 0
Subdivision: Section 2
Parish: Woolsthorpe
- c. The Presbytery of Kilnoorat resolved at its 14th August 2013 meeting (minute 130/70(b)) to petition the General Assembly of Victoria for its consent to the sale of the property at Woolsthorpe as per regulation 10(c) and rule 4.105 of the Board of Investment and Finance.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Kilnoorat humbly petition the General Assembly of Victoria to take these premises into consideration and grant its consent to the sale of the property at Woolsthorpe or do otherwise as in their wisdom they consider appropriate.

Rev Ian Leach and Peter Phillips were appointed to present the petition.

PETITON 5 (Min. 71)

From: Presbytery of Flinders

Re: Dissolution of Lyndhurst congregation

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

1. There is a congregation called Lyndhurst.
2. That the services for the original Lyndhurst congregation were suspended on the 18th December 2011 and have not resumed.
3. That the most local family attending moved away and the other two people started attending Cranbourne.
4. That the South East Samoan congregation has been using the premises since 2005 and would like to have full management of the property.

Now therefore, the Presbytery of Flinders humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

1. Agree with the decision of the Presbytery of Flinders taken on 27th August, 2013, to dissolve the Lyndhurst congregation (Rule 4.90); and
 2. Permit the property at 214 Western Port Highway, Lyndhurst, Vic, 3977, to be used as a church site in conjunction with the South East Samoan Congregation under the terms of the Model Trust Deed for Church Sites.
- or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

This petition is to be presented by Rev J Rickard and Rev D Brown.

PETITION 6 (Min. 81)

From: Presbytery of Flinders
Re: Ordination of Peter Roberts

To the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

1. Licentiate Mr Peter Roberts is at present employed as a home missionary in the home mission charge of Cranbourne.
2. It is the earnest conviction of Cranbourne Session that Licentiate Mr Peter Roberts should be ordained as soon as possible, because:
 - a. The parish of Cranbourne has in past years come through times of serious instability.
 - b. Great progress has been made during the recent 3 ½ years of ministry of Peter Roberts.
 - c. The congregation has increased from an average of 20 to an average of 55.
 - d. There is a regular youth group of 12-15 members. There are 3 Youth Metro Trainees. There is a weekly Ladies' Bible Study.
 - e. The church building has been re-carpeted and repainted. A cry room has been established, and is proving to be of great benefit to a number of young families. The hall kitchen has been renovated. The youth hall has been carpeted. The car park has been re-done. A stage has been constructed at the back of the hall, facing an open grassed area.
 - f. A very successful Christmas Carols service was held using this stage. Many attended, including the local Mayor.
 - g. The mind of the congregation regarding Peter's ministry was sought at a meeting called by the Moderator, Rev Bill Medley, in December 2012. There was unanimous agreement that they all wanted Peter Roberts to be ordained and continue in ministry at Cranbourne.
 - h. In view of past instability, it will give great encouragement to the congregation if the ordination of Peter Roberts can take place as soon as possible. This will raise the morale of the congregation, by showing them that the Presbytery and Assembly are doing all they can to support the good work God is doing through them at Cranbourne.
 - i. Peter Roberts has satisfactorily completed all required studies, received his exit certificate, and been licensed by Flinders Presbytery. His 3 ½ year ministry at Cranbourne as a Home Missionary has been wonderfully blessed by God for the revival of the congregational life. Peter Roberts has shown his full commitment to the work of the ministry by completely severing his ties to secular work. He recently sold his business. His desire is to serve the Lord in the fuller way which will be possible when he is ordained. Ordination will enhance his standing and the effectiveness of his ministry both in the church and community.
3. The normal path to ordination for a licentiate is through appointment to an appointment parish, or through a call.

4. There is no provision in the Code for a Presbytery to ordain Mr Roberts to a Home Mission station.
5. Cranbourne has not yet reached the stage of being financially able to be declared an appointment parish.
6. Cranbourne Session strongly believes the ordination of Mr Roberts should proceed as soon as possible, to allow him to further consolidate the excellent work that has been achieved by God's grace at Cranbourne Home Mission Station.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Flinders humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and authorise Presbytery to ordain Mr Peter Roberts to the ministry of word and sacraments that he may continue his work in the Cranbourne parish and grant him a seat on the Presbytery of Flinders, or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

This petition is to be presented by Rev B Medley and Rev K Brown.

PETITION 7 (Min. 92)

From: the Presbytery of Ballarat
Re: MDC funding for Kaniva-Nhill Parish

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that

1. The regulations of the Ministry Development Committee, under 17, state as follows:
“a) Subsidies can be approved and paid to a congregation for up to ten years. Beyond that point, the presbytery will receive the application as it did in the past; and
 - i) send it to the committee for information, and
 - ii) bring the matter before the General Assembly for evaluation.”
2. The parish of Kaniva-Nhill has received a subsidy from the Ministry Development Committee for a period of 11 years and must therefore bring this matter by petition to the General Assembly.
3. The presbytery believes that the maintenance of a full-time ministry in the parish of Kaniva-Nhill is essential for the work of God and the witness to Christ of the Presbyterian Church for the following reasons:
 - a) there is no other presbyterian witness along the Western Highway between Horsham and the Victorian border (Horsham being 74 kms from Nhill the easternmost settlement of the parish), and to the south west, the parish of Naracoorte in South Australia is more than 100 km. by road from Kaniva the westernmost settlement of the parish; whereas if you travel to the west, there is no other place of presbyterian witness until Adelaide;
 - b) such a presbyterian reformed witness has been appreciated and valued by a significant number of people moving into the region;
 - c) to assist in providing for the preaching and pastoral care needs of a total congregation of 50 Christians and make possible a maintenance of these numbers in the face of static or decreasing numbers across the face of the general population;
 - d) make possible the maintenance of the physical environment and the necessary improvement of amenities as are required from time to time of all parish buildings;
 - e) complement the present stable financial giving and together with an anticipated increase in numbers make a financial basis for the continuation of the present Christian witness and the opportunity for complete viability in the future.
4. At this stage in its history such a full-time ministry requires the continuation of a subsidy from the Ministry Development Committee.

Now therefore the presbytery of Ballarat humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and give authority to the Ministry Development Committee to receive grant applications from Kaniva-Nhill and continue to give them consideration,
or to do otherwise as, in its wisdom, it may consider appropriate.

The petition will be presented on behalf of the presbytery by Rev Dr J S Woodward and Rev K D Allen.

**Matters relating to the
Appeal to the General Assembly
against the decision of the
Presbytery of Melbourne North
(19 Feb 2013)**

in the name of Mary Frances Graham

March 2013

APPEAL 1

I, MARY FRANCES GRAHAM appeal to the General Assembly against the decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne North given to me by letter of the Clerk of Presbytery dated 12 March 2013 concerning the Mernda Church and Congregation and the Whittlesea-Mernda Session on the following grounds for the following reasons:

1. Presbytery has failed to address significant matters set out in the Petition.
2. Presbytery has stated its intention to make decisions to which your Petitioners must submit without saying what those decisions are.
3. Presbytery has failed to preserve the proper interests of the Mernda Church being a church within its bounds in the course of the Appeal by the Shia community against the Council decisions affecting neighbouring land to the Mernda Church and thus limited the area of its decision making in the future if the Appeal of the Shia community is sustained.
4. Presbytery appears to have given greater weight to the interests of the Reverend Evan Prentice than to the interests of a congregation he was employed to serve and in which he has refused to minister.
5. The Clerk of Presbytery has stated that the Mernda Church property will not be sold but evidence given by the Shia community in the VCAT Appeal indicates that both Evan Prentice and Donald Elliott indicated that the sale of the church land was a possibility.

Signed:


.....
Mary Frances Graham

Dated:

22 / 03 / 2013

original Petition
to the Presbytery of Melbourne North
(referred to in clause 1 of the Appeal)

Mary Frances Graham and others
- received and heard by the Presbytery, 16 Oct 2012

To the Presbytery of Melbourne North of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

RECITAL

My name is Mary Francis Graham and I am a member of the Mayfield Mernda Presbyterian Church.

I have been a member of the Whittlesea/Janefield/Mernda parish since October 1977.

My husband and I were members of the Janefield Presbyterian Church before it was closed and sold. We then transferred to Mernda Mayfield. My husband, John Graham was an elder of the Whittlesea/Mernda parish. My four children attended the Janefield church. Our family were greatly saddened by the closure of the Janefield church but have always enjoyed the Christian fellowship of the Mernda church. My children sometimes attend the Mayfield Mernda Presbyterian church with me.

I am the great granddaughter, granddaughter, and daughter of Ministers and Missionaries of the Presbyterian church. My father was a Presbyterian Minister and church planter in Korea. I spent my childhood in Korea. After completion of my education in Chicago America I worked as a missionary and medical doctor in the United States, New Guinea and Australia. My husband and I were involved in mission work from 1968 to 1970 in New Guinea.

On behalf of myself and my fellow members and attendees of the Mernda Mayfield Presbyterian Church I write to appeal the decisions and lack of support for my congregation by the majority of members of the session of the Whittlesea/Mernda parish

PETITION

This Petition shows that:

- a) There has been a withdrawal of communion from the Mayfield Mernda Presbyterian Church and the associated closure of the church building on the first Sunday of each month against the wishes of the congregation.
- b) The time of the Sunday Service has been changed to 8.30 a.m. against the wishes of the congregation
- c) The session has indicated preference of a mega church and withdrawal of support for a small church contrary to the wishes of the congregation
- d) There has been a lack of support by members of the session of attempts by the members of the Mernda congregation to encourage new members and raise the profile of our church through special events.

a) Withdrawal of Communion from the Mernda Mayfield Presbyterian Church

The session announced in March 2010, without consultation with any kind, that communion in the Whittlesea/Mernda parish would be held on the first Sunday of every month in a combined service at Whittlesea and the Mernda church would be closed on that day.

Although some members of the Mayfield / Mernda church enjoy the fellowship this offers with members of the Whittlesea church, and are prepared to engage in joint services of this nature, they do not wish to do it on a regular basis.

They are particularly concerned that the Mernda Church is closed once a month. They see no reason why a combined service could not also be held at the Mayfield/Mernda church. Nor do they see the need for the closure of the Mernda church on the first Sunday of every month.

b) The time of the Sunday Service.

The changed times of the Sunday service in the parish was announced in March 2010 and took effect the following month – without consulting either the Whittlesea or Mernda congregation. The Mernda service was changed from 9.15 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. The service at Whittlesea was changed from 11.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

This earlier time has been very burdensome for all members and attendees at the Mayfield Mernda Presbyterian church. The early morning driving in winter has been especially dangerous for some of us. Although we appealed to the session to change the times back to the original time, they refused.

Since our current Minister has been on leave and now remains on reduced duties, he is preaching at Whittlesea only.

In the last few weeks we have been enjoying a 10.00 a.m. service and wonderful visiting preachers. This new time and the loving kindness of our preachers have been a great blessing to us.

However, we are told that this will change in November.

c) The preference of a mega church and withdrawal of support for a small church.

The session paper entitled 'Mernda: Future Reflections' indicated a preference for mega-churches over smaller congregations. The particular 'mega' church preferred in this paper was the current well-resourced church plant initiative in - but not of - the Whittlesea/Mernda parish. This preference is questionable at best.

The session paper was unanimously rejected by the Mernda congregation.

The effect of the church plant – which is not yet a mega church and may never become so – on the Whittlesea/Mernda parish and the Whittlesea congregation in particular (the Mernda congregation has, surprisingly, remained stable) – should be the subject of a broader church enquiry.

We believe that the effect of different models of church planting should also be examined. There is some evidence that the current Victorian Presbyterian model is not as effective as that, for example, in Hobart Tasmania.

d) Lack of Support in raising the profile of the Mayfield Mernda Church.

The Moderator of the session is the current minister and the other members are assessor elders from Eltham and Epping. There is no member of either the Whittlesea or Mernda congregation (apart from the Minister) on the session.

Although the congregation of the Mayfield /Mernda church is not large, attendance and financial contributions are consistent and dedicated. We understand that the building does not a church make, but members our small congregation feel that this is a holy place in which we have received many and great blessings from the Lord. We believe we hold this place in trust for future generations.

There is also interest and goodwill towards the historic precinct in the local community . This has become evident in recent months.

However, when people meeting for bible study in the local area indicated an interest in attending the church they were sent elsewhere. The congregation were told by the Minister that this was a decision of the session and Presbytery.

At least two people wishing to become members of the Mernda congregation were told to join the Whittlesea Presbyterian Church or the Bundoora Presbyterian Church.

Special services such as the Sesquicentenary in 2011 and the Anzac Day service in 2012 attracted large crowds and prominent members of the City of Whittlesea. Praise and Thanksgiving Services held on Sunday afternoons have filled the church.

There has been little or no support from members of the session for such events. A notable exception was the attendance of elder Bruce Miller at the sesquicentenary with a Bible dedicated to the church in its 1861. His contribution was much appreciated.

There has been recent questioning of the use of the Church for special events from at least one member of the session.

Our plans for expansion of our facilities have received little or no support. If anything they have been frustrated.

The members and attendees of the Mayfield/Mernda Presbyterian Church wish to raise the profile of this historic church in their local and larger community. They wish to plan for at least four special events per annum and raise funds towards an extension of the current building.

In summary, members and attendees of the Mernda/Mayfield Presbyterian Church request that:

- a) In relation to the communion service problem, that a communion service be held at Mernda every three months and the Mernda church be opened every Sunday for congregational worship.
- b) In relation to the service times they the Presbytery either

i Allow the 10.00 a.m. service to continue with a visiting preacher

Or

ii Return the times of the Mernda and Whittlesea services to 9.15 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively.

- c) In relation to the effect of the well-resourced church plant seeking to establish a mega church within an existing parish, they request that an Enquiry by the Presbytery be Established into the effect of the Church Plant on the Whittlesea/Mernda Parish.
- d) In relation to desire of members and attendees to raise the profile of the Mayfield Mernda Presbyterian Church they request Presbytery to permit them to organise at least four special events annually in their church.

Now therefore, I MARY FRANCIS GRAHAM together with members and adherents/ attendees of the Mernda Mayfield Presbyterian Church humbly petition the Presbytery to take these premises into consideration and grant our requests or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

SIGNED:

MARY FRANCIS GRAHAM

Mary Frances Graham

DATED:

16 Sept 2012

Together with

*Geoffrey Lush
Linda Irwin*

Pietas Place Mernda 16.09.12

Pietas Place, Mernda 16.09.12

Brenda Watts

Wiltshire Drive, Kew 3101 19.9.12

(We have enjoyed the hospitality & worship at Mernda many times)

Randi Wells

Wiltshire Drive, Kew 3101 19.9.12.

Mam Nott

Kipling Street, Moonee Ponds 3039 19.9.12

extracts of minutes

of the Presbytery of Melbourne North

1. 16 Oct 2012 at Epping

- petition received and heard
- request for Assembly assessors to help

2. 20 Nov 2012 at Eltham

- Noting the appointment of Assembly assessors
- appointing a Presbytery special committee

3. 19 Feb 2013 at Whittlesea

- report from the special committee of Presbytery

(private and confidential)

4. 21 May 2013 at Kangaroo Ground

- after wide consultation, the final decision NOT to separate Whittlesea from Mernda
- appointment of respondents to the Appeal

At Epping, within the Presbyterian Church complex, the Presbytery of Melbourne North met pursuant to adjournment on Tuesday, 16th October, 2012, at 7:30pm for ordinary business.

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| Constitution | 12.361 | Rev Alan Every, in the absence of the Moderator, constituted the meeting with Bible reading and prayer. |
| Moderator takes the chair | 12.362 | The Moderator, Rev Neil Chambers, took the chair. |
| Present | 12.363 | Ministers: N Barbieri, K Bell, N Chambers, D Elliott, A Every, T Fishwick, S Kroeger, E Prentice, J Wilson
Elders: D Bell, S Harris, B Miller, J Scott, W Roodenburg
Also present were Rev I Stewart and Candidate R Wilson |
| Apologies | 12.364 | The following apologies for non-attendance were received and sustained:
Ministers: S Cowley, M de Pyle, P Hastie, A Parle
Elders: A James |
| Commissions | 12.365 | An Elder Commission for the current Presbytery year (1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013) from the Hume Presbyterian Church for Elder Tony Ruggeri was received and sustained. |
| | 12.366 | It was moved, seconded and approved that the name of Elder Tony Ruggeri be added to the Roll of Presbytery. |
| Associations and Welcomes | 12.367 | The Moderator welcomed the Rev Ian Stewart to the meeting and welcomed back Elder Willem Roodenburg after leave. |
| Notices of Motion | 12.368 | It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery take the motion given on notice by the Rev Theo Fishwick at the time of the report of interim moderator of Reservoir. |
| Minutes confirmed | 12.369 | The minutes of the ordinary meeting held 18 th September, 2012, previously circulated to members, were confirmed. |
| Agenda | 12.370 | The circulated agenda was adopted. |
| Correspondence | 12.371 | The Inwards Correspondence was received. |
| Matters Arising from previous meetings (if not dealt with elsewhere) | 1. | Min 12.356 appointment of interim moderator for Heidelberg Presbyterian Church. |
| FOD | 12.372 | It was moved, seconded and approved that debate be adjourned to take up the Fixed Order of the Day.

(Min 12.338) Reference from Session, Whittlesea-Mernda Presbyterian Church |
| | 12.373 | The Moderator welcomed 60 – 70 people, including 4 of the 5 Communicant members, from Mernda. |

- 12.374 The Moderator explained the procedure for dealing with the reference. (Rule 6:50,51)
- 12.375 The Moderator asked who would be speaking on behalf of the congregation. Dr Jean Ely and Mrs Bev Hawke indicated they would be speaking on behalf of the congregation.
- 12.376 The Moderator asked if there were any questions regarding the procedure to be followed. No questions were asked.
- 12.377 The Moderator led in prayer.
- 12.378 All members of the Session of the Whittlesea-Mernda Presbyterian Church are members of the Presbytery and so were not placed at the bar (Rule 6:50).
- 12.379 The Session Clerk of Whittlesea-Mernda Presbyterian Church stated the reference.
- 12.380 Questions, from the Presbytery, were asked and answered.
- 12.381 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery sustain the reference.
- 12.382 The parties to the case were called to speak.
- 12.383 The Session members indicated they had nothing further to add to what had been said.
- 12.384 Dr Jean Ely and Mrs Bev Hawke spoke on behalf of the congregation. Dr Ely was permitted to circulate copies of her speech with supporting documentation to members of Presbytery.
- 12.385 Questions were asked and answered.
- Petition 12.386 It was moved, seconded and approved that the debate be adjourned to take up the petition of Dr Frances Graham.
- 12.387 Dr Graham was placed at the bar.
- 12.388 The petition, already received (Min 12.371) was taken as read.
- 12.389 Dr Graham stated the petition.
- 12.390 Questions were asked and answered.
- 12.391 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery grant the prayer of the petition.
- 12.392 It was moved, seconded and approved that debate be adjourned.

12.393 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery request the Moderator of the GAV to appoint three (3) assessors to sit with the Presbytery to assist it in dealing with these two (2) matters.

12.394 The Moderator thanked the people from Mernda for their attendance and informed them and Dr Graham the decisions of the Presbytery.

12.395 Dr Graham was removed from the bar.

Mrs Hawke left copies her speech for Presbytery members. (These will be distributed to Presbytery members with the agenda for the next meeting.)

Matters arising (continued) 12.396 It was moved, seconded and approved that the debate adjourned at Min 12.372 be resumed.

Interim Moderator Heidelberg 12.397 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery request the Rev Simalu Cowley to become the Interim Moderator of the Heidelberg Presbyterian Church.

Correspondence

Outwards Correspondence

- 12.398 The following outwards correspondence was endorsed:
1. Clerk, GAV re petition from Elder Reg Butcher (Min 12.343)
 2. Candidate Luke Brownley re attending November meeting (Min 12.344)
 3. Clerk, GAV re addition name the Rev Nello Barbieri to Roll of Presbytery (Min 12. 346)
 4. Presbytery of Maroondah re addition name the Rev Nello Barbieri to Roll of Presbytery (Min 12. 346)
 5. Elder Richard Wilson re congratulations on his election, ordination and induction as an elder in the VPC (Min 12. 349)
 6. MMC re notification approval LSL for Rev Alan Every
 7. (phone call) Dr Frances Graham re petition

Inwards Correspondence received Min 12.334 now listed.

1. Rev Alan Every re request for letter to be sent to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee re his long service leave
2. Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church re Annual Parish Report
3. Clerk, GAV, re ministers' and elders' milestones
4. Dr Frances Graham re petition
5. Dr Frances Graham re statutory declaration
6. Rev Don Elliott re reference appendix
7. Rev Don Elliott re reference documents outline

Arising from Correspondence (if not dealt with elsewhere)

12.399 Item 1 the Rev Alan Every re long service leave
The Acting Clerk intimated he had sent the requested letter to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (Outward Correspondence Item 6)

12.400 Item 3 re ministers' and elders' milestones
It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery

At Eltham, within the Presbyterian Church complex, the Presbytery of Melbourne North met pursuant to adjournment on Tuesday, 20th November, 2012, at 7:30pm for ordinary business.

- Constitution 12.414 The Moderator constituted the meeting with Bible reading and prayer.
- Present 12.415 Ministers: N Barbieri, K Bell, N Chambers, D Elliott, P Hastie, S Kroeger, G Nicholson, E Prentice, I Stewart, J Wilson, R White
Elders: D Bell, S Harris, A Kebbe, B Miller, B Stasse, W Roodenburg
- Apologies 12.416 The following apologies for non-attendance were received and sustained:
Ministers: T Fishwick, A Parle
- Commissions 12.417 An Elder Commission for the current Presbytery year (1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013) from the Templestowe Session for Elder Adrian Kebbe was received and sustained.
- 12.418 It was moved, seconded and approved that the name of Elder Adrian Kebbe be added to the Roll of Presbytery.
- Associations and Welcomes Inward Correspondence Item 2: Moderator GAV re appointment 3 assessors to sit with the Presbytery
- 12.419 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery
1. Receive the correspondence.
2. Note that the Moderator of the GAV has appointed the Rev Graham Nicholson, Robert White, and Elder Bert Stasse as assessors to the Presbytery of Melbourne North to assist in dealing with the matter of a reference from the Session of the Whittlesea-Mernda Presbyterian Church and a petition from Dr Frances Graham, a member of the Mernda congregation.
- 12.420 The Moderator welcomed the three assessors to the meeting.
- Notices of Motion Nil
- Minutes confirmed 12.421 The minutes of the ordinary meeting held 16th October, 2012, previously circulated to members, were confirmed.
- Agenda 12.422 The circulated agenda with amendments was adopted.
- Correspondence 12.423 The Inwards Correspondence, except Item 10, was received.
- Matters Arising from previous meetings (if not dealt with elsewhere) 1. Min 12.342 re appointment of administrative assistance for the Presbytery.
- It was moved and seconded that the Presbytery notify congregations of this position and seek expressions of interest from members.

- 12.424 It was moved, seconded and approved that debate be adjourned to take up the Fixed Orders of the Day.

FOD 1

Min 12.412 Further consideration of the Reference from the Whittlesea-Mernda Session and the Petition from Dr Frances Graham

The Clerk moved a three-clause motion. The motion was seconded.

It was moved and seconded that clause 1 be amended by the addition of the words *In response to the Reference from the Whittlesea-Mernda Session and the Petition from Dr Frances Graham* to the beginning of the clause.

- 12.425 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery sit as a committee of the whole.

- 12.426 The committee reported to the Presbytery.

- 12.427 The report was received.

- 12.428 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery
1. In response to the Reference from the Whittlesea-Mernda Session and the Petition from Dr Frances Graham, appoint the Rev R White (C), G Nicholson and Elder B Stasse a committee to investigate the relationship between the Mernda congregation and the Whittlesea-Mernda Session and bring a recommendation on the future of that relationship which is in the best interests of the parish and of the cause of the gospel in the area; and to report to the February, 2013, ordinary meeting of Presbytery.
 2. Inform the petitioner and the respondents to the reference of the action of the Presbytery.
 3. Inform the petitioner of her right to appeal to the GAV if she is dissatisfied with the proceeding of the Presbytery and/or the outcomes of the proceeding.

- 12.429 The moderator led in prayer.

FOD 2

Min 12.122 Interview of Candidate Adam Humphries following his Trials for Licence

The Convener of the Candidates Committee reported on the Trials for Licence for Candidate Adam Humphries and the outcomes thereof.

- 12.430 The report was received.

Mr Humphries was interviewed by the Presbytery.

- 12.431 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery
1. proceed to license Mr Humphries provided he satisfactorily completes his studies at the PTC.

FEBRUARY

Presbytery of Melbourne North
Minutes of meeting held at Whittlesea 19 February, 2013

At Whittlesea, within the Presbyterian Church complex, the Presbytery of Melbourne North met pursuant to adjournment on Tuesday, 19 February, 2013, at 7:30pm for ordinary business.

Constitution	13.001	The Moderator constituted the meeting with Bible reading and prayer.
Present	13.002	Ministers: Nello Barbieri, John Wilson, Don Elliott, Robert White, Theo Fishwick, Ian Stewart, Evan Prentice, Scott Kroeger, Keith Bell. Elders: Bruce Miller, William Roodenburg, Bert Stasse, Richard Wilson, Steve Harris, Athol James, Tony Ruggeri, Jim Scott.
Apologies	13.003	The following apologies for non-attendance were sustained: Neil Chambers, Tony Parle, Simalu Cowley, Peter Hastie, Martin de Pyle, Adrian Kebbe, David Bell.
Elder's Commission	13.004	It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery sustain the commission received from Valley Presbyterian in favour of Richard Wilson for Presbytery and General Assembly, with Peter Leslie as alternate for each.
Agenda	13.005	The circulated agenda, as amended, was adopted.
Minutes confirmed	13.006	The minutes of the ordinary meeting held 11 December 2012 were confirmed.
Matters Arising from previous meeting (not dealt with elsewhere)	13.007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Minute 12.488.5 Has the Edict of Vacancy been issued for Epping? It was reported that the edict had not yet been issued. Minute 12.491.1.4 Megan Jackson has been appointed as administrative assistant to the Presbytery and commenced work on 1 Feb 2013. Minute 12.492 Are there parishes in arrears for the Presbytery Admin levy? It was reported that there are parishes in arrears and that the clerk will send out reminders. Minute 12.497 Report from Don Elliott and Martin De Pyle with recommendations regarding Strategy Committee guidelines. No report. Minute 12.506 No further action required. Minute 12.510.5 Neil Chambers requested to consult with Alan Every – see under Reports.
Correspondence Inward	13.008	<p>The Inwards Correspondence was received, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17/12/2012 – Rev Dr Robert Carner, Director, MDC re: 2012 Statistical returns for all presbyteries 18/12/2012 – Rev Grant Lawry, Acting Convener, MDC re: Templestowe HMS, mentoring by Robert Carner, subsidy request 18/12/2012 – Rev Dr Robert Carner, Director, MDC re: Request Rev Carner to attend meeting to address Presbytery 13/12/2012 – Rev Dr Jared Hood, Academic Dean, PTC re: 2012 Candidates' Results. 20/12/2012 – Kathy James, Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, HCCC, re: Part-time Paediatric Chaplain/Pastoral Carer Position 28/12/2012 – Rev Robert Benn, PIM re: DVD – Life and Ministry of Rev Dr John Flynn, with order forms 2/1/2013 – Neil Chambers, Pastor Bundoora Presbyterian re: Request Long Service Leave, 26th August to 1st December 8/1/2013 – Sabine Bruce, Secretary, PIM re: Appt. of Rev Keith Bell to Alice Springs, commissioning service

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Minutes of meeting held at Whittlesea 19 February, 2013

	<p>Item 9 -</p> <p>13.012 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery instruct the Clerk to fill in the details and send back to Walter Bruining.</p> <p>Item 10 -</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Items 11, 17 & 19 together -</p> <p>Deferred until Reports (3)</p> <p>Item 12 -</p> <p>13.013 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery nominate Rev David Palmer for the position of Moderator-Designate, 2013.</p> <p>Item 13 -</p> <p>Deferred until Reports (4)</p> <p>Items 14 & 16 together -</p> <p>13.014 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery defer these matters until the next meeting of Presbytery, 19 March 2013.</p> <p>Item 15 -</p> <p>Deferred until Reports (1)</p> <p>Item 18 -</p> <p>Deferred until Reports (1)</p> <p>Item 20 -</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Item 21 -</p> <p>13.015 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery note the deadline (10 May) for applications to be submitted and encourage any congregation seeking a grant from MDC funds to secure the appropriate form from the Presbytery Clerk.</p>
Reports Assessor Committee	<p>13.016 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery sit in private.</p> <p>On the table of Presbytery, adjourned business from previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reference from Whittlesea/Mernda Session • petition of Mrs Fran Graham <p>The Assessor Committee to advise Presbytery on the Reference from Whittlesea/Mernda Session, in the light of the Petition from Mrs Fran Graham, reported (Robert White and Bert Stasse speaking). Questions were asked.</p> <p>13.017 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.</p> <p>13.018 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery sit as a committee of the whole.</p> <p>13.019 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery move out of committee of the whole.</p> <p>The report of the Committee was received and its recommendation proceeded with, as follows:</p>
Petition	<p>13.020 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery, having already granted the prayer of the petition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) thank Mrs Mary Francis Graham for her petition; b) acknowledge that the petition has raised issues of pastoral concern at Mernda, which concerns are well-noted; c) inform the petitioner and that Presbytery is deciding the appropriate course of action on the matter in the light of this petition and other reports and representations before it; d) ask that the petitioner, together with other members of Mernda who she purports to be speaking on behalf of, wait on the decisions of Presbytery and submit to them, acknowledging that it is Presbytery that has 'a general responsibility and duty relative to the well-being of the church and its work, and of the congregations, and all congregational property, organisations and activities, within its jurisdiction.' (rule 4:91);

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Minutes of meeting held at Whittlesea 19 February, 2013

		<p>e) remove Mrs Graham from the bar;</p> <p>f) notify these decisions to Mrs Graham and inform her that she has been removed from the bar.</p>
Reiteration of right of appeal		<p>Reiteration from the meeting when the prayer of the petition was granted:</p> <p>At that meeting the Moderator announced to Mrs Graham that she will be considered to be at the bar when the matter is resumed in the new year and, as such, she will have the right to 'give notice to the court that she will appeal the decision of presbytery', even though she will not be required to be present at any subsequent meeting at which the petition shall be dealt with.</p>
Reference	13.021	<p>It was moved, seconded and approved that the Presbytery, having received and sustained the reference from Session:</p> <p>a) thank Session for their reference expressed in minute 6.2.2 of the meeting of Session of 28 Aug 2012;</p> <p>b) acknowledge that the reference has raised genuine concerns the Session has with regard to the congregation at Mernda and the parish of Whittlesea/Mernda;</p> <p>c) inform the Session that Presbytery is deciding the appropriate course of action on the matter in the light of this reference and other reports and representations before it;</p> <p>d) ask that the Session wait on the decisions of Presbytery and submit to them, acknowledging that it is Presbytery that has 'a general responsibility and duty relative to the well-being of the church and its work, and of the congregations, and all congregational property, organisations and activities, within its jurisdiction.' (rule 4:91).</p> <p>e) request the Moderator to announce these decisions and instruct the Clerk to send a copy of them to Session.</p>
Whittlesea / Mernda situation	13.022	<p>It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery appoint John Wilson and Nello Barbieri to take the minds of the Whittlesea and Mernda congregations, the minister and Session regarding the possibility of dissolution of the Whittlesea/Mernda parish and report back to the next Presbytery.</p>
Assessors	13.023	<p>It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery:</p> <p>a) sincerely thank the three assessors for volunteering their time and for demonstrating their wisdom in carrying out this task on behalf of Presbytery;</p> <p>b) inform the Moderator of the General Assembly that the Assessors have finished their task, suggesting that they can now be thanked and discharged.</p>
General Manager's letter (Correspondence Item 15)	13.024	<p>It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery, in response to the letter of advice from the General Manager regarding the state of accounts for Whittlesea/Mernda:</p> <p>a) instruct the Whittlesea BoM to direct the Trusts Corporation to transfer the remaining 'bushfire' money to the Red Cross as a donation in line with notification contained in the original Australia-wide Presbyterian Bush Fire Appeal;</p> <p>b) suggest to the Whittlesea BoM that, unless there is a letter on record from Mr McGrice saying otherwise, the payments made by the former treasurer do not need to be applied for missions;</p> <p>c) remind the Whittlesea BoM of its obligations under rule 2:86 if it believes that the congregation may soon be in the position where it finds it hard to pay remuneration to its minister;</p> <p>d) instruct the Whittlesea BoM to take steps towards seeking the relevant approvals (see p. 231 of the 2013 edition of the PCV Code Book) with regard to renting the church manse so as to produce a further income stream for the parish;</p> <p>e) instruct the Whittlesea BoM to come to a decision as to whether it wants the current arrangement of the PCV office acting as 'treasurer' of the parish</p>

- Item 4 –
defer until Reports (3)
- Item 5 –
noted
- Item 6 –
noted
- Item 7 –
defer until Reports (2)
- Item 8 –
defer until Reports (3)
- Item 9 –
defer until General Business (1)
- Item 10 –
defer until General Business (2)

REPORTS

1. Candidates Committee

- Convener, Theo Fishwick, reported.
- 13.129 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.
- 13.130 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery, in order to conduct an interview with Aaron Boyd on 13 June, add to the Candidates Committee - Martin de Pyle and Bruce Miller.
- 13.131 **FOD** The Presbytery interviewed the following:
7.45 pm Candidate – Luke Brownley
8.15 pm Applicant – Reception of Ministers: Rev Kamran Nazir
- 13.132 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery, having examined Rev Kamran Nazir, find him to be sound in doctrine and life and recommend that he be received as a minister of the PCA.
- 13.133 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery forward the application of Rev Kamran Nazir, together with appropriate accompanying papers, to the Reception of Ministers Committee (GAA) with Presbytery's support.

2. Whittlesea / Mernda

- John Wilson and Nello Barbieri gave a joint report.
- 13.134 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.
- 13.135 **It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery sit in private.**
- Don Elliott reported.
- 13.136 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.
- 13.137 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery, in the light of the opinions of the congregations involved, no longer favour the idea of separating the congregations of Whittlesea and Mernda, and therefore agree to keep the combined parish intact.
- 13.138 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery instruct Martin de Pyle to report this decision to each congregation Sunday May 26 and also inform

them that Evan Prentice is on sick leave.

13.139 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery instruct the Moderator to inform Evan Prentice of the above two decisions as soon as possible.

13.140 It was moved, seconded and approved that the Moderator of Presbytery, for the time being, be Moderator of Whittlesea/Mernda Session.

13.141 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery resume in public.

3. Templestowe MDC subsidy application

13.142 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery approve the application from Templestowe Home Mission Station for a MDC grant for the year 2014.

4. Parish Report - Kangaroo Ground

Neil chambers reported.

13.143 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.

5. Parish Report - Epping

Bruce Miller reported.

13.144 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.

The roll of the Epping parish was tabled with 30 Communicant members and 3 Adherents.

13.145 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery attest the Roll and declare this be the Electoral Register for Epping.

6. Vacant Parish - Reservoir

John Wilson reported.

13.146 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.

The roll of the Reservoir parish was tabled with 50 Communicant members and 1 Adherent.

13.147 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery attest the Roll and declare this be the Electoral Register for Reservoir.

7. Clerk's Report - Presbytery Procedure

John Wilson reported.

13.148 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery receive the report.

13.149 It was moved, seconded and approved that Presbytery accept the explanation of the clerk and endorse the calling of the special purpose meeting. This motion was agreed to without dissent.

8. GAV appeal against Presbytery lodged

The clerk tabled the appeal from Mrs Fran Graham - an appeal already lodged with the Assembly Clerk.

13.150 It was moved seconded and approved that Presbytery appoint as respondents: Nello Barbieri and Richard Wilson.

RECORDS REVIEW -

13.151 The records of Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church were examined and

**report from the special committee of
Presbytery**

(private and confidential)

Assessors' Report to Melbourne North Presbytery

Regarding Mernda Congregation and Session

19th February 2013

PREFACE

We leave it to the discretion of the Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery as to whether or not to circulate this report to Presbyters prior to the Presbytery meeting.

In any event, we:

- recommend that this matter should remain private and confidential leading up to Presbytery's consideration of it and we also believe that Presbytery should sit in private when this matter comes before it;
- recommend that because of personal sensitivities, the following recorded findings and recommendations of the Assessors emanating from their meetings with the Congregation, the Session and the Presbytery should not be made available to the congregations at any time and that they should form a "Record Apart" to be retained for at least 10 years before destruction; and
- recommend that only the final decision/s of Presbytery be made available to the congregations.

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APPEAL 2 (Min.123)

Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Philip Chang
re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East
of 18th September 2013, minute 11

This Appeal was submitted to the General Assembly in a Private Paper

APPEAL 3 (Min. 127)

**Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang
re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East
of 18th September 2013, minute 23**

This Appeal was submitted to the General Assembly in a Private Paper

APPEAL 4 (Min. 130)

Rev Bob Thomas

**re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East
of 18th September 2013, minute 29.**

This Appeal was submitted to the General Assembly in a Private Paper

APPEAL 5 (Min. 131)

Rev Bob Thomas

**re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East
of 18th September 2013, minute 36**

This Appeal was submitted to the General Assembly in a Private Paper

APPEAL 6 (Min. 132)

Rev Bob Thomas

**re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East
of 18th September 2013, minute 42**

This Appeal was submitted to the General Assembly in a Private Paper

APPEAL 7 (Min. 124)

Elder Robert Belcher

**re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East
of 18th September 2013, minute 11**

This Appeal was submitted to the General Assembly in a Private Paper

ASSEMBLY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2013-2014

Ad hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria

Dr Allan Harman, David Schulz, Scott Kroeger, Peter Owen, Mike Wishart, James Bligh, John Cho, Adele Withers (with Dr Allan Harman to convene the first meeting at which the permanent convener will be elected).

Ad hoc Committee to Investigate Federal Vision

[Rev Dr D J W Milne together with all members of PTC (Vic) faculty]

Rev P W Hastie, Dr A E Bird, Dr F W K Chung, Dr J C Hood

Convener: Rev Dr D J W Milne

Ad hoc Committee to Revise 'Breaking the Silence' Document

[Moderator, Law Agent, Clerk of Assembly, member of Code Committee, member of Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment and Finance]

Rev B Harvey

Convener: Moderator

Ad hoc Committee for Sites Reserve Funds

[Immediate Past Moderator (Convener), Clerk of Assembly, Law Agent, General Manager (Secretary), Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance and one nominee from each interested Presbytery.]

Ballarat Rev Dr J S Woodward

Benalla Rev K R Ee

Flinders Rev D J Palmer

Geelong Very Rev Dr A M Harman

Gippsland Rev C Garrett

Kilnoorat Rev I Leach

Maroondah Rev D A Slater

Melbourne East Rev Dr C R Thomas

Melbourne North Mr B Miller

Melbourne West Mr D Wright

North Western Rev B Riding

Assessors Panel

[Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Convener of the Selection Committee, Convener of the Business Committee]

Convener: Moderator

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Vic] Committee

[10 Members appointed by the Assembly, 2 by P W M U]

RT 14: Mr D Bennett [17], Rev P J Burns [22], Rev D Carroll [19]

RT 15: Mrs W Pearce [22], Miss E Slater [17], Rev Kyung Ee [20]

RT 16: Mr N Johnston [22], Mrs S White [22], Rev P Simmonds [17], Rev L H C Pearce [19]

Convener: Rev P Simmonds [17]

Board Of Investment And Finance [Trusts Corporation]

[10 Members, eligible for a second consecutive 5 year term]

RT 14: Mr E De Zilwa [15], Rev A Venn [19]

RT 15: Mr T Arnold [20], Mr A Letcher [20]

RT 16:

RT 17: Mr I Bramley [17], Rev S Deroon [22], Rev M Smith [22]

RT 18: Mr D Brown [18], Mr Geoff Cox [23], Mr Matt Duke [23]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property [Architectural] Committee

[3 Members]

RT 14: Mr G Nixon [17]

RT 15: Rev P Phillips [17]

RT 16: Mrs J Bell [17]

Convener: Rev P Phillips [15]

Business Committee

[Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, 3 Members of Assembly not conveners of other reporting committees, Clerks of Presbyteries during Assembly]

RT 14: Mr K Childs [22]

RT 15: Rev P Mercer [19]

RT 16: Rev D Carroll [22]

Convener: Rev Dr J Hood [16] [Convener appointed for 3 years and eligible for reappointment, notwithstanding other regulations]

Christian Education and Nurture Committee

[11 Members, at least 6 members of Assembly]

RT 14: Vacancy, Rev M Wharton [17], Rev H Lim [18], Vacancy

RT 15: Rev S Kroeger [15], Vacancy [00], Vacancy

RT 16: Rev R White [22], Rev D Robertson [22], Mrs A Harvey [20], Vacancy

Convener: Rev D Robertson [20]

Church and Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 14: Mr N Sharp [21], Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 15: Mr J Ballantyne [15], Rev D Combridge [15], Mr B Palmer [20], Vacancy

RT 16: Rev P G Barclay [14], Rev D R Middleton [19], Vacancy

Convener: Rev D R Middleton [19]

Church Planting Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 14: Rev B P Johnson [15], Rev C Garrett [22]

RT 15: Rev R J O'Brien [15], Mr P Leslie [15] Rev D W Elliott [15]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev N Barbieri [17]

Convener: Rev D W Elliott [15]

Clerkship Committee

Moderator (Convener), Law Agent, Business Committee Convener, Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Convener, Chairman Board of Investment and Finance, plus 2 immediate past moderators.

Code and General Administration Committee

[3 Members, plus ex officio the Clerks of Assembly, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, Chairman of Trusts Corporation]

RT 14: Rev Dr J Woodward [15]

RT 15: Rev J Dekker [17]

RT 16: Rev G Nicholson [17]

Convener: The Clerk Of Assembly

Conciliation Committee

[3 Ministers and 3 Elders appointed annually, plus the Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly as convener]

Ministers: Vacancy, Rev P Orchard [17], Rev G Weber [19]

Elders: Mr N Sharp [18], Mr B Downes [22], Vacancy

Convener: Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, plus all full-time and part-time Australian Defence Force Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 14: Rev B Riding [16]

RT 15: Mr J Cawood [22]

RT 16: Rev P Mercer [22]

Convener: Rev M De Pyle [17]

Exit Students Committee

Convener of the Ministry Development Committee, Ministry Development Officer, Principal of the Presbyterian Theological College [or his faculty representative], Training Officer, Convener of the Church Planting Committee [whenever a Church planting placement is being considered], Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee [whenever a chaplaincy placement is being considered], a representative of each candidate's Presbytery [preferably the convener of the Presbytery's Candidates' Committee or equivalent]

Convener: Convener of Ministry Development Committee

General Mission Program Committee

[6 Members]

RT 14: Rev G Vayne [21], Mr N Sharp [20]

RT 15: Mr R Lowe [15], Mr B Kilmartin [15],

RT 16: Rev P Court [19], Mr K Davidson [22]

Convener: Mr N Sharp [20]

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Persons]

RT 14: Mrs A Elliott [16], Rev M Fagan [18], Rev C Le Page [18]

RT 15: Miss B Brown [14], Mrs T Orchard [17], Mrs A Robertson [19], vacancy

RT 16: Rev G Vayne [22], Rev P Court [22], vacancy

Convener: Rev M Fagan [18]

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

[6 Members]

RT 14: Rev M Crabb [21], Mr R Taylor [21],

RT 15: Mr R Butcher [16], Mr D Wright [22]

RT 16: Rev K D W Allen [21], Rev Dr J S Woodward [21]

Convener: Rev Dr J S Woodward [21]

METRO Committee

[6 Members]

RT 14: Rev C Le Page [19], Mr A May [17]

RT 15: Vacancy, Rev T McIntosh [22]

RT 16: Mr B Haughey [17], Rev B Harvey [22]

Convener: Mr A May

Ministry Development Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 14: Dr B Ellis [20], Rev J Rickard [15]

RT 15: Rev G Vanderwert [22], Mr N Sharp [21]

RT 16: Mrs M Brennan [16], Rev I Hutton [21]

Convener: Rev G D Lawry [14]

Moderator's Committee

[2 Elders, 1 Minister as Convener, plus the Moderator and Moderator Designate]

RT 14: Mr A Forrester [19]

RT 15: Mr R Belcher [15]

RT 16: Rev G Weber [14] (one year extension notwithstanding the 9 year rule)

Convener: Rev G Weber [14] (one year extension notwithstanding the 7 year rule)

Records Committee

[6 Members of Assembly, at least 3 Ministers]

RT 14: Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 15: Rev G Nicholson [13], Mr D Fraser [14]

RT 16: Rev J Dekker [19], Vacancy

Convener: Rev G Nicholson [13]

Social Services Committee

[10 Members]

RT 14: Miss R Strother [22], Mr D Wright [14], Mr G Hamilton [22]

RT 15: Mr B Miller [18], Mr D Gibb [19], Mrs R Rodgers [21]

RT 16: Mr R Lowe [15], Miss B Firth [15], Mr J Nuske [21], Mr B Evans [21]

Convener: Mr R Lowe [15]

State News Committee

[4 Members, 2 Ministers and 2 Elders]

RT 14: Rev P Daffy [15]

RT 15: Rev N Harvey [18]

RT 16: Mr A Zirngast [22], Mr Phillip Betts [19]

Convener: Rev N Harvey [16]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, plus ex officio the principal and 1 other member of the Faculty]

RT 14: Rev C Siriweera [22], Vacancy, Rev N Chambers [17]

RT 15: Vacancy, Rev B Oakes [15], Rev I H Barker [22], Mr C Manners [22]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev K Maxwell [18], Mr B Georges [22]

Convener: Rev N Chambers [15]

ACCESS Ministries

Rev G Lawry, Mrs A Thomas

CCAP Blantyre Synod Malawi

Trustee for Orbus: The Clerk of Assembly

Council For Chaplains In Tertiary Institutions

Mr P Leslie, Rev D Martin

Family Council Of Victoria

[Appointee to report to Assembly through the Church and Nation Committee]

Mrs J Manners

Leaders Of Churches

The Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator

Press Officer

The Moderator in consultation with the Clerk of Assembly and the convener of the Church and Nation Committee

PWMU Cook Book Committee

Rev J Wilson

St Andrews Foundation

Mrs M Conradi, Rev R O'Brien, Mr C Morrow

The Bible Society

Rev K Allen

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