

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
MAY 2015**

**AND OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 2015**

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS 2015

Moderator

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1 Church Street
DROUIN VIC 3818

Clerk of Assembly

Rev John P Wilson BSc, DipEd, BTh, MMin, DMin
23 Talbot Street
GREENSBOROUGH VIC 3088

Deputy Clerk

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAY 2015

**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 5 May 2015 at 10.30am.

1. Constitution

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the previous General Assembly (BB 2014 min. 129).

Moderator's Chaplain Rev Philip Burns led the Commission of Assembly with an exposition of Matthew 10:1-16 and the singing of a hymn.

The Moderator constituted the Commission of Assembly with prayer.

2. 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 2014, and who remain qualified to be members of the Assembly.

3. Apologies

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

Ministers: Keith Allen, Ivan Barker, Keith Bell, Tony Bird, Robert Boan, Ken Brown, Robert Carner, Felix Chung, Dallas Clarnette, Phil Daffy, Rob Duncanson, Alan Every, Wally Gear, Marvin Hagans, Neil Harvey, Ben Johnson, Ian Leach, Phil Mercer, Douglas Milne, Clinton le Page, James Playfoot, Hugh Price, Chris Siriweera, Gary Stephens, Peter Swinn, Gary Wentworth, Walter Zurrer.

Elders: Malcolm Browning, Craig Coates, Ralph Kop, Geoff Cross, Tom Fleming, Doug Fraser, Russ Grinter, Walter Lawrence, Rex McCarron, Alec McRae, Paul Ridgewell, David Selman, Norm Sharp, Maitland Vertigan, Peter Winstanley, Merv York.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Associations

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Associate Rev David Currie, minister of the Church of Scotland and assistant minister at The Scots' Church Melbourne.

The motion was seconded and approved.

5. 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 Commission of Assembly:

Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30am to the finish of business, with:
lunch 12:30pm to 1:30pm; refreshments 3:40pm to 4:00pm; dinner 5:30pm to 6:30pm, as necessary.

Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:
20 minutes in total for:

Conveners and seconders moving deliverances as a whole
Petitioners—stating the petition
Appellants—stating the appeal
Respondents to appeals
Question time

15 minutes in total for:

Overturists—stating the overture

5 minutes for:

Appellants in reply

Movers of substantive motions and amendments

All other speakers.

Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Commission of Assembly consisting of:

Ministers: Stuart Withers (Convener), Toby McIntosh.

Elders: Bert Stasse, Doug Fraser.

Permit committee conveners and chairpersons who are not members of the Commission of Assembly to address the Commission of Assembly when their respective committee's report and deliverance is before the Assembly.

Permit Mr Geoff Cox, in his role as (acting) Law Agent of the PCV, to remain in the court during all sederunts, including when meeting in private, so that he may give legal advice to the Commission of Assembly as required.

Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Election of Moderator-Designate

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

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Receive the nominations of Rev Kyung Rae Ee (minister, Shepparton) and Rev Mark Everett Smith (minister, Drouin) for the position of Moderator-Designate 2015.
2. Proceed to elect the Moderator-Designate by preferential ballot as per regulations.

The motion was seconded and approved. (min. 8)

7. Appointment of Law Agent

The Clerk's report on the procedure by which the nominations for the position of Law Agent had come before the Commission of Assembly was received.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Appoint Mr Geoff Cox, BA, LLB, to the position of Law Agent, Presbyterian Church of Victoria, on the terms as agreed to by the Board of Investment and Finance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Pray that the Lord will uphold and guide Mr Cox as he serves the church as Law Agent.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator welcomed Mr Cox to the Commission of Assembly, congratulated him on his appointment as Law Agent and led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

Mr Cox addressed the Commission of Assembly.

Mr Edward de Zilwa, Chairman of the BIF, addressed the Commission of Assembly.

The Clerk addressed the Commission of Assembly on the role of the Law Agent.

8. Election of Moderator Designate – Result of the Ballot (min. 6)

The Moderator announced that, as the result of the ballot, the Moderator-Designate of the 2015 General Assembly is Rev Mark Everett Smith.

The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

Rev Mark Smith addressed the Commission of Assembly.

9. Theological Education Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Kevin Maxwell, moved the deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were moved and seconded.

Debate was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 11)

10. Petition 1 – from Hawthorn Board of Management re: Sale of 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn

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 Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the sale of the Hawthorn Manse, 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn.
2. Approve the use of the proceeds of the sale of the Hawthorn Manse to purchase another Manse for the use of the Hawthorn parish.
3. Instruct the BIF to hold in a Sites Reserve any remaining proceeds of sale as per BIF regulation 10.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Approve the sale of the Hawthorn Manse, 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn.
3. Approve the use of the proceeds of the sale of the Hawthorn manse to purchase another manse for the use of the Hawthorn parish.
4. Instruct the BIF to hold in a Sites Reserve any remaining proceeds of sale as per BIF regulation 10.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

11. Theological Education Committee (min. 9)

Debate was resumed.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clauses 3 and 4 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the funding partnership for training candidates for ministry in the PCV, with 50% of the cost of training being contributed by the PCV through the TEC Bursary Fund and the other 50% by the candidates for ministry, from 1 January 2016.
2. Approve the funding of the TEC Bursary Fund from GMP, the amount given each year to be calculated using the following formula, effective from 1 July 2016, which shall supersede all previous provisions to fund the TEC Bursary Fund from GMP:

**(Effective number of full-time candidates at 31 March each year) x
(the cost of a candidate's fees for that year) x 0.35**

Where the cost of a candidate's fees per year is given by the following formula:

Number of ACT accredited subjects required to meet GAA CC requirements/4 x ((2 x the cost of a single graduate subject (4cps)) + the cost of a single undergraduate subject (4cps))/3

3. Grant to the TEC the authority to raise funds across the denomination to contribute to the perpetual portion of the Bursary Fund for the purpose of funding candidate training and supporting candidates while training.
4. Give thanks to God for the prudent financial management of the BIF, the hard work of the General Manager and thoughtful engagement of the members of the BIF in supporting the work of the PTC and the training of candidates.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

12. Christian Education and Nurture Committee

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

In the absence of the Convener (Rev Scott Kroeger) Rev Hui Lim moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

(1) Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend clause 1 by adding the words "and two months" after the word "years" so that the clause would read:

1. Reappoint Rev Brian Harvey to the position of the Youth Ministries Director for a period of five years and two months, as of 1 May 2015.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 1 as amended was approved.

The Moderator congratulated Rev Brian Harvey on his reappointment.

Rev Brian Harvey briefly addressed the Commission of Assembly.

The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

Clauses 3-5 were approved.

(2) The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Reappoint Rev Brian Harvey to the position of the Youth Ministries Director for a period of five years and two months, as of 1 May 2015.
2. Authorise the CENC and Rev Brian Harvey to sign the BIF-approved Committee Staff contract with terms in the Schedule in line with CENC's approved budget.
3. Thank Rev Brian Harvey for the godly and faithful way he has worked for the church over the last three years.
4. Pray for Rev Brian Harvey regarding the work he undertakes on behalf of the General Assembly among the youth of the church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Board of Investment and Finance

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

In the absence of the Chairman (Elder Edward de Zilwa) Rev Mark Smith moved the deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-3 were approved.

Clause 4 was moved and seconded.

(1) Elder Andrew May moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend Clause 4 to include the \$5,000 honorarium in the METRO budget so that the motion would read:

4. Approve the Committee Budgets for 2015/16 as presented, with the inclusion of the \$5,000 honorarium in the METRO budget.

The amendment was approved.

Clause 4 as amended was approved.

(2) The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for his continued material blessings on our denomination.
2. Approve a grant of \$200,000 from the Balfour memorial trust to the TEC bursary fund as a perpetual amount, with the interest to be used to fund scholarships and bursaries in accordance with TEC policy and the terms of the bursary trust.
3. Ratify the decision to transfer the Pinches bequest (\$100,667) to the TEC Bursary fund.
4. Approve the Committee Budgets for 2015/16 as presented, with the inclusion of the \$5,000 honorarium in the METRO budget.

The motion was seconded and approved.

14. Code and General Administration Committee

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

The Convener moved the deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

Clause 3 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Declare that in a union of congregations, there is no in-principle reason why the property of the uniting congregations could not be made available for the benefit of the united congregation without a congregation having to be dissolved, according to Code 4:89.
2. Declare that any making available of the property of the uniting congregations to the united congregation would be by the General Assembly, pursuant to the Model Trust Deeds under which churches and manse are held in trust for the Church, informing the trustees that the land is to be used as a site for a church for public worship by a particular congregation recognised by it.
3. Declare that in preparing an 'agreement for union' a Presbytery ought not assume:
 - a. that the whole of the property of uniting congregations would be made available by the Assembly to a united congregation; or
 - b. that the Assembly would approve the sale of more property than would be necessary to provide for the needs of the united congregation, given the requirements of rule 4:89, that 'In effecting the union ... of a congregation the Presbytery takes care that no property is needlessly alienated from the church'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

15. General Mission Program Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Phil Court, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

(1) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Commission:

Amend clause 1 by replacing the figure of \$101,000 alongside Theological Education – Bursary Fund with the figure of \$328,000.

The amendment was seconded.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate. (min. 20)

16. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

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

17. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

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

The Convener, Elder Dennis Wright, moved the deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-3 e. were approved.

(1) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend clause 3 f. by replacing all words with the following, so that it would read:

- f. that the Employer Super Guarantee Contributions be paid on the actual remuneration and the additional Employer Super Contribution be set at 6% of actual remuneration for the year commencing 1 July 2015;

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 3 f. was approved.

Clauses 4-5 were approved.

(2) The deliverance as a whole as was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Remind presbyteries to follow up actively the submission of Annual Parish Reports by each parish within its bounds, by the due date, so that the Committee can do the work the Assembly expects.
2. Remind presbyteries to take seriously their responsibility 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 2015:
 - a. The minimum remuneration will be \$51,792.00.
 - b. The minimum stipend component of minimum remuneration will be \$33,900.00.
 - c. The maximum non-cash benefit component of minimum remuneration will be \$17,892.00.
 - d. The sustentation qualifying stipend will be \$23,496.00 per annum; therefore the maximum sustentation grant available to a parish will be \$10,404.00.
 - e. The additional amount for travel over 6,000kms of the distance agreed between the minister and his parish as his annual distance of travel on church related matters remains at 49 cents per km.
 - f. The rate of parish contribution to the PCV Superannuation Fund be maintained at 15% of actual remuneration for the year commencing 1 July 2015.
 - g. Supply preaching fees for the year commencing 1 July 2015 increase by 2.5%, so that they become:
 - \$133 for one service;
 - \$154 for two services;
 - \$183 for three services, using the same sermon on the same day;
 - \$242 for two services or more, with separate sermons; andthat the travel reimbursement for supply preachers remain at 49 cents per km.
4. Set the Long Service Leave Levy for the financial year 2015-16 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 the Ministry Committee regulations.
5. Discontinue the superannuation subsidy previously available as at 30 June 2015.

The motion was seconded and approved.

18. Safe Church PCV

The report of Safe Church PCV was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Request the Business Committee to reserve the Agenda for the 5th Sederunt (Wednesday, 7 October 2015, 7.00pm – 8.30pm) entirely for Safe Church to report, and to invite spokespersons from Victoria Police's SANO taskforce to address the Assembly, together with all Safe Church local representatives, and then to field a question and answer session.
2. Strongly encourage full attendance by every member of Assembly.
3. Invite all Safe Church local representatives to attend.

The motion was seconded and approved.

19. 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.

20. General Mission Program Committee (min. 15)

Debate was resumed on the amendment to Clause 1.

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

The Moderator ruled that the amendment was competent.

(1) Rev Darren Middleton moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend the amendment by replacing the figure of \$328,000 with the figure of \$200,000.

The proposed amendment was seconded.

(2) Rev Bruce Riding moved the previous question with regard to the amendment and the amendment to the amendment.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clauses 2-8 were approved.

Very Rev Allan Harman sought leave to move a motion as arising from the debate.

Leave was granted.

(3) Very Rev Allan Harman moved an additional clause 9:

That the Commission of Assembly:

9. Request the Committee to:
 - a. reconsider the formulation of the GMP for CPI; and
 - b. report to the General Assembly in October with proposals.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the General Mission Program for the financial year 2015/16 as follows:

	2015/16 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:	
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	30,000
State News	1,500
Theological Education – Bursary Fund	101,000
SUB-TOTAL: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	132,500
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:	
Australian Christian Lobby	11,600
ACCESS Ministries	25,900

	2015/16 \$
Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions	500
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	600
SUB-TOTAL: INTERDENOMINATIONAL	38,600
OTHER GRANTS:	
Presbyterian Inland Mission	6,250
SUB-TOTAL: OTHER GRANTS	6,250
GRAND TOTAL	177,350

2. 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 2015/16.
3. Approve the allocation of the total General Mission Program for the financial year 2015/16 as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of total	2015/16 \$
Ballarat	4.10%	7,272
Benalla	5.41%	9,595
Flinders	12.82%	22,729
Geelong	3.75%	6,649
Gippsland	4.33%	7,688
Kilnoorat	6.57%	11,654
Maroondah	7.70%	13,663
Melbourne East	20.54%	36,423
Melbourne North	15.09%	26,759
Melbourne West	16.69%	29,592
North Western Victoria	3.00%	5,326
TOTAL	100.00%	177,350

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Request presbyteries to ask parishes to pay their GMP allocations in full early in the financial year 2015/16, or where this is not possible, to pay the amounts by monthly or quarterly instalments.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. Request the Committee to:
 - a. reconsider the formulation of the GMP for CPI; and
 - b. report to the General Assembly in October with proposals.

The motion was seconded and approved.

21. 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.

22. Ballot Committee discharged

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

23. Dissolution

The business of the Commission of Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and the benediction.

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Commission, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 21 thereof.



Rt Rev David Alfred Robert Brown
Moderator

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 5)

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 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, p1 (del p1)
6. Election of Moderator-Designate, p3 (del p3)
7. Election of Law Agent, p4 (del p4)
8. Theological Education Committee, p5 (del p10)
9. Christian Education and Nurture Committee, p11 (del p13)
10. Board of Investment and Finance, p14 (del p17)
11. Code and General Administration Committee, p65 (del p74)
12. General Mission Program Committee, p75 (del p77)
13. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee, p83 (no del)
14. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, p85 (del p86)
15. Safe Church – PCV, p88 (del p89)
16. Ad Hoc Committee on Sites Reserve, p90 (no del)
17. Petition 1: Hawthorn Board of Management—Sale of Property, p115, NOM A1
18. Commission to confirm minutes, NOM A2
19. Ballot Committee discharged, NOM A3
20. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

NOMINATIONS FOR MODERATOR-DESIGNATE (Min. 6)

The following nominations for the position of Moderator-Designate 2015 have been received:

Rev Kyung Rae Ee (minister, Shepparton): presbyteries of Benalla and Geelong;

Rev Mark Everett Smith (minister, Drouin): presbyteries of Melbourne North and North Western Victoria.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

NOMINATION FOR LAW AGENT (Min. 7)

The following nomination for Law Agent has been received:

Mr Geoff Cox, BA, LLB (McCracken & McCracken): presbyteries of Ballarat, Melbourne East, Melbourne North and Gippsland.

Geoff Cox, BA, LLB

Mr Geoff Cox, a member of Bundoora Presbyterian Church, is a lawyer with over 11 years of experience.

Geoff graduated from the University of Melbourne in 2002 after having completed a combined Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts degree. He joined McCracken & McCracken Lawyers as Articled Clerk in 2003 and was admitted to practice in 2004. Geoff became a partner of the firm in 2010.

Geoff's practice areas include property, commercial and workplace law and he provides advice to a range of clients including incorporated associations, not-for-profit groups, private clients and commercial entities.

Geoff is currently a member of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation and Board of Investment and Finance. He has been the Acting Law Agent of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria since October 2014 and is also a Director and Company Secretary for the Melbourne School of Theology (MST) and chair of the Missions Development Committee for Scripture Union Victoria.

It is Geoff's hope that, under God, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria would continue to grow and flourish and that the Church would be instrumental in the spread of the Gospel throughout Victoria and further afield. In whatever capacity, it is always a great privilege to serve in God's mission. In this particular context, Geoff offers his time and skills and he trusts and prays that these will be a useful and meaningful contribution to the life of the Church for the years to come.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SITES RESERVE (Min. 19)

Background

The ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee was formed and then instructed, by the 2011 General Assembly (Min. 91.5,6), to 'explore ways and means of achieving more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.'

After considerable delay, due to seeking Counsel's opinion on the subject of 'Holding and dealing with property within the church', the Committee received further instruction from the 2014 Commission of the General Assembly, namely:

Min. 12

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Receive the 15-page Declarative Statement 'Holding and dealing with property within the church' dated October 2013.
2. Authorise the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee to frame a revision of appropriate PCV rules and BIF regulations in the light of the October 2013 Declarative Statement and those concerns raised during the debate which may be submitted to the committee, such revision that will enable the General Assembly to achieve a more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
3. Instruct the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee to consult with both the BIF and the Code Committee in the framing of any new rules and regulations, with the objective of consensus prior to presentation to the General Assembly.

In accord with this, the committee received submissions from members of the Assembly. In consideration of how best to deal with this list of questions, the committee authorised sending it to Mr Geoff Cox of McCracken and McCracken for answers. Answers were received in March 2015.

While not specifically seeking it, the committee also received further legal opinion on the subject of 'How Presbyterian Church property is held' from Mr Philip Barton. The opinion, dated March 2015, was originally written for the benefit of the Code Committee on a different matter, but its value was quickly seen for other purposes as well.

The committee has received what it considers to be a consensus of legal opinions regarding how Presbyterian Church property is held. These are:

1. Michael Shand, QC, Declarative Statement, October 2013 (see Appendix to this report);
2. Geoff Cox, March 2015 (see 'Answers to Questions' attached as an Appendix to this report);
3. Philip Barton, March 2015 (already attached as an Appendix to the Code Committee's report).

It is not within our competence to effectively summarise legal opinions. Let every member of Assembly, with an interest in this subject, read each document for him or herself. It is our opinion that the three opinions are not divergent.

The committee is drawing some conclusions, the foremost of which is that we should not pursue any further legal opinion, because we believe that that we have sufficient to be confident of the next step. Also, conclusions are forming along these lines:

- a) Church property, and therefore funds from the proceeds of sale, never belong to a person or a group of persons such as congregations, but are held for a purpose.
- b) Broadly speaking, that purpose must always be for the best interests of the church (the Presbyterian Church of Victoria) as a whole.
- c) The General Assembly has final authority over these funds, the guiding principle being: 'what is for the best interests of the PCV as a whole'.
- d) We think the denomination, in the recent past, has been inconsistent in administering the funds in terms of 'the best interest of the PCV as a whole'. Rather, we believe it may have considered the funds to be more congregational than denominational.
- e) The PVC rules speak of 'congregational property' (e.g. at Rule 2:30). We think that this, together with other phrases in BIF regulations, lead the General Assembly to give greater consideration to the congregational aspects and privileges rather than to denominational purposes – a consideration which is not totally consistent with the interpretation of the Model Trust Deeds.
- f) We think there is wisdom in looking again at the original purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund of setting aside a portion of proceeds of sale for future land purchases, a purpose maintained up until at least the 1930s.

The legal advice we have received now clears the way for us to go forward on the task of working out some proposals regarding a more effective use of the Sites Reserve funds which we can bring to the 2015 General Assembly for its consideration.

In order to keep members of the General Assembly fully briefed, the following motions were agreed to at our last meeting:

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Sites Reserve Committee:

1. Appoint a sub-committee, consisting of David Palmer (convener), Michael Ellison (Secretary), Allan Harman, Andrew Slater, Mark Crabb, Colin Morrow and John Wilson to return to the instructions of the GAV Commission 2014, min 12.2 and 12.3, working in the additional light of the (acting) Law Agent's opinion, March 2015.
2. Instruct this sub-committee, in framing changes, to:
 - a) consider the original purpose of the General Assembly's Reserve Fund, as stated in its 1875 regulations, as presented in the Clerk's paper to the Commission of Assembly, 2014;
 - b) make recommendations for the use of existing Sites Reserve Funds, highlighting any necessary transitional arrangements that may have to be in place.
3. Instruct this sub-committee to report to the Sites Reserve Committee and to ensure that its work is ready for the 2015 General Assembly.

Appendix

1. Michael Shand's Declarative Statement, October 2013
2. Geoff Cox's answers to questions, March 2015

APPENDIX 1

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

HOLDING AND DEALING WITH PROPERTY WITHIN THE CHURCH

DECLARATIVE STATEMENT

October 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Legislation of both the Victorian Parliament and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (**the Church**) regulates the holding and dealing with property that is held for the purposes of the Church whether generally or for a particular congregation. That legislation includes –

- (a) the *Presbyterian Trusts Act* 1890 (Vic), as amended (**the Act**);
- (b) the Statutory Rules made by the General Assembly pursuant to the Act;
- (c) the Model Trust Deeds enrolled with the Registrar-General pursuant to the Act; and
- (d) the Code Book of the Church containing rules and regulations.

1.2 The Presbyterian Church has been described as having a model where is a succession of committees at national, regional and local level, so that the decision of the local congregation may, in appropriate cases, be overturned by that of a general assembly¹. As Rule 1:7 states –

“...the church is governed by ministers and representative elders acting in orderly association in a hierarchy of courts of the church by which its organic unity is maintained. These, in ascending orders, are the Session, the Presbytery and the General Assembly.”

1.3 The General Assembly is thus the highest authority of the Church in Victoria. It is the supreme court of the Church: rule 5:1. In exercising the powers and authority conferred by law, it must act for the purposes of the Church in all its orders including not only the congregations but also the Presbytery and the wider Church. It must act in accordance with the constitutions of the Church, both national and Victorian and the standards of the Church as set out in its Code Book (rule 1:2, 3 and 4).

¹ *Attorney-General ex rel Elisha* (1989) 37 NSWLR 293 at 315E per Young J.

1.4 Rule 1:8 provides for the congregation and people of the church –

“In accordance with the law and practice of the church, the people are organized in congregations within parishes or mission fields as arranged in each case by the Presbytery of the bounds. Every congregation is placed under the supervision of the Session (see rules 2:1 and 3:2).”

1.5 It is the duty of the board of management to administer the financial affairs of the congregation and to care for and maintain the congregational property in good order and repair (see rules 2:30, 88): rule 2:43. Every congregational organisation is required by rule 2:41, if it holds money in its own name or raises money regularly -

- (a) to use a separate bank account in the name of the organisation, and to ensure that no money raised by or for the organisation is paid into a private bank account;
- (b) to keep regular accounts of income and expenditure;
- (c) to obtain the permission of the Board of Management before raising money by any special effort or appeal in the congregation;
- (d) to submit annually to the Session a financial statement of accounts for the annual reporting period of the congregation audited by some competent person who is not a member of the organisation.

1.6 Rules 2:70 -72 specify further the duties of the Board of Management.

Gathers and distributes funds

70. The Board gathers the monetary contributions of the congregation, takes charge of them and of any other money received by or for the use of the congregation, and distributes them for the purposes for which they were contributed.

Keeps proper records of account

71. The Board keeps proper and adequate records of account and other necessary financial records, and, in so doing, obeys the directions contained in the rules that follow.

Bank accounts

72. The Board ensures that all money received for or on behalf of the congregation and all its payments pass through bank accounts held in the name of the congregation and not through private bank accounts.

2. Who are the trustees of Church property?

The Trusts Corporation

- 2.1 The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (**the Trusts Corporation**) is a body corporate with perpetual succession. It has the power to sue and be sued and may acquire and hold any property in trust for the Church. It may receive any moneys which have been or may be given or

contributed by any person to be applied to any of the purposes of the Church: s5 of the Act.

- 2.2 The members of the Trust Corporation are appointed by the General Assembly: s12 of the Act. There are ten members, elected and appointed by the General Assembly and those members are also the members of the Board of Investment and Finance of the General Assembly.²
- 2.3 Upon the incorporation of the Trusts Corporation, by publication of the required notice in the Government Gazette on 28 November 1890, all property³ then held by any person or persons for or on behalf of the Church generally (but not property held for any existing congregation) became vested in the Trusts Corporation as the corporate trustee. Property which was held on behalf of or occupied or used by or for the purposes of any existing congregation of the Church or of the minister was excluded from vesting in that way and individual trustees continued in that role: s6 of the Act.

The option to transfer property to the Trusts Corporation

- 2.4 Section 7 of the Act gave trustees the option to transfer property held in their individual names to the Trusts Corporation, whether the trust was for Church purposes generally or for the purposes of a congregation of the Church.
- 2.5 *Property in trust for a congregation:* The Act provides as follows: From and after the registration of the resolution of General Assembly on 19 November 1890 for the constitution of the Trusts Corporation, where any persons hold any property on behalf of or occupied or used by or for the purposes of any congregation of the Church, the trustees or a majority of them may if they think fit –

² See the *Board of Investment and Finance Regulations*, reg 2 which superceded the statutory rules (rule 5.13) previously made by the General Assembly.

³ The Act in section 3 defines ‘property’ to include -
 ‘all property real and personal including money or securities for money held by or vested or purporting to be vested in or claimable by any person or persons either in trust generally for the said Church or for any congregation thereof or for any special purpose in connexion therewith or for the benefit or use of the members thereof as such or of any person or persons holding for the time being office therein’.

- (a) with the consent of a majority of its members and adherents present in person or by proxy at a meeting duly convened for that purpose; and
 - (b) with the approval of the General Assembly⁴
- consent to a transfer of the property to the Trusts Corporation upon the trusts to which the property is subject: s7 of the Act.

2.6 *Property in trust for the Church:* Similarly, where any persons hold any property in trust generally for or on behalf of the Church, the trustees or a majority of them may if they think fit and with the approval of the General Assembly consent to a transfer of the property to the Trusts Corporation upon the trusts to which the property is subject: s7 of the Act. This would apply to a case of property bequeathed by Will to individual trustees to hold for Church purposes.

Vacancies in the office of trustee

2.7 If –

- (a) the trustee or trustees of any property⁵ die or are absent from Victoria for more than 6 months in succession or cannot be found or resign or be removed from office or become incapable of holding property; and
- (b) those lawfully authorised to elect or appoint a successor or successors to that person or persons refuse or neglect to do so for the space of one month after being called upon by the Moderator to make such election or appointment; or
- (c) if there be no person lawfully authorised to elect or appoint that successor or successors

forthwith the Moderator may by certificate in or the effect of the prescribed form declare that there are no trustees of such property and thereupon the property shall vest in the Trusts Corporation: s9 of the Act.

⁴ Whilst the General Assembly Regulations, reg 4:9, gives some authority to the Board of Investment and Finance to consent on behalf of the Assembly to a sale lease or mortgage of property where in the opinion of the Presbytery and the Board the application is urgent, the regulation does not on its present terms extend to a transfer to the Trusts Corporation under s7.

⁵ See the definition of ‘property’ above in footnote 1.

2.8 As a result of the operation of the above provisions of the Act, many properties held for the purposes of the Church generally or of a congregation of the Church have become vested in the Trusts Corporation.

2.9 Whether the Trusts Corporation or individual trustees hold property in trust either for the purposes of the Church generally or of a congregation of the Church, the trusts in question are charitable purpose trusts.⁶ They bind the trustees to hold manage and deal with the property in a manner consistent with those trusts and applicable civil or Church laws⁷. They are not private trusts for the benefit of individuals or the specific members of any congregation. In that sense, neither an individual nor a congregation nor its members can be said to have ‘ownership’ of the property.

3. The trusts on which property is held

The Trusts Corporation

3.1 Section 5 of the Act empowers the Trusts Corporation to acquire take and hold any property in trust for the Church and provides that it -

shall deal with all such property and securities so as to give effect to the trusts to which they shall be specially subject or when not subject to any express trust in such manner as this Act hereinafter provides or the General Assembly may from time to time direct, but so as not to interfere with the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the enforcement of trusts.

3.2 The Trusts Corporation has a statutory duty to hold manage and deal with any property held or acquired by it-

- (a) so far as the same is subjected to any express trust, in conformity with that expressed trust; and
- (b) so far as the same is not subject to any express trust, in such manner as the General Assembly may from time to time direct,

and that property is subject, as to the management thereof, to the rules or regulations of the General Assembly in force for the time being which are applicable: s14 of the Act. The directions which the General Assembly can

⁶ See *Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust v Ryde Municipal Council* (1978) 2 NSWLR 387 at 393C, 396E and 399C.

⁷ *Wylde v Attorney-General (NSW)* (1948) 78 CLR 224 per Latham CJ at 255

give are limited to what advances the purposes of the Church as they exist from time to time but not otherwise.⁸

An individual trustee or trustees – formal declaration of trust

3.3 An individual trustee or trustees who hold any property under a formal declaration of trust for the Church must deal with that property in conformity with that declared trust and otherwise subject to any applicable civil or Church laws.

3.4 The civil law includes –

- (a) the *Presbyterian Trusts Act* 1890 as amended;
- (b) the statutory rules made by the General Assembly under the Act, and relevantly-
 - (i) the rule relating to the consent of the Moderator to dealings with property (rule 11); and
 - (ii) the rules relating to trustees of property held for the purposes of a congregation of the Church, not vested in the Trusts Corporation (rules 12 – 19);
- (c) the *Trustee Act* 1958; and
- (d) the *Charities Act* 1978, so far as applicable.

3.5 The Church laws are the rules and regulations contained in the Code Book of the Church which include the following:

Rule 2:30	Care of property - binding the board of management
Rule 2:31	Access to buildings
Rule 2:32	Use of buildings
Rule 2:33	Erection and alteration of buildings - binding the congregation
Rule 2:34	Sale lease purchase or mortgage of property - binding the congregation

The Regulations of the Church include the Board of Investment and Finance Regulations

⁸ *Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust v Ryde Municipal Council* at 399C per Mahoney JA.

Where no formal declaration of trust - Property acquired for the use or benefit of the church (s18 of the Act)

- 3.6 Where property, present or future, is acquired by any person or persons for the use or benefit of the Church without any formal declaration of trust, the Act specifies the trusts on which the property must be held.
- 3.7 All property, present or future, acquired by any person or persons for the use or benefit of the Church without any formal declaration of trust must be held on the trusts of the Model Trust Deeds that are enrolled under the Act so far as the same may be applicable or any future alteration modification or variation of those Model Trust Deeds duly authorized by the General Assembly: s18 of the Act. Again, this section would seem to be operating principally in relation to 'real property'.
- 3.8 There are two Model Trust Deeds – the first for a Church site or for another purpose in connection with the congregation approved by Presbytery. The second is for a site for a minister's manse or dwelling house. In each case, the Deed recites that the property held by the trustees does not belong to them beneficially (recital B).
- 3.9 A formal declaration of trust will normally be evidenced by an instrument or deed of declaration of trust, an instrument or deed of settlement of property on trust or a Will duly executed.
- 3.10 The provisions appear intended to supply certainty where otherwise the trustees would be left in doubt as to what trusts are impressed on the property in all the circumstances in which they acquired it.

The option to adopt the Model Trust Deeds for other property acquired

- 3.11 Where any property is held upon any trust or trusts other than those contained in the Model Trust Deeds or either of them, it may be resolved, with any required approvals, that the property shall from and after the passing of that resolution be held upon the trusts of the Model Trust Deeds or one of them, in

lieu of the trusts on which it is held. Section 19 of the Act regulates how the Model Trust Deeds can be adopted.

A. *Local Church purposes*

- 3.12 If the property is held on behalf of or occupied or used by or for the purposes of any congregation or the minister, to adopt the applicable Model Trust Deed, under s19 –
- (a) the congregation must resolve to adopt the applicable Model Trust Deed, by a vote of the majority of the members and adherents present in person or by proxy at a meeting duly convened for that purpose; and
 - (b) the resolution must have the approval of –
 - (i) the General Assembly;
 - (ii) the trustees or a majority of them; and
 - (iii) the person lawfully appointed as the ordained minister of that congregation.

B. *General Church purposes*

- 3.13 If the property is held for or on behalf of the Church generally and is not held on behalf of or occupied or used by or for the purposes of any congregation or the minister, to adopt the applicable Model Trust Deed, the General Assembly must under s19 resolve to adopt the applicable Model Trust Deed.

4. The Model Trust Deeds

The general scheme

- 4.1 The Model Trust Deeds enrolled under the Act have at least five key elements-
- First, they state the overriding purposes of the trusts as being for the Church to be used as the General Assembly may direct. The General Assembly is the directing authority.⁹

⁹ Young J observed in *Attorney-General ex rel Elisha* (1989) 37 NSWLR 293 at 315E –
 “The Presbyterian model is where is a succession of committees at national, regional and local level, so that the decision of the local congregation may, in appropriate cases, be overturned by that of a general assembly.”

Second, until otherwise directed by the General Assembly, the property is to be used as a site for the stated purpose – church or other / manse.

Third, the trustees must exercise a power when directed to do so by the congregation and not otherwise.

Fourth, the trustees and the congregation must obey the rules and regulations of the Church.

Fifth, the congregation may not direct the mortgage or sale of the property without the consent of the Assembly.

In that sense, whilst not strictly ‘bare trustees’, the trustees have very limited powers to act, independently of the board of management, the congregation and the General Assembly.

The Model Trust Deed for a church site

The trust purposes

4.2 In summary, the Model Trust Deed for a church site stipulates the following:

(a) The trustees must hold the property in trust for the Church and to permit the property to be to be used for such purposes and by such person or persons as the General Assembly may from time to time direct (clause 1(a) of the Model Trust Deed);

and until that direction

(b) the trustees must hold the property to permit it to be used as a site for a church for the public worship of God by a congregation of the Church recognised by the General Assembly and who holds and shall continue to adhere to the standards of religious belief and of ecclesiastical government of the Church (clause 1(b)); and

(c) to permit the Minister of the congregation together with the Elders and other office-bearers-

(i) to have free and uninterrupted enjoyment of the properties not only for the purposes of public worship but for such objects in connection with the affairs of the congregation as the Presbytery may approve (clause 1(c)(i)); and

- (ii) to enter on the said land and hereditaments or a sufficient part or parts thereof to erect and build such church and other necessary buildings and from time to time alter pull down remove renew enlarge and repair the same (clause 1(c)(ii));

Building and repair works

- 4.3 When directed by the congregation, the trustees must erect and build the church and other necessary buildings and alter pull down remove renew enlarge and repair the same.
- 4.4 They may act only on the direction of the congregation, expressed by the vote of at least two-thirds of such of its members as shall be personally present at a public meeting called and held pursuant to notice in that behalf duly given in accordance with and conformity to the rules and regulations of the Church (**the required two-thirds vote**) (clause 1(b)(ii)). As already noted, the congregation is bound by the Code in this regard, including rule 2:33.

Mortgage

- 4.5 When directed by the congregation by the required two-thirds vote and with the consent of the Assembly, and not otherwise, the trustees must mortgage or charge the properties to raise funds for the completion extension or reparation of the buildings or the improvement of the property or for any other purposes of the congregation (clause 4). Again, the Code Book relevantly binds the congregation: rule 2:34.
- 4.6 The trustees must pay the proceeds of the mortgage to the Treasurer of the Assembly whose receipt shall be a sufficient discharge to the trustees (clause 5).
- 4.7 The Treasurer of the Assembly must deduct the costs and expenses of the mortgage, and then to pay the balance to the congregation or otherwise as may be directed by the Assembly, to be applied and disposed of in or towards the purposes for which the mortgage shall have been authorised (clause 5).

Lease

- 4.8 When directed by the congregation by the required two-thirds vote and with the approval of the Presbytery, and not otherwise, the trustees must lease the property (clause 6). Again, the Code Book relevantly binds the congregation: rule 2:34. The duty of the Presbytery is prescribed in rule 4:105 of the Code Book¹⁰.

Sale

- 4.9 When directed by the congregation by the required two-thirds vote and with the consent of the Assembly, and not otherwise, the trustees must sell the property (clause 5). Again, the Code Book relevantly binds the congregation: rule 2.34. Regulation 9 of the *Board of Investment and Finance Regulations* also applies.
- 4.10 The trustees must pay the proceeds of sale to the Treasurer of the Assembly whose receipt shall be a sufficient discharge to the trustees (clause 5). The Treasurer must hold the proceeds in trust in a Sites Reserve account: reg 10(a) of the *Board of Investment and Finance Regulations*.
- 4.11 The Treasurer of the Assembly must deduct the costs and expenses of the sale, and then discharge any encumbrances over the property and then to pay the balance to the congregation or otherwise as may be directed by the Assembly, to be applied and disposed of in or towards the purposes for which the sale shall have been authorised (clause 5). Regulation 10 of the *Board of Investment and Finance Regulations* also seeks to regulate this process.
- 4.12 Clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed deals with the case of a congregation ceasing to exist and reserves liberty to the Assembly to direct the trustees to sell or otherwise deal with the property.

¹⁰ The lease must be prepared in the name of the legal owner of the title as Landlord. In most cases this will be The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation. Where the property in question is held by local trustees, the lease should be in their name as trustees for the congregation. No other person is authorised to sign a lease or any other document relating to the property. The Trusts Corporation maintains a register of trustees for all church properties. The Board of Management should seek confirmation from the General Manager as to who are the registered trustees so that the lease can be properly drawn.

Obedience to the Rules of the Church made by the Assembly or the Presbytery

- 4.13 The trustees must obey and give effect to the orders rules decisions and appointments made and to be made by the Assembly and of the responsible Presbytery concerning every matter or thing whereon the Assembly or Presbytery may or shall be by the Model Trust Deed or the constitution of the Church declared to have authority (clause 3).

The Model Trust Deed for a manse site

- 4.14 The Model Trust Deed for a manse site has the same provisions as for a church site, except that the trustees must hold the property in trust for the Church and-
- (a) to permit the property to be used as a site for a manse or minister's dwelling (clause 14(a));
 - (b) to permit the Minister for the time being of the congregation to have free and uninterrupted enjoyment of the property for that use (clause 14(b)); and
 - (c) to permit the Minister of the congregation together with the Elders and other office-bearers-
 - (i) to have free and uninterrupted enjoyment of the property for such other objects in connection with the affairs of the congregation as the Presbytery may approve (clause 14(b)); and
 - (ii) to enter on the property to erect and build such church and other necessary buildings and from time to time alter pull down remove renew enlarge and repair the same (clause 14(c));
- 4.15 Again, they may act only on the direction of the congregation, expressed by the required two-thirds vote. As already noted, the congregation is bound by the Code in this regard including rule 2.33.

5. The Moderator's consent

5.1 Subject to one exception, the transfer conveyance mortgage exchange or lease of Church land, whether held on the trusts of the Model Trust Deeds or otherwise, must be made with the consent in writing of the Moderator and shall have no force or effect without such consent: s20 of the Act.

5.2 The exception is the case of any mortgage or lease of any church land which the trustees by virtue of the Act or deed under which the same is held have at the time of the passing of the Act, that is 1890, power to mortgage or lease without the consent of the General Assembly, but such trustees shall nevertheless give notice in writing to the Moderator of any such mortgage or lease prior to the execution thereof.

5.3 The consent of the Moderator to any transfer, conveyance, mortgage, exchange, or lease, under section 20(1) of the Act must not be given unless a law agent of the Church has first given approval: Rule 11 of the Rules made under the Act by the General Assembly.¹¹

6. The congregation

6.1 Clause 10 of the Model Trust Deed provides –

And further that the said Trustees or Trustee shall have no power or authority to collect the revenues or to manage or interfere with the management of the temporal affairs of the said Congregation.

6.2 Rule 2:28 of the Code Book is directed to “the property of every congregation”, meaning in the context, real property. It provides –

28. The property of every congregation, unless it is held under an Act of Parliament containing any specific contrary provision, is held by either The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation or other trustees, and is held under specific terms of trust and subject to the provisions of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 and of rules made by the General Assembly relating to that Act (refer to Appendix Model Trust Deed).

¹¹ The usual practice is for the Moderator and the Law Agent to endorse their consent on the original lease. The Law Agent is aware of the form of consent and seeking his early advice will avoid delays. However, the approval of the Law Agent and consent of the Moderator cannot be granted until the specific terms are known and the lease document is completed.

Normally, the appointment of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation as trustees is preferred (see rules 4:103, 145).

- 6.3 The duties of the board of management have been noted above in paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6.

7. The Sites Reserve Fund

- 7.1 The Trusts Corporation has for many years maintained a fund known as the Sites Reserve Fund and deposited to that fund, keeping separate accounts, the proceeds of sale of Church properties and any interest accrued on those proceeds of sale.

The purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund

- 7.2 The property and buildings of the Church are its endowment. The purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund is to enable the denomination to maintain this endowment for the purposes declared in the Model Trust Deeds, that is to say, not only for the use of a congregation of the Church but for the best interests of the Church as a whole, as determined by the General Assembly.

- 7.3 By the Sites Reserve Fund, the Church:

- (a) preserves its endowment for use by the local congregation for the worship of God and other approved purposes; or
- (b) redeploys its assets elsewhere in cases where property is no longer best serving that purpose

as the General Assembly determines. The aim is to preserve the overall endowment of the Church and to provide resources to fund growth, expansion and restructure, free of having to meet the running costs of maintaining ministry.

- 7.4 Under the relevant provisions of the Model Trust Deeds, neither a congregation of the Church nor its elders or other office bearers are entitled to require the Treasurer of the Assembly to pay to them either the income or capital standing to the credit of the relevant account in the Sites Reserve Fund.
- 7.5 The Board of Investment and Finance Regulations of the Church regulate the operation of the sites reserve accounts in relation to both existing congregations and deceased congregations.
- 7.6 A congregation has itself no specific interest (in the strict legal sense) in the moneys in an account in the Sites Reserve Fund in the manner of a beneficiary of a private trust. It is not a separate legal entity; at best it is an unincorporated association of its members. As such it has no standing to require payment of any interest or principal moneys from the Sites Reserve Fund.
- 7.7 The Board of Investment and Finance, before making any decision on the distribution of moneys in an account in the Sites Reserve Fund, will where applicable take into account the needs and wishes of the congregation as to the application of proceeds of sale of property formerly enjoyed by that congregation.

APPENDIX 2

Law Agent responses to questions raised by Sites Reserve Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

1. Is the Declarative Statement 'How Presbyterian Church property is held' an accurate reflection of the way church property should be considered to be held by the denomination?

The Declarative Statement dated October 2013, entitled 'Holding and Dealing with Property within the Church', addresses the manner in which property is held within the denomination. Put simply, the property of the Church is held by trustees, upon trusts. The Statement is accurate both in its examination of the identity of the trustees and in its broad description of the trusts (parts 2 and 3).

Property within the Church may either be held by (vested in) the Trusts Corporation or individual trustees.

The Trusts Corporation holds in trust property in the following categories:

- a. property which was in existence at the time of its incorporation held by any person or persons generally for or on behalf of the Church which automatically vested in the Trusts Corporation (s.6, *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890* (Vic) ('the Act'));
- b. property which was held, at the time of its incorporation, by individual trustees on behalf of or occupied or used by or for the purposes of any congregation of the church and which was at a later date transferred to the Trusts Corporation by consent (s.7, the Act);
- c. property which was acquired after the date of its incorporation (whether for general or congregational purposes) which is vested in the Trusts Corporation; and
- d. property vested in the Trusts Corporation by the Moderator's certification as a result of some frustration in the individual trusteeship (s.8 & s.9, the Act).

Individual trustees hold in trust property in the following categories:

- e. property held by any person or persons at the time of incorporation of the Trusts Corporation on behalf of or occupied or used by or for the purposes of any congregation of the church (existing at the time of incorporation) and which has not subsequently become vested in the Trusts Corporation (s.6, the Act); and
- f. property acquired after the date of incorporation of the Trusts Corporation (whether for general or congregational purposes) and which has not subsequently become vested in the Trusts Corporation.

The Declarative Statement at part 2.9 is particularly important in shaping a proper understanding of the trusts on which property is held. In the Presbyterian Church, the trusts on which either the Trusts Corporation or individuals hold property are all trusts for 'objects' or 'purposes' which are charitable in nature.

As to the terms by which the trusts operate, the Declarative Statement, again, accurately sets out how those are to be understood. To the extent that property is held pursuant to express trusts (for example, by the terms of a Will or instrument or declaration of trust), then the Act at s.5 provides that the Trusts Corporation

must deal with such property in pursuance of those trusts as expressed. This is reinforced by s.14. These sections also make provision for property which is not specifically subject to express trusts. In so doing s.5 requires that the Trusts Corporation deal with such property in the manner as provided for under the Act or as the General Assembly may from time to time direct. Section 14 requires that the management of the property is subject to the rules or regulations of the General Assembly.

Insofar as certain property is concerned, the words 'in such manner as this Act hereinafter provides' in s.5 anticipate the provisions of s.18. That section, in effect, introduces the express trust provisions of the Model Trust Deeds so far as they may be applicable. If the property in question is not subject to its own express trusts and if that property is a site for a church for the public worship of God by persons recognised as a congregation or a manse, then the property is, by virtue of the Act, made subject to the express trust provisions of the relevant Model Trust Deed.

In the case of individual trustees, s.18 operates identically to bind those individual trustees in their manner of holding such property, in the absence of any express trusts affecting same.

2. Does the Model Trust Deed place any constraints on how the proceeds of the sale of property may be applied? (e.g. property/capital versus ministry/operational). If so, do the terms of the constraints vary depending on which type of property is sold (church site or manse site)?

The answer to the first part of this question is 'yes'.

At the outset it must be emphasised that the property does not belong to the trustees beneficially and is held upon trust for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In reference to the re-written format of the Model Trust Deed, the concluding words of clause 5 operate as a constraint as far as the application of sale proceeds is concerned. It is presupposed by those words that the authority to sell will have been given for a purpose or purposes. It is that purpose or those purposes for which the proceeds are to be applied. In the context of clauses 4 and 5, the authority to sell (or mortgage) is that of the General Assembly.

In the case of the power to raise sums by way of mortgage, clause 4 makes allowance for certain defined purposes and those which are not defined yet in any case they are said to be purposes 'of the said Congregation' and which are determined by congregational vote and subject to the consent of the General Assembly.

In the case of the power of sale, the focus of clause 5 appears to be on obtaining approval in relation to the terms and conditions of sale. It is conceivable that in some cases this may encompass a determination of the overarching purpose(s) of the transaction, yet in many other cases it may not. At very least the concluding words of this clause could be said to convey the intention that there be clarity around the purpose of the sale at the time it is authorised. It could be a stretch too far to suggest that an authority to sell depends upon there being an express purpose.

Whereas ‘the purposes of the said Congregation’ are a decisive factor in relation to the power to mortgage, there is no such limitation placed on the power of sale. That is to say, the purposes for which the sale could be authorised need not, on the face of the Model Trust Deed, be those of the Congregation. Furthermore clause 5 contemplates a recipient of the proceeds which is other than the said Congregation. The consistent constraint is that the funds – to whomever they are paid – must be applied to the purpose(s) for which the sale was authorised.

The Model Trust deed does not rule in or rule out particular purposes for the application of sale proceeds such as those which appear in parentheses in this question. As far as the Model Trust Deed is concerned, the guiding principle would be what is in the interests of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in view of its introductory passages. In that sense, the capital/ministry dichotomy is not especially helpful.

The answer to the second part of the question is ‘no’. There is no basis for drawing any distinction in the way in which sale proceeds may be applied as between church and manse sites. The provisions of the Model Trust Deeds are identical on the question of the power of sale.

3. Is the Declarative Statement ‘The Purpose for Sites Reserve Funds’ consistent with the legal documents and a reasonable implementation of them?

Again, the emphasis must be on the objects of the trusts for which the property is held. As stated above, the objects are charitable. The funds held within the Sites Reserve accounts are, to the extent applicable, held on the same trusts as those to which the land itself was subject before it was sold. Mostly – but not necessarily exclusively – the terms of the Model Trust Deed will apply. A detailed examination of each sub-account within the Sites Reserve Fund may conclude that some proceeds are subject to express trusts other than those of the Model Trust Deed.

Section 18 of the Act certainly contemplates that there may be property held for congregational purposes which is impressed with specific trusts. There is nothing in the regulations concerning Sites Reserve which suggests that they apply solely to the proceeds of sale of property which was held under the Model Trust Deed. Yet the Declarative Statement at paragraph 7.2 seems to imply that one should only look at the purposes declared in the Model Trust Deeds to determine the purposes for which the Sites Reserve monies are to be applied. This is to be contrasted with paragraphs 24 and 33 of the opinion of Michael Shand QC in which he touches on the possibility of funds in Sites Reserve being subject to other express trusts.

Subject to the above observation, I accept the propositions of part 7 of the Declarative Statement as being consistent with the legal framework and a reasonable implementation of the relevant provisions.

4. Are the current Sites Reserve regulations (BIF regs 9 and 10) consistent with the legal documents and a reasonable implementation of them?

This pertains to the very endpoint of discussions and work of the Sites Reserve Committee itself. There are clearly some improvements to be made in the wording of these regulations, as it is their troublesome interpretation that is the reason this

Committee was called for. We would rather the Committee itself answer this in the light of legal opinion given.

5. Is it correct to differentiate between these two terms: ‘legal ownership of property’ which lies with the Trusts Corporation and ‘beneficial ownership of property’ which lies with the Church (PCV) or congregation?

In the case of private trusts there must always be a clear distinction between the legal and beneficial ownership of trust property. In the case of a family trust (for example) beneficial ownership of trust property would reside with those individuals or classes of individuals who are defined in the particular deed as being beneficially entitled. It is the trustee’s duty to hold property and to act in the interests of the beneficial owners.

A different distinction must be drawn in the case of the Church in that the trust property with which we are concerned is subject to charitable purposes not the equitable ownership of beneficially entitled individuals or groups. The legal owner (the trustee) is under a duty to hold and deal with trust property in furtherance of the objects of the trust. It is the objects or purposes of the Church which must be foremost in our thinking. The concept of beneficial ownership or entitlement does not sit within the framework of charitable trusts.

6. Is it correct to describe a congregation as the ‘beneficial owner of property’?

No, for the reasons outlined within the previous response. In the case of the Model Trust Deed, it is clear that the congregation is afforded certain rights in terms of use and enjoyment of the property, but subject always to the direction of the General Assembly.

a. If so, can beneficial ownership move from congregation to Church?

Not applicable.

7. In a case when a property is to be sold, must the purpose be defined prior to the sale?

I have provided comment in my response to question 2 above. Michael Shand QC has expressed his view that the Model Trust Deed provisions contemplate the determination of the application of proceeds of sale at a subsequent time.

In direct response to this question, there is nothing in the relevant provisions which require the purpose of sale to be authorised or even defined prior to sale.

a. Can the purpose for the sale be defined at any time, even following the sale?

b. If the answer to 7(a) is ‘no’, and property has already been sold without purpose being defined, how can purpose be attributed to the said funds?

8. Does money contributed into a congregation's building fund establish a form of express trust – an express trust which continues to exist when the money is converted into property and then when it is converted back into money?

No, that is not what is meant by an express trust. See part (a) following for an example.

Returning to the intent of the question: If a man gave \$200,000 to the Board of Management with a letter saying: 'This gift is for the purpose of enabling St Genevieve Presbyterian Church to purchase the adjoining property for a church extension ... or some other cause connected to the church.' Upon St Genevieve P.C., with permission of Presbytery, etc., purchasing the said property, then the objects for which the gift was made by the donor are considered to have been discharged. The property, into which the funds have been placed, is considered to be subject to the usual trusts relating to such property within the Presbyterian Church. If, a generation later, the said property is sold, with all due Presbytery and Assembly approvals, then the (now, elderly) donor's wishes need have no bearing on the stated purpose for the sale, nor on the application of funds.

a. Can examples be given of express trusts that may exist within the Church?

A widow declares in her will that, upon her death, her house is to be given to St Genevieve's and kept for rental income so as to provide for a second minister. In such a case, this property will most likely be held in a different way to that of the Model Trust Deeds.

b. If there is evidence of the existence of an express trust regarding a property does the General Assembly or the congregation have the right to use the money associated with it for other purposes?

I think not. It may be open to the trustee(s) to seek the Court's direction as to any proposed alternative use of the property or funds by way of a Cy Pres application.

9. When the Model Trust Deed defines how money from proceeds of sale may be applied, namely clause 5 of the re-written format, is the General Assembly a responsive body only (approving or not the request of the congregation) or does it give the General Assembly the ability to take initiative by suggesting an alternative application of funds, even different to that of the congregation?

While this is difficult to answer without specific scenarios in front of us as test cases, we should always have in mind the bottom line: that, in the final analysis, the General Assembly determines the application of funds and MUST do so always in a way that best supports the general purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and in a way that benefits the church as a whole.

- a. In clause 5 do the words 'or otherwise as may be directed by the Assembly' refer to the Assembly choosing an alternative different to that of the congregation? Or, do the said words refer to the proceeds of 'other' (non-congregational) property for which the Act (section 14) requires the Assembly rather than the congregation to determine purpose?

I would rather not accept the question with its forced binary choice.

I am confident to say, from the plain sense of the passage, and in the light of what comes before and what follows, that the phrase 'as may be directed by the Assembly' refers equally to the two options that precede it.

i.e. the two options are:

- pay the balance to the said congregation
- otherwise
 - and both of these are covered by 'as may be directed by the Assembly' which ensures sale and accordingly instructs the Treasurer concerning the application of proceeds*.

* remembering what was said at Q. 9 that, in the final analysis, the General Assembly determines the application of funds and MUST do so always in a way that best supports the general purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and in a way that benefits the church as a whole.

10. Regarding the Declarative Statement, s.7.2, what is the source (either directly or by inference) of the wording 'the purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund is to ... maintain this endowment ... not only for the use of the congregation of the church but for the best interests of the Church as a whole, as determined by the General Assembly.'?

You should ask Michael Shand. We wonder at the relevance of the question and why you would want to know. Having said that, we emphasise that the closing part of s.7.2 holds the key to much of this discussion, and is worth repeating here: '... for the best interests of the Church as a whole, as determined by the General Assembly.'

The word 'endowment' should not be the focus of attention, but rather the stated purpose for having 'land and hereditaments' in the first place as set out in the Model Trust Deed, especially at clause 1 (a) 'and to permit and suffer the said land and hereditaments to be used for such purposes...until such direction....' (my underlining)

- a. Regarding the Declarative Statement, s.7.3, what is the source (either directly or by inference) of the wording 'by the Sites Reserve Fund, the Church ... redeploys its assets elsewhere in case where property is no longer best serving that purpose ... with the aim to provide resources to fund growth, expansion and restructure, free of having to meet the running costs of maintaining ministry.'?

See answer above.

11. Regarding the purpose to which Sites Reserve funds may be applied, do the existing rules and regulations of the Church constrain the General Assembly to consider the funds to be congregational funds?

They are not 'congregational funds' in the same way that the property is never considered to have belonged to the congregation in the first place. The ultimate constraint placed on the General Assembly is 'the best interests of the Church as a whole.'

However, the question asked: 'do the existing rules and regulations of the Church constrain.....?' i.e. does the current Code book constrain the Assembly to consider the funds to be more congregational than denominational? The answer is 'yes, to a degree'. E.g., the Rules use the expression 'congregational property', at ch. 2.30. This and other phrases used in the BIF regulations probably do lead the General Assembly to consider more the congregational aspects and privileges – a consideration that is not consistent with the Model Trust Deeds.

a. Regarding the purpose to which Sites Reserve funds may be applied, do the existing rules and regulations of the Church constrain the General Assembly to consider 'purpose' as that defined by the congregation (only)?

No - answered previously.

12. Given that the General Assembly may, by due process, amend rules and regulations at any time, if BIF regulation 10 is amended, can the changes be applied retrospectively?

I think this unwise and fraught with difficulty.

a. Is BIF regulation 10 consistent with Model Trust Deed clause 5 (in its re-written format)?

Not totally.

13. Does interest derived from Sites Reserve funds bear the same trusts and purposes as the capital from which it was derived?

Yes, and therefore it likewise comes under the discretion and decision making of the general Assembly and always for the best interests of the Church as a whole.

a. Is the BIF regulation allowing for interest earned from Sites Reserve to be applied by congregations for ministry expenses, consistent with the Model Trust Deed?

Not totally.

Geoff Cox
LAW AGENT

David J Palmer
CONVENER

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min. 13)

Committee Budgets

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

When the BIF examines the budgets proposed by committees, they are considered in terms of being sustainable in both the immediate *and*, where possible, the longer term. The BIF also hopes the proposed budgets reflect good stewardship of resources. In some instances it may be appropriate for a committee to propose a budget with a significant deficit and this is the case for a number of budgets. Each budget has been considered on its merits taking account of the circumstances relevant to each committee.

The BIF was pleased to receive the explanatory notes accompanying the Health and Community Chaplaincy budget (not included in the papers for the Commission) and encourages other committees to adopt this practice. Including explanatory notes, as well as the financial projections, in their budget submissions will better explain the thinking of each committee and assist the BIF.

The BIF reminds committees that having the budget approved does not mean that the expenditure itself is approved. Committees are then required to appropriately consider any expenditure and approve it under the terms of Rule 5:33. The BIF has given committees a document detailing Committee Payment Procedures which is also available for downloading from the PCV website. The BIF encourages all committees to follow these procedures when requesting payments from the church office.

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.

Theological Education Committee

The TEC General budget for 2015/16 is projected to be almost balanced. The resignation of the Training Officer has taken almost \$100,000 out of the expenses while the GMP contribution which partially funded this has reduced from \$17,000 to nil. Total income has reduced by more than \$60,000 which includes the reduction in GMP. Based on the current projections, the general budget appears to be in a position where it may break even or generate a small surplus for the coming years.

The most significant component of income to the TEC is tuition fees which represent 60% of the income. Common Fund interest represents 29% of the income.

Breaking this down further, 31% of the income for 2015/16 is expected to come from tuition fees of candidates who are funded by the bursary fund. By comparison, in 2013/14, tuition fees represented 49% of the income with less than 16% of that income being for candidates tuition fees funded from the bursary fund. The significant increase in the proportion of income derived from the bursary fund has pushed that

fund beyond its current capacity. In short the current model of funding candidates' tuition is unsustainable.

In 2012 the TEC attempted to address the funding of the bursary fund through a formula for GMP. This was approved in minute 85.12 (2012 Blue Book p. 108). While the intention of that proposal was sound, implicit in the formula were certain assumptions about the number of candidates and level of funding required to provide full scholarships to candidates as well as the other categories of scholarships. What has happened since then is that the number of candidates has increased beyond the range where that formula is effective in meeting the funding requirements. As shown above, income to the general fund from candidate scholarships (i.e. the bursary fund) as a percentage of total income has almost doubled in just two years. Using the current funding model, there is likely to be a yearly shortfall of \$200,000 in the bursary fund. It is not practical to expect that this can be funded from GMP, and there are limited other funds available.

The BIF has been working with the TEC in seeking ways to address this issue. The TEC has presented a report and recommendation to the Commission detailing a new model for funding candidate and other scholarships. The proposed budget reflects the details of that model.

As part of the solution, the bursary fund is in need of immediate and long term funds. The reserves have already been diminished to such an extent that the fund is struggling to meet its commitments for the current financial year. For the longer term a further injection of capital is considered necessary and appropriate. The BIF, in collaboration with the TEC, proposes two measures to address this shortfall:

1. Allocate the proceeds of the Pinches bequest to the bursary fund. In the 2013/14 financial year a bequest of \$100,667 was received from the estate of Elvira Mary Pinches for the TEC. Since then, there has been some consideration by the TEC and BIF as to how this might be applied. For the time being it has been included in the General Funds of the committee. It now seems necessary and appropriate to apply these funds to the bursary fund.
2. Approve a grant of \$200,000 from the Balfour Memorial Trust as a perpetual sum to the bursary fund. The bulk of the funds in the Balfour Memorial Trust arose from the 1995 sale of the property known as 'Warraine' in Queenscliff. These funds are to be applied for such charitable or religious purposes in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Australia as the General Assembly of the PCV shall from time to time determine (see Minute 35.6 1998 blue book p. 191). The Balfour Memorial Trust has been used primarily to fund the ministers' holiday housing scheme since at least 1999. It has from time to time also been used for other ad hoc purposes including the MOM subsidy for ministers' superannuation which is being phased out, due to a decline in the number of ministers participating in that scheme. While the budget for the holiday housing has been generous over recent years, the trust has still generated a surplus each year. The balance of funds in the Balfour Memorial Trust has increased from \$452,000 in 2005 to \$1.1M. The budget for the current year shows an expected surplus of \$44,000, so there is some capacity within that trust to fund other programs. Assuming a grant of \$200,000 is approved, the budget for 2015/16 shows a projected surplus of \$33,000 in the Balfour Memorial Trust.

METRO Committee

The Metro committee budget is not included in the current papers pending further consultation with the committee. A copy will be provided in due course.

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
430/14	APWM	\$20,000	new expenditure for grants from the MA Bone trust for missions in Australia
438/14	CENC	\$6,450	an increase to the budget for the Youth Minister's housing including removal costs
472/14	TEC	\$21,260	travel expenses relating to the new project 'Israel Study tour'
031/15	TEC	\$8,000	increase to the travel expense to cover costs associated with interviewing a prospective lecturer
032/52	TEC	\$1,500	A reallocation from marketing expense (a/c 2032) to the graduation ceremony expense (a/c 2290)

Emergency Funding

There have been no requests for emergency funding under the provisions authorised by the Assembly in 2005 (Min 83.5 2005 BB p88) since last reporting to the Assembly in October 2014.

Property matters

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

- lease of the Warrnambool manse at 20 Loyola Avenue, Warrnambool for up to 24 months
- lease of the Frankston manse at 30 Radiata Street Frankston North (Vol 8450 Fol 528) for up to two years
- lease of the Frankston manse at 12 Erwin Drive Seaford (Vol 8988 Fol 570) for up to two years
- lease of the Plenty Valley church site at 945 Yan Yean Road Doreen for 12 months
- extension of the lease of the car park at St Georges Geelong for a further two years.

Leases

The BIF reminds committees of the procedures relating to the lease of church property and the requirement that any lease be signed by persons who are properly authorised. The regulations of the church are designed to ensure that church property is not alienated from the church and is available for ministry purposes when needed under the terms of the trusts on which it is held. Individuals who sign leases or other contracts without authority put themselves and their personal assets at risk. A flowchart outlining the process when leasing church property is included in the Code Book at page 231.

To assist anyone needing guidance, the BIF has loaded various documents relating to property transactions and other matters on the PCV website. This information can be found under the tab “BIF and TC” and then downloaded.

Conclusion

The BIF gives thanks to God for his material blessings on our denomination.

We acknowledge the dedicated work of the General Manager and staff in the church office in financial management and church administration generally. We also commend those who work on each of the Assembly committees and thank them for their efforts generally, and specifically for their contribution to the budgetary process.

Supplementary:

Committee Budgets

METRO Committee

The BIF presents the METRO budget to the Commission for approval in accordance with BIF regulation 5(f).

The budget shows a deficit of \$61,000 for 2015/16. The projected deficit increases to more than \$100,000 in successive years. This is largely due to an increase in the funding for each METRO trainee. In the past trainees have been paid as apprentices. This is only possible through an accredited training organisation. To date the committee has had an arrangement to work in partnership with Ministry Training Strategy (MTS Ltd.) The committee decided that the compliance cost for the committee to become accredited does not warrant that option being pursued. Consequently, the budget has been prepared on the basis that this arrangement will not continue into the future. This means that the church will now be required to pay minimum wages to METRO trainees. The amount of the proposed grant for each trainee has doubled compared to prior years. The ongoing deficits are not sustainable in the long term. If the deficits continue as projected the committee will eventually run out of funds. Nevertheless, the BIF considers it reasonable to ask the Commission to approve the proposed expenditure for the 2015/16 year, on the understanding that further work will be done on the funding model prior to next year to reduce the projected deficits.

In light of the already significant deficit and other concerns, the BIF has adjusted the budget which was presented by the committee by removing a proposed expense ‘Honourarium for METRO co-ordinator’ for \$7,000. An honourarium is an honorary reward for voluntary services. There is no obligation to pay an honourarium. Given the significant increase in the deficit in the 2015/16 year budget the BIF does not consider it prudent to pay an honourarium. Further, the honourarium originally proposed was contrary to Rule 5:34A in that it exceeded 10% of minimum remuneration. In response to the concerns raised, the committee reduced the honourarium to \$5,000 so that it falls within 10% of minimum remuneration stated in this rule. That change has addressed a secondary concern but does not address the primary one of affordability.

If an honourarium of this nature were to be approved in these circumstances it may create an unhelpful precedent which does not seem wise.

Additional Expenditure

The BIF has approved a further budget amendment for the current financial year and reports this to the Commission in accordance with BIF regulation 5(g)(ii):

BIF Minute	Committee	Amount \$	Purpose
160/15	Social Services	\$850,000	for the purchase of a property at 806 Mt Dandenong Road Kilsyth, adjacent to the Kirkbrae site

The land is approximately 2,500 square meters and fronts onto Mt Dandenong Road connecting with the Kirkbrae site. An aerial plan is attached to this Report. Purchase of land immediately adjacent to Kirkbrae, and with access from Mt Dandenong Road will occur infrequently. Adjoining land will be invaluable in the future for Kirkbrae's growth. The purchase can be readily funded from the current cash and investments of the committee without a detrimental effect on the committee's operations. We give thanks to God for this provision and the opportunity to provide for future improvements to the facilities and ministry at Kirkbrae.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN



Kirkbrae
Entrance
Gate 1



Kirkbrae

Mount Dandenong Rd

805 Mt Dandenong Rd

Maint
Shed

One Tree L

Roslyn St

Harrison Way

Homer Fraser Ave

Constable Dr

David Ct

Donald Ct

Kilbom Ct

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

General Assembly General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16								
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%		
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income								
1050	Bequests	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1080	General Mission Program	197,270	162,844	148,212	162,844	177,350	160,000	160,000
1160	Donations & Gifts	-	-	250	-	-	-	-
1359&1358	Interest Common Fund General and Assembly Hall	519,264	507,000	325,435	488,000	466,000	447,000	443,000
1359	Interest Transfer ex Fraser Trust	20,618	32,600	28,144	39,224	35,600	37,200	39,800
1501	Management Fees	151,269	155,371	101,260	151,890	154,928	159,576	164,363
1601	Rental Trusts Corporation	386	570	1,077	1,616	895		
1120	Safe Church funding from congregations		66,700	65,965	65,965	66,320	68,315	70,023
1640	Scots Church Property Trust	67,786	87,600	68,256	97,456	100,400	103,400	106,500
1650	Sundry Income	6,160	-	2,013	2,013	-		
1652	Archival Fees	577	1,000	159	1,000	-	-	-
1654	Assembly Lunch Income	1,118	-	955	955	1,000	1,000	1,000
1990	Loss on Sale of Asset	(156)						
Total Income		964,293	1,013,685	741,726	1,010,962	1,002,493	976,491	984,686
Expenditure								
1. Personnel Related Expenses								
2810	Salaries & Wages	359,948	369,354	249,765	377,238	405,833	419,406	433,387
2640	Non Cash Benefits	8,890	-	-	-	-	-	-
2245	Fringe Benefits (Employee)	36,932	48,150	31,800	47,700	47,700	47,700	47,700
2550	Long Service Leave	22,380	9,400	8,495	10,500	10,710	11,031	11,362
2870	Superannuation	37,559	39,862	24,820	37,689	41,041	42,413	43,825
2830	Staff Amenities	1,043	1,000	971	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	0	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2250	Fringe Benefits Tax	19,457	22,650	14,808	22,212	22,212	22,212	22,212
2541	Manse Energy - Clerk	1,245	-	-	-	-	-	-
2140	Consultancy	1,295	1,000	577	1,000	-	-	-
2793	Housing Allowance	7,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
2930	Temporary Staff	0	1,600	9,300	9,300	1,600	1,600	1,600
2950	WorkCover Levy	3,449	3,908	4,122	4,122	4,198	4,319	4,443
2955	Disability Insurance	750	750	1,858	1,858	1,914	1,971	2,030
2920	Travelling Expenses	45	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Personnel Related Expenses		500,792	499,674	346,515	514,618	538,208	553,652	569,559

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected		
2. Office Related Expenses										
2010	Accounting & Audit Fees	24,016	26,000	23,220	26,000	27,300	28,665	30,098		
2130	Computer & Software Costs	2,490	2,500	1,752	4,500	10,000	10,000	10,000		
2180	Depreciation - Furniture & Equipment	1,571	2,200	2,700	4,225	5,000	5,000	5,000		
2280	General Expenses	85	500	337	500	500	500	500		
2399	Insurance Public Liability etc	3,739	4,001	3,751	3,751	4,014	4,295	4,595		
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	8,529	10,500	5,046	10,500	11,000	11,500	11,500		
2760	Maintenance Office Equipment	155	200	51	200	200	200	200		
2850	Subscriptions	0	-	1	1	-	-	-		
2910	Telephone & Fax	8,078	8,000	5,108	8,000	8,500	9,000	9,000		
Total Office Related Expenses		48,663	53,901	41,966	57,678	66,514	69,160	70,894		
3. Grants										
2292	Grants PWMU	11,713	12,000	4,050	6,200	6,386	6,578	6,775		
2311	General Mission Programme Distribution	197,270	162,844	148,212	162,844	177,350	160,000	160,000		
Total Grants		208,983	174,844	152,262	169,044	183,736	166,578	166,775		
4. Property Related Expenses										
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	120	1,000	5,409	6,333	3,032	3,183	3,343		
2391	Insurance Fire & General	82	100	78	100	100	100	100		
2540	Light Power & Heating	2,364	2,700	1,692	2,700	2,835	2,977	3,126		
Total Property Related Expenses		2,565	3,800	7,179	9,133	5,967	6,260	6,568		
5. Assembly Related Expenses										
2048	Church Architect	2,115	2,000	1,969	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000		
2285	Committee Expenses - Travel	288	600	1,127	1,500	600	600	600		
2302	General Assembly - The Fellowship	6,734	5,000	134	5,000	2,500	2,500	2,500		
2300	General Assembly week - Expenses	7,144	10,000	6,263	10,000	10,400	12,000	12,000		
2300	Ministers Wives Dinner	1,600	1,100	1,785	1,785	1,600	1,100	1,100		
2131	Website Hosting	2,782	2,900	1,991	2,900	6,000	6,180	6,365		
2350	Honoraria	3,450	4,000	3,505	3,505	3,505	3,610	3,718		
2270	General Assembly Australia Expenses	62,572	40,000	10,764	40,000	40,000	80,000	40,000		
2705	Printing, Postage & Stationery	15,307	15,500	15,642	15,500	20,000	20,600	21,218		
2921	Travel Expenses - Assessors	4,569	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	5,400	5,400		
2925	Clerk's Denominational Travel & Accommodation	2,491	2,500	735	2,500	6,000	2,500	2,500		
2510	Legal Expenses	355,628	200,000	340,363	610,000	380,000	20,000	20,000		
Total Assembly Related Expenses		464,679	288,600	384,279	699,690	477,605	156,490	117,402		

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%		12%	12%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected		
6. Safe Church Expenses										
2811	Salaries & Wages		38,200	23,192	38,200	39,136	40,115	41,118		
2871	Superannuation		3,800	2,319	3,800	3,914	4,011	4,112		
2701	Printing, Postage & Stationery		6,500	4,288	6,500	6,500	7,000	7,175		
2221	Training		1,000	972	1,000	1,200	1,230	1,261		
2923	Travel		2,500	0	2,500	2,000	2,050	2,101		
2911	Phone/Internet		1,700	957	1,700	1,500	1,538	1,576		
2751	Office Rent		6,000	4,050	6,000	6,150	6,304	6,461		
2542	Energy Costs		500	203	500	520	533	546		
2141	Professional Services	14,065	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	4,100	4,203		
2851	Professional Ass'n, Journals		500	155	500	400	410	420		
2281	Contingency	73	2,000	300	2,000	1,000	1,025	1,051		
Total Safe Church Expenses		14,138	66,700	36,436	66,700	66,320	68,315	70,023		
Total Archive Related Expenses		52,340	53,154	35,481	53,154	53,932	54,969	56,038		
Total Expenses		1,292,161	1,140,673	1,004,117	1,570,016	1,392,282	1,075,424	1,057,258		
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(327,868)	(126,988)	(262,392)	(559,055)	(389,789)	(98,933)	(72,572)		
Capital Items										
	Office Shelving / Bookcases	3,560								
	Computer replacement		1,200		1,200	0	2,000	2,000		
	Mail Exchange Software					2,400				
	GM - Notebook		3,000	1,965 (142,920)	3,000					
	Office Furn & Equip - Safe Church Office									
	Increase/(Decrease) in Current Assets									
	Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Assets									
	(Increase)/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities			(3,528)						
	(Increase)/(Decrease) in Non-Current Liabilities									
	New Photocopier - Kyocera		14,000	12,491	14,000					
	Computer Screen			181		500				
	Office Furniture									
Total Capital Expenditure			18,200	(131,811)	18,200	4,900	2,000	2,000		
General Funds		3,557,122	3,424,534	3,429,241	2,989,215	2,611,235	2,527,333	2,470,123		
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 2015/16**

General Assembly General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16								
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%		Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
ARCHIVES								
Income								
1652	Archival Fees ex Private Researchers	577	1,000	159	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Archival Income		577	1,000	159	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Expenses								
2122	Cleaning & Preservation Costs	60	50	3	50	50	50	50
2132	Computer & Software Costs	115	250	54	250	250	250	250
2222	Education & Training	-	150	-	150	150	150	150
2282	General Expenses	279	350	285	350	400	350	350
2552	Long Service Leave	796	1,000	816	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2702	Postage, Printing & Stationery	752	500	117	500	350	500	500
2703	Archival Boxes & Wallets	-	350	204	350	450	350	350
2704	Retrieval	2,146	2,300	1,056	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
2752	Rent	5,000	5,000	3,333	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2812	Salaries	30,628	30,516	21,386	30,516	31,127	32,061	33,022
2835	Storage	8,370	8,400	5,584	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
2706	Digitisation of Blue Books	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2852	Subscriptions & Reference Books	148	100	122	100	150	100	100
2872	Superannuation	3,062	3,052	2,139	3,052	3,113	3,206	3,302
2912	Telephone & Internet	724	750	-	750	800	850	850
2922	Travelling Expenses	-	50	116	50	50	50	50
2952	WorkCover Levy	261	336	264	336	342	353	363
Total Archive Related Expenses		52,340	53,154	35,481	53,154	53,932	54,969	56,038
Surplus/(Deficit) on Archival Operations		(51,763)	(52,154)	(35,321)	(52,154)	(52,932)	(53,969)	(55,038)

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

General Assembly Beneficiary Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%					Budget for Approval 12%		
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	12%
Donaldson Trust									
Income									
1352	Interest Common Fund Specific	439	600	1,363	2,200	600	600	600	6.0%
1440	Other Income	99,002	127,600	59,367	127,600	140,500	149,600	159,300	6.0%
1995	Unrealised Gains revaluation	153,035	0	9,266	9,266	0	0	0	6.0%
	Total Income	252,475	128,200	69,996	139,066	141,100	150,200	159,900	6.0%
Payments									
2291	Grants Paid	13,930	25,000	12,680	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	6.0%
	Surplus	238,545	103,200	57,316	114,066	116,100	125,200	134,900	6.0%
	Balance of Specific Funds in Comm Fund	12,476	5,000	20,957	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	6.0%
	Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested)	273,799	273,799	274,436	274,436	274,436	274,436	274,436	6.0%
	Specific Balance (Separately Invested)	1,412,934	1,516,134	1,460,732	1,527,000	1,643,100	1,768,300	1,903,200	6.0%
Forster Trust									
Receipts									
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	3,651	3,700	2,494	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	6.0%
Payments									
2292	Grants Paid	3,450	3,700	3,900	3,900	3,700	3,700	3,700	6.0%
	Surplus	201	0	(1,406)	(200)	0	0	0	6.0%
	Balance of Specific Funds	2,107	2,107	701	1,907	1,907	1,907	1,907	6.0%
	Perpetual Funds	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	6.0%
Pensioners Reserve									
Receipts									
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	20,747	22,100	15,006	22,900	24,600	27,200	30,100	6.0%
Payments									
2814	Pensions - Ministers & Widows	2,700	2,700	1,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	6.0%
	Surplus	18,047	19,400	13,206	20,200	21,900	24,500	27,400	6.0%
	Balance of Specific Funds	184,566	203,966	197,772	204,766	226,666	251,166	278,566	6.0%

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	Budget for Approval 12%	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Ministers Retirement Housing								
Receipts								
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	408,314	381,000	284,198	426,000	429,000	431,000	433,000
	Total Income	408,314	381,000	284,198	426,000	429,000	431,000	433,000
Payments								
2510	Legal Expenses	2,912	2,000	3,024	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2751&2752	Property Expenses	12,500	12,000	8,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Total Expenditure	15,412	14,000	11,024	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
	Surplus	392,902	367,000	273,174	410,000	413,000	415,000	417,000
Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments								
	Loans Advanced/Repaid	0	400,000	300,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
	Balance Invested in Common Fund	3,568,953	3,535,953	3,542,127	3,578,953	3,591,953	3,606,953	3,623,953
J & E Walters (P Owen Trustee)								
Receipts								
1356	Interest Common Fund Specific	17,108	16,400	10,943	16,300	16,800	16,800	16,800
Payments								
2293	Grants Paid		16,400	30,000	30,000	16,800	16,800	16,800
	Surplus	17,108	0	(19,057)	(13,700)	0	0	0
	Balance of Specific Funds	29,757	29,757	10,700	16,057	16,057	16,057	16,057
	Perpetual Funds	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658
Surplus/(Deficit) Beneficiary Trusts								
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds	4,906,841	4,929,642	4,899,009	4,759,742	584,244	4,902,581	4,984,324
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds	426,457	426,457	427,094	427,094	427,094	427,094	427,094

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Deakin (Moderators) Trust								
Receipts								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	24,035	24,000	15,733	23,800	24,400	24,400	24,400
Payments								
2590	Moderators Expenses	20,366	23,900	16,945	23,900	24,300	24,400	24,400
	Total Expenditure	20,366	23,900	16,945	23,900	24,300	24,400	24,400
	Surplus	3,669	100	(1,212)	(100)	100	0	0
	Balance of Specific Funds	203,067	203,167	201,855	202,967	203,067	203,067	203,067
Fraser Trust								
Receipts								
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	99,273	98,600	66,867	101,200	101,600	104,200	106,800
Payments								
2791	Rent Paid Missionaries on Home Assignment	11,997	45,000	9,696	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
2400	Interest transfer to General	30,674	32,600	28,144	39,224	35,600	37,200	39,800
2870	Superannuation Missionaries	32,200	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	74,871	77,600	37,840	84,224	80,600	82,200	84,800
	Surplus (Indexation of Capital)	24,402	21,000	29,027	16,976	21,000	22,000	22,000
	Balance of Funds	830,024	851,024	859,051	847,000	868,000	890,000	912,000
Balfour Memorial Trust								
Income								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	130,640	133,000	88,122	133,200	114,400	118,400	122,600
1600	Rentals Received Ministers Holiday Homes	10,531	10,000	8,988	10,000	10,500	11,000	11,500
	Total Income	141,171	143,000	97,110	143,200	124,900	129,400	134,100
Payments								
2790	Rent Paid Ministers' Holiday Home	97,927	87,500	75,450	87,500	90,000	92,500	95,000
2810	Wages - Ministers Holiday Homes	1,775	1,623	1,048	1,623	1,656	1,705	1,757
2870	Ministers' Superannuation Contribution	11,815	10,000	2,842	10,000	0	0	0
2920	TEC Bursaries		0	0	200,000	0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	111,518	99,123	79,340	299,123	91,656	94,205	96,757
	Surplus	29,653	43,877	17,770	(155,923)	33,244	35,195	37,343
	Balance of Funds	1,108,982	1,152,859	1,126,752	953,059	986,303	1,021,498	1,058,841
Insurance								
Receipts								
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	22,890	22,900	14,423	21,900	21,500	21,200	20,900
Payments								
2385	Insurance Claims & Risk Management	23,630	24,000	18,276	33,276	24,000	24,000	24,000
	Surplus	(740)	(1,100)	(3,853)	(11,376)	(2,500)	(2,800)	(3,100)
	Balance of Funds	190,659	189,559	186,806	179,283	176,783	173,983	170,883

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

General Assembly Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16								
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	Budget for Approval 12%	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Capital Fund Reserve								
Receipts								
1340	Interest on Loans to Congregations @ 3%	80,355	112,500	56,734	76,048	97,500	120,000	120,000
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	182,010	190,000	119,439	181,000	189,300	198,500	205,600
1440	Other Investment Income	2,310	2,255	1,083	2,165	2,145	2,145	2,145
Total Income		264,675	304,755	177,256	259,214	288,945	320,645	327,745
Payments								
2140	Consultancy - Capital Fund	250	0	0	0	0	0	0
2295	Grant to Property Development Fund	87,944						
2401	Interest on Loans from TC @ 6.5%	174,843	243,750	122,872	177,417	211,250	260,000	260,000
2402	Interest paid to Depositors	1,637	1,640	768	1,541	1,560	1,560	1,560
Total Expenditure		264,674	245,390	123,640	178,958	212,810	261,560	261,560
Surplus		0	59,365	53,616	80,255	76,135	59,085	66,185
Balance of Funds		1,497,535	1,556,900	1,540,085	1,577,790	1,653,925	1,713,010	1,779,195
Deposits from Congregations, PWMU etc		82,660	82,000	77,299	78,000	78,000	78,000	78,000
Loans		2,853,643	4,000,000	2,534,946	2,500,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Break Even Loan Balance			7,601,021			7,573,393	7,938,841	8,222,449
Other Specific Trusts - GAA, Overseas Visitors								
Receipts								
1163	Pres-Aid Donations - Easter	33,570	0	0	0	0	0	0
1164	Pres-Aid Donations - Christmas	56,061	0	45,017	45,017	0	0	0
1165	Drought Appeal	1,900						
1350	Interest - Pres-Aid	1,121		161	242			
1350	Interest - Overseas Visitors	16,489	16,500	11,647	17,470	18,100	19,100	20,200
1350	Interest - GAA	37,854	36,600	27,209	40,814	39,900	39,900	39,900
Total Income		146,995	53,100	84,034	103,542	58,000	59,000	60,100
Payments								
2291	Grants Paid - Overseas Visitors Fund	4,132	10,000	3,900	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
2290	Grants Paid - GAA	10,000	36,600	10,000	40,814	39,900	39,900	39,900
2294	Grants - Pres-Aid	92,652	0	0	45,017	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		106,783	46,600	13,900	95,831	49,900	49,900	49,900
Surplus / (Deficit)		40,212	6,500	70,134	7,712	8,100	9,100	10,200
Balance of Funds - O/S Visitors		143,735	150,235	151,482	151,205	159,305	168,405	178,605
Balance of Funds - GAA		332,669	332,669	332,669	332,669	332,669	332,669	332,669
Balance of Funds - Pres-AID Funds		1,900	0	47,078	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts								
		67,544	85,865	147,712	93,466	102,835	87,385	95,285
TOTAL Balance of Specific Funds		3,199,589	3,283,554	3,319,026	3,290,914	3,393,749	3,481,134	3,576,419

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:							12.0%		Budget for Approval 12.0%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	
Income									
1089.19	General Mission Programme	44,188	40,000	35,079	40,000	30,000	35,000	35,000	
1162.19	Mission Lunch Income	1,464	1,500	1,100	1,100	1,500	1,500	1,500	
1169.19	Donations & Bequests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1359.19	Interest Common Fund	62,520	61,700	42,233	63,500	62,200	62,300	59,800	
1440.19	Other Investment Income	113	0	116	116	0	0	0	
Total Income		108,285	103,200	78,529	104,716	93,700	98,800	96,300	
Expenditure									
Grants									
2290.19	Grants - Aboriginal	20,000	15,000	7,500	15,000				
2295.19	Grants - Re-entry Expenses					5,000	5,000	5,000	
2296.19	Grants - Mission Expenses	2,636	7,000	4,750	7,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
2297.19	Grants - General - detail below	33,618	37,000	23,514	37,000	41,000	41,000	41,000	
2298.19	Grants - Christmas Gifts	7,450	7,500	8,100	8,100	8,500	8,500	8,500	
2870.19	Superannuation - Missionaries	14,376	15,000	5,053	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	
Total Grant Payments		78,080	81,500	48,917	82,100	74,500	74,500	74,500	
Committee									
2130.19	Computer & Website Expenses	175	500	0	500	500	500	500	
2183.19	Depreciation Motor Vehicles	6,707	6,800	4,465	6,800	4,800	7,600	7,600	
2280.19	Mission Lunch Expenses	2,050	2,000	1,441	1,441	1,500	1,500	1,500	
2289.19	General Expenses-Committee	116	500	250	500	500	500	500	
2600.19	Motor Vehicle Expenses	12,963	13,000	8,460	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	
2705.19	Promotion - New Poster	0	2,000	1,025	1,025	0	1,500	0	
2709.19	Postage & Stationery	28	250	43	250	250	250	250	
2859.19	Subscriptions	125	150	0	150	150	150	150	
2929.19	Travelling Expenses	1,425	2,000	989	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2950.19	WorkCover Levy	328	350	334	334	350	350	350	
Total Committee Expenses		23,916	27,550	17,007	26,000	23,050	27,350	25,850	
Total Expenses		101,997	109,050	65,924	108,100	97,550	101,850	100,350	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		6,288	(5,850)	12,604	(3,384)	(3,850)	(3,050)	(4,050)	
Capital Expenditure New Motor Vehicle							25,000		
General Funds (exc balance of Appeal Funds)		206,841	207,791	223,910	210,257	211,207	190,757	194,307	
Perpetual Funds		307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%		Budget for Approval	
Account No		Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Vanuatu Trusts									
Income									
1352	Interest Common Fund		20,684	19,900	13,052	19,900	19,100	18,500	18,000
Expenditure									
2292	Grants		27,900	23,250	13,950	23,250	20,000	20,000	20,000
2295	Blackwell Scholarship Grant		3,400	3,400	1,700	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Total Expenditure			31,300	26,650	15,650	26,650	23,400	23,400	23,400
Surplus/(Deficit)			(10,616)	(6,750)	(2,598)	(6,750)	(4,300)	(4,900)	(5,400)
Specific Funds			124,179	117,429	121,581	117,429	113,129	108,229	102,829
Perpetual Funds			41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451
Beatty Trust									
Income									
1353	Interest Common Fund		15,698	15,400	10,151	15,300	14,800	14,800	14,800
Expenditure									
2293	Grants - APWM National Office		20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Surplus/(Deficit)			(4,302)	(4,600)	151	(4,700)	(200)	(200)	(200)
Specific Funds			128,089	123,489	128,240	123,389	123,189	122,989	122,789
Bone MA Trust									
Income									
1050.19	Bequests		82,326	0	216	216	0	0	0
1351.19	Interest Common Fund		0	0	5,818	8,600	8,500	6,200	4,000
Total Income			82,326	0	6,034	8,816	8,500	6,200	4,000
Expenditure									
2291.19	Grants		0	0	20,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
2290.19	Grants - Aboriginal								
Surplus/(Deficit)			82,326	0	(13,966)	(11,184)	(16,500)	(18,800)	(21,000)
Specific Funds			82,326	82,326	68,360	71,142	51,860	33,060	30,860

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					Budget for Approval	
Account No		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Sudan								
Income								
1357.19	Interest Common Fund	642	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure								
2326.19	Grants	9,047	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,405)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specific Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dehra Dun								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund	4,391	4,100	3,141	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,600
Expenditure								
2294	Grants	0	5,000	2,825	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		4,391	(900)	317	(300)	(300)	(300)	(400)
Specific Funds		14,376	13,476	14,693	14,076	13,776	13,476	13,076
Perpetual Funds		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations								
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		6,288	(5,850)	12,604	(3,384)	(3,850)	(3,050)	(4,050)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		63,394	(12,250)	(16,096)	(22,934)	(21,300)	(24,200)	(27,000)
		69,682	(18,100)	(3,492)	(26,317)	(25,150)	(27,250)	(31,050)
TOTAL Specific Funds		266,644	245,806	264,513	254,894	250,094	244,694	238,694
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 2015/16**

Christian Education & Nurture General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									Budget for Approval 12%	
			Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%				12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected		
Income										
1359	Interest Common Fund General	87,981	89,600	59,899	90,600	90,600	90,500	90,800		
1032	18/30 Camp Income		5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000		
1660	Conferences and Seminars		2,200	0	2,200					
1662	Women's Ministry Income	982				4,000	4,000	4,000		
1990	Profit on sale of portable classroom		4,992		0					
Total Income		88,963	101,792	59,899	97,800	99,600	99,500	99,800		
Expenditure										
Seminars										
2580	Conferences and Seminars	0	5,000	898	5,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
2582	Women's Ministry	2,183	2,500	1,342	2,500	12,000	12,000	12,000		
2584	18/30 Camp Expenditure	0	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000		
2583	Fuelled	551	0	0	0					
Total Seminar Expenses		2,733	12,500	2,240	12,500	18,000	18,000	18,000		
Committee										
2133	Website	340	600	490	600	700	700	700		
2180	Depreciation	59	90	82	115	100	100	100		
2280	General Expenses	0	600	109	600	600	600	600		
2392	Insurances Professional Indemnity	400	393	400	400	404	416	429		
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	27	250	0	250	250	250	250		
2950	Workcover Levy	39								
2920	Travelling Expenses	1,713	3,000	1,408	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		
Total Committee Expenses		2,578	4,933	2,489	4,965	5,054	5,066	5,079		

**Christian Education & Nurture
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Christian Education & Nurture General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16										Budget for Approval	
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:										12%	12%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected			
Grants to PYV											
2295	PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	47300	49,000	32,665	49,000	50,225	51,481	52,768			
	Funding for 20th anniversary celebration		5,000		5,000	0	0	0			
2292	PYV Camp Fees	18,448	9,000	2,105	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000			
2292	PYV Camp Leader Subsidies		12,000	3,125	12,000	12,360	12,731	13,113			
Total Grants to PYV		65,748	75,000	37,895	75,000	72,585	74,211	75,880			
Total Expenses		71,059	92,433	42,624	92,465	95,639	97,278	98,959			
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		17,905	9,359	17,275	5,335	3,961	2,222	841			
General Funds		481,288	488,737	498,645	486,738	485,799	488,121	489,062			
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250			
Capital Items											
Office Equipment inc laptop			2,000		0		0	0			
Photo copier					0	5,000	0	0			
Total Capital Expenditure			2,000		0	5,000	0	0			

**Christian Education & Nurture
Specific Trusts - Allan Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Christian Education & Nurture Specific Trusts - Allan Trust Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16										Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%		12%		12%		
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected				
Income												
1060	Sales - See For Yourself	727	500	490								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	68,376	71,100	47,340	90,000	74,000	74,900	75,700				
Total Income		69,102	71,600	47,830	90,000	74,000	74,900	75,700				
Expenditure												
2030	Advertising & promotion	0	0	0	0	0						
2782	Catechism design	2,400	5,000	0	5,000	0						
2071	Bursaries & Prizes	2,562	2,800	1,285	2,800	7,500	7,500	7,500				
2281	General Expenses	0	0	318	318	328	338	348				
2293	Contribution to Youth Worker	39,000	39,000	26,000	39,000	39,975	40,974	41,999				
2781	Production - ebook version of SFY	387	15,000	0	15,000	4,000	4,000	4,000				
2350	Honorarium - for Primary version of SFY	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	15,000				
Total Expenses		44,349	61,800	27,603	62,118	66,803	67,812	68,847				
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		24,754	9,800	20,226	27,882	7,197	7,088	6,853				
Specific Funds		561,095	570,895	581,321	588,977	596,174	603,261	610,115				
Perpetual Funds		27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852				

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%		Budget for Approval	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	12.0%
Social (June 2016)									
1039	Income		2,000	546	2,000	0	0	0	
2729	Expenses		4,000	251	4,000	0	0	0	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Social	0	(2,000)	296	(2,000)	0	0	0	
Ministers Family Camp (~Sep 2015)									
1029	Income	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,576	
2731	Expenses	563	500	954	954	700	714	735	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Ministers Family Camp	937	1,000	546	546	800	816	840	
Training Days - Rain24									
1023	Income			0	0	0	0	0	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Training Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Summer Camp (Dec 2015 - Jan 2016)									
1025	Income	47,863	50,000	50,268	50,268	56,700	57,834	59,569	
2725	Expenses	49,209	50,000	60,960	60,960	56,700	57,834	59,569	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Summer Camp	(1,346)	0	(10,692)	(10,692)	0	0	0	
Youth Leaders' Conference (~Jan 2016)									
1031	Income	15,240	20,000	16,277	20,000	17,000	17,340	17,860	
2734	Expenses	20,388	21,000	1,928	21,000	17,000	17,340	17,860	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Youth Leaders' Conference	(5,147)	(1,000)	14,349	(1,000)	0	0	0	
West State Camp (~Apr 2016)									
1033	Income	14,202	17,500	527	17,500	15,300	15,606	16,074	
2736	Expenses	14,735	17,500	925	17,500	15,300	15,606	16,074	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on West State Camp	(532)	0	(398)	0	0	0	0	
East State Camp (~June 2016)									
1034	Income	15,479	8,500	628	8,500	12,600	12,852	13,238	
2737	Expenses	14,646	8,500	171	8,500	12,600	12,852	13,238	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on East State Camp	833	0	457	0	0	0	0	
Volleyball (~Oct 2015)									
1020	Income		2,500	2,270	2,270	2,500	2,550	2,627	
2720	Expenses		2,500	3,318	3,318	2,500	2,550	2,627	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Volleyball	0	0	(1,049)	(1,049)	0	0	0	
North State Camp (~Sep 2015)									
1042	Income	8,498	10,000	6,607	6,607	9,400	9,588	9,876	
2740	Expenses	8,126	10,000	7,102	7,102	9,400	9,588	9,876	
	Surplus/(Deficit) on North State Camp	373	0	(494)	(494)	0	0	0	

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						Budget for Approval	
12.0%						12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected
Bookstall & Tuckshop							
1021	Income	273	0	236	0	0	0
2724	Expenditure	546	0	174	0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Bookstall & Tuckshop	(274)	0	62	0	0	0
Merchandising							
1022	Income	759	1,000	854	1,000	1,000	1,000
2722	Expenses	1,031	3,000	2,488	3,000	3,000	3,000
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Merchandising	(272)	(2,000)	(1,634)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Internship							
1062	Income		0	0	0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Internship	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on all Events		(5,428)	(4,000)	1,442	(16,689)	(1,200)	(1,184)

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16							Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:							12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	
Income									
1169	Donations Miscellaneous	3,769	1,500	605	1,500	600	612	630	
	CENC Funding re 20th Anniversary		5,000		5,000	0	0	0	
1170	Donations to Subsidise Campers	1,500	0	750	0	1,000	1,020	1,051	
1060	Equipment Hire	982	1,000	323	1,000	1,000	1,020	1,051	
1241	CENC Funding - Youth Worker	47,300	49,000	32,665	49,000	50,225	51,732	53,284	
1248	Allan Trust Funding - Youth Worker	39,000	39,000	26,000	39,000	39,975	41,174	42,409	
1359	Interest Common Fund	49,518	48,700	31,774	48,700	48,700	48,400	48,000	
Total Income (excl Camps & Events)		142,069	144,200	92,117	144,200	141,500	143,958	146,425	
General Expenses									
2150	Council expenses	561	500	32	500	500	510	525	
2060	Bank Charges & Debits Tax	122	108	84	108	120	122	126	
2130	Computer / Website / Software	1,779	2,770	1,695	2,770	2,500	2,550	2,627	
2180	Depreciation - Furniture/Equip	1,670	1,500	966	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2220	Leader Training	3,237	2,500	1,214	2,500	1,500	1,530	1,576	
2275	First Aid	593	750	294	750	750	765	788	
2278	General Printing & Publicity	2,819	3,200	2,050	3,200	3,000	3,060	3,152	
2279	Music Expenses	579	1,000	640	1,000	800	816	840	
2280	General Expenses	100	1,000	813	1,000	500	510	525	
2392	Insurances	2,460	2,500	2,460	2,460	2,625	2,756	2,894	
2600	Motor Vehicle Expenses - Van	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2281	PYV Mission Trip		1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,020	1,051	
2721	AGM Expenditure (~Dec)	117	100	0	100	100	102	105	
2738	Camper Subsidy (linked to 1170)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2769	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	630	1,500	257	1,500	1,000	1,020	1,051	
Total General Expenses		14,803	18,428	10,505	18,388	15,395	15,762	16,260	

**Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%		Budget for Approval 12.0%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	12.0%
Office									
2910	Telephone	295	500	158	500	400	408	420	
2911	Internet access/usage	660	800	364	800	700	714	735	
2752	Rent	5,200	5,200	3,467	5,200	5,200	5,304	5,463	
2705	Office / Stationery	1,126	1,000	688	1,000	1,000	1,020	1,051	
Total Office Expenses		7,281	7,500	4,676	7,500	7,300	7,446	7,669	
Staff Related Expenses									
2812	Administrative Support	22,801	26,343	19,341	26,343	27,643	28,196	29,042	
2872	Superannuation PYV Admin Officer	2,272	2,634	1,459	2,634	2,764	2,820	2,904	
2811	Stipend Youth Worker	32,184	33,313	22,048	33,313	33,072	34,064	34,064	
2640	NCB Youth Worker	16,992	17,938	11,640	17,938	17,460	17,984	18,523	
2790	Rent assistance	19,764	19,760	14,883	23,051	25,000	25,750	26,523	
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	
2870	Superannuation - PYV (Youth Worker)	7,376	7,688	5,053	7,688	7,580	7,807	7,888	
2221	Training Expenses - Youth Worker	1,405	1,000	0	1,000	500	510	525	
2282	Hospitality/books - Youth Worker	1,037	1,300	462	1,300	1,400	1,428	1,471	
2955	Disability Insurance	678	1,200	937	937	1,200	1,224	1,261	
2950	Workcover	1,397	800	706	706	800	816	840	
2920	Travel	1,397	4,440	1,402	4,440	3,000	3,060	3,152	
Total Staff Related Expenses		106,256	116,764	78,280	119,698	120,769	124,009	126,543	
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		8,301	(2,492)	98	(18,075)	(3,164)	(4,442)	(5,207)	
	Deposits in Common Fund	148,701	152,810	154,166	137,227	135,062	131,620	127,413	
	Paypal	5,101	0	4,081	0	0	0	0	
Total General Funds		153,802	152,810	158,247	137,227	135,062	131,620	127,413	
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	

**Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Church & Nation Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%			Budget for Approval 12%		12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected									
Income																	
1020	Colloquium Sponsorship	1,500	0	0													
1030	Colloquium Registration Fees	8,826	0	0		12,000	0	12,000									
1060	Colloquium Product Sales	342	0	0		500		500									
1240	Overseas Speaker Travel Grant	0	0	0													
1068	Sales Booklets	10,668	0	0	0	12,500	0	12,500									
1359	Interest Common Fund	13	300	0													
		43,870	44,500	30,430	46,300	46,600	47,100	49,000									
Total Income		54,551	44,800	30,430	46,300	59,100	47,100	61,500									
General Expenditure																	
2130	Computer & Software Costs	275	1,150	315	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150									
2180	Depreciation	246	250	164	250	250	250	250									
2289	General Expenses	147	1,400	76	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400									
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	400	420	400	400	420	441	463									
2580	Conferences	527	850	0	850	850	850	850									
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery	36	500	38	500	500	500	500									
2748	Publications Cost	0	650	0	650	650	650	650									
2752	Office Rental	390	1,600	1,040	1,600	0	0	0									
2810	Researcher Wages	20,930	22,800	11,071	16,000	18,000	17,000	18,500									
2870	Researcher Superannuation	2,060	2,280	1,107	1,600	1,800	1,700	1,850									
2850	Journal Subscriptions (& Books)	211	650	193	650	650	650	650									
2851	Books	26	1,200	0	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200									
2910	Telephone & Fax	0	800	0	800	800	800	800									
2911	Researcher - internet, phone, office supplies	0	2,500	391	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500									
2920	Travelling Expenses	719	2,750	408	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750									
2950	Insurance W/Cover Premiums	191	200	197	197	200	200	200									
Total General Expenditure		26,157	40,000	15,400	32,497	33,120	32,041	33,713									

**Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Colloquium								
2030	Colloquium Advertising & Brochures	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
2281	Colloquium Miscellaneous	869	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
2285	Colloquium Meals	2,617	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000
2350	Colloquium Honoraria	3,284	0	0	0	5,500	0	5,500
2708	Colloquium Printing and Stationery	374	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500
2921	Colloquium Travel	1,883	0	0	0	8,000	0	8,000
2922	Colloquium Accommodation	1,102	0	0	0	6,000	0	6,000
Total Colloquium Expenditure		10,129	0	0	0	28,000	0	28,000
Total Committee Expenditure		36,286	40,000	15,400	32,497	61,120	32,041	61,713
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		18,265	4,800	15,030	13,803	(2,020)	15,059	(213)
General Funds		380,341	385,391	395,535	388,394	392,624	407,933	407,970

Capital Items								
Office furniture					0	0	0	0
Laptop Computer					0	0	0	0
Colloquium prepayments					6,000	(6,000)	0	0
Enter Details Here					0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	6,000	(6,000)	0	0

Church Planting Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2015/16

Constructed							Budget for Approval	
Acct No.	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/16 Proposed	2016/17 Projected	2017/18 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund	79,206	69,000	39,985	59,400	46,300	24,300	10,300
1600	Rentals Received - Officer	26,086	26,600	17,415	26,600	27,100	27,600	28,000
1640	Scots Church Distribution	101,934	125,000	110,715	110,715	125,000	125,000	250,000
	Total Income	207,226	220,600	168,115	196,715	198,400	176,900	288,300
Expenditure								
Committee operations								
2220	Training of committee members	2,025	2,000	1,049	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2221	Committee sponsored training of others	712	3,000	1,567	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2130	Website expenses	665	1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2860	National conference subsidy	1,807	3,000	1,774	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2285	Geneva Push	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	17,000	18,000
2700	Printing and Stationery	514	3,000	16				
2920	Travel reimbursements			227	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	Total Committee Operations	20,723	27,000	19,634	27,000	28,000	29,000	30,000
Church Planter Evangelist								
2810	Church planter evangelist - Stipend	32,184	32,828	22,048	32,828	33,648	34,490	35,524
2640	Non-Cash Benefit	20,005	17,332	13,639	20,459	17,765	18,209	18,756
	Childrens' Education NCB					3,000	3,000	3,000
2870	Superannuation	7,376	7,524	5,053	7,524	7,712	7,905	8,142
2752	Rental/Manse Allowance	23,400	23,400	15,600	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400
2541	Manse Energy Expenses	3,813	3,300	2,060	3,300	4,000	4,000	4,000
2550	LSL Levy	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
2955	Disability Insurance/Workcover	1,551	2,050	1,438	1,438	2,100	2,200	2,200
2910	Telephone/Fax	1,114	1,350	770	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,450
	Total Church Planter Evangelist	89,792	88,133	60,959	90,649	93,376	95,004	96,822
Committee Grants								
	Startup Grants	36,556	20,000			1,175		
	Operating Grants	296,792	352,971	191,289	280,915	210,617	130,488	59,442

**Church Planting Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2015/16**

							Budget for Approval	
Constructed								
Acct No.	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/16 Proposed	2016/17 Projected	2017/18 Projected
	Non Ordained Team Member Grants					30,566	19,833	4,200
	Total Committee Grants	333,347	372,971	191,289	280,915	242,358	150,321	63,642
	Property Expenses - Officer							
2390	Insurance - Fire & General	524	550	498	498	523	549	576
2711	Property Expenses	2,331	2,500	3,595	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,700
2750	Rates & Taxes	5,589	14,000	10,803	14,000	15,000	16,000	17,000
	Total Property Expenses - Officer	8,443	17,050	14,896	16,998	18,023	19,249	20,276
	TOTAL Expenses	452,306	505,155	286,778	415,562	381,756	293,573	210,740
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	(245,080)	(284,555)	(118,663)	(218,847)	(183,356)	(116,673)	77,560
	Balance on General Funds	604,770	320,215	486,416	385,923	202,567	85,894	163,454

Church Planting Committee
Specific - Property Development Fund
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2015/16

Church Planting Committee											
Specific - Property Development Fund											
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2015/16											
Account No	Description	12%									
		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/16 Proposed	2016/17 Projected	2017/18 Projected			
Income											
1080	General Mission Program	17,675	0	0	0	0	0	0			
1162	Donations Property Development	14,901	14,500	16,830	25,245	14,500	14,500	14,500			
1240	Grant from Capital Fund	87,944									
1350	Interest Property Development Fund	167,848	150,339	112,885	134,300	65,300	12,500	13,300			
	Total Income	288,368	164,839	129,715	159,545	79,800	27,000	27,800			
Expenditure											
2140	Consultancy	4,470	20,000	0	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000			
2292	Grants Property Development	0	1,000,000	1,203,420	1,203,420	500,000					
	Total Expenditure	4,470	1,020,000	1,203,420	1,223,420	520,000	20,000	20,000			
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	283,898	(855,161)	(1,073,705)	(1,063,876)	(440,200)	7,000	7,800			
Property Development Fund		1,607,927	752,766	534,222	544,051	103,851	110,851	118,651			

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/2016

		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%					Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income								
1040	Family Camp Income	24,899	30,000	28,341	30,000	30,000	32,000	34,000
1160	Donations and Gifts	1,129	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1161	Good Friday Appeal	19,167	23,000	978	23,000	22,000	23,000	24,000
1249	Grant : HCCVI	29,236	22,000	21,927	22,000	25,500	26,265	27,053
1359	Interest Common Fund General	90,673	92,500	60,815	91,300	91,500	91,100	90,700
Total Income		165,103	168,500	112,060	167,300	170,000	173,365	176,753
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising (inc Good Friday Appeal)	712	750	0	750	700	750	750
2110	Chaplaincy Fees - Hospitals	12,700	13,200	8,000	13,200	7,800	7,800	7,800
2111	Chaplaincy Fees - Prisons	1,200	1,200	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2112	Chaplaincy Fees - Police	1,200	1,200	800	1,200	2,400	2,400	2,400
2113	Chaplaincy Fees - Sports	0	0	0	0	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)	16,888	20,000	13,333	20,000	20,000	20,500	21,013
2180	Depreciation Furniture/Equipment	640	615	275	400	400	400	400
2226	Pastors Renewal Retreats	3,467	3,500	(2,694)	3,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
2227	Chaplaincy Resources(Tracts,books,DVDs)	240	250	0	250	500	500	500
2228	Education & Training (Conferences/Seminars)	657	2,500	339	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
2229	Ministers & Family Support	1,275	0	720	0	0	0	0
2280	General Expenses	766	1,500	95	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2282	Chaplains' Appreciation Luncheon	82	100	0	100	100	100	100
2283	Chaplains Commissioning Service	1,244	500	280	500	500	500	500
Chaplaincy Co-ordinator								
2815	Salary	25,625	27,132	17,510	27,132	28,617	29,332	30,066
2875	Superannuation	2,562	2,713	1,751	2,713	2,862	2,933	3,007
2954	Workover Levy - General	436	515	625	625	346	355	364
2911	Phone (co-ordinator)	191	360	0	360	360	360	360
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	1,030	900	1,030	1,030	1,030	900	900
2752	Heathmont House office rental	4,810	3,640	2,427	3,640	3,650	3,800	4,000
2580	Ministers Family Camp (MFC) Expenses	39,417	46,500	46,052	46,500	46,500	47,500	48,500
2580	MFC Administration Wages	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	17,694	18,137	18,590
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery & Secretarial Fees	835	1,500	367	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
2800	Professional Supervision(Development)	491	500	0	500	500	500	500
2921	Travel - Corrections	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2922	Travelling Expenses - Committee	471	2,000	436	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2118	Kirkbrae Chaplaincy- Junior Internship- total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Committee Expenditure		152,440	166,575	110,746	165,600	178,659	181,467	184,449
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		12,663	1,925	1,314	1,700	(8,659)	(8,102)	(7,696)

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/2016

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/2016										Budget for Approval 12%		12%		12%	
			Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%							
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected							
General Funds		990,160	992,700	989,540	990,050	981,791	974,089	966,793							
Capital Items															
Prepaid Family Camp		0	0	2,210	2,210	0	0	0							
Enter Details Here		0	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Enter Details Here			0		0	0	0	0							
Enter Details Here			0		0	0	0	0							
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	2,210	2,210	0	0	0							

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/2016

P Burnett Trust

Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	Budget for Approval	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income									
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	73,596	73,600	48,272	72,400		71,800	69,600	66,900
Total Income		73,596	73,600	48,272	72,400		71,800	69,600	66,900
Expenditure									
Pastoral Support Worker									
2142	Professional Supervision	58	300	0	300		300	350	350
2812	Pastoral Support Worker (Ministers' Wives) (Salary)	36,017	36,918	25,534	36,918		37,232	38,163	39,117
2872	Super PSW	3,602	3,692	2,553	3,692		3,723	3,816	3,912
2912	Pastoral Support Worker - Phone	360	360	240	360		360	400	400
2923	Pastoral Support Worker - Travel	4,000	4,000	2,769	4,000		4,000	4,000	4,000
2924	Pastoral Support Worker - Accommodation	266	350	162	350		400	400	400
2952	Workcover	392	491	331	331		495	506	517
Kirkbrae Chaplaincy									
2115	Stipend	16,587	16,841	11,148	16,841		16,949	17,373	17,807
2641	NCB	9,496	9,733	6,487	9,733		9,973	10,223	10,478
2791	Manse Allowance	8,446	8,657	5,743	8,657		8,787	8,963	9,142
2871	Superannuation	3,688	3,986	2,527	3,986		4,038	4,139	4,243
2144	Professional Supervision	300	500	0	500		500	500	500
2221	Professional Development (ES & WG)		1,000	65	1,250		1,250	1,250	1,250
2551	Long Service Leave Levy	175	300	175	175		175	175	175
2956	Disability Insurance	1,037	1,068	937	937		960	975	1,000
2953	Workcover	234	392	298	298		305	313	321
2115	Kirkbrae Supply Fees		450	137	450		450	450	450
Total Kirkbrae Chaplaincy		39,962	42,928	27,516	42,828		43,389	44,361	45,367
Total Expenses		84,657	89,038	59,106	88,778		89,899	91,996	94,063
Surplus/(Deficit)		(11,061)	(15,438)	(10,834)	(16,378)		(18,099)	(22,396)	(27,163)
Specific Funds - Burnett									
		614,639	599,201	603,805	598,261		580,162	557,766	530,603

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/2016

Harold Hughes Trust

Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	Budget for Approval	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income									
1350	Interest Common Fund Specific	1,293	1,200	886	1,200		1,200	1,200	1,200
1440	Other Investment Income	66,158	110,100	32,821	110,100		110,600	107,900	102,000
2570	Management Fee - Separate Investments	0	(21,200)	0	(21,200)		(21,300)	(20,800)	(19,600)
1995	Gain / (Loss) on Investments	168,413	0	(11,654)	(11,654)		0	0	0
	Total Income	235,864	90,100	22,052	78,446		90,500	88,300	83,600
Expenditure									
2876	Intern Expenses	9,838	26,140	12,890	26,140				
2874	Superannuation - Intern	884	2,614	1,189	2,614		0	0	0
2957	Workcover - RCH Intern		316	226	226				
	Other oncosts		2,600		2,600				
2810	Western Health Chaplain Salary	27,962	28,661	19,107	28,661		30,375	31,134	31,912
2870	Superannuation	2,795	2,866	1,911	2,866		3,038	3,113	3,191
2950	Other oncosts	433	1,850	248	1,850		1,117	1,127	1,147
2143	Professional Supervision	854		300	300		1,000	1,000	1,000
2811	North Health Chaplain Salary	18,642	19,843	13,216	19,843		20,250	20,756	21,275
2873	Superannuation	1,864	1,984	1,322	1,984		2,025	2,076	2,128
2955	Other oncosts	899	1,734	179	1,734		1,995	2,001	2,007
	RCH Chaplain Salary						20,250	20,756	21,275
	Superannuation						2,025	2,076	2,128
	Other oncosts						1,995	2,001	2,007
	Eastern Health Chaplain Salary						15,187	31,134	31,912
	Superannuation						1,519	3,113	3,191
	Other oncosts						934	2,126	2,136
	RCH Chaplain Salary						15,187	31,134	31,912
	Superannuation						1,519	3,113	3,191
	Other oncosts						934	2,126	2,136
2805	Paediatric Scholarships		6,000	0	6,000		6,000	6,000	6,000
	Total Expenses	64,169	94,608	50,587	94,818		125,349	164,787	168,548
	Surplus/(Deficit)	171,694	(4,508)	(28,535)	(16,372)		(34,849)	(76,487)	(84,948)
Common Fund - Hughes									
	Separately Invested Funds - Hughes	24,133	10,000	7,247	10,000		10,000	10,000	10,000
	Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested) - Hughes	453,532	463,157	464,303	462,947		428,098	351,611	266,664
	Total Hughes Funds	1,444,927	1,349,376	1,422,458	1,428,555		1,393,706	1,317,220	1,232,272

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/2016

Walton Trust

Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	Budget for Approval		2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
						2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected		
1352	Common Fund Interest	458	400	216	350	340	230	120	120
2117	Chaplaincy- Ballarat	1,000	1,200	600	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Surplus/(Deficit)		(542)	(800)	(384)	(850)	(860)	(970)	(1,080)	
Specific Funds - Walton		3,643	2,843	3,259	2,793	1,933	963	(117)	
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		12,663	1,925	1,314	1,700	(8,659)	(8,102)	(7,696)	
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		160,092	(20,746)	(39,753)	(33,600)	(53,808)	(99,853)	(113,190)	
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		172,755	(18,821)	(38,439)	(31,900)	(62,467)	(107,955)	(120,886)	

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%

12%

12%

General Operations

Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income								
1440	Other Investment Income	6,881	0	0	0	0	0	0
1359	Interest Common Fund General	87,483	88,000	58,798	89,000	87,000	85,000	84,000
1240	Grant from Balfour Trust (Grants Received)	11,815	10,000	2,842	10,000	0	0	0
Total Income		106,179	98,000	61,640	99,000	87,000	85,000	84,000
Expenditure								
2130	Computer & Software Costs	90	120	0	120	120	120	120
2140	Consultancy	0	400	0	400	0	0	0
2401	Interest Subsidy Ministers Car Loans	9,742	10,000	5,903	10,000	9,000	8,000	8,000
2700	Postage, Printing & Stationery	964	500	160	500	500	500	500
2881	Sustentation Travel Grants	480	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2885	Superannuation Subsidy	11,815	10,000	2,842	10,000	0	0	0
2889	Sustentation Expense General	78,728	100,000	17,360	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
2910	Telephone/email Convenor	542	600	0	600	600	600	600
2920	Travelling Expenses - meetings	886	900	369	900	900	900	900
Total Expenses		103,247	127,520	26,634	127,520	116,120	115,120	115,120
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		2,932	(29,520)	35,007	(28,520)	(29,120)	(30,120)	(31,120)
General Funds		819,399	789,879	854,406	790,879	761,759	731,639	700,519
Peptual Funds		42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466

Capital Items

Enter Details Here	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enter Details Here	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure				0	0	0	0	0

**Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%

Long Service Leave Funds

Account No		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%					Budget for Approval 12%	
Description		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income								
1130	LSL Levy	39,900	39,900	41,650	41,650	41,300	41,300	41,300
1358	Interest Common Fund General	100,752	99,000	69,520	104,000	103,000	101,000	100,000
Total Income		140,652	138,900	111,170	145,650	144,300	142,300	141,300
Expenditure								
2550	Long Service Accrual - not cash	147,424	126,316	172,676	210,000	151,847	159,359	162,741
Total Expenses		147,424	126,316	172,676	210,000	151,847	159,359	162,741
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(6,772)	12,584	(61,506)	(64,350)	(7,547)	(17,059)	(21,441)
	Long Service Taken - cash		180,000	94,245	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
Provision for Long Service Leave		864,349	810,665	942,780	894,349	866,196	845,555	828,295
General Funds		1,220,801	1,179,701	1,237,726	1,186,451	1,150,751	1,113,051	1,074,351

METRO Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16								Budget for Approval 12%		12% 12%	
Account No		Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/18 Projected		
Income											
1359		Interest Common Fund	85,097	81,600	56,325	83,700	81,400	79,000	74,500		
1650		Youth Metro Income	1,990	1,500	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500		
1040		Events Income	341	600	491	600	600	600	600		
1060		Conference Income / Book Sales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total Income			87,428	83,700	58,016	85,800	83,500	81,100	76,600		
Expenditure											
2030		Advertising & Website	225	5,000	75	500	2,000	500	500		
2221		Youth Metro Expenses	9,768	12,500	6,379	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500		
2222		Adult Metro Expenses	355	2,500	1,804	750	3,000	2,500	2,500		
2250		Events	1,266	1,500	1,274	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,500		
2280		Convener Expenses	0	150	0	150	150	150	150		
2281		Training Officer Expenses	0	350	0	350	0	0	0		
		Train the Trainer									
2289		General Expenses	0	500	0	500	3,000	5,000	5,000		
2290		Grants for trainees	56,182	78,000	41,005	78,000	120,000	168,000	192,000		
2709		Postage, Printing & Stationery	257	350	22	350	350	350	350		
2850		Subscriptions, Books & Journals	0	250	0	250	250	250	250		
2920		Travelling Expenses	199	300	0	300	300	300	300		
2291		Grant Paid - Training Officer	30,000	30,000	17,500	17,500	0	0	0		
Total Committee Expenditure			98,252	131,400	68,058	112,650	144,550	192,550	216,550		
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations			-10,824	-47,700	-10,042	-26,850	-61,050	-111,450	-139,950		
General Funds			862,900	815,200	852,858	836,050	775,000	663,550	523,600		

**Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Ministry Development Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%		12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Proposed	2017/2018 Projected	
Income									
1359	Interest Common Fund								
1640	Scots Church Property Trust	150,266	127,000	77,279	119,000	111,000	111,000	17,000	
1660	Embers to Flame Conference	407,734	500,000	442,860	442,860	480,000	500,000	800,000	
1990	Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	1,515		0	0				
		0		2,752	2,752				
Total Income		559,514	627,000	522,891	564,612	591,000	611,000	817,000	
Expenditure									
1. Grants									
2860	Subsidies to Congregations	304,027	360,200	143,449	234,535	370,500	370,500	300,000	
2862	Superannuation Subsidies	15,581		0					
2864	Second Ministry Workers	104,933	64,875	37,375	57,375	61,125	61,125	60,000	
2867	Cross Cultural Subsidies	109,200	164,250	71,667	108,500	138,000	138,000	165,000	
2290	Grants Paid - Capital	884,962	600,000	254,593	339,462	508,000	261,500	261,500	
Total Grants		1,418,703	1,189,325	507,084	739,872	1,077,625	831,125	786,500	
2. Ministry Development Director									
2181	Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	4,952	5,775	3,186	4,785	4,785	4,785	4,785	
2280	General Expenses	1,082	500	882	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2790	Manse Allowance	24,000	24,000	16,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	
2831	HM Director's Discretionary	204	1,000	420	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
2850	Subscriptions	306	200	136	200	200	200	200	
2955	Disability Insurance	1,075	1,129	984	984	1,033	1,033	1,085	
2540	Light Power & Heating	4,521	6,500	2,654	4,500	4,500	4,725	4,961	
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	700	350	350	350	350	350	350	
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Costs	6,599	7,000	5,529	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
2640	Non Cash Benefits	17,842	18,288	12,222	18,333	19,731	19,731	20,729	
2810	Salary	33,793	34,638	23,150	34,726	37,373	37,373	39,265	
2870	Superannuation	7,745	7,939	5,306	7,959	8,566	8,566	8,999	
2141	Professional Supervision	210	600	140	600	600	600	600	
2910	Telephone & Fax	3,921	4,000	2,385	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	
2920	Travelling Expenses	5,867	6,000	2,047	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
2950	WorkCover	564	662	578	578	692	692	713	
Total Ministry Development Director Expenses		113,381	118,580	75,971	116,015	120,831	121,056	124,687	

Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%							Budget for Approval	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Proposed	2017/2018 Projected
3. Office								
2030	Advertising	700	2,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2060	Bank Charges	108	100	86	100	100	100	100
2180	Depreciation Office Equipment	2,270	2,100	1,197	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2282	General Expenses	265	1,000	279	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2551	Long Service Leave Accrual	1,106	1,098	1,086	1,098	1,178	1,178	1,269
2752	Office Rental	16,873	17,548	11,699	17,548	18,250	18,250	18,888
2912	Telephone & Fax	1,189	1,200	938	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
2130	Computer & Software Costs	995	1,000	312	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	2,843	6,000	1,128	3,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
2812	Salaries	44,684	45,733	31,903	47,854	49,050	49,050	50,522
2872	Superannuation	4,569	4,573	3,246	4,785	4,905	4,905	5,052
2952	WorkCover Levy	424	453	795	795	486	486	500
Total Office Expenses		76,027	82,805	52,670	81,581	84,369	83,369	85,732
4. Committee								
2830	Staff Amenities	1,417	1,200	503	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2922	Travelling Expenses	670	600	294	600	600	600	600
Total Committee Expenses		2,087	1,800	797	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
5. District Interim Moderator Expenses								
2815	Stipend - District Interim Moderator	7,799	26,391	0	0	28,475	28,475	29,916
2645	Non Cash Benefits	4,531	13,933	0	0	15,033	15,033	15,794
	LSL Levy		700	0	0	350	350	350
2875	Superannuation	1,887	6,049	0	0	6,526	6,526	6,856
2795	Manse Allowance	6,101	18,424	0	0	18,424	18,424	18,424
2225	District Interim Moderator	0	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
	Budget for 6 months only					(35,404)		
Total District Interim Moderator Expenses		20,318	67,497	0	0	35,404	70,808	73,340
6. Miscellaneous								
2140	Consultancy	720	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	2,010	8,000	4,790	8,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
2230	Evangelistic Materials	0	2,500	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
2581	Training inc. Embers to Flame, ESL, Peacewise	4,162	10,000	375	1,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		6,892	21,500	5,165	10,000	13,000	12,000	12,000
Total Expenses		1,637,408	1,481,507	641,686	949,268	1,333,028	1,120,158	1,084,059
Surplus/(Deficit) Operations		(1,077,893)	(854,507)	(118,795)	(384,656)	(742,028)	(509,158)	(267,059)

Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16

Ministry Development Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:				12%		Budget for Approval 12%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Proposed	2017/2018 Projected	12%
									12%
Balance of General Funds		1,769,655	899,121	1,638,741	1,375,294	639,429	138,234	(120,771)	
Capital Items									
	Computer		0			1,800			
	Other		0	298	298	0	0	0	0
	Motor Vehicle (less trade in)		25,000	17,290	17,290	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		0	25,000	17,588	17,588	1,800	0	0	0

**Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Account No	Description	Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%				Budget for Approval 12%	
		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected

Church Extension - Victoria

Income							
1351	Common Fund Interest Specific	43,659	29,000	32,043	49,700	34,900	22,600
Expenditure							
2291	Grants Paid	0	150,000	(18,646)	150,000	150,000	8,500
Surplus/(Deficit)		43,659	(121,000)	50,689	(100,300)	(115,100)	14,100
	Specific Funds	364,603	243,603	415,292	264,303	149,203	175,903
	Perpetual Funds	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913

Church Extension - Other States

Income							
1352	Common Fund Interest Specific	832	800	415	700	800	800
Expenditure							
2292	Grants Paid	1,083	800	415	700	800	800
Surplus/(Deficit)		(251)	0	0	0	0	0
	Specific Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Perpetual Funds	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913

Evangelism

Income							
1353	Common Fund Interest Specific	153,313	159,800	107,762	162,800	164,100	164,100
Expenditure							
2293	Grants Paid Evangelism	26,659	40,000	14,087	40,000	40,000	40,000
2861	Second Ministry Workers	0	21,625	12,458	19,125	20,375	20,000
2294	Daylesford		41,000	27,333	41,000	41,000	41,000
2294	Bundoora		23,000	13,333	20,000	23,000	23,000
	Additional Evangelism Project					20,000	20,000
2863	AFES Workers	20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Expenses		46,659	145,625	77,212	140,125	164,375	164,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		106,654	14,175	30,550	22,675	(275)	100
	Specific Funds	1,304,855	1,319,030	1,335,405	1,327,530	1,327,255	1,327,455
	Perpetual Funds	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992

**Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Account No	Description	12% Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					Budget for Approval	
		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected

Noble Trust

Income								
1355	Common Fund Interest Specific	52,146	45,700	34,601	52,200	51,700	50,900	49,300
Expenditure								
2813	Salaries (inc NCB)	33,562	52,250	15,250	25,000	25,000	28,000	30,000
2281	General Expenses	2,260	1,000	118	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2873	Superannuation	24,757	45,365	14,431	25,000	25,000	28,000	30,000
2953	Workcover Levy	406	408	357	357	225	252	270
2586	Ministers Conference	0	1,200	0	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2295	Grants Paid	4,513	15,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2923	Travelling / Training Expenses		1,000	1,329	1,330	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Expenses		65,499	116,224	31,484	58,887	58,425	64,452	68,470
Surplus/(Deficit)		(13,352)	(70,524)	3,118	(6,687)	(6,725)	(13,552)	(19,170)
	Specific Funds	312,906	242,382	316,024	306,219	299,494	285,942	266,772
	Perpetual Funds	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000

TOTAL

Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts	136,709	(177,349)	84,356	(84,312)	(122,100)	(852)	(4,970)
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	(1,077,893)	(854,507)	(118,795)	(384,656)	(742,028)	(509,158)	(267,059)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(941,184)	(1,031,856)	(34,438)	(468,968)	(864,128)	(510,010)	(272,029)
Total Specific Trusts	1,982,364	1,805,015	2,066,720	1,898,052	1,775,952	1,775,100	1,770,130
Total Perpetual Funds	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818

KIRKBRAE PRESBYTERIAN HOMES
BUDGET FOR 2015/2016

Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	7 Months to Jan-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed
Income					
Commonwealth Funding	6,361,260	6,808,013	3,923,535	6,808,013	7,011,000
Resident Fees	2,209,755	2,159,320	1,304,685	2,159,320	2,346,893
Fund Raising Activities	0	600	0	600	0
Interest Received	23,849	7,500	18,584	7,500	2,400
Catering Income	12,855	8,400	3,087	8,400	3,840
Other Operating Income	16,084	8,000	2,311	8,000	3,000
Total Operating Income	8,623,803	8,991,833	5,252,202	8,991,833	9,367,133
Commonwealth Subsidy - Capital	31,119	33,600	13,950	33,600	28,000
Accommodation Charge	771,741	780,000	508,875	780,000	759,000
Retentions on Bonds	273,172	267,978	140,742	267,978	258,815
Interest Received on Investments	2,599,376	925,000	627,222	925,000	1,036,150
Other Income	125,623	50,000	171	50,000	40,600
Total Non-Operating Income	3,801,031	2,056,578	1,290,961	2,056,578	2,122,565
Total Income	12,424,834	11,048,411	6,543,163	11,048,411	11,489,698
Expenditure					
Catering Costs	310,593	324,500	195,826	324,500	371,100
Administration Expenses	277,614	254,281	141,847	254,281	268,072
Motor Vehicle & Transport Expenses	21,215	33,400	9,829	33,400	26,760
Maintenance - Hand Tools & Equipment	962	2,500	258	2,500	1,000
Committee Expenses	5,973	6,000	746	6,000	2,000
Chemist & Medical	57,768	62,200	33,620	62,200	69,220
Continence Costs	84,154	90,000	54,873	90,000	93,000
Cleaning, Laundry, House & Infection Control	282,061	382,500	223,440	382,500	403,002
Consultants Fees	74,651	83,900	83,970	83,900	155,800
Contract Therapy	475,350	497,000	310,135	497,000	552,100
Insurance	81,590	90,000	53,246	90,000	98,160
Rates, Taxes & Utilities	279,988	303,901	158,036	303,901	294,846
Occupational Health & Safety	7,835	12,500	1,121	12,500	16,500
Maintenance Costs	330,623	453,960	207,782	453,960	395,873
Total Security Costs	28,596	33,151	16,155	33,151	35,955
Staff Costs	7,161,093	7,357,614	4,210,301	7,357,614	7,876,328
Depreciation	734,191	807,500	442,196	807,500	741,700
SSC Non Operating Costs	7,000	7,200	4,083	7,200	7,250
Total Expenses	10,221,256	10,802,107	6,147,465	10,802,107	11,408,666
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	2,203,578	246,304	395,698	246,304	81,032

Capital Items	
Village Redevelopment	7,016,142
Furniture & Fittings - Admin	70,436
Fences, Concreting	62,006
Furniture & Fittings - Residential Care	607,590
Computer Equipment - Admin	43,510
Furniture & Fittings - Catering	91,340
Total Capital Items	7,891,024

**State News Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Account No		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%					Budget for Approval 12%	
		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Income								
1080	General Mission Programme	4,701	0	0	0	1,500	1,500	2,000
1062	Advertising Revenue	0	0	50	50			
1359	Interest Common Fund General	6,452	6,800	4,477	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,700
Total Income		11,153	6,800	4,527	6,850	8,200	8,100	8,700
Expenditure								
2130	Software & Website Costs		150	0	150	0	533	533
2180	Depreciation	0	533	0	0	533	533	533
2280	General Expenses		250	0	250	0	2,000	2,000
	Honorarium for editor					2,000	2,000	2,000
2630	Newsletter Production Costs	12,601	10,800	5,892	10,800	11,000	11,500	12,000
1064	Less Contribution recouped	(5,167)	(5,400)	(2,946)	(5,400)	(5,500)	(5,750)	(6,000)
2920	Travelling Expenses		500	0	500	0	0	0
Total Expenses		7,434	6,833	2,946	6,300	8,033	8,283	8,533
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		3,720	(33)	1,581	550	167	(183)	167
General Funds		55,685	54,585	57,266	56,235	55,335	55,685	56,385
Capital Items								
	Computer		1,600	0	0	1,600	0	0
	Enter Details Here				0	0	0	0
	Enter Details Here				0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		0	1,600	0	0	1,600	0	0

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Theological Education Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16										Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:										12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected				
Income												
1702	Tuition - Fee paying students	221,824	254,509	97,290	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000				
1700	Tuition ex Bursaries (Candidates)	137,493	241,608	107,687	227,340	251,381	280,818	281,068				
1704	Tuition ex Bursaries (Cat 2-5)	22,648	4,300	9,088	13,593	16,143	16,414	17,129				
1704	Tuition ex Bursaries (Other)	2,885	9,372	0	9,372	17,000	25,032	25,594				
1703	Tuition Fees Short Courses	5,612	8,000	3,600	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,000				
1705	Israel Study Tour			39,053	39,053							
	Study Tour expenses			(21,260)	(21,260)							
	TOTAL Tuition Fees	390,461	517,789	235,457	474,598	490,523	528,264	529,791				
1709	Ministers Conference Income	4,541	3,500	1,870	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000				
2586	Ministers' Conference Expenses	(4,320)	(5,000)	(755)	(5,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)				
1168	Bequests, Donations and Gifts	100,797	5,000	2,031	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000				
1080	General Mission Programme	30,920	16,594	14,519	15,765	0	0	0				
1243	METRO Funding re Training Officer	30,000	30,000	17,500	17,500	0	0	0				
1359	Interest Common Fund-General	230,996	232,000	158,795	239,000	239,000	243,000	248,000				
1600	Rental of TEC Manse	14,670	14,851	9,042	14,851	15,148	15,148	15,148				
1601	Rental Income Accommm Units	72,881	70,902	49,042	70,902	72,320	74,490	76,725				
1650	Sundry Income	1,518	0		22,739	0	0	0				
1990	(Loss) on Disposal of Assets	(1,751)			0							
Total Income		870,712	885,637	487,501	860,355	821,992	865,902	874,663				
Expenditure												
Australian College of Theology Affiliation and Admin Fees												
2045	ACT Admin Fees	38,974	41,379	23,993	41,379	45,138	48,082	48,107				
2050	ACT Affiliation Fees	5,835	6,000	6,010	6,010	6,190	6,376	6,567				
Total ACT Affiliation and Admin Fees		44,809	47,379	30,003	47,389	51,328	54,458	54,674				
Staff Related												
2810	Salaries	194,309	214,255	133,903	217,095	225,550	248,584	236,100				
2640	Non Cash Benefits	57,028	67,306	37,233	57,705	59,595	80,346	72,484				
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Expenses	8,085	7,000	3,559	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000				
2830	Staff Amenities	781	500	408	500	800	800	800				
2870	Superannuation	37,050	37,895	23,454	33,886	35,276	44,520	41,347				
2950	WorkCover Levy	6,140	6,322	4,620	4,620	4,759	4,902	5,049				
2955	Disability Insurance	4,437	4,559	4,104	4,104	4,207	4,312	4,420				
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	7,040	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,050	1,400	1,400				
2550	Long Service Leave accrual (non cash)	38,959	5,267	3,804	5,706	5,991	6,291	6,605				
2840	Study Leave accrual (non cash)	5,415	41,042	30,120	19,862	35,035	47,709	36,036				

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16

Account No	Description	Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					Budget for Approval	
		2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
2848	Study Leave Travel Expenses (non cash)		7,000	2,664	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2181	Depreciation Motor Vehicle	4,397	5,250	2,927	5,250	1,111	0	0
2541	Lighting & Heating - Manses	8,427	11,000	5,637	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
2911	Telephone & Fax-Manses	6,323	7,000	3,427	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2490	Lecturers' Fees	45,663	43,000	25,040	43,000	74,250	57,695	52,690
2240	Lecturers' Fees - Exam Marking	4,893	6,000	6,323	6,000	13,750	14,300	14,300
2920	Travelling Expenses	10,763	12,000	9,871	20,000	12,500	12,000	12,000
2229	Education & Training	3,014	6,000	1,356	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2810	Business Manager		20,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Staff Related Expenses		442,725	502,796	299,850	457,129	511,875	560,858	521,231
2520	Total Library Related Expenses	50,736	55,870	32,147	53,404	54,080	54,774	55,485
Office Related								
2910	Telephone & Fax	9,130	8,500	6,783	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
2060	Bank Charges, FID & Debits Tax	1,633	2,000	1,146	1,800	1,800	1,872	1,947
2180	Depreciation - Furniture and Equipment	11,887	10,000	7,929	11,500	7,350	5,650	2,700
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	16,706	15,000	11,361	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2540	Light Power & Heating	13,530	17,500	9,031	17,500	19,250	21,175	23,293
2760	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	0	500	507	500	500	500	500
2130	Computer & Software Costs	7,308	6,000	6,141	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2850	CCLl, Copyright	1,805	2,000	505	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	3,202	3,362	3,713	3,713	3,898	4,093	4,298
Total Office Related Expenses		65,201	64,862	47,115	66,513	64,298	64,790	64,237
Property Related								
2183	Depreciation Plant & Equipment	3,999	3,859	2,713	3,859	2,800	2,200	2,200
2186	Depreciation Buildings	33,342	33,600	22,192	33,600	33,600	33,600	33,600
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	10,254	10,000	9,782	17,000	17,000	17,500	18,000
2750	Rates & Taxes-College	366	4,400	7,363	12,500	13,000	14,000	14,500
2820	Security Costs	1,384	1,500	708	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Property Related Expenses		49,345	53,359	42,758	68,459	67,900	68,800	69,800
Training Officer								
2815	Salaries	33,793	34,723	20,257	19,774	0	0	0
2641	Non Cash Benefits	26,302	18,332	9,959	10,440	0	0	0
2641	NCB - Extra Travel		8,323	5,880	4,855	0	0	0
2752	Manse / Rent	23,400	23,400	13,650	13,650	0	0	0
2555	Long Service Leave	350	300	350	350	0	0	0

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Theological Education Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16								
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12.0%		Budget for Approval 12.0%	
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
2545	Utilities	3,150	2,100	2,550	2,100	0	0	0
2228	Office Expenses, Conferences, Materials	376	800	0	300	0	0	0
2915	Telephone	2,100	2,000	1,501	1,400	0	0	0
2925	Travel Expenses - Training			249	249			
2875	Superannuation	7,745	7,958	4,643	4,532	0	0	0
2951	WorkCover Levy	531	523	414	414	0	0	0
2956	Disability Insurance	1,075	1,107	984	984	0	0	0
Total Training Officer Expenses		98,822	99,566	60,436	59,047	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Expenses								
2030	Advertising / Student Prospectus	2,780	7,000	2,969	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2032	Marketing	3,200	8,000	450	6,500	6,500	12,000	12,000
2927	College Mission Support (Travel Expenses)		6,000		6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2290	Graduation Ceremony	3,165	3,000	868	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
2285	General Expenses - Missions Course	254	300	128	300	0	0	0
2921	Hospitality	1,972	2,500	2,242	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
	Combined Colleges Conference					5,000		
2831	Student Expenses	1,729	2,000	632	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2280	General Expenses	751	4,000	0	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		19,625	32,800	7,289	32,800	38,000	38,500	38,500
Residential Units								
2185	Depreciation (Residential Units)	27,657	27,730	18,412	27,730	27,730	27,730	27,730
2391	Insurance	971	1,019	966	966	1,014	1,065	1,118
2712	Maintenance & Cleaning	4,188	4,000	2,448	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2751	Rates	6,300	1,000	182	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Residential Units		39,115	33,749	22,008	33,696	34,744	34,795	34,848

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Theological Education Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16										Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:			Budget for Approval	
Account No		Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%		
PTC Media Income														
1065		Book Shop Sales	17,870	30,000	3,993	10,000	20,000	20,000	30,000					
1066		Less: Purchases (enter as negative)	(9,868)	(24,000)	(3,115)	(8,000)	(16,000)	(16,000)	(24,000)					
Total PTC Media Income			8,002	6,000	878	2,000	4,000	4,000	6,000					
PTC Media Expenses														
2184		Depreciation	282	833	413	833	470	400	0					
2708		Printing & Stationery- Media	84		0	0	200	200	200					
2812		Stipend	9,136		0	0		0	0					
2812		Bonus (% of adjusted profit)			0	0								
2872		Superannuation	914		0	0		0	0					
2918		Office Expenses	375		0	0		0	0					
		General Expenses		5,000	0	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000					
2924		Travel Expenses	1,104	3,216	1,504	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000					
Total PTC Media Expenses			11,894	9,049	1,916	5,833	8,670	8,600	8,200					
PTC Media Surplus(Deficit)			(3,892)	(3,049)	(1,038)	(3,833)	(4,670)	(4,600)	(2,200)					
Total Expenses			814,270	893,431	542,644	822,270	826,896	881,575	840,976					
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations			56,442	(7,794)	(55,144)	38,085	(4,905)	(15,673)	33,688					

Budget for Approval

2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
0	0	32,855
12,000	5,000	5,000
15,000		
10,000		
5,000		
2,000		
44,000	5,000	37,855
73,061	69,580	66,230
5,991	6,291	6,605
35,035	47,709	36,036
114,087	123,580	108,871
65,182	102,907	104,705
1,650,416	1,753,323	1,858,028
965,159	965,159	965,159

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:									
Account No		Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	Budget for Approval		
							12%	12%	12%
Building Fund									
Income									
1160		Donations & Gifts	117,874	20,000	10,031	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
1350		Interest Common Fund	10,068	6,800	12,263	18,100	19,200	18,800	18,400
		Total Income	127,942	26,800	22,295	38,100	39,200	38,800	38,400
Expenditure									
2061		Bank Charges	245	270	160	270	270	270	270
2390		Insurance Fire & General	4,419	4,640	4,350	4,350	4,568	4,796	5,036
2710		Property Maintenance	28,036	30,000	30,485	30,000	31,500	33,075	34,729
2711		Property Maintenance - Gardening	4,955	4,000	2,584	4,000	6,000	4,000	4,000
		Total Expenses	37,656	38,910	37,579	38,620	42,338	42,141	44,035
		Surplus/(Deficit) Building Fund	90,286	(12,110)	(15,284)	(520)	(3,138)	(3,341)	(5,635)
		Specific Funds	160,216	148,106	145,973	159,696	156,558	153,217	147,582
Library Fund									
Income									
1161		Donations & Gifts	8,002	3,000	715	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
1351		Interest Common Fund	11,876	11,900	7,938	11,900	11,900	11,900	11,900
		Total Income	19,878	14,900	8,653	14,900	14,900	14,900	14,900
Expenditure									
2062		Bank Charges	245	240	160	240	240	240	240
2182		Depreciation Library Equipment	7,192	7,420	4,737	7,420	3,700	400	400
2521		Library Books	19,909	20,000	11,515	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2529		Library Magazines & Journals	23,876	20,000	11,001	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2709		Postage Printing & Stationery	1,455	1,000	750	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2814		Library Wages	22,087	26,846	16,213	24,603	25,218	25,849	26,495
2871		Library Superannuation	2,211	2,685	1,621	2,460	2,522	2,585	2,650
		Total Expenses	76,976	78,190	45,998	75,724	72,680	70,074	70,785
		Surplus/(Deficit) Library Fund	(57,098)	(63,290)	(37,345)	(60,824)	(57,780)	(55,174)	(55,885)
2535		Expenses paid from General Budget	(50,736)	(55,870)	(32,147)	(53,404)	(54,080)	(54,774)	(55,485)
		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 2015/16

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected	
Fernside Trust									
Income									
1353	Interest Common Fund	136,362	143,000	92,997	140,000	146,000	152,000		12%
Total Income		136,362	143,000	92,997	140,000	146,000	152,000	158,000	12%
Expenditure									
2793	Manse Allowances	70,200	70,200	46,800	70,200	46,800	77,220	77,220	
2754	Principal's Rent	29,380	29,994	18,080	27,120	27,934	28,772	29,635	
2283	Relocation Costs	660				15,000			
Total Expenses		100,240	100,194	64,880	97,320	89,734	105,992	106,855	
Surplus/(Deficit) Fernside Trust		36,122	42,806	28,117	42,680	56,266	46,008	51,145	
	Specific Funds	3,184	10,990	20,322	20,864	47,130	57,139	71,284	
	Indexation of Capital	32,938	35,000	10,979	25,000	30,000	36,000	37,000	
	Perpetual Funds	1,157,211	1,192,211	1,168,190	1,182,211	1,212,211	1,248,211	1,285,211	
Bursary Trusts									
530									
1051	Bequests	19,385	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Grant from Balfour Trust				200,000				
	Allocation of Pinches bequest				100,667	0			
1162	Donations & Gifts	22,104	27,000	0	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	
1081	GMP funding	57,826	62,388	54,713	59,269	101,017	63,774	76,635	
1352	Interest Common Fund	81,935	82,100	52,106	78,700	106,300	107,000	108,900	
Total Income		181,250	171,488	106,819	465,636	234,317	197,774	212,535	
Expenditure									
2072	Bursaries	19,800	25,000	15,880	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
2073	Scholarships - Candidates	137,493	241,608	103,508	227,340	187,607	140,409	140,534	
2074	Scholarships - Categories 2 to 5	22,648	4,300	9,088	13,593	16,143	16,414	17,129	
Total Expenses		179,940	270,908	128,475	265,933	228,749	181,823	182,663	
Surplus/(Deficit) Bursaries		1,310	(99,420)	(21,656)	199,703	5,568	15,951	29,872	
	Specific Funds	128,460	29,040	106,804	128,163	133,731	149,682	179,554	
	Perpetual Funds	557,682	557,682	557,682	757,682	757,682	757,682	757,682	

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%	12%	12%	12%		
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected			
Prizes Trusts											
Income											
1164	Donations & Gifts	500		500	500		0	0			
1354	Interest Common Fund	15,024	15,400	10,332	15,400	15,900	16,700	17,500			
Total Income		15,524	15,400	10,832	15,900	15,900	16,700	17,500			
Expenditure											
2084	Prizes Specific	10,491	6,100	9,855	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000			
Total Expenses		10,491	6,100	9,855	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000			
Surplus/(Deficit) Prizes		5,033	9,300	977	5,900	5,900	6,700	7,500			
	Specific Funds	96,446	105,746	97,423	102,346	108,246	114,946	122,446			
	Perpetual Funds	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515			
Diaconal Fund											
Income											
1357	Interest Common Fund	17,036	18,300	12,080	18,400	19,200	20,400	21,600			
Total Income		17,036	18,300	12,080	18,400	19,200	20,400	21,600			
2075	Scholarships	2,885	9,372	4,179	9,372	9,500	10,032	10,594			
Total Expenses		2,885	9,372	4,179	9,372	9,500	10,032	10,594			
Surplus/(Deficit) Diaconal Fund		14,151	8,928	7,901	9,028	9,700	10,368	11,006			
	Specific Funds	151,163	160,091	159,064	160,191	169,891	180,259	191,265			

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16**

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2015/16									
		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:					12%		Budget for Approval
Account No	Description	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Budget	8 Months to Feb-15	2014/2015 Projected	12%	2015/2016 Proposed	2016/2017 Projected	2017/2018 Projected
Miscellaneous Trusts - Hopkins, Oliver, Overseas Students									
Income									
1356	Interest Common Fund	19,421	28,500	19,603	30,000		30,700	31,800	32,100
1358	Interest O/S Student Fund	9,406							
Total Income		28,827	28,500	19,603	30,000		30,700	31,800	32,100
Expenditure									
2076	Bursaries (Oliver)		12,000	0	12,000		12,000	12,000	12,000
2076	Scholarships (Overseas Students)						7,500	15,000	15,000
2811	Missions Course	24,110							
2813	Lectures on Preaching (Hopkins)								
2296	Ministers' Conference Expenses (Oliver)		2,000	0	2,000		2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Expenses		24,110	14,000	0	14,000		21,500	29,000	29,000
Surplus/(Deficit) Miscellaneous		4,717	14,500	19,603	16,000		9,200	2,800	3,100
	Specific Funds	187,558	202,058	207,161	203,558		212,758	215,558	218,658
	Perpetual Funds	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225		52,225	52,225	52,225
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		56,442	(7,794)	(55,144)	38,085		(4,905)	(15,673)	33,688
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		145,258	(43,416)	14,461	265,371		79,797	78,086	96,589
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		201,700	(51,210)	(40,683)	303,456		74,892	62,413	130,277
Total Specific Funds		727,027	656,031	736,748	774,818		828,314	870,800	930,789
Total Perpetual Funds		1,896,597	1,931,597	1,907,576	2,121,597		2,151,597	2,187,597	2,224,597

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE (Min. 12)

The current contract of the Youth Ministries Director (YMD) is coming to an end in May 2015. After a performance review of all staff in the second half of 2014, the CENC carried a motion at our February 2015 meeting, minute 15.17.1.1, that a recommendation be made to the Commission of Assembly that the current YMD be reappointed to this position for a 5 year term. The above matter emerged in our discussions since the last General Assembly and is in need of executive action.

Background

With the growth of the Presbyterian Youth of Victoria over the past twenty years came necessary organizational changes that saw a greater need than having just a full time youth worker for PYV. With the fine work of past PYV leaders, Council and Operations Manager, it was time for the CENC to focus on the development of youth in a far wider way across the state of Victoria. Many young people in Presbyterian congregations needed more support than PYV could give, and so the Commission of Assembly approved a new job description for a Youth Ministries Director in 2011.

Eventually, the Lord allowed for the calling of Rev Harvey, and the Commission of Assembly as of 1 May 2012 approved him to this task. Brian came well prepared for the task. He had extensive experience in youth ministry with his work with the Salvation Army in Victoria and Tasmania. During those years, he worked with Fusion in high schools, established youth drop-in centres, and established their Youth Ministries Development program for Western Victoria. Brian has served as an active member of the CENC along with his wife Anne. Brian had been the PYV portfolio holder for over 2 years, and attended most PYV camps and functions as the CENC representative. He pastored the congregation at Warburton, which also allowed Brian to serve the PYV one day a week as the Youth Ministries Director, before answering God's calling to this position full time.

It was a difficult task for the committee to find someone with these skills and background, and we waited and prayed a long time, before Brian was presented to us.

Performance Reviews

The structure set in place for the CENC is that while staff are employed and supervised by the committee as a whole, an Annual Review Panel consisting of the CENC Convener, the Pastoral Carer of PCV Ministry Families, the Convener of PYV, and one additional member of the PYV Council oversees them. The Annual Review Panel have jurisdiction over the ministry of all staff, and are tasked with the regular review of their work, arbitration of any complaints, and reporting to the CENC their findings. Before each annual review, each staff member is sent materials which they are to complete and make available to the Annual Review Committee beforehand. Areas covered in the review include:

1. A report on past stated goals and their progress, status and outcome, as well as personal reflection.
2. Setting of new performance objectives and development planning (with Review Panel input).
3. Operational support and working environment.
4. Pastoral considerations: mentoring, prayer and personal devotions, family, personal, and co-workers.

Rev Brian Harvey has undergone three Annual Reviews (2012, 2013, 2014), with the Review Panel giving the CENC nothing but the most positive feedback concerning his ministry, preparedness, resourcefulness and strategic thinking and planning.

Just some of the highlights of Brian's ministry over the last three years include:

1. Changing the PYV camping structure to using three regional camps (making them more affordable to operate) and having one large summer camp.
2. Transitioning the PYV Leadership Training with the help of the METRO Committee into what is now the major training apparatus for PYV leadership development, known as Youth METRO.
3. Developing and strengthening Presbyterian youth groups across the state.
4. Taking a leading role in the development and execution of Engage Training Events.
5. Bringing to the attention of the CENC the need for a critical update of Breaking the Silence to meet the criteria changes of the State government. The CENC reported this to the GAV and as a result, we now have a new Safe Church Unit in operation.
6. Making a major assault on pornography among both male and female youth with clinics, counseling and training.
7. Liaising with other Christian youth workers nationally and internationally for training and equipping.
8. Taking on the task of revamping the Westminster Catechism training for the CENC to the young people of our churches.

Summary

Rev Harvey enjoys widespread support among the youth of our denomination, with his good-natured approach to dealing with the problems and concerns young people face today. He is also highly regarded among his peers in youth ministry and within the membership of this Assembly. He is compassionate, but unswerving in his commitment and obedience to the Gospel. The CENC believes that Rev Brian Harvey continues to serve a vital role in his present ministry and that a further appointment for a period of five years is important to maintain and develop the initiatives that he has set in place and those he will pursue in future development across Victoria regarding youth development. The CENC heartily endorses the work and ministry of this man and asks you to do the same.

Terms of Settlement

The terms of settlement remain the same as when Rev Harvey was first appointed, with just a few minor changes. In the standard BIF approved contract, the following would need to be changed in the 'Schedule':

1. Item 3 regarding the present residence of the Harvey family
2. Item 4 regarding probationary period: N/A
3. Item 6 to be changed to be, Term: 5 years
4. Item 8 regarding Monthly salary: the housing allowance to be the actual rental costs, including any annual increases in line with fair local market value.

C Scott Kroeger
CONVENER

CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Min. 14)

Reporting under authority of GAV BB 2014, min 38.2

Re: Rule 4:89 and its interpretation

The General Assembly, GAV BB 2012, min 28.5, asked the Code Committee to consult with the Trusts Corporation regarding the interpretation of Rule 4:89 as it relates to uniting congregations and the subsequent allocation of properties.

We have found this a difficult question. We have consulted widely, especially with our Law Agent, the Trusts Corporation and the ad hoc Committee on Sites Reserve.

Opinion

It is the committee's view that a presbytery may bring about a union of two or more congregations to form one new congregation without congregations needing to be dissolved, with the property of the uniting congregations being applied for the benefit of the new congregation by the Assembly.

Qualifying this, congregations entering into union have no automatic right to retain after union all the property they hold prior to union, for the Assembly is not bound to transfer all the property of the congregations entering into the union to the united congregation. It is also clear that no more of the property of the uniting congregations ought to be alienated from the church (i.e. 'sold') than is necessary.

The Code Committee is of the view that:

1. In a union of congregations, there is no in-principle reason why the property of the uniting congregations could not be made available for the benefit of the united congregation without a congregation having to be dissolved, according to Code 4:90.
2. Any making available of the property of the uniting congregations to the united congregation would be by the General Assembly, pursuant to the Model Trust Deeds under which churches and manses are held in trust for the church, informing the trustees that the land is to be used as a site for a church for public worship by a particular congregation recognised by it.
3. In preparing an 'agreement for union' a presbytery ought not assume:
 - a. that the whole of the property of uniting congregations would be made available by the Assembly to a united congregation; or
 - b. that the Assembly would approve the sale of more property than would be necessary to provide for the needs of the united congregation, given the requirements of rule 4:89, that 'In effecting the union... of a congregation the presbytery takes care that no property is needlessly alienated from the church'.

Background

The General Assembly (BB 2012, min 28.5) resolved to:

Request the Code Committee to consider the Code 4:89 re 'Union, readjustment or dissolution of congregations' with a view to:

- a) proposing alterations to clarify the wording, including a definition of the term 'readjustment', or its possible deletion;
- b) consider, in consultation with the Trusts Corporation and the ad hoc committee looking at the use of Sites Reserve monies, the issues relating to property when congregations are united, with a view to ensuring that in a

union any property becomes available for the benefit of the new united congregation without a congregation having to be dissolved according to Code 4:90;

- c) consider the possible deletion of the last sentence ('At all times the Presbytery encourages and assists mission stations and appointment parishes to rise to the status of a charge'), or inserting it at a more appropriate place in the Code;
- d) consider this matter urgent (in the light of clause 3 above) and report in the usual way with recommendations to the next General Assembly.

a) Definition of the term 'readjustment'

The first part of the Assembly's request was that the Code Committee consider rule 4:89 with a view to 'proposing alterations to clarify the wording, including a definition of the term 'readjustment', or its possible deletion.'

Given the historical roots of our church, we have drawn on various articles available on the internet of a Scottish origin, and on Andrew Herron's *The Law and Practice of the Kirk*.

Our research indicates that 'readjustment' is (or was – 'reappraisal' is the word used by the Church of Scotland now) a Scottish term for 'making change to meet changed or changing circumstances', and that while it has a considerable history of ecclesiastical use, it has been used more generally of the need to 'readjust' in the face of changes in the wider community.

In ecclesiastical usage, when readjustment is used by itself, it includes union; that is to say, union is regarded as a form of readjustment; however, union is frequently put alongside readjustment, as it is in our code rule 4:89.

Readjustment has been of particular importance to the Church of Scotland. We think this explains why most of the material we have been able to find relates to that church, rather than other Scottish Presbyterian Churches.

Herron explains:

When the Church of Scotland became re-united in 1929 one of the most pressing tasks confronting the new body was that of readjusting its agencies. The periods of population explosion in Scotland had more or less coincided with times of secession, and in its own peculiar way the divisions of the age had contributed enormously towards meeting the demand for Church extension. Inevitably, though, it had done so in a quite random and haphazard fashion so that by 1929 the situation was crying out for rationalisation. In almost every village of Scotland at that time there were three charges of the Church of Scotland - near the geographical centre of the parish there would be the Old Kirk, in the heart of the village would be the Free Kirk, and at a point determined by some accident of history you would find the U P Kirk. The union of Free and U P in 1900 had gone some way – but not very far – towards reducing this number. (p. 45)

* U P stands for 'United Presbyterian'

As a consequence, the practice was established of the Presbytery's considering the question of possible readjustment every time there is a vacancy in a charge.

Under the heading, 'Raising the Question of Readjustment', the church's 'Committee on Union of Congregations and Readjustment of Agencies' Memorandum on Procedure (1966) states:

It is the duty of the Presbytery to report each vacancy to the General Assembly's Committee together with the Presbytery's opinion as to whether the question of union or readjustment should be raised or not' – and it then lists the factors the Presbytery should take into account in forming its opinion.

Under this committee's 'Memorandum of Procedure', readjustments included linking, transporting and suppressing of congregations. At the time of Herron's writing, this was under the direction of the Assembly Committee on Parish Reappraisal, which took over in 1990 from the Committee on Unions and Readjustments (p. 46).

Using Herron's list (leaving aside the more obvious 'Union' and 'Dissolution' to match our Code), forms of readjustment include:

1. Severance – the division of one congregation into two congregations.
2. Linking – the bringing together of two congregations so that while they share the services of one minister (and under our code, one session) in every other regard they retain their identity and autonomy.
3. Transportation – the relocation of a congregation into a new district, together with its assets and its traditions.
4. Transference – the transference of a congregation from the bounds of one Presbytery to another by means of redrawing the Presbytery bounds.
5. Restricted Choice – the restricting by the Presbytery of a vacant congregation's right to call (under this heading he explains that 'suppression' doesn't mean dissolution, but what is best explained as ministry by Terminable Appointment, or Terminable Tenure).
6. Continued Vacancy – the presbytery is not prepared to grant a congregation leave to call.
7. Joint Ministry.
8. Shared Ministry.
9. Part-time Ministry.
10. Other forms of change a Presbytery may devise to meet a particular situation not covered by the above, provided that such form isn't at variance with the rules of the Church.

Given that the term 'readjustment' is not in common use in the PCV, and that this is the only place it is mentioned in the Code, a definition of it will be helpful, as follows:

Readjustment - definition

Readjustment is the making of changes by the presbytery to meet the changed or changing circumstances of congregation or congregations by the:

- a. Dividing one congregation into two or more distinct congregations;
- b. Linking two or more congregations together to form a linked charge;
- c. Relocating a congregation into a new district;
- d. Transferring a congregation from within the bounds of one Presbytery to another by means of the redrawing of Presbytery bounds;
- e. Changing the status of a charge;
- f. Providing a different ministry pattern to a charge (e.g., from part-time ministry to full-time, or the reverse).

Each of the actions listed above could be described by the term 'readjustment', and would therefore need to come under the process described in this rule.

b) Union – and issues of property

Although it is true that ‘the linking of two congregations as in a linked charge is a form of union’, using the word ‘union’ in a general sense, we have not been able to find a single instance of the union of congregations in Presbyterian rules or practice where union does not mean organic union — that is, the amalgamation of congregations.

This is why we favour retention of the word ‘readjustment’ in our code, to stand alongside the words ‘union’ and ‘dissolution’ so as they each maintain their distinct meaning.

This is the case in Scottish practice. Herron, for example, clearly distinguishes between the union and the linking of congregations.

‘the concept of linking took its place alongside that of uniting as a way of making a shrinking supply of ministers...’

‘The first thirty years after 1929 saw some 800 unions and 100 linkings effected.’

‘The procedure towards linking is, with obvious modifications, the same as that for union and concludes with the acceptance by both or all congregations as a Basis of Linking. It is effected by the Presbytery with the same restrictions as apply in the case of union.’

We also found a number of histories of congregations formed by unions in Scotland. Here are two examples:

The history of the Ayr St. Columba Church:

On 4th January 1981 the congregations of Cathcart, Sandgate and Trinity united to become Ayr St. Columba, as decreed by the General Assembly’s Union and Readjustment Committee. A special Arbitration Committee from Edinburgh had already decided that the former Trinity Church would be the location of the new congregation and that the hall of the former Cathcart Church, on Cathcart Street, would be retained.

The history of Cruden Parish Church:

In 1959, guided by the Presbytery of Aberdeen’s Union and Readjustment Committee, the congregations of Cruden West and Cruden Old agreed to unite and so after 116 years, the two parts of the Presbyterian Church were back together again. In one sense the Union brought the history of the congregation to a close.

The PCNSW: does not have a rule that mentions ‘union’ or ‘readjustment’—but these rules recognisably parallel similar rules in our code, and provide for the ‘amalgamation’ of congregations:

1.14 Variation of status. A presbytery may, after consultation with the congregation or congregations concerned and with the approval of the committee on Ministry and Mission, divide, amalgamate or create pastoral charges and home mission stations. The presbytery shall:

- (a) declare to which pastoral charge the minister is to continue to be attached,
- (b) appoint the moderator/s or interim moderator/s,
- (c) record in its minutes the names of those who are to form the session/s or interim session/s.

1.15 Closure of a congregation. Where a presbytery has determined that a congregation is unable to constitute for a congregational meeting, or the presbytery decides that it is inexpedient because of a lack of members for a congregation to

continue, it may close that congregation after consultation with the session and the remaining members of the congregation. Appropriate action shall be taken to ensure that all funds and property of the discontinued congregation are dealt with according to the Property Trust Act.

The PCQ: does not have a rule about the union of congregations, either; its rule is also about amalgamations—but clearly it means ‘union’, because the final step in the process of amalgamation as reproduced below is ‘Arrange a service of unification.’

Amalgamation of Charges

4.30 Presbytery may amalgamate Charges after due investigations of their ability to amalgamate, including present pastoral ties. This shall include consultation with Session and Ministers involved.

PCQ guidelines on ‘amalgamations’ include the following (with respect to property):

The Presbytery may take the following guidelines into consideration when reaching the decision to amalgamate:

9. Following the report, the Presbytery may:
 - (i) Declare the existing boundaries of the Charges amalgamating to be the boundaries of the new Charge.
 - (ii) Declare the name of the new Charge.
 - (iii) Declare the existing Ministers as the Ministers of the new Charge.
 - (iv) Name the senior colleague.
 - (v) Declare a non-Ordained Minister who is already serving as an Assistant to be the Assistant in the new Charge subject to the approval of the Charge.
 - (vi) Declare existing terms of Call as the terms of Call for each Minister.
 - (vii) Declare all Elders from the existing Sessions to be the Session of the new Charge.
 - (viii) Declare all Managers of the existing Committees of Management to be the Committee of Management for the new Charge.
 - (ix) Declare all Communicants of the existing Charges as forming the Communicant Roll of the new Charge.
 - (x) Declare all Adherents of the existing Charges form the Adherents’ Roll of the new Charge.
 - (xi) Declare that all debts of the existing Charges shall become the responsibility of the new Charge.
 - (xii) Declare all liquid assets, including cash, investments, stocks and shares, of the existing Charges the responsibility of the new Committee of Management.**
 - (xiii) Declare that all real property held by the existing Charges be held by the new Committee of Management on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.**
 - (xiv) Declare the date when the Charge formed by the amalgamation, shall become operative.
 - (xv) Arrange a service of unification.

Conclusion

It is the committee’s opinion that a presbytery may bring about a union of two or more congregations to form a new congregation, with the property of the uniting congregations being applied in whole or in part for the benefit of the new congregation as directed by the General Assembly.

The following is an outline of how this might work in practice. Herron begins his discussion of the union of congregations with this paragraph:

A Basis of Union has to be prepared which in the end will be submitted to the congregations for their approval. This deals with the choice of a name, the fusion of property and funds, the choice of a building as the place of worship where that is called for and the future use or disposal of the remaining property, how the temporal affairs are to be managed and by whom, the delimitation of a parish area, the choice of a manse and the disposal of the redundant manse, and decides what is to happen about a Minister.

In our church, rules 4:30 and 4:31 enable a presbytery to supervise the union of congregations under their jurisdiction and to bring relevant property matters as necessary to the General Assembly.

A committee would then be established by the presbytery to prepare a suitable plan and 'Basis of Union' for approval by the presbytery and the congregations concerned.

c) Presbytery 'Encouragement and Assistance to Mission Stations and Appointment Parishes'

The third part of the Assembly's request is that the Code Committee 'consider the possible deletion of the last sentence ('At all times the Presbytery encourages and assists mission stations and appointment parishes to rise to the status of a charge'), or inserting it at a more appropriate place in the Code.'

It seems to us that once what is meant by 'union and readjustment' is understood, this sentence makes perfectly good sense where it is, and does not need to be deleted or relocated.

At all times when considering union or readjustments of congregations presbytery 'encourages and assists mission stations and appointment parishes to rise to the status of a charge' – perhaps by gaining their concurrence to a union or linking or some other readjustment that would enable the presbytery to declare the status of the new arrangement to be that of a charge.

The Code Committee believes the sentence makes good sense in its context, is well-located, and that it would be inappropriate for it to be deleted or relocated.

APPENDIX

Opinion from Philip Barton regarding 'How Presbyterian (PCV) property is held'

(Authorised excerpts...)

8. In this case the registered proprietors of the land are either the Trusts Corporation or congregational trustees. In the rest of this Memorandum I will use the word 'trustees' indiscriminately, although if it is a registered proprietor the Trust Corporation is the sole trustee.
9. I now deal with documents...
The relevant provisions of it [i.e. the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890] are –
 - a) The General Assembly may resolve to create a corporate body of trustees (s. 3, 5);
 - b) The purpose is 'of holding property in trust for the church' (s. 3(a)). 'Church' is defined as the PCV (s. 2);
 - c) Section 6 exempts 'property which at the passing of this Act is held on behalf of...any existing congregation of the church' from vesting in the corporation, but it can be subsequently transferred to the corporation (s. 7, 10). The corporation can also become trustee if the previous trustees all die etc (s. 8);
 - d) Section 18 provides –
'...all property...which is now held or which may hereafter be acquired by any person...for the use or benefit of the church without any formal declaration of trust shall be held upon the trusts and subject to the provisions of "The Model Trust Deeds of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria" or either of them so far as the same may be applicable or any future alteration...duly authorized...'
 - e) Section 21(1) provides for a 'Register of Trustees', i.e. of all trustees other than the corporation. Once a new trustee is so registered the new trustee and the existing trustees are entitled to be registered at the Office of Titles as the proprietor or proprietors of the land without any formal transfer and to obtain a certificate of title (s. 23).
10. The Model Trust Deed for Church Site is set out on p. 238ff of the 2013 print of the Code, with numbered lines. I will not deal with the Manse document but assume that the same principles apply with appropriate modifications. It includes:
 - a) The property is vested in the trustees only for the purposes hereinafter mentioned (lines 7 – 9). This includes that the land is not vested in them beneficially, which means that they hold it on trust. 'Hereditaments' is a wider term than land, but includes it, and seems to me in this document at times to be used synonymously with land and at times in its stricter, wider sense;
 - b) The deed is a declaration of trust (line 9, 13 – 16) (or at least part of it – the other part being referred to in the next paragraph). By an old statutory provision, now found in s. 53(1) of the Property Law Act, a declaration of trust respecting any land must be manifested and proved by some writing signed by some person who is able to declare such trust. This is what this deed, I think strictly called a deed poll, is. It is a declaration, not an agreement with anyone. It creates the trust;
 - c) They hold upon trust for the PCV (lines 16 – 18) called 'the said Church';
 - d) They are to permit the land to be –

'used for such purposes and by such person or persons as the General Assembly...may from time to time direct...and until such direction to permit...the same to be used as a site for a church for the public worship of

God by such persons as are now or at any time or times hereafter may be recognized by the Assembly as a Congregation of the said Church...and to permit...the minister...together with the elders and other office-bearers thereof to have free...enjoyment of the said land...not only for the purposes of public worship...but for such objects in connection with the affairs of the said Congregation as the Presbytery...may approve...and to enter on the said land...to erect...such church...and from time to time alter...the same as shall at any time or from time to time hereafter be directed by the vote of at least two-third parts in number of such of the members and adherents for the time being as shall be personally present at a public meeting thereof called and held pursuant to notice in that behalf duly given in accordance with and conformity to the rules and regulations of the said Church for the time being affecting the convening and holding of meetings of members and adherents in similar cases'. (lines 19 – 38);

- e) The trustees have no power to interfere with the Minister or Office-bearers nor to meddle (lines 38 – 42);
- f) And further –
 'that the said Trustees...shall be bound to obey and give effect to the orders...made by the Assembly and...Presbytery...concerning every other matter or thing whereon the Assembly or such Presbytery...may or shall be by these presents or the constitution of the said Church declared to have authority...' (lines 44 – 51);
- g) And further –
 'that the said Trustees...shall absolutely make sale and dispose of the said hereditaments...and the fee simple...when and on such terms...as shall with the consent aforesaid be directed by any such vote as aforesaid and convey the hereditaments sold to the purchaser...and shall pay the moneys received...to the Treasurer for the time being of the Assembly...' (lines 62 – 68);
- h) And further –
 'that the said Trustees...shall have no power...to collect the revenues or to manage or interfere with the management of the temporal affairs of the said Congregation'. (lines 100 – 102);
- i) 'It is hereby further agreed and declared that, should any Congregation at any time cease to exist (and such cesser of existence shall be deemed to have occurred if no Presbyterian Church service is held by a minister or elder or Home Missionary of the said Church, on the said land...for a continuous period of twelve months, ...), the Assembly shall be at liberty to direct the Trustees...to sell...or otherwise deal with...the said land...' (lines 125 – 131).

11. Under the Declaration of Trust signed by congregational trustees they declare –

'...WHEREAS under and by virtue of the Certificates of Title particularly mentioned...in the First Schedule hereunder the...land...particularly described in the Second Schedule hereunder and the fee simple...are now vested in us...AND WHEREAS the said hereditaments...have been...vested in us as Trustees only for the purposes hereafter mentioned and we are desirous of declaring by this deed the trusts...for which we...shall...stand seised and possessed of the said land...NOW...we do...declare that we...shall hold...the hereditaments described in the said Second Schedule Upon such trusts for..."The Presbyterian Church of Victoria" and...under...such...provisions as are declared...in..."The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Model Trust Deed for Church and Manse Site" and upon...no other trusts...'.
 ...'

12. Under the Nomination and Appointment of Trustees entered in the Register of Trustees, kept by the Clerk of Presbytery, the trustees above their signatures,

agree to hold the property in trust for 'the said Church'. This appears to refer to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria whose name is printed at the top of the page.

13. Against this background, I draw the following conclusions, as to Victorian land held for Presbyterian worship (I do not deal with land held for other purposes) –

- a) As stated above the registered proprietor and holder of the legal estate in the land is either the Trusts Corporation or congregational trustees;
- b) They hold the land on trust for the PCV;
- c) They have declared that they will permit it to be used for such purposes and by such persons as the General Assembly may direct;
- d) They have declared that until this direction they will permit it to be used as a site for a church for the public worship of God by such persons as are now or at any time or times hereafter may be recognized by the Assembly as a Congregation of the said Church;
- e) They have declared that they will obey and give effect to the orders made by the Assembly and Presbytery concerning every other matter or thing whereon the Assembly or such Presbytery may have authority. (The matters or things specifically mentioned, and so outside 'other', are matters concerning the Minister and Office-bearers);
- f) They have declared that they will sell the land if there is a vote of members and adherents to that effect;
- g) They have declared that if the congregation ceases to exist (this being deemed by no service for twelve months) the Assembly shall be at liberty to direct the Trustees to sell or otherwise deal with the land.

14. I will now deal with the hypothetical situation of a congregation with congregational trustees going out of existence and the Presbytery or Assembly permitting another congregation to use the land, whether an amalgam or not of the first congregation. In this situation –

- a) Regardless of what may go on at congregational level, in the way of extinction or union of congregations or a new congregation arriving or new persons arriving, the trustees are still registered proprietors of the land until some document is lodged in the Titles Office to the contrary;
- b) The trustees continue to hold the land on trust for the PCV. It is interesting also to note that no particular congregation is mentioned in the Declaration of Trust or any of the associated documents to which I have referred above. The only mention of a particular congregation in any of the above documents is in the Nomination and Appointment of Trustees document, which however only refers to that congregation in the context of it having met and nominated trustees;
- c) The trustees have declared that they are subject to the direction of the Presbytery or Assembly and specifically that they will allow it to be used for public worship by a congregation recognized by the Assembly.
- d) I would go further and say that, even if the use was not by a congregation recognized by the Assembly, the trustees would be protected provided they followed the direction of the Assembly or even a Presbytery for use of the site.

Philip Barton
Member of the Code Committee

John P Wilson
CONVENER

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Min. 20)

1. Distribution of the General Mission Program

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.

Current Year 2014/15

At the May 2014 Commission of the General Assembly, the amount of \$162,844 was approved as the total of the GMP allocated to presbyteries for the financial year 2014/15. To the end of February 2015 approximately 89% of the total has been received compared to 84% to February 2014 against a total GMP of \$207,203.

Year 2015/16

After considering the applications and budgets put forward in the submissions of the Assembly committees, the committee is recommending a total amount of \$177,350 for the financial year 2015/16, which is approximately 9% more than in 2014/15. This is the result of a combination of factors including: State News has submitted a budget requiring a small amount of GMP support; APWM has requested a reduced amount of GMP; the TEC no longer requires GMP to fund the training officer as the position is vacant, but has significantly increased that for the Bursary fund in accordance with the formula approved by the Assembly in 2012 (BB min 85.12).

The enterprises outside the church included for support are the same as the previous year and the allocations have generally been increased to allow for CPI.

The resulting net total of the General Mission Program for 2015/16 is \$177,350 distributed as follows, with the 2014/15 amounts shown for comparison:

	2014/15 \$	2015/16 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:		
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	40,000	30,000
State News	0	1,500
Theological Education – for Bursary Fund	62,388	101,000
Theological Education (one third actual expenditure: Training Officer)	16,556	0
SUB-TOTAL: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	118,944	132,500
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:		
Australian Christian Lobby	11,400	11,600
ACCESS Ministries	25,400	25,900
Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions	500	500
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	600	600
SUB-TOTAL: INTERDENOMINATIONAL	37,900	38,600
OTHER GRANTS:		
Presbyterian Inland Mission	6,000	6,250
SUB-TOTAL: OTHER GRANTS	6,000	6,250
GRAND TOTAL	162,844	177,350

2. Allocation of the General Mission Program to Presbyteries

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.

Allocation of GMP for financial year 2015/16

In accordance with the approved formula, it is recommended that the net General Mission Program for 2015/16, i.e. \$177,350, be allocated as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of LY total	Percentage of total	2015/16 \$
Ballarat	4.27%	4.10%	7,272
Benalla	5.61%	5.41%	9,595
Flinders	13.35%	12.82%	22,729
Geelong	4.00%	3.75%	6,649
Gippsland	4.30%	4.33%	7,688
Kilnoorat	6.77%	6.57%	11,654
Maroondah	6.86%	7.70%	13,663
Melbourne East	20.03%	20.54%	36,423
Melbourne North	14.95%	15.09%	26,759
Melbourne West	16.66%	16.69%	29,592
North Western Victoria	3.20%	3.00%	5,326
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	177,350

While the formula remains unchanged, the relative percentages applied to presbyteries have changed significantly in some cases. Most notably, the number of communicants and adherents in Maroondah increased by 12% year on year while the numbers in other presbyteries varied by up to 6% (up or down). These variations are reflected in the percentages in the table above compared to the previous year. This will obviously impact the dollar amount allocated to each presbytery.

Philip Court
CONVENER

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,948						
Ararat	451	451			451		100.0%
Ballarat North/Mt Prospect/Smeaton	956	956			956		100.0%
Ballarat South	1,209	1,250	41		1,250		103.4%
Ballarat West/Lexton	1,245	1,245			1,245		100.0%
Carisbrook/Castlemaine	812	812			812		100.0%
Daylesford	217	217			217		100.0%
Horsham/Marnoo	560	560			560		100.0%
Kaniva/Nhill	866	866			866		100.0%
Skipton/Lismore	632	632			632		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,948	6,989	41		6,989		100.6%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,136						
Benalla	2,283	2,283			2,283		100.0%
Broadford	417	417			417		100.0%
Numurkah	1,063	1,063			1,063		100.0%
Seymour/Nagambie/Yea	737	737			737		100.0%
Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram	1,063	1,063			1,063		100.0%
Tatura	1,752	1,752			1,752		100.0%
Wangaratta/Yarrawonga/Myrtleford	1,235	1,235			1,235		100.0%
Wodonga	586	200			200	386	34.1%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,136	8,750			8,750	386	95.8%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						4.2%	
PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	21,740						
Aspendale	1,003	1,003			1,003		100.0%
Brighton	1,298	1,298			1,298		100.0%
Cheltenham	1,862	862			862	1,000	46.3%
Clarinda	578	578			578		100.0%
Clayton	5,581	5,581			5,581		100.0%
Cranbourne	1,850					1,850	
Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup	169	169			169		100.0%
Dandenong	1,199					1,199	
Dromana/Mornington	1,172	772			772	400	65.9%
Frankston	2,654	2,654			2,654		100.0%
Mordialloc	938	938			938		100.0%
Somerville	876	876			876		100.0%
Sorrento/Rye	1,849	1,849			1,849		100.0%
SE Samoan	711	711			711		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	21,740	17,291			17,291	4,449	79.5%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						20.5%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,513						
Colac	970	970			970		100.0%
Geelong - St George's	677	677			677		100.0%
Geelong North	1,303	1,303			1,303		100.0%
Geelong West	1,355	1,355			1,355		100.0%
Moorabool	1,218	1,218			1,218		100.0%
The Leigh	990	990			990		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,513	6,513			6,513		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	7,000						
Bairnsdale	644	644			644		100.0%
Drouin	3,521	3,521			3,521		100.0%
Leongatha	308	308			308		100.0%
Moe/Yarram	1,260	1,260			1,260		100.0%
Morwell	1,190	1,190			1,190		100.0%
Sale	77	77			77		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	7,000	7,000			7,000		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	11,030						
Camperdown/Terang	910	910			910		100.0%
Hamilton	1,735	1,735			1,735		100.0%
Heywood/Portland	945					945	
Koroit/Port Fairy	1,090	1,090			1,090		100.0%
Noorat	1,030	560			560	470	54.4%
Warrnambool	5,320	5,320			5,320		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	11,030	9,615			9,615	1,415	87.2%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						12.8%	
PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	11,174						
Belgrave Heights	601	601			601		100.0%
Blackburn	501	600	99		600		119.8%
Croydon Hills	1,602	1,602			1,602		100.0%
Donvale	5,306	5,306			5,306		100.0%
Heathmont	781	781			781		100.0%
Kirkbrae	100	100			100		100.0%
Mt Evelyn	801	801			801		100.0%
Warburton	501	501			501		100.0%
Woori Yallock	981	981			981		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	11,174	11,273	99		11,273		100.9%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	32,624						
Arabic	1,012	1,012			1,012		100.0%
Ashburton	1,393	1,393			1,393		100.0%
Auburn	1,478	1,478			1,478		100.0%
Burwood Community	2,094	2,094			2,094		100.0%
Camberwell	6,459	1,729			1,729	4,731	26.8%
Canterbury	3,295	3,295			3,295		100.0%
Caulfield/Elwood	2,871			3,510	3,510	2,871	
Gardenvale East	326	326			326		100.0%
Hawthorn	1,668	1,668			1,668		100.0%
Korean, Balwyn	1,928					1,928	
Malvern	2,822	2,822			2,822		100.0%
South Yarra	3,360	3,360			3,360		100.0%
St Kilda / Balaclava	1,431	1,431			1,431		100.0%
Surrey Hills	2,487	2,487			2,487		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	32,624	23,095		3,510	26,605	9,530	70.8%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							29.2%
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	24,345						
Bundoora	4,710	4,710			4,710		100.0%
Eltham	3,409	3,409			3,409		100.0%
Epping	2,301	2,301			2,301		100.0%
Heidelberg	1,673	1,673			1,673		100.0%
Hume	641	641			641		100.0%
Kangaroo Ground	2,270					2,270	
Reservoir	2,724	2,724			2,724		100.0%
Samoan, Fawkner	2,827	2,827			2,827		100.0%
Valley	1,013	1,013			1,013		100.0%
Westminster Community Tem'towe	705	705			705		100.0%
Whittlesea/Mernda	2,072	2,072			2,072		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	24,345	22,075			22,075	2,270	90.7%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							9.3%
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	27,124						
Brimbank	555	555			555		100.0%
Clifton Hill	556	556			556		100.0%
Darebin	424	424			424		100.0%
Essendon	1,271	1,271			1,271		100.0%
Gisborne	1,028	1,028			1,028		100.0%
Melbourne, Scots/Flemington	16,292	16,292			16,292		100.0%
Melton	1,404	1,404			1,404		100.0%
Point Cook	418	418			418		100.0%
Sunshine	1,334	1,334			1,334		100.0%
West Footscray	935	701			701	234	75.0%
Williamstown	1,664	1,664			1,664		100.0%
Wyndham	1,243	1,243			1,243		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	27,124	26,890			26,890	234	99.1%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							0.9%

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	5,211						
Bendigo	1,624	1,624			1,624		100.0%
Eaglehawk	716	716			716		100.0%
Northern Lakes (Kerang/Pyramid Hill/Swan Hill)	1,312	1,312			1,312		100.0%
Rochester	1,284	1,284			1,284		100.0%
Sunraysia	275	275			275		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	5,211	5,211			5,211		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
SUMMARY							
Total Allocated to Presbyteries	162,844						
BALLARAT	6,948	6,989	41		6,989		100.6%
BENALLA	9,136	8,750			8,750	386	95.8%
FLINDERS	21,740	17,291			17,291	4,449	79.5%
GEELONG	6,513	6,513			6,513		100.0%
GIPPSLAND	7,000	7,000			7,000		100.0%
KILNOORAT	11,030	9,615			9,615	1,415	87.2%
MAROONDAH	11,174	11,273	99		11,273		100.9%
MELBOURNE EAST	32,624	23,095		3,510	26,605	9,530	70.8%
MELBOURNE NORTH	24,345	22,075			22,075	2,270	90.7%
MELBOURNE WEST	27,124	26,890			26,890	234	99.1%
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA	5,211	5,211			5,211		100.0%
unallocated	-1						
TOTALS	162,845	144,702	140	3,510	148,212	18,283	88.9%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						11.2%	

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 16)

Police Chaplaincy

Background

In August 2014, Rev Scott Kroeger informally approached the HCCC Convener concerning a potential full-time Police Chaplaincy position. The position required Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and would be based in Darwin with the Northern Territory Police. The Convener spoke with Chaplaincy Coordinator about CPE possibilities for Scott to pursue. We were advised that the John Paver Centre had already received sufficient CPE candidates and would be advised of the next course.

Subsequent to that, Scott, a current PCV volunteer Police Chaplain, advised the Convener that he was interested in developing a potential role with Victoria Police (VicPol) assisting the current VicPol Chaplain, Rev Dr John Broughton and asking for the HCCC's assistance in developing such a role.

HCCC Response

After some initial discussions, the committee was encouraged with this direction, although there was great concern about funding such a proposal. Scott indicated that he would be willing to raise the funds himself as per APWM missionary model but was keen to receive financial support while the support was being raised.

At our August 2014 meeting, HCCC made the following motions:

10.5 Police Chaplaincy: Proposal Rev S Kroeger

The Committee discussed a proposal received from Rev Scott Kroeger, a current PCV volunteer Police Chaplain who is interested in pursuing an opportunity to work full time with Victoria Police as a Police Chaplain under Rev Dr John Broughton. Miles Fagan and Kathy James had both advised Scott that the HCCC had no funding available in support of such a position. Scott had proposed that if HCCC were willing to help create, structure and support such a position, he and his wife were willing to consider full fund raising for it under a "missionary model" approaching PCV congregations and perhaps corporate sponsors.

After some discussion on the proposal, the HCCC agreed that it was not supportive of developing a position that did not have a stable funding stream. The committee recognized Scott's current circumstances, desire and willingness to undergo further chaplaincy training and current service as a PCV voluntary police chaplain and made the following resolution.

Resolved: 8/14.8: That the HCCC include Rev Scott Kroeger on the monthly visiting chaplains list to receive chaplaincy payments of \$100 per month from September 2014 and make provision for payment for one unit of training in Clinical Pastoral Education for him at an appropriate CPE centre in the current financial year.

Petition to GAV by Rev Scott Kroeger

It is the right of Scott to petition GAV concerning the HCCC's unwillingness to continue with his original proposal. His main issue for the petition was to seek funding from GAV for this unique ministry position that he had been seeking to negotiate and organise with VicPol. HCCC was concerned about funding with no access to further funds and to the development of a role with an external organisation without reference to the normal processes for the development of positions by the HCCC; i.e. consulting with BIF for establishing a position and seeking secure funding.

At the GAV of October 2014 the prayer of the petition by Scott Kroeger was granted and the matter referred back to HCCC for further investigation.

HCCC response to GAV

HCCC considered GAV decision and sought advice from BIF as to if there were further funds for the development of a full time PCV Police Chaplaincy role. In a letter from BIF dated 20 Feb 2015, HCCC were advised of the following:

The Board of Investment and Finance at its meeting held on 17 February 2015 received your correspondence of 22 January 2015 and resolved as follows:
029/15 Item 9 – funding of Police Chaplaincy. It was agreed to advise the committee that all funds allocated for the support of chaplaincy have been allocated to the Health and Community Chaplaincy committee and that there are no other funds readily available for this purpose.

HCCC Resolution of the advice provided

HCCC at its February 2015 meeting made the following resolution:

7.2 PCV Commission of Assembly 2015: Pastors Personal Support and Police chaplaincy

The Convener tabled a letter from the BIF dated 20/2/2015 confirming there are no additional PCV funds available to fund a new Police Chaplaincy role at this time. This will be communicated to the Assembly at the Commission in May. Both items to remain on the agenda for future discussion as appropriate.

As listed above, HCCC will leave the subject of Police Chaplaincy on the agenda until such time that it might be possible to explore this with a secure funding model and a transparent selection process.

Miles Fagan
CONVENER

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min. 17)

The committee reports the following matters to the Commission of Assembly 2015:

1. Committee

Your committee continued meeting in Melton following the October 2014 General Assembly and notes that there are no changes of Membership.

- Mr Reg Butcher continues as our Registrar.
- Annual Parish Report forms should be transmitted to Mr Butcher in the first instance.
- Continuing members are Rev Keith Allen, Rev Mark Crabb, Robert Taylor and Dennis Wright (Convener).
- Your committee has met regularly throughout the year.

2. Declaration of terms of settlement

Again, your committee notes that there are many parishes who are yet to submit Annual Parish Report forms as at 31st March 2015. In order to have Terms of Settlement declared, parishes are reminded that the last date for lodgment is 28 February. We continue to remind presbyteries to be more vigilant in following up outstanding Annual Parish Reports and in checking their accuracy.

3. Annual parish reports

Parishes and presbyteries should be aware that approval of grants and subsidies is dependent upon the lodgment of the Annual Parish Report, which is a requirement for ALL parishes, appointment parishes and home mission stations. The overall quality of figures presented is improving slowly, though some confusion still occurs with federal parishes. We note that there is still some 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 Annual Parish Reports, and again ask that presbyteries appoint a registrar/committee whose task it is to facilitate this. Your committee recognises that many parishes do not have suitably qualified treasurers and administrators and require assistance from the presbytery and this committee. Our registrar and convener are available to assist parishes. We are continuing to endeavor to produce a more user friendly Annual Parish Report in paper and electronic form.

4. Long service leave (and LSL levy)

Your committee recommends the continuance of the Long Service Leave Levy at \$350 per parish per minister per annum. We note that some presbyteries have not given enough consideration to minister's Long Service Leave entitlements/dates and have been found lacking in forwarding current details to this committee. In view of recent claims made on the Long Service Leave Fund for persons not previously advised to our committee, we believe that the Long Service Leave Levy will need to be increased in the near future.

5. Non-cash benefits

Your committee reminds Assembly that, even though the current Federal Government intends to take no action on the non-cash benefits exemption and charitable definition of churches, we should appreciate these benefits and adhere to the spirit of the laws of the land that allows us these concessions.

6. Superannuation

Your committee recommends that the rate of parish contribution to the PCV Superannuation Fund remains at 15% of actual remuneration.

7. Minister's remuneration

Your committee submits the following to the Assembly:

An increase of 2.5% of base stipend (not including NCB) bringing total base remuneration up to \$51,792, with NCB balancing:

STIPEND: \$33,900.00	NCB: \$17,892.00	TOTAL: \$51,792.00
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8. Fuel prices

Your committee believes there are continuing positive effects for oil prices in Australia. We note that fuel costs have not increased, and in fact have decreased over the past 6 months. We recommend no increase in excess travel, the rate remaining at 49 cents per kilometre.

9. Supply preaching fees

In accordance with the above we recommend:

- Supply preaching fees increase by 2.5%; and
- Travel reimbursement for supply preachers remain at 49 cents per kilometre.

Our grateful thanks go to the PCV General Manager and the Office Staff for all their assistance given to the convener and the committee.

Dennis Wright
CONVENER

SAFE CHURCH – PCV (Min. 18)

This matter is emergent since the last General Assembly and in need of executive action.

Safe Church – PCV makes reports on recent developments in the community with regard to any Law that impinges on our responsibilities within the church.

Since the last Assembly, there has been a new suite of laws enacted originating from Victoria's Justice Department (called The Betrayal of Trust Laws). Because this has emerged since the Assembly and following the publication and approval of the PCV Safe Church Manual, we are still wrestling with some of the implications and, in some areas, are still to establish proper responses.

The environment in which PCV personnel minister, regarding issues relating to child sexual abuse—both historical and current—has radically altered in a very short space of time due to the new laws, the expectations of law-enforcement agencies and of the broader community. As a result, it is of critical importance that personnel ministering within the PCV understand the implications of this changed environment.

PCV needs expert education and advice on the subject. Some of the implications of the new laws are yet to be understood in the wider church. To help a religious organisation like ourselves, we are able to engage spokespersons from Victoria Police who are capable of speaking to an Assembly and fielding questions.

This is a once-off request, but the timing is just right to carry this out in 2015.

We seek the Commission of Assembly to ask the Business Committee to reserve the Agenda for the 5th Sederunt (Wednesday, 7 October 2015, 7.00pm – 8.30pm) entirely for Safe Church to report, and to invite spokespersons from Victoria Police's SANO taskforce to address all members of the Assembly, together with all Safe Church local representatives, and then to field a question and answer session.

To understand why we are asking for this permission, this is the background for the SANO taskforce:

The SANO Task Force was established to investigate historic and new allegations that have emanated from the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into child sex abuse involving Religious and Non-Government organisations. The task force will also coordinate investigations emerging from the Australian Government Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

SANO Task Force is based within Victoria Police's Crime Command and comprises specialist sexual assault detectives. SANO investigators will identify links between offenders and offences through the use of modern, specialist investigation methods.

SANO investigators are trained experts in sexual assault matters who will maintain the confidentiality of anyone who makes a complaint or wishes to provide information regarding child sexual abuse. Victoria Police are dedicated to accessing justice for victims, whether that is through a full judicial process by going to court or by simply telling their story.

In the strongest possible terms we see this as a necessary intrusion into the week of the General Assembly and we plead for full agreement and full attendance by every member of Assembly.

John P Wilson
CASE MANAGER

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Min. 11)

In accordance with the instructions of the 2014 GAV, Minute 104.10, the TEC has commenced a national and international search for a New Testament lecturer, led by the Principal. While a number of possible candidates have been and are being considered, as yet the committee has not been able to satisfy itself of the quality and suitability of the individuals under consideration. Consequently, the TEC is not prepared to make a recommendation to the Commission of Assembly, and will continue in seeking the Lord's appointed man for this position.

However, the TEC has brought before the Assembly the difficulty we have in maintaining our current levels of support for the training of candidates since at least 2009. Since the last meeting of the GAV in October 2014 it has emerged that the TEC will not be able to continue to meet the current levels of support for training candidates beyond the end of this financial year, 30 June 2015. The inability of the TEC to fund candidate training under the present arrangements means that without urgent executive action by the Assembly the TEC will have insufficient funds available to adequately operate the College beyond 30 June 2015. Clearly this situation is not in the best interests of the College, the candidates, or the wider PCV. At present the TEC grants full scholarships to all candidates for the ministry and also seeks to provide some limited income assistance to those candidates with financial needs.

Maintaining this level of support is increasingly difficult because:

1. Our fees increase in-line with the ACT fees, which increase every year at approximately 3% per annum.
2. Investment returns are now in-line with realistic long-term averages, with the resulting limitation on bursary funds to produce income.
3. Student numbers have increased significantly, a trend that we hope will be sustained.

If we are blessed with the number of candidates needed to replace retiring ministers over the next decade and beyond, the current situation is unsustainable.

In 2012, the TEC endeavoured to address the financial strain on the Bursary Fund by recommending to the Assembly that the 'end user' pay for the training, from which they benefit, through the GMP program. It was considered at the time that the burden of completely funding the training of candidates through the GMP was too great a cost to GMP. Consequently, the Assembly approved a 'limited end user pays' model of funding that was designed to make up the difference between the funds provided from the bursary fund and the annual cost of scholarships, with an additional 20% of scholarship cost of the previous year to replenish the bursary fund capital as per Min 85.12, 2012.

Minute 85.12, 2012

Approve the funding of the TEC Bursary Fund from GMP, the amount being given each year to consist of 20% of the total cost of candidates' fees for the preceding financial year and whatever the reduction in the capital of the fund has been in the previous financial year, this arrangement to be reviewed in five years' time.

In making its recommendations in 2012, the TEC anticipated that the demand on GMP would decrease year on year, as the capital in the bursary fund was built up. The TEC qualified this expectation by noting that the demand on GMP would decrease, "unless we are blessed with an influx of students." Since 2012, we have

been blessed with that influx of candidates. Candidate numbers have continued to increase at a rate that has prevented the replenishing of the bursary fund capital. The result of this growth and the current funding structure is that while candidate numbers remain high and continue to grow, the cost of their training, in its entirety, and with the addition of a premium, will be shifted to GMP. The projected cost of the current funding model to GMP is projected to grow from \$101,017 in 2015/16 to \$215,914 by 2017/18. In addition, the lag in the present model means that it fails to replenish the bursary funds resulting in a projected deficit of \$140,925 in 2015/16 and a deficit of \$237,532 by 2017/18. This failure to replenish the capital in the bursary fund impacts the TEC's capacity to provide financial assistance to candidates in financial need. The TEC is of the opinion that the current situation is inconsistent with the Assembly's intentions, and unsustainable, consequently the TEC is of the opinion that the situation requires the urgent attention of the Assembly. Below is a discussion of the options that could be implemented to address this situation.

1. Do Nothing

This is not really an option as the following discussion indicates. The capital of the bursary fund will be effectively reduced to the perpetual portion alone by the end of the 2014/15 financial year. The existing provisions (Min 85.12, 2012) mean that with the non-perpetual capital exhausted, the reduction in the capital of the fund will be almost equivalent to the entire cost of training candidates, and this cost will be rapidly moved to GMP. The resulting increase in GMP will be substantial and will put congregations, already struggling to meet their GMP contributions, under increased financial pressure. In addition the TEC will be forced to operate the Bursary Fund with significant deficits, although these deficits would be covered by GMP allocations from the following year, we are in effect borrowing against the good will of the congregations and spending money we do not have, and is yet to be collected. This situation would continue until such time as candidate numbers declined or stabilise at which point Min 85.12 would have its intended effect at some point in the future. The TEC considers this a most unsatisfactory situation and operationally irresponsible.

2. Require candidates to fund their own training for ministry

It has been suggested in the past and it continues to be frequently suggested that we should simply require candidates to pay for their training. Advocates of this model cite the ready availability of the funding through the FEE-HELP scheme provided by the Federal Government. Many colleges do encourage their students to use FEE-HELP, and its advent has allowed theological colleges to charge fees that are more realistically related to the cost of delivering theological courses. Private students at PTC make use of FEE-HELP.

In considering this possibility, the question that faces us is not: Should the candidates pay for their training? It is perfectly reasonable to expect an individual to contribute to the cost of obtaining the qualifications from which they intend to earn their livelihood. The question we have to face is this: Should the church continue to accept, at least in part, the financial responsibility for the training of its ministers? The answer can only be a resounding 'Yes'. Clearly the church has a significant vested interest in the training of ministers. The denomination encourages individuals to undertake training for ministry, it determines who enters training for ministry, determines their course of study during their training, and on completion of the training the church determines who may enter the ministry. If we claim the authority to determine who can be a candidate and what they should study, then we must also accept some responsibility for financing the consequences of our decisions, especially when the level of

ministerial stipends was never really designed to remunerate ministers in accordance with the qualifications they have obtained or take into account such matters as the repayment of student loans. Consequently, the TEC is of the opinion that it is unreasonable to expect candidates alone to bear the entire cost of their training for ministry in the PCV.

3. Substantially increase the perpetual portion by a one off donation to the Bursary Fund, and index the fund to preserve the value of the perpetual funds

This of course, would be the most ideal solution. However, the amount of capital would be significant. Even if, as a denomination, we could add sufficient capital to meet the present demand and index the funds to preserve this capital, this solution makes no provision for future growth in candidate numbers, and we would again find ourselves in a similar position if we are blessed with an increasing number of candidates.

While the TEC has long held the view that the present church should make some contribution to the training of its ministers and not live off the prudent provisions of the past, the TEC never intended that the present church should bear the entire cost of training its ministers. The TEC also holds the view that it is unreasonable to expect candidates alone to fund the cost of their training, but it is perfectly reasonable to expect candidates to make some contribution to the cost of their training from which they will earn their living. The TEC therefore recommends that the Assembly establish a financial partnership between the various stakeholders in candidate training – one that draws on all three sources of funding, broadens the financial base, minimises the risk of dependence on a single source, and seeks to divide the financial burden equitably between the primary beneficiaries.

4. A Financial Partnership

This partnership for funding the training of candidates, divides the cost of training candidates equally between the PCV and the candidates, a 50/50 split. The cost of training incurred by each contributor would be funded as follows:-

Candidate's contribution

The contribution required for a candidate to complete a full course of study in 2015 is approximately \$65,520, spread across four years. The candidate would be responsible for funding 50% of this amount over the four years, a total of \$32,760. The TEC, through the faculty, would encourage candidates to fund their contribution by drawing on personal finances, approach their sending church or Presbytery, or make use of the FEE-HELP scheme provided by the Federal Government. The TEC anticipates that most candidates will use the FEE-HELP system.

PCV Contribution

The 50% contribution required by the church (\$32,760) would be met from the TEC Bursary Fund. The TEC Bursary fund would be funded by the present church, through GMP at a rate of 35% of the total cost of training candidates each year, and 15% from income generated by the perpetual funds of the Bursary Fund.

GMP Contribution

The GMP contribution to be calculated on an annual basis using the following formula:

(Effective Number of Full-time Candidates at 31 March each year) x (The Annual Cost of a Candidate's Fees for that year) x 0.35

Where the annual cost of a candidate's fees per year is given by the following formula:

Number of ACT accredited subjects required to meet GAA CC requirements¹/4 x ((2 x the cost of a single graduate subject² (4cps)) + the cost of a single undergraduate subject³ (4cps))/3.

¹ The number of Australian College of Theology accredited subjects required to meet the General Assembly of Australia College Committee requirements is currently 36.

^{2 & 3} The cost of both graduate and undergraduate fees is published in the PTC Handbook each year.

Bursary Fund

To ensure that the Bursary Fund can continue to contribute 15% of the total cost of training candidates, and continue to provide some assistance to students in financial need the Bursary Fund requires an addition of \$200,000 to the perpetual funds. The BIF has indicated its willingness and ability to add an additional \$200,000 to the perpetual funds of the TEC Bursary Fund, to meet the ongoing requirements of the Bursary Fund, should the Assembly approve this proposal. The TEC is very grateful for the generosity and assistance of the BIF in finding a workable solution to this matter.

Implementation

The TEC recommends that the suggested partnership arrangement be implemented in two stages to minimise the impact on both the congregations of the PCV, and the candidates currently training.

Stage 1 — GMP Funding

The TEC is concerned by the rising cost to GMP brought about by the high number of candidates and the provisions of GAV minute 85.12, 2012. Under the current provisions of minute 85.12, 2012 the cost of candidate training to GMP is \$101,017 in 2015/16. The TEC recommends that the new method for calculating GMP be approved at the Commission of Assembly in May 2015, and commence from the 1 July 2016. This change would result in an estimated reduction in GMP in 2016/17 of \$47,871, and in 2017/18 an estimated reduction of \$93,302.

Stage 2 — Candidate Contribution

The committee is of the opinion that it has a moral obligation to fund candidate training under the present arrangements until the end of 2015. Meeting this obligation will require the addition of \$100,000. The BIF has indicated its support for the transfer of the money from the Pinches Estate (\$100,667) from the General Operations account of the TEC to the operational funds of the Bursary Fund to meet this obligation. The TEC thanks the BIF for their support and assistance.

Commencing in 2016 the TEC would cease to offer fully funded scholarships and offer candidates scholarships of 50% per annum of their tuition fees, (as outlined above) and at the same time require candidates to fund the other 50% of their training, themselves. In addition, the total funds available to an individual candidate through this scholarship would be capped to a total sum of 50% of the

total cost of training a candidate, to meet the requirements set by the General Assembly of Australia College Committee as determined by the faculty of PTC.

In addition, the TEC would like to increase the funds available to support candidates by increasing the perpetual portion of the Bursary Fund, so that we are better able to offer bursaries for living expenses to candidates during their training for ministry. To this end, the TEC is seeking to obtain Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status for the present Bursary Fund or establish a fund with DGR status for the purpose of supporting candidates during their training. The TEC is seeking the approval of the Commission for the TEC to fundraise across the denomination to this purpose.

Kevin Maxwell
CONVENER

PETITION 1 (Min. 10)

Hawthorn Presbyterian Church Board of Management Sale of Property

To the Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

1. This matter arises out of correspondence to the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church Board from the PCV Trusts Corp/BIF through the Presbytery of Melbourne East in a letter dated 20th February, 2015 in which it advises that the Hawthorn Congregation should seek the mind of Assembly on its property proposal; and
2. The recitals below will show that this matter should be deemed urgent and requiring executive action by the Assembly; and
3. Hawthorn Presbyterian Church Board advised the Trust Corporation/BIF of its proposals in a letter dated 2nd September, 2014 in advance of a presentation to the Hawthorn Congregation to allow the Trust Corp/BIF to offer any guidance they saw fit; and
4. The necessary congregational decisions were made at a duly called meeting on 9th November, 2014, at which the Hawthorn congregation approved the following by a two thirds majority:
 - a. Approve the proposal of the Board of Management as outlined in the report.
 - b. Seek the approval of the Presbytery and the Board of Investment and Finance so that the property can be marketed promptly, with the proceeds of any approved sale to be applied as follows:
 - i. To purchase a suitable manse in a residential zone of Hawthorn within as close proximity to the Church as possible.
 - ii. To replace the current rental properties at 573 Glenferrie Road, consisting of the three maisonettes, with new or newer apartments in the local area that would provide consistent rental income, opportunities for ministry, and require substantially lower ongoing maintenance.
 - iii. The reimbursement to HPC's general funds of the approximately \$770,000 expended in recent years on property works.
 - iv. The application of the remaining balance of the capital income to:
 1. The establishment of a fund for future building maintenance and repairs, and
 2. A donation to the work of the Presbyterian Theological College and/or church extension work within the PCV.
 - c. Note that no sale can proceed without the final sale price being approved at a subsequent congregational meeting.
5. The Presbytery of Melbourne East has given its approval to the congregation's decisions on the allocation of any proceeds in a meeting held on 14th December, 2014; and
6. The Board is ready to commence marketing the property in question, viz. 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, so that a suitable offer can be found to put to the congregation; and
7. The congregation of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church is desirous of exercising faithful stewardship of assets under its care; and

8. The Board does not want to commence advertising the property until it has assurance that the congregation's decisions on the allocation of any proceeds can be followed; and
9. It would be unreasonable to ask any purchaser to make a binding offer and then have to await the outcome of an Assembly decision in October, 2015 before knowing whether the congregation could accept the offer; and
10. This creates an inherent sense of urgency, even though no-one can predict when a suitable offer might be received; and
11. The aim of this proposal is not to dispose of church property in the ordinary sense, but rather to exchange one property for other properties that would more efficiently suit the needs of the church—and at the same time place the church in a stronger financial position to carry out its mission of spreading the Gospel.

Now therefore the Board of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church humbly petitions the Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to take these premises into consideration and:

Approve the sale of the property at 573 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, and the following allocation of the proceeds of any sale, subject to the Trust Corp/BIF being satisfied at the time of any settlement that all due procedures leading up to that sale, have been followed:

1. The purchase of a suitable manse in a residential zone of Hawthorn within as close proximity to the church as possible.
2. The purchase of new or newer apartments in the local area that would provide consistent rental income, and opportunities for ministry.
3. The reimbursement to Hawthorn Presbyterian Church's general funds of the amount expended in recent years on property works.
4. The application of the remaining balance of the capital income to:
 - a. The establishment of a fund for future building maintenance and repairs for the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church, and
 - b. A donation to the work of the Presbyterian Theological College and/or church extension work within the PCV as the congregation may decide at the time, subject to the approval of the presbytery

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Rev Graham Nicholson (Chairman) and Mr Dirk Jackson were appointed to state the petition.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT TO PETITION 1

Proposal for the rationalisation of the property holdings of Hawthorn Presbyterian Church

The Board of Management has recently been giving consideration to restructuring HPC's property holding for the following reasons.

1. HPC has recently expended \$670,000 of its general funds on the repair and maintenance of the main church building, which was re-roofed, and extensive repairs and refurbishment done on both the exterior and interior. Repairs and maintenance works to the hall, session house and club room are currently underway and planned at an expected cost of \$60,000-\$100,000. The total demand on HPC's general funds therefore has amounted to approximately \$770,000.
2. Both the buildings on the manse site, 573 Glenferrie Road, have deteriorated to the point where a significant expenditure would be required to bring them up to date. These costs are estimated at around \$300-\$400,000—which exceeds HPC's total available capital.
3. The property at 573 Glenferrie Road is located in an area of Hawthorn zoned for multi-unit development. Recent changes to the zoning laws make this site particularly suitable for development, raising its market value well above what a manse site in a normal residential zone would command.

In light of the above, the HPC Board of Management has over the course of the past eight months looked at various ways in which the best outcome might be achieved and is of the view that it would be prudent for the church to restructure its property holdings as follows.

1. To purchase a suitable manse in a residential zone of Hawthorn within as close proximity to the church as possible.
2. To replace the current rental properties at 573 Glenferrie Road, consisting of the three maisonettes, with new or newer apartments in the local area that would provide consistent rental income, opportunities for ministry, and require substantially lower ongoing maintenance.

The funding for these objectives could be achieved through realising the property at 573 Glenferrie Road site, in the currently favourable market, as a multi-unit development site. The Board has considered various options for achieving the best outcome, including developing the site independently or through joint venture, or releasing only a portion of the site and retaining a portion on which to construct a manse. The Board found that releasing the property as a single piece of land would clearly provide the best outcome. It is expected that this approach would also allow for the following to be achieved:

3. The reimbursement to HPC's general funds of the approximately \$770,000 expended in recent years on property works.
4. The application of the remaining balance of the capital income to:
 - a. The establishment of a fund for future building maintenance and repairs.
 - b. A donation to the work of the Presbyterian Theological College and/or church extension work within the PCV.

The aim of this proposal is not to dispose of church property in the ordinary sense, but rather to exchange one property for other properties that would more efficiently suit the needs of the church—and at the same time place the church in a stronger financial position to carry out its mission of spreading the Gospel.

If the congregation grants its approval, the Board is also required to seek approval from Presbytery, the General Assembly and/or the Board of Investment and Finance of the PCV. In the event that it did proceed and a suitable offer was obtained from a purchaser for the property at 573 Glenferrie Road, the congregation will then need to give its final approval prior to any offer being accepted.

The Board therefore requests approval from the congregation to proceed with this proposal, as we believe it represents the best way to provide for the future needs of Hawthorn Presbyterian Church.

The Board of Management
Hawthorn Presbyterian Church

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
OCTOBER 2015

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
1st Sederunt: Monday 5 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, Monday 5 October 2015 at 7.30pm.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the last Assembly (BB 2014 min. 131).

The Moderator, Rt Rev David Brown, 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 all sederunts: Keith Allen, Ivan Barker, Tony Bird, Robert Boan, Andrew Bray, Felix Chung, Dallas Clarnette, Trevor Cox, Kyung Ee, Alan Every, Miles Fagan, Theo Fishwick, Allan Harman, Neil Harvey, Phil Mercer, James Playfoot, Andrew Venn, Graeme Weber.

For this sederunt: John Cromarty, Wally Gear, Ian Hutton, Kevin Maxwell, Peter Orchard, Rod Waterhouse.

Elders:

For all sederunts: Doug Butcher, Stephen Dyer, Tom Guilford, Karl Hood, Stan Roberts, Peter Winstanley.

For this sederunt: John Angelico, Tom Fleming, Elizabeth Cutler.

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 3, and Assembly Paper C, together with the agenda for the 2nd sederunt.

5. Election of Moderator

The Clerk intimated that Rev Mark Everett Smith, minister of Scots Presbyterian Church Drouin, had been elected as Moderator Designate of this General Assembly by the Commission of Assembly in May 2015 (min. 8).

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev Mark Everett Smith, minister of Scots Presbyterian Church, Drouin, as Moderator of the 2015 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator put the moderatorial questions to Mr Smith, 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 Mark Smith, conducted public worship, and preached the occasional sermon, 'Standing Firm in the Faith', based on Ephesians 6:10-20.

7. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Tuesday 6 October 2015 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 6 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, and afterwards in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 6 October 2015 at 9.30am.

8. Communion Service and Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev Mark Smith, constituted the Assembly with prayer, led the Assembly in worship and conducted the Lord's Supper. The Assembly Expositor, Rev Neil Chambers, led the Assembly in the first of his Assembly expositions, 'Christian Reality', based on 1 Peter 1:1-9.

9. Roll

Following amendment, 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.

10. Apologies

The Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: Wally Gear, Ian Hutton, Andrew Slater, Wally Zurrer.

Elders:

For this sederunt: John Angelico, Edward de Zilwa, Tom Fleming, Merv York.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Associations

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Associate for all sederunts:

- a. Rev David Currie, minister of the Church of Scotland and assistant minister at The Scots' Church Melbourne.
- b. Rev Kevin Murray, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales.
- c. Elder Bill MacRae, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.

2. Associate Rev Bruce Meller, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales, for the first, second, fourth and fifth sederunts only.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. Business Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved the deliverance as a whole, including the additional clause 12.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-3 were approved.

Clause 4 was moved and seconded.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 4 by:

1. deleting the words 'with the singing of the Royal Anthem' and 'with the singing of Rejoice! 613 God of Eternity, vv. 1-2, 5-6';
2. replacing the word 'the' before 'loyal addresses' with 'any';
3. adding the words 'by a vote in the regular way' at the end;

so that the clause shall read:

'Carry the Royal Address and any Loyal Addresses by a vote in the regular way.'

The amendment was approved.

Clause 4 as amended was approved.

Clauses 5-12 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Determine that the hours of meeting be:

First Sederunt	Monday 5 October, 7:30pm
Second Sederunt	Tuesday 6 October, 9:30am to 5:30pm
Third Sederunt	Tuesday 6 October, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Fourth Sederunt	Wednesday 7 October, 9:30am to 5:30pm
Fifth Sederunt	Wednesday 7 October, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Sixth Sederunt	Thursday 8 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 the time for speakers to be as follows:

20 minutes in total for:
Conveners and seconders moving deliverances as a whole
Petitioners—stating the petition
Appellants—stating the appeal
Respondents to appeals
Question time
15 minutes in total for:
Overturists—stating the overture
5 minutes for:
Appellants in reply
Movers of substantive motions and amendments
All other speakers.
4. Carry the Royal Address and any Loyal Addresses by a vote in the regular way.
5. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:

Ministers: Philip Daffy (Convener), Stuart Withers, 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. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Assembly (including when meeting in private) and to answer questions during any question time that relates to his areas of management.

8. Permit the Law Agent to remain in the Assembly during all sederunts, including when meeting in private, so that he may give legal advice as required.
9. Encourage Assembly members to attend the remaining Assembly prayer meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30am in the Robert White Meeting Room.
10. Approve generally the outline of business as given in the report.
11. Approve the Order of Business for the second sederunt, Tuesday, 6 October, 2015.
12. Suspend sufficient of standing orders when the report and deliverance of the Theological Education Committee is before the Assembly, to allow the convener and seconder to speak to both the deliverance as a whole and individual clauses of the deliverance, for a total time of 30 minutes.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

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

14. Minutes of the May 2015 Commission of Assembly

The Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the Commission of Assembly, held 5 May 2015, and moved that they be received.

The motion was seconded and approved.

15. New Members

New members of the Assembly were introduced to the Moderator.

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

16. Minister's and Elders' Jubilees

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the faithful service of Mr Walter Lawrence as an elder within the parish of Woori Yallock, serving the church for 50 years since ordination, and noting his death and promotion to glory one month prior to this day.
2. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the faithful service of Mr David Hayward as an elder within St John's Presbyterian Church, Warrnambool, serving the parish actively as Session Clerk and representing the Session at General Assembly for 31 consecutive years.
3. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the faithful service of Rev H Arthur Stamp as an ordained minister of the church for 60 years.
4. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the faithful service of Rev Ivan Henry Barker as an ordained minister of the church for 50 years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

17. Ministerial Deaths

The Clerk reported that Rev Martin Hanse and Rev Robert Paul Betts had died since the last meeting of Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Note the passing of Rev Martin Hanse and Rev Robert Paul Betts, and place on record the following as tributes:

Martin Hanse (1923–2014)

Martin was born in 1923 in the Dutch province of Zeeland and brought up on a farm. As a teenager Martin desired to become a minister of the church – a desire that had to remain undeveloped due to the oppressive and difficult conditions of war-torn Europe. Much later, circumstances opened up and in 1960, at the age of 36, he migrated to Australia, where he worked as a gardener at Ormond College, while studying hard in order to matriculate. From the gardens of Ormond College to the rich theological climate of Reformed Theological College, Geelong – where Martin was to study for gospel ministry over the next 4 years.

What an interesting story, considering this was the turbulent theological era of the late 1960s here in Victoria, an era that only a few of us can now remember. By God's providence, this man with reformed Dutch theological convictions, four years study under RTC, was accepted by the pre-union faculty of Ormond College to become a Presbyterian minister. Reflecting years later on this providence, Martin told me that he thinks it was because he had so faithfully cared for Dr Davis McCaughey's Ormond College garden years before that the faculty accepted him.

Martin served the Presbyterian Church of Victoria faithfully and tirelessly. He served as a Home Missionary at Greensborough, and a minister at Framlingham, Warrnambool, Williamstown, the Mallee patrol, Epping/Lalor, North Geelong and then finally at Kirkbrae in Kilsyth – retiring in 2002 at the age of 79.

Martin Hanse was a thoroughly reformed theologian and a kind, gentle and very personable pastor. He always had a kindly smile and genuine interest in people. He took an interest in this Clerk of Assembly when a candidate at College and then as a young minister. He dedicated his life to serving God. He was faithful in his duty. The words of Matthew 25 come to mind, where the Lord Jesus promises this sort of welcome for faithful servants: 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.'

Robert Paul Betts (1937–2015)

Robert Betts was born in the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, England, in 1937, and spent the first 13 years of his life in Portsmouth.

When Robert's father, who was in the Royal Navy during WW2, was killed in an accident 3 years after the war ended, his mother made the hard decision to migrate to Australia with her 3 boys, arrived in 1950 and settled in Frankston.

Three years later at age 15, Robert continued his family's long military tradition by joining the Royal Australian Air Force as an apprentice. He was stationed at Wagga Wagga. It was while he was at Point Cook in 1963 that he met Leonie, the love of his life. Robert was the patient, Leonie the dental nurse.

A life-changing event occurred only two months after their arrival in Western Australia, when, at an organised Tent Mission, both Robert and Leonie became Christians.

They returned to Melbourne in 1968, and left the Air Force after completing his 15 years' service. They attended a Wycliffe Bible Translators missionary meeting, a meeting that sowed the seed that ultimately led them to the decision to attend Bible College for three years, with the view to pastoral ministry upon completion.

Robert spent the first six years of his ministry in the western suburbs of Sydney, which at the time was where the start of the drug scene in Australia was happening. Returning to Melbourne at the end of 1979, Robert then ministered with the Presbyterian Church in a number of country parishes before moving to suburban Melbourne to continue his ministry.

Robert Betts served the Presbyterian Church of Victoria well and in so many different capacities. In cricketing terms – an all-rounder:

- as a pastor of several churches, finishing at Canterbury
- as a chaplain in the army reserve
- as a missionary, with 7 years' sterling translation work in Kenya and Uganda
- as a lecturer at the PTC, helping students with the intricacies of Hebrew
- as a moderator of this General Assembly
- and also as a genuine friend and father figure to many of us.

We'll miss Robert's cheery smile, pleasant nature, politeness and courtesy, his infectious love of cricket and we'll even miss his jokes. Robert Betts was a man of learning and culture, and man of generous spirit and brotherly kindness. But, above all, he was a minister of the Gospel and he loved Christ with all his mind and heart and soul and strength. He made the most of every opportunity he had as a minister of the Gospel, until the ravages of illness took his strength and forced him to step down. If he could, he'd be urging us all to redeem the time and work while it is still the day.

Rev Robert Betts, died—full of faith—aged 78 years.

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

18. Royal and Loyal addresses

The Clerk moved the Royal and Loyal addresses, as follows:

That the Assembly:

1. Send the following address through the Governor of Victoria to her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 2:

To the Queen's most excellent majesty. May it please your majesty: We, the members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, now convened in Melbourne on 6 October 2015, 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 General

Assembly, in our local congregations and in our private devotions, pray that the Sovereign Triune God will by his Holy Spirit grant your majesty every grace needful for discharging the duties of your office.

We congratulate you this year for serving longer than any previous English monarch. The prayer of the Royal Anthem is being answered: 'Long to reign over us ...'

We give thanks to God that you have not shrunk back from Christian witness, especially during your Christmas broadcasts. We humbly ask that you join with us in praying for the work of the Christian gospel in this land - that we will be able to 'live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:2).

We, the ministers and elders of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, representing the congregations of our people, pledge ourselves to continue to work under your leadership for the common good in Australia and for the glory of God, through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Signed:

(Moderator)

2. Send greetings to the Victorian Premier, Hon Daniel Andrews, to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, with assurances of the regular prayers of the members of this General Assembly, and also of the people of our congregations, for our parliamentary representatives in the exercise of their responsibilities.

The motion was seconded and approved.

19. Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, Elder Bill MacRae

The Moderator welcomed Elder Bill MacRae to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr MacRae addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mr MacRae for his address.

Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Clinton Le Page, led in prayer for the PCWA.

20. Communication 4 – from Rev Bruce Meller, Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia, re: appointment of Rev John Wilson as Moderator-Elect for the Assembly in 2016 and the subsequent triennium.

Communication 4 was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator congratulated Rev John Wilson on his election, and assured him of the support of the church in Victoria.

Moderator's Chaplain, Gary Stephens, led in prayer for Mr Wilson.

21. Rev Bruce Meller, Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia

The Moderator welcomed Rev Bruce Meller to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Meller addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mr Meller for his address.

22. Past Moderator

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

23. Board of Investment and Finance

The report of the Board and Investment and Finance was laid on the table and received. Past Moderator Rev David Brown took the chair.

In the absence of the Chairman (Elder Iain Bramley) Rt Rev Mark Smith moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-2 were approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause 3 by deleting all words and substituting in their place the words:
'Refer the proposed privacy policy to presbyteries for consideration and comment back to the BIF for a further report to the 2016 Commission of Assembly.'

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Clauses 4-8 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following honoraria:

Deputy Clerk	\$2,740
Business Convener	\$850
2. Give thanks to God for the faithful service of Mr Edward de Zilwa to the Board of Investment and Finance and Trusts Corporation including his time as Chairman from December 2012 until his retirement this October.
3. Approve and adopt the Privacy Policy as follows:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA ('the church') PRIVACY POLICY

1. Introduction

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is an unincorporated association. The church collects data from users of church services, and from persons and businesses that provide services to the church and its organisations.

The data collected by the church includes information which can identify you as a person such as your name, your address and other details about you. This information is referred to in Australian Government legislation as 'personally identifiable information'.

The church may also collect sensitive information about or related to you from time to time. Sensitive information includes information which may not personally identify you but is related to a person's:

- health;
- financial status;
- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinions;
- membership of a political association;
- religious beliefs or affiliations;
- philosophical beliefs;
- membership of a professional or trade association;

- membership of a trade union;
- sexual preferences or practices; or
- criminal record.

The collection and management of personally identifiable and sensitive information is regulated in Australia and in other countries.

The church will take every reasonable measure to protect your information. The church's approach to your privacy conforms to the *National Privacy Principles* extracted from the *Privacy Act 1988*, which provides guidance about the collection of personal information, how it should be used and disclosed and its storage and security.

The church is committed to protecting your privacy and any personally identifiable and sensitive data you supply to us. This Privacy Policy sets out:

- how and why we collect data including personally identifiable and sensitive data;
- what we do with data we collect;
- how we manage collected data; and
- with whom we share that data.

If you have any questions about this policy please contact us as set out at the end of this document.

2. Scope of this Privacy Policy

As required by government registration or accreditation obligations, certain organisations and activities operated by the church, such as church affiliated schools and aged care facilities, have separate privacy policies in place.

This Privacy Policy for the church will apply to the collection of data by the church where no other church privacy policy applies.

3. Collection and use of personal information

The church will use collected data including personally identifiable and sensitive information in furtherance of the mission and activities of the church. The church will include some of the information it collects in the church's permanent archival records.

The church will review information not included in the church archival records, and delete information no longer required for church activities.

The church will use data it collects to promote all of the spiritual, pastoral, social, educational, administrative, legal, and historical functions of the church and for the business requirements of the church.

These church purposes include but are not limited to administration and communication throughout the church, analysing the role of the church in society, recording the histories of church members, adherents, and persons in regular contact with the church, and maintaining records in the public interest, including baptism rolls, wedding registers and other related purposes.

Data collected by the church will only be shared with third parties where such parties have agreed in writing to abide by this policy and to only use such information disclosed for the purposes for which access has been given. In general, information provided to third parties should not be able to identify you as an individual; such information can only be disclosed with your express written consent.

Anyone seeking access to any sensitive information will need to be authorised by the Privacy Officer and Assembly Clerk to ensure there is a specific need for such information and provision of such data does not breach any legislative or confidentiality requirements.

Whenever we share information with third parties, the church will take all reasonable efforts to make sure that these third parties keep such information in the same manner as it is kept by the church, and consistent with the principles as set out in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Please note that the church does work with third parties to provide our services. The majority of the service providers used by the church are based in Australia and are therefore subject to the Australian laws. However the church may from time to time work with service providers such as charities and other church related bodies who are located outside of Australia.

Confidential Pastoral duties

If a minister, other church staff or another body of the church intends to record personal and sensitive information arising from deputations or counselling sessions, any person whose data will be collected should be informed of this and advised that:

- a) the records will be kept pursuant to the church's privacy policy;
- b) the purposes for which the collected information will be used; and
- c) information collected will **not** be disclosed to any third party and securely destroyed when the purpose for collection is no longer relevant or it is no longer appropriate to maintain the record(s). For example, the minister has moved parishes or retired.

4. Security and disclosure of information:

The church will take all reasonable steps to keep personal, sensitive, and all other confidential or restricted information secure, and to prevent its unlawful use and/or inappropriate disclosure.

The church will, as far as practicable, develop and implement practices and procedures in respect to church archival records. These policies will address:

- a) Requiring researchers seeking access to archival records to acknowledge prior to access being granted to the archival records, that:
 - i) the archival records made available to them are subject to this privacy policy and all applicable legislation; and
 - ii) the researcher is solely responsible for obtaining any further consent required if the information is to be used outside of the purposes for which it was collected; and

- iii) the researcher will be responsible for any breach of this privacy policy and/or relevant legislation caused by the use of information made available by the church; and
 - iv) the researcher will be required to indemnify the church and the General Assembly, and/or its agencies in respect of liability for such breach.
- b) Require all applicants/researchers seeking access to personal and sensitive information from registers of baptism and/or marriage prior to the provision of such information to:
 - i) produce evidence that he/she is a subject of the record concerned, or holds the consent of the subject(s) of the record to obtain the information; or
 - ii) establish that the subject(s) of the record are deceased, or can reasonably be presumed to be deceased.

Where the subject of data collected by the church seeks access to his or her personal information or sensitive information collected, it is the policy of the church to grant access, subject to the production of appropriate identification. Such identification must meet the 100-point identification test as used by banks and government organisations (see **Attachment A**).

5. Archival records:

It is the current policy of the church that in order to assure the preservation of data collected by the church that this church will transfer church registers, minute books, correspondence, photographs and other images, and all other records containing personal and sensitive information to the archives of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The exception to this policy is data collected under **Confidential Pastoral Duties** above.

6. Complaints procedure, designation of Privacy Officer and contact information:

Enquiries concerning this privacy policy, and any complaints concerning failure of the church to comply with this policy, or relevant legislation should be addressed in the first instance to the Church's designated Privacy Officer, who can be contacted on 0499 090 449 or by email safechurch@pcvic.org.au.

If any complaint is not readily resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, the matter will be referred to the Assembly Clerk, who can be contacted on 03 9650 9311 or by email admin@pcvic.org.au.

The complaint resolution process will include but is not limited to:

- a) the matter being handled in a proficient and confidential manner at executive level; and/or
- b) referred to the courts of the church under the provisions of the Code of the church; and/or
- c) independent arbitration initiated depending on the most suitable action necessary in an attempt to best resolve the matter.

4. Approve and adopt the privacy guidelines as follows:

**Guidelines related to the
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of VICTORIA ('the church')
PRIVACY POLICY
and for other associated organisations within the church**

Scope

The church and any person or organization affiliated with the church are bound by privacy and data protection legislation in Australia. As a result, anyone who deals with the collection, management and transfer of personally identifiable data on behalf of the church will need to understand and comply with the terms of the church's privacy policy. These guidelines are specifically for the privacy policy applicable to the church. However, there may be other church privacy policies in use for various church activities, (e.g. schools and aged care facilities). If there are questions or concerns as to the terms of this policy, or which church policy might apply to your situation, please contact the Privacy Officer whose details are at the end of this document.

Personally identifiable information includes information which can identify you as a person - such as your name, your address and other specific details about you. This information is referred to as 'personally identifiable information' and the collection and use of personally identifiable information is regulated in Australia and in other countries by specific legislation.

Sensitive information is similarly regulated by legislation and the church's privacy policy. Sensitive information includes information about a person's:

- health;
- financial status;
- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinions;
- membership of a political association;
- religious beliefs or affiliations;
- philosophical beliefs;
- membership of a professional or trade association;
- membership of a trade union;
- sexual preferences or practices; or
- criminal record.

The church's privacy policy applies to both personal and sensitive information collected by the church where no other privacy policy applies.

Adoption of the Church's Privacy Policy

Sessions, boards of management, presbyteries, and members of other church committees should familiarise themselves with the privacy policy and minute their adoption of it.

General Rule

Personal information must only be used or disclosed for the purposes allowed in the privacy policy.

If there is reason to believe that collected information may be used for purposes not included in this privacy policy, further permission may be required from the person whose information has been collected.

Personally identifiable information and sensitive information are both defined in the privacy policy. All personally identifiable information and sensitive information collected by the church should be held securely and used only as allowed by the policy.

Types of Personally Identifiable and sensitive information collected include:

- Lists and records identifying individuals (including congregation members, adherents, attendees of church activities, committee members and elders, baptismal and wedding registers).
- Directories or newsletters identifying individuals and their contact or other personal details.
- Sensitive information collected during pastoral duties.
- Oral information provided at public meetings (e.g. church service) identifying an individual.
- Other information collected as part of the operations of the church's usual activities.

In respect of these common circumstances a consistent and thoughtful approach should be applied to let persons whose data we are collecting know how and why we collect their information and how we use it.

Notice to use when information is collected

Whenever practical, as personally identifiable and sensitive information is collected for the church a reference to the privacy policy should be made.

As an example, a paragraph included on any form used to collect information could read:

‘Personal and sensitive information collected by the church will be used in conformity with our privacy policy (which can be found at www.pcvic.org.au or mailed to you on request). If you do not want your information to be used by us, please do not provide it to us.’

Notice to include when information is published

The following statement should be included in church directories, newsletters or notice sheets distributed which identify individuals:

‘The information in this document has been collected and published in conformity with the privacy policy of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (which can be found at www.pcvic.org.au or mailed to you on request). If you would like to update any information in this document please contact us at (provide contact address and email)’

Confidential Pastoral duties

If a minister, other church staff or another body of the church intends to record personal and sensitive information arising from deputations or

counselling sessions, any person whose data will be collected should be informed of this and advised that:

- a) the records will be kept pursuant to the church's privacy policy;
- b) the purposes for which the collected information will be used; and
- c) information collected will **not** be disclosed to any third party and securely destroyed when the purpose for collection is no longer relevant or it is no longer appropriate to maintain the record(s). For example, the minister has moved parishes or retired.

An example of such advice is:

'Any personal and sensitive information collected will be kept confidential and used only as allowed by the privacy policy of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for purposes relating to the (insert reason for collecting information). If you do not consent to my retention and use of your information for this purpose, please tell me. A copy of the church's privacy policy can be found at www.pcvic.org.au or mailed to you on request.'

Conclusion

All church staff and volunteers should be regularly reminded that both personal information and sensitive information such as health, financial status, and marital status is regulated by law and by the church's privacy policy. Consent from persons disclosing the personal information and the sensitive information should be gained before providing that information to others.

ATTACHMENT A

Proof of Identity (100 point check)

When seeking access to your own personal information collected and held by the church, you need to provide proof of your identity. Consistent with the identity checks used by other organisations, The church will require the following information prior to granting access.

Document Type	Document 100 points must include ONE Primary Document , or at least ONE Secondary Document which must contain a photograph	Points value
Only one form of identification accepted from this category	PRIMARY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth Certificate/Birth Extract• Australian Passport (Current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled)• Australian Citizenship Certificate• International Passport (Current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled)• Other document of identity having same characteristics as a passport e.g. diplomatic/refugee (photo or signature)	70

Your initial Secondary Documents will score 40 points, any additional documents will be awarded 25 points each	SECONDARY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current licence or permit (Government Issued) • Working With Children/Teachers Registration Card • ASIC/MSIC Card • Public Employee Photo ID Card (Government Issued) • Department of Veterans' Affairs Card • Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card • Current Tertiary Education Institution Photo ID • Reference from a doctor (must have known the applicant for a period of at least 12 months) • Foreign/international driver's licence • Proof of age card (Government Issued) • Medicare Card/Private Health Care Card • Council Rates Notice • Property Lease/Rental Agreement • Property Insurance Papers • Tax Declaration • Superannuation Statement • Seniors Card • Electoral Roll Registration • Motor Vehicle Registration or Insurance Documents • Professional or Trade Association Card 	40 or 25
If you wish to use more than one of these documents they must be from different organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility Bills (e.g. Telephone, Gas, Electricity, Water) • Credit/Debit Card • Bank Statement/Passbook 	25

5. Appoint Mrs Fiona Bligh as the Privacy Officer of the General Assembly (and discharge Mr Michael Ellison from that role), with responsibility for:
 - a. administration of the PCV Privacy Policy and Guidelines;
 - b. handling of privacy complaints and enquiries;
 - c. training PCV personnel in aspects of the Privacy Act that apply to their day-to-day activities;
 - d. dissemination of the PCV Privacy Policy and Guidelines through online and paper-based communications with PCV congregations and organisations.
6. Approve an increase in the working hours of Mrs Fiona Bligh from 45 hours per fortnight to 48 hours per fortnight effective immediately.
7. Approve an increase of \$1,000 to the training budget of the Safe Church Unit to allow for professional development and training in relation to privacy matters.

8. Thank Mrs Fiona Bligh for her assistance in formulating a plan to address privacy matters relevant to the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

24. Trusts Corporation

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

The Chairman, Elder Iain Bramley, moved the deliverance.

That the Assembly:

1. Direct that:

- a. the Kilmore Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund (a/c 9085.70), and A Mackay Bequest (a/c 9087.70) be applied for the benefit of the Broadford congregation on the same terms as the original trusts.
- b. the general funds of the former Warrnambool North congregation (\$25,579) be made available to the Presbytery of Kilnoorat for its general purposes or any other charitable purpose determined by Presbytery.

The Moderator was asked to rule on a matter of privilege.

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

The Moderator was asked to rule on a point of order relating to questions about the current court case with The Scots' Church Properties Trust.

The Moderator, on the advice of the Law Agent, ruled that questions on this matter were not permitted, and that the only information that could be made available was that supplied to the Assembly in the Trusts Corporation's supplementary report.

The motion to approve the deliverance was seconded and approved.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

25. Church Planting Committee

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

Church Planter, Rev Richard Wilson, addressed the Assembly.

The Acting Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was moved.

Rev Graham Nicholson sought leave to amend clause 2.

Leave was granted.

Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

- Amend clause 2 by deleting the word 'etc', and replacing it with 'in accordance with Matthew 28:18-20'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 2 as amended was approved.

The business was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 27)

26. Ad hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed the Convener, Mr James Bligh, to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Bligh addressed the Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Encourage the Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria to bring revised regulations for a standing committee to the 2016 General Assembly for consideration.

The motion was seconded and approved.

27. Church Planting Committee (min. 25)

The business was resumed.

The Clerk sought leave to move that the Assembly amend clause 3.

Leave was not granted.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate. (min. 34)

28. Belgrave Heights Christian School

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

29. St Andrews Christian College

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

30. Very Rev Bob Thomas, re: Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve

Very Rev Bob Thomas moved:

That the Assembly:

Instruct the Clerk to circularise in an Assembly Paper, at least one sederunt prior to the reception of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve, the communication from the Code Committee to the Sites Reserve Committee dated 31 July 2015 entitled 'Sites Reserve Fund – Endowment Fund Proposal'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

31. 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), Assembly Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Law Agent, Rev Douglas Robertson, Ivan Barker, Andrew Bray, John Cho, Trevor Cox, Phil Daffy, Graham Nicholson, Chris Siriweera, Graeme Weber, Luke Isham and Elder Dr Robert 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.

32. Archive Committee

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

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the PCV Archivist, Mrs Christine 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. Receive the two PCV Archive booklets:
 - a. A Guide to Writing Parish History;
 - b. Portrait Biographies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

33. Variation of the Orders of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of business to resume debate on the Church Planting Committee's deliverance.

34. Church Planting Committee (min. 27)

Debate was resumed.

The Clerk sought leave to move that the Assembly amend clause 3.

Leave was granted.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause 3 by deleting all words and substituting in their place the following:
'Reappoint Rev Richard Wilson for a period of seven years as of 1 January 2016 under the approved BIF form of contract'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 3 as amended was approved.

The Moderator led in prayer for Mr Wilson and the work of church planting in Victoria.

(2) Rev Michael Jensen moved an additional clause 4, with the existing clause to be renumbered '5':

That the Assembly:

4. Give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Wilson as Church Planter Evangelist and ask the church to continue in prayer for Rev Wilson and the Church Planting Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The debate was adjourned. (min. 87)

35. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6 October 2015, 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 6 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 6 October 2015 at 7.00pm.

36. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator led the Assembly in worship and constituted the Assembly with prayer.

37. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: John Cromarty, Wally Gear, Marvin Hagans, Ian Hutton, Wally Zurrer.

Elders:

For this sederunt: Peter Anderson, John Angelico, Alex Christian, Elizabeth Cutler, Edward de Zilwa, Peter Prendergast, Merv York.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

38. 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.

39. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

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

40. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Wednesday 7 October 2015, 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 7 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 7 October 2015 at 9.30am.

41. Constitution:

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

42. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev Neil Chambers, led the Assembly in the second of his Assembly expositions, 'Standing Firm in a Time of Trial', based on 1 Peter 3:13-17.

43. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies:

For this sederunt:

Ministers: Chris Duke, Wally Gear, Marvin Hagans, Ian Hutton, Rod Waterhouse, Wally Zurrer.

Elders: Peter Anderson, Edward de Zilwa, Doug Fraser, George McConaghie, Peter Prendergast, Merv York.

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 Previous Sederunt

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

46. The Bible Society in Australia (Victoria)

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

In the absence of Rev Keith Allen, the Clerk moved the deliverance:

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. Thank Rev Keith D Allen for his sterling and faithful service to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in cheerfully volunteering to be the Assembly representative for the Bible Society for 19 continuous years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

47. Code Committee Communication to Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve

The communication was laid on the table and received.

48. Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve

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

The Convener, Rev David Palmer, moved the deliverance.

The business was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 86)

49. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee

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 1-12 and clauses 14-15 were approved.

Clause 13 was moved in the following amended form:

That the Assembly:

13. Pray for our new Moderator and his wife who will visit and encourage one or more of our mission teams in their ministry locations during the moderatorial year.

The motion 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 extra support it provides for our missionaries to his glory, with much territory still to be conquered.
4. Praise God for strengthened relationships with PTS India and the partner churches of 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 (i.e. pastors' seminars). Where possible, these funds should be directed via APWM National Office.
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 extend financial and prayerful support for our missionaries who minister to the Aboriginal community, especially Rev Rick and Kaylene Manton and Mr Dennis and Mrs Glenys Tranter, and also to Mr Surendra and Mrs May'an Wesley (c/o PIM).
8. Encourage all churches to regularly pray for our APWM missionaries serving in Australia and overseas, and pray the Lord of the harvest to stir us to raise up, set aside, fully support and send out more labourers into his harvest fields all over the world, especially to the countless millions who have still not heard the Gospel.
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. Pray for our new Moderator and his wife who will visit and encourage one or more of our mission teams in their ministry locations during the moderatorial year.
14. Praise God for Barbara Brown's 40 years of faithful missionary service through Navigators.
15. Encourage PCV congregations to prayerfully review their giving to the wider work of cross cultural mission, both locally and overseas.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Convener introduced Rev Kevin Murray, National Director APWM, to the Assembly.

Mr Murray addressed the Assembly.

Rev Dean Carroll introduced the following missionaries to the Moderator:

Mrs Joy Arundell

Rev John and Mrs Lynette Ellis

Mr Daryl Jackson

Mr John and Mrs Sue Steendam

The Moderator welcomed the missionaries to the Assembly and led in prayer.

50. Variation of the Orders of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order business to take up the report of the Social Services Committee.

51. Social Services Committee

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

The Convener, Elder Robert Lowe, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for Rev Wally Gear, Rev Andrew Bray and Mrs Janine Moyter, Pastoral Carer, for their pastoral care work with the residents of Kirkbrae and Tannoch Brae.
2. Pray for the Social Services Committee as they oversee the development of Kirkbrae.
3. Give thanks to God for the faithful service of the executive team and staff at Kirkbrae.
4. Praise God for the generosity of the St Andrew's Foundation in financially supporting the pastoral care program at Kirkbrae.

The motion was seconded and approved.

52. Communication 8 – from PresAID, re: its work and future projects

Communication 8 was laid on the table and received.

Very Rev Bob Thomas moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the generosity of his people in their support of PresAID Christmas and Easter Appeals since 2005.
2. Commend the PresAID 2015 Christmas Appeal to all congregations of the PCV for their whole-hearted support.

The motion was seconded and approved.

53. Presbyterian Ladies College

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

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Elaine Collin, Principal of PLC, her husband, Richard, and the Chairman of PLC Council, Mr Russell Walley, to the Assembly, and invited Mrs Collin to speak.

Mrs Collin addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Collin for her address.

54. Home Mission Workers Association

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

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Carolyn Wentworth and Miss Barbara Firth to the Assembly.

Mrs Wentworth addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Wentworth and Miss Firth for their attendance, expressing appreciation for the work of the HMWA.

55. Church and Nation Committee

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

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Fleur Letcher, Church and Nation Committee Researcher, to the Assembly.

Mrs Letcher addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Letcher for her address and for her valued contribution to the work of the Committee and the wider church.

The Convener, Rev Darren Middleton, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-6 were approved.

Debate was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 59)

56. 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, spoke of the work of Defence Force Chaplaincy and moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Encourage congregations to pray for the safety and welfare of all who serve in our armed forces.
2. Urge congregations to keep praying for military chaplains in their unique ministry for the gospel to ADF personnel in Australia and overseas.
3. Convey thanks to Rev Allan Harman for the faithful leadership he provides to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services.
4. Thank Rev Bruce Riding for the many years of faithful service to the Defence Force, both as a RAAF Chaplain and as a member of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee.
5. Pray for Rev Joshua Bouzanquet as he undertakes his in-service pastoral training at the Eltham Presbyterian Church.
6. Encourage ministers to consider and apply for ministry as Defence Force chaplains, both full-time and as reservists.

The motion was seconded and approved.

57. Communication 5 – Presbyterian Inland Mission, re: the work of the PIM

Communication 5 was laid on the table and received.

Rev Martin de Pyle moved:

That the Assembly:

Congratulate Mr Andrew Letcher on his appointment as CEO of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator welcomed Mr Letcher to the Assembly.

Mr Letcher addressed the Assembly on the work of PIM.

The Moderator thanked Mr Letcher for his address and assured him of the partnership of the PCV in the gospel with the PIM.

58. Christian Education and Nurture Committee

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

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Mairi Girgis, Women's Ministries Victoria, and Mr Nic Bilyj, Convener of the PYV, to the Assembly.

Mrs Girgis spoke on the work of Women's Ministries Victoria.

Mr Bilyj spoke on the work of the PYV.

The Convener of the committee, Rev Matthew James, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the harmonious working relationships evident within the committee.
2. Thank Mrs Sonja Otto for her work as the PYV Administration Officer over the last year.
3. Give thanks to God for the work of the PYV council and its convener, Mr Nic Bilyj.
4. Give thanks to God for the work of our Youth Ministries Director, Rev Brian Harvey, and pray for him as he provides direction for youth ministries in the PCV - so that we will provide opportunity and assistance to youth to commit their life to Jesus as their Saviour, and to 'grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' (2 Peter 3:18).

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator spoke briefly in support of the CENC, PYV and Women's Ministries Victoria and led in prayer.

59. Church and Nation Committee (min. 55)

Debate was resumed.

Debate was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 85)

60. Safe Church – PCV

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Fiona Bligh, Safe Church – PCV Training and Compliance Officer, to the Assembly.

The Clerk addressed the Assembly on the first year of operation of Safe Church – PCV.

The report of Safe Church – PCV was laid on the table and received.

Debate was adjourned. (min. 90)

61. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 7 October 2015, 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 7 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 7 October 2015 at 7.00pm.

62. Constitution:

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

63. Apologies

The Clerk noted the following apologies for this sederunt:

Ministers: Philip Chang, John Cromarty, Wally Gear, Rod Waterhouse, Wally Zurrer.

Elders: Peter Anderson, Elizabeth Cutler, George McConaghie, Peter Prendergast, Merv York.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

64. Business Committee

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

The motion was seconded and approved.

65. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

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

66. Safe Church – PCV Presentation

The Clerk introduced the Safe Church – PCV Training and Compliance Officer, Mrs Fiona Bligh, to the Assembly. Mrs Bligh introduced to the Assembly Mr Patrick Tidmarsh, a Criminologist with SANO Taskforce, Victoria Police, and Detective Senior Sergeant Michael Phyland, Family Violence Command, Victoria Police.

Mr Tidmarsh addressed the Assembly on understanding offenders and how churches are vulnerable to being used by offenders to access victims and answered questions.

Mr Phyland addressed the Assembly on reporting requirements regarding child abuse and the new 'Failure to Protect' and 'Failure to Disclose' laws and answered questions.

The Moderator thanked Mr Tidmarsh and Det Snr Sgt Phyland.

67. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Thursday 8 October 2015, 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 8 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Thursday 8 October 2015 at 9.30am.

68. Constitution

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

69. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev Neil Chambers, led the Assembly in the third of his Assembly Expositions, 'Leadership in a Time of Trial' from 1 Peter 5:1-11.

The Moderator thanked Rev Neil Chambers for his expositions.

70. Thanks to Assembly Expositor

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express its sincere thanks to its Assembly Expositor, Rev Neil Chambers, for his faithful, timely and thoroughly practical expositions from 1 Peter, with his uplifting emphasis upon focusing on our Lord Jesus Christ in our trials, loving him and his people, following his example, trusting his promises, exalting him in our lives and persevering in the strength he supplies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

71. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies for this sederunt:

Ministers: John Cromarty, Marvin Hagans, David Palmer, Hugh Price, Wally Zurrer.

Elders: Peter Anderson, Edward de Zilwa, Keith Ferris, John Largeway, George McConaghie, Endre Papajcsik, Peter Prendergast.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

72. 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.

73. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

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

74. ACCESS Ministries

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

Rev David Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

Write to Ms Dawn Penney, expressing our sincere apologies that she was not able to address the Assembly at the appointed time, acknowledging that the fault was ours. The motion was seconded and approved.

75. Theological Education Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Neil Benfell, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

The Moderator invited Dr Tony and Mrs Carole Bird to come forward.

Principal Rev Peter Hastie spoke in support of the motion, and presented Mrs Bird with a gift from the Assembly.

Many members of the Assembly also spoke in support of the motion, expressing appreciation of Dr Bird's labours.

The Moderator spoke and led in prayer.

The motion was approved with a standing ovation.

Clauses 2-4 were approved.

Clauses 5 and 6 were moved and seconded.

It was agreed to sit in private.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

It was agreed to adjourn the business to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 78)

76. Scotch College

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

The Moderator welcomed Mr Tom Batty, Principal of Scotch College, to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Batty addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mr Batty for his address and for his leadership of the College.

77. Adjournment

Rev David Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

Adjourn the business this evening at the usual time of 9.00pm and resume on Tuesday 13 October at 9.30am.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Rev Peter Owen moved:

That the Assembly:

Adjourn the business this evening at the usual time of 9.00pm and resume on Friday 9 October at 9.30am.

The motion was seconded and approved.

78. Theological Education Committee (min. 75)

The business was resumed on Clauses 5 and 6.

It was agreed to sit in private.

Clauses 5 and 6 were approved.

The vote was unanimous.

Clauses 7 and 8 were approved.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

It was agreed to adjourn the business to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 81)

79. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU)

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

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Esther Vayne, President of the PWMU, and the other ladies of the PWMU to the Assembly.

The Moderator invited Mrs Vayne to address the Assembly.

Mrs Vayne addressed the Assembly on the work of the PWMU.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Vayne for her address and led in prayer.

80. Evangelical Action

Rev David Schulz commended the publication 'Evangelical Action' to the members of the Assembly.

81. Theological Education Committee (min. 78)

The business was resumed.

Clause 9 was approved.

It was agreed to sit in private.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

It was agreed to adjourn the business. (min. 84)

82. Conciliation Committee

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

83. Appeal 1 – Bruce Thomson and Roger Barnett, re: closure of St Georges, Geelong

The parties were called to the Bar.

In the absence of the appellants it was agreed to adjourn the business.

The presbytery was removed from the Bar. (min. 103)

84. Theological Education Committee (min. 81)

It was agreed to sit in private.

The business was resumed.

Clauses 10-12 were approved.

The vote was unanimous.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Place on record its deep appreciation for the devoted ministry of Rev Dr Tony Bird who has lectured faithfully in New Testament at the College for 23 years, and assure him of our prayers for God's mercy in his illness and blessing in his and Carole's retirement.
2. Express its sincere appreciation to Rev Kevin Maxwell for many years' service as secretary and more recently as acting-convener of the TEC.
3. Express its appreciation to Rev David Palmer for his efforts as convener of the TEC, and for initiating the strategic review.
4. Express its appreciation for the service of Rev Dr Felix Chung since 2008.
5. Appoint Rev Dr Felix Chung (Dip Soc Work, MME, MTh, PhD), to the position of full-time Lecturer in Missiology, Evangelism, Cross-Cultural and Research Methods at the Presbyterian Theological College, Victoria for a term of seven years.
6. Declare the Lecturer in Missiology, Evangelism, Cross-Cultural and Research Methods 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 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 \$3,000 per annum as a non-cash benefit;
 - j. any other provision the Assembly may determine.
7. Commend the current fund-raising appeal for the college to the ministers, sessions and congregations of the Victorian church for their full support.
 8. Encourage the TEC to bring to the 2016 Commission of Assembly definite plans for the development and financing of the college library extension.
 9. Encourage the TEC to bring to the Assembly proposals for the streamlining the administrative structures and procedures of the college.
 10. Appoint Dr Trevor Burke (BSc, BD, MPhil, PhD (Glasgow)) to the position of Lecturer in New Testament Studies at the Presbyterian Theological College for a term of seven years, commencing in 2016, on a date to be negotiated and agreed to by the committee.
 11. Declare the Lecturer in New Testament Studies remuneration package to be:
 - a. 1.05 times the minimum remuneration set for ministers as agreed to by the General Assembly from time to time;
 - 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. negotiated removal costs paid by the Theological Education Committee from the United Kingdom;
 - 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 \$3,000 per annum as a non cash benefit;
 - j. any other provision the Assembly may determine.
 12.
 - a. Approve an increase of \$26,500 in the TEC General Budget for staff expenses.
 - b. Approve an increase of \$14,000 in the budget for rental expenses paid from the Fernside trust.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led in prayer.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

85. Church and Nation Committee (min. 59)

Debate was resumed.

Clause 7 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks for the recent *Religion in the Public Square Colloquium* and commend materials arising from Colloquium 2015 to the PCV (available from register@yourcan.org).
2. Commend the plight of persecuted Christians to the church by requesting frequent, specific prayer, both private and public.
3. Encourage congregations to seriously consider diaconal support of particular communities or people groups in distress, whether domestic or abroad.
4. Encourage presbyteries, sessions, and congregations to continue actively engaging with governments, and their communities, to uphold what is morally good.
5. Write to the Honourable Tony Abbott, MP, thanking him for his leadership in maintaining the Coalition policy on marriage, and assuring him of our ongoing prayers for him, and all who serve in public office.
6. Write to the GAA in the following terms: If a plebiscite or referendum is held concerning changes to the Marriage Act (1961), to encourage the GAA and its Church and Nation Committee to do all it can to assert, maintain and defend the biblical teaching on marriage for the common good.
7. Write to the GAA expressing that, in the event that the Marriage Act (1961) is amended to include homosexual relationships, the PCV believes it would be wise to consider withdrawing as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act (1961).

The motion was seconded and approved.

86. Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve (min. 48)

The business was resumed.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

The Deputy Clerk sought leave to move an amendment to Clause 1.

Leave was granted.

(1) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause 1 by the insertion after the word 'regulations' the words 'as a discussion paper', so that it would read:

1. Send down to presbyteries the proposed changes to BIF regulations as a discussion paper, namely:
 - a. a change to sub-clause a) of clause 9;
 - b. replacement of clause 10 with a new clause 10 to be named Sites Reserve Account; and
 - c. a new clause 11 to be named PCV Endowment Fund, with subsequent renumbering of the following clauses.

The amendment was approved.

Clause 1 as amended was approved.

Clauses 2 and 3 were approved.

(2) The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Send down to presbyteries the proposed changes to BIF regulations as a discussion paper, namely:
 - a. a change to sub-clause a) of clause 9;
 - b. replacement of clause 10 with a new clause 10 to be named Sites Reserve Account; and

- c. a new clause 11 to be named PCV Endowment Fund, with subsequent renumbering of the following clauses.
2. Request presbyteries to send responses to the ad hoc committee by 30 April 2016.
3. Request the ad hoc committee to consider these responses and/or comments and prepare an amended proposal for the 2016 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

87. Church Planting Committee (min. 34)

Debate was resumed.

Clause 5 was moved and seconded.

The mover sought leave to fall from his motion.

Leave was not granted.

Clause 5 was disapproved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Request all presbyteries to inform the Church Planting Committee of areas where:
 - a. land may be required in the future;
 - b. the presbytery would like to see new Presbyterian works established.
2. Champion the view that Presbyterian congregations are partners in the gospel, seeking to make disciples of all nations in accordance with Matthew 28:18-20.
3. Reappoint Rev Richard Wilson for a period of seven years as of 1 January 2016 under the approved BIF form of contract.
4. Give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Wilson as Church planter evangelist and ask the church to continue in prayer for Rev Wilson and the Church Planting Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

88. Ministry Development Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Ian Hutton, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Praise God for those congregations which have become less dependent on MDC funding because of growth.
2. Encourage healthy and well-resourced congregations as well as struggling congregations to consider sister church relationships.
3. Encourage all presbyteries to use the Healthy Churches Checklist to monitor and assess any churches within their jurisdiction that present signs of a lack of 'Church Health' and work with them to seek resolutions before the decline becomes part of the church culture, and irreversible.
4. Encourage all aid-receiving parishes to re-assess their ministry paradigm, engaging with the Ministry Tool Box and Embers to a Flame tools that are offered through the MDC.
5. Encourage congregations to make use of the MDC seminar resources, particularly vision and mission, discipleship, spiritual gifts and forgiveness.
6. Encourage ministers and sessions to prayerfully seek the Lord in the raising up of future home missionaries and candidates for the ministry of word and sacraments.
7. Encourage congregations to use opportunities to share their faith; to engage in evangelism training by involving the Ministry Development Committee (or other

agency); and where appropriate apply for an evangelism grant from the Ministry Development Committee for evangelistic activities or events.

8. Encourage presbyteries with vacancies to consider an Intentional Interim Minister where such a ministry would be beneficial.
9. 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.
10. Thank the Lord for the contribution of Elder Norm Sharp to the work of the committee.
11. Give thanks to the Lord for the faithful ministry of the Ministry Development Director, Rev Dr Robert Carner, and continue to pray for his health.
12. Thank Mr Ben Palmer for his secretarial and general assistance and support to the Director and committee, as well as the PCV Office staff.
13. Grant permission to the MDC to bring a report of the Review of the MDC Director's Position to the May 2016 Commission of Assembly.
14. Praise God for the increases that have occurred in a number of presbyteries especially in the areas of membership, attendance and Bible Study Groups.
15. Authorise the MDC to trial an electronic means of collecting the Statistical Returns and to report the results of this trial to the 2016 Assembly.
16. Direct all presbyteries to collect and submit the Statistical Returns to the MDC by the stated deadline of 30 April 2016.

The motion was seconded and approved.

89. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

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

In the absence of the Convener (Rev Miles Fagan) Rev Clinton Le Page moved the deliverance.

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for God's continued help and blessing for all of our PCV funded chaplains and pastoral care workers and praise him for their work and ministry during 2014-2015.
2. Pray for Mrs Gita Dickinson and Mrs Jacqui Spanos and their completion of units in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) through the Harold Hughes Trust Paediatric Scholarship program.
3. Praise God for the resumption of a dedicated PCV Chaplaincy to the Royal Children's Hospital and for God's blessing on Mrs Suzanne Oakes in her 2 day per week role there.
4. Praise God for the work of all our PCV voluntary visiting hospital and Community Chaplains including prison visitors, AFES PCV University chaplains, sports chaplains and CFA Chaplains.
5. Pray for the ongoing work of our PCV Police Chaplains.
6. Pray for the PCV's engagement with the Victorian Government in the provision and development of healthcare chaplaincy services through our membership of the Council of Spiritual Health Victoria and for Mrs Kathy James in her governance role as SHV Board Chair.
7. Pray for God's guidance for the HCCC in developing and extending opportunities for the personal support of PCV Pastors and ministry families in the future.

8. Give thanks to God for the partnership and generosity of our PCV congregations in participating with the HCCC this year in our annual Good Friday Appeal.
9. Continue to pray for the growth and God's blessing of the Pastor's Renewal Retreat Group program, for all those who participate in it and the potential to develop opportunities for the participation of PCV Ministry Wives in the PCV's retreat group program.
10. Thank God for the fine work and contribution of Mrs Anne Elliott in her role as HCCC Camp Co-ordinator over the past 7 years and pray for Mrs Sandy Carroll as she takes up the new role of Administrator and Camp Co-ordinator for the HCCC in 2015.
11. Re-appoint Miss Elspeth Slater in her role as Pastoral Support Worker to PCV Ministry Wives for a two year period, as from 1 July 2015.

The motion was seconded and approved.

90. Safe Church – PCV (min. 60)

The business was resumed.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the change of titles for positions within Safe Church, namely:
 - a. Safe Church Training and Compliance Officer to Safe Church Facilitator, with the job description altered accordingly to include the management of Safe Church reports and procedures;
 - b. Safe Church Case Manager to Safe Church Supervisor, as is more appropriate for the overall role of the Assembly Clerk.
2. Approve:
 - a. the appointment of another suitable person for up to three days per fortnight as Safe Church Administrative Assistant with a job description that includes assisting in training and recording of compliance issues, under the direct supervision of the Safe Church Facilitator;
 - b. appropriate adjustments in the Safe Church annual levy and budget.

The motion was seconded and approved.

91. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

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

The Convener, Elder Dennis Wright, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved.

It was agreed to amend Clause 1 by replacing the word 'direct' in each case with the word 'encourage'.

Clause 1 as amended was approved.

Clauses 2-7 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved.

That the Assembly:

1. Encourage each minister, each congregation, and each presbytery to respond positively to this committee's written requests to confirm the total long service leave due to be taken; and to encourage that presbyteries enforce MMC Regulations by ensuring ministers take overdue long service leave.
2. 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 (\$10,404 for the 2015-16 year) divided by 12 and for the rest of the financial year.
3. Ask presbyteries to encourage timely auditing of parish finances and completion of the Annual Parish Report 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 2 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 the convener.
 7. Warmly thank all members of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for their diligence in attendance and contributions, especially the registrar, Elder Reg Butcher, who carries a mighty work load on behalf of the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

92. General Mission Program Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Phil Court, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

Commend those parishes and presbyteries which have fully subscribed their allocations for the 2014/15 General Mission Program and particularly commend those congregations which have subscribed more than the amount allocated to them by their presbytery.

The motion was seconded and approved.

93. Petition 1 – Presbytery of Ballarat, re: funding for the Ararat 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:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Ararat parish for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the appellant of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Ararat parish for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The Moderator removed the parties from the bar.

94. Petition 2 – Presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat, re: adjustment of Presbytery bounds to transfer Colac to the Presbytery of Kilnoorat

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. Determine that the eastern boundary between the presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat, as from 1 December 2015, is a direct northerly line from Skenes Creek to Cressy.
2. Inform the Presbytery of Geelong and the Presbytery of Kilnoorat and the Session of Colac of this change of boundary, and of the supervisory implications of this for the parish of Colac.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev David Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the Assembly Clerk to make any changes necessary to the Moderator's visitation schedule in order that the parish of Colac not be disadvantaged.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Determine that the eastern boundary between the presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat, as from 1 December 2015, is a direct northerly line from Skenes Creek to Cressy.
3. Inform the Presbytery of Geelong and the Presbytery of Kilnoorat and the Session of Colac of this change of boundary, and of the supervisory implications of this for the parish of Colac.
4. Authorise the Assembly Clerk to make any changes necessary to the Moderator's visitation schedule in order that the parish of Colac not be disadvantaged.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

The sederunt was adjourned.

95. Resumption – Friday 9 October at 9.30am

The sederunt was resumed with the reading of scripture and a short message and prayer by Moderator's Chaplain Rev Gary Stephens.

96. Petition 3 – Presbytery of Melbourne West, re: funding for the Sunshine congregation cross cultural worker

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 MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Sunshine parish for the cross-cultural worker, for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Kevin Maxwell moved:

That the Assembly:

Instruct the session of the Sunshine Presbyterian Church to place Mr Charles Okwo on a standard BIF approved employment contract.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Sunshine parish for the cross-cultural worker, for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).
3. Instruct the session of the Sunshine Presbyterian Church to place Mr Charles Okwo on a standard BIF approved employment contract.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

97. Petition 4 – Presbytery of Melbourne North, re: funding for the Templestowe 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 Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Templestowe Home Mission Station for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Templestowe Home Mission Station for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

98. Petition 5 – Presbytery of Melbourne East, re: funding for the Canterbury Japanese 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:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Canterbury parish, for the Japanese worker, for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Canterbury parish, for the Japanese worker, for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

99. Hearing of Late Petitions

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Proceed to hear Petitions 6 and 7, notwithstanding that less than 30 days' notice was given, as allowed for under rule 5:78.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Proceed to hear Petition 8, notwithstanding that less than 30 days' notice was given, as allowed for under rule 5:78.

The motion was seconded and approved.

100. Petition 6 – Presbytery of Flinders, re: funding for the South East Samoan 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:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the South East Samoan parish for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the South East Samoan parish for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

101. Petition 7 – Presbytery of Flinders, re: funding for the Cranbourne 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:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Cranbourne parish for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Cranbourne parish for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

102. Petition 8 – Presbytery of Melbourne East, re: funding for the Korean 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.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Korean Presbyterian Church of Melbourne for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Korean Presbyterian Church of Melbourne for the current 2015/16 financial year, as well as the 2016/17 and 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (if grants are needed).

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

103. Appeal 1– Bruce Thomson and Roger Barnett, re: closure of St Georges, Geelong (min. 83)

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Invite the appellants to the Assembly (namely: Bruce Thompson and Roger Barnett, Appeal 1) to appear for their interests at the May 2016 Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

104. Overture 7 – Code and General Administration Committee, re: Code Revision

The overture was laid on the table and received.

The overture was stated by the Clerks.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

(1) The Clerk moved:
That the Assembly:
Sustain the overture.
The motion was seconded.
It was agreed to adjourn the business. (min. 117)

105. Code and General Administration Committee

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

The Convener, Rev John Wilson, moved the deliverance as a whole.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

The Clerk sought leave to move that the Assembly amend Clause 1.

Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause 1 by the deletion of the words 'and the Compliance Officer'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Rev Daniel Combridge sought leave to move that the Assembly amend Clause 1.

Leave was granted.

Rev Daniel Combridge moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause 1 by inserting the word 'not' in regulation 2 after the word 'shall' so that the regulation would read:

Membership

2. The committee shall consist of five persons appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom must be the Safe Church Facilitator who shall not be the convener.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 1 as amended was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clauses 3-6 were approved.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved additional clauses 7 and 8:

That the Assembly:

7. Advise the PWMU of the new APWM regulations, making clear that all nominations from the PWMU State Council must now be forwarded to the Selection Committee for Assembly approval.
8. Direct the Code and General Administration Committee to write a comprehensive list of all duties, functions, obligations, expectations and positions which the Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator fulfil and report them to the 2016 Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Enact the following regulations for the Safe Church Panel of Reference:

Safe Church Panel of Reference

Title

1. There shall be a committee of the General Assembly called the Safe Church Panel of Reference, hereafter referred to as the committee.

Membership

2. The committee shall consist of five persons appointed by the General Assembly, one of whom must be the Safe Church Facilitator who shall not be the convener.

Duties

3. The duties of the committee shall be:
 - a) to consult with the Safe Church Facilitator in reference to particular complaints and related procedure whenever required;
 - b) to assist in annually preparing the budget;
 - c) to advise the Assembly Clerk, when necessary, regarding his oversight of the Safe Church Facilitator (the Safe Church Facilitator to be exempt from this specific duty).
2. Approve the following alterations to the regulations of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee:
 - a. a new clause to regulation 25, namely:
'Entitlement to long service leave commences after seven years of service.'
 - b. the replacement of the word 'ten' in regulation 32 of the MMC with the word 'seven'.
 - c. replace the opening sentence of regulation 24 (e) with the following:
'church workers, however titled, acting in a pastoral and/or teaching role and engaged by the presbytery according to a BIF approved contract;'
3. Approve alterations to the regulations of APWM (Vic) Committee, as mentioned in the report, so as the regulations shall now be, as follows:

Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Victoria) Committee

Title

1. There shall be a committee of the General Assembly entitled the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Victoria) Committee, known as APWM Victoria, hereafter referred to as the committee.

Membership

2. The committee shall consist of 12 members, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly, from:
 - a) ten members nominated by the General Assembly; and
 - b) two members nominated by the PWMU State Council.

Function

3. The General Assembly of Australia is entrusted by the Deed of Union (Article 4.1) with the task of 'world mission' and to fulfil this function has appointed a Committee for Australian Presbyterian World Mission (GAA 'Code', ch.10.1), known as APWM National. APWM Victoria works in concert with APWM National to fulfil the task of 'world mission' in Victoria.

Duties

4. The committee is responsible for:
 - a) promoting the work of APWM National throughout Victoria by encouraging Victorian congregations to an informed, wholehearted and consistent commitment to the missionary task of the church (Matthew 28:18-20) and seeking to involve the church in praying for and supporting approved personnel and projects through practical and financial means;
 - b) recruiting, interviewing and recommending to APWM National, potential candidates for short and long-term missionary service with approved partner churches or as APWM Associates, and interviewing and approving potential candidates with partner agencies, in accordance with the general lines of policy laid down by APWM National;
 - c) encouraging and maintaining partner relationships with approved overseas partner churches and partner agencies and, where appropriate, seeking out new partnerships for gospel work always in co-operation with and fully informing APWM National;
 - d) assisting in providing pastoral care and support for all Victorian Presbyterian missionaries while in the field and on home assignment by widespread disclosure of their needs, and by prayerfully and wisely dispersing funds available in keeping with the policies of APWM National.

Meetings

5. The committee shall meet regularly to fulfil these duties, at least five times a year.
4. Approve the deletion of sub-clause 4(c) from the Ministry Development Committee Regulations.
5. Approve alteration to regulation 2 of the regulations of the Clerkship Committee so that its convener shall be 'the immediate past moderator', so that the regulation shall read as follows:

Membership

2. The committee shall consist of the immediate past moderator (convener), the moderator, the Law Agent, the convener of the Business Committee, the convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, the chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance and the past moderator before the immediate past moderator.
6. Appoint the Selection Committee, as follows:
Metro: Rev Hui Lim (Rt 18), Rev Dr Robert Carner (Rt 16), Rev Dean Carroll (Rt 17), Elder Reg Butcher (Rt 16), Elder John Angelico (Rt 17).
Non-metro: Rev Cam Garrett (Convener) (Rt 16), Rev Neil Harvey (Rt 17).
7. Advise the PWMU of the new APWM regulations, making clear that all nominations from the PWMU State Council must now be forwarded to the Selection Committee for Assembly approval.
8. Direct the Code and General Administration Committee to write a comprehensive list of all duties, functions, obligations, expectations and

positions which the Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator fulfil and report them to the 2016 Commission of Assembly.
The motion was seconded and approved.

106. Variation of the Orders of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of business to take up Overture 1.

107. Overture 1 – Presbytery of Gippsland, re: settling of its bounds

Past Moderator Rev David Brown took the chair.

The overture was laid on the table and received.

The overture was stated by Rev Cameron Garrett.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Align the Presbytery of Gippsland's bounds with Local Government Area bounds so that the presbytery contains the local government areas as follows: Bass Coast; South Gippsland; Baw Baw; East Gippsland; Latrobe and Wellington.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

108. Building and Property Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Peter Phillips, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the Church Architect, Mr Les Oliver, for his valued service to the committee and to the congregations of the church.
2. Thank Rev Andrew Venn for his contribution to the work of the committee.
3. Thank Elder Graham Nixon for his faithful service as a member of the committee for many years.
4. Approve the deferment of the submission by the committee of an additional section to the Assembly's Minimum Manse Standards, 'Maintenance and Upgrading of Existing Manses' to the 2016 General Assembly.
5. Approve the committee continuing to assist the Ministry Development Committee with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments on the same basis as previously approved (min. 48.3 BB 2014).
6. Request the committee to report further to the 2016 General Assembly on its experience in assisting the Ministry Development Committee with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments, and seeking any changes to its regulations that it may consider appropriate in the light of that experience.
7. Encourage the committee to pursue with the assistance of the Church Architect the development of the proposed 'Checklist survey for existing manses'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

109. Exit Students Committee

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

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Direct the Exit Students Committee to consult with the Theological Education Committee and the Ministry Development Committee concerning the ability to exit candidates to parishes in the coming years (2016–2020), given the large number of candidates and the low number of vacant parishes that are able to financially sustain a 3 year appointment, reporting the findings to the May 2016 Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

110. METRO Committee

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

The Convener, Elder Andrew May, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the ministry of METRO and youthMetro.
2. Pray for the trainees presently engaged and all those who will be training, God-willing, in 2016 and beyond.

The motion was seconded and approved.

111. Clerkship Committee

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

112. Selection Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the deliverance:

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-6 were approved.

Leave was granted to fall from clause 7.

Additional Clauses 8-10 were approved.

Clause 11 was approved.

Clause 12 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank Almighty God for the operations of the Assembly's committees, boards and councils in the 2014/2015 Assembly year.
2. Thank all committee members who have served in the past year.
3. Thank all outgoing conveners for their work as conveners of their respective committees.
4. Thank all those who have taken on the role of acting conveners while committees have searched for a new convener.
5. Confirm the appointment of those members appointed by the Selection Committee to fill casual vacancies on committees since the 2014 Assembly.
6. Remind all committees that the Selection Committee must be notified of changes to committees, together with nominations for filling casual vacancies (see rule 5:32).
7. Dissolve the Records Committee, and
 - a. rescind its regulations, and
 - b. request the Clerkship Committee to add these functions to the job description of the Clerk of Assembly, for the Clerk to carry out with the assistance of the clerks of presbytery.

8. Rescind the regulations for the Church Records Management and Archives Committee, noting that these duties are already carried out by the Assembly Clerk.
9. Dissolve the General Mission Program Committee, and
 - a. rescind its regulations,
 - b. request the Code and General Administration Committee to include as many of these regulations within the regulations of the Board of Investment and Finance, for approval by the 2016 GAV, so as to enable the board to carry out the functions previously carried out by the GMP Committee, and
 - c. request the BIF to take over immediately all the functions of the former GMP Committee.
10. Appoint all those nominated to committees, boards and councils and other bodies and positions as in the Selection Committee's Supplementary Report, replacing the vacancy on State News Committee with the name of Rev Luke Isham and removing the name of Rev Chris Siriweera from the Theological Education Committee.
11. Confirm the following exceptions:
 - a. The nine year rule (5:28)
 - i. Mr J Ballantyne – Church and Nation (additional 12 months)
 - ii. Miss B Firth – Social Services Committee (additional 12 months)
 - b. The seven year rule (5:27)
 - i. Mr R Lowe – Social Services Committee (additional 12 months)
 - ii. Rev Peter Phillips – Building and Property Committee (additional 12 months)

The motion was seconded and approved.

113. Variation of the Orders of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of business to refer Overtures 2 and 4 to the May 2016 Commission of Assembly.

114. 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), the Clerk moved the deliverance:

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend and thank Mrs Chiara Bilyj for her editorship of *fellow workers* over the past twelve months.
2. Acknowledge and thank Rev Philip Daffy for his contributions to the work of the committee over the past nine years.
3. Encourage committees which publish occasional newsletters to explore the possibility of integrating such newsletters with fellow workers.

The motion was seconded and approved.

115. Overture 3 – APWM (Vic), re: renaming of the Assembly's General Mission Program

The overture was laid on the table and received.

The overture was stated by Rev Dean Carroll and Rev Philip Burns.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

(1) Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Assembly:

Change the name of the General Mission Program to the General Administration Program.

The motion was seconded.

Elder Reg Butcher sought leave to move an amendment.

Leave was not granted.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

116. Variation of the Orders of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of business to resume debate on Overture 7.

117. Overture 7 – Code and General Administration Committee, re: Code Revision (min. 104)

The Clerk moved:

(1) That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Send this version of the Code Revision, titled: 'Code Revision Project – Oct 2015' down to presbyteries under the Barrier Act, according to Rule 5:57(b), with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31 May 2016.

The motion was seconded.

(3) Elder Reg Butcher moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by replacing all occurrences of the name 'Annual Charge Report' with 'Annual Congregation Report' in this version of the Code Revision, titled: 'Code Revision – Oct 2015', and then send it down to presbyteries under the Barrier Act, according to Rule 5:57 (b), with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31 May 2016.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion was approved.

118. Closed Countries

Rev Len Pearce moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Remember with thankfulness before Almighty God the work and ministry of those who answer his call by going to 'closed' and dangerous countries with the gospel, and whose names and works cannot be publicised.
2. Request our ministers and church members to uphold them discreetly and constantly in prayer before the throne of grace.

The motion was seconded and approved.

119. South Sudan

Rev Choul Yat moved:

That the Assembly:

Request that each member of our denomination urge their local and federal members to seek that Australia bring more pressure to bear to stop the ongoing, devastating war in South Sudan.

The motion was seconded and approved.

120. PIM Thanks

Rev Dean Carroll moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank Rev Stuart Bonnington and Rev Rob Duncanson for their longstanding and dedicated service to the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

The motion was seconded and approved.

121. Communication 1 – from Brian Bayston, re: thanks for retirement greetings and gift

Communication 1 was laid on the table and received.

122. Communication 3 – from Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, re: GAA Code of Discipline

Communication 3 was laid on the table and received.

123. Communication 6 – from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, re: Multifaith Advisory Group Representative

Communication 6 was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Call for volunteers for the position of Presbyterian representative on the Victorian Government's Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG) to make their desire known to the Selection Committee.
2. Direct the Selection Committee, on behalf of the Assembly, to make the appointment and notify the Department of Premier accordingly.
3. Direct the attention of the appointed Presbyterian representative to MAG to Assembly resolutions GAV 2001, Min 47.6-8, and also GAV 2009, Min 27.6.
4. Direct the appointed Presbyterian representative to MAG to report annually to the General Assembly through the Church and Nation Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

124. Communication 7 – from Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, re: Salutations

Communication 7 was laid on the table and received.

125. Letter of Condolence – Rev Keith Allen

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express its pastoral love for Rev Keith Allen at this time of the passing of his wife Winifred and ask the Moderator to write a personal letter of condolence on behalf of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

126. Thanks to Rev Dr Jared Hood, Business Convener

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank Rev Dr Jared Hood for sterling and faithful service provided to the General Assembly as its Business Convener for the past eight years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

127. Commendation – Rt Rev Mark and Mrs Smith

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express best wishes to its Moderator, Rt Rev Mark Smith, and his wife, Danielle, for God's blessing on them both for the coming year.

The motion was seconded and approved.

128. 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.

129. Appointment of Commission of Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint a Commission of Assembly consisting of the all members of this Assembly, with a quorum of sixteen (eight of whom must be ministers), representing at least four presbyteries.
2. Empower this Commission to consider and determine every matter referred to it by the Assembly, and instruct the Commission to be careful to follow all instructions given to it by the 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 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 in all its decisions to proceed according to the rules and constitution of this church. For all its decisions, this Commission is accountable to and censurable by the next Assembly.
5. Charge this Commission that it must not enact, amend or repeal any rules or regulations of the Assembly nor enter into the consideration of any overture or motion proposing legislation.
6. Direct this Commission to submit its minutes duly confirmed, and relevant papers, to the next Assembly through the Clerk.
7. Instruct this Commission to meet in the Werner Brodbeck Hall, within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, Tuesday 3 May, 2016, at 10:30am, or at such other times and places as the Moderator of the Assembly shall determine.

The motion was seconded and approved.

130. Appointment of Next Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the next General Assembly to convene within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday, 3 October, 2016, at 7:30pm for the opening sederunt, and on Tuesday 4 October 2016, at 9.30am for a Communion Service, and thereafter for business in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

The motion was seconded and approved.

131. Ballot Committee Discharged

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

132. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator intimated that the next General Assembly would meet within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday, 3 October, 2016, at 7:30pm for the opening sederunt, and on Tuesday 4 October 2016, at 9.30am for a Communion Service, and thereafter for business in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Clinton Le Page led in prayer.

The Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer.

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 October 2015, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 128 thereof.



Rt Rev Mark Everett Smith
Moderator

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY 2015

Charges and Home Mission Stations

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT

Ararat	Rod Waterhouse	Jeff Hardy
Ballarat North		Robert Taylor
Ballarat South	Steven North	Gordon Barry
Ballarat West	Ian Hutton	Norm Sharp
Carisbrook-Castlemaine	Hugh Price	
Daylesford	Mark Crabb	
Horsham-Marnoo	Luke Isham	Bruce Meyer
Kaniva-Nhill		
Skipton-Lismore		Stewart McKerrow
Retired Minister	Keith Allen	

PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA

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

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations****Ministers****Elders****PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS**

Aspendale		Kevin Savage
Brighton		Elizabeth Cutler (Mrs)
Cardinia-Koo-Wee-Rup		
Cheltenham	David Brown	Roger Symons
Clarinda		Andrew Forrester
Clayton	Michael Jensen	Alex Christian
Cranbourne	Peter Roberts	
Dandenong		
Dromana-Mornington	Michael Wishart	Rex McCarron
Frankston	Bill Medley	
	Jared Keath	
Mordialloc	Michael Wharton	Barbara Firth
Somerville	Ken Brown	Robert Vines
Sorrento-Rye	John Brennan	
Associate	Hui Lim	
South East Samoan	Kainano Opetaiia	
Retired Ministers	Peter Barclay	Parity: Edward de Zilwa
	Dallas Clarnette	
	Steven Giles	
	David Palmer	
	Frank Savage	
	Graeme Weber	
	Wally Zurrer	

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG

Colac	Marvin Hagans	Geoff Cross
Geelong North	Darren Middleton	Bert Stasse
Geelong St Georges		Peter Anderson
Geelong West Scots	Robert White	Luke McSeveny
Moorabool		Peter Winstanley
The Leigh	Willem Vandenberg	Jim Venters
Retired Ministers	Andrew Bray	Parity: Daniel Combridge
	John Cromarty	
	Graham Hamill	
	Allan Harman	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND

Bairnsdale
Drouin
Assistant
Leongatha
Moe-Yarram
Morwell
Sale
Warragul

Gary Stephens
Mark Smith
Heath Easton
Gary Wentworth
Stephen Deroon
Cameron Garrett

Christopher Dean

Bruce Downes
Karl Hood
Merv York

Maitland Vertigan
John Lagerwey
Alan Caldwell
Tom Guilford

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

Ben Johnson
Toby McIntosh

Tom Fleming
Marcus Little

David Selmán
Robert Prout

Retired Minister

Neil Benfell

Parity: Craig Coates

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH

Belgrave Heights	Mark Tonkin	
Blackburn		Keith Ferres
Croydon Hills	Matthew James	Paul Veith
Donvale	Gerald Vanderwert	Peter Prendergast
Assistant	Clinton Le Page	
Heathmont	Dean Carroll	Douglas Fraser
Kilsyth-Kirkbrae	Wally Gear	
Mt Evelyn		Julian Dunn
Warburton	Chuol Yat	
Woori Yallock	Tony Archer	Stewart Miller
Retired Ministers	Ivan Barker	Parity: Endre Papajcsik
	Peter Locke	
	Peter Orchard	
	Andrew Slater	
	Arthur Stamp	
	Cor Vanderhorn	
	Andrew Venn	
	Tony Bird	
Theological College		
Lecturer	Jared Hood	
Ministry Development		
Director	Robert Carner	
Youth Ministries Director	Brian Harvey	
Defence Force Chaplain	Barry Porter	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST

Arabic		
Ashburton	Barry Oakes	John Angelico
Auburn	Trevor Cox	
Burwood Community	John Elnatan	Paul Wong
Camberwell	Philip Mercer	Philip Barton
Canterbury	Grant Lawry	Kevin Childs
Caulfield-Elwood	Phillip Chang	Fred Lake
Deaf	Tony Salisbury	
Gardenvale East		
Hawthorn	Graham Nicholson	John Singleton
Korean	Stephen Kim	Soo Hong Kwon
Malvern	Philip Daffy	
St Kilda/Balaclava	Bob Thomas	Paul Lee
South Yarra	John Stasse	Ben Nelson
Surrey Hills	Chris Siriweera	Keith Watson
Assistant	John Huynh	
Retired Ministers	Graham Bradbeer	Parity: Jim Hare
	Douglas Milne	Ben Palmer
	Alan Every	
Chaplains		
Scotch College	David Assender	
PLC	Charles Green	
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
Eltham	Don Elliott	Robert Herweynen
Epping	Nello Barbieri	Bruce Miller
Heidelberg		Tom Cunneen
Hume	Luke Brownley	
Kangaroo Ground		
Reservoir	Andrew Vines	Reg Butcher
Samoan	Simalu Cowley	Nanai Manogi Nanai
Templestowe		
Valley	Richard Wilson	
Whittlesea-Mernda	Botros Botrosdief	

Clerk of Assembly John Wilson

Defence Force Chaplains Martin de Pyle
Joshua Bouzanquet

Theological College
Principal Peter Hastie

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST

Brimbank	Adam Humphries	Paul Ridgewell
Clifton Hill/Essendon	Christopher Duke	Victor Drobis
Darebin	Aaron Boyd	Christopher Berry
Darwin/PIM	Robert Duncanson	
Gisborne	Matthew Tegart	George McConaghie
Melbourne Scots	Douglas Robertson	Neil Gilmour
Assistant	Richard O'Brien	
Flemington	Philip Court	
Indonesian	Christian Tirtha	
Melton	Stephen Jones	Dennis Wright
Point Cook	Peter Owen	Peter Stanton
Sunshine	John Cho	Gilbert Bell
Williamstown	Bruce Riding	Jennifer Homewood (Mrs)
Wyndham	Peter Greiner	Harry Carpenter

Retired Ministers Philip Simmonds
John Ellis
Len Pearce

Social Services Robert Lowe
Convener

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA

Bendigo	Philip Burns	Andrew Kerr
Eaglehawk		Steven Arbuckle
Kerang/Pyramid Hill	Miles Fagan	
Rochester	Stuart Withers	Doug Butcher
South East Bendigo	Russ Grinter	
Sunraysia		Colin Morrow
Swan Hill		Tony Zirngast
Retired Ministers	Ian Brown	
	John Sutherland	

REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 12)

He has told you, O man, what is good. What does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

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 Rev Neil Chambers, a minister at Bundoora Presbyterian Church, has agreed to be the Assembly expositor for 2015. It is planned that 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 moderator's lunch, for Assembly members, will be held in the Robert White Hall. Booking is required.

The Wednesday lunch is the mission lunch, held in the Robert White Hall, during the usual lunchtime slot (12:30–2:00pm). It is planned that John and Lynette Ellis (retired from India) will be speaking. 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 organising 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 organising the mission lunch, and the various speakers at the lunch;
- those assisting with data projection;
- Matt James and any others assisting with the audio system; and
- David Schulz and others assisting with music.

A full agenda

It looks as though there is a considerable amount of business being brought before the 2015 Assembly. There is a significant number of overtures and petitions, there are already several guests who wish to address the Assembly, and one whole sederunt is likely to be given over to hearing from Victoria Police.

To assist with time management, the committee warmly commends the following.

- Members who want the Assembly to take a course of action not already proposed in Assembly Papers should make every effort to give sufficient notice. The Assembly environment is not conducive to motions and amendments without notice.
- Assembly committees are requested for this Assembly to keep invitations to guest speakers to a minimum.

- Committee conveners are reminded that they do not ordinarily speak to their reports unless the Assembly should so desire it. Conveners usually have only two speeches: on the deliverance as a whole, and a speech to close that debate, if they so choose.
- As a matter of courtesy, Assembly members should notify conveners of intended questions (all the more important for technical questions, such as relating to the ad hoc Committee on Sites Reserve).

Safe Church presentation

The 2015 Commission of Assembly has asked the Business Committee to consider whether the Wednesday evening sederunt could be given over to a presentation through Safe Church from Victoria Police. Allowance has been made for this in the outline of business below, which will be placed before the Assembly for approval in the Business Committee deliverance.

Convener

The current Business Convener is undertaking his ninth Assembly (commenced Commission, 2007), and conveys through the committee his thanks to Assembly members for allowing him the privilege of serving in this way and for making his task enjoyable. The Selection Committee will bring the name of a suggested replacement.

Commission and next Assembly

The Committee recommends that:

- the ordinary Commission of Assembly meet on Tuesday, 3 May, 2016, at 10:30am in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall; and
- the 2016 General Assembly convene in the Scots' Church, Melbourne, at 7:30pm on Monday, 3 October, for worship and the induction of the Moderator, then at 9.30am on Tuesday, 4 October, for a Communion Service, 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 is required to 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, 5 October, 2015, at 7:30pm in the Scots' Church, Melbourne
Service of worship and the induction of the Moderator

SECOND SEDERUNT

Tuesday, 6 October, 2015, 9:30am—5:30pm
Assembly Communion Service (constitution)
11:00am Roll
Apologies
Associations
Welcomes
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
Minutes of the 2015 Commission of Assembly
New members
Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

Ministerial and Elders' deaths—Prayer
 Royal address and Loyal addresses
 Moderator PCWA, Elder Bill McRae
 Communication 4: GAA Clerk—Moderator Elect
 GAA Clerk, Rev Bruce Meller
 [12:30pm—2:00pm Lunch]
 Past Moderator
 Board of Investment and Finance
 Trusts Corporation
 Church Planting Committee
 Belgrave Heights Christian School
 St Andrews Christian College
 [3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]
 FOD 3:50pm Ad Hoc Committee for Presbyterian Schooling
 Commission for Church Institutions
 Archive
 Code and General Administration Committee
 State News Committee
 Appeals, Overtures, Communications, References, Petitions
 Business Committee

THIRD SEDERUNT

Tuesday, 6 October, 2015, 7:00pm—9:00pm

Constitution
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Minutes of previous sederunt
 Building and Property Committee
 Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
 Social Services Committee
 General Mission Program Committee
 Petition 1: Presbytery of Ballarat—Ararat Funding
 Petition 3: Presbytery of Melbourne West—Sunshine
 Petition 4: Presbytery of Melbourne North—Templestowe
 Petition 5: Presbytery of Melbourne East—Canterbury Japanese
 Unfinished business from previous sederunt
 Business Committee

FOURTH SEDERUNT

Wednesday, 7 October, 2015, 9:30am—5:30pm

Constitution
 Assembly expositor
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Minutes of previous sederunt
 Bible Society Australia
 Ad Hoc Committee on Sites Reserve
 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 Presbyterian Ladies College Report
 Mrs Elaine Collin, Principal
 FOD 2:20pm Home Mission Workers' Association
 Church and Nation Committee
 METRO Committee
 [3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]
 FOD 3:50pm Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee
 Communication 5: Presbyterian Inland Mission
 FOD 4:00pm Presbyterian Inland Mission
 Andrew Letcher CEO
 FOD 4:15pm Christian Education and Nurture Committee
 Clerkship Committee
 FOD 5:15pm Safe Church
 Unfinished business from previous sederunts
 Business Committee

FIFTH SEDERUNT

Wednesday, 7 October, 2015, 7:00pm—9:00pm

Constitution
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Minutes of previous sederunt
 Safe Church presentation
 Business Committee

SIXTH SEDERUNT

Thursday, 8 October, 2015, 9:30am to the finish of business

Constitution
 Assembly expositor
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Minutes of previous sederunt
 FOD 10:15 Theological Education Committee
 Retirement of Rev Dr Tony Bird
 [12:30pm—2:00pm Lunch]
 FOD 2:05pm Scotch College Report
 Mr Tom Batty, Principal
 Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee
 Ministry Development Committee
 FOD 3:00pm Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union
 Exit Students Committee
 Records Committee
 Selection Committee
 Communication 1: Brian Bayston—Thanks
 Communication 2: Members of Christ Church Geelong—St George's
 Communication 3: PCQld Clerk—Code of Discipline
 FOD 3:20pm Evangelical Action
 Todd Stanton, Editor
 [3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]
 FOD 3:50pm Appeal 1: Bruce Thomson and Roger Barnett—St George's
 Petition 2: Presbytery of Geelong and Kilnoorat—Colac
 Overture 1: Presbytery of Gippsland—Gippsland Presbytery bounds

Overture 2: Presbytery of Melbourne North—PCV and honorific titles
Overture 3: APWM (Vic)—General Mission Program
Overture 4: Presbytery of Maroondah—Candidates
Overture 5: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—Treasurers
Overture 6: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—Insurances
Overture 7: Code and General Administration Committee—Code Revision
Closing formalities
Commendation
Commission to confirm minutes
Appointment of Commission of Assembly
Appointment of next Assembly
Ballot Committee discharged
Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

ACCESS MINISTRIES (Min. 74)

Much has happened at ACCESS ministries since our last report to the Assembly early in October 2014. At that time Dawn Penney was leading the organisation in the Acting Chief Executive Officer role. During the latter part of 2014, the Board embarked on an extensive review process actively seeking input and views across all stakeholders on several aspects of the organisation's operations. This review highlighted the importance of being able to articulate our purpose with more clarity, courage and humility and of redefining our messages as they relate to each of our specific operating areas - Special Religious Instruction (SRI), Chaplaincy, Training and Publishing - so we can communicate more effectively. A recurring theme from stakeholders related to the attributes Dawn was demonstrating as she led ACCESS ministries - in particular, her clarity of vision, her willingness to listen and her ability to encourage a unity of purpose. Our stakeholder feedback also confirmed the Board's strong view about the importance of continuity and stability of leadership of ACCESS ministries. As a result, the Board formally appointed Dawn Penney to the role of CEO in December 2014.

While ACCESS ministries continues to face an ever-changing and every-challenging external operating environment, there is evidence of the success of the organisation's efforts to take control - with God's wisdom and guidance - of its own destiny. Rather than be captive to increased regulation and scrutiny of the work of ACCESS, or the ongoing challenge of financial sustainability, considerable progress is being made by Dawn and her Executive Team on each of the priority actions the Board set out to achieve less than a year ago.

Structure and Performance

Dawn Penney has overseen a complete organisational restructure which was undertaken with grace, cooperation and the full understanding of a wonderful staff. In recognition that the SRI and Chaplaincy programs are both now overseen by the Victorian Department of Education, the internal teams for the two programs have now been combined to be headed by one Program Director, Linda White, resulting in a 30 per cent reduction in staff across these two program areas. This move has also made possible the centralisation of the internal administration and support service of ACCESS ministries to further streamline operations, with an additional reduction in staff from the head office operations. In addition to the program of voluntary redundancies, the entire Executive level of ACCESS ministries has volunteered to a 10 per cent salary reduction at this time and packaging of motor vehicles and other associated administrative costs has also been removed. Overall a cost saving of more than \$270,000 has been achieved in 2015, which will grow to an annual saving in excess of \$600,000 in 2016 and thereafter. Obviously, the structural changes undertaken have resulted in one-off, extraordinary cost items which will have a negative impact on the bottom line for the 2015 year. However, the benefit of these changes will be seen in the years to come.

Corporate Governance

Considerable progress has been made in reviewing the Corporate Governance of ACCESS ministries including Board structure and composition and the Constitution. A discussion paper was recently circulated to the Heads of all the 11 Supporting/Member Churches of ACCESS. The Uniting Church announced on 1st July its decision that as from 1st August, 2015 it would no longer continue as a Supporting Church of ACCESS ministries (although Uniting Churches who choose to

remain independent of this decision are able to continue to support SRI). The Board Chair, Elida Brereton, and the CEO have met with each Member Church to review the discussion paper and consider the best way forward. The stated objective is to ensure that the Constitution of ACCESS ministries best supports the Board of Directors in fulfilling their duty to act in the best interests of ACCESS ministries and the stakeholders from whom ACCESS receives support and to which ACCESS delivers services.

The discussion paper notes the view of the current Board that it is a responsible and pragmatic course of action to take, and also acknowledges a growing recognition among corporate governance experts that best practice for not-for-profit Board composition favours a skills-based rather than “representational” model. The discussion paper also suggests options for consideration regarding membership and discussions to date with representatives of Member Churches seem to favour a membership of equal votes, with the requirement that the members would meet once per year in addition to the AGM.

Chaplaincy

Following dramatic changes to funding and administration arrangements enacted by the Victoria Department of Education in late 2014 which caused major disruption to schools, communities and many children, it is through God’s sovereign working that ACCESS now has 299 chaplain positions funded and filled, providing support and care to students and the wider school community each week. Added to this, of the schools which were not successful in receiving Government funding for their chaplain, many valued their chaplain so highly that they put in money from their own budgets to retain them as part of the school community.

More recently and most gratifyingly, ACCESS ministries has worked in close collaboration with the Victorian “Inspire School Chaplaincy Network” to successfully obtain funding from the Genesis Charitable Foundation to co-create a sustainable funding program for Victoria’s school chaplains. The initial Grant, to be shared among the Christian chaplaincy providers in the Victorian “Inspire School Chaplaincy Network”, is \$250,000 and will be used first to help those schools who lost chaplains due to recent Victorian Government funding cuts, but also to develop a program to assist all Victorian schools which want a chaplain to work with their local churches and community members to make this a reality. The ultimate goal of the Genesis funding is to create financial sustainability through the “Inspire School Chaplaincy Network”.

ACCESS has recently received \$200,000 funding from the Victorian Government specifically for the ongoing purpose of training chaplains and Student Wellbeing Workers. Whilst this amount falls short of the \$500,000 promised by the former Napthine Liberal government, ACCESS ministries is extremely grateful for this important financial contribution from the Victorian Labour Government.

Special Religious Instruction

Midway through 2014, there were greater compliance requirements for SRI when a new Ministerial Direction (MD 141) was released with the Department of Education School Policy and Advisory Guidelines. The changes that took effect also included a new consent form. Other changes included updated policies and procedures, new guidelines around in-class supervision, the School Principal’s ability to determine the adequacy of their resources to supervise all students, and a new procedure for

training and accrediting all SRI volunteers for 2015. These changes brought some confusion to school programs, with some schools opting to shut down programs with a view to starting again in 2015. These closures affected many faithful volunteers, some having taught SRI for a long period. Christian SRI programs commenced in some State primary schools in Term 2 of 2015 after all new retraining and approvals had been completed. However, other schools did not get going until Term 3. At the end of Term 3 there were 1,067 retrained and quality SRI Instructors, (72 of whom are Presbyterians) with programs operating in 386 schools. Of these newly retrained Instructors, 41% have a range of post-school qualifications up to advanced diplomas and 49% have bachelor, honours and masters degrees and even PhDs, meaning the workforce of SRI Volunteers is a highly educated and now extremely well-trained group of Christian people. There are now 26,709 students 'opting in' to the Explore Christianity program with more envisaged as consent forms are returned and book orders are received in preparation for Term 4. That means that the parents of all these children actively made the effort to review the new forms required by the Government and then completed and returned their opt-in decision, allowing those 386 schools to either re-commence or start a new SRI program for these children.

The latest move in what appears to be an ongoing campaign by the Victorian Government to disrupt what we know is a service valued by children, school communities and parents across Victoria is the plan, announced at the end of August, to move SRI classes out of school hours - and to either before or after school or during lunchtime - commencing in 2016. This decision was made by the Government without any prior consultation. ACCESS ministries is actively considering a range of scenarios and options for 2016. To be better informed, ACCESS is presently surveying more than 400 school principals and 800 SRI volunteers on a range of subject pertinent to the proposed changes and various alternative solutions which could be considered. The new initiative related by Richard Wilson, Church Planter Evangelist for the PCV, in his Report to the Assembly (White Book page 91) is one possible alternative, especially where there is a good relationship with the local School Principal.

Dawn Penney has written directly to the Premier, Daniel Andrews, seeking a meeting and there is already a meeting scheduled with Education Minister, James Merlino. The results of the survey together with a number of other action items will be discussed at these meetings. A petition has also been developed for the specific purpose of presentation to the Victorian Legislative Assembly seeking to have the recent decision reversed. Copies have been circulated to churches. Further copies will be available at the Assembly. Completed petitions need to be back at ACCESS ministries by Monday 19th October at the latest. SRI volunteers, and others, are also encouraged to write to, and even call and ask to meet with their local State MP. ACCESS has prepared a list of points to be raised with MPs. Finally, ACCESS is also reviewing the legality of this proposed change because under current legislation and Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines, SRI can only be delivered in "the hours set aside for instruction", that is during class time.

New Innovations and Initiatives

Work is being done on some truly innovative and exciting education and training programs beyond the current scope of the ACCESS Ministries Training Institute (AMTI). Named "Lightstream", the new initiative is seeking to create learning environments that equip and release individuals in their communities to engage in the work of community transformation. The aim is to combine a discipleship focus, where

individuals learn to be more like Jesus, with a community service and transformation focus. ACCESS will, through AMTI, be launching vocational training in 2016 with a Diploma stream in Victoria and a Graduate stream nationally.

In addition, ACCESS is providing a pilot Explore Christianity program to the Emmanuel Early Learning Centre in Endeavour Hills. This program is fully compliant with the Department of Education policies and procedures. Once qualitative feedback from the Centre has been collated and assessed, it is hoped that ACCESS will be in a position to offer this program to other childcare centres together with parenting programs.

Consideration is also being given to expanding chaplaincy services in both community and aged care settings in a responsible, sustainable way, in close collaboration with the best professionals in the business.

Finally, thanks to those individuals and churches in the PCV who have committed themselves to regular prayer for this crucial work. Alison Thomas continues to be a very committed and active member of the ACCESS ministries Council and Grant Lawry continues to serve on the Board as Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Governance Committee.

Grant Lawry and Alison Thomas
PRESBYTERIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE
ACCESS MINISTRIES COUNCIL

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLING IN VICTORIA (Min. 26)

In early 2015, the ad hoc committee undertook to address concerns with the regulations presented in 2014 to establish a standing committee.

As reported in 2014, the intent is for the standing committee to establish a fund-raising capacity to fund the establishment of new educational institutions and to have control of the funds raised. This has naturally resulted in a number of well-founded concerns being raised. The process of discussing and allaying these concerns is still ongoing.

As a result of these concerns, the ad hoc committee does not yet feel ready to bring the final regulations to the Assembly at this time and is seeking to bring the regulations to the General Assembly in 2016.

The vision of the committee

The vision of the ad hoc committee, as it has evolved since the committee was first convened in 2014, is at the heart of how the regulations have been shaped. To assist the Assembly in understanding this vision, an articulation of the intent of the committee is here included in this report.

The desire of the committee is to establish educational institutions to further the work of the Gospel.

Essentially, each Christian School, Early Learning Centre or other educational institution is an opportunity for ongoing discipleship and ministry to the enrolled students. Our contemporary society is increasingly hostile to evangelism, the gospel and church attendance in general. Despite this environment, it is clear that parents are eager to enrol their children in Christian schools. Even if the parents themselves have no particular religious belief, they expect that a Christian school will provide a wholesome environment and a good moral grounding for their children.

At the same time, Christian parents are seeking environments for their children that are not overtly hostile to their faith.

This is a clear opportunity both for mission and for discipleship.

Financing new schools

It has been identified that the primary practical challenge in establishing a new school is establishment capital. Other challenges such as regulatory overheads, expertise and quality governance can be addressed through partnerships with existing schools. The provision of initial capital is not something that any single existing institution can provide, however.

To overcome this, the committee is proposing to establish a fund through annual donations from existing schools. The majority of existing Christian schools operate with a surplus that is used to prepare for future capital works. By seeking relatively small annual contributions from a number of existing schools it is feasible to establish a substantial body of funds in only three or four years.

There is no intention for the committee to directly borrow money to finance new School projects and this will be reflected clearly in the final regulations. Other experiences, such Mowbray College and Acacia College, indicate that there needs to be a clear separation between the church and any new institution that is established. The provision of establishment capital is reasonable but any proposed business plan for a new institution must indicate near term self sufficiency before any capital is expended. Also, the potential failure of a new institution cannot be allowed to impact the wider church.

James Bligh
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SITES RESERVE (Min. 86)

Preamble

In reading our report to this year's General Assembly, members will discover that your committee is recommending a transfer of funds, under a clearly defined set of rules, from Sites Reserves accounts assigned to particular congregations into a new fund to be called the PCV Endowment Fund.

The intention is that this new fund will be able to provide the funds necessary to purchase sites for new church plants and such other capital projects that the General Assembly may determine from time to time. Your committee is acutely aware that such a proposal will be of concern to congregations with Sites Reserve accounts stemming from the sale of property in the past that these congregations deemed either surplus or needed to fund specific congregational purposes. In fact, the long gestation period for this report with its recommendations may be taken as indication of the care exercised by the committee in seeking a fair and honourable balance between competing claims within the bounds of Presbyterian polity.

Overriding this whole exercise has been an attempt to follow the teaching of our Lord Jesus and the apostles about brethren sharing what they have for the benefit of all. As you read on you will discover that we have made a very genuine attempt to protect the interests of congregations that have become reliant upon 'their' Sites Reserves accounts for maintaining their property and/or pastoral ministry whilst at the same time freeing up funds to enable, over time, our new church plants to acquire property much in the same way that our older congregations were able to do.

1. A brief history of reviewing the use of Sites Reserve funds

At the 2011 General Assembly a clause in the Board of Investment & Finance (BIF) deliverance was approved that required the establishment of:

an ad hoc committee to explore ways and means of achieving more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and bring a report to the Assembly in October. (2011 BB Min 91.5)

In recommending that the ad hoc committee be established, the BIF reported:

Administration has been somewhat difficult and even contentious in recent years, especially in regard to withdrawal of funds by congregations. We believe this arises from insufficient clarity in BIF regulations 10 a) & 10 b)...
For all these reasons and considering the large aggregate amount now accumulated in Sites Reserve and the need for funding of church extension in developing areas, the Board believes that it is time to take a fresh look at the 'system'.

Part of the background that explains how GAV 2011 Min 91.5 emerged was the call at almost every meeting of the Assembly upon the BIF to release additional funds to facilitate a variety of new initiatives, the most recent being the purchase of property for new church plants, set against the knowledge of the inexorable nine fold rise in Sites Reserve funds since 2000 achieved partly through fresh deposits resulting from the sale of property assigned to congregations, but predominantly through the very high pre GFC (2003 to 2008) interest rates earned on Common Fund deposits.

The movement in Sites Reserve funds (either invested in the Common Fund or separately) as at 30 June is illustrated below.

Movement in Sites Reserves

Year	Amount
2015	\$21,604,694
2014	\$18,552,579
2013	\$17,553,856
2012	\$16,393,327
2011	\$18,200,270
2010	\$18,977,099
2009	\$15,905,689
2008	\$14,203,446
2007	\$14,068,343
2006	\$11,682,216
2005	\$10,301,884
2004	\$8,760,184
2003	\$6,808,964
2002	\$6,112,754
2001	\$4,208,647
2000	\$2,406,977

The ad hoc committee was formed with a membership comprising the immediate past Moderator (Convener), Assembly Clerk, Law Agent, General Manager, Chairman of the Trusts Corporation and one nominee from each Presbytery.

The committee reported to the 2012 General Assembly that it had met and would 'report its findings and recommendations to a subsequent Assembly'.

The committee expressed regret to the 2013 General Assembly that it did not have a definitive report but indicated it had sought the opinion of a QC citing '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 Assembly agreed an extension of time for reporting to the 2014 Commission of Assembly.

It is worthwhile for members to re-read the committee's reports to the 2014 Commission of Assembly, the 2014 General Assembly and the 2015 Commission of Assembly in order to understand the process by which your committee comes to the 2015 General Assembly with firm proposals for implementation in accordance with 2011 BB Min 91.5.

The difficulty facing the committee is well described in the opening paragraph of its report to the 2014 Commission of Assembly:

Early in our discussions it became apparent that within the Church there was lack of clarity regarding not only the purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund but also, at the more fundamental level, regarding how Presbyterian property is held in the first place. The primary question being: 'On what basis is any Church property held? The end-point question: 'How can we use Sites Reserve funds more effectively?' And, of course, there's the intermediate question: 'What is the basis for holding Sites Reserve funds?'

The 2014 Commission of Assembly received the Declarative Statement 'Holding and dealing with property within the church', prepared by Michael Shand QC and

authorised the committee to frame, in consultation with the BIF and Code Committee, a revision of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria rules and BIF regulations 'in the light of' this Declarative Statement. Additionally, the Committee was asked to take into account concerns raised during the course of debate.

This later requirement regarding consideration of concerns in effect caused a 12 month delay due to clarifying such concerns and then seeking the Law Agent's advice in relation the Declarative Statement and the concerns expressed.

At the 2015 Commission of Assembly earlier this year, the committee did a number of things:

1. Tabled both Michael Shand's Declarative Statement, October 2013 and the Law Agent's Answers to Questions, March 2015.
2. Indicated its conclusions in respect of a '*more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria*' in the following terms:
 - a) Church property, and therefore funds from the proceeds of sale, never belong to a person or a group of persons such as congregations, but are held for a purpose.
 - b) Broadly speaking, that purpose must always be for the best interests of the church (the Presbyterian Church of Victoria) as a whole.
 - c) The General Assembly has final authority over these funds, the guiding principle being: 'what is for the best interests of the PCV as a whole'.
 - d) We think the denomination, in the recent past, has been inconsistent in administering the funds in terms of 'the best interest of the PCV as a whole'. Rather, we believe it may have considered the funds to be more congregational than denominational.
 - e) The PCV rules speak of 'congregational property' (e.g. at Rule 2:30). We think that this, together with other phrases in BIF regulations, lead the General Assembly to give greater consideration to the congregational aspects and privileges rather than to denominational purposes - a consideration which is not totally consistent with the interpretation of the Model Trust Deeds.
 - f) We think there is wisdom in looking again at the original purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund of setting aside a portion of proceeds of sale for future land purchases, a purpose maintained up until at least the 1930s.
3. Advised that it had established a sub-committee, in order to frame new BIF regulations, that would:
 - a) consider the original purpose of the General Assembly's Reserve Fund, as stated in its 1875 regulations¹, as presented in the Clerk's paper to the Commission of Assembly, 2014;
 - b) make recommendations for the use of existing Sites Reserve Funds, highlighting any necessary transitional arrangements that there may have to be;
 - c) undertook to complete its work in time for the 2015 General Assembly.

The sub-committee has now completed its work, which the committee has approved, and the committee has now drafted new regulations for the BIF covering Sites

¹ The issue of a Reserve Fund was raised at Commission of Assembly, 7 May 1874. The Fund was established at a meeting of the General Assembly, 18 November 1874 (Min. 31) and its regulations approved by the Commission of Assembly, 4 May 1875 (Min. 5) and after being passed down to Presbyteries adopted by the General Assembly, 18 November 1875. The regulations remained virtually unchanged up to the time of a new edition of the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1935.

Reserves and a new fund to be called the PCV Endowment Fund for which it seeks the approval of this Assembly.

Without covering again all the material contained in Mr Shand QC's Declarative Statement and the Law Agent's opinion, we offer further comment on the rationale for the proposed changes and then show the financial implications of what has been proposed.

2. Considerations behind the proposed changes to the BIF regulations in respect of the Sites Reserve and PCV Endowment Fund

The **first** consideration has been the direction given in 2011 BB Min 91.5 *to explore ways and means of achieving more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the PCV*. This we took to mean devising a mechanism for setting aside a portion of the funds in Sites Reserve for such purposes as future General Assemblies may decide.

The **second** consideration was the very clear articulation of Presbyterian polity given in Mr Shand's Declarative Statement, supported by the Law Agent's Answers to Questions; the particular point being that the property and buildings of the church constituted its endowment with the Sites Reserve Fund enabling the denomination to maintain this endowment not only for the use of a congregation but for the best interests of the church as a whole as determined by the General Assembly. Even more to the point is the assertion in the Declarative Statement that a congregation is not a separate legal entity and as such has no standing to require payment of any interest or principal moneys from the Sites Reserve Fund.

The **third** consideration was to provide a clear way forward for how congregation-linked Sites Reserve accounts could be used for ministry. In other words, consideration be given to removing ambiguity for both congregations and the BIF in how Sites Reserve funds may be used.

In this respect it is worth pointing out that the legal opinion received held that the current distinction made between capital and interest earned was invalid. Accordingly, a clause has been added to the deliverance to the effect that in future no distinction is to be made between Sites Reserve account capital and the interest earned on that capital.

The **fourth** consideration was the discovery of the 1874 regulations accompanying the original establishment of what in time became the Reserve Fund, and later still the Sites Reserve Fund. These regulations allowed for deductions from both proceeds of sale (2½% to the General Assembly) and further deductions on the application of funds from the Reserve Fund on a sliding scale between 12½% and 50% depending upon the nature of the application *for the purchase of sites, to be the property of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria* (1874 BB Min No 31, page 32). We have included the regulations covering the Sites Reserve Fund as they were printed in Chapter XXXI of the 1935 edition of the Rules and Forms of Procedure² of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as an Appendix to this report.

² The Rules and Forms of Procedure was a bound volume which included what we call today the Rules of the Church, Committee Regulations, Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 and the Church and Manse Model Trust deeds and Forms of Congregational Records (Historical, Property, Financial, Session, Communion and Adherents' Rolls, etc.). Also included were the GAA Rules and Committee regulations.

The Sites Reserve Fund Committee was amalgamated with those for the Grants and Loans Fund, the Loan Fund and the Home Mission Sites and Building Fund at the General Assembly, meeting 18 May 1945 to form a new committee, the Grants and Loans Committee. We note that the table of percentages had been deconstructed by then EXCEPT for this key one:

‘Should a congregation desire to use the proceeds for any such sale as prescribed in clause (c) for any purpose (other than purchase of land or the erection, purchase, or extension of buildings or with the approval of committee the liquidation or partial liquidation of existing building debts), there shall be paid to the credit of the Loan Fund such percentage (not exceeding fifty per centum) of the amount applied for as the Assembly or Commission of Assembly shall, on the recommendation of the committee, determine.’

So, the idea of 'spending Sites Reserve for OTHER uses' being permitted but with a % levy being dedicated into central PCV funds has been our practice at least from earliest days to 1960s.

We can only speculate as to why these regulations, which had remained through to 1945, were then altered by 1956. Certainly government land grants from which so many of our older charges benefitted had ceased by the 1870s and it had become the church's responsibility to purchase sites for new church plants. Post World War I, the church contracted significantly, particularly in inner metropolitan and country districts³, though there was still the need to plant churches in the growing suburban and regional areas. Today, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is once again embarking on planting new congregations both in Melbourne and country areas. It is generally conceded that once it is clear that a newly planted congregation making use of rented premises is successful, then for that congregation to flourish and achieve an identity within its community it needs a visible identity including its own property.

These four considerations build on one another to form the proposal contained in this report and deliverance.

Of course, the committee understands that the practice in recent decades has been for Sites Reserve Funds to be considered the sole preserve of those congregations with which individual accounts have been associated⁴, and indeed, that to varying extents, congregations have been dependent upon their Sites Reserve account for capital and/or recurrent expenditures.

The reason for the three year delay in bringing forward these proposals for the General Assembly's consideration has been almost entirely due to the desire on the

³ It is worth pointing out that the 1874 Roll of Assembly recorded for parishes and home mission stations the names of 87 ministers and 50 elders from **country Victoria** and 30 ministers and 28 elders from **Melbourne and immediate environs**. By 1910 the Roll of Assembly recorded 130 ministers and 112 elders from country Victoria and 66 ministers, 66 elders from **Melbourne and immediate environs**. In contrast the 1945 Roll of Assembly recorded the names of 117 ministers and 134 elders from **country Victoria** (i.e. the country no longer able to support so many ministers) whilst the number of ministers and elders from **Melbourne and immediate environs** had increased to 79 and 86 respectively.

⁴ At the present time there are 47 congregation linked Sites Reserve accounts whilst there are 85 congregations not possessing such accounts.

It would be interesting, but probably time consuming serving little other than historical curiosity, to discover how the 1945 regulations that provided for the Loan Committee to control both the Sites Reserve Fund and those properties purchased with such funds to the current, contra Presbyterian polity situation of congregations 'owning' their own Sites Reserve funds.

part of your committee to find an equitable way of establishing a fund to secure funding for new church sites and other such purposes approved by the General Assembly, whilst still maintaining an ability for those congregations with a Sites Reserve account to access such accounts for their own purposes.

This has been done by developing new regulations that build on those existing in Chapter XXXI of the 1935 edition of the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The result of the adoption of these proposed regulations going forward will be:

- a slow reduction of funds in those Sites Reserve accounts attached to specific continuing congregations offset by the annual interest added back to Sites Reserve deposits, and
- for dissolved congregations, the entire balance of such Sites Reserve accounts would immediately be transferred to the proposed PCV Endowment Fund.

The specific account movements in Sites Reserve accounts are spelled out in the section of this report below entitled, *The financial impact of the proposed changes to the BIF regulations*.

The inflow into the PCV Endowment Fund is expected to be \$2.2 million within the first year (as shown in the table below) following approval of these proposals, and then approximately \$1.4M per year thereafter. These projections are based on the current balances and uses of Sites Reserve funds in the 12 months to June 2015 and assuming there is no change to the overall behaviour. They are indicative only of what might transpire, but represent the most informed estimation available.

Estimate of possible inflows to the Endowment Fund in the first 12 months

Dissolved congregations	868,416
Surplus funds levy	1,123,539
Other levies	271,556
	\$2,263,511

3. Proposed Changes to the BIF regulations

In clause **9 Sale, Mortgages, Leases, Transfers etc** a change is proposed to sub-clause 9a); a replacement of clause 10 is proposed, to be named **10 Sites Reserve Account**; and a new clause **11 PCV Endowment Fund** with subsequent renumbering for the following clauses.

In respect of sub-clause 9 a) the additional words, *In such cases the BIF shall determine on behalf of the General Assembly the purposes for which the proceeds of any sale or mortgage are to be applied and any other conditions which may apply, consistent with the terms of the Model Trust Deeds* have been inserted.

There are a number of proposed transition arrangements listed following the proposed changes to the BIF regulations.

The proposed changes to the BIF regulations are such that they would read as follows:

Sale, Mortgages, Leases, Transfers

- 9.** a) A sale, lease or mortgage shall not be effected without the consent of the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly which will when giving consent direct how the funds are to be applied, either 'to the said congregation or otherwise ...' and any other conditions which may apply, consistent with the terms of the Model Trust Deeds; provided that the Board of Investment and Finance (BIF) may give consent to any application which in the opinion of the Presbytery and the BIF is urgent. In such cases the BIF shall determine on behalf of the General Assembly the purposes for which the proceeds of any sale or mortgage are to be applied and any other conditions which may apply, consistent with the terms of the Model Trust Deeds. The BIF shall report the action taken to the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, as the case may be.
- b) Where in the opinion of the Presbytery it is desirable that buildings or furnishings which are depreciating in value because the congregation has ceased to exist be transferred to serve another congregation, such transfer may be approved on such terms and conditions as the BIF may decide.

10. Sites Reserve Account

Title

- 10.1** There shall be an account called the Sites Reserve Account (the Account) administered by the Board of Investment and Finance.

Purpose

- 10.2** The purposes of the Account are to:
- a) receive and hold the proceeds of sale, less the levy established by regulation 11.4, of Presbyterian properties for existing congregations held under either of the Model Trust Deeds;
- b) manage these proceeds in accordance with the regulations.
- Proceeds will be held in an account designated against the name of the congregation that the General Assembly has most recently permitted to use the property in accordance with paragraph 2(a) of the Model Trust Deed.

Permitted Uses

10.3

- a) Funds within the Account will be applied firstly to such purposes as the General Assembly has directed and for which the sale has been authorised.
- b) If, after fully meeting the purposes as directed by the General Assembly, surplus funds remain available, a congregation may apply for further use of the money held in their name, with approval of the Presbytery, for purposes stated as listed in regulation 10.4 below. In each case, including when the General Assembly has directed the purposes for which the sale has been authorised, the levy payable to the PCV Endowment Fund will be in accord with regulation 10.4.
- c) The levy will be applied at the time the funds are expended and will be calculated by applying the relevant percentage to the value of funds expended at that time.

Uses and levy payable

- 10.4** The following permitted uses and levies shall apply:

- a) The purchase of a new site to be used as a church or manse within three years of the sale of property which is being replaced: there shall be no levy.
- b) The purchase of a new site and the erection of a church or manse whose combined value will be at least equal to the value of the site and buildings sold: there shall be no levy payable provided the new site shall be purchased and building(s) erected within five years from the time of sale of the original site and buildings; otherwise the levy shall be 12.5 per cent.
- c) The erection or purchase of new buildings on an existing site, or additions to existing buildings (but not repairs as in sub-clause (h) below): the levy shall be 12.5 per cent.
- d) With the approval of the Assembly, the purchase of a new site, including a site with buildings on it, to be used for purposes other than a church or manse: the levy shall be 50 per cent.
- e) Liquidating existing building or new site debts incurred in circumstances met by terms of the Model Trust Deeds: the levy shall be 25 per cent.

- f) Liquidating a bridging loan within two years of that loan being drawn: there shall be no levy.
- g) Manse allowance for minister's housing:
 - i) provided there is no property held under the Model Trust Deed for a manse site: the levy shall be 5 per cent;
 - ii) otherwise: the levy shall be 50 per cent.
- h) Repairs and maintenance of any buildings: the levy shall be 20 per cent.
- i) Any other purpose of the congregation, provided:
 - i) the current and foreseeable property needs as defined in (a) to (h) above have first been provided for; and
 - ii) the congregation has no other source of funds available: the levy shall be 50 per cent.

The maximum amount to be expended under this clause in any year will be limited to the amount of congregational offerings as shown on the audited APR for the immediate past year.
- j) Voluntary contributions to the PCV Endowment fund: there shall be no levy.

Surplus Funds

10.5

- a) When the balance of any Site Reserve account has exceeded the 'large balance limit' on 30 June for five consecutive years the account shall be classified as Surplus funds.
- b) For each account that has been classified as Surplus Funds the annual levy charged shall be 7.5% calculated on the balance of the account Funds as at 30 June each year, provided that the balance is not less than 60% of the large balance limit, in which case the levy shall not apply.
- c) Surplus funds will continue to be held under the name of a congregation and may be applied for any of the purposes defined in 10.4 above.
- d) The General Assembly shall determine the large balance limit from time to time on the recommendation of the BIF.

Small Balances

10.6

- a) When the balance of any Site Reserve account falls below the 'small balance limit' the account will be closed with the residual balance being transferred to the congregation in whose name the account is held, and able to be used for its general purposes.
- b) The General Assembly shall determine the small balance limit from time to time on the recommendation of the BIF.

11. PCV Endowment Fund

Title

- 11.1** There shall be a fund called the PCV Endowment Fund ('the Fund') administered by the Board of Investment and Finance.

Purpose

- 11.2** The purposes of the Fund are to provide for:

- a) the purchase of
 - i) new congregational meeting places (churches) and manses, or
 - ii) property where a church plant is expected, or
 - iii) the extension of existing properties, and
- b) denominationally strategic ventures that enhance or extend the church's overall endowment.

The Fund is only to be used in ways that are for the best interests of the PCV as a whole. Payments will only be made from the Fund in accord with these purposes as approved by the General Assembly and upon recommendation from the BIF.

Applications for payments from the Fund

11.3

When considering an application for payment from the Fund (as in reg 11.2 above) the BIF, before recommending it to the General Assembly, must first ensure that it has come either:

- a) with approval of a presbytery, or
- b) with approval of a committee of the General Assembly.

Sale of Property

11.4 At the time of sale of any property that is held under either of the Model Trust Deeds: a levy of 2.5 per cent of the sale contract price shall be paid into the Fund.

Dissolved congregations

11.5 Where a congregation has been dissolved and when, as a result, land owned or vested in trustees for The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is sold either as vacant land or with buildings erected on it, the whole of the proceeds shall be paid into the Fund.

11.6 Where a congregation has been dissolved and a Sites Reserve account exists in the name of that congregation, the whole balance of that Sites Reserve account shall be paid into the Fund.

Union or readjustment of congregations

11.7 Where, as a result of a union or readjustment of congregations, the General Assembly has determined that property is surplus to the requirements of the new congregation, and when, as a result, land owned or vested in trustees for The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is sold either as vacant land or with buildings erected on it, the whole of the proceeds shall be paid into the Fund.

11.8 Subject to civil law, the General Assembly may determine that amounts from other sources may be paid into the Fund.

Transitional arrangements

- a) The small balance limit should initially be set at \$20,000.
- b) The large balance limit should initially be set at \$500,000.
- c) Expenditure arising from any approval which has already been made at the time the regulations become effective will be applied without any levy until the year following 30 June following the date of enactment of the new BIF regulations.
- d) Any sale of property which has been already approved at the time the regulations become effective will be applied without any levy until 30 June following the date of enactment of the new BIF regulations.
- e) Where a congregation draws funds for expenditure on ministry under the new regulation 10.4(i) and that amount exceeds the annual offerings for the previous year, this limit may be exceeded for up to two full financial years into the future (i.e. to 30 June 2018 assuming the regulations are approved in October 2015), with a levy of 50 per cent applied to the amount that exceeds the previous year's offerings.

4. The Current Deposition and Use of Sites Reserve Funds

Before itemising individual Sites Reserve accounts and the use to which they have been put in the year ended 30 June 2015, an important caveat is required. A number of Congregations have deposits that arise from bequests made in their favour. These funds are entirely separate from the Sites Reserve and their use is determined by the trust deed associated with each bequest. Hence these regulations do not apply to such funds.

Sites Reserve Balances as at 30 June 2015

Parish	Common Fund	Separate Investment	Total
Aspendale	\$863,788		\$863,788
Bairnsdale	\$236,551		\$236,551
Balaclava	\$0	\$1,528,762	\$1,528,762
Benalla	\$174,891		\$174,891
Brighton	\$380,528	\$2,372,923	\$2,753,451
Cheltenham	\$6,296	\$1,069,784	\$1,076,081
Clarinda	\$88,379		\$88,379
Daylesford	\$179,686		\$179,686
Dromana	\$112,968		\$112,968
Eaglehawk	\$105,579		\$105,579
Epping	\$642,690		\$642,690
Gardenvale East	\$720,964		\$720,964
Garvoc	\$79,374		\$79,374
Geelong North	\$268,707	\$2,800,000	\$3,068,707
Glen Waverley/Knoxfield	\$5,048		\$5,048
Hawkesdale	\$107,095		\$107,095
Hazelwood North	\$91,070		\$91,070
Heathmont	\$228,663		\$228,663
Heidelberg	\$192,814		\$192,814
Heywood	\$124,833		\$124,833
Hume	\$268,114		\$268,114
Kerang/Pyramid Hill	\$111,651		\$111,651
Kilmore	\$419,891		\$419,891
Koroit	\$39,286		\$39,286
Lismore	\$188,185		\$188,185
Malvern	\$0	\$1,635,096	\$1,635,096
Moe	\$91,770		\$91,770
Moorabool	\$144,977		\$144,977
Nagambie	\$323,862		\$323,862
Numurkah	\$623,314		\$623,314
Port Fairy	\$67,428		\$67,428
Seaford	\$107,136		\$107,136
Shelford	\$422,600		\$422,600
Shepparton	\$266,795		\$266,795
Skipton	\$163,357		\$163,357
St Kilda	\$0	\$1,366,642	\$1,366,642
Stockyard Hill	\$72,355		\$72,355
Surrey Hills	\$535,908		\$535,908
Swan Hill	\$97,602		\$97,602
Tallangatta	\$98,632		\$98,632
Tatura	\$144,225		\$144,225
Thornbury	\$14,644	\$699,008	\$713,652
Warrnambool	\$397,772		\$397,772
Whittlesea/Mernda	\$610,686		\$610,686
Woodford	\$39,785		\$39,785
Wyndham	\$135,000		\$135,000
Yarram	\$137,581		\$137,581
	\$10,132,480	\$11,472,215	\$21,604,694

Use of Individual Sites Reserve Accounts in the Year ended 30 June 2015

PLEASE NOTE: The figures in the table on the next page are INDICATIVE. They are an attempt to classify past transactions in terms of proposed new regulations. The classifications may not be 100% accurate. This has no impact on any balance. The only purpose of these figures is to assist in estimating the quantum of the levy which may apply under the proposed regulations.

	Buildings	Debt Liquidation	Repair and Maintenance	Manse Allowance	Ministry	Total
Aspendale				26,055		26,055
Balaclava					2,400	2,400
Bairnsdale				20,475		20,475
Cheltenham				23,904		23,904
Daylesford			38,880	27,820	2,180	68,880
Clarinda					7,070	7,070
Eaglehawk			1,596			1,596
Dromana					9,037	9,037
Geelong North					40,000	40,000
Gardenvale East					16,223	16,223
Benalla			5,000			5,000
Glen Waverley/Knoxfield			16,853			16,853
Hawkesdale					710	710
Hazelwood North					224	224
Heidelberg				13,400		13,400
Heathmont					18,293	18,293
Hume					21,449	21,449
Kerang			30,460			30,460
Koroit			4,180			4,180
Lalor			11,200	9,750		20,950
Malvern			12,417		94,195	106,612
Nagambie			5,780			5,780
St Kilda				28,600	12,500	41,100
Seaford		73,163				73,163
Shelford	393,662					393,662
Shepparton				19,500		19,500
Surrey Hills			18,073			18,073
Swan Hill					5,000	5,000
Stockyard Hill					4,585	4,585
Thornbury					17,000	17,000
Woodford					3,183	3,183
Wyndham Vale					10,800	10,800
Moe					7,342	7,342
Whittlesea/Mernda	51,492		20,847	14,577		86,916
Yarram					11,006	11,006
Woolsthorpe			72,382			72,382
Totals	445,154	73,163	237,667	184,081	283,197	1,223,262
St Kilda re 2014				26,000		
	445,154	73,163	237,667	210,081	283,197	1,249,262

5. The financial impact of the proposed changes to Sites Reserve regulations and establishment of the PCV Endowment Fund (the Fund)

There are, as at 30 June 2015, 47 Sites Reserve accounts with a combined total value of \$21,604,694.

These accounts have been established in the past irregularly and either as the result of sale of properties held under either of the Model Trust Deeds or as a consequence of a resolution by a presbytery to dissolve a congregation and the subsequent sale of any properties held in the name of that congregation.

Purpose of this section of the report

In this section we illustrate the impact of the above proposed new BIF regulations on the Sites Reserve account as currently held.

a) Dissolved congregations – proposed regulation 11.5

There are currently 7 accounts held for dissolved congregations. The table below shows the balance of those funds as at 30 June 2015. Under proposed regulation 11.5, these funds would immediately be transferred to the Fund.

There are two accounts relating to dissolved congregations which have been at some stage assigned to the relevant presbytery to administer – Thornbury and Glen Waverley – Knoxfield. These funds were dealt with prior to 2005 when the current BIF regulations 10(c) and (d) were enacted so the funds were not dealt with in accordance with those regulations. Any such prior decision taken under the then regulations should be respected, so these accounts would not be included in the total accounts under this heading. The committee proposes that these accounts be renamed to refer to the presbytery instead of the congregation, and that funds would then be applied under the proposed regulations including 10.4.

Furthermore, the Seaford account (included in the count of 7) has already been allocated by the BIF and so is not available for allocation to the Fund.

Congregation	Account Balance
Garvoc	79,374
Hawkesdale	107,095
Hazelwood North	91,070
Kilmore	419,891
Stockyard Hill	72,355
Tallangatta	98,632
Total	868,417

b) Existing accounts where the balance has exceeded \$500,000 for five consecutive years – proposed regulation 10.5

Under the proposed regulation 10.5, where an account is held for an existing congregation and the funds have exceeded \$500,000 for more than five years, then the account will be classified as surplus funds. On 30 June each year a levy of 7.5% will be payable on the balance.

The regulation is founded on the basis that if property is sold as part of a plan to reorganise its buildings to meet current needs then this should be able to be accomplished within 5 years of the date of sale. Arguably after 5 years, unused funds are surplus to requirements and should be freed up to be used where there are greater needs. In setting the threshold at \$500,000, the needs in respect of providing a manse allowance in lieu of a manse have been considered. Based on the current Common Fund interest rates, a balance of \$500,000 will generate income of \$40,000 per year. This is considered sufficient to adequately cover a manse allowance under the new regulations.

While the named congregation will have less funds in their particular Sites Reserve, the committee anticipates and trusts that in freeing up funds and turning them over, funds will flow more freely so that future needs of the named congregation should they arise may well be met through a more efficient system.

The table below shows those accounts which would currently fall into the surplus funds category, the balance of their relevant Sites Reserve account as reported by the BIF as at 30 June 2015, the impact of the proposed 7.5% levy on the account balance and consequently the amount that would be transferred to the Fund (\$1,123,539) if the proposed regulation 10.5 is approved.

Congregation	Current SR Balance - \$	Levy at 7.5%
Aspendale	863,788	64,784
Balaclava	1,528,762	114,657
Brighton	2,753,451	206,509
Cheltenham	1,076,081	80,706
Gardenvale East	720,964	54,072
Geelong North	3,068,707	230,153
Lalor	642,690	48,202
Malvern	1,635,096	122,632
St Kilda	1,366,642	102,498
Thornbury	713,652	53,524
Whittlesea/Mernda	610,686	45,801
Total	14,980,516	1,123,539

Although the surplus funds levy rate would remain constant at 7.5%, the reduction each year on any one account would progressively get less year after year as the balance reduces. The levy is charged on the closing balance at the end of the year after interest is received, not the original balance when the account is classified as surplus funds. On this basis, if an account balance was \$1,000,000 when it was classified as surplus funds, it would take 81 years for that account balance to reduce to 60% of the proposed large balance limit of \$500,000 i.e. \$300,000 (see draft regulations 10.5b - this assumes an annual investment or interest rate return is constant at 6.5% p.a. and no other transactions on the account). So the effect of this levy in itself does not significantly impact on the balance, although other uses of the fund may combine to do so.

The table below illustrates what the balance remaining in Surplus Funds would look like over the first 10 years:

Years	Balance remaining in Surplus Funds after Interest added and Levy applied	Expected Annual Income at 6.5%	Adjusted Balance – Amount Levied	7.5% Surplus Funds levy
1	1,000,000	65,000	1,065,000	(79,875)
2	985,125	64,033	1,049,158	(78,687)
3	970,471	63,081	1,033,552	(77,516)
4	956,036	62,142	1,018,178	(76,363)
5	941,814	61,218	1,003,032	(75,227)
6	927,805	60,307	988,112	(74,108)
7	914,004	59,410	973,414	(73,006)
8	900,408	58,527	958,935	(71,920)
9	887,015	57,656	944,670	(70,850)
10	873,820	56,798	930,618	(69,796)

Should a congregation which is attached to an account which is classified as surplus funds be dissolved by resolution of the Presbytery of the bounds, then the whole of the remaining balance of the account would immediately be transferred to the Fund under the proposed regulation 11.6.

Looking into the future: some additional accounts may be classified as surplus funds as the terms of 10.5 are applied to their balance.

c) The consequence of regulations 10.5 and 11.5 on initial implementation

The effect of these two regulations would establish the Fund with a balance of approximately two million dollars within 12 months of the regulations being approved. The ongoing effect of regulation 10.5 will be income to the Endowment Fund of more than one million dollars per year.

d) Sale of property held under either of the two Model Trust Deeds – proposed regulation 11.4

Where the Assembly, or the Board of Investment of Finance, has approved the sale of a property, 2.5% of the total contract sale price will be transferred by the BIF to the Fund.

The Example to the right illustrates: The consequence of proposed regulation 11.4 is that any future sale of property held under the Model Trust Deeds will, upon approval of this regulation, attract this levy.

	\$
Contract sale price	1,000,000
Legal Fees and other say:	(6,000)
Agents Fees say:	(25,000)
Net Proceeds on Sale	969,000
Levy to the fund is calculated on Sale price	
Endowment Fund 2.5% of \$1,000,000	(25,000)
Sites Reserve balance	944,000

e) The levy impact arising under proposed regulation 10.4

Proposed regulation 10.4 would establish varying levies for purposes as stated in (a) to (j) of that proposed regulation.

The overriding principles in calculating the levy are:

1. that the levy is calculated first; and
2. the levy is only calculated on funds going out of the fund not the fund balance.

The examples below illustrate the impact:

- a) Example 1: Assumptions: a Sites Reserve account balance is \$1,000,000; and the amount requested is \$1,000,000; and the levy rate applicable is 12.5%.

Sites Reserve Account balance	1,000,000
Funds requested	1,000,000
Levy rate 12.5%	(111,111)
Balance remitted to congregation	888,889
Remaining balance in account	nil

In this example the congregation would receive \$888,888 of the amount requested with the levy of 12.5% accounting for the balance of the funds in the account.

- b) Example 2: Assumptions: a Sites Reserve account balance is \$1,500,000; and the amount requested is \$900,000; and the levy rate applicable is 12.5%.

Sites Reserve Account balance	1,500,000
Funds requested	900,000
Levy rate 12.5%	(112,500)
Balance remitted to congregation	900,000
Remaining balance in account	487,500

The levy will be charged each time a payment is made from the account. Consequently, if a monthly minister's manse allowance is drawn down and if the congregation does not have a suitable manse available for the minister then proposed regulation 10.4(g)(i) will apply a levy of 5%. This will be deducted from the account balance at the time the monies are disbursed to the congregation.

Below are worked examples showing the impact of the various levies arising under proposed regulation 11.4 (the 2.5% levy on sale of properties) and 10.4 (levies charged on usage of funds in Sites Reserve accounts)

f) Interest on the Endowment Fund

Unused funds in the Endowment Fund will be invested by the treasurer and investment returns or interest accrued will form part of the balance of the Fund and would be available to the Assembly for purposes as outlined in proposed regulation 11.2.

These proposed regulations give discretion to the Assembly, upon recommendation by the BIF, to expend any amount up to the entire balance of the Fund at any time on projects consistent with the purposes established in proposed regulation 11.2.

	Proceeds	Site Res Bal
Property sale value & Proceeds - \$	1,000,000	944,000
Reg. 11.4 Proceeds on Sale - levy rate	2.5%	

Sale of land, building or any asset covered by Model Trust Deed

11.4 Endowment Fund Levy on Proceeds

Property sale value i.e. Contract Price:	1,000,000	
Real estate agent's commission	(25,000)	2.5%
Legal fees say ...	(5,000)	
Statutory fees (if any) ...	(1,000)	
Proceeds from sale to Site Reserve	969,000	
Reg 11.4 Endowment Fund Proceeds levy	(25,000)	2.5%
Amount retained by Site Reserve	944,000	

Congregation funding request - \$	750,000					2,000		750,000	
	Reg 10.4 (a)	Reg 10.4 (c)	Reg 10.4 (d)	Reg 10.4 (e)	Reg 10.4 (f)	Reg 10.4(g)(i)	Reg 10.4(g)(ii)	Reg 10.4 (h)	Reg 10.4 (i)
Levy Rate %	0.0%	12.5%	50.0%	25.0%	0.0%	5.0%	50.0%	20.0%	50.0%
Amount Congregation receives	750,000	750,000	629,333	750,000	750,000	2,000	2,000	750,000	629,333
Levy Paid	-	93,750	314,667	187,500	-	100	1,000	150,000	314,667
Amount remaining in Site Reserve	194,000	100,250	-	-	194,000	941,900	941,000	44,000	-

Notes:

1. The table assumes an initial property sale of \$1,000,000 and funds remaining in Sites Reserve, following sales costs and regulation 11.4 levy , being \$944,000.
2. For the worked examples relating to proposed regulation 10.4, the table assumes a congregation asks for \$750,000 of the \$944,000 Sites Reserve account balance, except for manse allowances where it is assumed the monthly manse allowance approved is \$2,000 per month. In the examples for regulations 10.4(d) and 10.4(i), because the amount requested together with the levy due would exceed the funds in the account, the congregation would only receive a portion of the amount requested. The levy, in this instance, would be 50% of what the congregation receives. The examples are intended to show the position over a number of transactions covering a number of years where the expenditure is of the same type.

g) What will the balance of the total Sites Reserve account be like in 5 years' time? Will congregations whose funds are classified as surplus have funds available for major repairs?

It is impossible to predict what will be the balance of the total account or indeed any congregation's account in 5 years. But your committee has sought to model the impact on the total account and individual accounts assuming no further capital or repairs and maintenance expenditure in the next 5 years and current ministry related expenses continue to be drawn down from the account at the same rate (adjusted for inflation) across the period.

The table below shows the opening balances and modelled expected closing balances for individual accounts. Please note this is not a statement of what the account balance will be – it is only a modelled data set.

Congregation	Balance 30 June 2015	Balance 30 June 2020
Aspendale	863,788	681,846
Bairnsdale	236,551	227,270
Balaclava	1,528,762	1,453,837
Batesford	144,977	198,631
Benalla	174,891	239,616
Brighton	2,753,451	2,618,504
Cheltenham	1,076,081	895,260
Clarinda	88,379	74,921
Daylesford	179,686	72,395
Dromana	112,968	95,766
Eaglehawk	105,579	144,653
Gardenvale East	720,964	685,629
Garvoc	79,374	0
Geelong North	3,068,707	2,918,310
Glen Waverley/Knoxfield	5,048	6,917
Hawkesdale	107,095	0
Hazelwood North	91,070	0
Heidelberg	192,814	257,965
Heathmont	228,663	193,843
Heywood	124,833	171,031
Hume	268,114	227,287
Kerang	111,651	152,972
Kilmore	419,891	0
Koroit	39,286	53,825
Lalor	642,690	485,810
Lismore	188,185	257,829
Malvern	1,635,096	819,810
Moe	91,770	77,796
Nagambie	323,862	443,719
Numurkah	623,314	592,765
Port Fairy	67,428	92,383
Seaford	107,136	146,785
Shelford	422,600	500,321
Shepparton	266,795	244,499
Skipton	163,357	223,813
St Kilda	1,366,642	1,146,419
Stockyard Hill	72,355	0

Surrey Hills	535,908	509,644
Swan Hill	97,602	133,723
Tallangatta	98,632	0
Tatura	144,225	197,601
Thornbury	713,652	553,700
Warrnambool	397,772	506,604
Whittlesea/Mernda	610,686	580,756
Woodford	39,785	33,727
Wyndham Vale	135,000	114,443
Yarram	137,581	116,631

21,604,694 19,149,258

From the above it can be seen that a congregational account balance will reduce if the account is re-classified as surplus funds, yet the speed of reduction is marginal as the expected return on their investments will reduce the levy impact. But where additional funds are taken from the accounts for purposes as defined in proposed regulation 10.4, then as additional levies apply and funds are being used, the account balances will reduce more quickly.

h) What will the annual cash inflow to the PCV Endowment Fund be?

The annual cash inflow to the Fund will vary. However, if no further congregational accounts are classified as surplus funds or if funds previously classified as surplus funds are de-classified (see proposed regulation 10.5(c)) or if no further congregational properties covered by the model trust deeds are sold up, then the funds flowing to the Fund will be ever decreasing. However it is probable that other properties will be sold at later dates and the levies proposed in the regulations will come into effect for them.

The table below flows on from the table in section (g) above, and with the (somewhat unrealistic) assumption of no further property sales, shows that cash flowing into the fund will begin to diminish virtually from year 1 given the injection of funds from the eight dissolved congregations.

	Dissolved Congregation	Surplus Funds Levy	Manse Allowance Levy	Other Purpose Levy	Total
2015/16	868,416	1,210,480	8,303	94,323	2,181,523
2016/17		1,177,184	8,469	93,159	1,278,812
2017/18		1,144,060	8,638	92,033	1,244,731
2018/19		1,149,389	8,811	90,943	1,249,143
2019/20		1,154,591	8,987	89,889	1,253,467

Supplementary:

The report states that the 1935 regulations of the Sites Reserve Fund are included as an Appendix. Here is the Appendix, which also includes, for members' information, the response from the Code Committee that formed part of the consideration of the ad hoc committee, along with other submissions, before settling on the final version of the report and proposed deliverance.

APPENDIX

Code Committee response to proposed regulations

The Code Committee submits the following comments on the proposed changes to the BIF regulations for the Sites Reserve Fund.

The Code Committee understands the reasoning for the proposal but is concerned that it will only succeed in creating a serious divisive wedge between the 'haves' and 'have nots', and break the cohesion we currently have as a denomination.

The proposal therefore does not have majority support of the Code Committee and we provide some identified practical areas of concern.

It should also be noted that the Committee did not have extensive time prior to meeting to adequately consider the proposal at length; nor did it have sufficient time whilst meeting to fully tease out its concerns and implications.

The following comments are somewhat predicated on the basis that some sort of levy will proceed, even though the majority of the Code Committee are opposed to a levy.

- The historic rates of levy, while interesting, should not be used as the basis for present proposals, especially as the precise reasoning behind the original figures set and the changes subsequently effected is lost to the committee and can only be speculated.
- The 'best purposes of the PCV' cannot easily be considered independently of the health of any particular congregation because the PCV is the sum of its congregations.
- Charging the levy up-front as the first charge on funds sends the wrong signal. It prioritises the levy as more important than a local congregation's bona fide need for the proceeds of any sale.
- Charging the levy seems to be proposed with little consideration of the impact it might have on a congregation having a useful amount remaining. This is especially so of the '50%' levy.
- The regulations should avoid creating the impression that 'the children' want to benefit from 'their parent's' estate before the parents have died. This fuels greed.
- Any proposal must work to increase denominational cohesion, unity and good will rather than the opposite. Forced and legislated goodwill is never real goodwill. The best 'tax' to pay is the one that people are, on balance, happy to pay freely.
- Proceeds from deceased congregations should only go directly to the fund, if the Presbytery has no planned immediate use for the funds (e.g. a church plant of its own or allocation to another parish for property repairs or extensions).
- The principle of no retrospectivity should be established. Therefore, as far as possible, any previously agreed uses of capital or income from capital, should be

allowed to remain until a smooth transition has been negotiated (see example 6 below). Thus the proposed 'transitional arrangements' in 11.8 should exist for more than the 8 or so months proposed.

- By seeking to levy funds released for repairs, the regulations do not give adequate consideration to the needs of old and depreciated properties in many parts of the state. It may not be prudent to repair old properties, per se, but to 'repair' by selling and re-purchasing. Such transactions should be levy free.
- Therefore as far as is possible, proposed changes should enshrine the principle of no disadvantage in 10.4 and elsewhere where relevant. Thus ALL 'like for like' property transfers should be exempt from any levy up to the value of the purchase price inclusive of all costs, and not merely for a manse, church and church hall. This is preserving the functional status quo, and neither unduly profits nor disadvantages a 'selling' congregation. Levy only the surplus after the congregation has achieved the goal that warranted the sale in the first place.

Example 1:

Sell old manse to purchase new manse. No levy except on surplus after a new manse has been bought and if necessary upgraded to current manse standards.

Example 2:

Old property is useful and used but too expensive to repair, but the land is valuable. Sell the property, buy or build functionally equivalent property (whatever it is) as a replacement, and then levy the surplus only. If there is no surplus, then there is no levy. This is a TRUE windfall levy, and a true 'no disadvantage' test.

Example 3:

Sell property in order to raise funds for needed repairs on other property. Levy only on any surplus that remains (no disadvantage).

Example 4:

Sell a manse or existing property to invest for manse allowance to be paid out of Sites Reserve income. A levy could be set on the whole transaction, because this is really speculation or trading on the Sites Reserve Fund interest. A true 'like for like' would see a congregation purchase a manse and rent it out for income to offset the duration of the current manse allowance.

Example 5:

Sell property purely to pay for ministry. A levy could be set on the whole amount, after some agreed time, because this is really speculation and trading on the Sites Reserve Fund.

Example 6:

A congregation has sold property under previous regulations, and with presbytery approval and presbytery concurrence, been allowed to use the funds for parish expenses of some sort (stipend, manse allowance, etc.) or to hold them over against a future likelihood of such expenditure (i.e. the charge is presently vacant). No levy is charged (no retrospectivity), but the amounts are covered by the state-wide request for a tithe (see below), and a reasonable time window to reassess (buy a manse, presbytery to assess long term viability, etc.).

Before mandating a levy, it would be better to pursue:

1. A concerted and state-wide request¹ for voluntary contributions, such as a tithe (10%) of all existing balances now (unless already allocated for use), and possibly again in another 10 years, coupled with a 10% tithe on all surplus monies after new transactions are completed (i.e. transactions for which there is no present Presbytery approval). This may perhaps result in a smaller initial amount, but we should not despise the day of small things. A warning could be given that IF the voluntary contribution was not met, then it MIGHT be necessary to seek a higher levy IF and WHEN new properties for purchase are identified; or
2. Reviewing interest allocations to Site Reserve Funds so as to only pay a rate of interest based on the CPI rate (or some other appropriate indicator) as at the previous 30 June (whether invested separately at a higher fixed rate or not). The surplus interest 'saved' could then be allocated to the Endowment Fund. As an example and based on say \$20m at 4% differential, some \$800K would be available to the fund annually.

John P Wilson
CONVENER, CODE COMMITTEE

¹ This could involve personal approaches to every board and congregation which has funds in sites reserve with a request that they freely give a tithe. Would it be a demanding task? Perhaps, but the effort would be worth it. A levy of 10% [tithe] of their capital, would probably not make a huge decrease in any annual income which might be depended on.

1935 Sites Reserve Regulations

SITES RESERVE FUND.

II.—653-657.

CHAPTER XXXI.—SITES RESERVE FUND.

653. A Fund has been instituted to assist in the purchase of new Sites, which are to be the property of the Church; and charges, as hereinafter provided, are made on sales and leases of Church, Manse and School lands, to be applied to the maintaining of this Fund.

Objects of the fund.

654. When the proceeds of the sale of Church, Manse or School lands are to be expended in liquidating existing building debts, the charge shall be 50 per cent. on such gross proceeds. But in exceptional cases, where the debt was not incurred in circumstances met by the Rules, the Assembly may, after Report on every such case by the Committee, fix a special percentage.

Percentages claimed.

655. When the proceeds are to be applied to the executing of repairs on buildings, the charge shall be 20 per cent.

656. When the proceeds are to be applied to the erection or purchase of new buildings, or to the making of additions to the former buildings, the charge shall be 12½ per cent., it being at the same time provided that an amount shall be raised by local contributions towards such erections or additions, to the satisfaction of the Assembly's Committee on Sales and Mortgages. In cases where a Church, Manse or School has been erected on the property sold, and the proceeds are to be applied to the purchase of a new site and the erection of a Church, Manse or School, whose combined value shall be at least equal to the value of the site and buildings sold, there shall be no charge made for the Sites Reserve Fund.

657. Where Congregations have purchased property with their own revenue without assistance from funds under the control of the Assem-

bly, and in cases where property has been gifted or bequeathed specifically to a Congregation, there shall be no charge for the Sites Fund, but $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. shall be paid to Church Expenses.

658. When the proceeds are to be expended on the purchase of a new Site, there shall be no charge for the Sites Reserve Fund.

659. When the proceeds are to be expended in two or more of the modes afore indicated, the amount to be applied to each purpose shall be ascertained or estimated, and the percentage deducted in each case determined by the foregoing Regulations.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
additional.

660. In all the above cases an additional charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the gross proceeds shall be paid into the Assembly Expenses Fund.

Leases.

661. All leases of Church, Manse or School lands shall be subject, first, to an annual charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for Assembly Expenses, and next, to a further annual charge of 5 per cent. (except in any case in which the Assembly may hereafter charge a higher percentage on special grounds) to be applied to the Sites Reserve Fund. These percentages shall be deducted annually from the rents of the leasehold, and paid to the Assembly's Treasurer.

Not for
longer than
28 years.

662. No leases shall be approved for a longer term than twenty-eight years, except in special cases, in which they may be approved for not longer than fifty years. But all such special cases must be decided on by the Assembly, after having received the approval of the Committee on Sales and Mortgages.

Applications.

663. All applications to the Sales and Mortgages Committee shall be forwarded through Presbytery clerks, and accompanied by the recommendation of the Presbytery, and shall reach the Church Office at least a month before the meetings of the Assembly or Commission.

Mortgage
deeds.

664. In the event of foreclosure or a sale under any mortgage of Church, Manse or School

property, the percentages in regard to such foreclosure or sale, as determined by the manner in which the proceeds are to be applied, shall form a first charge on the land or the proceeds after payment of all moneys secured by the mortgagee, and all expenses of any such foreclosure or sale, and shall be payable to the Assembly's Treasurer accordingly; and the mortgagors shall sign a direction to the mortgagee or mortgagees to that effect.

665. All documents relating to, or affecting Church property, and requiring the signature of the Moderator of the Assembly, shall be first approved and certified by the Law Agent, and the Moderator shall see that this has been done before signing any such document.

All documents
to be approved
by Law Agent.

666. In all cases where power is given to Trustees and Congregations to sell Church, Manse or School lands, the whole of the proceeds shall be paid to the Assembly's Treasurer, as required by the terms of the Trusts stated in their applications.

Proceeds paid
in first
instance to
Assembly's
treasurer.

667. No applications for permission to mortgage, lease, sell or exchange shall be considered or dealt with by the Sales and Mortgages Committee until the Title Deeds have been forwarded to the Assembly Hall for registration and safe custody until required by the Trustees for the purpose specified in the application, unless in cases where the Committee is satisfied that it is not practicable. All applications granted and not availed of shall be subject to the above condition.

Title Deeds.

668. No sales, leases or mortgages shall be effected, nor shall grants be made from the Sites Reserve Fund, without the consent of the Assembly or the Commission of Assembly. When, however, applications are received which, in the opinion of the Presbytery and the Sales and Mortgages Committee, are urgent and re-

Consent of
Assembly.

quire to be immediately considered, the Committee may deal with them, and shall include all such cases in its report to the Assembly or Commission as the case may be.

David J Palmer
CONVENER

ARCHIVE – PCV (Min. 32)

This year the PCV Archive has made a priority of collection and systems maintenance. This means that the archive, for years to come, will be in better shape, will be more accessible and of greater service for the church.

To allow time for the archivist to attend to this necessary work we have suspended the public inquiry service in order to have the time to concentrate on the collection.

Chris Palmer is a very hard working archivist who gives faithful personal attention to each approach for her services. Chris' work is of the highest standard. The PCV probably has the best maintained and best indexed church archive in Victoria.

We are very grateful for the General Assembly funding this Archive.

Our voluntary helpers have supported the work magnificently. Always, this work is a team effort.

Digitisation

The retirement of our long-serving Office Admin Assistant, Ros Grant, meant that the task of creating a digital record of every General Assembly Blue Book came to a halt, but we shall resume work in due time.

Booklets

This year the PCV Archive presents two well-researched items for your enjoyment and use. Two booklets, freshly completed:

1. A Guide to Writing Parish History
A practical guide to writing a historical account of a parish. Includes helpful information about how to approach this task, such as conducting research and writing an accurate and engaging historical publication.
2. Portrait Biographies
A collection of biographies describing the Christ-centered lives of each of the early Presbyterian leaders whose portraits adorn the walls of Assembly Hall.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) (Min. 49)

1. Missions Promotion

Last year, the Victorian committee committed to take a more pro-active approach to missions promotion within Victoria, seeking through invitation to the convener (and other committee members), to visit congregations and to encourage them to re-look at gospel partnership, both locally and overseas.

However, although we acknowledge the enthusiastic mission ministries of several congregations, the general response from PCV congregations has been minimal. The committee would like to encourage all congregations to prayerfully review and/or re-consider their commitment to missions – local and overseas.

Mission Agencies

The committee, through the convener, continues to liaise with Victorian Mission Agencies, and is currently seeking information from the various mission agencies regarding their respective policies concerning the recent change to Child Protection Laws.

Cultural Diversity Workshops

The committee continues to encourage PTC Staff and Students to attend workshops offered by Missions Interlink called *Working Effectively in Cultural Diversity*; and again offers to sponsor up to a maximum of 10 people (staff or candidates). The cost is to be met from Grants – Mission Expenses.

Missionary Movements

The committee, through Rev Philip Burns, continues to provide periodical email updates of Missionary Movements. If your congregation would like to be included in the circulation, please contact Philip Burns.

2. Missionary Interviews

The committee met eight times since the last October 2014 Assembly, and apart from regular items of business, the committee also met with and interviewed our National Director and Victorian Moderator as well as the following missionaries on home assignment: Joy Hill, Douglas and Jeanette Bennett, Paul and Janae Denness, Daryl and Soyoun Jackson, David and Lalit Clarke, Mavis Price, Barbara Brown, Rob and Teresa Paix, Joy Arundell (née Venning), and John and Lynette Ellis.

The committee greatly values these meetings which are seen as an essential part of our pastoral care to our missionaries. They provide both the committee and our missionaries with the opportunity to review and discuss first hand their experiences and/or concerns.

Since the 2014 Assembly, the following missionaries have commenced service: Ian and Rachel Campbell and family in West Asia, John and Kara Dekker and family at Talua Ministry Training Centre in Vanuatu, and Aaron and Katie Rigg and family with MAF in Northern Territory.

Several missionaries have transferred to other mission agencies or areas of service: Paul and Janae Denness from MAF to Navigators, Joy Hill from Interserve Melbourne Office to Pioneers for service in Hungary and Dennis and Glenys Tranter from Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM) to Global Recordings Network (GRNA).

John and Lynette Ellis concluded their full time service in India, as has Joy Arundell.

Joy Hill and Tumirin and Sheridan Indarto continue to seek full support to enable their departure for their fields of service and there are currently two families in the early stage of application for APWM Partner Agency membership.

The committee would especially like to acknowledge and give thanks to God for Barbara Brown's 40 years of faithful missionary service through Navigators.

3. Missionary Poster

The committee believes the poster plays an important part in promoting/keeping our missionaries' faces before our congregations, and therefore, would ask congregations to keep their notice boards 'up to-date'. Congregations are also 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.

4. Finances

The committee praises God for his wonderful provision through the Victorian Assembly Simon Fraser Trust funds of \$45,000 per annum, 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, utilities, telephone and internet costs.

The committee again used the budget surplus to provide 'one off' donations toward our missionaries' superannuation funds (with the voluntary exception of Len Pearce and John Ellis) - \$1,340 per couple and \$670 per single. Trust Funds continue to provide support for our Vanuatu Partner Church missionaries plus scholarship assistance for Talua Ministry Training Centre (Vanuatu) and Presbyterian Theological Seminary Dehra Dun (India) students, and the Mantons (ministering at Mt Druitt Presbyterian). The committee greatly appreciates the continued prayer/financial support of the Victorian Assembly.

5. Coins for Mission (C4M)

The committee continues to praise God for the 42 Victorian churches that faithfully support C4M. To date, our missionaries have been blessed with receiving \$99,302 distributed up to July 2015. Again, the committee wishes to point out that the Coins for Missions program, which encourages every church attendee each Sunday to deposit \$2 in the C4M box, was never meant to be a substitution for a church's missionary giving, but as a supplementary effort. Amazingly, if every person attending a Presbyterian church in Victoria was to give \$2 each Sunday, we would collect over \$400,000 per annum for emergency use.

The committee has been able to financially assist our missionaries with support short fall, emergency health/medical and travel needs, among other things. The committee has received numerous expressions of thanks and appreciation from many missionaries who have received generous C4M support through the 42 churches enrolled in the program.

Please prayerfully consider your participation and the wonderful blessings it provides to our missionaries. The committee's 'Coins' representatives are Rev and Mrs Len Pearce, who are willing to visit any church anywhere in Victoria from Mildura to Orbost in the cause of C4M. Please invite them personally.

6. Cars for missionaries on Home Assignment

The committee continues to provide, by God's grace and provision, the use of vehicles for our missionaries home on furlough. Unfortunately, the Mazda was recently involved in an accident (hit roo) and had to be written off – the insurance payout has been earmarked toward a replacement vehicle when one is needed. (We do not want/need one now, though I expect we would accept a fairly new gift or very generous offer).

The committee has also recently purchased two child seats for our missionaries' use, who have, on many occasions, expressed appreciation and thanks for the use of our small fleet of vehicles.

7. Mission Lunch

The committee has invited Rev and Mrs John Ellis as the mission lunch speakers for 2015. The primary purpose of the mission lunch is to build a bridge between our missionaries and the members of the Assembly – to get to know who they are, what they do, what they need, how we can support them and be their partners in mission. Experience around the world, and in various denominations, has shown that the minister/pastor is actually the important bridge builder between the missionary and the local church. We need, above all, to give vision to our ministers.

The committee wishes to thank the Assembly for previous years of faithful support for the mission lunches, and looks forward to your continued support.

8. Overseas Mission Relationship

The committee has continued, in conjunction with APWM Federal, to support and encourage our relationship with PTS India and our Partner Churches in South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Vanuatu and Japan. We are also seeking to develop a closer working relationship with the Victorian Partner Mission Agencies, in order to provide a more comprehensive pastoral service to our missionaries whilst in the field and on home assignment.

9. 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 the world, and continues to place representatives 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.

10. 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 three executive meetings per annum. The committee has appointed either Rev Dean Carroll or Douglas Bennett to accompany the convener to these meetings. The committee greatly appreciates the support and encouragement received from the National Director and the National Committee members.

11. GMP

For some time now, the committee has been concerned about many congregations' misunderstanding of the reference to 'mission' associated with the name of the GMP (General Mission Program). Unfortunately, many congregations consider their annual GMP contribution as 'giving' to our missionaries – whereas, at best, only 25% is set

aside toward our missionaries, and would be considered as an 'involuntary' giving, rather than the prayerful sacrificial giving it should be, to the wider cross cultural missions work of the Great Commission.

Consequently, the committee recently resolved to ask the 2015 October Assembly (by deliverance or overture) to alter the name of the GMP (General Mission Program) to something that removes the misunderstood reference to 'mission' (e.g. GAP 'General Administration Program'). Therefore, the committee will seek to present an overture to the Assembly to effect a desired change.

Phil Simmonds
CONVENER

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Programme	40,746
General Donations and Gifts	1,100
Common Fund Interest	63,668

Total Income	105,513
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Expenditure:

Grants	69,296
Missionaries Superannuation	14,950
Missionaries Motor Vehicle Expenses	17,206
Committee General Expenses	4,407

Total Expenditure	105,859
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Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

(345)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	206,841
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(345)
Add Back Depreciation	6,707

Balance 30/6/15	213,203
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Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/15	307,671
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Overseas Appeals

	Opening Bal.	Donations	Payments	Balance
Malawi	3,827	32,692	36,519	0
Coins for Mission	303	34,363	33,460	1,206
Zambia	100	7,400	7,400	100
	4,230	74,454	77,379	1,306

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	Vanuatu Trusts	Beatty Trust	Bone Bequest	Dehra Dun Trust
Income:				
Bequests			216	
Common Fund Interest	19,421	15,158	8,708	4,710
Total Income	19,421	15,158	8,924	4,710
Expenditure:				
Grants	26,650	20,000	20,000	2,825
Total Expenditure	26,650	20,000	20,000	2,825
Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts	(7,229)	(4,842)	(11,076)	1,885

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	124,179	128,089	82,326	14,376
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(7,229)	(4,842)	(11,076)	1,885
Balance 30/6/15	116,950	123,248	71,250	16,261

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/15	41,451	25,000
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BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Min. 28)

Belgrave Heights Christian School continues to be a vibrant community, maintaining a strong and enthusiastic witness to the reality of the Christian faith. From the Principal and the Chaplain, right through to the most recently appointed staff members, there has been a genuine commitment to living out the challenge of the school motto, that is, to do what the Lord requires of us; 'to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8). In this regard, the recently developed program, Positive Education, which has been adopted as part of the school's approach to ensuring a healthy learning environment, has been carefully adapted to ensure that it meets the requirements of our Christian worldview.

The commitment to providing opportunities for all students to reach their full potential in the areas of their gifting is evidenced by the fact that those who have made the most of these opportunities have achieved excellent outcomes in their academic, sporting and cultural pursuits. School Board members were very impressed with the reports provided by senior staff in the three levels of the school at a dinner arranged by the Board, held in the most impressive Trade Training Centre restaurant which is proving to be a great asset to the school.

Students and staff have continued to go beyond the call of duty through entry into fund-raising events and fitness challenges, as well as enthusiastic commitment to special events like the fifth annual ItzAAAfest with its emphasis on imagination and creativity. Special services like the Anzac Day commemoration and Easter Assembly featured significant levels of student involvement, as did the events celebrating the end of year for the graduating year twelves and a couple of celebration services encouraging the attendance of members of the local community. Many extra-curricular activities have proved popular. Events like the Dads and Sons, Dads and Daughters, Mums and Daughters and Mums and Sons evenings have been very well supported, as have a breakfast for student leaders and a Chaplain-led voluntary worship service attended by about 70 students.

During the year the Principal and other senior staff members kept their eyes on the wider issues impacting Christian education. Through the Christian Schools Association, they were able to meet with government representatives to raise concerns regarding the recent challenges facing State Religious Instruction. They also joined with other Christian organisations in maintaining vigilance in the matter of Equal Opportunities legislation with its potential threat to Christian schools being able to appoint suitable staff.

The school has continued its commitment to the cause of Christian schooling through the Council's decision to establish a Christian School Support Fund through which it provides assistance to school development in places like Cambodia and Indonesia. We have also provided support and encouragement to those who are seeking to establish new schools in our own region. Furthermore, the Principal and Business Manager have made closer links with Ranges Technical School, a Christian Trade Training Centre, a facility set up by three Christian schools in Melbourne's outer east.

The Board continues to be impressed with the efforts of the staff and students to maintain the distinctive focus on the environment. These efforts have drawn further financial grants, in particular for the work on the Monbulk Creek and the "Frog Bog" project.

Through the inspiration and guidance sought from and given by God, Belgrave Heights Christian School has continued to prosper, its enrolments growing substantially in a time when other schools in the area have declined in number. Furthermore, our school's contribution to education was once again given high acclaim by both federal and state government representatives in the recent opening of the new Middle School. The attendance of members of the Assembly and the Maroondah Presbytery was both encouraging and fruitful as they and members of the school Board shared in lunch in the Trade Training Centre restaurant.

In our prosperity under his hand, let us never forget God's call:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him
and he will direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Warwick Davidson
CHAIRMAN

BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA (Min. 46)

It is worth repeating that while Bible Society Australia does not have a mechanism for relating to denominational bodies as such, it certainly desires to make contact with individuals, congregations and groups within congregations in denominational bodies. Access to the Bible Society and its reports and prayer material can be made through its website and through its publications. Bible Society staff who are available in Victoria for visits to parishes and church organisations are Geoff Warren and Mark Nidenko.

The Assembly appointed me as Bible Society Representative in 1996 and the selection committee list of that year indicated a 5 year appointment. This appears to have been forgotten over the years and my filling of this appointment has continued without break since that time. During this period the structure of the Bible Society in Victoria and in Australia has changed as has been indicated in reports over recent years. The time has come when, both because of personal circumstances and because of the Bible Society's changed relationship to church denominations, I am asking the Assembly to relieve me of this particular appointment.

I firmly believe that the PCV should continue to affirm the significance of the work done by the Bible Society of Australia and recommend its support to the church at large, and this is proposed in the deliverance attached to this report.

Keith Allen
BIBLE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min. 23)

Background

The Board of Investment and Finance (the Board) is elected by the General Assembly. Its regulations are approved by the General Assembly, as for any other Committee. The Board consists of ten members, each of whom is required to retire after five years from date of appointment but is eligible for re-election for a second five year term. Members of the Board form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

The duties of the Board are to:

- Administer the financial affairs of, 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 use of 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 Geoff Cox	Audit Committee
Rev Stephen Deroon	Investment Committee
Mr Matthew Duke	Audit Committee (Convener)
Mr Andrew Letcher	Secretary, Investment Committee
Rev Barry Oakes	Audit Committee
Rev Mark Smith	Audit Committee
Mr Jerry Tharapos	

Edward de Zilwa has completed ten years of service on the Board of Investment and Finance/Trusts Corporation and under the regulations is due to retire. Mr de Zilwa has made a valuable contribution to the BIF/TC during his term. He has served as Chairman since December 2012, as a member of the Audit Committee since 2006, as well as numerous other roles. We thank God for all that he has done and wish him God's continued blessing for the future.

Church Office

The Board is 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, Miss Susie Cloete, Administrative Assistant and Mrs Sharee Barnett, part-time book-keeper, is much appreciated.

We welcomed Miss Susie Cloete as a new member of the staff at the end of March. Susie works as receptionist and administrative assistant. She has quickly established herself in the role and is gradually getting to know the workings of the PCV. Susie has already proven herself to be a valuable addition to the staff.

Administrative Services

As well as processing the payroll for all Assembly and committee staff, the office provides an optional payroll service to congregations. Under this arrangement, the office will make all payments and deductions relating to a minister's remuneration. This is intended to relieve a local treasurer of the burdens that come with administration and compliance associated with the payment of the stipend, NCB and superannuation. The service is offered free of charge.

More than fifty ministers as well as 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. The office is also providing book-keeping services for another congregation for a monthly fee. This arrangement has been in place for more than two years and is operating well both from the point of view of the congregation involved and the church office. The BIF is now in a position to offer this arrangement more widely.

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	\$2,740
Business Convener	\$850

In accordance with the Code 5.16c, the Board has fixed the Law Agent's retainer for the 2015/16 year at \$33,000.

Sites Reserve Accounts

The Sites Reserve Account holds funds which are the proceeds of sale of church property. On the following page is a summary of movements in the accounts for the year:

	2014/15	2013/14
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	18,678,456	17,679,733
Plus		
Deposits from Sale of Property	2,939,697	1,383,288
Interest & Other Income	1,307,790	1,193,374
Capital Gain/(Loss) on Separate Investments	53,892	758,648
Less		
Capital purchases / works as per BIF Reg10 (b) (i)	(584,727)	(1,763,709)
Any other purpose as per BIF Reg 10 (b) (ii)	(40,000)	(48,500)
Interest paid to congregations BIF Reg 10 (a)	(478,990)	(524,378)
Deceased congregations BIF Reg 10 (d) (i)	(145,545)	
St Kilda property reclassified	(125,878)	
Balance at 30 June	21,604,694	18,678,456

The Board awaits the report and recommendations of the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee which was constituted at the October 2011 General Assembly.

Capital Fund

The interest rate charged on Capital Fund loans is 3.0% a year. The costs of funds borrowed from the Trusts Corporation is 6.5% a year. The surplus of \$87,071 for the year was transferred to the Property Development Fund (2014 \$87,994). A summary of accounts in relation to the Capital Fund follows:

	2014/15	2013/14
	\$	\$
Receipts		
Interest on loans to congregations	81,666	80,355
Interest from Common Fund	181,520	182,010
Other Investment Income	2,045	2,310
Total Income	265,232	264,675
Payments		
Interest paid on loans from Common Fund	176,618	174,843
Interest paid on depositors funds	1,543	1,637
Other expenses	0	250
Grant to Property Development Fund	87,071	87,944
Total Expenditure	265,232	264,675
Surplus	0	0
Balance of Capital Fund Reserve	1,497,775	1,497,535
Deposits held for congregations, PWMU, etc.	77,945	82,660
Loans to Congregations and Schools	2,432,671	2,853,643

The Capital Fund continues to have considerable capacity to lend to congregations, and the Board welcomes applications for appropriate projects. Monthly repayments for new loan applications are calculated based on an interest rate of 3% over 20 years. The maximum loan amount is \$1 million.

Property matters

Since the last meeting of the Assembly, approval has been given under BIF Reg 9 (a) for the following urgent property transactions:

- Lease of 11 Wilson Street, Brighton for 5 years
- Lease of 31 Orrong Crescent, Caulfield for 5 years

Ministers' Holiday Housing

We commend Mr Ben Palmer's administration of this scheme that is evidently much appreciated by serving ministers who may benefit from it for a week each year.

Additional Expenditure

Since reporting to the Commission of Assembly in May 2015, the Board has approved an amendment to the Social Services budget of an additional \$850,000 for the purchase of a property adjacent to the Kirkbrae site.

Proceeds of sale of property relating to deceased congregations

In accordance with BIF Reg 10(d) the Board approved the allocation of the Seaford Sites Reserve as follows:

- a) \$100,000 to Dromana/Mornington for funding towards building a new church and hall with the proviso that the funds must be applied to the nominated project within 24 months;
- b) the balance of \$73,000 to the reduction of the SE Samoan loan with the capital fund.

Emergency Funding

Under the provisions authorised by the Assembly in 2005 (Min 83.5 2005 BB p88) the Board approved expenditure for up to \$5,000 by the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee for legal advice on the wording of the proposed regulations.

Privacy Policy

The report of the PCV Privacy Officer is attached. The BIF supports the recommendations made in that report and moves them as deliverances.

Conclusion

It has been a privilege to serve God and his church by working on the Board and on the Trusts Corporation. I want to acknowledge the assistance of the General Manager, Mr Michael Ellison, and also to thank the members of the Board, past and present, for their friendship, co-operation and support.

REPORT OF THE PRIVACY OFFICER

The General Assembly in October 2003 appointed myself as Privacy Officer of the General Assembly (2003 BB Min 56.7 p98). It is in that capacity that I present this report and proposal to the Assembly within the report of the Board of Investment and Finance.

In 2012 the Privacy Act which was introduced in 1988 was comprehensively amended. A significant component of the amendment was to introduce 13 Australian Privacy Principles which underpin the new Privacy Laws. The new laws make it essential for not-for-profit organisations to incorporate privacy compliance into their day-to-day operations.

On behalf of the Assembly, the Privacy Officer and the Board of Investment and Finance have been working on an appropriate response to the legislation. After some initial consideration of the matter and its applicability to the church, the Safe Church Training and Compliance Officer, Mrs Fiona Bligh, was engaged to prepare a report and recommendations. The Safe Church Unit Manager was informed and was fully supportive of the request. A copy of the briefing paper prepared by Mrs Bligh is attached as an appendix to this report.

Following the receipt of the report, the BIF drafted a Privacy Policy and set of Privacy Guidelines consistent with the first recommendation included in the report. The Policy and Guidelines, as included in the BIF deliverances, are now presented to the General Assembly for approval and adoption. It is not simply a matter of approving a Privacy Policy in order to comply with the legislation, although a policy is an important component. The other aspects include training, monitoring and record keeping as detailed in the report.

Mrs Bligh has indicated her willingness to and enthusiasm for taking on the responsibility for implementing the balance of the proposal. This would include, as a first step, appointing Mrs Bligh as the Privacy Officer of the General Assembly. Now that the Safe Church Unit is established, the role of Privacy Officer seems to fit more appropriately within that structure than with the responsibilities of the incumbent. This view is shared by the BIF and the Safe Church Unit Manager, as well as Mrs Bligh. The Privacy Officer should be responsible for:

1. Administration of PCV Privacy Policy;
2. Handling of privacy complaints and enquiries;
3. Training PCV personnel in aspects of the Privacy Act that apply to their day-to-day activities; and
4. Dissemination of the PCV Privacy Policy through online and paper-based communications with PCV congregations and organisations.

Once appointed, the Privacy Officer would work to implement the balance of the recommendations in the report, specifically recommendations 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

It is anticipated that this role could be accommodated by increasing the paid hours of the Safe Church Training and Compliance Officer by 3 hours per fortnight from 45 hours to 48 hours. The training budget should also be increased to allow the Privacy Officer to attend appropriate workshops and training.

I am most appreciative of the assistance of Mrs Bligh for her work to date and assistance in bringing this proposal to the Assembly.

Michael Ellison
PRIVACY OFFICER

APPENDIX 1

Briefing Document for the Board of Investment and Finance - PCV

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Date: September 2014

Context

This document has been prepared in response to a request from Michael Ellison, General Manager, on behalf of the Board of Investment and Finance (BIF) PCV for a plan outlining how the denomination might respond to the requirements of the new Australian Privacy Principles legislation. In particular the BIF requires direction concerning the formulation of a new privacy policy to apply to all PCV churches and organisations with the exemption of Kirkbrae Nursing Home and Retirement Village (who will establish their own specific privacy policy).

This document provides an outline of suggested action but does not constitute legal advice and has not been drafted by a lawyer. Rather it is a briefing designed to:

1. alert the BIF to the issues raised by the new privacy legislation
2. allow for better informed discussion for the BIF when exploring the issue of provision of a new privacy policy and guidelines for the PCV
3. provide suggested options in terms of provision of a new privacy policy, guidelines and other requirements of the new legislation.

It is recommended that the BIF clear any new privacy policy and guidelines with the Law Agent of the PCV to ensure the organisation is compliant.

Background

The Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act) was amended by the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Bill 2012. The amendments took effect on 12 March 2014.

The amendments generally add provisions and corresponding compliance obligations. As a result the PCV requires a new privacy policy and new procedures regarding privacy within the denomination.

Briefings on Issues Arising

Q: What options are available to the PCV in terms of provision of a new privacy policy?

Investigations revealed that the Presbyterian Church of NSW (PCNSW) has already reviewed its privacy policy in response to the new legislation. The PCNSW has also created a set of guidelines which act as the procedure and system for practical implementation of the policy across the denomination. The

legislation is a federal act and the PCV is subject to the same legal requirements as the PCNSW. As a result, the PCNSW privacy policy and guidelines, with the permission of the PCNSW, may be appropriated by the PCV and altered to reflect the Victorian church environment.

The Clerk of Assembly has made enquiries with the PCNSW about this. As a result, the PCNSW has given permission for the use and adaptation of the PCNSW privacy policy and guidelines within the PCV.

The PCNSW policy and guidelines are available as a PDF at:
<http://pcnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Privacy-Policy-Guidelines-PCNSW-May-2014.pdf>.

Use and adaptation of the PCNSW privacy policy and guidelines seems an excellent way forward for the PCV as it is logical for the PCV to be aligned with the PCNSW in policy and practice. It also reduces labour and costs for the PCV in terms of the creation of a privacy policy and guidelines as these have already been borne by the PCNSW.

Q: What other legislative requirements are the PCV subject to in terms of implementation of the new privacy policy?

The following information is based on the 'Compliance Briefing Paper for Not for Profits – The New Privacy Laws & Australian Privacy Principles' as provided to the SCU by Michael Ellison:

1. The PCV must have a documented Privacy Program in place – the PCNSW privacy policy and guidelines form a Privacy Program and hence this requirement will be met by the use and adaption of their policy and guidelines by the PCV.
2. The PCV needs procedures, practices and systems integrated into our organisational governance framework relating to our privacy policy and enquiries and complaints.
3. The privacy policy and guidelines must be published and made readily available at no cost and all congregations and organisations notified of the new policy and guidelines.
4. The PCV requires a dedicated Privacy Officer, to whom all privacy related enquiries and complaints are directed.
5. The PCV must survey the churches and organisations to enquire about what sort of personal information is collected by them and for what uses. The survey results need to be documented and archived for compliance. This survey is referred to as a 'Personal Information Management Audit'.
6. The PCV must deploy a training module for all PCV staff and workers educating them in the PCV privacy policy and guidelines and where to direct privacy enquiries and complaints.
7. The PCV must ensure all Information Collection Forms (for example when congregations collect personal information for church directories) include a Privacy Collection Notice.
8. The PCV must establish practices, systems and procedures to ensure we are compliant in an ongoing fashion – known as a 'Compliance Program' – and effectively monitoring and reviewing our practices in this area.

Possible recommended options to meet the legislative requirements for the BIF to consider

The following options are numbered and relate to the numbers in the above section relating to legislative requirements:

1. The PCV use and adapt the PCNSW privacy policy and guidelines for the Victorian Church environment. Any adaptations should be cleared legally by the PCV law agent. This will then form the PCV's Privacy Program.
2. The guidelines form the procedures, practices and systems integrated into our organisational governance framework relating to our privacy policy and enquiries and complaints.
3. The PCV publish the privacy policy and guidelines online at all websites under the umbrella of the denomination. Hence the privacy policy and guidelines would be available on individual congregations' websites and all PCV organisation websites. The privacy policy and guidelines should also be published on the PCV website. It is also suggested that the PCV publish the privacy policy, guidelines and Privacy Officer's contact details in an article about the new policy in 'Fellow Workers' to adequately publicise this information. Finally all congregations and organisations should be notified of the new policy and guidelines either via a broadcast email or via a mail out.
4. The PCV appoint a Privacy Officer to whom all privacy enquiries and complaints are directed and this person's contact details are made available through the measures described in point 3 above.
5. The PCV undertake a 'Personal Information Management Audit' of the entire denomination. A simple and cost effective way of doing this would be to survey the congregations and organisations using the survey website www.surveymonkey.com – the survey would consist of a few simple questions and pre-determined options for selection in relation to what personal information is collected and how it is used across the denomination. There is the option of creating such a survey through this website at zero cost. The link to the survey would then be emailed to congregations and organisations for completion. Survey Monkey collate the results and these are then documented by the PCV and archived.
6. The PCV record a short video on a smart phone or tablet of a PCV employee going through the new privacy policy and guidelines explaining how this affects practice in the denomination. This video would then be uploaded to youtube.com where it can be accessed and viewed by all PCV employees. The link to the video would then be emailed to all congregations and organisations with a request for employees to view it. This is a zero cost option and merely requires the formulation of a script which goes through the subject matter and then this to be recorded and uploaded. PYV has already made use of this option for training for PYV leaders. It is a simple and cost effective training device.
7. The Privacy Collection Notice contained in the guidelines should be published on all material used within the denomination that collects personal information – examples include: forms for church directory information, ministry forms including youth group camp forms, PYV camp forms, Kids' Club registration forms, and PWMU branch membership lists. It is envisaged that each congregation and organisation will be able to determine when to attach the Privacy Collection Notice and the training video would also cover this aspect.

8. A 'Compliance Program' is established and distributed to all congregations and organisations. While this sounds onerous, it could merely consist of a checklist of items relating to the Privacy Program. Items to be checked/completed might include:
- The congregation and organisation staff have watched the training video
 - The Privacy Collection Notice is attached to all material used to collect personal information
 - The Privacy Policy and Guidelines and the contact details of the Privacy Officer have been made known to the congregation/organisation and are available on their website.

Suggested timeframe for establishment of such a Privacy Program within the PCV

As the legislation came into effect in early 2014, it is suggested ideally that the PCV complete the creation of a Privacy Program within 2014 and see it deployed in early 2015 as congregations and organisations commence the new year.

Supplementary:

Since drafting its report to the Assembly, the Board of Investment and Finance has been notified by the Assembly Clerk of two overtures from the Presbytery of North Western Victoria requesting the Assembly to instruct and direct the Board of Investment and Finance in relation to the matters raised in the overtures. It is disappointing that Presbytery did not consult with the BIF prior to submitting the overtures to the Assembly. The purpose of this report is to inform the Assembly of relevant matters relating to the overtures.

Overture 5 Re: Treasurers

The report of the BIF to the 2015 Assembly in the White Book at page 47 under the heading of 'Administrative Services' notifies the Assembly of a book-keeping service provided by the General Office which is available to congregations. The petition of the overture has already been satisfied.

As mentioned in the previous report, the system which is in place has been operating for more than two years during which time the procedures have been developed and refined. Based on this experience the BIF is now satisfied that this service can be managed efficiently within the General Office.

The system which is offered is a book-keeping service. The operations which are able to be delegated to the General Office are those of a processing nature. They include:

- Payment of ministers' monthly remuneration and superannuation
- Payment of invoices once properly authorised by the local board
- Entry of monthly budget from figures provided by the local board
- Preparation of monthly reports
- Preparation and filing of quarterly BAS including PAYG deductions
- Preparation and filing of Annual Payment Summaries associated with stipends

The management functions of the local board cannot be delegated to the General Office. The board must maintain responsibility for those matters including:

- Preparation of an annual budget
- Preparation of the Annual Parish Report
- Hiring of and interaction with the auditor
- Approval and authorisation of all payments
- Interpreting the monthly reports
- Managing the budget and expenditure

It is essential that the congregation has a treasurer to take responsibility for these matters. In cases where the congregation is unable to meet its obligations in these areas, the General Office cannot adequately fulfill the book-keeping functions. In order for the system to work, a minimum level of capability and competence must exist within the congregation.

In order to manage the work load, the charge has been determined to be minimum of \$250 per month. Depending on the volume of work this may need to be increased in some cases. The General Office does not have unlimited resources and cannot absorb an indefinite additional workload without an increase in costs. Those costs need to be found from somewhere. The BIF does not support the proposal to charge a fee based on the operational income of the congregation. This will inevitably lead to a shortfall in meeting the costs of operation which must be met from somewhere else. The BIF considers it far more preferable that the cost be met by the congregation and if necessary the congregation apply for financial assistance from Assembly committees as appropriate. Another option may be for the larger congregations which are in a better financial position to sponsor the cost for those that cannot afford to pay.

Overture 6 Re: Insurances

For many years, the TC/BIF has negotiated favourable terms and rates for a single policy for property insurance which is available to any congregation that chooses to insure under that policy. Invoices are sent individually to each congregation and the local board is primarily responsible for arranging the insurance. While it may have the appearance of being a separate policy for each congregation, that is not the case. The benefits of consolidating the total portfolio to increase the 'buying power' are already being enjoyed.

Over the years a number of insurers have approached the General Manager offering to quote on the portfolio, each time with the assurance and confidence that they will definitely be able to provide a better deal. In every instance, they have been unable to come close to matching the terms we currently enjoy.

In addition to the cost benefits of this policy which are attractive we also benefit from favourable terms. In particular the 'co-insurance' clause which is found in almost every building insurance policy has been removed from the current policy. Co-insurance means that when the level of cover is found to be less than the insurance value and a claim is made, the insurer is not obliged to meet the full cost of the repairs. The removal of this clause is a very significant benefit which has not been matched in any other offer.

The existence of this policy is notified to church treasurers and boards at least annually when the General Office issues the insurance manual detailing the insurances which are covered under other premiums which the BIF arranges. According to our records all but one of the properties in the Presbytery of North Western Victoria are already covered under this policy. One congregation in the presbytery has recently moved its cover to this policy after consultation with the General Manager.

Over the last 18 months, estimates of the insurance value have been done for most properties around the state. In some cases, this has led to a significant increase in the insured sum which is reflected in the premium.

For the current financial year, 108 congregations are insured under this policy with a combined insurance value of more than \$250 million.

Edward de Zilwa
Chairman

General Assembly

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Programme	165,061
Donations & Gifts	550
Common Fund Interest	531,697
Management Fees	151,195
Scots Church Properties Trust	97,456
Safe Church Unit Levy	65,965
Sundry Income	3,970
Archival Fees	159
Total Income	<u>1,016,054</u>

Expenditure:

Accounting and Audit Fees	31,884
Personnel	506,214
Grants Paid	6,090
General Mission Programme Distributions	165,061
Office	22,126
Legal Expenses	734,121
Insurances	3,829
Safe Church Unit	56,046
Property	8,949
General Assembly	55,268
Archives & Historic Records	49,510
Total Expenditure	<u>1,639,100</u>

Surplus on General Operations

(623,046)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	3,557,122
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(623,046)
Add back depreciation	4,225
Decrease / (Increase) in Current Assets	146,191
Decrease / (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(16,442)
(Decrease) / Increase in Current Liabilities	(5,502)
Balance 30/6/15	3,062,548

Perpetual Funds

<u>Balance 30/6/15</u>	2,286,996
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General Assembly

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	Beneficiary Trusts	Special Trusts	Unallocated
Income:			
Pres-AID Donations		76,206	
Interest Capital Fund Loans		81,666	
Common Fund Interest	471,070	472,699	85,582
Other Investment Income	111,589	2,045	
Rental Ministers' Holiday Homes		11,250	
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	22,894		
Total Income	605,553	643,866	85,582
Expenditure:			
Grants	51,920	183,554	-
Grant to TEC Bursary Fund		200,000	
Moderator's Expenses		24,857	
Accounting & Legal Fees	4,029	-	-
Insurance Risk Management		36,906	
Interest Expense - Capital Fund		178,161	
Pensions Ministers & Widows	2,700		
Rental Assistance	11,500		
Superannuation		32,195	
Ministers' Holiday Homes Expenses		109,121	
Expenses for Missionaries on Home Assignment		15,456	
Total Expenditure	70,149	780,252	-
Surplus on Specific Trusts	535,405	(136,386)	85,582
Movements in Funds			
Balance 1/7/14	4,906,839	3,199,589	681,881
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	535,405	(136,386)	85,582
Housing Fund Loans	(400,000)		
Movement in Pres-Aid fund owing		(1,900)	
Balfour Memorial Trust Transferred	(1,108,982)	1,108,982	
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Fund Deposits		(4,714)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Separate Investments	(97,268)	4,955	
Balance 30/6/15	3,835,994	4,170,525	767,463
Separately Invested Funds - Donaldson Trust	1,501,847		
Separately Invested Funds - Capital Fund		78,721	
Perpetual Funds			
Balance 30/6/15	434,811		

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (Min. 108)

The committee continues with its regular work of advising and assisting congregations with various building matters and of approving plans for proposed works in accordance with its regulations.

Most often, but not always, boards and congregations appreciate that the committee's role is to help them achieve the best possible outcome, and welcome the assistance of the committee in the completion of planning building projects.

An essential part of this work is the valued input and advice of the Church Architect, Mr Les Oliver, and the committee again expresses its sincere appreciation of his dedication, skill and unflappable approach to the many and varied issues that arise in the course of its work.

Membership

The committee was glad to welcome to its membership from the 2014 General Assembly Rev Andrew Venn, and I had hoped that he might be able to take over as convener from this General Assembly; however, for personal reasons he has not been able to continue as a member of the committee. His membership was brief but appreciated.

The committee also loses from this Assembly one of its 'foundation' members, Elder Graham Nixon. Graham joined the committee when it was reformed as a separate committee after being part of the MDC for some years. Graham has advised that he is no longer able to continue as a member of the committee. I have been very glad of Graham's support and input during the past 7 years, and record my personal thanks for his valued contribution to the committee's work.

Mrs Jenny Bell, while no longer able to be a member of the committee because she is now living interstate, continues to serve as an advisor to the committee, and her contribution is also much appreciated.

I would welcome expressions of interest from persons prepared to serve on the committee. The work is not demanding, and most of the committee's work is done by email and phone conversations, with rare site inspections, and the Church Architect provides professional advice and counsel. Some experience in the building industry would be highly desirable, but not essential.

Maintenance of manses

The 2014 General Assembly resolved to:

'Request the committee, with the assistance of the Church Architect, to prepare an additional section to the Assembly's Minimum Manse Standards, '***Maintenance and Upgrading of Existing Manses***', with the following clauses being framed in the form of guidelines and recommendations to boards of management and presbyteries for the regular maintenance of manses and the review of manses with a view to, as far as practicable, bringing them into compliance with the current minimum standards, especially in terms of heating/cooling, insulation, etc., with a view to bringing the proposal either to the May 2015 Commission of Assembly, or to the October 2015 General Assembly for approval.'

Due to the business of the Church Architect and the business of the convener and his preoccupation with other Assembly committee matters, little progress has been made on this project during the year. The committee is not yet in a position to bring a proposal to the Assembly, and seeks approval to defer the matter till the 2016 General Assembly.

Assessment of manses for exit and other appointments

The committee reported to the 2014 General Assembly that it had been asked by the Ministry Development Committee if it would be open to assisting it improve its services to ministers by either taking over from it or assisting it with the assessing of the suitability of manses associated with parish applications for an exit student appointment.

The Assembly resolved to:

‘Approve the committee assisting the Ministry Development Committee with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments as follows:

- i. The Ministry Development Committee may ask the committee (through its convener) to report on the condition and general suitability of manses for proposed appointments;
- ii. The committee will refer such requests to the Church Architect, who will either inspect it himself and report to the committee, or, in cases where it was impractical for him to inspect it himself, arrange for or approve of some other suitably qualified person to inspect and report, the cost of such report to be borne by the congregation.
- iii. The committee will then take appropriate action in response to this report, including advising the Ministry Development Committee of the report and liaising with the board of management regarding necessary repairs, renovations etc., and, after due process including, if necessary, further inspection and report, ultimately approving or disapproving the suitability of the manse for the proposed appointment.’

‘Request the Committee to report further to the 2015 General Assembly on its experience in assisting the Ministry Development Committee with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments, and seeking any changes to its regulations that it may consider appropriate in the light of that experience.’

Since that time, the committee received only one request from the MDC for such inspection and report, and that was for inspection and report concerning the Seymour manse in connection with the proposed appointment of a home missionary to Seymour-Yea-Nagambie.

In handling this request the committee followed the above procedure; the Church Architect inspected the property and produced a written report covering the various issues that needed to be addressed to bring the property up to a reasonable standard.

Then, being on leave in the area, I also had the opportunity to inspect the property. This was very helpful when it came to liaising with the board. Clearly, not all the matters identified in Les Oliver’s report were of the same significance, and so the committee put the matters he had raised, with some that came out of my own inspection of the property, into three categories: immediate (= should be done before

the appointment of a home missionary); later (= should be done as soon as possible) and longer term (= to be worked towards).

The committee forwarded this to the board for its consideration, with a note that 'the Committee sees this as part of the process outlined in part (iii) of the Assembly's approval – "liaising with the board of management regarding necessary repairs, renovations, etc., and, after due process including, if necessary, further inspection and report, ultimately approving or disapproving the suitability of the manse for the proposed appointment", and that it would take no further action on the matter until it has a response from the board.'

However, the board did not respond to the committee, and our next knowledge of the matter was hearing that a home missionary was to be appointed, and so there had been some action on the matter to the MDC's satisfaction.

In preparing this report I asked the MDC how it saw the inspection and report process on existing manses working, and received the following positive response:

'Certainly we could say that the inspection was very helpful in drawing to the MDC's and the SNY Board's attention issues that needed addressing in the manse. With the Board's assurance that these issues would be addressed, the MDC was happy to go ahead with an appointment.'

This experience was valuable, but the committee considers that with only one inspection, it hasn't had enough experience yet to propose a formalising of the arrangement with changes to its regulations. The committee recommends that the Assembly approve it continuing to assist the MDC with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments for a further 12 months, reporting on progress to the 2016 General Assembly.

Checklist survey for existing manses

Having regard to both the maintenance and upgrading of existing manses and the committee's possible role in assisting the MDC in assessing existing manses, the Church Architect has prepared a checklist survey for the assessing of existing manses, which he has passed over to the committee to review and to decide how to evaluate and access the results.

Les Oliver, in forwarding the proposed checklist to the committee, comments:

'As previously suggested it will require someone with a building industry background to complete the survey, especially with respect to the Insulation/Energy rating section.

Once the information is gathered we still need a way of assessing which deficiencies are to be addressed and in what timeframe.

In my opinion the most crucial elements are the following and it should be mandatory to address any deficiencies with these first:

- 1.2 Building access
- 2.1 Study/Office
- 2.6 En-suite and toilet
3. Heating
4. Cooling
6. Insulation/energy rating

It will be challenging in many cases to address all the above issues and I believe we should offer some form of incentive or trade off system whereby other elements are included to offset any critical items that can't be solved without major expenditure. This could relate to the provision of 'optional' elements in the 'Manse Standards' such as:

- Solar hot water system
- Solar panels for electrical generation
- Double glazed windows
- LED light fittings

In order for boards of management to be able to calculate what will be required I still believe some sort of point system will be required for both evaluation and remedial action. Without such a system we run the risk of making arbitrary assessments and recommendations.

The difficulty will be in determining the value of each element and then deciding how many points are required in the initial phase of upgrade and again in the long term.

Where recommendations are required to be made by the Building and Property Committee we will require measured floor plans to be provided in order to establish if modifications to the layout can be achieved.'

The committee has yet to commence work on reviewing the checklist and deciding how to evaluate and access the results, but it will be a priority in the coming year, if not sooner. A copy of the draft checklist is below, and the committee would welcome feedback on the proposal, positive and negative.

APPENDIX 1

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

MANSE SURVEY

INSPECTION DATE:

PARISH:

ADDRESS:

Construction details :

When built:

Floor construction (concrete slab, timber on stumps):

Wall construction (brick veneer, solid brick, timber/weatherboards):

Roof construction (timber framed, tiles, corrugated sheeting):

CLAUSE	SUBJECT	Yes	No
1.1	Location		
a)	Is the manse on the same title as the Church?		
b)	If yes to a), is the manse attached to the Church building?		
c)	If yes to b), is the manse linked internally to the Church building?		
d)	If yes to a) or b), does the manse have a separate private entrance and garden?		
e)	If no to a), is the manse located within 2kms of the Church?		
f)	If no to e), how far is the manse located from the Church?		kms
	Recommendations:		
	If yes to c), this situation should be rectified where possible?		
	If no to d), this situation should be rectified where possible?		
	If further than 5kms in f) above, approval to maintain as a manse should be sought?		
1.2	Building access		
a)	Is pedestrian access from the street or from a visitor parking area on the site to the front entry wheelchair friendly?		
b)	If no to a), is pedestrian access to another entry wheelchair friendly?		
c)	If the building entry is elevated is there ramped access to the entry?		
d)	Are there multiple steps to negotiate?		
	Recommendations:		
	If no to a) and b), and yes to d) then construction of ramped access is recommended?		
	Establish if existing access conditions can be improved.		
1.3	Orientation:		
a)	What direction do the windows in the Lounge face?		
b)	What direction do the windows in the Family room face?		
c)	What direction do the windows in the main Bedroom face?		
d)	What direction do the windows in the other Bedrooms face?		
	Recommendations:		
	If any windows in the above rooms face west can anything be done to shield them from the sun?		
2.1	Study/Office:		
a)	Is the Study/Office attached to or located at the front of the house and able to be accessed without passing the private living areas?		
b)	Is there a waiting area available adjacent to the Office?		
c)	What is the floor area of the Office, clear of built in cupboards and shelving?		m2
d)	What is the length of book shelves in the Office?		lin.m.
e)	What direction do the windows in the other Office face?		
f)	Does the Office have phone and internet connections?		
g)	Is there a toilet and hand basin nearby, separate from the family facilities?		
h)	Is there a separate Office facility available for the Minister at the Church?		
g)	When there is a separate Office facility at the Church, does it meet all the requirements?		
	Recommendations:		
	All deficiencies in the Study/Office requirements need to be addressed.		
	If deficiencies exist, when were the Study/Office facilities last reviewed?		

CLAUSE	SUBJECT		
2.2	Lounge room, Dining room	Yes	No
a)	Are these rooms provided and separate from the Family room?		
b)	Can the Lounge be used for meetings without intruding on the family spaces ?		
c)	Is there a toilet and hand basin nearby, separate from the family facilities?		
	Recommendations: If the answer is no to any of the above, provide a solution to overcome the deficiency.		
2.3	Kitchen, Family room	Yes	No
a)	Does the Kitchen have a minimum floor area of 14m2 and have 5 lineal metres of bench space, adequate cupboards and pantry storage? If less, provide details.		
b)	Are the following minimum requirements fulfilled:		
	Oven with griller		
	Cooktop with minimum 4 burners and rangehood with external exhaust		
	Space above bench for microwave oven		
	Dishwasher (minimum 3.5 star energy rating and 4 star water rating)		
	Space for refrigerator and upright freezer		
	A minimum of three double power outlets over benches (separate provision for microwave oven, fridge, freezer and dishwasher)		
	Recommendations: If deficiencies exist, what improvements can be made immediately?		
2.4	Bedrooms	Yes	No
	Are the following minimum bedroom requirements met?		
a)	Bedroom 1 - 13m2 floor area, 2 lineal metres of wardrobe, 2 double power outlets and phone outlet		
b)	Bedroom 2 - 12m2 floor area, 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe, 2 double power outlets		
c)	Bedroom 3 - 12m2 floor area, 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe, 2 double power outlets		
c)	Bedroom 4 - 11m2 floor area, 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe, 2 double power outlets		
	Recommendations: If the answer is no to any of the above, advise if improvements are possible.		
2.5	Bathroom	Yes	No
	Are the minimum requirements comprising separate bath, shower cubicle, vanity cupboard with basin and mirror over, exhaust fan and some form of heating provided.		
	Recommendations: If the minimum requirements are not provided, list the deficiencies and advise what changes are possible.		
2.6	Ensuite and WC	Yes	No
	Does the main bedroom have an ensuite bathroom with shower, toilet and hand basin?		
	Is there a separate toilet with hand basin for the family?		
	Recommendations: If the answer is no to either, advise if changes are possible.		
2.7	Laundry	Yes	No
	Are the minimum requirements of trough and cabinet, storage cupboard for brooms and iron board provided?		
	Is there space for a floor mounted washing machine (with hot and cold taps) and wall mounted dryer?		
	Is there a wall or ceiling mounted exhaust fan?		
	Recommendations: If the answer is no to any of the above, advise if changes are possible.		
2.8	Linen/storage cupboard	Yes	No
	Is there a linen cupboard provided in the family section of house of the house?		
	Recommendations: If not, construct one if possible.		

CLAUSE	SUBJECT	Yes	No
3	Heating		
a)	Is heating provided to all habitable rooms?		
b)	Is there an efficient and economical heating system to the Lounge, Dining room, Family room and Study/Office?		
	Recommendations: If no to either of the above, investigate the most economical and efficient system available for the location. If natural gas is not available, consider the installation of solar panels to reduce electrical costs of heating.		
4	Cooling		
a)	Is airconditioning provided to the Family room and Study/Office?		
b)	Evaporative cooling is an acceptable alternative, except in humid climates.		
	Recommendations: If neither of the above cooling systems are present, they must be installed. Consider replacing inefficient wall or window mounted airconditioners.		
5	Hot water service		
	Is an efficient hot water system installed?		
	Recommendations: If not, consider installing a solar storage hot water system when replacement required. Where natural gas is available, an instantaneous gas hot water unit is a good alternative.		
6	Insulation/energy rating	Rating	
a)	What insulation rating exists with the current roof/ceiling system?	R	
b)	What insulation rating is achieved by the current wall system?	R	
c)	What insulation rating is achieved by the current floor system?	R	
	Recommendations: A minimum R value of 3.7 should be achieved by the roof/ceiling system. Adding insulation batts in the ceiling insulation is the simplest means of improving the rating. A minimum R value of 2.2 should be achieved by the external wall system. Improving the rating can be difficult unless wall linings are removed and this is only recommended where existing linings, either internally or externally need replacing. A minimum R value of 1.0 or 1.5 should be achieved by the floor system depending on whether the house is in climatic zone 6 or 7. Little can be doone with a concete slab on ground, but it is recommended insulation be installed below timber floors where access is available.		
7	Solar panels	Rating	
	Are solar panels installed on the house? If so what is the rating achieved?	kW	
	Recommendations: If electricity usage is high, consider installing solar panels to reduce future energy bills.		
8	Floor coverings	Yes	No
	Are any of the floor coverings in need of replacement? If so, which ones?		
	Carpet (list rooms):		
	Vinyl (list rooms):		
	Tiles (list rooms):		
	Polished boards (list rooms):		
	Recommendations: Replace floor coverings where worn and restretch carpet if loose. Ensure servicable finishes exist in all wet areas.		
9	Windows	Yes	No
	Are all the window sashes servicable and lockable?		
	Are the surface finishes well maintained or is painting required?		
	Is the glass to all windows and doors compliant with current requirements?		
	Are curtains or blinds fitted to all habitable rooms?		
	Are windows fitted to windows in habitable rooms?		
	Recommendations: Ensure safety glass exists to all doors and sidelights. Fit window locks to sashes where not present. Provide pelmets to windows with curtains to minimize heat loss.		

CLAUSE	SUBJECT		
10	Light fittings		
	Are light fittings provided to all rooms?	Yes	No
	Are low voltage halogen light fittings installed in any rooms?		
	Are external lights fitted at the front entry and all external doors?		
	Recommendations:		
	Replace low voltage halogen globes with LED globes where possible.		
	Replace incandescent globes with fluorescent globes where possible.		
11	Garage or Carport	Yes	No
	Is there a garage or carport on site for at least one car?		
	If provision for only one car in a) above, is there space to park a second vehicle on site?		
	Recommendations:		
	Ensure garage doors are operable		
12	Rainwater tank	Yes	No
	Is there a rainwater tank, if so what capacity?		
	Is the tank connected to toilet cisterns and laundry trough?		
	Recommendations:		
	These are currently the requirement for 6 star rating. 5000 litre tank recommended.		
13	Garden store	Yes	No
	Is there a shed or store room for garden equipment, tools, workbench etc?		
	What size is the garden shed/store?		m2
	Recommendations:		
	Ensure garden shed is provided.		
14	Clothes line	Type	
	Is there an external clothes line provided?		
	Capacity:	lin. m.	
	Recommendations:		
	Ensure clothes line is servicable and of adequate size.		

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Identify all maintenance issues with the existing property. In addition to the facilities listed above ensure the following are assessed:

- Condition of roof finish, identify any defects, check pointing of tiles and flashings to upstands.
- Condition of roof guttering, downpipes and connections to drains.
- Condition of water pipes, ensuring adequate water flow.
- Condition of all paving, driveway, access paths and steps.
- Identify any cracking in brick walls.
- Ensure sub-floor spaces are dry and check for movement in timber floors.
- Ensure sub-floor ventilation is adequate.
- Check floor stumps for any deterioration or subsidence.
- Check electrical switchboards safety switches, circuit breakers and residual current devices.
- Check condition of perimeter fencing.
- Record condition of internal and external painting.

Peter Phillips
CONVENER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE (Min. 58)

There has been a significant degree of turnover in our committee membership over these past two years. Thankfully, by God's grace, we have been able to meet the obvious challenges that come with the retirement of key members. Our newer members have risen to the occasion and have served the committee with distinction. We give thanks to God for the service of those who have retired from the committee during the year. In particular we give thanks for the ministry of Rev Scott Kroeger who has served the CENC as its convener for many years, and then, upon retiring from the position, agreed to serve on as a regular member. We also remember the tireless work and support that Scott and Nancy gave to the work of PYV over many years. Rev Scott Kroeger has now retired from the committee upon accepting a call to church ministry in Queensland.

We currently have five committee members. Predictably, we are still in the process of seeking new members for our committee. We are looking for people 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.

See For Yourself (SFY)

Since our last report, CENC has been looking for a suitable person to help with marketing SFY DVDs to Christian Colleges and Christian Bookshops. It was intended that this position would be part-time. However, it was difficult for CENC to find a suitable person willing to take on this part-time role. Due to the huge challenge of selling our product in this very competitive sector of the market, and after much discussion and prayer, CENC resolved to contact a Christian Online Bookshop, based in Sydney, to market and sell the SFY DVDs. The bookshop was not interested in our proposal, and subsequently, CENC has resolved to donate 20 copies to Christian Education Committee (CEC) of the GAA. Many thanks go to the Women's Ministries Victoria who have been helping to sell SFY DVDs during their conferences.

Hui Lim

SFY - Kinder to Year Six

The CENC continues to watch over the development and writing of a new series of kinder to year six 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.

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.

PYV Council Report

PYV celebrated its 20th anniversary on 28 February 2015 at Canterbury Presbyterian Church with a thanksgiving service followed by a time of cross-generational celebration. Praise God for sustaining PYV over the last 20 years and we pray that

our Lord will continue to protect and prosper this work for the next 20 years and beyond. A big thanks to the committee for organising such a joyous event.

Our regional camps this year have been centered around Grace and Holiness, with Heath Easton at West Camp, Aaron Boyd at East Camp and Brian Harvey at North Camp. PYV wishes to thank the local congregations of each of these men for allowing them to come and speak at our camps. Their input has been invaluable. It has been exciting to see many new young faces attending these regional camps and discovering more about our Great God and learning how to live a life that pleases Him. Thanks also to Sonja and Brian for scouting out new campsites for East, North and Summer Camps. We look forward to hearing Andrew Vines speak on Practical Christianity at Summer Camp.

This year has also seen the roll-out of the Safe Church practices within PYV. Thanks go to Fiona Bligh for all her hard work overseeing our policy document changes, which allow us to protect our young people, and our leaders, in line with new Government regulations. From Summer Camp 15/16, all PYV leaders must have completed Safe Church Basic Training.

Once again, PYV is incredibly grateful to CENC for their guidance and leadership, in particular for their financial support for the purchase of a new keyboard and an updated photocopier for the office. Finally, PYV is tremendously thankful for the Social Services Committee for their ongoing support to numerous campers who require financial assistance to attend our camps and events.

Nic Bilyj
PYV Convener

Youth Ministries Director (YMD)

Once again, I want to thank the Assembly for their trust and confidence in me in the role of Youth Ministries Director. I enjoy the responsibility that I have been given, and look forward to serving you over the next few years at least. If I can support or encourage youth ministry in your parish, please talk with me.

2015 has been an interesting year. The PYV report mentions our regional camps and our 20th anniversary event. But this has also been a year of weddings. We are excited to see a number of PYV leaders moving into the next stage of life, and hope many of them will continue to be involved with PYV as married couples. Praise God for young love.

There has been a change in the PYV Office. Sonja Otto has been serving as an Administration Officer but has now left the building as she prepares for the birth of her first child in September. (By the time you read this, she will likely be a mother.) We are delighted to have Lilly Suraj taking on this role over this period. Please give her your support and interest if she calls you.

It has been a delight for me to visit most presbyteries over 2015. I recognise that in many parishes, youth work is either a vision of what might be or a dream of what has been. Again, if I can help you in any way, please ask.

We continue to take leadership development seriously and are pleased to work alongside the METRO committee with YouthMETRO. This program provides an opportunity for young leaders, or potential leaders, to work with someone from that

church to learn and practice ministry. A number of our parishes have found this to be valuable learning tool. We also encourage people to attend the Engage Conference at the end of January each year. At this conference, we get the opportunity to hear excellent preaching, but also learn how to read and teach the Bible effectively. This is a valuable conference for those involved in ministry of all levels, and we would encourage your support.

I gratefully acknowledge the support of the PYV council, which is currently being convened by Nic Bilyj, and the support and interest of CENC.

Finally, I remind you that our teenagers need three strong connections. Firstly, they need a strong connection to Jesus Christ. This should go without saying, but there are many in the Christian church who have grown cold, and it should not be so. Secondly, teenagers need a strong connection to each other. How is your church leadership helping teenagers to deepen their faith and friendships? Thirdly, teenagers need a connection with older generations. They need to hear the testimonies of faith of those who have walked with Jesus for decades. How will they hear this in your parish?

Catechism

In 2015 we have once again tweaked the traditional Catechism Exam to be the 'Catechism Experience'. You will remember that we have used the traditional version of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and a modernised version in past years. This year we have also introduced a Children's Catechism version which has allowed a number of younger children to take part. We hope to be able to make more of this in future years.

We have also offered a substantial subsidy to the PYV Summer Camp as a prize, and this seems to have been a good motivation for some to learn this part of the WSC.

While we are delighted to know that there are people around the state who are learning and studying the catechism, the numbers are still very low. We have some ideas that might help that to change, and I am always happy to discuss other options (even if we do not act on those suggestions).

Congratulations to those who worked hard and have earned their prize.

Brian Harvey
Youth Ministries Director

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 our website to provide easy access to forms and other materials that would be of interest to 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.

Finances

The net surplus for the year in General Operations, after depreciation, was \$5,382. Income and expenditure were generally in line with our budget. Committee funds available for General Operations at the end of the financial year were \$486,783, 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 \$31,513. Income was generally as detailed in our budget. Expenditure was less than forecast due to the postponement of production and design work for a new See For Yourself production.

The balance of the Allan Bequest Common Fund is now at \$592,608. The Allan Bequest continues to be in good shape to fund those appropriate ministries that we trust will arise in the future.

Hui Lim

Women's Ministries Victoria

This year began with the WMV 2015 Conference. It was a wonderful day with over 200 women from across the PCV and a number from other denominations attending. As with all first events, this conference was not without its problems, but it was a great start to the year.

On the Road events began on June 20th at Ballarat, with others scheduled in August at Wangaratta, and at the end of the year at Woori Yallock. We would like to express our thanks to the presbyteries and their welcome to us with our 'On the Road' days. Your support is much appreciated.

Some of our future intentions include:

- Potentially putting together a multi-media team and equipment;
- Training at PTC for women mid-year;
- Potentially putting together a resource for men/ministers regarding women's ministry;
- Working with John Wilson on a framework for a constitution for WMV, to be set up something like PYV.

Please pray for wisdom for our committee as we seek to serve, encourage and support the women of the PCV.

Mairi Girgis
WMV Convener

18-30 Retreat

We consider it to be of great importance to our denomination that the committee would strive to provide an event, such as a weekend camp, for the age group of 18 to 30 years of age. However, as this age group falls outside the PYV camping structure, it has been difficult for us to attract the necessary personnel to maintain a yearly, weekend camp event. We are hoping that there is some momentum in this direction developing at this time, and we would ask for prayer as we seek to grow this ministry. Thankfully, we have finances available to seed this strategic work. We pray that a team will be able to organise and run a camp next year.

Matthew James
CONVENER

Christian Education & Nurture

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	90,559
Womens Ministry Income	7,752
Total Income	98,311

Expenditure:

Seminars	16,450
Office	114
PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	49,000
Grants to PYV	24,230
Committee Expenses	3,135
Total Expenditure	92,929

Surplus on General Operations

5,382

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	481,288
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	5,382
Add back depreciation	114
Balance 30/6/15	486,783

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/15	268,250
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Allan Trust

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	71,613
See For Yourself Sales	504
Total Income	72,117

Expenditure:

General Expenses	318
PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	39,000
Prizes	1,285
Total Expenditure	40,603

Surplus on Specific Trusts

31,513

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	561,095
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	31,513
Balance 30/6/15	592,608

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/15	27,852
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Presbyterian Youth in Victoria

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Equipment Hire	323
Donations	1,105
Fundraising for Campers	1,500
CENC Subsidies	90,000
Grants	5,000
Common Fund Interest	48,083
Total Income	146,011

Expenditure:

Activities Deficit/(Surplus)	
Youth Leaders Conference	(2,982)
East State Camp	1,191
West State Camp	1,355
North State Camp	494
Social	1,644
Family Camp	(546)
Summer Camp	(1,158)
Merchandising	1,516
Volleyball	1,049
Computer & Software	1,886
Depreciation	1,540
Insurance	2,460
Personnel Expenses	112,389
Office and Administration Expenses	13,490
Total Expenditure	134,327

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

11,684

Movements in Funds

	Common Fund	Paypal	Total
Balance 1/7/14	148,701	5,101	153,802
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)			11,684
Add back Depreciation			1,540
Decrease/(Increase) Current Assets			706
Assets (Purchased)/Disposed			(3,983)
Balance 30/6/15	162,654	1,094	163,748

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/15 **268,250**

CHURCH & NATION COMMITTEE (Min. 85)

Federal Matters

Same-Sex 'Marriage'

As many of you know, there are several Private Members' Bills before this current Parliament. The decisions of Ireland to support homosexual marriage, and the radical decision of SCOTUS to argue the Constitution guarantees the right to homosexual 'marriage' has strengthened the wind at the back of those calling for homosexual 'marriage'. It is entirely possible that the Coalition will hold rank, refuse to give a free vote, and as a consequence (for the time being) the status quo will remain.

However, if a free vote is given, it is also possible that homosexual 'marriage' will prevail in the lower house, as it certainly will in the upper house. Culturally, it is already the new orthodoxy, and we can expect immense pressure on both institutions and individuals to conform.

Last year your committee thought it was prudent to put up a discussion paper to prepare us as a denomination on how we might respond if the Marriage Act (1961) was redefined to include homosexual 'marriages'.

Our GAA Moderator, David Cook, wrote earlier this year: 'The question that Presbyterian ministers must face is, as registered marriage celebrants, are we prepared to continue to operate under an Act which unacceptably redefines marriage?' In 2014, the Church and Nation Committee adopted the following position to take to the GAA 2016: '...to pursue the withdrawal of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, from the Marriage Act (1961), if "Marriage" were redefined in order to include or provide for same-gender marriage.'

Consequently, we asked the Assembly to request presbyteries to consider four different options, and to report back to the committee their mind on the matter. The four options were as follows:

1. The Church could **continue** as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act (1961) and **recommend** that ministers continue as celebrants as long as they are not required to solemnise same-sex marriages.

[The church would protest the possible introduction of changes to the Marriage Act (1961), but once the Act was changed it would continue to operate under the Act, as long as ministers had freedom to refuse same-sex ceremonies.]

2. The Church could **continue** as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act (1961) and **advise** ministers who have a conscientious objection to remaining as celebrants how they might withdraw from registration.

[Individual ministers are not required to be registered as celebrants and so are always free to withdraw their registration. However, if so-called 'same-sex marriage' were introduced, the Church could recognise the concerns that might lead to ministers withdrawing and offer advice and support to those who choose to do so.]

3. The Church could **advise** and **encourage** ministers to **withdraw** as celebrants, but continue as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act (1961).

[This option may seem to send mixed messages. It would allow ministers who wished to continue as celebrants to do so as ministers of the Presbyterian Church, while stating the view that ministers should withdraw. If all ministers did so, the church might subsequently cancel its own status under the Act.]

4. **The Church could withdraw** as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act (1961) and establish a form of ecclesiastical marriage.

[This option is the preferred position of the GAA CaN Committee and would see the Presbyterian Church of Australia withdraw entirely from the Marriage Act (1961). A form of ecclesiastical marriage would have to be carefully designed. It may be that other Christian churches would wish to share in this, or at least establish mutual recognition of such marriages.]

At the time of writing, ten of the eleven presbyteries had responded. Seven were in favour of option 4, and two were in favour of option 1, and one was in favour of option 2.

Option 1. Continue until forced to perform homosexual marriages.

Maroondah; Melbourne West.

Option 2. Continue, but advise ministers with objections how to withdraw.

Melbourne North.

Option 4. Withdraw as a denomination.

Ballarat; Benalla; Flinders; Geelong, Gippsland; Kilnoorat; North Western Victoria.

No response:

Melbourne East.

How we respond as a denomination to the redefinition of marriage requires a lot of thought and discussion. We believe our response to this issue falls under the category of wisdom rather than sin/righteousness. We realise that many good people will address the issue from different perspectives and end up with different positions.

Our sister church in New South Wales recently met and, after spirited debate, decided to ask the GAA to consider withdrawing from the Marriage Act (1961). The vote was 140/62 in favour of withdrawal. While Queensland have not yet had such a vote, I do not expect to see similar support for withdrawal. What our survey shows is that the matter is worthy of further discussion and consideration at the next GAA.

Political Situation

Tuesday, 11 August, was a good day. The Coalition maintained its policy position despite ferocious pressure from media and lobbyists alike. In my opinion it is probably the best outcome we could have expected. Praise God! At this stage it looks like the Coalition will maintain their party position on marriage but enter the next election promising a referendum on homosexual 'marriage'. A referendum requires both a majority vote and a majority of States.

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium – August 7-8, 2015

On August 7-8 in 2015, yourCaN held the biannual Colloquium 'Religion in The Public Square'. The 2015 event was held in the Werner Brodbeck Hall, with refreshments in the Robert White Hall. Keynote speaker Dr Scott Rae was excellent, and his talks on *Business and the Common Good* and *A Theology of Work* were outstanding. He mentioned how we often see church as the front line, and going to work as the supply lines (paying for church ministries), when in fact it is the other way around. Church is the supply line of worship, fellowship, encouragement, teaching and training, and work is the battleline. He helpfully developed a biblical view of vocation in the wider context of our cultural mandate.

Other speakers engaged those in attendance with views on ethics, apologetics, secularism, Islam, marriage and homosexual 'marriage' as well as an excellent talk on the Christian and law, which reminded us of benefits and challenges of natural law. It was encouraging to see so many young folk attend this year. However, I was surprised at how few Presbyterian ministers attended. The committee will give consideration to this when considering the 2017 colloquium (C17). MP3s of all the talks are available via our website for a modest cost.

Submissions and Letters

The committee has made two government submissions this year relating to same-sex couple adoption and the eight-year review on the Charter of Rights.

- Submission to the Attorney-General's Department regarding the review of the Charter of Rights
- Submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission to permit adoption by same-sex couples

We have also written a plethora of letters concerning homosexual 'marriage', refugees, persecuted Christians and the implications of the inherent requirement test for Christian schools and institutions.

Committee Statements

At this time, CaN is working on three statements that we believe might help the PCV navigate difficult pastoral and ethical issues. We had hoped to bring two of those statements to this Assembly, but have run out of time. We intend to cover the following:

- Statement and advice on domestic violence;
- Statement and advice on transgenderism;
- Statement and advice on a Christian response to homosexuality.

Persecuted Christians

The committee continues to be concerned about the plight of Christians in other nations who are undergoing persecution, in particular Iraq and Syria.

The committee is continuing to look at ways in which we as Presbyterians can assist those overseas who are suffering for their faith. We continue to commend churches to engage in regular and specific prayer for the persecuted. Up-to-date information is available from sites like www.barnabasfund.org and Elizabeth Kendal's 'Religious Liberty Monitoring' (www.elizabethkendal.blogspot.com.au) where there is also a page with critical prayer requests.

One new endeavour started by Barnabas Fund, 'Operation Safe Havens,' aims to fund the rescue of persecuted Christians, one family at a time. Specifically, OSH

attempts to evacuate those Christians at imminent risk of death because of their faith and who do not have options to flee elsewhere due to closed borders. Sixty Syrian Christian families have recently been evacuated to Poland where they are receiving support from local churches and charities. The funds required for Australians to engage in a similar project are indeed great, as each family would need their entire financial costs met for travel, accommodation and food. Is this something the Australian Presbyterian Church should consider? As Christians, we need to work out how best churches and individuals can sacrificially love our brethren in Christ. At the very least, we should be funding the escape of Christians from situations of intense persecution where we can. We should also be petitioning our government to give priority to persecuted Christians fleeing from these areas.

However, we also believe there are many opportunities for Christian churches to practically minister to refugees who are already here. Assisting with language, food, housing and friendship are all practical expressions of seeking the 'welfare of the city.' While sharing our love for them, we should also share with them that greater love of the Father who sent his Son as a ransom for many.

Committee Finances

During the 2014/15 fiscal year, the committee experienced no fiscal challenges. We expect in the next fiscal year, we may run a small deficit due to the Colloquium. However, given our fiscal restraint in the non-colloquium years, this should not pose a concern for the Assembly.

Researcher

Mrs Letcher continues in her role as Researcher. Her research and writing are invaluable to the work of the committee. Fleur is held in high regard by myself and by all committee members. We give thanks to God for her gifts and work.

Membership of the Committee

All members of the committee have been regular in their attendance. We have just recently lost Matt James from the committee that he might convene the Christian Education and Nurture Committee. Our loss is their gain. There are therefore several vacancies on the committee that could and should be filled by those with an interest in church and state. Please consider membership of this committee.

Darren Middleton
CONVENER

Church & Nation Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	46,336
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Total Income

46,336

Expenditure:

Personnel - Researcher	17,788
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Loss on disposal of asset	44
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Office Expenses	2,885
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Travel	563
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Total Expenditure

21,279

Surplus on General Operations

25,057

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	380,341
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Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	25,057
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Assets Purchased	(1,046)
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Add back depreciation	308
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Colloquium Expenses paid in advance	(6,211)
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Annual Leave Accrual	(111)
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Balance 30/6/15	398,337
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CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE (Min. 87)

This report has four parts:

1. The Church Planting Committee (CPC) Main Report
2. The Church Planter Evangelist (CPE) Report
3. Discussion Paper: Strategic plans for land acquisition by the PDF
4. 360° Review Paperwork

Church Planting Committee Report

Nine Years

Nine years ago, the Assembly established a new committee with the purpose of seeing churches planted in the state of Victoria. We are about to see the original committee members retire under the 9-year-rule. As we transition to a new committee composition, we note that we have seen 5 new congregations established, and the CPE appointed. Over the past 9 years, we have encountered various challenges and have seen God provide, build his church and gift men for the service of the gospel.

Church Planter Evangelist reappointment

The initial CPE 5 year appointment will end on 31 December 2015. Before we as a committee sought to bring a recommendation to the Assembly concerning a possible reappointment, we reviewed Richard's position and his effectiveness. As part of Richard's review we undertook a 360° Review. We have included the review paperwork, as other committees or parishes might find it useful in future evaluations.

The 360° Review involved asking people supervising Richard (the CPC), people working beside him as fellow church planters and members of his congregation at Valley Presbyterian to fill in a questionnaire. The questionnaire presented people with a range of topics and invited people to comment on and to rate Richard's performance on a scale of 1 to 4. The topics included Richard's role as church planter/evangelist and his roles as lead pastor at VPC. In particular, we asked people to comment on his ability to plant, teach, pastor, mentor, envision, recruit and lead.

The feedback we received from the questionnaire was incredibly positive. The comments people made included statements such as 'excellent self starter', 'able to sell a vision and have people buy into it', 'good pastor', 'he has always been clear and engaging and faithful to the text', 'VPC has experienced rapid growth', 'Richard is a clear, faithful and engaging communicator of the gospel – he always wants to preach Christ-centred and gospel-centred sermons', 'the results in terms of churches planted speak for themselves', 'Richard is good at seeing the big picture and planning for the longer term with wise strategic thinking', 'Richard knows how to connect well with families which is the dominant geographic of the region surrounding Valley', 'in contrast to other supervisors I have been under, Richard outshines', 'he loves to hear other ideas and loves to learn', 'I enjoy speaking with Richard because you know his ministry is shaped by grace', 'the right guy was picked' and 'Richard is skilled at being organised as well as an organiser for others'.

Those who reviewed Richard's position and ministry consistently rated his performance highly. Responses to specific questions about small group leadership, personal ministry, evangelism, training others in ministry and ministry leadership were also overwhelmingly positive. The feedback given in the questionnaire from all respondents is that Richard is an outstanding leader, the person other church

planters want to work with and a person who has the ability to, by preaching the gospel faithfully and passionately, plant and grow a church. The feedback we received, however, does not present a 'romantic' view of Richard. Weaknesses were identified and challenges illuminated which have been received by Richard.

In light of the 360° Review, the CPC is happy to recommend that the Assembly reappoint Rev Richard Wilson to the position of CPE for an additional 7 year period ending December 31, 2022.

Use of the CPE

Over the last 12 months some churches have approached the CPE for ideas about revitalisation. While we are encouraged that many churches are involved in revitalisation and are seeking assistance, we remind congregations that the committee which is intimately involved in the revitalisation process is the MDC.

Difficulty in attracting church planters

In the time since the last Assembly, one potential church planter has decided to not go ahead with pursuing church planting in the PCV in Victoria. While there were a number of factors in his decision, one key factor was the lack of flexibility.

The Presbytery of Melbourne West has a *preferred pathway* for men coming from interstate and it is encouraging to see a clear delineation of the desired process. We do, however, also recognise the need for various pathways into ministry within the Victorian context. There is a danger that what is called a 'preferred pathway' can become a rigid 'only pathway'. We want to love and accommodate as far as practicable potential church planters and not make the process unnecessarily difficult.

Candidates for the Ministry

We now have more candidates studying at the college than we have had since Union. Some of these students may be able to see a new church established. In 2018 we expect some 7-9 men to exit. The Assembly needs to think today about where these men might be exited.

A church plant in 2018 will require the CPC to budget for such a plant at the 2016 Commission, and begin talking with a presbytery, and parishes. This means at least two years of preparation is required. If an exit student is to plant in 2018 we need to get things started now so that parishes, presbyteries and budgetary approval from the Assembly, can all be obtained in time.

That said, we are not sure of the suitability of the men currently studying at the college and would strongly recommend all candidates undergo the Geneva Push Assessment before the end of second year. This will not only flag some men as potential planters but give all candidates a helpful critique of their strengths and weaknesses. This will allow the CPC the two years' lead time and give candidates the opportunity to build on strengths, and address and possibly overcome weaknesses while they are still at college.

Other sources of potential church planters

There are some parishes within the PCV which have two pastors. Some of these second workers may be a potential church planter. Some parishes may choose to send out their second worker to establish a new work. These second worker positions would then be available for future exit students.

Alarming views in some parishes

Some parishes have a false view of church planting which seems to stem from a poor ecclesiology which needs to be corrected. There is a sentiment among some that new Presbyterian works in a particular area means *competition* rather than *co-operation*.

This is only ever true when the only goal of a local congregation is to attract the saved. This idea ultimately stems from a desire to build our own kingdom rather than the Kingdom. A more perverse lie denies the sovereignty of God in election which perceives a nearby Muslim Mosque or Buddhist Temple as competition. Such divergent theologies are behind the motives, decisions and discussions in some of our congregations.

Future church plants

We note with gratitude the work of the Presbytery of Melbourne North which has taken the time to consider the areas and suburbs where it sees future need. We implore all presbyteries to do likewise, as the CPC is to work in conjunction with presbyteries, not do the work of presbyteries. Areas identified by presbyteries are listed below.

Gippsland

1. Traralgon
2. Phillip Island

Melbourne North

1. Immediate term
 - a) Craigieburn
 - b) Wallan
 - c) South Morang
2. Medium Term (5 – 10 years)
 - d) Donnybrook
 - e) Mickleham
 - f) Wollert
 - g) Beveridge (land already held by PCV)
3. Cross Cultural Church Plants
 - h) Broadmeadows
 - i) City of Moreland (in conjunction with Melbourne West)
 - j) Thomastown

Funding the Church Planting Committee

The Church Planting Committee currently has two sources of income. These are the interest on any monies held by BIF/TC and a 20% share of the SCPT distribution. When the Healthy Churches Committee was split into what are today known as the MDC and CPC, the distribution of SCPT was set at 80/20 in favour of the MDC based

on the recommendation of the BIF. We anticipate the need to re-evaluate this ratio in the near future as the CPC will not be able to fund future church plants due to our limited income stream.

The CPC would very much like to see three new Presbyterian churches established each year in Victoria, with an urgent focus on metropolitan Melbourne. This is less than the previous goal of four new congregations each year set some 29 years ago (BB 1986 Min 69.5). To see three new works start each year on an ongoing basis, the CPC would need an income stream of ~ \$900,000 per year.

Property Development Fund (PDF)

The CPC is also happy to inform the Assembly that thanks to the budget variance which was approved at the last Assembly, a property has been secured for Valley Presbyterian Church in Doreen.

The property (945 Yan Yean Road, Doreen) was purchased in January 2015. The property presently has a dwelling on it which may be used as a manse in the future. The property is very near the heart of a large growth area in the north of Melbourne. The site will allow for a multi-purpose building to be built as well as car parking facilities.

While this is a great outcome, it also means the PDF now has less resources. We must find ways of adding to the fund beyond the present limited sources of income.

In NSW, the Anglican Churches in the Diocese of Sydney have a levy for the acquisition of land for new church sites in greenfields. The rate of the levy is determined annually, and is based on the 'net operating receipts' from 2 years earlier.¹

2013: 2.24% of 2011 net operating receipts.

2014: 2.18% of 2012 net operating receipts.

2015: 2.09% of 2013 net operating receipts.

The concept of each parish contributing to the acquisition of land for new works is not new to the PCV (see BB 1986 Min 69.4). The recommendation of the Assembly in 1986 was that each parish begin by contributing 5% and increasing it annually by 1% until an annual contribution of 10% was achieved.

An annual income of \$2,000,000-3,000,000 would allow the PDF to acquire and develop properties at the earliest stages of development planning, when land prices are still moderate.

Differences between brownfields and greenfields

We have also attached a discussion paper concerning the differing needs and priorities of congregations in greenfields and brownfields. This has particular implications for property acquisitions. Should the PDF prioritise land for worship centres or manses?

1. <http://www.sds.asn.au/assets/Documents/synod/Synod2012/MPC.Greenfield%20land%20acquisition%20levy%201%20page%20summary.pdf>
<http://www.sds.asn.au/assets/Documents/ords/adminord/O73-0101.pdf>

CHURCH PLANTER EVANGELIST REPORT

The harvest is plentiful

This morning (12 August), The Age ran a story that said that every 11 hours in Melbourne's growth suburbs, enough babies are born to fill an entire prep class. Equally, we could say every week, enough babies are born to fill a church. In my LGA of Whittlesea, we have 61 newborns per week and by 2035 it will be 102. Melbourne continues to grow very rapidly. In 2014, for the first time since 1888, Victoria was Australia's fastest growing state. We grew by 101,500 in a year. 56,000 of this growth was through immigration – the rest through natural reproduction and interstate transfer. Many of the new immigrants are looking for churches to join and often settle into the rapidly growing outer suburbs where property prices are cheaper. The question is – will we have churches ready to welcome them and evangelise their friends?

As local churches, it is easy to be short sighted. If the building is half full we feel a little discouraged, and if it is full we feel satisfied. But the Lord wants us to lift our eyes to the harvest that is outside our doors and see the great opportunities he has placed before us. Never before in Victoria's history have the opportunities been so immense.

The workers are few

And yet the labourers are so few – especially in our Presbyterian church. We have been praying for a church planter for Officer for years and yet no one in Victoria is willing to go. I recently led a church planting workshop at an MTS conference for young people considering full time ministry. Only four people attended – only one was considering church planting with the PCV. ONLY ONE! And he was sent from one of our church plants.

We need to ask some hard questions about what deliberate steps we are taking to raise up the next generation. Last year I suggested that each of us must pray for five young men to send to PTC. One to replace ourselves, one to replace the bloke who gives up early, one for the mission field and two to grow the work. We must deliberately pray, evangelise and disciple with this goal in mind or the LORD of the harvest will do his great work of saving the lost through others.

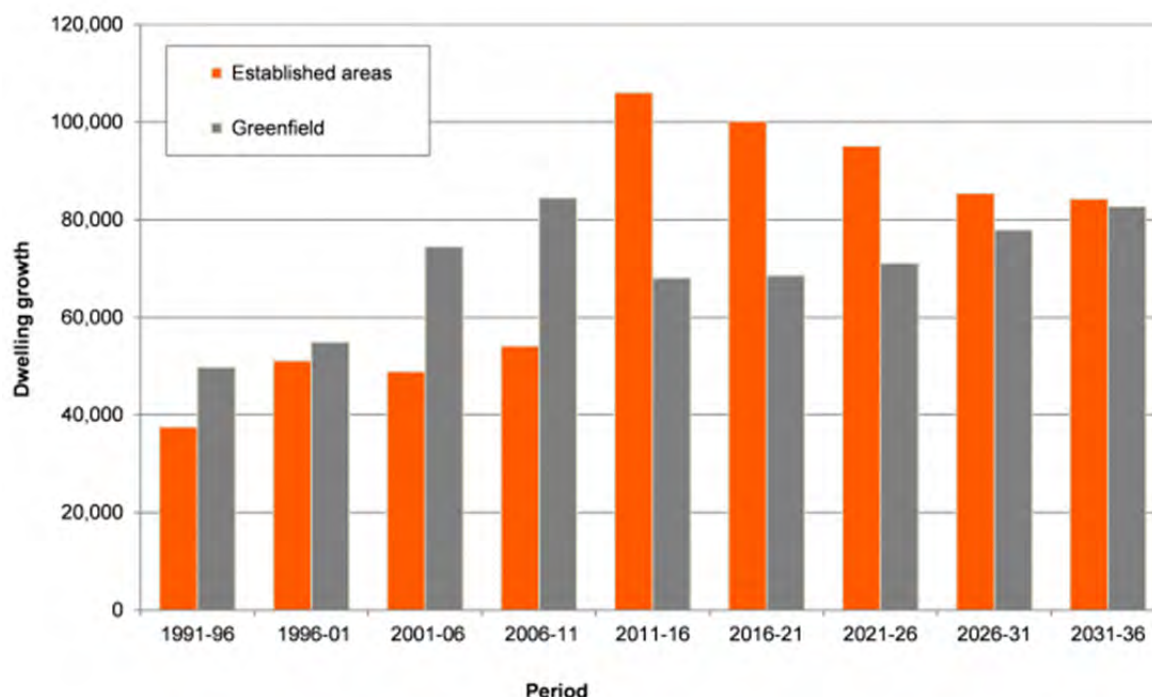
I am greatly encouraged by the amazing work done in our universities by the AFES. They continue to disciple young men and women and evangelise new people into the kingdom. If we are not able raise up the next generation in our own churches, we must support groups like AFES who will do it for us and with us.

The Church Planting Committee is praying that the Lord will enable us to plant three new churches every year. Given the growth of Melbourne, this is only a small goal, and yet we struggle to raise up a single person willing to plant a church at Officer. I have met people from interstate who are willing but there is a fear and distrust amongst us to accept people who did not train in our college. Pray that the LORD will enable us to overcome these hurdles to see our denomination step up to the challenge the LORD is giving us.

Melbourne changes direction

For a long time most of Melbourne's new growth has been happening in the greenfields of the outer suburbs. That has now changed. According to fresh analysis

from demographic researchers at ID.com.au, most of the growth is now happening in established suburbs. This growth has begun in the inner city and will extend over the next 20 years to the middle ring suburbs such as Maribyrnong, Moreland and Stonnington.



This means a fresh set of challenges for our inner city churches. The model of ministry we need for new work in the inner city will be quite different to what we have been doing in the growth corridors. Aaron Boyd is beginning to show us the path forward.

Where will our new churches meet?

A pressing question for our church plants is: where will they meet? Many of our church plants meet in school halls or community activity centres. Over time, this exhausts the church planters and leaves the plants vulnerable to changing priorities in the use of these public buildings. With proposed changes to the Marriage Act (1961), we cannot assume that government organisations will always be willing to extend leases to organisations that do not support the new paradigm.

We need land NOW for churches at Hume, Melton, Brimbank, Point Cook, Bendigo, Warragul and Darebin. At present the Property Development Fund has sufficient income to purchase a new block every 50 years.

Last year I met with the Urban Planning Authority to discuss the possibility of buying land for churches and/or schools in growth corridors. They showed me a map illustrating the many places the Catholic Church has bought land at least a decade before development begins. They said we needed to do the same thing. Once an overall development plan has been established, it becomes very difficult to buy the 1 hectare required for a church and car park. They were very positive about the Presbyterian Church taking these initiatives and asked me to keep them updated on our progress.

The Sydney Anglican and the Melbourne Roman Catholic churches fund their property acquisitions by placing a 2% levy across the budgets of all of their schools and churches. By such means the Sydney Anglicans are steadily purchasing land well before the price rises that come with the arrival of the property developers. As we are a much smaller organisation it would seem to be a matter of good stewardship to place a levy of 3% across all of our churches and schools to provide a steady income stream to this fund.

Evaluating your presbytery

I have met with representatives from a couple of presbyteries who are beginning to evaluate their region to consider the church planting needs and opportunities in their patch. Several have already developed a list of priorities, which is an excellent beginning. If you have not done this yet, please consider doing it soon. I am very happy to attend presbytery meetings to discuss your plans and talk about options.

Remember, your presbytery is your mission field. Please treat your presbytery meetings as a mission planning and strategy opportunity, not just a time to solve the problems that arise.

The key issues to consider are:

- a) Which areas are most needy?
- b) Who can lead the church plant?
- c) Who will be in the core team?
- d) Where will they meet?

Look at the forecast figures in ID.com.au to find out what is planned by your local government area.

Religious education in schools

We have done a lot of CRE teaching in our local schools, but the reality is that there is increasing resistance to CRE and we lack teachers. This year, we tried a new initiative in Doreen by teaching a single lesson to students at Easter and again at Christmas. Instead of coming under the CRE policy we came under the General Religious Education policy. I wrote my own lessons and organised the local protestant clergy. With good will from our local Principal, the CRE opt-in rules did not apply. The Principal simply let the parents know that the lesson would be taught. As a result, all but 8 of the 350 students in years 4 & 5 attended the lessons, which were very well received by students and teachers. I commend this approach to you if you are short of local scripture teachers and if you have developed a good relationship with your local principal. God willing, we hope to roll this out to other schools in our suburb.

As I am in my fifth year of this job, I want to thank the PCV for the great privilege of serving the Lord alongside you in this way and pray that God will continue to grow his Kingdom through us.

Richard Wilson
Church Planter Evangelist

Strategic plans for land acquisition by the PDF Discussion paper

In 2014, Victoria was the most rapidly growing state in Australia for the first time since 1888. We grew at 1.8% or 101,500 people. 56,000 of this growth was through overseas migration. The rest was through natural reproduction and interstate transfer². This represents great opportunities for gospel ministry for the PVC.

The property development fund provides a limited resource for supporting the development of new parishes. The question is: how do we most strategically use these limited resources for the growth of the gospel and the glory of God?

There are three related issues:

- A) How should we provide accommodation for our church planters? Should we purchase a manse or should we rent?
- B) Should we purchase land for a church or should we purchase a manse?
- C) Should we purchase sufficient land for a church and school together?

A. Buying versus renting a manse

The Presbytery of Melbourne West has helpfully written a document, 'Home stewardship comparisons' in which they make the case for purchasing a manse. The key arguments are:

- i. There is financial benefit for the denomination in purchasing a manse as it increases the capital assets of the denomination for the long term. Rental money is lost forever.
- ii. The pastor is not left to the mercy of a landlord who may decide upon other uses of the property. This can create instability for the planter and his family.
- iii. It sends a signal to the local community that you are there for the long term.
- iv. Any capital improvements made to the house is of benefit to the local church.
- v. Another argument not included is that it will be easier to find a replacement pastor once the church planter moves on if the church owns its own manse.

The strongest of these arguments is the long term capital benefit to the denomination and local church. The document does not consider the other side of the argument, however.

- i. The signal sent to the community in buying a manse is not nearly as clear as that sent by buying land for a church building. A manse is less visible.
- ii. The house purchased may not prove to be suitable in the long term. For example, a pastor's family may grow beyond the capacity of the house. Selling and buying property is an expensive process. A rental property can easily be changed according to need.
- iii. The house purchased may not end up being in a strategic part of the suburb. For example, at Bundoora, the manse is a long way (10km) from property eventually purchased for the church building. When a suburb is being developed, it is difficult to get a feel for where the best place to live might be.
- iv. Most pastors prefer to purchase their own home to create security for their retirement. This is to the advantage of the pastor but to the disadvantage of the denomination. This is a point of ongoing tension.

2. The latest population figures: Australia up, Victoria down. On blog.id.com.au, viewed 7/7/2015

- v. Long term leases are normal in Europe and can be arranged in Australia as well. This removes the problems of being left to the mercy of the landlord.
- vi. The church plant may not succeed. This would mean we own a house in a suburb without a church. This creates a sense of obligation to go on funding a church plant when it has clearly failed. The house could be rented out but it does mean we have invested a lot of church capital into a suburb with no ministry.
- vii. It is an important principle of ministry that the pastor should live in the suburb in which he ministers. The inner suburbs are becoming too expensive for a pastor to purchase a home so it will be essential that the local church own a manse. In a growth corridor with more reasonable prices, a pastor will normally prefer to buy his own home.

On balance, it is not clear that buying a manse should always be a priority over renting.

B. Investing in land for a church versus investing in a manse

I recently met with our church planters and asked them their opinion on this question. They unanimously agreed that they would prefer to invest in property for a church. What are the reasons for this?

- i. When church planting, one of the most difficult issues we face is where to meet. This is particularly acute in a growth corridor with little existing infrastructure. Reforming Church in Bendigo met in five different locations in its first year.

The best location is a **local school** which offers modern facilities and classrooms for a kid's church. However, schools may not be willing to rent to a church or may charge exorbitant prices. They can also change their mind leaving the church plant without a venue at short notice. **The lack of security of a public meeting place is more acute than a church manse.**

It is not unlikely that if there is a change to the Marriage Act (1961), the department of education may include a standard clause in their contracts excluding groups that do not support 'marriage equality'.

In established suburbs, a **warehouse** can be a good place to meet, but these are rare in a growth corridor. A warehouse may leave the church hidden in an industrial area along with brothels or polluting industries. While the internet and smart phones mean that a church can be found anywhere, these venues are unattractive for families. Established suburbs have other options like former theatres or other community buildings.

Churches closing down may become available in established areas. In a growth corridor, the established churches are likely to be tiny and designed for a small village, not a large suburb.

Most growth corridors now include a **Community Activity Centre (CAC)** but these buildings are in high demand and are often designed for groups of less than 40 people which is not viable for a church plant. In the interest of fairness, councils are sometimes reluctant to allow long term weekly leases for a single church.

- ii. Anyone who has been involved in planting a church knows of the physical effort of setting up a church in rented premises each week. It demands much of the church planter and team, leaving less energy and time for caring for people. Over time, this can be demoralising and draining, especially if you lack fit young bodies.

- iii. As the church plant grows, the number of places with capacity for a larger church and Sunday school become further reduced.
- iv. In my conversations with the Whittlesea City Council, they made it clear that we were 10 years too late for purchasing land for Doreen. The only reason we were successful is that a small portion of Doreen did not have a development plan in place. Urban planning is now done well ahead of the establishment of a new suburb. Planners are happy to include our plans for churches and schools at this stage of the process.
- v. The critical issue for planting in a growth corridor/greenfields location is that there is a limited time opportunity to purchase suitable land. Unless we work with local councils in purchasing land early enough, the opportunities will be gone. Bundoora Presbyterian Church provides an example of the difficulties faced. Donvale Presbyterian Church is limited by lack of parking space.
- vi. One urban planner said that in his experience of growth corridor development in the last decade, Caroline Springs Anglican Church is the ONLY CHURCH to have successfully purchased land and established a church building, despite many church plants being kicked off. There is a real risk that many new suburbs will have no church buildings in them in the long term.
- vii. The ideal size of a block of land for a church and car park is 1 hectare (2.5 acres). More will be required if we include a school. Blocks of this size are difficult to find, although sometimes a hobby farm may become available or a sympathetic farmer selling to a developer may be willing to sell a portion. This requires good local knowledge and good timing.
- viii. When casting a vision to the church planting core team and newcomers, these people want to know what the long term plan is for reaching the suburb. If the long term plan is to set up in rented facilities every week or to meet in small and inadequate facilities, some of our potential members will prefer to travel out of the suburb to an established church elsewhere. This is demoralising for the church planter.
- ix. A permanent church building opens up many more opportunities for ministry all week long than can never be achieved with rented facilities.
- x. The purchase of a house sized property as a 'ministry centre' has some value and could be a good option in an established suburb as a stepping stone to something bigger. However, it would be a mistake to delay the purchase of land for a place of worship.

C. Should we purchase land for a church and school together?

In 2014, James Bligh (Christian Schools Development Committee) and I met with the Metropolitan Planning Authority to discuss land for churches and schools in growth corridors. They made it clear that we should be purchasing land in potential growth areas like Donnybrook now rather than when the development is happening. They showed us places where the Roman Catholic Church has purchased land at least a decade before they expect to use it. They were very positive about the Presbyterian Church establishing new churches and schools in growth corridors and asked us to stay in touch.

What are the issues?

- i. Planting churches and schools together could make our mission to the community more effective as the experience of Sydney Anglicans has shown.³

3. <http://sydneyanglicans.net/media/video/mission-property-update>, viewed 9/7/2015

- ii. Churches require large halls to gather for worship and smaller classrooms for kids' church. Schools can easily provide these facilities. However, schools usually put the building of a gym last on their priority list.
- iii. The land required for both a school and a church is going to be much larger. At least 2 hectares depending on the size of the school proposed. Careful forward planning will be needed. Only a few places will have the potential land available.
- iv. PDF money should never fund schools that do not provide a suitable place for a church to meet.
- v. If the Christian Schools Development Committee has a source of finances of their own then the PDF could use its funds to build a hall suitable for a church to meet in. This would provide a mutual benefit for both the school and church. If the schools committee uses PDF funds to buy land then this may effectively put an end to any hope of establishing new Presbyterian Church buildings in Victoria.

Conclusions

- i. The Presbyterian Church is working and praying to establish three new church plants per year. In Greenfield developments around Melbourne, it is of critical importance that we purchase suitable land as soon as possible. Purchasing sufficient land for school developments alongside such churches is strategically wise but will add to the size of land needed and hence the cost.
- ii. There are almost limitless properties that could be purchased for a manse, but very few that will be suitable for a church (and school). While owning a manse has some value to the denomination, it is not time critical – buying land for a church is. A well-established congregation can always pay for a manse, but a manse can never house and pay for a church.
- iii. Most of our existing church plants (Warragul, Brimbank, Hume, Melton, Point Cook, Bendigo, Darebin) are in need of land urgently as suitable properties are limited. How do we prioritise who gets the money? Availability of suitable land, size of congregation, financial strength and potential for growth could all be considered.
- iv. Churches in inner suburbs should prioritise owning a manse over renting a manse due to the expense and the difficulty of a pastor purchasing his own home.
- v. The PCV needs to establish a financial stream to purchase land for new churches as a matter of urgency. If we are going to plant three churches a year, we should be thinking of purchasing 2-3 blocks of land each year at the value of at least \$1 million. I recommend a 2-3% levy on all PCV church budgets to raise this capital. Will this be enough?
- vi. The Christian Schools development committee should be encouraged to find their own sources of funding for land. If such land is purchased then the PDF could be used to help provide a gym or hall in which a church could meet on the weekend and together work to reach the community with the gospel.

Richard Wilson
Church Planter Evangelist

Presbyterian Church of Victoria
360° Ministry, Training, Development & Review

Overview

The pastoral Ministry, Training, Development and Review (MTDR) procedure is important for the PCV and the pastor being reviewed. The process is an opportunity for reflection, evaluation, affirmation, changes of direction and planning. It allows PCV to fulfil our duty of care to individual pastors, the sessions and the parishioners of the PCV. Most importantly, we desire to see the ministry of the word & prayer flourish in our pastors and our churches. The goal of the process is positive – how we can strengthen the ministry of our pastors and help them to do better. 360 Degree MTDR is to be completed after one (1) years' service with the PCV, and every five (5) years thereafter.

PCV 360° MTDR – Procedure

A. A MTDR Co-ordinator will be appointed

In general, this will be decided by the Presbytery or, if an appointment of the Assembly, by the committee responsible. Wisdom may lead to the appointment of an alternative Review Co-ordinator to assist the Supervisor.

B. Prior to the MTDR Meetings

One Month Prior, the MTDR Co-ordinator will:

1. Discuss who will be surveyed with the worker being reviewed. At a minimum, the worker will be surveyed from at least 4 angles.
2. Email out a survey to the following people:
 - i. the pastor to be reviewed
 - ii. two members of Presbytery/committee members
 - iii. two elders
 - iv. at least two parishioners involved in their ministry (one male; one female)
 - v. a co-worker if appropriate/relevant
3. Inform the relevant committee. They may choose to become part of the review process.

Two Weeks Prior:

4. Responses are due back to the Co-ordinator.
5. The Co-ordinator will organise the people present at the review meetings in light of the responses.

C. The 360° Ministry, Training, Development & Review Meetings

There are three meetings to occur:

1. The review co-ordinator contacts reviewers to clarify responses, especially if they are significantly negative (worker not present).
2. The supervisor meets with the worker and some of the reviewers as appropriate (some reviewers not present).
3. The supervisor meets with the individual to debrief from the 360 degrees of feedback and set goals for the worker's future ministry training and development (no reviewers present).

The goals of the MTDR Meeting are to:

- understand the ministry of the pastor
- hear how he is feeling about the ministry

- allow opportunity for him to raise concerns & difficulties
- affirm strengths
- raise concerns
- make recommendations for training (if required)
- schedule a follow up to monitor progress (if required)
- hear about future plans
- plan follow-up meetings with others if required
- pray

D. MTDR Notification

The Supervisor is to complete the 360° MTDR notification and submit it to the Committee/Presbytery summarising agreed outcomes of the process. The notification will be automatically sent to the worker being reviewed and the supervisor. In the event of a dispute over the evaluations, tone or recommendations of the report, the Presbytery/Committee will be consulted.

Guidelines for Feedback

Many people in pastoral ministry have found it worthwhile to work through a careful assessment of their recent work and personal life, with a view to focusing training needs and re-setting priorities for the future. The following questions are designed to help a person complete such a ministry, training, development and review in discussion with a consultant or supervisor. PCV requests your help in answering this questionnaire. Your answers will be confidential to the person in review.

Please note: the person has chosen you to provide feedback because he or she values you and believes you can make a helpful contribution to this process. We hope the process will assist in encouraging this person, and under God to help him or her to develop further.

Some tips on good feedback:

- It is better to answer with specific things you have observed rather than vague statements. General statements are harder to understand and more difficult to benefit from. Also, words like 'excellent' or 'poor' should only be used with an explanation as to why they are appropriate.
- It is better to leave a particular question unanswered than to respond in an area where you feel unsure or have no reliable knowledge.
- It is better for you to be honest, rather than nice. Exalting the person's ministry beyond its merit will be of no help in the longer term.
- On the other hand, we sometimes set unreasonable expectations, which are unrealistic for any person to meaningfully achieve. Try to find a reasonable balance.

How should PCV Pastor respond to the feedback?

1 Corinthians 4:1-4 says our duty as ministers of the gospel is to prove faithful with that trust. God is our judge and so we should not worry overly about how others (or we) assess our own ministry. By contrast, the Proverbs repeatedly says that a wise person heeds feedback, even when it is difficult to hear. So defensiveness will not be helpful. See, for example:

*The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.
A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.
A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.
Proverbs 12:15-17*

*Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*
Proverbs 27:5-6

It would be good to thank every person for giving feedback, all the more if some of it is negative. Please aim to 'feel the force' of the feedback, even when you do not agree with it all. What is the 'kernel of truth' among the 'chaff' you might wish to blow away? (If you are really unhappy or upset by the feedback, please speak with your supervisor about this.)

Here are some questions you may like to answer in light of the feedback:

- How would you like to change or improve?
- How might you recalibrate goals or priorities?
- What training or development would you like to pursue to help in all this?

PCV 360° Ministry, Training, Development & Review
QUESTIONNAIRE - CONFIDENTIAL

Name of worker to be reviewed: Date:

Name of person completing this questionnaire:

What is your link with the worker in review?

How long have you been familiar with this person?

1. List up to five (5) main areas of activity that you observe making up the pastor's particular job.

Then choose a number from 1 to 4 to describe how well you think the Pastor member is performing in each particular ministry area. The goal is not to measure the results of the task, but the person's contribution to the task. Take into account that certain work might actually be performed well, but the results are unsatisfactory due to issues outside the person's control.

Key:

1 = unsatisfactory, must improve in this area

2 = mildly unsatisfactory in this area

3 = quite satisfactory in this area

4 = well above average in this area

Area of Ministry #1:

Performance (1 to 4): ..

Comment:

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Area of Ministry #2:

Performance (1 to 4): ..

Comment:

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Area of Ministry #3:

Performance (1 to 4): ..

Comment:
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Area of Ministry #4:

Performance (1 to 4): ..

Comment:
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Area of Ministry #5:

Performance (1 to 4): ..

Comment:
.....
.....
.....

Further comments expanding the above, or adding an extra area...

- 2. What would you see as the pastor's main ministry achievements during the last year? Would you label any of these as highlights?**
- 3. From your perspective, what particular parts of the pastor's job have not been satisfactorily achieved? Would you label any of these as significant failures? How are you feeling about these?**
- 4. What do you feel are the particular strengths and skills that the pastor in review brings to his or her work? Please provide examples.**
- 5. What issues related to the pastor can you identify that might be hindering his or her ministry? In what ways do you feel the person could develop to helpfully address this?**
- 6. What other hindrances – not directly related to the pastor – do you see hindering his or her ministry? What could be done to address this?**
- 7. In what ways do you see the pastor's special gifts and interests matching the context of the particular ministries in which he or she serves?**
- 8. What strikes you about the way the pastor comes over in his or her relationships? What effect does this have on you?**
- 9. To your knowledge in what ways does the pastor invest time in:**
 - a. Recreational activities?
 - b. Pursuit of further knowledge?
 - c. Development of his or her own ministry skills?
- 10. What do you observe concerning the pastor's marriage and family life, or, if single, concerning his or her friendships and home life?**
- 11. Any further comments that you feel would be of assistance in making the ministry, training, development and review profitable?**

12. General ministry, training, development and review areas:

1. Ministry Leadership	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
• develops or facilitates ministry vision				
• inspires and enthuses people to embrace the vision				
• develops organisation and structures which make things happen				
• provides a 'non-anxious presence' (i.e. patient, not easily ruffled or panicked, calming influence)				
• manages structures, partners, team members and volunteers effectively.				
• acknowledges in real and concrete ways the sovereignty and involvement of God in ministry				
• able to effect change				
• able to mobilise a team				
• members enjoy being in this person's team				

Specific examples:

.....

.....

2. Partnership & Teamwork	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
• communicates a belief and trust in members / pastor				
• shows patience and respect for members / pastor				
• delegates clearly and appropriately				
• participates fully in shaping vision and making plans for ministry without dominating				
• listens & understands another's perspective				
• gently persuades others when unconvinced				
• accepts the decision of the group				
• willing to undertake team responsibilities				
• is a reliable team member				
• is a reliable team leader				

Specific examples:

.....

.....

3. Teaching	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
• exegetes bible passages with clarity and insight				
• illustrates biblical truth appropriately and helpfully				
• applies biblical truth aptly and concretely				
• gives a clear take-home point				
• holds the interest of listeners				

Specific examples:

.....

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4. Small Group Leadership	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
i. manages the control vs. participation tension in teaching the bible in small groups (i.e. leads people to look at the passage carefully, contribute to discussion and work out what the passage says)				
ii. manages the time for small group well				
iii. leads groups in which there is space for people to get to know each other and share their lives				
iv. encourages regular and varied prayer times in the group				
v. manages the maintenance of a group eg lists, communication, program, celebrations				
vi. demonstrates a sensitivity to the dynamics of a group				
vii. takes opportunities as they arise outside the group to follow-up individuals				

Specific examples:

.....

.....

5. Personal ministry	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
viii. looks for opportunities to meet one to one with people				
ix. meets with a range of people to encourage them in Christian maturity				
x. clarifies and identifies the actual issues for people				
xi. answers specific questions clearly and biblically				
xii. challenges people to change				
xiii. helps people to formulate strategies to make specific and appropriate changes to their lives				

Specific examples:

.....

.....

6. Evangelism	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
xiv. looks for, and takes, opportunities to proclaim Christ and lead people to personal faith in him.				
xv. maintains relationship networks with gospel potential				
xvi. explains the Christian gospel clearly, compellingly and biblically				
xvii. answers objections and questions about the Christian faith clearly, incisively and gently				
xviii. challenges others to consider their assumptions and beliefs				
xix. listens for, and understands, the real issues and assumptions behind others' statements, questions or challenges				

Specific examples:

.....

.....

7. Training others in Ministry	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
xx. teaches and exemplifies a biblical theology of ministry				
xxi. identifies and encourages people for tasks in the light of their gifts				
xxii. gives helpful and constructive feedback—both positive and negative				
xxiii. identifies potential leaders and formulates ways of developing them in leadership				
xxiv. conducts interactive and informative training times				
xxv. demonstrates a familiarity with, and preparation of, training materials				
xxvi. lets others have a go at ministry so they can learn				

Specific examples:

.....

.....

8. Personal Skills	rarely	occasionally	frequently	regularly
xxvii. listens actively e.g. eye contact, clarifies understanding				
xxviii. handles conflict cleanly and constructively				
xxix. relates to a wide range of people				
xxx. takes initiative in engaging people				
xxxi. expresses thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly and effectively				
xxxii. puts others at ease				
xxxiii. uses humour appropriately and constructively				
xxxiv. uses appropriate phone manner				
xxxv. timely in responding to people				

Specific examples:

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please pray for the Pastor as he or she responds to the feedback to be received through this process.

PCV 360° Ministry, Training, Development & Review
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR - CONFIDENTIAL

Name of Pastor-in-review: Date:
 How long have you been in this position?

A. Please copy your weekly timetable during semester below. Include all work done & meetings, formal & informal.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 -							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7 +							

2. Consider your role in your ministry team and your work in the last 12 months. What strengths do you bring to the team by being in this position? Upon reflection, would a different position be a better fit for your gifts and abilities?

3. List 5 people you are training-in-ministry.

4. How are you planning to achieve & grow the vision and mission of PCV at your church?

Cameron Garrett
 CONVENER

Church Planting Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	57,645
Scots Church Property Trust	110,715
Rentals Received	26,627
Total Receipts	194,987

Expenditure:

Property Expenses - Tivendale Rd Officer	17,010
Donation National Church Planting Network	15,000
Committee Expenses	516
Education and Training	5,138
Evangelism Officer	91,140
Grants - Valley PC	465
Grants - Darebin	91,444
Grants - Pt Cook	62,772
Grants - SE Bendigo	75,784
Grants - Warragul	45,750
Total Expenditure	405,019

Surplus on General Operations

(210,032)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	604,770
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(210,032)
Add back Depreciation	465
Balance 30/6/15	395,203

Property Development Trust

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	138,240
Grant from Capital Fund	87,071
Donations	23,383
	248,693

Expenditure:

Grants Paid	1,208,102
Total Expenditure	1,208,102

Surplus on Specific Trusts

(959,408)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	1,607,927
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(959,408)
Balance 30/6/15	648,519

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE (Min. 111)

In accordance with the regulations, the Clerkship Committee met with the Clerk in August. The committee, by prior arrangement, was represented by the Moderator Rev David Brown and Rev Bob Carner.

We had a frank discussion embracing matters such as the Clerk's health (which is good, praise God), his lack of leave taking this year (saving up for splurge in a few months), remuneration (adequate), how he has found the workload this exceptionally busy year (reported on below in his own words) and what impact it may have on his workload as Clerk when he, God willing, takes up the extra role of Moderator General.

On this latter matter we encouraged him not to think that in allowing his nomination to go forward that therefore the Assembly was saying that he must be capable of doing both tasks without detriment to either, but that the Assembly was simply resoundingly affirming his suitability for the role. We need to take good care of our esteemed Clerk and future Clerkship Committees need to keep a careful eye on his workload in coming years.

On the matter of the Clerkship Committee itself, we have made a recommendation to the Code Committee that the convener of the Clerkship Committee be changed from the current Moderator to the immediate past Moderator. This makes much better sense as it means the convener then has some experience in the role.

The following response from the Clerk with regard to his workload and other matters are noteworthy.

The workload increased noticeably this year, and it usually occupies me six days per week. I look back and reflect on where the increased the workload has come from, and I notice:

1. A once-every-generation revision of the entire Code Book of the PCV. Careful reading and editing of the text has consumed many, many hours.
2. Serious questioning from the General Assembly on the meaning of rule 4:89 – the union and readjustments of congregations and parishes, and what this might mean for what we call 'congregational property'.
3. The ad hoc Committee on Sites Reserve whose work has come to a head this year after three years' research. This has meant drilling down into what we mean by a church 'holding property' and 'ownership of property' – a drilling to such depths we have not done before.
4. Trusts Corporation versus SCPT Trustees court case – though not directly involved in the dispute, I have been at extra meetings and involved in discussions, and then daily attendance at the Supreme Court.

5. The initial year of setting up Safe Church PCV and feeling the pressure of the initial flush of complaints and cases. It has been hard – listening to people's stories and knowing where and how to refer them. Also, in waiting for the phone call from the Royal Commission into child abuse where I will have to answer for the sins of PCV's past. I hope my assumption is correct: that the phone calls and complaints this year reflect the opening of the flood-gates from the past, and that people now know where they can go to tell their story.

I can look forward to future service as Clerk of Assembly when these five issues are not playing such a huge part in my life, disturbing my sleep. But then there will doubtless be other issues.

Highlights of the year include:

- receiving unexpected visitors in my office who want someone 'centrally connected' to talk to about the church generally or the PCV in particular – and someone to pray with;
- visiting each presbytery to see how things are – a custom I will continue with, but not necessarily with a specific purpose such as 'Code Revision', but to spend time in prayer and conversation about matters important to each region of our state;
- staying connected with mission and ministry of the gospel, particularly in the way Andrew Vines invites me to teach and preach at Reservoir from time to time – so that I do not lose my first love of being a pastor and preacher;
- keeping in touch with every candidate training for ministry at the Presbyterian Theological College – how helpful this is for the Assembly Clerk to be in class with every student who will become one of our ministers – which is why I accept the offer of one very minor part of the curriculum (church history survey) to be of benefit to the whole church;
- anticipating my 38th consecutive General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in October – and reflecting how I have loved every one of them.

I serve Christ in a wonderful church – the PCV. There are great blessings from being in a denomination that experiences such unity of spirit and common love of the gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord.

I have the valuable assistance of a talented and gracious administrative assistant, Susie Cloete, and work in an office with a team that exudes competence, courtesy and Christian grace.

I am greatly blessed to be assisted by Peter Phillips as Deputy – whose insight and faithful duty I could not do without. I like to think that Peter's services can continue for years to come.

I thank the General Assembly for nominating me for the position of Moderator of the General Assembly of Australia. You will know by now that your nomination has been successful. I will report next year on how I see this extra role enhancing and interacting with my role as Assembly Clerk. For now, I would value your prayers as I prepare.

Daily, I am praying the prayer the inspired author wrote (in Hebrews 13), that the God of peace will equip me with everything good for doing his will. Also, that God will work in me what is pleasing to Him. Please join me in that prayer as I pray also for you.

We praise God that we have such a Clerk and commend him to the prayers of the wider church.

David Brown
MODERATOR

CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Min. 105)

1. Code Revision Project

Once every decade or two, the church is wise to look at how its polity is working out in the life of its constituent congregations – to examine how useful it is to facilitate and promote the work of the gospel.

Such examination was launched 3 years ago by the General Assembly and the committee has been preoccupied this past year with Code revision. It has certainly occupied a large amount of time.

In the proposed version of the PCV Code, we remain committed to the ground-breaking ‘best reformed practice’ that emerged with the 1560 Scottish settlement of Presbyterianism. We note its early expression as set out in John Knox’s *First Book of Discipline*, and also Andrew Melville’s *Second Book of Discipline*, and then the more refined expression of Westminster’s *Form of Presbyterial Church Government*, 1645. There is no departure from the fundamentals of these foundational documents.

The committee has produced what we believe is a better and clearer guide for gospel work within PCV. A secondary benefit of the project is that with the wise and careful drafting skills of Philip Barton, we have been able to reduce the size of the rule book. We have reduced its length from about 65,000 words to 51,000 words, while at the same time including in it the hidden prescriptions that were in the regulations.

Part of the project included visiting each presbytery this year for consultation. Since visiting presbyteries, we have taken very seriously each suggestion received and made appropriate changes. Upon request, members may receive an edition of the Code Revision that shows changes made since the presbytery visits – an edition with every deletion marked with strike through and yellow shading and every addition is shown in red (or, as near to so as possible).

The proposed revision is the subject of an overture from this committee and it will be advanced to the General Assembly under separate cover.

2. Other matters

The committee was instructed (GAV, 2014, Min 74.6) to draw up regulations for the Safe Church Panel of Reference. Following consultation with Safe Church, the proposed regulations were composed and they are being advanced to the General Assembly under clause 1 of the deliverance.

The Maintenance of Ministry Committee proposed an adjustment so that its regulations regarding eligibility for long-service leave are brought into line with current work-place practice. Also, they wanted to more carefully define who may be entitled for long-service leave under the heading ‘church workers’ in Reg 24. The proposed regulations were composed and they are being advanced to the General Assembly under clause 2 of the deliverance.

The APWM (Vic) Committee approached the committee informing us of their desire to make minor alterations to their regulations. Also, it was noted that Reg 2 of the APWM regulations ought to be adjusted to bring it into line with the equivalent clause in every other committee’s regulations. The proposed regulations were composed

and they are being advanced to the General Assembly under clause 3 of the deliverance.

Members may recall that the Christian Schools Development Committee regulations were not advanced to last year's General Assembly as they had not received, what we consider to be essential in these matters, BIF approval. It is likely that these proposed regulations will come to a future General Assembly.

It was noted that the PWMU carried out an extensive revision of its constitution. The Clerk, on behalf of the committee, worked with PWMU on this proposal, but at the time of writing there was no final word on this matter. Because the committee has approved of the work so far, the possibility is that the final draft may yet be presented to the General Assembly for approval at a later stage.

The Ministry Development Committee proposed amendment to its regulations to remove a stated duty that it no longer performs, that is: the management of the annual Ministry Family Camp. It was resolved to approve this deletion of words for advancement to the General Assembly and this is found in clause 4 of the deliverance.

Finally, the Clerkship Committee approached the committee with a minor proposed amendment to its regulations regarding who is best suited to be convener of the committee. This change is advanced in clause 5 of the deliverance.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

COMMISSION FOR CHURCH INSTITUTIONS (Min. 31)

The Commission made the following appointments for the year 2015/2016:

1. Presbyterian Ladies' College Council

Group A appoint:	Group B appoint:	Group C approve & appoint:
Mr Brian Bayston	Ms Mui-Chun Chew	Prof Greg Barton
Rev Andrew Bray	Mrs Carolyn Elvins	Mr Graeme Boyles
Mrs Catherine O'Leary	Mrs Christine Hopper	Rev Mark Chew
Dr Emily Roberts	Dr Andrew McDonald	Dr Christopher Morgan
Mr Russell Walley	Mrs Jan Markham	Mrs Janice Smith
		Mrs Gail Thannhauser
		Dr Jillian Webster

2. Scotch College Council

Group A appoint:	Group B appoint:	Group C approve & appoint:
Rev Ivan Barker	Mr Jonathan Buckley	Prof Andrew Holmes
Mr Brian Bayston	Mr Peter Findlay	Mrs Jayne Hrdlicka
Mr John Ireson	Hon Dr David Kemp	Mrs Alison Legge
Mr Duncan McGregor	Ass Prof Doug Lording	Mr Richard Loveridge
Rev John Wilson	Mr Robert Phillipot	Mrs Fiona Pearse
		Mr Michael Sim
		Mr Hamish Tadgell

3. St Andrews Christian College Board

a) Nominator, the Presbytery of the bounds:

Rev Douglas Robertson, *term concludes 2016*
Mr James Bligh, *term concludes 2017*
Mrs Sandy Carroll, *term concludes 2018*
Rev Brian Harvey, *term concludes 2018*

b) Nominator, retiring members of the Board:

Pastor Andrew Curtis, *term concludes 2016*
Mr Geoffrey Hui, *term concludes 2017*
Mr Adrian Rowley, *term concludes 2017*
Mr Peter Lewis, *term concludes 2018*

c) Nominator, the Company in General Meeting (Parent Group):

Mr Sab Ambrosino, *term concludes 2016*
Mr John O'Donnell, *term concludes 2016*
Mrs Sharon Rowland, *term concludes 2017*
Mr Alan MacGavin, *term concludes 2018*

4. Belgrave Heights Christian School Association (Board)

a) General Assembly – Presbyterian nominees (6):

Mr Ian Birchall
Mr Ian Byles
Mr Iain Chaney
Rev Warwick Davidson
Mr Dirk Jackson
Rev Andrew Slater

b) BHCS Association (Parents Association) nominees (4):

Mrs Yolanda Cox
Mr Stephen Dunn
Mrs Melissa Pors
Mrs Amanda Wight

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

CONCILIATION COMMITTEE (Min. 82)

The Conciliation Committee met regarding the appeal within the Presbytery of Geelong on the 15 June and 1 July. Although we thought that we had come close, there was no resolution.

The Conciliation Committee formally met regarding the appeal within the Presbytery of Melbourne West on 24 August. There was a second meeting on 18 September outside of protocol, we called it a brotherly fellowship. There was no resolution.

Robert L Carner
CONVENER

DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 56)

The Chief of the Defence Force and the Minister for Defence are continuing to drive significant organisational change. These changes are structural, cultural and operational and involve all three services. There is a strong drive to both update and refine the way Defence goes about its business in order to ensure it delivers the combat-ready forces that Australia requires for sea, land and air.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has a proud record of successfully implementing change and in recent years this has been evident with more streamlined command and control structures, adaptation in conflict environments, modernising processes, and even changing individuals' long-held habits and behaviours. These are no small tasks and through all this it needs to be remembered that Defence is a people organisation. For many, it has been mentally challenging, physically demanding and at times even an emotionally uncomfortable process. This is the environment in which your ADF chaplains have continued to work. In this challenging atmosphere they seek to shine forth with the gospel of truth and make known the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

A great joy is that there continues to remain ongoing opportunity for gospel ministry both publically and at a more one on one level. Chaplains continue to regularly run or facilitate Bible studies, discipleship programs, and prayer meetings as well as provide lessons and formal instruction sessions. As always, their pastoral care and pastoral counselling is constantly sought after. Overwhelmingly, the work and ministry of chaplains is highly valued at all levels of command. This year CHAP Peter Owen was identified to deploy to the Middle East and CHAP Martin de Pyle has been tasked to complete several strategic projects for the Army Chaplaincy Department.

Committee membership has undergone minor changes with Rev Bruce Riding standing down after many years of involvement with Defence chaplaincy. We sincerely thank him for his service. To replace him, we are pleased to welcome Rev Kamran Nazir. We have also been able to welcome Rev Kyung Ee as an ARES chaplain. Rev Andrew Robinson posted to Kapooka at the beginning of the year. He remains a member of our committee but due to the interstate location of his work environment he is not able to be as active on our committee. RACS member, Rev Allan Harman, has continued to supply valued leadership and pastoral support.

This year we were also able to welcome Joshua Bouzanquet to Victoria. Joshua is an in-service candidate for Army chaplaincy who completed his theological studies at QTC and is now undertaking his two year pastoral placement at Eltham Presbyterian Church. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Melbourne North on 13 August and will commence as a full time ADF chaplain at the beginning of 2017.

Again, we have appreciated the 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	HQ DCSTC
Chaplain Andrew Robinson	ARA	HQ ARTC
Chaplain Trevor Cox	ARES	4CER
Chaplain Kyung Ee	ARES	AST (AKG) Puckapunyal

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. 109)

All exit appointments noted in last year's report have now resulted in ordinations and either inductions or appointments: Stephen Jones at Melton, Russell Grinter at the 'Reforming Church' plant in South-East Bendigo, Christian Tirtha at Scots' Church Melbourne, where he is minister of the Indonesian Congregation, and Luke Brownley at Hume (from September).

We also reported to the 2014 Assembly that we had decided to release Exit Student Chris Duke from any obligation to the committee, given his circumstances at that time. However, following the Assembly, and as circumstances changed, we reconsidered this decision, and resolved to appoint Chris to the Essendon-Clifton Hill Parish, into which he is now about to be ordained and inducted.

At the time of writing, appointments for the three ministry candidates exiting the Theological College this year have not been finalised. We hope to be able to advise of their appointments in a Supplementary Report.

The committee has noted that the number of ministry candidates at the College has increased in recent years. This is an answer to prayer and a blessing for which we must be prepared over the next few years. We encourage presbyteries and parishes to plan well ahead and to consider how an exit appointment might strengthen and enrich gospel ministry in the future.

Ian Hutton
CONVENER

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Min. 92)

1. General Mission Program Receipts – 2014/15

The total of the General Mission Program for 2014/15, as approved by the 2014 Commission of the General Assembly, was \$162,884. As at 30 June 2015, the subscriptions against the allocations for 2014/15 total \$161,551 or approximately 99% of the total General Mission Program allocated to presbyteries, compared to 95% for the prior year. Of the allocated sums, \$6,434 (prior year \$13,260) was not received. This represents 4% of the total allocation. This was largely offset by over-subscriptions of \$5,140. A further \$3,510 was received in respect of the previous financial year. This is a most encouraging outcome. The committee is pleased to see that almost all parishes have paid their allocations for the year. This is a significant improvement on prior years. 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, and especially commends those congregations which have subscribed in excess of its allocation, and encourages this practice.

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 2015.

2. Request from May 2015 Commission of Assembly

The Commission of the General Assembly by minute 20 in May 2015 resolved to:

9. Request the Committee to:
 - a. reconsider the formulation of the GMP for CPI; and
 - b. report to the General Assembly in October with proposals.

The committee is unclear as to what this request means in the context of its regulations and previous directions from the Assembly. To assist the Assembly in clarifying what it might mean, we provide here a summary of the way the GMP committee determines the allocation each year:

In accordance with regulation 3(b), the committee considers budgets for those committees requesting an allocation from GMP to fund their activities:

Duties

3. The duties of the committee shall be:
 - b) for the purpose of determining its recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly or Commission, the committee:
 - i) shall require each committee of the General Assembly which desires to apply for a distribution from the General Mission Program, to prepare in a form approved by the committee, a budget for the ensuing year clearly indicating the amount sought by that committee from the General Mission Program, supplemented by a submission supporting the application, such budget to be provided to the committee by a specified date;
 - ii) shall receive a copy of the budget for the ensuing year of each Committee of the General Assembly which desires to apply for a distribution from the General Mission Program, clearly indicating the amount sought by that Committee from the General Mission Program, where necessary supplemented by a submission supporting the application;
 - iii) may confer with any Assembly committee or its convener for the purpose of clarifying any item in the budget submitted by that committee;

- iv) may reduce or increase the amount sought by any Assembly committee, or decline to include any amount for that committee;
- v) may from time to time, require each presbytery to supply to it by a specified date, such financial and other information relating to the several parishes or a specific parish within its bounds, as it may deem necessary for it to prepare the formula referred to in sub-clause 3(a) (ii);

Within the regulations, this is the only basis for including an allocation within the General Missions Program budget. Prior to receiving any budget for consideration, the Board of Investment and Finance will review the budget in terms of its regulations 5(f) and 5(g) before forwarding those budgets requesting GMP to our committee in accordance with BIF regulation 5(h). The net amount of GMP requested by any committee is not subject to CPI but is dependent on numerous other factors which affect both revenue and expenditure.

In addition to the regulations, the Assembly has over the years passed a number of resolutions directing the committee to include in the budget certain other amounts, or instructing the committee when considering allocations to committees to take account of certain factors. These resolutions include:

- a) Direct the Committee in assessing future Assembly Committee proposals for grants, to consider grants made to committees in the previous two years, paying particular attention to committee surpluses/deficits for those years. (GA 2003 Minute 31.6 BB p 87)
- b) Instruct each committee of the Assembly that receives or has asked for any distribution from the GMP budget to carefully examine their accounts and their conscience, and to desist from accumulating investment capital at the expense of the congregations of the church. (GA 2003 Minute 31.7 BB p 87)
- c) TEC Bursary Fund: Approve the funding of the TEC Bursary Fund from GMP, the amount being given each year to consist of 20% of the total cost of candidates' fees for the preceding financial year and whatever the reduction in the capital of the fund has been in the previous financial year, this arrangement to be reviewed in five years' time. (GA 2012 Minute 85.12 BB p 108, now superseded by GAV 2015 Minute 11.2)
- d) Request the Committee to give consideration to adding the Australian Christian Lobby to its 2004 list of Interdenominational Enterprises with an appropriate recommended grant. (GA 2003 Minute 31.5 BB p 87)
- e) Request the amount of \$1,000 allocated to Australian Family Association under the 2005/06 GMP budget be paid to Mr Bill Muehlenberg. (GAV 2005 Minute 89.5 BB p 104)
- f) Recommend that annual payments of \$2,000 be made to each of Saltshakers and Mr Bill Muehlenberg and \$5,000 to Australian Christian Lobby on an ongoing basis subject to:
 - i) confirmation from the Church and Nation Committee to the General Mission Program Committee that Australian Christian Lobby, Saltshakers and Mr Bill Muehlenberg should continue to be supported, and
 - ii) periodic adjustment of grants for inflation (Melbourne CPI increases). (GAV 2005 Minute 89.6 BB p 104)
- g) 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. (GAV Commission 2013, Minute 10.2 BB p 8)

Other directions which have since been rescinded or lapsed include a direction to include a 10% levy on the total GMP towards the Property Development Fund and funding of the PCV training officer.

The effect of the resolutions quoted in (a) and (b) above, which the committee is still working within, is to limit the GMP allocations to what is absolutely necessary to fund the current year operations and no more. An instruction to consider the formulation for CPI is inconsistent with those directions and we do not know how to apply it.

In accordance with the spirit of part (b) of minute 29.6 in 2005 – see (f) above – the allocation to external bodies is generally indexed by CPI unless otherwise approved by the Assembly or Commission.

Philip Court
CONVENER

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,948						
Ararat	451	451			451		100.0%
Ballarat North/Mt Prospect/Smeaton	956	956			956		100.0%
Ballarat South	1,209	1,250	41		1,250		103.4%
Ballarat West/Lexton	1,245	1,245			1,245		100.0%
Carisbrook/Castlemaine	812	812			812		100.0%
Daylesford	217	217			217		100.0%
Horsham/Marnoo	560	560			560		100.0%
Kaniva/Nhill	866	866			866		100.0%
Skipton/Lismore	632	632			632		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,948	6,989	41		6,989		100.6%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,136						
Benalla	2,283	2,283			2,283		100.0%
Broadford	417	417			417		100.0%
Numurkah	1,063	1,063			1,063		100.0%
Seymour/Nagambie/Yea	737	737			737		100.0%
Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram	1,063	1,063			1,063		100.0%
Tatura	1,752	1,752			1,752		100.0%
Wangaratta/Yarrawonga/Myrtleford	1,235	1,235			1,235		100.0%
Wodonga	586	200			200	386	34.1%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,136	8,750			8,750	386	95.8%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						4.2%	
PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	21,740						
Aspendale	1,003	1,003			1,003		100.0%
Brighton	1,298	1,298			1,298		100.0%
Cheltenham	1,862	1,862			1,862		100.0%
Clarinda	578	578			578		100.0%
Clayton	5,581	5,581			5,581		100.0%
Cranbourne	1,850					1,850	
Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup	169	169			169		100.0%
Dandenong	1,199	1,199			1,199		100.0%
Dromana/Mornington	1,172	1,172			1,172		100.0%
Frankston	2,654	2,654			2,654		100.0%
Mordialloc	938	938			938		100.0%
Somerville	876	876			876		100.0%
Sorrento/Rye	1,849	1,849			1,849		100.0%
SE Samoan	711	711			711		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	21,740	19,890			19,890	1,850	91.5%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						8.5%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,513						
Colac	970	970			970		100.0%
Geelong - St George's	677	677			677		100.0%
Geelong North	1,303	1,303			1,303		100.0%
Geelong West	1,355	1,355			1,355		100.0%
Moorabool	1,218	1,218			1,218		100.0%
The Leigh	990	990			990		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,513	6,513			6,513		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	7,000						
Bairnsdale	644	644			644		100.0%
Drouin	3,521	3,521			3,521		100.0%
Leongatha	308	308			308		100.0%
Moe/Yarram	1,260	1,260			1,260		100.0%
Morwell	1,190	1,190			1,190		100.0%
Sale	77	77			77		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	7,000	7,000			7,000		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	11,030						
Camperdown/Terang	910	910			910		100.0%
Hamilton	1,735	1,735			1,735		100.0%
Heywood/Portland	945	945			945		100.0%
Koroit/Port Fairy	1,090	1,090			1,090		100.0%
Noorat	1,030	1,030			1,030		100.0%
Warrnambool	5,320	5,320			5,320		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	11,030	11,030			11,030		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							
PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	11,174						
Belgrave Heights	601	601			601		100.0%
Blackburn	501	600	99		600		119.8%
Croydon Hills	1,602	1,602			1,602		100.0%
Donvale	5,306	5,306			5,306		100.0%
Heathmont	781	781			781		100.0%
Kirkbrae	100	100			100		100.0%
Mt Evelyn	801	801			801		100.0%
Warburton	501	501			501		100.0%
Woori Yallock	981	981			981		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	11,174	11,273	99		11,273		100.9%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	32,624						
Arabic	1,012	1,012			1,012		100.0%
Ashburton	1,393	1,393			1,393		100.0%
Auburn	1,478	1,478			1,478		100.0%
Burwood Community	2,094	2,094			2,094		100.0%
Camberwell	6,459	6,459			6,459		100.0%
Canterbury	3,295	3,295			3,295		100.0%
Caulfield/Elwood	2,871	2,871		3,510	6,381		100.0%
Gardenvale East	326	326			326		100.0%
Hawthorn	1,668	1,668			1,668		100.0%
Korean, Balwyn	1,928					1,928	
Malvern	2,822	2,822			2,822		100.0%
South Yarra	3,360	3,360			3,360		100.0%
St Kilda / Balaclava	1,431	6,431	5,000		6,431		449.4%
Surrey Hills	2,487	2,487			2,487		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	32,624	35,696	5,000	3,510	39,206	1,928	109.4%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						5.9%	
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	24,345						
Bundoora	4,710	4,710			4,710		100.0%
Eltham	3,409	3,409			3,409		100.0%
Epping	2,301	2,301			2,301		100.0%
Heidelberg	1,673	1,673			1,673		100.0%
Hume	641	641			641		100.0%
Kangaroo Ground	2,270					2,270	
Reservoir	2,724	2,724			2,724		100.0%
Samoan, Fawkner	2,827	2,827			2,827		100.0%
Valley	1,013	1,013			1,013		100.0%
Westminster Community Tem'towe	705	705			705		100.0%
Whittlesea/Mernda	2,072	2,072			2,072		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	24,345	22,075			22,075	2,270	90.7%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						9.3%	
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	27,124						
Brimbank	555	555			555		100.0%
Clifton Hill	556	556			556		100.0%
Darebin	424	424			424		100.0%
Essendon	1,271	1,271			1,271		100.0%
Gisborne	1,028	1,028			1,028		100.0%
Melbourne, Scots/Flemington	16,292	16,292			16,292		100.0%
Melton	1,404	1,404			1,404		100.0%
Point Cook	418	418			418		100.0%
Sunshine	1,334	1,334			1,334		100.0%
West Footscray	935	935			935		100.0%
Williamstown	1,664	1,664			1,664		100.0%
Wyndham	1,243	1,243			1,243		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	27,124	27,124			27,124		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2014/2015
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2014/15	Received for 2014/15	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2014/15	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2014/15 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	5,211						
Bendigo	1,624	1,624			1,624		100.0%
Eaglehawk	716	716			716		100.0%
Northern Lakes (Kerang/Pyramid Hill/Swan Hill)	1,312	1,312			1,312		100.0%
Rochester	1,284	1,284			1,284		100.0%
Sunraysia	275	275			275		100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	5,211	5,211			5,211		100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							

SUMMARY

Total Allocated to Presbyteries	162,844						
BALLARAT	6,948	6,989	41		6,989		100.6%
BENALLA	9,136	8,750			8,750	386	95.8%
FLINDERS	21,740	19,890			19,890	1,850	91.5%
GEELONG	6,513	6,513			6,513		100.0%
GIPPSLAND	7,000	7,000			7,000		100.0%
KILNOORAT	11,030	11,030			11,030		100.0%
MAROONDAH	11,174	11,273	99		11,273		100.9%
MELBOURNE EAST	32,624	35,696	5,000	3,510	39,206	1,928	109.4%
MELBOURNE NORTH	24,345	22,075			22,075	2,270	90.7%
MELBOURNE WEST	27,124	27,124			27,124		100.0%
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA	5,211	5,211			5,211		100.0%
unallocated	-1						
TOTALS	162,845	161,551	5,140	3,510	165,061	6,434	99.2%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						4.0%	

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 89)

*I love you, O God, my strength.
The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
(Psalm 18:1-2 ESV)*

The chaplains of the PCV enter into spheres of ministry where problems, pain and passion are highly evident. They are asked to be strong as they provide pastoral support to those in need. Your chaplains are strong because the Lord is strong. The Lord is their rock, their fortress and their deliverer. Together, as we pray and they act, the Lord works mightily through their lives and the lives of those whom they minister to.

In administering and overseeing this work, the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (HCCC) meets bi-monthly and the committee this year has comprised of the following people; Mrs Toni Orchard, Mrs Alison Robertson, Rev Clinton Le Page, Rev Philip Court, Rev Grant Vayne, Rev Philip Chang and Rev Miles Fagan.

HCCC said farewell to two long serving members: Miss Barbara Brown (9 year rule) and Mrs Anne Elliott (also serving in an important role as our Ministry Family Camp Coordinator.) To both Barbara and Anne, we will miss you and continue to pray for you.

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 2014/2015 below:

- Mrs Christine Le Page – Paediatric pastoral care at Northern Health funded by the 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)
- Mrs Janine Motyer – Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes funded in full by the Social Services Committee (0.8EFT)
- Miss Elspeth Slater – Pastoral Support Worker to PCV Ministry Wives (0.6 EFT)
- Rev Tony and Mrs Anne Salisbury – Ministry to the Deaf Community funded jointly with the Ministry Development Committee and the Deaf Presbyterian Church (1.0 EFT)
- Mrs Suzanne Oakes – Completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) as a Pastoral Care Intern at the Royal Children's Hospital and now works at RCH as a PCV Pastoral Carer funded by the Hughes Trust (0.4 EFT)
- Mrs Jacqui Spanos and Mrs Gita Dickinson are being sponsored by HCCC to complete two units of CPE through the Austin CPE centre
- Mrs Kathy James – HCCC Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Coordinator (0.4 EFT).

The HCCC also provides monthly payments to cover travel expenses for several PCV voluntary visiting Chaplains working in a range of settings, including local health and aged care facilities, prisons and to the Victorian Police force. We urge the Assembly to continue to pray for these varied important works.

Police Chaplaincy

PCV Police Chaplains contract individually with Victoria Police (VICPOL) with support as required from the HCCC. They agree to make regular visits to their local police stations and speak with any there that might wish to engage with them, seeking to build long term, trusting relationships with Police Officers and Senior Staff and providing counsel and prayer as appropriate. Police Chaplains participate in regular VICPOL training for their role and seek to create opportunities as they are able to include and acknowledge local police at the parish level for their contribution to the safety and well-being of our community.

Please continue to pray for our PCV Police Chaplains and for God's blessing on this important community chaplaincy work.

The role of a full-time PCV Police Chaplain is still on the HCCC agenda. As reported at the Commission of Assembly, no funding for this is available so this desirable ministry cannot proceed.

Listed below are the PCV Police Chaplains for your prayer support:

- Gerald Vanderwert (Doncaster Police Station) – 15 years' service
- Chris Siriweera (Whitehorse Police Service Area – Box Hill, Nunawading Stations) – 18 years' service
- Peter Owen (Hobson's Bay Police Service Area – Altona North, Williamstown, Laverton Stations) – 18 years' service
- Scott Kroeger (Broadmeadows Police Service Area) – 3 years' service
- Don Elliott (Nullimbik Police Service Area – Eltham, Diamond Creek Hurstbridge Police Stations) – appointed in 2015.

Scott resigned as Police Chaplain upon his appointment to a Parish (Maleny) in Queensland. Scott was highly valued by the Broadmeadows Police for his ministry in a difficult setting.

Tertiary Chaplaincy: Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES)

The HCCC together with the MDC help fund Presbyterian AFES workers each year as they work across several Victorian campuses. 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) & Helen Bell – International students (at Bundoora PC)
- Latrobe – Bendigo – Steve Blyth
- Deakin – Geelong – David Martin (at Geelong West PC)
- Deakin – Burwood – Pete Sorrenson (at Surrey Hills PC)
- RMIT Melb – Steve Denness (at Donvale PC)
- RMIT Bundoora – Alan Green (at Bundoora PC)
- Monash – Ken Lim (at Donvale PC).

The HCCC encourages the Assembly to continue to grasp the vision of AFES and its vital gospel work amongst the universities of Victoria.

PCV Chaplaincy resumed at Royal Children's Hospital

In March 2015, Mrs Suzanne Oakes commenced in a new permanent part-time role (0.4EFT) as PCV Paediatric Chaplain at Royal Children's Hospital after the successful completion of a one year training/internship period. Suzanne joins Ian Waller at Western Health (0.6EFT) and Christine Le Page at Northern Health (0.4EFT) as part of our growing team of hospital Chaplains.

Community Chaplaincies

HCCC continues to sponsor a range of community chaplaincies including Presbyterian visitation to several metropolitan and regional hospitals, prison visitation, sports chaplaincies, work with the CFA, and chaplaincy to deaf students in Victoria by Rev and Mrs Tony and Anne Salisbury.

Of particular note is the length and strength with which many of our chaplains have visited in their spheres of ministry. One particular example is Ruth Owen who recently received an 18 year award for her prison ministry. There are others too who have endured with great perseverance in order to bring the light of the gospel into places of uncertainty and pain.

Spiritual Health Victoria

The PCV retains one seat on the Council of Spiritual Health Victoria (SHV) currently held by Mrs Kathy James, who is also the current Chairman of the SHV Board. Please pray for this Council which exists to administer State Government funding to Victorian faith communities in support of the provision of dedicated spiritual care services in healthcare settings in Victoria.

In 2014/2015 the PCV received an amount of \$29,236 for use in facilitating PCV Healthcare Chaplaincy Services, an amount based proportionally on the level of Presbyterian representation in Victoria in the most recent Census (2011).

Pastoral Support Worker, Ministry Wives

In recent weeks, Miss Elspeth Slater participated in an annual review for her role, with those involved being clearly able to see the range and depth of Elspeth's quiet yet vital ministry to PCV Ministry wives. This occurs through regular visitation in individual and group settings, telephone and email contact, much prayer, attendance at a full range of PCV events involving ministry wives and the publication of her regular newsletter 'Food for Thought'.

We continue to thank God for keeping Elspeth safe in her travels to every corner of the state in her PSW role, this year travelling 3,948km in the service of ministry wives. At the August HCCC meeting 2015, the committee recommended that Elspeth be re-appointed to her PSW role for a further two years.

HCCC Good Friday Appeal

Through the partnership and generosity of our PCV congregations, the HCCC Good Friday Appeal for 2015 raised \$17,055.20 for the support and continuation of our varied PCV Chaplaincy ministries. The HCCC gives thanks to God for this wonderful annual contribution and values your prayers for its effective application to our ongoing work.

Ministry Family Camp

The Ministry Family Camp is a precious time for many ministry families to gather for several days at Phillip Island Adventure Resort. The camp of 2014 was no exception with the Rt Rev David Cook as our keynote speaker.

Mrs Anne Elliott has convened the camp for the last seven years and 2014 was her final camp in this role. She has served HCCC and this denomination with excellence, preparing an inclusive and organised camp that catered for families and situations of all shapes and sizes. Many of the tweaks that have made the camp flow better have been Anne's own handiwork. We thank Anne for her efforts.

The 2015 camp is in the final stages of preparation and our speaker for this camp will be Tim Dyer. Tim has an extensive ministry to Presbyterian churches up and down the East Coast of Australia as well as to other denominations through training and equipping pastors at conferences and camps. The theme for the 2015 camp is 'Guarding hearts and minds in ministry'.

HCCC Administrator and Camp Co-ordinator

Due to HCCC's growing work and increasing administration needs and the retirement of HCCC's former Camp Coordinator Mrs Anne Elliott, the committee developed a position description for a new HCCC Administrator and Camp Co-ordinator role for 12 hours per week. Funding for this role was confirmed at the 2015 Commission of Assembly. The HCCC gives thanks to God for the wonderful efforts of Anne Elliott in her 7 years as our HCCC Camp Co-ordinator and looks forward to working with Mrs Sandy Carroll who took up the HCCC Administration role in July 2015.

Pastors' Renewal Retreat Groups

A Renewal Retreat Group is a small group of between eight to ten people involved in ministry who are committed to developing and maintaining healthy lives, relationships and churches.

Retreat Groups are a safe community where members covenant to respect the trust and confidence of each group member, to meet for an extended period once each year for three years away from normal commitments, to engage with and share their stories, and contribute to a community focused on spiritual growth.

Through the retreat process, members explore what God is doing in their own lives and contribute to the spiritual growth of others through the gift of listening and reflecting on how God is growing each one of us 'up' in Christ.

There are currently four Pastors' Renewal Retreat Groups operating in the PCV in Victoria with approximately 28 PCV ministers involved at this point. Each one is facilitated by two members who have attended facilitator training in NSW.

One group has just concluded its third phase and has divided into two new core groups, with two facilitators each, ready to invite new members next year. Another group has reached phase three and has decided to finish, with four of its members opting to join a new group next year.

The other two groups met in retreat this year as a phase one retreat.

Generally speaking, it appears that we may have reached a kind of saturation point where those who want to be part of a group have joined, and those who have been involved in the past and decided to leave the process have done so. When also taking into consideration those who have not expressed an interest in joining a group, we have found that the pool of ministers available to be invited into new groups has diminished in recent years.

At the same time, we are also aware that, year by year, new ministers arrive in Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia. We do our best to make contact with new ministers and to include them in a group.

The HCCC is well aware that participation in a retreat group when possible has been invaluable for those pastors able to be involved. We encourage all PCV ministers to consider a future involvement in the retreat group process. HCCC hopes to send at least two female delegates to Retreat Group training offered by PCNSW this year, with a view to developing a similar program for PCV Ministry Wives in the years ahead.

Pastors' Personal Support Pilot program

In July 2014, the HCCC agreed to extend the pilot program involving 5-6 PCV pastors to 30 September 2014. Feedback from all those able to be involved was highly positive in terms of the level and quality of support provided. It provided support to those involved that was extremely helpful in keeping them 'on the road' in their ministries, especially at specific points of transition, concern or crisis.

At the 2014 GAV, a deliverance was brought to seek possible inclusion of an annual provision in a PCV Minister's Terms of Settlement for a pastor's personal support. Although the deliverance was not successful, HCCC was encouraged to continue to review and develop ways for our pastors to access available supports in an appropriate and timely manner.

The item remains on our HCCC agenda - please pray for God's guidance for the committee in this.

Conclusion

We can end our report the way Psalm 18 ends with one of the closing lines, v49.

For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name.

Miles Fagan
CONVENER

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Donations & Gifts	17,383
Family Camp Income	29,814
Grants & Subsidies	29,236
Common Fund Interest	91,479
Total Income	167,912

Expenditure:

Chaplaincy Fees, Salaries and Benefits	45,400
Grants	20,000
Education & Training Chaplains	339
Ministers' Family Camp & Retreats	50,154
General Expenses	1,481
Insurance	1,030
Secretarial, Postage & Stationery	881
Committee and Travel	6,890
Chaplaincy Co-ordinator	29,986
Total Expenditure	156,161

Surplus on General Operations

11,750

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	990,160
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	11,750
Add back Depreciation	384
Accruals and Prepayments	153
Balance 30/6/15	1,002,448

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	Walton	P Burnett	H Hughes
Income:			
Common Fund Interest	411	72,119	2,524
Income on Separate Investments			64,095
Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments			(7,490)
Total Income	411	72,119	59,129
Expenditure:			
Personnel Related	1,000	79,755	78,897
Committee and travel Expenses		4,327	
Office Expenses		360	
Total Expenditure	1,000	84,443	78,897
Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts	(589)	(12,324)	(19,768)

Movements in Funds

	P Burnett+ Walton Common Fund	H Hughes Common Fund	Separately Invested	Total
Balance 1/7/14	618,282	24,132	470,554	1,000,881
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(12,912)	(76,373)	56,605	(19,768)
Index Perpetual Balance	0	0	4,114	4,114
Transfers	0	89,802	(89,802)	-
Balance 30/6/15	605,370	37,562	441,471	985,227

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/15	963,148
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HOME MISSION WORKERS' ASSOCIATION (Min. 54)

With thanks to God, this report is presented to the Assembly on behalf of the HMWA. We have had a year of learning new roles within the committee as different people have taken on new tasks to fill the large gap left by Miss Rion Jennings who was no longer able to serve due to ill health. We gave tribute to Rion's dedication and faithfulness to the HMWA both at the Victorian Assembly in October last year and also at our 80th Anniversary Thanksgiving and Dedication service held last November.

Our 80th Anniversary was a significant occasion. The service was led by Rev David Currie of Scots Church, Melbourne, and we were delighted to have approximately 30 people attend. With apologies from our Moderator, Rt Rev David Brown, who was not well, we were pleased to welcome his wife, Roslyn, who came with grandchildren Josiah and Abel and brought greetings on behalf of the Moderator. It was especially encouraging to welcome two final year candidates for the ministry, Stephen Jones and Luke Brownley, who had come to thank the HMWA for its support of candidates over their years of study. After the service, a light luncheon was enjoyed with a time of fellowship. Our time concluded joyfully with the lighting of candles on the celebratory cake which was cut by distinguished guests, candidates and office-bearers with the candles being blown out by the moderator's grandsons.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 27 May in the Robert White Hall. Our guest speaker was final year candidate Stephen McDonald. In the absence of Rev Robert Carner, Director of the Ministry Development Committee, the Secretary, Mr Ben Palmer, brought an excellent report from the MDC, giving us a clear picture of the role and function of the MDC as well as some updates from home mission stations. The following office bearers were elected for the coming year: President - Mrs Carolyn Wentworth, Secretary - Miss Barbara Firth, Treasurer - Mrs Kathy Gilmour and Committee Members - Mrs Eileen Blythe, Mrs Jeanette Chaplin and Miss Janet Cowden.

During 2014/15 we have been pleased to contribute to the support of student candidates and home missionaries with the usual resource grants and Christmas cheques. Three home mission stations were supported with funds towards the purchase of equipment.

Our funds have declined significantly over the last few years, requiring us to seek God for the future direction of the Association. We would ask that you also pray for the committee in this regard. Our desire is to be able to continue to support home mission stations and students. We trust that he will lead us in his ways for his glory and eternal purposes. We give thanks to God for 80 years of his faithfulness in our service to him and his church.

Thank you to all who have supported the work of the HMWA to encourage and assist home mission stations, home missionaries and student candidates for ministry.

"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:21-23

Carolyn Wentworth
PRESIDENT

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min. 91)

The committee presents this report to the October Assembly, 2015:

Long Service Leave fund in crisis

Do you know how much Long Service Leave (LSL) you have due to be taken?

Does your congregation know how much LSL you have due to be taken?

Does your presbytery know how much LSL you have due to be taken?

This committee is very concerned that these questions are not asked often enough, and that the figures provided be correct, if and when they are answered.

You will see below that the LSL fund, which provides parishes with monies to supplement their income when their minister takes LSL, is in crisis. It has suffered a LOSS this last year in the amount of \$105,561. This is due to congregations and presbyteries NOT keeping accurate records of those eligible for LSL, whereby previously unknown workers suddenly appear and request LSL, as well as congregations and presbyteries NOT ensuring that LSL is taken by their ministers and members as soon as practicable after it falls due, as per the PCV's LSL regulations.

This state of affairs cannot continue, and this committee will make its main focus, between now and the Commission of Assembly in May 2016, to ascertain what the Church's true LSL liability is. It may mean that the LSL Levy, paid each year by congregations, will INCREASE substantially.

To this end, this committee will be writing to each minister, to each congregation and to each presbytery to confirm the total LSL due to be taken and to insist that presbyteries enforce MMC regulations by ensuring ministers take overdue LSL.

At the May 2016 Commission of Assembly, we will report the outcome of our enquiries and requests.

1. Membership and meetings of the committee

The committee (MMC) has had no change in membership since last year. All members except two are country located and meetings continue to be held centrally in Melton. Despite constant searching, the committee is still one short of its complement of six (6) members. Any interested person may apply.

We believe that the committee is functioning satisfactorily and there is now very little delay in processing the various requests, including Annual Parish Reports (APR) that come to the committee.

2. Annual parish report compliance

Of the approximately 100 parishes in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV), some 60% complied with Assembly resolutions to complete and send their APR to presbytery and then, if approved, to the MMC. There is need for more improvement both in percentage compliance and timeliness.

3. 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

church's 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 church's latest audited financial statements, the centre column is filled in. A reasonable budget is entered in the right column (column A). When the PCV's approved chart of accounts is used, the filling in of this form is easy. The Terms of Settlement page is 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 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.

4. Requests for sustentation and other grants

For a smoother and timely operation, the following is the protocol that is being followed for a non-urgent sustentation grant. 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 MMC receives applications for grants (sustentation, etc.); the official deadline is 30 September, but applications will be accepted if they are before the committee by its mid-October meeting. The PCV church office is 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 following MMC meeting, which will be about 2 or 3 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 (\$10,404 for 2015-16), divided by 12.

Urgent applications can still be made and unaudited current financial information (in column B) can be supplied, but the previous year's 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.

5. APR forms and APRE program on the web

The latest APR (manually filled in form) is available from the pcvic.org.au* website in two versions, i.e. calendar year and financial year, and will have the budget year filled in, so please select the correct one. The versions for the 2015-16 financial year and 2015 calendar year are on the website.

*Note: pcv.org.au is now pcvic.org.au

The APRE Excel program on the website has been used successfully by a number of parishes with good reports. The APRE program should only be run using Microsoft Excel. Problems have arisen where non-Microsoft Office programs have been used (e.g. OpenOffice and LibreOffice). Versions of the APRE have now been developed that run on OpenOffice and LibreOffice. Please check the website at least every year and use the latest version.

A multi-congregation version of the APRE (APREM) has been developed and is available from the pcvic.org.au website including an instructions file. It is a development version, so please report any problems to the registrar.

Also, there are instruction files on the website for both the APR manual version and the APRE program. For any further help, please contact the registrar.

6. Last financial year sustentation, travel and superannuation grants

Six applications for sustentation were received, approved and paid for in the 2014-2015 financial year. Four superannuation subsidies were also approved and paid. Please note that this subsidy is no longer available. There were no travel grants paid during the last year.

7. Long Service Leave (LSL)

As well as the matters already addressed above:

A total of 19 ministers requested LSL in the past year and all requests were granted. No ministers were 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 LSL entitlements owing and accrued.

Presbyteries are again encouraged to urge ministers to take their ordinary annual leave and LSL as soon as possible in a reasonable time frame after it is due.

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 again 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. 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 of our regulations.

8. 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, \$8,509 was used to subsidise loans under this scheme during the past year. Four new loans were made, and there are 23 loans totaling \$134,834 outstanding at the beginning of this current financial year.

9. Finance

Your committee reports an income on General Operations for the year ended 30 June, 2015 of \$103,253 (budgeted \$98,000) and expenditure \$59,944 (budgeted \$127,520), resulting in a surplus of \$43,309 (budgeted deficit \$29,520). **Long Service Leave Funds suffered a deficit of \$105,561 (budgeted surplus \$12,584).** We praise God for His 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.

10. Individual parish assistance

The registrar and the convener are willing, on an availability basis, to give help to local church treasurers. We can arrange a visit, preferably in daylight hours, during the week, including visits to country parishes. We continue to work on refining the APR and the previously mooted model set of treasurer's books and data.

11. Other matters

The committee can and does consider a variety of matters at and between its meetings and tries to respond appropriately according to the scope of its responsibilities.

Dennis K Wright
CONVENER

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

	<u>General</u>	<u>Long Service Leave</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income:			
Long Service Leave Levy		41,650	41,650
Grant from Balfour Trust	5,395		5,395
Other Investment Income	8,960		8,960
Common Fund Interest	88,898	103,918	192,816
Total Receipts	103,253	145,568	248,821
Expenditure:			
Interest Subsidy Car Loans	8,509		8,509
Sustentation Expense General	44,527		44,527
Grants for Superannuation	5,395		5,395
Committee Expenses	1,513		1,513
Long Service Leave		251,129	251,129
Total Expenditure	59,944	251,129	311,073
Surplus on General Operations	43,309	(105,561)	(62,252)
Movements in Funds			
Balance 1/7/14	819,399	1,220,801	2,040,200
(Decrease) / Increase in Liabilities	-	119,559	119,559
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	43,309	(105,561)	(62,252)
Balance 30/6/15	862,707	1,234,799	2,097,506
Perpetual Funds			
Balance 30/6/15	42,466	0	42,466

METRO COMMITTEE (Min. 110)

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 needy of salvation. As good stewards of the message, it is our task to see it entrusted to the next generation of word ministers, so that the task of gospel proclamation can continue (2 Timothy 2).

One of the ways in which we can fulfil our gospel commission is through the ministry training strategy known as METRO. METRO's function is to identify and train faithful and competent gospel workers, who will proclaim the saving work of Christ to the world. They will minister primarily as ordained parish ministers but not exclusively so. Some may end up ministering in specialist ministries, including women's ministries, amongst students, youth and ethnic groups, both here and overseas.

METRO has been operating, in one form or another, for 10 years in the PCV. God has richly blessed us as a denomination. 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 is not an alternative to formal theological education but rather prepares for 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.

While we have a good number of trainees and potential trainees, we are lacking available trainers. Trainers are 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 own ministry and training skills. In the future the METRO committee will work harder at identifying and training potential trainers.

METRO recognises that developing evangelistic ministries is not the primary task of theological colleges. These skills need to be developed at the local church level, prior to college and alongside theological college training. Therefore, METRO is pre-theological training that aims to engender a philosophy 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.

youthMETRO is a one year traineeship focused 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, trainees must first 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.

Currently the METRO committee has 8 funded METRO trainees: Chris Berry (Darebin), Michelle Buckley (Drouin), Matt Deroon (Geelong West), Bryce Wiegandt (Geelong West), Anna Harris (Surrey Hills), Ryan Smith (Bendigo - Reforming), Hayley Clough (Bundoora), Belinda Johnson (Bundoora).

Our youthMETRO trainees are: Nathan Barbieri (Bundoora/Epping), Joy Nashed (Surrey Hills), Phillip Barnard (Surrey Hills), Rachel Moody (Surrey Hills), Kevin Yeon (Canterbury), Louise Goswell (Canterbury), Andrew Otten (Frankston), Felicia Lauw (Burwood), James Glover (Frankston), Lucy Rosenblum (Frankston), Matthew Burns (Bendigo), Olivia Playfoot (Broadford), Robert Doherty (Warrnambool), Shady Makar (South Yarra), Tim Stott (Warrnambool).

Recently we reported that the METRO committee had been facing a number of administrative challenges, not the least of which was the implication of recent Federal Government taxation rulings. We are pleased to report with the recent MOU with MTS these issues are now resolved. Can we remind the Assembly that the registering of our trainees with MTS means that if the PCV are audited by Fair Work Australia (FWA), we have a certificate from an authorised body (MTS) which states our traineeships comply with the FWA standards. The METRO curriculum, selection process, funding and authority over the program remain in the hands of the Assembly through the METRO committee.

We also reported that as a committee we had one of three options with regards to trainee payments:

1. pay our trainees the minimum wage;
2. register our trainees with MTS and be covered by their agreement with FWA;
3. try and get a ruling from the ATO and FWA that covered our trainees.

We have decided to seek to pay our trainees the minimum wage.

In previous years we have sought to match the support raised by the training church and the trainee a ratio of one dollar for one dollar to a maximum of \$12,000 from METRO funds. We have doubled that ratio to a two dollar for one dollar contribution. This means that should the trainee/training church raise \$12,000, we can match this with a \$24,000 contribution. The METRO committee believes that this is both seeking to comply with minimum wage but also caring for our trainees and their household.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) and PCV METRO

Background:

- A. The PCV METRO Traineeship is designed to give the PCV METRO Trainee on-the-job ministry training in accordance with the agreed PCV METRO Traineeship curriculum.
- B. The PCV METRO Training Centre is the church or organisation where the ministry Traineeship takes place.
- C. Ordinarily a PCV METRO Training Centre will have at least one PCV METRO Trainer and at least one PCV METRO Coach, who is usually the PCV Training Officer.
- D. The PCV METRO Training Centre's activities will be under the guidance of the PCV METRO Committee and the PCV METRO Convenor. This activities will be reported to the MTS Director.

Obligations of MTS:

- 1. The MTS Board agrees to set policies for the relationship with PCV METRO, and provide infrastructure to support PCV METRO and its Training Centres.

Obligations of the PCV METRO Training Centre:

- 2. The PCV METRO Training Centre agrees to adhere to the following:
 - a) The PCV METRO Training Centre must be registered as a religious organisation.
 - b) The PCV METRO Training Centre needs to provide the PCV METRO Trainee with a PCV METRO Trainer for the duration of the apprenticeship.
 - c) Officially recognise the PCV METRO Trainee as having authority in matters of religious practice.
 - d) Publicly commission the PCV METRO Trainee in a ceremony recognizing the PCV METRO Trainee as a person qualified to teach, lead and minister.
 - e) The PCV METRO Training Centre will ensure that all PCV METRO Trainees who may have unsupervised contact with children, complete child protection declarations and obligations as prescribed in the State/Territory Legislation relevant to their ministry.
 - f) The PCV METRO Training Centre ensures that the PCV METRO Trainee is trained with regards to the denomination's Professional Standards Policies and Procedures (e.g. Child Safety, Misconduct, Grievance Policy).
 - g) The PCV METRO Training Centre will ensure that Work Cover Insurance cover is provided to protect the PCV METRO Trainee.
 - h) The PCV METRO Training Centre must immediately act in accordance with the PCV 'Breaking the Silence' policy when any incidents or alleged incidents of the PCV METRO Trainee's misconduct or abuse (including those affecting an adult). More they must immediately report this to METRO Convenor who will in turn inform the MTS Director.

Obligations of the METRO Trainers:

3. Under the guidance of the PCV METRO Committee, the PCV METRO Trainers must adhere to the following:
 - a) Care, guide, teach and walk beside the trainee through all stages of their spiritual journey.
 - b) Provide regular feedback, encouragement and correction to the apprentice.
 - c) Train Trainees in accordance with the agreed METRO Traineeship Curriculum developed by PCV METRO in consultation with MTS.
 - d) Train Apprentices for a minimum of 37.5 hours per week for the two (2) year traineeship. Twelve (12) hours per week are to be used for curriculum-based training as outlined in the METRO Traineeship Curriculum as agreed with by MTS. The balance of the required minimum hours per week is to be used by the Trainee for hands-on practical training as outlined in the METRO Traineeship Curriculum and agreed by the PCV METRO Trainer.
 - e) Meet with the Trainee at the frequency agreed upon and for the period agreed upon.
 - f) Develop detailed Ministry Development Plans for the trainee every six (6) months.
 - g) Conduct 6-monthly Qualitative surveys as developed by PCV METRO in consultation with MTS, the results of which will be shared with MTS Head Office for comparison with feedback from the wider MTS Network.
 - h) Attend the MTS Training Days approved by PCV METRO.
 - i) Attend the annual State-based Recruitment conference.
 - j) Attend the MTS national G8 annual Conference or equivalent.

Finances:

4. The PCV METRO Committee is responsible for ensuring that each PCV METRO Training Centre officially provides all of the PCV METRO Trainees at their centre with a Training wage as outlined in the PCV METRO “Pathways” documents for the duration of their Traineeship.
5. The Letter of Offer to the Trainee should clearly specify financial information for the sake of the Trainee and the Training Centre.
6. PCV Metro Committee will be responsible for ensuring the registration fee of each PCV METRO Trainee is paid to MTS.

Dispute Resolution:

7. Both parties shall seek to follow the Biblical model for conflict resolution given by Jesus in Matthew 18. If conflict situations arise, seek to resolve the matter with the person concerned at the earliest possible time. If this does not resolve the conflict, we will go to a mutually agreed Christian mediator.

Termination:

8. If at any time either party wants to terminate this agreement, the process shall be as follows:

- a) If the PCV METRO Committee wishes to terminate this memorandum at least three (3) month's written notice must be given to the MTS Director.
- b) If MTS wishes to terminate this memorandum at least three (3) month's written notice must be given to the PCV METRO Committee.

Agreed on behalf of the MTS Board

Agreed on behalf of the PCV METRO
Committee

By _____
(Director, MTS)

By _____
(Convenor of the PCV METRO Committee)

Position/Title _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Date _____

To be reviewed in January 2017

Andrew May
CONVENER

METRO Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	84,411
Events	491
Youth Metro Income	1,400
Total Income	<u>86,301</u>

Expenditure:

Grants Paid	75,005
Youth Metro Expenses	9,654
Subsidy for Training Officer	17,500
General Expenses	3,522
Total Expenditure	<u>105,680</u>

Surplus on General Operations

(19,379)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	862,900
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(19,379)
Balance 30/6/15	<u>843,521</u>

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Min. 88)

1. Composition of the team

The committee comprised a convener and six committee members: Rev Ian Hutton (Convener), Mrs Michelle Brennan, Dr Bruce Ellis, Rev Dr Michael Wishart, Rev Andrew Slater, Rev Gerald Vanderwert and Mr Norm Sharp. Our Ministry Development Director, Rev Dr Robert Carner, attended committee meetings, along with our Secretary, Mr Ben Palmer.

We give thanks to God that Robert Carner has significantly recovered from cancer surgery in early 2015. More than two months were lost due to surgery and subsequent recovery with a gradual integration into full time ministry which culminated in May.

2. Core business of the Ministry Development Committee

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 co-operation with the session and presbytery of jurisdiction.

3. Healthy Churches Checklist – a tool for presbyteries and parishes

Our regulations state:

4. The committee shall be responsible to the General Assembly for the work of building, revitalising and promoting healthy churches (an activity formerly carried on by a Committee of the General Assembly known as the Home Mission Committee) 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.

An extensive report on the practical implementation and understanding of this was presented in the 2014 report to the GAV. It can also be obtained by visiting our website at mdcpcv.org.au. Congregations, through their presbyteries, must demonstrate how an applicant church is actively progressing toward health. Stagnating churches without a vision and mission plan may be denied funding.

Ministry Tool Box

A further, personal assessment of the current ministry of a congregation is available through the Ministry Tool Box. It is our aim to use this tool to assess churches presenting substantial grant requests. Our Ministry Development Director is available to consult with congregations and presbyteries in the use of this helpful diagnostic tool. The implementation of this has been delayed due to ill health.

4. Assessment & Grant Applications

Home mission stations are subject to assessment at any time in an effort to assist them to attain health and viability. This involves coordination with the moderator and in some cases the presbytery of jurisdiction.

Applicants and presbyteries need to be reminded that capital works *are not* to be burdened into the budget then presented to the MDC as general operating expenses.

'Capital Grants' can be applied for aside from your general budget. However, when the inclusion of 'Capital Expenses' and elective purchases is burdened into the application, and appears in your accounts, these amounts will automatically be deducted from the requested amount. The primary call upon subsidy funds are to fill the void between a well thought-out budget and their actual income and are to be used to pay the pastor/home missionary.

The MDC considers that the first call on a parish's funds is for the remuneration of the minister (Code 2:85); and so parishes which show a high level of giving to missions may have their grant reduced unless there is clear evidence in the accounts that the money given to missions has come from special collections/offerings.

Subsidy applications are to include a statement/strategy regarding attainable plans to build the church spiritually and in numbers as well as a challenge to the members to give generously of their time and resources to their church.

For parishes receiving substantial grants, we urge presbyteries to make use of the Ministry Tool Box and the Healthy Churches Checklist, through our director, to assess their churches.

Our Ministry Grant Application Form requires details of the initiatives being implemented by the applicant congregation to transform lives within the congregation and reach into the community and includes a format (based on the categories used in the Annual Parish Report) for a projected budget for the forthcoming financial year.

The 10-year-rule in our regulations continues to ensure that congregations in receipt of grants over a long term must come to the Assembly after 10 years of support to justify the continuation of grants for their work.

The committee continues to assess the best way of dealing with and assisting parishes that are approaching the 10 year rule.

The responsibility of checking an application for accuracy, determining the true need for funds and discerning whether each individual infusion of funds is the best use of the Lord's resources is primarily and in the first instance that of the presbytery of jurisdiction. Simply stated, the onus of assessing a grant application carefully and ensuring that all relevant financial information is provided prior to resolving to approve the application rests squarely with the presbytery.

A number of congregations are reaching their tenth consecutive year of MDC funding and will be required to approach the 2015 GAV for any extension of their funding. If funding is to continue, it is not unreasonable to expect that the presbytery concerned will have a realistic strategy (agreed with the MDC) for the future health and viability of the parish, or have a clear rationale regarding the strategic importance of the parish.

5. Home Mission Stations, Home Missionaries and their appointments

	Home Missionary/Minister	Moderator (where applicable)
Blackburn	Rev Graham Bradbeer	
Cardinia - Koo-Wee-Rup	Supply	Rev P Roberts
Carisbrook-Castlemaine	Rev Hugh Price	
Clarinda	Supply	Rev P Barclay
Eaglehawk	HM Steven Arbuckle	Rev P Burns
Footscray West	HM Richard Jeganathan	Rev J Cho
Kaniva-Nhill	Vacant	Rev S North
Leongatha	Rev Gary Wentworth	
Sale	Vacant	Rev G Stephens
Seymour-Nagambie-Yea	HM David Wood	Rev J Playfoot
SE Samoan (Lyndhurst)	Rev Kainano Opetai	
Skipton-Lismore	Vacant	Rev I Hutton
Sunraysia	HM Colin Morrow	
Templestowe	HM Adrian Kebbe	Rev Alan Every
Wodonga	Supply	

Mr Colin Morrow was installed in March 2014 into the Sunraysia district to 50% pastor the Sunraysia (Mildura) Home Mission Station and 50% PIM ministry. His ministry is well received in this region. He continues to enjoy the ministry and the congregation is growing. New government growth projections were recently released and show that the current location in Nichols Point will be in the centre of new growth.

Rev Hugh Price was installed in August 2013 to an interim role into the Castlemaine-Carisbrook parish. This was going to be a temporary role while in preparation to return to the mission field in Japan. He is well received in the churches and region. Mr Price is still praying about whether his future will be in this parish, missions or another ministry.

Rev Chuol Yat was appointed to the Warburton Home Mission Station in August 2014. This has subsequently been made an appointment parish so Mr Yat is no longer listed as a home missionary.

As reported in 2015, Gisborne was raised by the Presbytery of Melbourne West to an appointment parish following the exit appointment of Matt Tegart. Church vitality seems to be evidenced by declining need for external funding.

Kerang and Pyramid Hill were incorporated with Swan Hill into a new appointment parish called Northern Lakes by the Presbytery of North Western Victoria. After proving to be unworkable, it was again separated, with Swan Hill now being an appointment parish.

It still remains a long term goal (along with Queensland and NSW) to standardise the qualifications for a home missionary sufficiently to recognise them between the states without having to go through the process of re-qualifying. This is an ongoing exploration.

The number of applicants for home missionary service continues to be very low with most applicants unwilling or unable to comply with the one year membership caveat. We still believe that a man can only be appointed a home missionary after he has

proven himself in many ways that can only be assessed by participating in the body life of a PCA congregation. They are also expected to be men who have preached (this is assessed by the MDC team), led in Bible Studies and participated in pastoral care. The process of application and assessment is quite rigorous and thorough.

6. MDC Finances

Financial Summary

The Common Fund balance of the committee's General Fund as at 30 June 2015 was \$1,466,842, down by \$302,813 or 17% from the previous year. Whilst the amount looks healthy, a significant amount of it is made up of money held to pay out capital grants which have already been approved. This is due to delays experienced by a number of the receiving churches (e.g. obtaining council permits, quotes from building contractors and finalising contracts and schedules for the works).

Capital Grants

Capital works may include: (1) provision of new building infrastructure, or (2) provision of site infrastructure associated with and integral to a building, renovation of an existing building or space.

Capital grant applications to the committee must demonstrate that the parish is not capable of funding the project on its own, and that the capital work will enhance ministry by providing space for a growing congregation, space for enhanced ministry or space for special ministry not accommodated by the current facility. At this time capital grants are made for church buildings and not manses; this policy may change if more funds become available.

Capital grants do not include repairs and maintenance except in extreme special circumstances or where health and safety issues are concerned, and the MDC has been involved in an appointment to that parish. It does not include AV equipment, air conditioning nor chairs and other furnishings.

Applications must all come with full financials and presbytery approval. Additionally, the congregation must make a commitment to funding a reasonable portion of the project through their own funds on hand, fundraising or borrowing through the Capital Fund.

The committee, with the encouragement of the Board of Investment and Finance, has decided to adopt a policy of ongoing capital grants (rather than calling for applications at specific times) with the process begun by parishes lodging a Preliminary Expression of Interest Form with the committee prior to preparing a formal grant application through their presbytery. This enables the MDC to assess the intent, the amount and the timing of the need for funds and to ensure that the application will meet MDC guidelines before the detailed work is done.

We advise churches which are applying for grants to make sure they have followed the process for Purchase of Property, Erection and Alteration of Buildings carefully, especially gaining presbytery approval, to avoid unnecessary delays. This process is summarised in a flowchart at the rear of the printed version of the PCV Code.

Even though there are often delays in starting or completing a project, we seek the assurance of congregations that they remain committed to expending their grants in a timely manner, having been subject to delays beyond their control.

7. MDC Grants Paid and Approved in 2014-15

New Capital Grants approved in 2014 -15

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Grant Approved & Spent</i>	<i>Project</i>
Bundoora	50,000	Completion of Building Project – ESL Classroom

Continuing Capital Grant Projects

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Approved Grant</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Grant Funds remaining</i>
Ballarat West	343,000	Second Stage Church Building	325,058
Clayton	150,000	Stage two of Church works	182,726 (includes remainder of 2011 grant)
Dandenong	175,000	Extend Worship Area & New Toilets	99,950
Mornington	300,000	New Church Project	237,597

Capital Grant Projects completed in the past year

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Grant Spent</i>	<i>Project</i>
Frankston	145,000	Extend Hall and Car Park

Subsidies to Parishes

The stated amounts are paid over twelve months unless stated otherwise.

<i>Congregation(s)</i>	<i>Paid in 2013-14</i>	<i>Paid in 2014-15</i>	<i>Grant Approved for 2015-16</i>
Ararat AP*	13,500	22,482 Feb-Jun only	37,000*
Bairnsdale AP	16,000	14,000	13,000
Brimbank AP	15,000	10,000	5,000
Broadford AP	10,000	7,500	Did not apply
Carisbrook-Castlemaine HMS	13,567	15,000	No grant made
Cranbourne HMS*	44,927	29,500	22,000*
Daylesford AP (from Evangelism Trust funds)	45,000	41,000	25,000
Deaf Church	18,000	15,000	7,500
Eaglehawk HMS	17,000	22,000	15,000
Gisborne AP	15,000	20,000	5,000
Horsham AP	6,333	12,190 Jan-Jun only	19,000
Leongatha HMS	37,175	35,000	35,000
Sunraysia HMS	5,000	17,000	12,000
Templestowe HMS	45,000	33,000	19,547

*This grant is subject to a petition to the General Assembly under the '10 year rule' (See MDC Regulation 17a)

Cross-Cultural Ministry Funding

<i>Congregation(s)</i>	<i>Paid in 2013-14</i>	<i>Paid in 2014-15</i>	<i>Approved for 2015-16</i>
Bundoora Iranian Worker (from Evangelism Trust funds)	-	20,000	20,000
Canterbury Japanese Subsidy*	-	15,000 from Jan-June only	24,000*
Canterbury Korean Worker	10,000	6,000	Did not apply
Donvale ESL Worker	15,000	15,000	15,000
Hawthorn	-	25,000	15,000
Korean North Balwyn Subsidy*	12,000	12,000	12,000*
Samoan South-East Subsidy*	25,000	25,000	25,887*
Sunshine Sudanese Worker*	18,500	15,500	15,000*

*This Grant is subject to a petition to the General Assembly under the '10 year rule' (See MDC Regulation 17a)

Second Worker Grants

<i>Congregation/Worker</i>	<i>Paid in 2013-14</i>	<i>Paid in 2014-15</i>	<i>Approved for 2015-16</i>
Bundoora Youth Coordinator	-	15,000 Jan-Jun only	22,500
Donvale Youth Worker	-	30,000	15,000
Eltham Assistant	9,000	14,000	7,500
Frankston Associate Minister	32,500	17,500	5,000 Jul-Dec only
Geelong West Children's Worker	-	-	11,362

Evangelism Grants

A total of \$25,711 in Evangelism Grants was given to the following parishes: Ararat, Ashburton, Aspendale, Bairnsdale, Belgrave Heights, Brighton, Brimbank, Broadford, Bundoora, Clayton, Cranbourne, Darwin, Daylesford, Donvale, Dromana-Mornington, Frankston, Geelong North, Geelong West, Gippsland Presbytery, Heathmont, Koroit-Port Fairy, Morwell, Northern Lakes, South Yarra, Sunshine, Surrey Hills, Reservoir, Rochester, Warragul, Warrnambool and Woori Yallock. Parishes may apply for up to \$1500 each financial year (with a maximum of \$1000 per application). Activities or events supported by grants must be intentionally evangelistic.

ESL Ministry Start-up Grants

Grants were made to Bundoora (\$1000), Hawthorn (\$1500) and Surrey Hills (\$1500).

AFES Workers

\$20,000 was given by the committee to support AFES campus senior staff workers connected with PCV congregations. The committee provides these funds to supplement the support provided by the Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee.

8. Initiatives

District Interim Moderators (DIMs)

The DIM was piloted in 2013; for various reasons the first run was unsuccessful. We have not given up on this concept, but we do need to revise its implementation. We have the firm belief that this will free up many ministers so that they can focus on their primary church of 'call' or 'appointment'.

The MDC sees the DIM position as a service to the church (relieving parish ministers of the extra load created by serving as Interim Moderator or Moderator of another parish), and it is prepared to carry a substantial portion of the cost of the position.

Intentional Interim Ministers (IIMs)

Rev Rod Waterhouse was appointed as IIM to the St George's Geelong Parish in February 2013 for a period of two years which has now ended, and the arrangement appears to have proved worthwhile. Rod's efforts and presence were evidence that the Presbytery and GAV had done all that they could to save a declining situation. It needs to be noted that the appointment of an IIM may be the last chance of recovering a church; a lack of revitalisation does not reflect negatively on the IIM.

9. Training

ESL Ministries

We are pleased to see more parishes taking up the opportunities presented by ESL ministries. About 1200 students attended at least one ESL class in a PCV church in 2014. 14 parishes are currently operating classes. On 31 July and 1 August 2015, the committee sponsored ESL Training hosted by the Donvale congregation with Mrs Judy Rowlands training. A total of 50 people attended this training over the two days.

Seminars

The following seminars, based on the Embers to a Flame paradigm, are offered to parishes by the committee through the Ministry Development Director;

- Prayer – Why prayer is the starting place in ministry.
- Evangelism – A four-week training course if offered with practical experience. This can include a Saturday session on 'welcoming and follow-up'.
- Discipleship – Our role does not end with evangelism. We also seek to promote discipleship. In part based on the material produced by Dr John Musselman of the Jackson Institute.
- Spiritual Gifts – An examination into the role of every Christian followed by the encouragement and enabling of people to respond to God's call for them individually and corporately.
- Small Groups – A study of small group dynamics, why and how we can implement small groups within the church.
- Vision and Mission Planning – An examination of the host community and current ministry paradigm of the church in light of the biblical mandate for every church. We try to answer together, 'What are we supposed to be doing here' and 'How can we construct an action plan to attain it'.

- Encouragement – This is something sorely missed by many. This can be condensed to one Saturday afternoon – but looks at what the scripture tells us about encouragement.
- Forgiveness & Conflict Resolution – attaining and maintaining unity and harmony in the church. Focusing on communication skills.
- Family Systems and the Church – examining how issues of the past including personalities and possible roadblocks to progress may be overcome.
- Leadership and Preaching, and
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

In addition to the established seminars, recently added to the offering is a new module called Family Systems and the Church. In this module we examine how issues of the past including personalities and possibly roadblocks to progress may be overcome. This will be not only an informative module to challenge the church but it will also be fun!

Churches, especially small to medium size churches, often function as a family. This can be a good thing but it does not define the church and its mission. How do we seek change, understand the reason for it and bring the whole family with us?

PeaceWise

Dedicated PeaceWise training for PCV ministers and elders was conducted in June 2014 and sponsored by the MDC; those who attended were richly resourced and encouraged in their roles as peacemakers and mediators. As one of the ministers in attendance wrote to us afterwards, 'I can whole-heartedly recommend it to everyone in the Presbyterian Church, particularly to ministers and elders. It is an extremely valuable tool for helping congregational members settle disputes and restore peace to their congregations'. The MDC will continue to encourage our church leaders to engage in this training which is offered by PeaceWise annually in Melbourne.

Evangelism Training

XEE training remains available to our congregations. This is our preferred modality of training individuals for evangelism. We are investigating an additional, more succinct introductory evangelism training course for congregations.

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 is 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.

Sister Churches

We continue to encourage parishes to form Sister Church relationships, with mutual prayer at the centre. Through such relationships, 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.

Mediation/Conciliation/Peacemaking

Many issues in the church generate conflict among parishioners. We remain committed to assist churches and individuals assess and, when possible, resolve issues in order to maintain unity in the church and glorify Christ. We first have the desire to help, and secondly, have the training and experience to help.

‘Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called...’
Ephesians 4:2-4 (NIV)

10. Review of Director

At the re-appointment of the director from 2012 for 7 years, it was a requirement of Assembly that a review of the director take place after 3 years. It was the intention of the MDC to conduct this review and to be in a position to report back to this Assembly. At the time of writing, it has not been possible to complete the review process due mainly to the ill health of the director and the extensive work involved in establishing the review process. The committee is close to finalising the process and commencing the actual review and will be able to report to Assembly when it has conducted the review.

11. Working together with country parishes and presbyteries

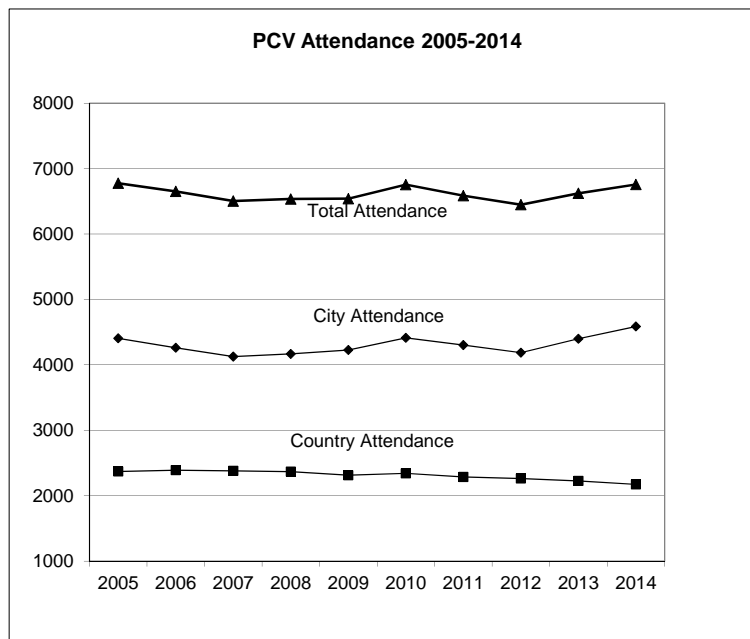
In 2007 and 2008, the MDC ran small seminars & information sessions on issues that related to small country churches, as it is recognised that they are different from large suburban or metropolitan churches. We hope to again explore this challenge in 2016.

12. Supply Preachers List

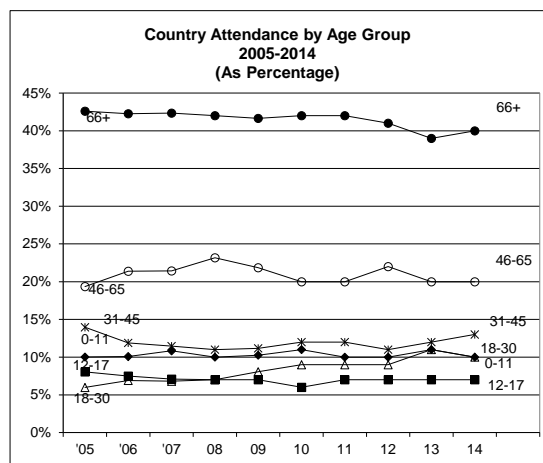
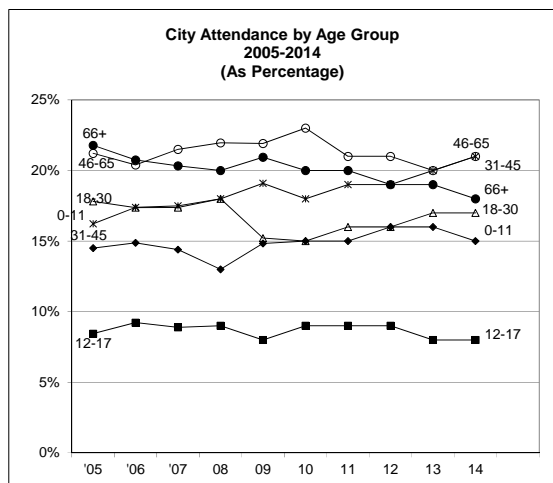
- Dr Murray Adamthwaite, Carrum Downs, 9773 5448
- Gilbert Bell, Sunshine, 9311 4103
- Rev Neil Benfell, Warrnambool, 5562 7771
- Kevin Childs, Hawthorn, 9819 4802
- Carey Cox, Hawthorn, 9818 1131
- David Cox, Ivanhoe, 9497 4785
- Fraser Diack, Warrnambool, 5561 0525
- Ken McClimont, Ormond, 9578 5580
- 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
- Norm Sharp, Ballarat, 5334 3747
- Rev Phil Simmonds, Melton, 0418 986 474
- Dennis Wright, Melton, 9746 9706, Mob 0417 571 809

Supplementary:

PCV STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR 2014

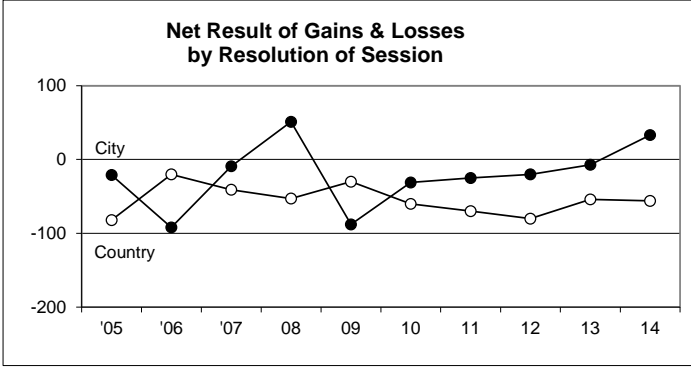
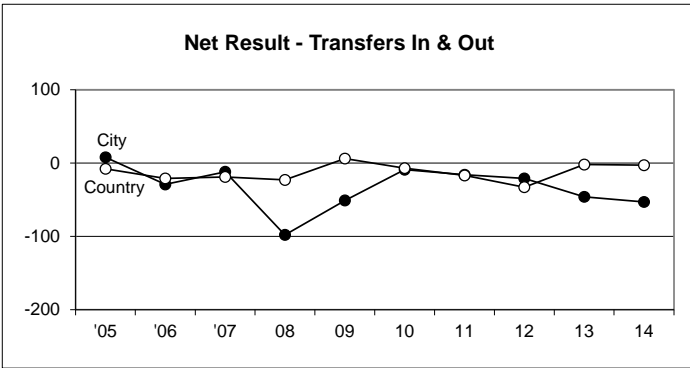
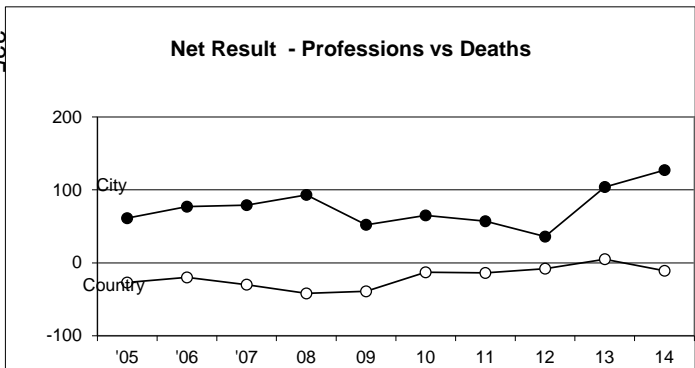
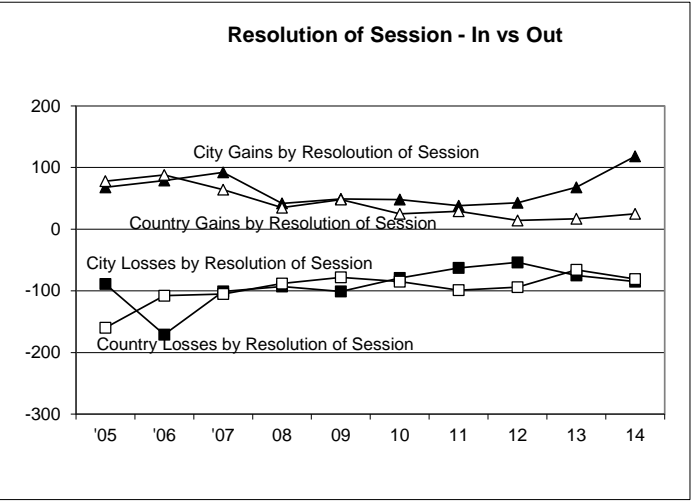
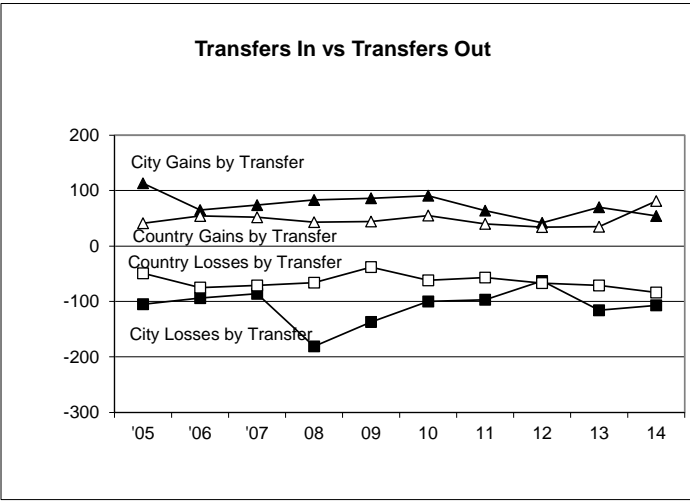
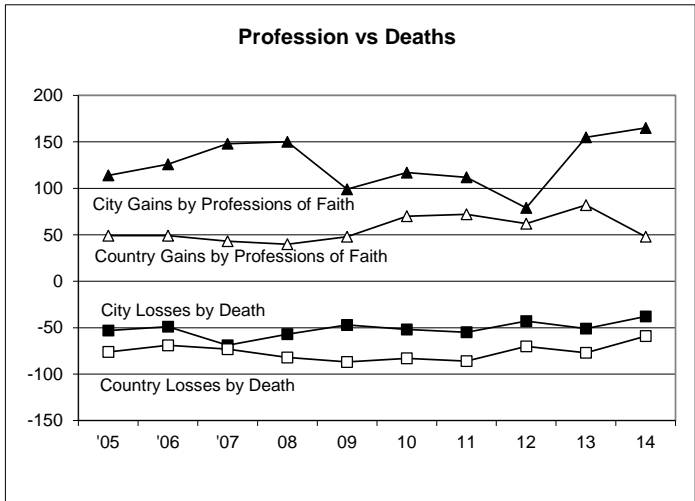


Total average weekly attendance at worship services across the Presbyterian Church of Victoria rose by 135 in 2014, to 6759. City presbyteries had a rise of 187 whereas rural areas saw a slight fall of 52.

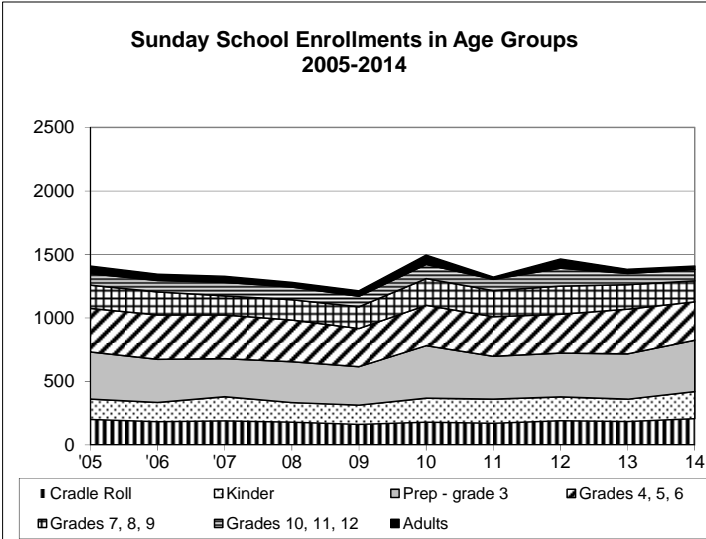
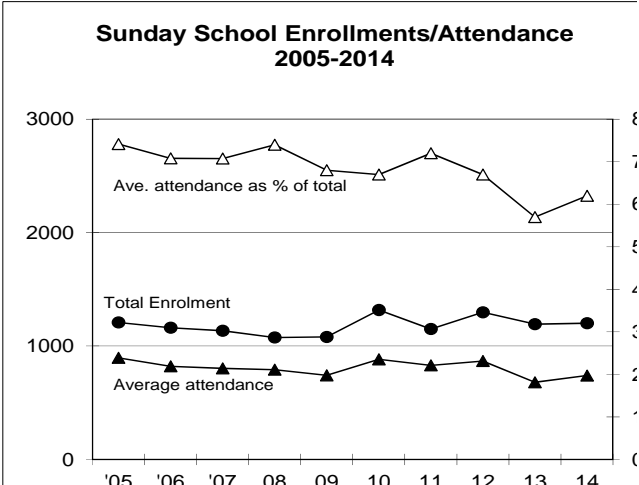


In city presbyteries the percentage of attendees aged between 31 and 45 has risen by 5% over the last 10 years. The age profile for country presbyteries continues to be more heavily weighted to older attendees.

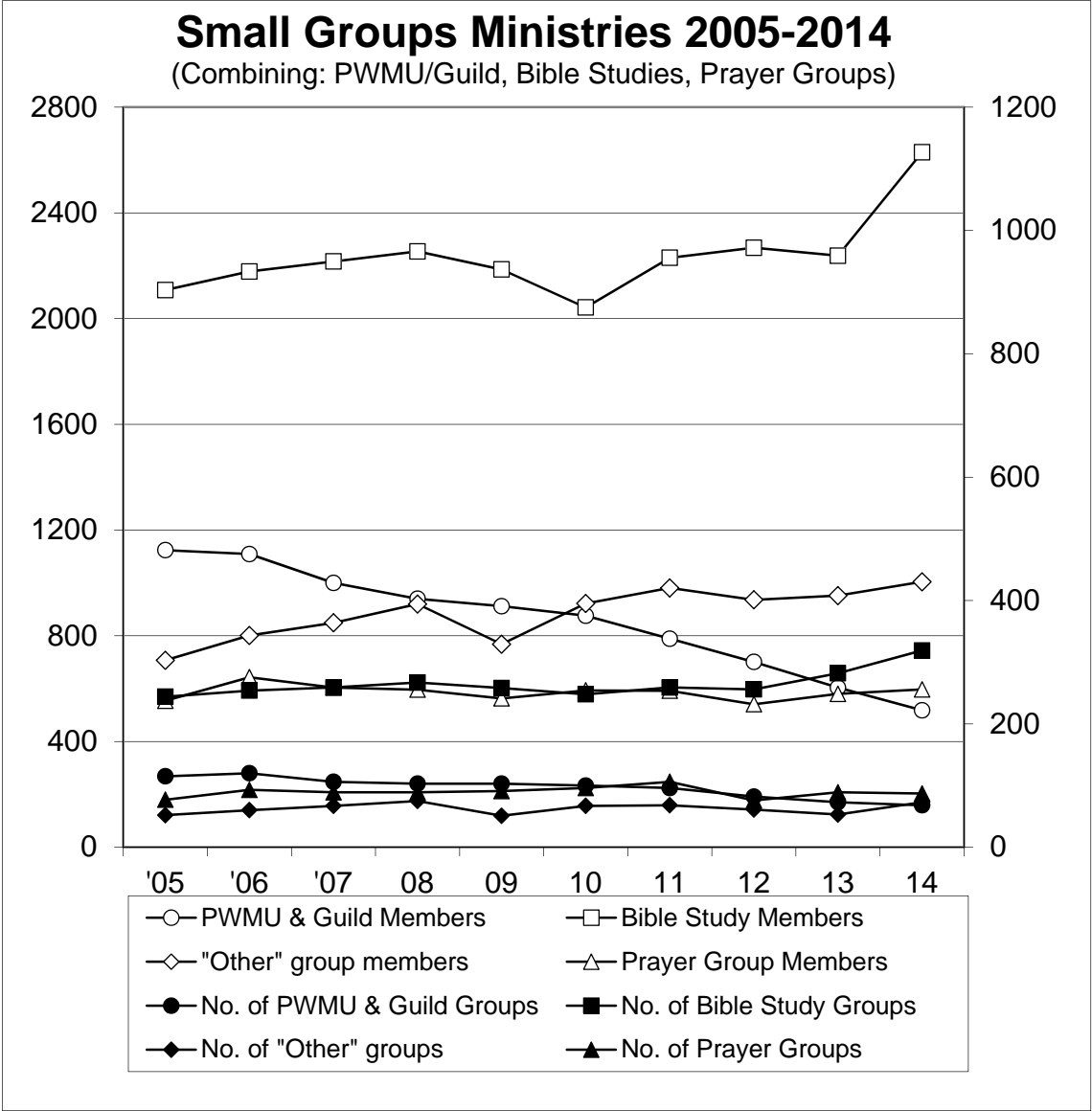
Membership Gains versus Losses 2005-2014



There continues to be encouraging growth in the numbers of profession of faith – especially in city presbyteries. Total PCV Membership increased by 84 persons in 2014 to be 6817 members and adherents.



Presbyteries reported an increase of 391 participants in Bible Studies in 2014.



The "open" markers on the graphs on this page are to be read against the left-hand axis, and the "closed" ones against the right-hand axis.

Year 2014 Tallies - Membership

	A	B					C					D		E	F	
Presbytery	Start of Year		Membership Gains				Total Gains	Membership Losses				Total Losses	A+B+C -D	End of Year		E + F
	Communicant s as at 1st Jan.	Adherents as at 1st Jan.	Profession of Faith	Txf from other PCA	Txf from other Denom.	by Resolution of Session		by Death	Resolution of Session	Transfer to PCA	Transfer to other			Communicant s as at 31st Dec.	Adherents as at 31st Dec.	
Ballarat	335	46	2	4	0	5	11	10	15	9	0	34	358	313	45	358
Benalla	410	110	4	4	0	0	8	14	0	6	6	30	498	402	106	508
Flinders	652	71	8	5	4	8	25	12	8	12	8	40	708	638	70	708
Geelong	295	57	13	9	5	5	32	8	31	2	1	42	342	301	41	342
Gippsland	329	67	19	42	1	3	65	5	7	39	1	52	409	348	62	410
Kilnoorat	519	93	6	4	2	5	17	19	20	1	4	44	585	507	91	598
Maroondah	379	94	4	3	0	37	44	3	27	10	2	42	475	402	97	499
Melb. East	949	166	33	4	3	44	84	6	15	9	16	46	1153	972	181	1153
Melb. North	513	407	82	7	6	13	108	5	10	17	15	44	984	579	405	984
Melb. West	885	74	38	11	11	16	76	12	25	15	3	55	980	905	75	980
Nth Wst Vic	250	32	4	10	0	7	21	3	8	8	7	26	277	244	33	277
Totals 2014	5516	1217	213	103	32	143	491	97	166	128	63	455	6769	5611	1206	6817
City	3378	812	165	30	24	118	337	38	85	63	44	227	4300	3496	828	4324
Country	2138	405	48	73	8	25	154	59	81	65	19	228	2469	2115	378	2493

Presbyteries recording an increase in Communicant membership for 2014 were: Geelong, Gippsland, Maroondah, Melbourne East, Melbourne North and Melbourne West.

Year 2014 Tallies -

Attendance etc

	G			H		K	L	M	N	O	P										
Presbytery	Average Morning Attendance	Av. Other (weekday, afternoon etc)	Av. Evening Attendance	Extra at Other and Evening	G+H	Estimated Age Group of Tot. Av. Indiv. Attendance						K+L+M +N+O+ P	OFFICE BEARERS				CAMPS HELD		SACRAMENTS		
						0-11	12-17	18-30	31-45	46-65	66+		ELDERS	Elected Board Members	Lay Preachers	Pastoral Carers Deacons etc.	Camps Held	Attendance	Infants Baptised	Adults Baptised	Av. Attendance at Communion
Ballarat	309	13	12	3	312	32	9	19	44	82	130	325	28	73	16	5	0	0	2	0	273
Benalla	357	31	53	23	380	21	21	34	40	74	190	380	46	66	18	11	0	0	3	3	283
Flinders	694	0	151	49	743	114	75	88	110	147	209	743	54	95	14	11	1	0	8	1	509
Geelong	327	18	35	20	347	49	21	46	43	58	130	347	19	44	14	0	0	0	7	2	260
Gippsland	372	38	74	40	412	36	41	53	69	78	131	408	32	46	9	3	3	195	1	5	340
Kilnoorat	436	12	55	55	491	54	39	32	51	88	215	479	36	76	17	7	0	0	3	4	428
Maroondah	518	29	50	14	532	100	20	69	121	118	129	557	32	44	9	12	1	60	5	4	463
Melb. East	1257	81	243	102	1385	244	139	247	241	290	244	1405	72	89	18	23	2	435	14	9	549
Melb. North	777	56	124	120	897	128	58	95	163	169	97	710	46	77	9	16	4	282	18	14	656
Melb. West	908	70	106	121	1029	95	51	206	317	228	132	1029	71	78	20	38	4	197	22	11	776
Nth Wst Vic	231	0	35	0	231	24	16	43	36	59	88	266	19	37	16	0	0	0	1	0	248
Totals 2014	6186	348	938	547	6759	897	490	932	1235	1391	1695	6649	455	725	160	126	15	1169	84	53	4785
City	4154	236	674	406	4586	681	343	705	952	952	811	4444	275	383	70	100	12	974	67	39	2953
Country	2032	112	264	141	2173	216	147	227	283	439	884	2205	180	342	90	26	3	195	17	14	1832

Average morning attendances which have increased from 2013 to 2014 were: Gippsland 362 to 372; Maroondah 488 to 518; Melbourne East 1250 to 1257; Melbourne West 843 to 908 and North West Vic 227 to 231.

Year 2014 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.	
Presbytery	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	
Ballarat	1	12	4	0	0	0	2	5	4	1	14	4	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	12	10	8	17	6	
Benalla	0	0	0	1	43	12	4	26	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	13	13	1	0	35	20	6	7	4	
Flinders	3	35	5	2	23	8	10	79	31	5	76	10	19	19	68	53	47	14	0	179	101	27	15	9	
Geelong	4	47	9	4	59	10	3	21	7	0	0	0	13	3	5	8	0	0	0	16	8	6	6	4	
Gippsland	2	41	21	2	103	21	3	42	9	2	33	11	21	14	37	14	2	0	0	57	31	11	22	9	
Kilnoorat	2	28	16	1	8	2	3	49	9	1	10	4	18	18	19	15	6	0	0	58	43	11	6	4	
Maroondah	3	53	7	1	100	12	1	20	4	4	48	7	4	14	37	33	5	1	0	90	77	41	1	1	
Melb. East	6	80	14	4	49	6	6	118	26	5	55	8	52	66	68	54	33	41	18	280	221	51	38	17	
Melb. North	7	56	21	3	43	11	6	111	29	3	34	5	28	58	130	85	41	15	0	329	138	101	7	5	
Melb. West	3	23	8	0	0	0	1	10	2	2	10	3	46	18	24	18	16	17	9	102	81	36	7	14	
Nth Wst Vic	1	21	5	1	12	3	2	19	4	0	0	0	7	1	4	6	0	0	0	15	10	8	0	0	
Totals 2014	32	396	110	19	440	85	41	500	133	23	280	52	208	213	404	302	165	90	27	1173	740	306	126	73	
City	22	247	55	10	215	37	24	338	92	19	223	33	149	175	327	243	142	88	27	980	618	256	68	46	
Country	10	149	55	9	225	48	17	162	41	4	57	19	59	38	77	59	23	2	0	193	122	50	58	27	

Year 2014 Tallies -

Small Groups

	PWMU		Guild		Ladies Bible Study		Christianity Explained		Mixed Bible Study		Men's Bible Study		Other Groups			Prayer Groups		Communicant Classes		Teacher Training		Special Outreach Occasions	
Presbytery	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	Attend-ance	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	No. of Times	Total No. Attending or Contacted
Ballarat	5	29	5	34	3	27	0	0	8	49	0	0	3	25	1	8	46	0	0	1	2	16	261
Benalla	2	20	10	84	7	50	0	0	14	106	1	8	1	9	0	9	51	3	7	1	8	3	132
Flinders	2	12	9	23	7	41	1	3	30	141	1	20	7	85	16	18	98	0	0	0	0	36	3399
Geelong	1	12	3	24	8	56	1	2	11	106	6	35	5	92	5	2	51	1	1	1	5	14	640
Gippsland	3	25	1	5	5	45	2	32	15	159	2	20	7	131	1	9	47	2	16	4	27	21	1495
Kilnoorat	4	33	6	51	9	56	0	0	13	77	3	20	6	85	6	4	43	1	8	0	0	4	845
Maroondah	0	0	0	0	6	43	0	0	25	225	1	4	7	133	13	6	38	0	0	0	0	10	460
Melb. East	2	28	1	6	14	89	3	24	29	322	3	22	15	250	27	10	97	1	11	1	6	16	400
Melb. North	2	35	1	6	9	89	13	50	34	383	8	41	13	58	13	4	28	1	5	1	20	6	1102
Melb. West	3	37	2	8	9	54	5	25	19	217	2	9	8	124	13	17	98	3	16	1	3	281	3048
Nth Wst Vic	4	28	2	18	4	23	0	0	12	77	1	15	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	205
Totals 2014	28	259	40	259	81	573	25	136	210	1862	28	194	73	1004	95	87	597	12	64	10	71	411	11987
City	9	112	13	43	45	316	22	102	137	1288	15	96	50	650	82	55	359	5	32	3	29	349	8409
Country	19	147	27	216	36	257	3	34	73	574	13	98	23	354	13	32	238	7	32	7	42	62	3578

We thank parishes and presbyteries for their cooperation in submitting the statistical returns each year. The Presbytery of Benalla did not submit their 2014 statistics in time to be included in this report, so 2013 figures were used for that presbytery.

Ian Hutton
CONVENER

Ministry Development Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	116,828
Scots Church Property Trust	442,860
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	2,752
Total Income	562,440

Expenditure:

Grants & Subsidies to Congregations	407,672
Capital Grants	(293,407)
Property Grants - Ararat, Bairnsdale	548,000
Home Missions Officer	109,986
Office	76,167
Conferences	615
Committee	6,589
Total Expenditure	855,622

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

(293,182)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	1,769,655
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(293,182)
Add Back Depreciation	6,580
Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities	1,377
Decrease (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(17,588)
Balance 30/6/15	1,466,842

Specific Trust Accounts

<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	46,801	830	162,280	52,218	262,129
Total Income	46,801	830	162,280	52,218	262,129
Expenditure:					
Grants	100,824	830	125,836	37	227,527
Home Missionaries Expenses				46,651	46,651
Total Expenditure	100,824	830	125,836	46,687	274,177
Surplus on Specific Trusts	(54,023)	0	36,444	5,531	(12,049)
Movements in Funds					
Balance 1/7/14	364,604	0	1,304,855	312,906	1,982,365
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(54,023)	0	36,444	5,531	(12,049)
Balance 30/6/15	310,580	0	1,341,299	318,437	1,970,316
Perpetual Funds					
Balance 30/6/15	26,913	6,913	39,992	125,000	198,818

PAST MODERATOR'S REPORT (Min. 22)

It has been a delight and a privilege to serve as moderator for a year and I am deeply thankful for the trust the Assembly placed in me. I praise God for the opportunity, but did want to record my thanks both to my congregation in Cheltenham for their support, and especially to my wife Roslyn whose various gifts, abilities and support have been invaluable. We have also been aware of faithful, much-needed prayer support from many of you. Thank you.

Missionary visits

We first visited P and A and family, really enjoying our stay with them and praying with and for them during the uncertain days of their visa situation. Praise God that it seems to be resolved at last, after the trial of having to leave and return to the country every two months. Their faithfulness in seeking ministry there has been outstanding and it was wonderful to see their engagement with and commitment to the people there. One of the hidden challenges for them is isolation. Nobody, even in the church where they worship locally, can know why they are there and engaging with the local people can be difficult when they believe their holy book requires them to be hospitable to strangers three times... So you wonder, are we developing a friendship here or will this all stop after the third time?

We then visited David and Lisa Pearce and family in Chad, staying in the guest house in the MAF compound. It was eye opening to see the multifaceted challenges faced to keep aircraft flying safely in a third world culture. One example: some eighteen square metres of reinforced concrete tarmac had to be replaced and we saw them begin – several men crouched down as if playing leap frog with a hammer and a cold chisel – for 18 square metres! The other notable thing was that every missionary knew David Pearce and had great respect for him. He is the last face they see when he drops them off on their various missionary endeavours and the first face they see in an emergency. His pastoral heart is richly evident.

Both these families live their love for Jesus in every way and are deeply engaged with and committed to their respective ministries. Also impressive was how they manage the massive cultural differences and challenges with such grace and tranquility. Praise God for them all.

It is also worth noting that while in Chad, where you can openly be missionaries, a number of the missionary community told us how much they envied David and Lisa that their denomination cared so much as to send official representatives to visit. Such visits are deeply appreciated.

Our third visit was to Malawi where it was very good to catch up with Colin and Shirley M'bawa and tour some of the CCAP's facilities, gaining further insight into the church and country. Blantyre Synod were our thoughtful hosts for most of our stay in Malawi. We met very briefly with the moderators and clerks of the CCAP from across Africa. This meeting had been arranged by Colin in order to start repairing damaged relationships within the CCAP. Relationships between the synods of the CCAP have been strained to breaking point by synods planting churches within the bounds of another synod's territory. The CCAP had not met for some four years and much grace and wisdom is needed to find a way forward. Please remember Colin in your prayers as he is now taking up the role of General Secretary of the CCAP full-time, and the challenges are enormous.

Parish visits

What a privilege to join with people across the western district (Presbytery of Kilnoorat), and some of the congregations of Melbourne East and Flinders Presbyteries, to worship the Lord. What a privilege to be warmly received as moderator and be plied with personal questions, in some cases, by people who have read the moderator's biography on the church website. Talk about preparation! How good it is to see that people across the churches are worshipping the Lord in Spirit and truth. To see that while numbers may be dwindling in places, yet faith is not dwindling in hearts. To see some old friends from our Koroit days, now in an aged care facility, witnessing their faith every Sunday by playing and singing hymns for all to hear – and people come and listen or join in! To see, in short, that the people who make up the church – even in 'retirement' in nursing homes - are outward looking and taking the great commission seriously. The mindset I knew of twenty-five years ago: 'The church is here, they can come if they want to,' is past and gone. The mindset now is: 'How can we engage them with the gospel?'

Music in Sunday services

It is good to see that there is generally a variety of content being sung in Sunday services. But there is a tension with the waves of new material. In practice I found that most congregations had a blend of new material and hymns from the Rejoice! Hymnbook.

I believe a proper understanding of Colossians 3:16 informs us that what we sing is to be a companion to what we preach. We are to *teach and admonish* (words used of preaching in Chapter 1) *one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*. Therefore the breadth of what we preach should be reflected in what we sing. Much of the new material I have heard has sound content but is only narrowly focused on the subjects of redemption and the love of God. There are some seventy different categories in Rejoice!, redemption being but one.

Let us beware the tendency to hand the music side of a Sunday service over to the young people without adequate training. They need to be more than musicians and presenters excited about singing to God's glory; they need to be trained in helping to bring the whole counsel of God to life in what we sing as well as what we preach. We need songs about judgement day (Rej 259), about the work of the Spirit (Rej 270), about the Word of God (Rej 451), about feeling overwhelmed by the evil in the world (Rej 496), as well as those that comfort those who feel insignificant (Rej 501), etc. But perhaps more than any other section we need to sing about is submission and service as an antidote to the selfish ('it's all about you') age in which we live. (And there are new tunes available for all the above-cited hymns from Rejoice!).

Standing committees

It has been very informative to attend the meetings of many of the standing committees of the Assembly. Some of these committees work very hard indeed, in our name. I would like to encourage everyone to adopt the practice (which has long been my own) of regularly praying for our committees by name in our Sunday services. Page 417 of the 2014 Blue Book lists 27 committees for that Assembly. So if we do this every week as part of our intercessory prayer we can pray for them twice a year. Not only are we expressing our dependence upon our great God in this way, but we are also owning, in a practical way, that we are one denomination. In my experience, local parishes can be a bit parochial, and hearing about the wider work of the denomination can prompt gifted people to come forward and help with the committee work, for the benefit of all.

Caring for ministers

The Ministry Family Camp has been a huge blessing for the life and health of our church families and indeed our denomination. Both formally and informally over the decades it has given opportunity for ministry to those in need. It has certainly been of immeasurable benefit to my own family, as my children have formed life-long friendships. It empowers us, adults and children alike, to engage in the life of our church and to understand one another better, where aside from this context, we might only meet in debate at the Assembly.

Thanks to a recent Ministry Family Camp, I have a better understanding of why it is so powerful to gather informally like this and talk. Anne Elliott explained that simply hearing that someone else is going through the same kind of thing as you 'normalises' it for you. That, in and of itself, de-stresses you. Some of us remember the 'One Minute' spots for sharing in the early camps. I hung on every word. They were a lifeline for me, normalising much of what I was going through in my early ministry days and de-stressing me.

On the very first evening of the first Ministry Family Camp, I came into the common room, stopped and looked around. The place was full of people sitting in small groups, talking, sharing, some were praying. Rev Keith Allen came up beside me and he too was drinking in the sight. I asked him what he thought the benefit of such camps might be to the church. Some 30 years on I still remember his one-word answer: 'Incalculable'. I still agree with him. (Hebrews 10:25)

Retreat groups

I am now in my second retreat group. These non-invasive groups are a balm to the soul and I rejoice that we have them. One of our experienced ministers related the fact that on his first retreat, as stories were shared during their first retreat week, it was realised that all eight ministers were close to burning out. In his opinion, that retreat group saved eight ministers/ministries. Get involved! (1 Peter 1:22)

Encouragement for all

As I have travelled about, I have been privileged to hear first-hand a number of really encouraging stories about what has been happening in various parts of the state. I wonder if we could encourage each presbytery to send a communication to the Assembly each year informing us of the highlights of that presbytery's ministry, or perhaps *fellow workers* already has that covered.

As I close, I am keenly aware that we Christians live in challenging times. We live in a state that effectively allows abortion on demand up to full term, that is now proposing the total removal of SRI from state schools and at the Federal level we have just won a reprieve from the most radical and dangerous proposal to redefine marriage itself. There is much for us to engage with - making use of our democratic privileges. But there is also much to pray about and trust about as soldiers of Christ, making good use of our spiritual privileges as we look to our awesome God. 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

David Brown
PAST MODERATOR



Presbyterian Ladies' College

MELBOURNE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO PLC COUNCIL: MAY 2015 (Min. 53)

*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 2014 to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church** as per Article 41.*

Presbyterian Ladies' College by God's grace and providence, the labour and vision of those who have gone before us, and the service of the current leadership continues to be one of Australia's eminent 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.

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.

She has our confident and prayerful support as she carries out her critical role. We are also thankful for the supporting leadership provided by the College Deputy Principals Ms Keiron Jones and Mr Tim Argall.

Mrs Cheryl Penberthy as Head of Junior School has demonstrated dedicated, enthusiastic and talented leadership.

We are also grateful to the leadership of Mr John Law in his ongoing role as Deputy Head in support of Mrs Penberthy.

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 impress us with all they 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 Christian groups in the Junior School, the Senior School and the Boarding House have continued to grow and develop. In 2014 our main student Christian group in the Senior School, Christian Union, has been very active. Our annual prayer breakfast in May is well attended by our girls, staff, council and old collegians. Christian Family Fellowship Evenings are regularly held.

Our Personal Development, Life Skills, Health and Christian Studies programs remain a high priority, with a particular focus on character development, leadership, service of others, giving back, social work, support for the marginalised and underprivileged in our society and a proactive stand against the injustices in our world.

Our support and commitment to Neno Girls' School Malawi has continued to grow within the school community, warmly embraced by the girls, staff and many of the parent groups. The very successful and warmly received visit of two PLC staff and several of our girls in September was another milestone in our relationship.

Leadership opportunities and programs fostering the growth and development of leaders are an important dimension of our Personal Development programs, as we are very aware that many of the girls who graduate from PLC will go on to become the leaders of tomorrow, and we want to ensure that they have the skills and character qualities to enable them to lead with dignity, grace and integrity.

The girls of graduating year 2014 again achieved extraordinary results with the 2014 VCE and IB results being among the very best in Australia. A quarter of our girls achieved an ATAR of 98 or above, 43% of our girls achieved an ATAR score of 95 or above placing them in the top 5% of all Australian students, and 71% achieved an ATAR of 90 or above. Reflective of this high achievement all of the Class of 2014 received a tertiary offer of their choice. The fruit of their hard work and talent, combined with the teaching quality and culture of PLC.

We congratulate the 'Class of 2014' 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 other new endeavours.

Financial

The 2014 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 with 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

At the end of 2014 we finished the major refurbishment of the senior school science laboratories. They are impressive, colourful and highly functional. They promote collaborative learning and problem solving in a technology-rich environment. Also completed is the redevelopment of the Lower Ground Floor classrooms and offices. This area has been transformed including new classrooms, and Year 8 and 9 Form rooms together with a new and enlarged microwave and food preparation area for our girls to use. A new stage area outside in the quad with a large glass canopy has also been constructed.

The next major project which is well advanced in planning, is a new Performing Arts Centre, just to the south of the Learning Resource Centre. It will be an exciting new hub for music, drama and dance. It will be intensely used by all sections of the college. The staff and consultants involved, have put tremendous effort into the design to ensure it will be of the highest quality and useful in so many ways. Subject to final planning approvals, construction should start in mid 2015.

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 Prof Greg Barton, and Group B Selection Committee (Old Collegians and the Parents' Association) is chaired by Mrs Catherine O'Leary.

The Council has 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, and Dr McDonald serves as its President.

Dr Emily Roberts was appointed to Council in 2014 and we look forward to the contributions she will make in the coming years.

At the end of 2014 during the College Council dinner we honoured Brian Bayston OAM for his continuing service to PLC, to thank him for his leadership, counsel, and service over the past 33 years and by God's grace more to come.

At the same dinner we farewelled Ms Fiona Pearse who served on College Council for six years. She carried out her role with great capability, discipline, and effectiveness. She served in Executive and Finance Committee, Charles Pearson, and Risk Management Audit and Compliance Committee in particular chairing this

committee from 2010 to 2014. Fiona leaves with Council's strong appreciation for fulfilling her role on Council to such a high standard. We wish her the Lord's blessings as she continues to serve in our wider community.

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, our gifted and passionate Principal and staff who educate and guide our girls at the highest possible levels. I thank God for our 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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (Min. 79)

PWMU has, by the grace of God, continued to be active this year in its business of supporting Victorian missionaries. The governing body, the state council, has met monthly (except January) to conduct business relating to the affairs of PWMU and disburse funds.

State council has organised and held seven public events over the course of the year: two rallies, two state meetings, the Annual Service and the Annual General meeting (AGM), and a children's event.

The first of the rallies was the Thanksgiving Rally held in August 2014. Wycliffe Bible Translators were invited to put on a programme in recognition of their 60th anniversary. They came up trumps with a varied, interesting programme that more than satisfied PWMU's goal of having this rally as a vehicle for education around the theme of mission work.

The second rally was the Country Rally held in Bendigo in May this year. It was gratifying to be welcomed to excellent facilities at St John's Bendigo by Philip and Sandra Burns and local PWMU members. Many thanks go to them for the good programme that included having David and Lalit Clarke report on their many years of work in Cambodia. Warm fellowship was enjoyed over lunch followed by an education session on 'Encouraging Missionaries'.

The March State Meeting featured Tumirin and Sheridan Indarto who spoke of the work they intend to do in West Papua. At the June State Meeting it was a pleasure to welcome old friends John and Lynette Ellis, newly retired from the PTS in India. Even though this couple are very familiar to PWMU members, it was still possible to learn many new facts about the work there that will enable members to pray in a more informed way.

The Annual Service was a good time of corporate worship and thanksgiving, with the added bonus of a pertinent sermon by the guest preacher, Rev Heath Easton. This was followed by the AGM in the afternoon at which missionaries in attendance were given the opportunity to speak briefly. The moderator of the Assembly, Rev David Brown, brought greetings and dedicated the new council for the following years' service to PWMU. David also visited a council meeting this year and reported on his trip to visit missionaries, which was very interesting.

PWMU held its Annual Children's Day in September 2014, known as 'Dayspring Day'. Shona Archer conducted the programme with the help of a team of people based on the theme 'Crossing the Seas'. Around 70 children attended, with many parents and other onlookers. Dayspring Day continues to be an excellent occasion to promote missionaries and mission work to children, and build on the information contained in the Dayspring magazine which is sent to subscribers 3 times per year.

PWMU was pleased to assist Women's Ministries Victoria (WMV) by conducting a workshop at the inaugural conference on 'Creative Ways of Encouraging Missionaries'. Thanks go to Fiona Higgins for her hard work and great ideas in presenting this workshop.

Council produced a new glossy colour brochure advertising PWMU. It was available in time to have at the WMV conference. This has also been distributed to parishes as a way of promoting the work of PWMU.

Earlier this year, PWMU council interviewed a prospective bursary student. Chanreiso (Aso) Lungleng, a lecturer from PTS in India, is interested in undertaking his Doctorate. While in Australia, he had discussions with the PTC regarding this, and council is waiting on a decision as to whether he will be accepted as a student there before offering a bursary.

It was with great regret that PWMU council accepted the resignations of Merle Elford and Winifred Allen from council due to ill health. Both of these ladies have served many times on council in the past and their expertise will be missed. Also, Christine Closter resigned as PWMU Cookbook Committee representative after 15 years in this role to take up a PCV appointed position on the committee. Fiona Higgins resigned due to relocating to NSW and will be greatly missed from her roles of Newsletter Editor and Prayer Convener.

The PWMU Office Manager, Belinda Morden, went on maternity leave in June. PWMU council employed a new Office Manager, John Angelico, to undertake duties on its behalf.

State council produced a newsletter monthly (10 issues per annum) for members (and other interested persons) which gives prominence to the prayer needs of missionaries. Also, state council communicated with members on a regular basis to disseminate pertinent information regarding the work and the governance of PWMU.

The review of the PWMU Constitution by the committee appointed by state council has culminated in a draft being sent to members in June 2015 with the intention of having a vote taken at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. When the membership has approved the draft, it will then need to be presented to the General Assembly of Victoria for approval in accordance with the terms of the current constitution. The draft is appended to this report.

State council is grateful to the Constitutional Review Committee for the work it has undertaken as the task has required much discussion. Reviewing the constitution has provided state council with the opportunity to consider where its procedures and practices needed modernising, and ways in which this could be achieved. One modernisation already instituted in 2015 was to upgrade how PWMU communicated with its members. Others can only be instituted once the constitution is approved, so there will still be much work to be done. It is the prayer of state council that in everything the Lord is honoured and the cause of mission work furthered.

PWMU Constitution

- 1. Name** The name shall be Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union of Victoria, commonly referred to as PWMU.
- 2. Purpose** PWMU is an organisation, within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV), which exists to encourage prayerful interest and support for the missionary enterprises of the PCV both at home and abroad.

3. **Membership** Anyone who is a member or adherent in good standing of the PCV and is interested in the work of PWMU can become a member on payment of the membership fee. Members must pay the annual membership fee to retain the rights of being a member.
4. **Branches** With the approval of the session of a parish, members may organise themselves into a branch and shall be under the jurisdiction of the session.
5. **Regional Associations** Wherever possible, members shall unite into regional associations, which shall exist to encourage mission support, to share news and ideas and to organise larger gatherings on a regular basis.
6. **Government** The governing body of PWMU shall be a Council of up to twelve elected members. Members of the Council shall be elected by members of PWMU for a three year term. The Council shall have power to co-opt members for casual vacancies in its membership if necessary, but co-opted members of the Council must stand for election the following year if they wish to continue in office. After each three-year term Council members shall stand down for a minimum of one year. The Council shall appoint from its elected members a President, Vice-President(s), Secretary, Treasurer and conveners of the main operational functions of PWMU. The Council shall appoint sub-committees and office-bearers as the need arises. One third of the Council membership shall form a quorum. Each member of Council shall have one vote except the President who shall have a casting vote only.
7. **Executive** There shall be an executive consisting of the President, Vice President(s), Secretary and Treasurer. The executive shall be empowered to take up and deal only with matters that are deemed by both the President and Secretary to be urgent and in need of action before the next regular Council meeting. The executive, following taking any action, shall report to the next regular Council meeting both the reasons it decided to act and the full account of any decisions made, for recording in the minutes of Council.
8. **Elections for Council** There shall be an election held annually for vacancies on Council. Only women members of PWMU can be elected.
 - a) All members of PWMU are entitled to make nominations.
 - b) Nominations are to be submitted in writing.
 - c) Persons being nominated must sign indicating their agreement.
 - d) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies, then a ballot will be held to decide who will be elected to Council. The voting papers shall be sent to all members.
 - e) If the number of nominations received is equal to or less than the number of vacancies then those persons shall be declared elected.
 - f) The election must be completed at least two weeks prior to the Annual meetings.
9. **Voting** Every member is entitled to have one vote in elections, at the AGM and whenever Council has given notice of a ballot being required. Postal/electronic voting will be accepted except for the ordinary business conducted at the AGM.
10. **State Level Meetings** The Council shall organise and hold regular meetings to promote missionaries and mission work during the year. At least one of the regular meetings held shall be a Rally located in a

regional centre. All meetings shall be open to all members and visitors to attend.

- 11. Annual General Meeting** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during the General Assembly of Victoria, preceded by an Annual Service. Council shall report on its activities in the past financial year and also present a report to the Assembly. Council shall bring important matters of policy to the AGM for approval.
- 12. Funds** PWMU members are encouraged to raise funds for the missionary enterprises of the PCV as supported by PWMU. Money raised specifically for PWMU may not be used for any other purpose and should only be disbursed for:
- a) Support of missionary enterprises supported by PWMU;
 - b) Necessary PWMU administrative costs;
 - c) Supply of bursary funds.
- 13. Amendments to this Constitution** Any proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Council. Recommendations for amendments shall be sent by the Council to the members at least 60 days prior to being voted on at an AGM. Any amendment must be approved by a 2/3 majority of those present at the AGM. Any approved amendment shall not take effect until approved by the General Assembly of the PCV.
- 14. Review of the Constitution** A complete review of the constitution shall be undertaken every 10 years.
- 15. Winding Up** If, on the winding up of PWMU, there remains any property after satisfaction of any debts and liabilities and the payment of all costs, charges and expenses of that winding up, that property shall be distributed as follows:
- a) to another charitable organisation with purposes and objectives similar to or inclusive of those of PWMU, which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members and approved by the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, or
 - b) for charitable or benevolent purposes which incorporated Body or Association or Purpose, as the case may be, shall be determined by the Assembly when authorising and directing the PWMU to prepare a distribution of the surplus property of the PWMU.

Esther Vayne
PRESIDENT

SAFE CHURCH (Min. 90)

General reflections on the 'start-up' year

After a year of operating, the Safe Church Unit (SCU) has settled into a routine of training, establishing and maintaining compliance records and responding to Safe Church related enquiries such as Working with Children Check requirements and best practice in abuse prevention.

The SCU is a resource that aims to serve the PCV – both our people and the institution as a whole. The significantly altered legal and cultural abuse-related environment in which the PCV exists and operates has sizeable impact for our people and our denomination. As a result, the major work of the SCU has been to support and train our leaders and volunteers. The SCU is a part of the PCV structure that exists to help our churches, sessions, presbyteries and other PCV bodies.

The existence of the SCU as the place to go to consult on questions relating to abuse prevention and response, and as a place of first haven for concerns and troubles relating to abuse, has enabled some serious concerns to emerge, which have then been forwarded to the appropriate arena for resolution.

In terms of the reports and concerns that are brought to it, the SCU acts as a funnel to ensure these are brought to the right place for resolution, within the structure of our Presbyterian polity and within the laws of the State of Victoria. SCU documents, rather than investigates, reports and concerns, facilitates these reaching the appropriate internal or external arena for resolution and maintains legal records of these as a protective measure for our denomination.

However, reports and concerns are not the major focus of the work of the SCU. The vast majority of enquiries made to the SCU since commencement have related to legal compliance questions, recommended best practice for abuse prevention in the church environment and appropriate record keeping.

The overwhelming support for and commitment to implementing Safe Church across the PCV has been such a blessing. The acceptance of the import of Safe Church has been demonstrated by the pastors, elders, presbyteries and the many volunteer workers and leaders in our church who have given their time to attend training and also adopt new practices to ensure the PCV both complies with the law and demonstrates Christian leadership in the field of abuse prevention and response in Victorian churches.

The SCU thanks the General Assembly for its continued support of Safe Church. The work of the many Safe Church Representatives to establish accurate Working with Children Check records in congregations and effectively implement Safe Church at the local level is also greatly appreciated. Finally, it is to God that our thanks and praise must go for this positive and fruitful first year of Safe Church in the PCV.

In particular:

- a) John Wilson, as SCU manager, has conducted a yearly performance review of the first year's work of the Compliance and Training Officer, Mrs Fiona Bligh. It is sufficient to say here that Fiona Bligh's work is outstanding. Her competence, thoroughness and faithfulness to duty is evident to all. As she has moved around the entire state over the course of this year, Fiona has

become well-known and well-loved. It is hard to imagine that we could have employed someone better for this position. On reflection, it has become apparent that we need to make an adjustment to the role, to allow Fiona to transition from merely compliance and training to overall facilitator. More of this is fleshed out in the next section of this report.

- b) The Safe Church Panel of Reference has met when required and this fulfils a valuable role in providing the much-needed wise and prayerful counsel in difficult and sensitive cases. On reflection, it has become apparent that we need to make an adjustment to the Panel in order to widen it. More of this is fleshed out in the next section of this report.
- c) The initial round of state-wide presbytery Safe Church training days has nearly come to a close. To the day this report went to print, in 2015 just over 2000 people have attended basic training during 22 different training sessions. Also, to this date, we have records of 74 churches who have appointed Safe Church representatives (70% of churches), and of 52% of churches have successfully submitted their compliance audit schedule. 58% of churches have provided Working With Check Records to the SCU. This is an excellent response for the first year of operation, especially considering that this kind of compliance is an entirely new component to church life in the PCV.
- d) The opportunity for the GAV to hear directly from the SANO Taskforce of the Victoria Police has been provided to assist the GAV in understanding the changed environment, both legally and in community expectations, relating to child sexual abuse in organisations such as churches. The advent of the Betrayal of Trust laws, the interim reports and projected outcomes of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse have significant impact on how churches respond to child sexual abuse allegations, both historical and current. This impact affects both individuals and the church as a whole. Thus the aim of including this presentation is to serve PCV leaders and do everything possible to ensure opportunity has been given for members of the GAV to hear this information directly from the authorities.
- e) Finally, it is to be noted that as at July 2015, the Royal Commission had received 106 allegations in respect of abuse by members of Presbyterian Church institutions, the majority of which relate to incidents occurring prior to 1977. Hence it is possible that the PCV may be called to the Royal Commission in response to one or more cases included in this number.

Improvements

Following this year's extensive review and assessment, we are recommending to the General Assembly that we allow for two adjustments commencing July 2016:

1. That the position: Safe Church Training & Compliance Officer be adjusted to Safe Church Facilitator, and the job description altered accordingly to include the management of Safe Church reports and procedures.
2. That the Clerk's position be altered from Safe Church Case Manager to Safe Church Supervisor, as this better suits the overall role of an Assembly Clerk.
3. That the PCV employ another suitable person for 3 days per fortnight as Safe Church Administrative Assistant with a job description that includes assisting

in training and recording of compliance issues, under the direct supervision of the Safe Church Facilitator.

4. That the Safe Church annual levy and budget be adjusted accordingly.
5. That the Panel of Reference be increased by two persons, one of whom is not a member of the PCV. This will potentially allow for the appointment of a person with specific skills and experience in the field and also improve the community perception of the PCV's impartiality and accountability in this area.

John Wilson
CASE MANAGER

Scotch College

Report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, 2015

There continues to be strong demand for places at the entry points for admission into the School. In 2014 there were 1463 boys enrolled in the Senior School, of whom 160 were boarders, and 430 boys in the Junior School. The 67 boarders who started on the Hill in 2014 constituted the highest number of new boys joining boarding for over 15 years (39 in 2013 and 44 in 2012). This year began with 1455 boys in the Senior School of whom 165 are boarders. This represents the highest number of boarders for the past nine years and includes 59 new boarders, four of whom are Indigenous students. Nine boys are currently enrolled through our Indigenous Programme, all but one being resident on the Hill. The number of Full Fee Paying Overseas Students is similar to that of last year (21 compared to 22 in 2014). New overseas students come from Malaysia, China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, strengthening the diversity that exists within the School environment. The Junior School is also fully enrolled at all levels and this year's numbers include 86 new boys. Places in the main intakes of Prep, Year 4, Year 7 and Year 9 remain keenly sought, as evidenced by the fact that over 300 boys attended our recent placement tests as part of the 2016 admissions process.

The Christian message remains a central element of each boy's life at Scotch. The Scriptures are read in the three assemblies held each week, at the Boarders' Chapel services each Sunday and at Year Group Chapel services. Christian Education continues as a core study at all year levels and the activities of the student Christian Movement group continue to be supported by the Rev Doug Campbell, the Rev David Assender and other staff beyond the Christian Education Department. Our two Chaplains continue to provide wonderful service through their pastoral oversight of our community of boys, staff, parents and Old Boys. The Rev Assender's work within the Boarding House, and, in particular, his efforts with the Boarder's Garage Band that perform at the weekly Boarder's Chapel services, has provided great support for the members of the Hill community. In addition to their guidance at Morning Assemblies and Chapel services, the Chaplains organise the very well attended Annual Easter Prayer Breakfast and play an important role within the Year 9 Retreat Programme. The Retreat Programme involves each boy in Year 9 spending two days at our Healesville Property undertaking activities requiring reflection on his life to date and the journey that lies ahead in the context of Christ's teachings.

As schools, and in particular selective entry Government schools, make better use of data and place greater emphasis on improving outcomes for their students, the competition for academic success in VCE is becoming sharper. The School was, therefore, encouraged by the excellent set of VCE results achieved by the class of 2014. The median ATAR score was 90.25 (this being the seventh year in a row that a median ATAR above 90.00 has been obtained) and five boys obtained the maximum possible ATAR of 99.95. Further, 11.2% of the cohort obtained an ATAR of 99.00 or higher placing them in the top 1% of the population, and 51.4%, or just over one half, of the boys obtained an ATAR of 90.00 or more, placing them in the top 10% of the population. There were 25 'perfect' study scores of 50 across 11 subjects. Importantly, our measures of 'value add' showed strong improvement across Scotch cohorts. Twelve boys won VCE Premier's Study Awards and one of our musicians was asked to perform at a 2015 VCE Top Class Performance. All but five of the 259 Year 12 boys were offered a

first round tertiary place (the majority receiving their first preference) with an increasing number of boys taking up places at interstate or overseas universities.

These results, together with the performance of the boys in other national tests, such as NAPLAN, give the School some comfort and confidence that it is providing appropriate academic programmes and support for its boys. The School remains committed to improving outcomes for each boy and the School's Improvement Plan continues to play an important role in shaping the School's educational strategies. As part of this plan, the School, through the Scotch College Foundation Fellowship Programme, is hosting two visits by renowned educational psychologist and co-founder of the Relational Learning for Boys Framework, Dr Michael Reichert. Dr Reichert will work directly with teachers on the development of practical strategies for forming, and maintaining positive and learning focussed relationships with boys. These relational learning strategies are central to the ongoing development of effective learning conversations with boys, and improved academic care in all areas of school endeavour, and reflect the thinking behind much of the School's Improvement Plan and Building Development Plan.

Boys continue to enjoy success in State and National competitions. Twenty six boys across year levels achieved High Distinctions in the Rio Tinto Big Science Competition, placing them in the top 5% of the 45,500 students nationally who sat the paper; seven boys have been selected to undertake the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Competition; a Year 10 boy won the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Award; a Year 12 boy represented Australia for the fifth time in the Informatics Olympiad; and, two Year 12 boys came first and second in the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce future car competition.

The School was delighted to learn that two of its Old Boys, one from the class of 2009 and the other from the class of 2007, were announced as winners of 2015 Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford.

Construction on the *Sir Zelman Cowen Centre for Science* has commenced and is on schedule for occupation at the start of the 2017 academic year. The Schools' attention has now turned to the next stage in the Building Development Plan. The 'second quadrangle' development (between the main quadrangle and the Science Centre) will include a Student Centre, providing areas for small group interactions between, and amongst, boys and staff, individual work stations, a student cafeteria and many of the services to which boys need ready and unprompted access.

Boys continue to be encouraged to undertake overseas trips, tours or exchanges. This year has seen boys trekking in Nepal, building houses in Cambodian villages as part of the Global Village habitat for Humanity programme, making music in the USA as part of the Orchestra tour, playing Rugby in Fiji, enhancing their languages skills whilst on exchange to Germany, France and Indonesia, immersing themselves in other cultures by undertaking an exchange with boys from schools in India, the United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand and the United States of America, and competing in a variety of sports against other schools throughout Australia as part of a sporting tour.

The music programme remains very strong with over 1000 lessons being undertaken each week. A significant number of boys are involved in the many ensembles that perform at the 25 concerts that are held throughout the year in the James Forbes Academy. Such evenings provide audiences with music of the highest standard. In addition, the Scotch Arts programme and other special events held throughout the year, both at Scotch and within the wider community, give many boys the opportunity to work alongside professional musicians.

The Pipes and Drums Band has achieved outstanding success this year. The Band competed in the World Championships that were held in Glasgow, finishing in third position, with the pipers being recognised as the best junior piping group in the world. The band enjoyed further success when it retained both the Juvenile and Grade 3 titles at the Victorian Championships to sit alongside its Australian titles at the same grades.

Drama, which also makes use of the James Forbes Academy, continues to attract large numbers of boys. Three major plays and one musical are staged each year, giving boys the opportunity to either act on stage or be part of the backstage crew. Debating and public speaking continue to attract large number of boys and achieve a great deal of success, individually and in the team competitions organised by the Debating Association of Victoria. Three Year 11 boys were selected to the Victorian Schools Debating Team; a Year 12 boy was chosen to participate in the National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra; and a group of eight boys travelled to Singapore in January to participate in the International Model United Nations.

The sporting programme continues to be an integral component of the School's offerings. The 1st Rowing VIII continued its remarkable success winning the Victorian Schools Championships, the NSW Schools Championships and the APS Head of the River for the eleventh time in the last twelve years. Our first badminton team also won the APS premiership; for them this was a tenth premiership title in twelve years. Individual boys have enjoyed success at both state and national level in a wide range of sports, including athletics, cycling, rugby league, rugby union, sailing, skiing, surf lifesaving and swimming.

Our partnerships with Hume Central Secondary College, Tiwi College, and the Kapumfi Basic School and Chitulika High School in Zambia continue to prosper. Hume Central's VCE results were the strongest in the school's six year history, with 54% of the students being offered a first-round place at a tertiary institution. The Principal of Hume Central, Mr Glen Proctor, indicated that its partnership with Scotch College was of enormous benefit to their students, particularly in relation to their preparation for their end-of-year examinations.

To date, funds raised by past and present students, staff, parents and auxiliaries have provided classrooms, housing and amenities at Kapumfi and both a library and science block at Chitulika. The next stage in the School's commitment to assisting this school is to raise funds for an examination hall and a bore that will enable them to access water. This campaign is likely to be launched late in 2015.

Our strong links with Tiwi College saw us welcome 16 Tiwi boys to Scotch. The boys joined Year 8 classes for the week and the visit allowed our Year 8 boys to learn about Tiwi culture ahead of the further opportunities that exist for interaction within with the Indigenous Partnership Programme, Cadets and our Football tour north.

Our Social Services and Outreach programmes remain an important part of Scotch life. A dozen Year 12 boys and a number of staff, along with students from other independent schools in the area, acted as companions at the annual Sony STAR camp, which provides respite for parents of children with severe disabilities. Our Indigenous Partnership Programme has seen boys work with the girls of Worowa College, assist with a football clinic for indigenous students in North Melbourne and visit Tiwi College on Melville Island. The School's partnership with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation continues to provide assistance to the Indigenous boys within our community. One hundred and twenty seven boys and staff participated in the 50th annual 24 Hour Hike raising \$25,487.12 for the Thathangathay Foundation, which seeks to improve the lives of indigenous people in the Thamarrur region in the Northern Territory by identifying and developing its future leaders. Boys have also organised activities to raise money for the victims of the Nepal earthquakes as many boys within our community have spent time in Nepal as members of our biennial trip to that part of the world.

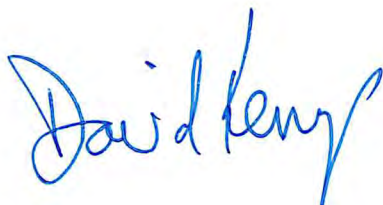
The School has undertaken a number of important projects as part of the World War 1 commemorations. The World War 1 Honour Roll on the east wall of the Memorial Hall has been cleaned to make the names more legible and updated to include the names of a further 29 Old Boys who fell in service to their country during World War 1. The School has also constructed a website database which will eventually hold an entry on each Scotch Collegian who served in World War 1. To date the website contains information regarding some 50 Old Boy's Scotch careers, enlistment

dates, postings and service records. The website will continue to be developed over the next four years. The annual ANZAC Day Assembly and Cadet Tattoo also included elements that marked the centenary of the Gallipoli landings and paid homage to those Old Boys who died during 1915 whilst on active service. Members of the School's Cadet Corps, the Pipes and Drums and the Military Band were also involved in the annual ANZAC Day March along St Kilda Rd to the Shrine of Remembrance.

The School, in conjunction with the School Council, is in the process of developing a Master Plan which will establish and maintain the financial foundation that will enable the School to implement both its Improvement Plan and its Building Development Plan over the next decade. In addition to financial considerations, the Master Plan will include related strategies for fundraising, fee-setting, scholarships, remuneration and campus development all within the context of a Scotch vision statement.

The School recently reached out to its Old Boy Community through the Old Scotch Collegians' Association's newsletter to indicate its desire to support Old Boys who had suffered abuse in their lives that continues to impact on their health and well-being, and to assist them in contacting the appropriate agencies and authorities. For such matters relating to their time at Scotch, OSCA encouraged Old Boys to contact the School Psychologist.

In closing, I can report with confidence that the School is currently in a strong position within the market place, with a high demand for places. Rather than standing still, the School remains committed to improving and refining its programmes and the opportunities and experiences it provides to ensure each boy is appropriately challenged, supported and is as prepared as he can be to make a positive contribution in the adult world into which he will enter and to influence for the greater good. All this is done within the framework as set down in the *Memorandum and Articles of Association of Scotch College*.



The Hon Dr D A Kemp
Chairman

SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT (Min. 112)

The 2014 GAV *inter alia*, agreed to:

Min. 67

Direct the Selection Committee:

1. to consult thoroughly with all committees involved; and
 2. to facilitate discussion between committees;
- as to the wisdom and impact of the proposed committee restructure, and to report to the 2015 General Assembly.

Over the past year we have followed the directive of the General Assembly.

Consultation

The consultation process began in January 2015. A letter was sent to all conveners of committees asking that they consult with the Selection Committee in keeping with the above Assembly decision.

An initial written response was sought, which was followed up by a round table discussion in April. After this discussion, a letter was sent to the Code and General Administration Committee to draft new regulations and or necessary rule changes for the changes agreed to by committees at the April meeting. This will allow the Assembly to act on the recommendations if it so decides without further delay.

Wisdom and Impact

The consultation process was most helpful in getting a feel for different committees. It is still the case that the Selection Committee sees a restructure of the GAV committees as wise. While we think it wise, there is very little agreement on how to restructure the committees.

The impact of the changes will be quite minimal due to the very small number of changes which could be agreed to. What might be seen as a radical reshaping of committees is clearly beyond the scope of this committee's ability. Overall, there will be a net saving of four committee positions and a saving of twelve nominations annually. This, however, does not account for the Development of Christian Schooling Committee which may come into existence at this Assembly.

Assessors Committee

The panel has not met in some years. The Moderator makes all such appointments and is able to make such decisions with consultation with others. The recommendation is that the panel be dissolved. The Code and General Administration Committee agrees (CaGA Min. 2014.33).

General Mission Program

The GMP has at previous Assemblies asked that the Assembly dissolve the committee and hand the duties over to the BIF. We suggest the Assembly do as requested. Our understanding is that the majority of the committee's work is carried out by Mr Michael Ellison as he liaises between the GMP Committee and the BIF in the budget preparation. This will save 6 committee positions. The BIF is prepared to take on the duties of the GMP (BIF Min. 071/15). The GMP committee indicated that it had no objection to the proposal (GMP 30/03/2015).

The Records Committee

Last year the Assembly appointed no members to the Committee. The Selection Committee suggests the Clerk of Assembly becomes the *ex officio* convener with all presbytery clerks becoming *ex officio* members. The work is to be carried out so that no clerk reviews their own records. Code and General Administration agree with such a proposal (CaGA Min. 2014.33 and letter dated 30/03/2015).

Proposed Remaining Committees

1. Australian Presbyterian World Mission Victoria
2. Ballot Committee¹
3. Board of Investment and Finance²
4. Building & Property Committee
5. Business
6. Christian Education and Nurture
7. Christian Schooling³
8. Church and Nation
9. Church Planting Committee
10. Clerkship Committee
11. Code & General Administration Committee
12. Conciliation Committee
13. Defence Force Chaplaincy
14. Exit Students Committee
15. Health & Community Chaplaincy
16. Maintenance of the Ministry
17. METRO
18. Ministry Development Committee
19. Records Committee
20. Selection Committee
21. Social Services
22. State News Committee
23. Theological Education Committee

Other issues this past year

There has continued to be a number of early resignations from committees with few completing their 3 years on committees. Alarming, this has been true also of conveners. We have found many ministers unwilling to join a committee, and ministers are even more reluctant to become a convener of a committee.

There is also a greater number of committees requesting exemptions and extensions as no suitable replacements have been found.

Nominations

In the past, nominations have been in major flux between the deadline for the White Book and the Monday of Assembly week. To make the process simpler for commissioners, the Selection Committee will circulate a complete and final nomination list as a supplementary report, circulated as an Assembly Paper. This way there will be only one list of nominations in print and there will be no need to juxtapose between the White Book source and the supplementary report.

1 The Ballot committee is not a committee in the regular sense. It is most similar to the 'Special committee on judicial matters' 5:50

2 Members form the Trust Corporation

3 New Committee expected to be introduced at this Assembly.

Supplementary:

After consulting the respective committees, boards, councils and other bodies, the Selection Committee brings the following nominations to the Assembly for their appointment to those bodies.

GAV APPOINTMENTS

ad hoc Christian Schools Development Committee

Very Rev Dr A M Harman, Rev D Schulz, Rev P Owen, Rev M Wishart, Mr J Bligh, Rev J Cho, Mrs A Withers.

Convener: Mr J Bligh

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 M Crabb
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	Very Rev Dr C R Thomas
Melbourne North	Mr B Miller
Melbourne West	Mr D Wright
North Western	Mr C Morrow

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Vic] Committee

[10 Members appointed by the Assembly, 2 by PWMU]

RT 16: Mr N Johnston [22], Mrs S White [22], Rev P Simmonds [17], Rev L H C Pearce [19]

RT 17: Mr D Bennett [17], Rev P J Burns [22], Rev D Carroll [19]

RT 18: Mrs W Pearce [22], Miss E Slater [17], Rev Dr F Chung [24]

Convener: Rev P Simmonds [17]

Board of Investment and Finance [Trusts Corporation]

[10 Members, eligible for a second consecutive 5 year term]

RT 16:

RT 17: Mr I Bramley [17], Rev S Deroon [22], Rev M Smith [22]

RT 18: Mr G Cox [23], Mr M Duke [23]

RT 19: Rev B Oakes [24], Mr J Tharapos [24]

RT 20: Mr T Arnold [20], Mr A Letcher [20], Rev A Bray [25]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property [Architectural] Committee

[3 Members]

RT 16: Vacancy

RT 17: Vacancy

RT 18: Rev P Phillips [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 16: Mr D Fraser [24]

RT 17: Mr K Childs [22]

RT 18: Rev P Mercer [19]

Convener: Rev D Carroll [22]

Christian Education and Nurture Committee

[11 Members, at least 6, including the Convener, Members of Assembly]

RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev A Humphries [24], Mrs A Harvey [20]

RT 17: Vacancy, Mrs M Girgis [22], Rev D Assender [22], Rev H Lim [18]

RT 18: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev M James [24]

Convener: Rev M James [22]

Church and Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev D R Middleton [19]

RT 17: Vacancy, Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 18: Vacancy, Mr J Ballantyne [15], Rev D Combridge [20], Mr B Palmer [20]

Convener: Rev D R Middleton [19]

Church Planting Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 16: Rev J Hyunh [24], Rev P Roberts [24]

RT 17: Rev B P Johnson [21], Rev S North [24]

RT 18: Rev T Fishwick [24], Rev A Boyd [24]

Convener: Rev C B Garrett [22]

Clerkship Committee

Moderator (Convener), Law Agent, Convener Business Committee, Convener Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance, and the two 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 16: Rev G Nicholson [17]

RT 17: Mr B Stasse [23]

RT 18: Mr P Barton [23]

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: Rev Dr R Carner [23], Rev P Orchard [17], Rev G Weber [19]

Elders: Mr V Vasiliades [23], Mr N Sharp [18], Rev B Downes [22]

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 16: Rev P Mercer [22]

RT 17: Rev K Nazir [24]

RT 18: Mr J Cawood [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

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Persons]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev G Vayne [22], Rev P Court [22]

RT 17: Vacancy, Rev M Fagan [18], Rev C Le Page [18]

RT 18: Vacancy, Rev P Chang [22], Mrs T Orchard [17], Mrs A Robertson [19]

Convener: Rev M Fagan [18]

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

[6 Members]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev K D W Allen [21]

RT 17: Rev M Crabb [21], Mr R Taylor [21]

RT 18: Mr R Butcher [16], Mr D Wright [22]

Convener: Mr D Wright [21]

METRO Committee

[6 Members, plus the PCV Training Officer]

RT 16: Rev A Vines [24], Rev B Harvey [22]

RT 17: Rev C Le Page [19], Ms J Wort [24]

RT 18: Rev H Easton [22], Rev T McIntosh [22]

Convener: Mr A May [17]

Ministry Development Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 16: Mrs M Brennan [16], Rev A Slater [23]

RT 17: Dr B Ellis [20], Rev M Wishart [23]

RT 18: Rev P Greiner [24], Rev G Vanderwert [22]

Convener: Rev I Hutton [21]

Safe Church Panel of Reference

[Convener (Safe Church Facilitator ex officio), Safe Church Supervisor (ex officio), 3 members of the PCV]

RT 16: Rev B Harvey [24]

RT 17: Mrs K James [24]

RT 18: Vacancy

Convener: Safe Church Facilitator

Social Services Committee

[Convener and 9 Members]

RT 16: Miss B Firth [15], Mr J Nuske [21], Mr B Evans [21]

RT 17: Mr T Cunneen [24], Miss R Strother [22], Mr G Hamilton [22]

RT 18: Mr B Miller [18], Mr D Gibb [19], Mrs R Rodgers [21]

Convener: Mr R Lowe [15]

State News Committee

[2 Ministers and 2 Elders]

RT 16: Mr A Zirngast [22], Mr P Betts [19]

RT 17: Vacancy

RT 18: Rev N Harvey [18]

Convener: Rev N Harvey [16]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, plus *ex officio* the Principal and another member of the Faculty]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev P Mercer [24], Mr B Georges [22]

RT 17: Vacancy, Rev N Benfell [23], Rev C Siriweera [22]

RT 18: Mr D Wright [24], Rev P Owen [23], Rev I H Barker [22], Mr C Manners [22]

Convener: Vacancy

OTHER POSITIONS

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

[2 PCV, 1 PWMU + Convener (alternates between PCV & UCA Victoria/Tasmania)]

PWMU: Vacancy

GAV: Mrs C Closter, Mrs T Assender

Convener: Rev Dr J P Wilson

St Andrew's Foundation

Mrs M Conradi, Rev R O'Brien, Mr C Morrow

The Bible Society

Vacancy

Cameron Garrett
CONVENER

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Min. 51)

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes

Mission

The mission of Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes is to provide a high standard of loving care informed by the Bible and the example of Jesus Christ for our residents, in pleasant and comfortable accommodation.

Property development

After more than five years of prayerful planning, the committee was pleased to announce in March that 4 Dimensions Building Contractors were the selected builders to build eight seniors' apartments and a new administration building.

In celebration of the commencement of construction, a Turning of the Sod Ceremony was held on the 22nd May 2015, attended by the Clerk of the Assembly, Rev Dr John Wilson, the Federal Member for Casey, Mr Tony Smith MP, Maroondah Presbytery members, Kirkbrae CEO Mr Mark Sketcher, past and present members of the Social Services Committee, staff members and village residents.

This is an exciting time for Kirkbrae and we are encouraged by the support from the Assembly, Trusts Corporation, executive team and members of the Kirkbrae community. It is expected that the building construction will be completed by March next year.

Purchase of 806 Mt Dandenong, Kilsyth

Following a meeting with the son of the former resident of the above address, the committee was approached to purchase the property. The son was fulfilling his father's wish for Kirkbrae to have the first opportunity to buy the property. The house and land of 2500 square metres, which backs on to Kirkbrae, was seen by the committee as a suitable site for car parking space for residents, staff and visitors.

After discussions with the Trust Corporation, Board of Investment and Finance, approval was given for a budget of \$850,000 to purchase the property. The vendor accepted Kirkbrae's offer of \$830,000 for the property and settlement is expected in October.

Redevelopment of Homer Fraser Nursing Home

CEO Mr Mark Sketcher and Operations Manager Mrs Lyn Kleehammer have identified ongoing issues with the occupancy of shared rooms in the Nursing Home. A business proposal to modify a shared room to become two rooms with private ensuites will be undertaken and referred to the committee for discussion at our September meeting. Funding for this project will need to be sourced from trusts or foundations and from Kirkbrae's own funds.

Guest Unit

To facilitate a need for short term accommodation for family members (from outside the metropolitan area), a furnished unit has been made available for family members visiting or wishing to be close to a resident who is in the final days of palliative care. The guest unit has being well received by family members. A nominal fee is charged for an overnight stay in the unit.

Safe Church Unit Policy and Procedures

Following discussions with the Safe Church Unit Training & Compliance Officer, Mrs Fiona Bligh, it was agreed that Kirkbrae Church needs to ensure its policies and procedures meets the requirements of the SCU policy in regard to adults, be they elderly or anyone who may be vulnerable or at risk.

A Memorandum of Understanding has now been documented between Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes and Safe Church, Presbyterian Church of Victoria, in relation to compliance requirements for the PCV's Safe Church policy, procedure and practice.

Safe Church training was held for key Kirkbrae staff, Rev Wally Gear, Mrs Janine Motyer and four pastoral care volunteers on the 4th May. The feedback from the volunteer pastoral carers who attended the training was very complimentary.

Presbyterian Aged Care National CEO

A meeting was held in Melbourne on 11 and 12 November 2014, attended by CEO Mr Mark Sketcher, where information was exchanged on national lobbying, the National Aged Care Alliance and interstate co-operation opportunities. The next meeting is to be held in Brisbane in November.

Financial Position

The change from residential care Accommodation Bonds to Refundable Accommodation Deposits as of 1 July 2014 has enabled Kirkbrae to increase the amount invested through the TC/BIF. This has assisted the committee to fund the redevelopment without borrowing.

The Social Services Committee wishes to thank Mr Andrew Letcher, Secretary of the PCV Trusts Corporation, and Mr Michael Ellison, General Manager of the PCV, for their advice and support.

Poor of Melbourne Bequest

Nil claims.

St Andrew's Foundation – Application for grant

The committee was successful in receiving a grant of \$69,700 for pastoral care and an additional amount of \$36,409 for residential care equipment from the trustees of the St Andrew's Foundation. These grants were acknowledged with thanks to the trustees.

The Douglas Family Trust

There have been no claims on this trust in the past twelve months. With funds available, the committee would encourage congregations in regional and country parishes to apply for a grant to assist individuals and families in financial need.

Thomas Hall Bequest

The Social Services Committee has been pleased to provide grants totalling \$30,640 to the following congregations for their young members and youth leaders to attend PYV camps in 2014/2015.

Bendigo Presbyterian Church	\$670
Bundoora Presbyterian Church	\$670
Canterbury Presbyterian Church	\$1650

Cheltenham Presbyterian Church	\$130
Cranbourne Presbyterian Church	\$3830
Donvale Presbyterian Church	\$675
Drouin Presbyterian Church	\$2580
Frankston Presbyterian Church	\$4355
Hume Presbyterian Church	\$805
Kerang Presbyterian Church	\$670
Moe Presbyterian Church	\$270
North Geelong Presbyterian Church	\$6335
South Yarra Presbyterian Church	\$1005
South Yarra Arabic Presbyterian Church	\$1675
Sunshine Presbyterian Church	\$1340
Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church	\$875
Warrnambool Presbyterian Church	\$3105

The committee would encourage congregations to take advantage of the Thomas Hall Bequest by downloading an application from www.kirkbrae.org.au and clicking on Application Forms.

Pastoral Care Kirkbrae and Tannoch Brae, Geelong

Rev Wally Gear led a funeral service at the Kirkbrae Chapel on 9 December for Rev Martin Oliver Hanse who ministered as chaplain at Kirkbrae from 1991 to 2000. He was a much loved chaplain by all who knew him and he served the Lord with the special gift that God had given him to share people's joys and sorrows. Martin is greatly missed and we give thanks for his life ministering to the residents of Kirkbrae and proclaiming the gospel wherever he served the Lord.

The committee continues to be well pleased with the outreach of the Pastoral Care Unit to the Kirkbrae community; Rev Wally Gear with his responsibilities ministering to the members of his congregation, and Mrs Janine Motyer in providing pastoral care to the residents of the Nursing Home.

Meeting regularly together, they discuss and plan their program of Bible studies, church services and communion services for the residents. Also organised on a weekly basis is the Hymn Singing Hour in the nursing home with residents singing their favourite hymns with full voice.

Janine Motyer with her compassion, respect and empathy for the residents continues to provide high quality pastoral care in our aged care facility. Her ability to listen, comfort and pray with the residents in their time of need is a blessing for them and their families. We are very pleased to have her serve the Lord at Kirkbrae.

Additionally, visiting pastoral carers from local churches assist the Pastoral Care Unit with religious and spiritual care, collectively serving residents, visitors and staff.

Rev Andrew Bray, chaplain of Tannoch Brae Senior Living, Bellarine, Geelong, serves the Lord on behalf of the Social Services Committee with a caring ministry to the residents and staff of Tannoch Brae. A chaplain at Tannoch Brae since 27 May 2001, the committee is thankful that Rev Andrew Bray is able continue his ministry at Tannoch Brae.

Committee Membership

After ten years of service on the Social Service Committee, Mr Dennis Wright has now completed his term of office. The committee is grateful for the contribution he has made to the committee with his time and talents. We thank God for all that he has done on behalf of the committee and the wider church.

With one vacancy, the committee was pleased to welcome Mr Tom Cunneen, an elder at Heidelberg Presbyterian Church, as a new member.

Mr Robert Lowe (Convener)
Mr Bruce Evans
Miss Rosalie Strother
Mr Greg Hamilton
Mr Bruce Miller

Mr David Gibb (Secretary)
Mr Tom Cunneen
Miss Barbara Firth
Mrs Roberta Rodgers
Mr Jim Nuske

Appreciation

My heartfelt thanks to members of the committee who have given so much of their time to plan for the redevelopment of Kirkbrae and their concern for the welfare of the residents.

Mr Mark Sketcher CEO continues to serve the SSC with a high degree of professionalism and strategic thinking by developing new policy, expanding the roles of the executive team, overseeing the development and providing strong leadership in a period of growth at Kirkbrae.

With his Christian faith and concern for the welfare of the residents and staff, we are blessed that Mr Mark Sketcher is the CEO at Kirkbrae.

In conclusion

Let us remember Paul's words in Colossians 3:12: 'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'.

Robert Lowe
CONVENER

Social Services Committee

Kirkbrae

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Donations & Gifts	46,383
Grants & Subsidies Received	6,538,387
Interest & Investment Income	1,464,159
Fees, Ingoings & Meals	3,380,457
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	(238,642)
Net Unrealised Gain on Revaluation of Investments	(321,329)
Total Income	<u>10,869,416</u>

Expenditure:

Accounting & Audit Fees	28,324
Depreciation	749,314
Education & Training	61,239
Fees Chaplaincy & Consulting	113,958
Insurance Fire & General	88,801
Residents Expenses	1,091,716
Legal Fees	5,788
Office Expenses	210,554
Personnel Related Costs	7,334,230
Property Expenses & Improvements	945,725
Total Expenditure	<u>10,629,649</u>

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

239,767

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	297
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	239,767
Decrease / (Increase) in Current Assets	301,465
Decrease / (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(5,383)
Decrease / (Increase) in Separately Invested Funds	(5,136,746)
(Decrease) / Increase in Current Liabilities	4,561,222
(Decrease) / Increase in Non-Current Liabilities	41,967
Balance 30/6/15	2,589

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/15 **39,150**

Separately Invested Funds

Balance 30/6/15 **26,200,692**

Social Services Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Interest & Investment Income

51,617

Total Income

51,617

Expenditure:

Grants

24,790

Total Expenditure

24,790

Surplus on Specific Trusts

26,827

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14

371,253

Plus Surplus/(Deficit)

26,827

Balance 30/6/15

398,079

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/15

50,000

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VICTORIA 2015 REPORT

Each year we focus on a particular theme and Bible verse, which is embedded in many areas throughout the school year, such as our student assembly programs, class activities, professional development with staff, or major events such as our Annual Public Speaking Competition.

*For 2015, our theme is **"In Everything Give Thanks"**.*

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

We give thanks and praise to God, because He is Sovereign and Lord. As we abide in Him and trust Him, we can overflow with a thankfulness that is rooted in the knowledge that whatever our circumstances, God knows and loves us more than we could ever imagine and has everything in His control.

We are also thankful to God for the many positive and exciting outcomes at St Andrews Christian College in the last year, midst a community of students and staff who are daily growing in their faith and learning to be thankful in everything.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR CONTINUAL GROWTH

- Our student enrolments continue to grow despite falling enrolments in many independent schools. The school has grown 28% in enrolments in the last 5 years.
- There has been development and growth in areas of our IT, classroom resources, grounds and buildings. Two major capital works in the last year include the extension of our ART ROOMS and building the new SENIOR SCHOOL and INNOVATION CENTRE. We are thankful for a substantial grant from the Federal Government that has enabled us to build our Senior School.



- We celebrate our growing focus on educating the ‘whole’ child and learning that engages the heart, head and hand.
- St Andrews Christian College is listed as one of the top 50 schools (private comprehensive) in Australia for literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN results).

If just producing excellent academic results was our focus, we would just be another typical ‘grammar’ school with good values and high dress codes.

St Andrews Christian College exists *“to educate our students so that they are well skilled, understand life on the basis of biblical truth, and are motivated to walk with God and serve Him in their lives, so that they will be a positive Christian influence in the world.”* (***Our Mission Statement***)

You cannot separate our curriculum, programs, College activities from our faith and the underlying reasons why we exist as a school. “Faith” is not compartmentalised into a separate subject or time slot in the timetable, nor is it just integrated into our school life. It is the foundation of all we undertake and should permeate every facet of who we are as a school; undergird our plans and purposes; guide every decision; drive our passion and sustain us, knowing that God is the head of St Andrews Christian College and we exist to give glory to Him.

STAFF DEDICATION TO THE MISSION OF ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Our staff annually reflect on their ‘calling’ to St Andrews Christian College. The reflection is done individually, prayerfully and based on a questionnaire given to every staff member. I was so encouraged by all staff (whether teaching, administration or maintenance) and how they all understand the importance of their role at St Andrews as part of the body of Christ committed to educating children for eternity.

A selection of staff responses to the question **“What is your personal response in your role at St Andrews Christian College to our Mission Statement?”**

- ✚ “I believe teachers are significant role models. Jesus said “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher” Luke 6:41. I believe education is more than gaining knowledge, it is learning how to respond to and live out that knowledge.”
- ✚ “My desire is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need when out in the world on their own – knowledge and skills to understand and appreciate the amazing work of the Creator as well as to formulate and present to others explanations of why they hold their belief in a creator. I would hope that one of the outcomes of my work with students here would be that students as young adults are able to evaluate and formulate opinions on arguments presented by the world as well as then presenting their own well-reasoned case for their own beliefs using understanding of evidence in creation that supports Biblical truth.”

✚ “I love working at St Andrews because I love this goal. I want to do all I can to teach others about God and to give them a desire to know Him. I want each of my students to trust in Christ as their Saviour and to follow Him all the days of their life. I want to provide an excellent academic education for my students but I also want them to see God in every part of their lives. I want to equip my students to handle life well and to help them become all that God wants them to be. I want to help them become disciples of Jesus so they can help others to know Jesus and become His disciples too.

I want my students to love God’s Word and to see its relevance in their lives. I want to help them to see that God’s Word is truth and something they can always rely on. I want to help them make prayer a natural habit in their lives.”

✚ “My personal response, with God’s help, is that I need to be these things – often these things are “caught”, as well as “taught” to our students. I place a strong emphasis on the Lordship of Christ over creation in understanding what each of these means and the seriousness and urgency of our calling as educators.

Teaching at St Andrews has been a joy as I have felt that I am serving in a significant ministry.”

✚ “The Lord has blessed me beyond measure in calling me to a school where my job is to educate children to live godly and fruitful lives. I find so much satisfaction in reaching my students about this great world and how to live as godly stewards in it. My greatest joy is praying with my class and caring for them on a much more deeper and spiritual level, not just academic.”

✚ “In my day to day duties as a Teacher’s Aide I find it a privilege to be able to assist the teachers by providing additional support to the students that need it. In this role I think I am able to help the students not only in the practical assistance I can give them but by modelling what it means to serve others and by encouraging them to keep trying to do their best in whatever they do.”

✚ “I really treasure my ministry teaching at St Andrews – I am teaching the students how to write and read, and at the same time, impacting God’s truth and making it relevant in their learning/lives. I believe in the wonderful influence that Christian schools can make in children’s lives as it incorporates God’s teaching into their learning of the world/society they live in and God becomes an integral part of their lives.”

✚ “My role as a Christian teacher is to form relationships with the students where I can demonstrate my faith, God’s love and His purpose. In this I encourage students’ God given gifts and talents through motivating them in growing a deeper understanding of God’s purpose for their life. Together with God we help equip the students to deal with and understand worldly issues at a deeper level using God’s wisdom and direction. This in turn helps students to be an influence in their world as a servant and representative of God. Teaching students how to communicate their ideas, beliefs and morals in a respectful and God honouring way.”

✚ “I feel privileged to teach God’s children at St Andrews Christian College. I think the most important thing to teach children is their God given purpose in life “to love Him, know Him, serve Him and enjoy Him forever”. I believe that’s what we do at St Andrews Christian College in His strength and by His enabling.

I love the way we teach the curriculum well, but I also love how we teach God’s Word and inspire children to walk in God’s way.”

✚ “In order to educate my students and ensure that they are well-skilled, I need to ensure that I am well-skilled; being willing to learn and grow professionally and personally. Modelling the mission statement in terms of my walk with God, my willingness to serve Him and others (in and outside of the school community), and being a positive Christian influence for my students, the parents, colleagues and my family.”

✚ “I am constantly challenged by the concept of servant leadership. If we can encourage our students to walk with God and serve Him, what better legacy.”

SERVICE/MISSION

Another highlight of the year, where we are thankful to God, is in our growth and understanding of servant-hood.

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)

The best way to learn what it takes to be a servant is by looking at Jesus’ attitude and His holiness. Our “love-in-action” should encompass every aspect of our school and be inspired by the Holy Spirit, but it is also expressed intentionally through our many SERVICE/MISSION programs such as:

- Annual Mission trips to Vanuatu to encourage, serve and build relationships with Tata Presbyterian School.
- Service activities done by each class every year in the community.
- Working with Samaritan’s Purse to help build education in Cambodia.
- Raising monies for various needy causes/missions.
- Being involved in training educators throughout the world in Christian Education.
- Hosting a DARE TO SERVE Learning Expo (November 17th 2015) to encourage and help schools in Victoria in their service learning. This EXPO involves overseas keynote speakers, workshops, sharing and networking between schools, missions and service organisations.

The Expo is being sponsored by New Hope International (NHI develops growth of Christian schools throughout the world) and supported by Christian Schools Australia and Christian Education National.

“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.” 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NIV)

We desire for our ‘service’ to be an outworking of our faith which reflects Jesus Christ, blesses others, grows our students and teachers, evangelises and disciples.

Please continue to pray for St Andrews Christian College that we will continue to grow as God’s school. A College that shines for Jesus.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

To God be the glory.

Catriona Wansbrough

Catriona Wansbrough
Principal
St Andrews Christian College
August, 2015

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE (Min. 114)

The objective of the State News Committee is a simple one: to 'produce a quarterly publication containing general interest news items, articles and viewpoints from individuals, congregations, committees and courts within the PCV, from the wider denomination and beyond, that are deemed by the committee to be of interest to, or pertinent to, the denomination's mission.'

Once again, the church at large has been the recipient of four excellent issues of *fellow workers*, under the very capable editorship of Mrs Chiara Bilyj. The committee thanks the 2014 Assembly for recognising her efforts through the provision of a honorarium.

It is appropriate at this point to acknowledge and thank Rev Philip Daffy for his faithful, thoughtful and encouraging membership of the committee over the last nine years.

Over the past few years, *fellow workers* has undergone a number of changes. The most visual change, of course, was from monochrome to technicolour. There was also a change from a 12 page to a 16 page magazine, made possible by the contributions of APWM National and PIM. Because of their contributions, *fellow workers* runs very effectively financially as well as providing information about the church nationally and internationally.

Good as all that is, your Committee is keen to improve on its fulfilment of its objectives, which raises the question: what more can be done?

As far as the committee is aware, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland are the only states that publish a printed magazine. The New South Wales magazine ('The Pulse') is at least 28 pages in length and published bi-monthly, while the Queensland magazine (now 'PresLife', previously 'New Directions') is also at least 28 pages in length and published quarterly, with an additional special post-Assembly edition. Both are in full colour.

As well as items of a 'general' nature and contributions from APWM National and PIM, both these interstate magazines have features that would not be out of place in *fellow workers*. For example, the state moderator has a page in each issue and in each issue there is a devotional article. Sometimes there are book reviews, interviews and in-depth articles. Virtually all of the articles, including photos, are written and provided by others, with the editor editing and designing as necessary.

The inclusion of any such items in addition to its current content would mean, of course, that *fellow workers* would have to expand. Your committee would appreciate feedback from 'individuals, congregations, committees and courts within the PCV' as to the possibility and usefulness of any such expansion – and the ever-present question of finance.

Perhaps, as APWM National and PIM have done, committees within the Victorian church could integrate their occasional newsletters with *fellow workers*.

fellow workers looks good on the table near the entrance to your congregation's place of worship, but it is much more useful when it is in your congregation's hands. Why not, if you do not do so already, include it in your handouts to your people as they arrive?

Neil Harvey
CONVENER

State News Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Advertising	50
Common Fund Interest	6,797
Total Income	6,847

Expenditure:

Newsletter Production Costs	8,746
Contribution to production costs from PIM and APWM	(4,373)
Total Expenditure	4,373

Surplus on General Operations

2,475

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	55,685
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	2,475
Balance 30/6/15	58,159

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Min. 84)

Academic Matters

The College's main work of education and spiritual/ministry formation for the Presbyterian ministry has continued apace during 2014-15. There are now 18 candidates, of whom 15 are full-time and three are part-time. We also have another three students who are studying the candidates' course at the College and who have yet to be processed by their presbyteries.

In December 2015, four students – Brett Cummins, Daniel Dixon, Daryl Jackson and Stephen McDonald – are expected to exit the College.

We anticipate that 21 Candidates could enrol for 2016.

The number of external students enrolled for Semester 2, 2015, is 28. They are engaged in a wide variety of courses. 13 students are also enrolled for audit. There are another 10 students involved in the ASTC Chinese short course. We also have 3 students engaged in the English ASTC course on-line.

All Presbyterian candidates passed their ACT assessments and the average grade ranged from Credit to Distinction. The average marks for candidates and external students in each subject were: Hebrew 86%, Greek 76%, New Testament 69%, Old Testament 69%, Church History 71%, Introductory Preaching 73%, Theology 73%, Foundations of Pastoral Care 75%, and Westminster Confession 71%.

Pastoral Training

Candidates are now involved in a four year training program (SLE - Supervised Learning Experience) that begins when they commence their academic studies. In their first two years they are engaged in a reading/preaching program that involves a set curriculum and regular contact with their supervising minister. For the last two years of their course they undertake the SFE (Supervised Field Experience) component of their training, which is more intense and actually forms a separate ACT subject which involves ministry tasks, essays and reflections on their assignments. The pastoral training program is now quite robust and has a special focus on preaching. This has been an area of weakness that we are seeking to address. We have added a second preaching subject in the ACT subject load: Preaching for Lifelong Learning. This has been helpful in providing further development for the students in their preaching skills. We see this as a critical element in their development as pastors who are competent to teach and preach.

Governance

The TEC has worked under some pressure during the last 12 months, owing to various changes in committee conveners. Rev Neil Chambers resigned as convener in January 2014 and was succeeded by Rev David Palmer, who also resigned from the TEC in November 2014. Rev Kevin Maxwell was appointed acting-convener from December 2014 until May 2015. In May 2015 he was obliged to leave his position under the pressure of theological study. Rev Neil Benfell was appointed acting-convener in May. These changes have presented challenges in continuity for the College, and have placed additional responsibilities upon the Principal, Faculty and office staff. The committee expresses its appreciation for the extra efforts of all concerned during the frequent changes.

It seems clear to the TEC that changes are needed to some details of the governance structure of the College. The consensus view of the TEC is that present arrangements involve more levels of administration than is consistent with efficient use of time by College personnel. This is especially so in regard to financial administration. We have had fruitful discussion with the BIF about this matter during 2015. Further, the Board has signalled its desire for the TEC to consult in an effort to find a greater degree of flexibility in administration. We are grateful to the BIF, Mr Ellison and Rev Kevin Maxwell, who have worked thoughtfully to bring this process forward. We hope that future consultations may lead to a useful increase in the scope of the College, and the TEC taking responsibility for administrative decisions within the given budgetary framework.

The current relationship between the College itself, and the TEC, is somewhat ill-defined. A lack of precise definition of roles creates the situation where much administrative decision-making runs up against issues of policy or demarcation of responsibilities. These in turn can necessitate inefficient case-by-case resolution. In part, the committee's frustration results from the lack of a clear demarcation between its expected duties of detailed administration and micro-management, and the broader issues of policy and staffing issues more relevant to the board of governors of a college. There can be little doubt that the pressure created within this structure has brought frustration to several successive conveners, and also places, in our view, an unwarranted workload on the Principal of the College.

Strategic Review

The TEC is undertaking a major Strategic Review of the College governance, finances and operations, arising from an Assembly deliverance from 2013. Mr Stuarde Kerdel, a management consultant with considerable experience in education, is presently engaged as an external facilitator, as the committee works through the many layers of policy and administration compassed by the review. This process was formally commenced in December 2014, and has engaged a good deal of time in meetings in 2015. We anticipate that the review, which will be broad-based and consultative, will be complete for submission to the Commission of Assembly in 2016.

In its Strategic Review process, your committee is working to formulate approaches toward resolving the challenges we are facing in governance, and to present to the Assembly some suggested structural changes to help facilitate the growth we may expect for our College.

Finances

The matter of the on-going financing for the College is one of constant concern to the committee. Some issues were raised at the Commission of Assembly in May 2015, and the College is acting on the Assembly's approval to seek donated funds for the Student Bursary Fund within our Victorian Church. This fund is only able to meet the study costs of approximately four full-time students (@ \$15,000 p.a. each). Yet, at the moment, we have 15 full-time students and 3 who are studying part-time. We are falling a long way short of meeting the income required to sustain this level of candidature (approximately \$260,000 p.a. at this level).

Letters will be sent to every session, and personal appeal letters to every church member and attender to appeal for substantial donations. The response to the appeal will depend heavily on ministers and sessions providing encouragement and

vision for our people, and we commend this to the prayers of the Assembly and of all our congregations. We appeal to all our ministers to bring this urgent need to the attention of their congregations at least until the end of 2015. (The proposed letter to members and adherents is appended to this report.)

Your committee believes that addressing the long-term financial basis of the College requires a fresh whole-of-church approach, and the prayerful commitment to progress by all our people and by the Assembly. Quoting the Moderator-General of the GAA, Rev David Cook, 'I think churches need to get serious about resourcing theological education. This is where we are providing intensive training for our future leaders, and we should do whatever is necessary so they can function effectively.'

Accordingly, as an important aspect of the Strategic Review, the TEC hopes to bring proposals to the Assembly with a view to place the College on a reasonably assured financial foundation for the mid to longer term. This would greatly reduce the constant anxiety and penny-pinching that the present situation inevitably engenders.

In an important move towards improved management of its own business, the TEC has appointed two sub-committees for governance and for finance, reporting regularly to the full TEC. The Finance sub-committee and TEC treasurer will maintain financial oversight in conjunction with the BIF and the central church office, and bring summary reports to the full TEC for policy decisions. The Governance sub-committee will review our operations and propose strategies to streamline decision-making and accurately define responsibilities. Where appropriate, its proposals to the TEC will be incorporated into the Strategic Review. We believe this is a more efficient way for the TEC to manage its own business.

The ACT

The Australian College of Theology (ACT), with which PTC is affiliated, is the body through which students may gain academic degree and diploma qualifications. This is a significant service for our students and provides them with a recognised university degree.

The ACT program is ideally suited for us because it allows us to teach from a broad curriculum in the light of our own theological and spiritual tradition. We have great academic freedom in this regard, which is of vital importance to us. The system of ACT moderation of assessments is also an important aspect of the program, providing the level of academic integrity and honesty required for the award of rigorous degrees.

The ACT is in the process of applying to the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) to be recognised as a university in its own right. This process is quite well advanced. It remains somewhat unclear what impact this change is likely to have upon our College and courses, although it will enable students who are undertaking PhDs to apply for scholarships which will provide a substantial amount of financial assistance for them as they undergo prolonged study.

It is possible that university recognition may open the ACT's constituent colleges to some pressure for change from sections of the university world in general, although the ACT does not believe this will be significant. It is not yet clear just what these changes may involve, and the TEC is very aware of the need for careful assessment of potential pressures ahead.

Staff

1. Rev Dr Tony Bird: The TEC wishes to place on record the gratitude of the church to Dr Bird for his 23 years of faithful and devoted service to his ministry of teaching the candidates at the College. We recognise that his unflagging service and devotion to the Lord have encouraged and inspired our students since his first appointment to the College in 1993. We have been saddened to learn of his recent illness and we pray earnestly for his recovery and for continued opportunities for him to serve the church.
2. Qualification Requirements for New Staff: The Federal Government until 2015 has stipulated that tertiary institutions providing instruction toward Diplomas and Degrees must have a minimum of four full-time teachers qualified at research degree level. This has been 'advised and desirable' for the present, but under new tertiary regulations, a PhD has become mandatory. At present we meet the requirement with Drs Hood and Chung, supported by the generous continuing service of Drs Harman, Milne and Wilson. The Principal has been granted equivalent status by the ACT based on his 14 years of experience in Christian publishing, his 4 years of teaching at the College, and his 29 years' involvement in educational governance and leadership. However, all future appointments to the Faculty must have a PhD/ThD at a minimum.

This is going to create a challenge for the long-term future of the College and the TEC will be bringing proposals to the Assembly in the near future that will address this matter.

3. Re-appointment of Rev Dr Chung: Dr Felix Chung, who teaches in the areas of Missions, Evangelism, Cross Cultural studies, Asian studies and Research, is due for reappointment in 2015, and the committee strongly recommends to the Assembly that Dr Chung be reappointed for a further seven years until 2022.

The ACT requires a full-time lecturer to teach two ACT units. Dr Chung lectures in Biblical Theology of Missions, Evangelism, Cross Cultural Studies and Research Methods as well as taking Chinese Short courses.

He is Post-Graduate Dean, organising all post-grad seminars, reporting progress, arranging intensives and semester length courses, responsible for a slowly increasing number of post-grad students; he is Coordinator of our Practical Theology Program and Supervised Learning Experience; he coordinates the ASTC programs including Chinese ASTC; he organises College mission and pre-mission training; he is Coordinator of Asian Ministry and teaches the Chinese certificate course, providing counselling and pastoral care to Asian students; he is the Chinese Moderator to the ACT (national); and preaches regularly in conferences, church retreat camps, and worship services. His contribution to the College is vital.

4. New Testament Lecturer: The TEC wishes to appoint a full-time Lecturer of New Testament for the College. The position has been advertised at a national level as well as being published in influential journals in the UK and USA. Applications closed on July 31, 2015.
5. Staff Illness: Our office staff have missed the assistance of Alicia Noble during her lengthy illness for the last nine months. We are pleased that she is scheduled to

return to work in mid-August. We are grateful to God for Alicia's return to health and for providing us with Rachel Arnold who has assumed the responsibility for office administration in Alicia's absence. Rachel is also acting as the Minute Secretary to the TEC and has provided capable assistance to the committee.

College Library

The College Library is at more than full capacity in terms of available space. Plans have been mooted and discussed for several years, while the need has continued to develop! We are 'bulging at the seams'. We are also falling behind other theological libraries in the services we are offering students and other users. This places us at a disadvantage.

The Committee expects to enter into detailed discussions with the various parties (BIF, Trusts Corporation, Architectural Committee, local government, etc.) with a view to expansion. Increasing student demand on the facilities makes it essential for us to take action on this matter.

Supplementary:

Narrative of Steps for the selection of the Lecturer in New Testament

In August 2014, Dr Tony Bird informed the Theological Education Committee that he intended to cease lecturing in October 2014 and retire from his position in June 2015 after taking long-service leave.

The Theological Education Committee informed the Assembly of Dr Bird's decision in October 2014. The Assembly then resolved to appoint a full-time replacement for the position of Lecturer in New Testament Studies, the appointment commencing in 2016.

The position was advertised within Australia and internationally in April 2015. This took place subsequent to the redevelopment of the College website. Advertisements were placed in leading journals in Australia, the USA and the UK, with the closing date for applications being 31 July, 2015.

The advertisement aroused a considerable interest and 17 applications were received from the USA, Canada, Singapore, Korea, England, Ireland, South Africa and Australia. The applications included a covering letter and a detailed resumé.

From the list of 17 applications, three were short-listed by the TEC Governance Committee for a preliminary interview on 28 August. The TEC interviewed one of these applicants in person at the College, and interviewed the other two international candidates by Skype. The international candidates were in Korea and Indonesia at the time. The Skype facility enabled the committee to form a clear view about the potential of each candidate and their likely suitability for the role.

The candidate who was interviewed at the College, Rev Andrew Stewart, had informed the committee that he would be unavailable for any further interviews between 31 August and 29 September as he would be overseas during that period. The Committee interviewed him for approximately 1.5 hours on 28 August. He had also been invited to the College to preach in the preceding week, although only two members of the committee had been present on that occasion. Rev Stewart had

previously met with the principal in June and subsequently with the Faculty in August to discuss the position, prior to his making application.

Following the Skype interview on 28 August, the committee decided to hold a further interview with Dr Trevor Burke from Ireland on Friday 11 September. Dr Burke travelled from Jakarta, Indonesia, where he was engaged in a three-month teaching program with the Reformed Churches of Indonesia at one of their main seminaries.

Dr Burke arrived on Tuesday, 8 September, and prior to the interview he was asked to preach in the Chapel and give three lectures, one on the New Perspective on Paul, the others on Paul's approach to pastoring and the New Testament's teaching on preaching and mission.

The committee also interviewed Dr Burke for approximately 1.2 hours.

The principal, in consultation with the convener of the committee, had also invited Drs Allan Harman, Douglas Milne and Bruce Winter to meet with Dr Burke and attend his lectures. Due to illness, Dr Harman was unable to attend, but Drs Milne and Winter were able to be present. They were able to have private discussions as well with Dr Burke.

Following the interview, the committee discussed the merits of the two final candidates, Rev Andrew Stewart and Dr Trevor Burke. The committee then resolved to recommend to the Assembly that Dr Trevor Burke be appointed as Lecturer in New Testament for the following reasons:

- He holds a PhD in New Testament and completely satisfies the requirements of the ACT as a lecturer for this teaching area.
- He is an internationally recognised scholar in the area of New Testament.
- He has an impressive publishing record of books and journal articles in areas that will strengthen the pastoral training of the College.
- He is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and subscribes to the Westminster standards in good conscience.
- He comes strongly recommended by other scholars (see references) and is known for effective pastoral work with students.
- He has significant experience in missions in a cross-cultural context.
- He is humble, personable, a good listener, and an effective team-player.
- He has a strong marriage and his two sons are both strong Christians.
- He is willing to join the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and become an ordained minister with the PCA.

Although Rev Andrew Stewart has considerable and impressive strengths in academic work, publishing, preaching and pastoral ministry, there were a number of problems that he faced which would potentially limit his level of acceptance within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. These are:

- His membership of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, which holds to the position of exclusive psalmody and views on the state that are at odds with the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Rev Stewart holds firm convictions on these issues and has indicated that he is unable to modify them in any way.
- His stated inability to sing hymns/songs in services of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria or in the College chapel.

- His stated inability to lead worship in a service of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- His stated desire to remain as a member of the Presbyterian Reformed Church and not join the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, thus limiting his availability to the work of a Presbytery and the Assembly.
- His desire to retain his residence in Geelong for the foreseeable future.
- Although he is engaged in a ThD with the ACT, he will not complete his doctoral studies until 2017 at the earliest.

Financial implications

When framing its budget for the 2015/16 year, the TEC had anticipated that this position would be filled from the second semester of 2016. However, it had provided for \$15,000 relocation expenses from the Fernside trust in the current budget year.

The additional costs of bringing forward the appointment by six months are summarised as follows:

Stipend & NCB	27,193
Superannuation	4,079
On costs	5,342
Housing	14,000
Total	\$50,614

There will be a reduction in the costs for adjunct lecturers to offset these costs. The expected reduction in costs is \$10,000. On a direct cost comparison it is clearly more economical to use adjunct staff than full-time staff. However, the decision is not based purely on finances. Among other things, the college is required to employ a minimum of four full-time lecturers in order maintain its accreditation with ACT, and the contribution to the life of the college made by full-time staff extends well beyond the time spent lecturing.

Therefore the TEC requests an amendment to its budget for 2015/16 in two parts:

- a) an increase to staff expenses of \$26,500;
- b) an increase to accommodation costs paid from the Fernside Trust of \$14,000.

APPENDIX

Donation request to members and adherents



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are writing to you to share some exciting news of developments of what God is doing at the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne. We want to inform you of how the Lord of the harvest has mercifully answered our prayers and raised up more workers than we ever imagined. We now have twenty candidates for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and more coming in 2016. It is both humbling and exciting for us that Lord Jesus would send such fine young men with hearts that are so willing to serve Him.

*“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
and has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Cor 5:19*

Of course, this God-given growth has brought some challenges and growing pains with it. One of these challenges is that the College has insufficient funds to cover the training costs of our candidates. It costs on average \$15,000 per annum in tuition fees for each student and this does not include any support for their families during their four years of training. The Assembly believes that the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has an obligation to help meet these costs.

Therefore, we are writing to all our members who regularly attend a Presbyterian church, asking you to prayerfully consider giving \$650 each to support this work with our young ministers. For many of you, like us, this will mean giving sacrificially above regular giving and other commitments. If, like us, you are married, it will mean a double portion and significant sacrifice, but we are asking you to give sacrificially, from the means God has entrusted to your care. We know that many of you will not be able to give this. However, God has blessed some with the capacity to give tens, or hundreds of thousands of dollars, and perhaps more, and if so we are asking you to make a much larger contribution from the means God has given you.

“Whoever sows generously will also reap generously....For the Lord loves a cheerful giver.”

Until now, our church met training costs for young ministers from prudent provisions of the past. But with the Lord leading many men to the ministry, from 2016 these funds are no longer sufficient. The challenge for us today is to provide for what God is planning for the future. The Trusts Corporation of the PCV will invest any funds you give, with income produced used for training. In this way we can meet both the present needs and provide for brothers and sisters yet to be born. The task is both urgent and extensive. That is why we are asking you to give generously and sacrificially as the Spirit of God leads you. Should the College receive funds beyond the need for current candidates, these will form an income-producing trust supporting current and additional lecturing staff – another serious and urgent need.

Praise God He has given us gifts as He promised in Ephesians 4:11: 'When Christ rose on high He gave gifts to men – some to be pastors and teachers'. This precious gift of young pastors with a heart to serve the Lord helps secure the future of Gospel work in our State. Please give generously and partner with the College in the work of the gospel.

Your brothers in Christ,

Rev Neil Benfell
Acting-Convener
Theological Education Committee.

Rev Kevin Maxwell
Immediate past Acting-Convener (TEC)

“Jesus said, ‘Open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest... Even now the reaper harvests the crop for eternal life’ “.

Neil Benfell
CONVENER

FACULTY REPORT

Introduction

The College is in good heart with a growing number of candidates in 2015, which brings the total number of students for the Presbyterian ministry to eighteen with a further four students already in process with their presbyteries. I wish to thank the members of the TEC, particularly David Palmer, Kevin Maxwell and Neil Benfell (conveners during the last year), for their energy and the initiatives that they have sponsored on behalf of the College. I feel privileged to serve in my role and I am especially grateful for the support of such capable, enterprising and loyal colleagues. This also includes our adjunct lecturers who play an invaluable role in our ministry.

I also remain deeply grateful for the continuing involvement in the college of Dr Douglas Milne and Dr Allan Harman, previous principals of the College, and for their helpful advice and friendship throughout the last year.

College Commencement and Conferral of Degrees

The 2015 academic year commenced on 7 March in the Werner Brodbeck Hall in the Assembly Hall building. We have held the service here for the last three years because it is a central location and makes the ceremony more accessible to the wider church.

We are grateful to the Scots' Church for allowing us to use the Werner Brodbeck Hall as well as the upstairs Robert White Hall for the reception. Our guest speaker for the occasion was Rev Dr Murray Capill, the principal of the Reformed Theological College, Geelong. Dr Mark Harding, the Dean of the ACT, and Mr Richard Cardew, the Chairman of the ACT, were special guests and addressed the gathering.

Faculty and Administrative Positions

The following administrative positions are held within the College:

- Rev Peter Hastie (Principal and Pastoral Dean)
- Dr Jared Hood (Academic Dean)
- Dr Felix Chung (Pastoral Studies and Missions Co-ordinator/Projects Supervisor/Director of Postgraduate Studies)
- Mrs Alicia Noble (Administrative Officer)
- Mrs Sophia Urbano (Registrar)
- Miss Rachel Arnold (Administrative Assistant)
- Mrs Heather Rickard (Librarian).

The staff works harmoniously.

Teaching Staff

The following faculty members and adjunct staff were lecturing in the College throughout 2015:

Semester One – Rev Peter Hastie, Dr Jared Hood. Adjunct lecturers – Dr Allan Harman, Dr Douglas Milne, Dr Stephen Voorwinde, Rev David Cook, Rev Mark Smith, Dr John Wilson, Dr Karl Hood, Mr Ben Nelson, Rev Martin Pakula, Rev Andrew Vines, Ms Wendy Bytheway & Ms Gillian Asquith.

Semester Two – Rev Peter Hastie, Dr Felix Chung, Dr Jared Hood. Adjunct Lecturers – Dr Douglas Milne, Dr Allan Harman, Dr John Wilson, Dr Paul Barnett, Dr

Karl Hood, Ms Gillian Asquith, Rev Martin Pakula & Mr Ben Nelson. 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 first semester and two in second semester. In Semester 1, Rev David Cook taught the ACT MDiv/BTh/BMin subject, *Introductory Preaching*, which was very well received. In Semester 2, Dr Guy Waters, from RTS Jackson, took an MA (Theol) Intensive in late July entitled, 'The Biblical Theology of Covenant'. This course generated significant interest. 22 students were enrolled, which was encouraging.

The College also offered short courses in the evenings. In first semester, Rev Andrew Vines took a six-week short course in Missions and the Local Church that explored how we should deal with the opportunities afforded by the rise of multiculturalism in Australia. This was part of the Academic Studies in Theology (ASTC) program. In second semester Dr Chung taught a Chinese short course on 'Theology for Everyday Life'. This course drew 20 students. Mrs Gillian Asquith taught an evening short course on study skills for the ASTC program during July-August that was well received. Student performance has improved noticeably as result of these lectures.

Dr Scott Rae, who teaches philosophy and ethics at Biola University in Los Angeles, USA, spent two days at the College in early August dealing with two important subjects in social ethics – 'Human Reproductive Technology' and 'Work in the Modern World.'

Academic Issues

Throughout 2014-15, 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 Faculty are continuing to monitor the academic load for students who are Presbyterian candidates. To this end, we are reviewing the subjects taught as 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 intensives are taught in early February each year. Some are also taught through our short courses, where appropriate. The concentrated instruction period over two weeks requires different assessment methods and we are reviewing these for 2016. The intensives are important in keeping the academic load at a reasonable level.

2. Time-Table

We have continued the lecture program around three main days each week in Semesters One and Two, running from Tuesday to Thursday each week, although on Fridays we have had limited lectures as need arose. Lectures have also been held during evenings. Our rationale for introducing this change was to

cut students' travel time during the week, and provide more space for uninterrupted reading, reflection and writing. This has helped students to better prepare for week-end ministry and has also given them more time to rest and recover after the demands of preaching and pastoral care. It has also afforded our part-time students more opportunities to undertake evening courses.

3. E-Learning

The Faculty rolled-out an E-learning program in 2014, the ASTC, for which students can receive HECS and Centrelink benefits to expand the range of services that we are able to offer to the wider church. This course is on a stable and user-friendly e-platform. We are exploring how we can offer a limited number of MA (Theol), MDiv and BTh subjects online.

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.

Voluntary student prayer meetings are held weekly. Jordan Brown, one of our candidates, has organised these meetings for us.

Chapel services are held daily (Tuesday-Thursday) where members of the College meet for prayer, praise, Bible reading and preaching. Staff and students have shared the preaching responsibility in Semester One. In Semester Two we have mainly scheduled students to preach. Students who lead the services and those who preach are followed up by the Principal to discuss their contributions to the service. We have also invited guest preachers from the Presbyterian Church, the ADF, missionary agencies, international visitors, as well as speakers of special interest.

Every Thursday, the chapel service is based around a 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. In first and second semesters we have had 17 episodes where we have visited churches in India, South East Asia, Southern Europe and China. 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 is in Christ.

Our Pastoral Care Groups meet four times every semester. Students have participated in studies on Paul's Letter to Titus. These are important meetings where the opportunity arises to study the Scriptures and to reflect on personal and ministry issues over lunch.

Dr Felix Chung also provides a personal pastoral dimension to the program as the Pastoral Studies and SLE Co-ordinator. 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. He meets with Presbyterian candidates (18 in total) by arrangement, as well as a number of other students.

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. It involves an extensive reading and presentation program.

In addition, Dr Felix Chung coordinates the Supervised Learning Experience (SLE) and Field Education program (SFE). He meets with candidates to discuss any issues and organise placements as well as maintaining contact with their supervisors.

The SLE program is a comprehensive experience that requires a candidate to remain in a congregation for two years where, in conjunction with regular meetings with his ministry supervisor, he undertakes a guided reading program that will initially focus on prayer and preaching over a two-year period. The reading program also includes written reflections that gauge the extent to which the readings have been understood and assimilated. The candidate is also required to preach six sermons that are reviewed by faculty over the two-year period.

The SFE is a more intensive form of the general SLE program. It also requires a guided reading program, regular meetings with a ministry mentor, and the review of 8 sermons by faculty over the second two-year period. The ultimate aim of the SLE program is to ensure that supervising ministers play a greater role in the development of students, especially in the areas of prayer, preaching, training/discipling and pastoral strategy.

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. The Principal and Dr Jared Hood were the two staff members who were involved with the student leaders, Luke McSeveny and Chris Shaw, who met with the ministry team at Frankston Presbyterian Church to organise the 2015 Mission. The planning phase began in February and the Mission began in late June. This was an eight day mission and the team consisted of sixteen members.

The students engaged in house to house visitation of Frankston North covering about 90% of the homes. Some good contacts were made and numbers of people came to church services and some of the outreach functions. Training also took place with some members of Flinders Presbytery and the College supplied preachers and worship leaders to a number of churches in the Presbytery such as Frankston, Clayton, Cranbourne and Somerville. The students also organised a couple of different apologetic presentations at Frankston that engaged those in attendance. Luke McSeveny addressed a Men's Breakfast at the church on the Saturday morning that was very well-attended. The College is indebted to the co-operation of the ministers of Frankston Presbyterian Church, Rev Bill Medley and Rev Jared Keath, as well as the many members of Frankston Presbyterian Church who extended us such warm hospitality.

Candidates' Wives

Throughout 2014-15, an average of eight of the wives of the Presbyterian candidates have met regularly for Bible study, prayer, and mutual support. These meetings take place each month on a Monday evening and there are also more informal meetings on Monday mornings with children in attendance.

The group holds 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.

Ministry Conference

At our annual Ministry Conference in March, 125 people attended the program. It was entitled, 'Revitalised Preaching.' Revs David Cook, David Jones and Peter Barnes spoke on various aspects of preaching. David Cook showed how to preach through the Letter to the Galatians, David Jones gave a small series on Jonah and Peter Barnes provided some useful biographies on Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd Jones and J Graham Miller.

Australian College of Theology

Rev Peter Hastie and Rev Neil Benfell attended the annual Consortium Conference in Sydney in June 2015. 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.

Professional Development

Dr Felix Chung completed his study leave in Tyndale House, Cambridge, in Semester 1, 2015, and returned to lecturing at the College in Semester 2. He has written several articles in his area of mission and inter-cultural studies for publication in theological journals. Dr Jared Hood took six months sabbatical leave in Semester Two, 2014, and undertook advanced studies in Aramaic and Ugaritic and also prepared a course and led a study tour of Israel early in 2015. Rachel Arnold attended staff training in office administration in Melbourne and with the ACT in Sydney. Sophia Urbano attended the ACT Registrars' Conference in June 2015.

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 recently supplied for Trinity Presbyterian Church for seven weeks during Rev Philip Mercer's recuperation from major surgery. He has attended the Licensing Service for Stephen Jones and Luke Brownley at Reservoir and the ordination and induction of Stephen Jones at Melton. He participates in the Presbytery of Melbourne North (when available) and was present at the Ministry Family Camp at Phillip Island. He is a member of the GAA College Committee. He also convenes the Victorian Sub-Committee of the Reception of Ministers' Committee and serves on the National Journal Committee. He has also contributed to the *Reformed Theological Review* (August 2015) and also written a chapter on the Doctrine of the Trinity in a book released by the GAA.

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, and has been invited to preach in more than ten Chinese and evangelical churches in and around Melbourne throughout the last year.

From July to November, both staff and students will be visiting around forty-five 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 2014, the Principal has represented the College at the Wattle Park Gospel Chapel, the Reformed Church, Box Hill, The Australian Defence Force Chaplaincy Conference in Mittagong, NSW, the Reformed Church of Canberra Chapel, various ACT meetings in Sydney, the CMI Conference in Singapore, Adelaide and Perth (as a speaker) and preached at the Australian Defence Force Reserve Chaplaincy Conference and Belgrave Heights Easter Convention. 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 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 & Ethics Committee at the ACT and serves as the Chinese moderator for courses in Chinese offered by the ACT. This year he has published the following:

- Book section: 'Chinese theological education in Australia, the way ahead.' In *Learning and Teaching Theology: Some Ways Ahead*, eds. Las Ball and James Harrison, 231-244 (Northcote; Vic: Morning Star Pub., 2014).
- Article: 'The spiritual formation of a missionary', *Journal of Theology and Spiritual Formation*, vol 19 (2014): 69-85

Practical Training

Over the last year the Faculty have seen the need to strengthen the area of preaching within the College. We have concentrated our focus on preaching at our Ministry Conference in March 2015 and invited Rev David Cook to lecture at the College in the subject in Introductory Preaching.

This year we have introduced the Guided Reading Program with all candidates. This program requires each candidate to read a book each year on the subjects of spiritual and ministry formation with their pastoral mentors. This year candidates have been required to read Jay Adam's *Preaching with Purpose*. Candidates not only discuss the book with their mentors but also complete summaries and reflections of its contents.

Library

The Swanton library strives to serve the needs of the PTC students, faculty and staff in terms of study requirements/assessments and research work. The library is constantly evolving to meet these varied needs. As such, the collections are continually in a state of care and growth.

The library now has a collection of 29,000 monographs, and continues to subscribe to some 120 journals/serials each year.

The library continues to develop its main collection. Monthly orders for books cover the main areas of Theology, Biblical studies, Church history, etc., also focusing on the current year's subjects offered to students.

Annually, this includes new publications relevant to the college and its research requirements. Updating of commentary series, (e.g. E.P./N.S.B.T. etc.), latest publications from particular publishing houses, authors, etc.

The Allan Harman collection contains 210 books to date which are all recorded, catalogued and shelved and a Chinese 'Reference' collection has begun.

We are very grateful to Veronica Kocsis who has been covering the paperback books in a voluntary capacity for the past 18 months. This has been a great help to the library.

John Paton Fellowship

The JPF is the fellowship of students at the College. Daniel Dixon is the president, Jesse Walz the social events organiser and Jordan Brown 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, such as 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 2014. The College has done a fine job in preparing them for the ministry. The number of candidates has been growing over the last two years and we are praying for more. We currently have 18 candidates with four more in process with their Presbyteries.

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 support 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)

College Property

The Library Facilities have 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 2016 we will complete a strategic plan for the College as well as a master plan for the property.

We also have added some new artwork to the College that depicts aspects of our spiritual heritage.

Thank you

I would like to record my thanks to the members of the TEC, especially the conveners over the last year, Revs David Palmer, Kevin Maxwell and Neil Benfell, for their 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 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 at 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, Mrs Sophia Urbano, Miss Rachel Arnold and our Librarian, Heather Rickard, 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 2015

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Program	16,865
Donations & Gifts	3,031
Common Fund Interest	239,831
Rental Income	84,829
Metro Contribution - Training Officer	17,500
Bookshop Trading Profit	1,343
Tuition Fees	460,539
Total Income	823,937

Expenditure:

Personnel	417,476
Property	62,402
Office	50,530
Library	43,473
Training Officer	60,436
Accommodation Units Expenses	32,911
PTC Media Expenses	2,794
General Expenses	102,403
Total Expenditure	772,426

Surplus on General Operations

51,511

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	1,630,493
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	51,511
Add Back Depreciation	82,468
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	9,384
Transfer Pinches bequest to Bursary Fund	(100,667)
Assets Purchased	(14,417)
Increase/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities	(59,705)
Increase/(Decrease) in Non-Current Liabilities	3,993

Balance 30/6/15

1,603,061

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/15

965,159

Theological Education Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2015

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Bursary Trusts</u>	<u>Diaconal</u>	<u>Fernside Trust</u>	<u>Library Trusts</u>	<u>Prizes Trusts</u>	<u>Other Trusts</u>
Income:							
Donations & Gifts	35,404	210,369	-	-	11,965	500	-
General Mission Program		63,551					
Common Fund Interest	18,194	79,918	18,547	140,317	11,876	15,558	30,095
Total Income	<u>53,599</u>	<u>353,838</u>	<u>18,547</u>	<u>140,317</u>	<u>23,841</u>	<u>16,058</u>	<u>30,095</u>
Expenditure:							
Bursaries	-	24,170	6,059	-	-	-	-
Property Expenses	43,893	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prizes	-	-	-	-	-	9,855	-
Manse Allowances	-	-	-	97,320	-	-	-
Scholarships	-	241,851	-	-	-	-	-
Library Expenses	-	-	-	-	75,251	-	-
Expenses paid from General Fund	-	-	-	-	(43,473)	-	-
Total Expenditure	<u>43,893</u>	<u>266,021</u>	<u>6,059</u>	<u>97,320</u>	<u>31,778</u>	<u>9,855</u>	<u>0</u>
Surplus on Specific Trusts	<u>9,706</u>	<u>87,817</u>	<u>12,488</u>	<u>42,997</u>	<u>(7,937)</u>	<u>6,203</u>	<u>30,095</u>

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/14	160,216	128,460	151,163	3,184	-	96,446	187,558
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	9,706	87,817	12,488	42,997	(7,937)	6,203	30,095
Plus Decrease (Increase) in Bank	910	-	-	-	849	-	-
Add back depreciation	-	-	-	-	7,088	-	-
Pinches Bequest Tfr from General		100,667					
Index Perpetual Balances	-	(200,000)	-	(15,371)	-	-	-
Balance 30/6/15	170,831	116,943	163,651	30,810	-	102,648	217,653

Perpetual Funds

	<u>Bursary Trusts</u>	<u>Fernside Trust</u>	<u>Library Trusts</u>	<u>Prizes Trusts</u>	<u>Other Trusts</u>
Balance 30/6/15	<u>757,682</u>	<u>1,172,582</u>	<u>98,964</u>	<u>30,515</u>	<u>52,225</u>

TRUSTS CORPORATION (Min. 24)

Introduction

The Trusts Corporation was formed by resolution of the General Assembly having been empowered to do so by the Parliament of 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 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.

Annual Result

The Trust Corporation is pleased to be able to report that the church's financial assets have grown in the past year. Common Fund Investments have yielded an income of \$4.4 million after operating costs, and they have increased in value by a further \$3.0 million as a result of capital gains. This presents an overall return of 9.1%. A total of \$4.5 million was distributed to church committees, groups and congregations.

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, or
- 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.

The Common Fund also includes the Income Suspense Account which represents the balance of income not yet distributed. In accordance with section 14B of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890, the amount in the Income Suspense Account can only be distributed to those committees and trusts which have funds invested in the Common Fund. Investment returns generated by the Common Fund are paid into the Income Suspense Account and then distributed as interest to 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

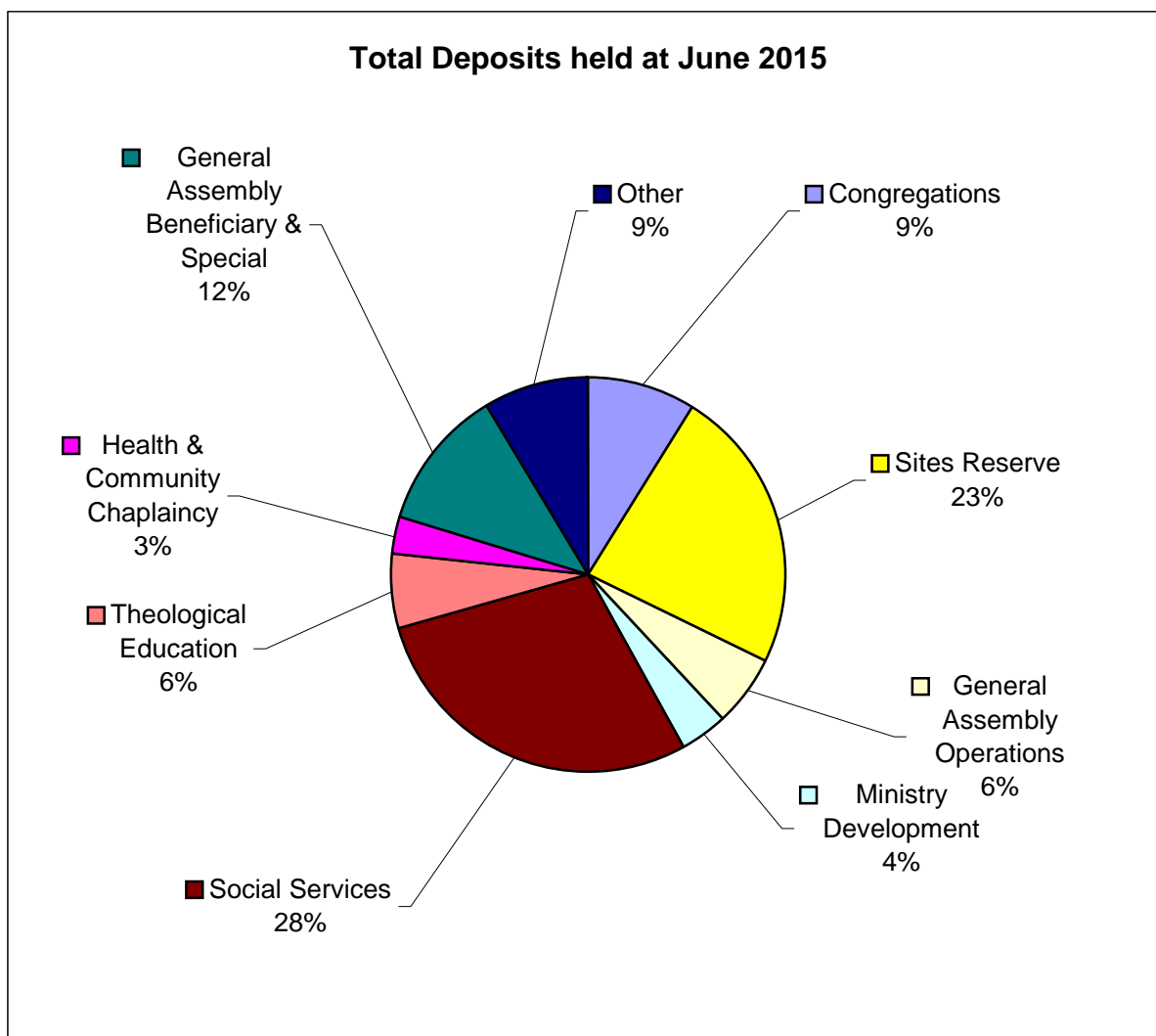
Funds in the hands of the Trusts Corporation will generally be invested separately where the funds are sufficiently large. The level which has been established in relation to Sites Reserve balances is \$1,000,000. Sites Reserve balances exceeding this figure will be invested separately. For other funds, 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 2014	Balance as at 30 June 2015				
	Total Invested	Common Fund	Separate Investments	Total Funds Invested	% of Total	% Change
Social Services	21,524,647	489,819	26,200,692	26,690,511	29%	24%
Sites Reserve	18,552,578	10,132,480	11,472,215	21,604,694	23%	16%
GA - Beneficiary & Special	10,711,374	8,926,639	1,862,722	10,789,361	12%	1%
Congregations	8,647,640	696,699	7,634,470	8,331,169	9%	-4%
Theological Education	5,219,276	5,482,725	-	5,482,725	6%	5%
General Assembly Operations	5,844,118	5,349,544	-	5,349,544	6%	-8%
Ministry Development	3,950,838	3,635,976	-	3,635,976	4%	-8%
Health & Community Chaplaincy	3,070,391	1,645,379	1,404,619	3,049,998	3%	-1%
Maintenance of the Ministry	2,082,665	2,139,972	-	2,139,972	2%	3%
Christian Education & Nurture	1,338,484	1,375,493	-	1,375,493	1%	3%
Church Planting	2,212,697	1,043,721	-	1,043,721	1%	-53%
APWM (Victoria)	934,163	916,339	-	916,339	1%	-2%
METRO	862,900	843,521	-	843,521	1%	-2%
PWMU	688,092	731,572	-	731,572	1%	6%
Presbyterian Youth in Victoria	416,950	430,904	-	430,904	<1%	3%
Church & Nation	380,341	398,337	-	398,337	<1%	5%
State News	55,685	58,159	-	58,159	<1%	4%
Total Deposits	86,492,839	44,297,281	48,574,717	92,871,998	100%	7.4%

The chart on the following page shows the relative percentages of funds which are allocated to the various ministries and bodies of the church. The allocation of funds in this way is generally determined by the purposes of the underlying trusts and bequests as well as the decisions of the Assembly where it has discretion to do so. The responsibility of the Trusts Corporation is to manage and invest these funds. It has no power to redistribute or allocate these funds to other purposes within the church. Nor does the Trusts Corporation have the power to determine the ways in which the funds are applied by the committees, except to ensure that funds are spent within the terms of the relevant trusts.



Annual Results

The annual interest rates paid on amounts invested in the Common Fund for the year ended 30 June 2015 were:

Common Fund interest rates paid on funds

Perpetual and Specific Trusts	12%
General Trusts – first \$600,000	12%
General Trusts - balance above \$600,000	5%
Sites Reserve accounts and Deposits - first \$600,000	8%
Sites Reserve accounts and Deposits - balance above \$600,000	5%

The Common Fund Reserve increased from \$32,602,543 to \$35,453,369 during the year primarily as a result of realised and unrealised capital gains on investments.

The Common Fund Balance is comprised of the following amounts:

Common Fund	\$
Balance of Trusts and Committee Funds	44,297,281
Income Suspense Account	4,305,544
Common Fund Reserve	35,453,369
Total Common Fund	84,056,194

Common Fund Movements	\$
Opening Balance 1 July 2014	82,652,617
Net Income	4,438,211
Capital Gains/(Losses)	3,093,856
	7,532,067
Distributions	(4,520,737)
Decrease in Committee & Other Funds	(1,607,752)
 Closing Balance 30 June 2015	 84,056,194

The investment markets performed reasonably well in the year to June 2015 with the ASX 300 accumulation index gaining 5.6% (2014 17%). The performance of the Common Fund was approximately 9% (2014 gain of 12%) for the year. This is higher than the performance of the Australian equity markets as a result of the diversification in the portfolio including the exposure to overseas equities which increased in value by 26% for the year.

The total funds invested by the Trusts Corporation at 30 June 2015 was \$132,630,911 (2014 \$123,240,422) which is comprised of the Common Fund balance plus the Separate Investments.

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. Its 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 and following 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	42.4	40.0	35.0-50.0
International Equities	16.1	10.0	5.0-15.0
Fixed Interest Securities	34.6	45.0	35.0-65.0
Cash	6.9	5.0	3.0-7.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	

The default asset allocation for separately invested funds is 70% of funds in growth assets (equities) and the balance in cash and fixed interest securities.

Bequests

No bequests were received during the year apart from a small amount of residual interest in relation to the Miriam Alberta Bone bequest.

Kilmore trust funds

There are two perpetual trusts relating to the former Kilmore congregation being:

1. Kilmore Presbyterian Church Endowment A/c 9085.70, balance \$4,953. A number of small bequests were made to Kilmore. One dates back to 1888 for one thousand pounds which would have been a substantial sum at that time.
2. A Mackay Bequest A/c 9087.70, balance \$2,540. This sum was bequeathed to the congregation in or about 1975 to be used for general church purposes.

The advice of the former Law Agent was sought in relation to how to deal with these trusts. His advice was 'the funds may be applied by the Trusts Corporation in accordance with any direction of the Assembly which will be constrained by restriction to the Christian religious purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.' It is the recommendation of the Trusts Corporation that the General Assembly direct that both of these trusts be applied for the benefit of the Broadford congregation on the same terms as the original trusts.

Warrnambool North Funds

The Trusts Corporation held general funds in the name of the former Warrnambool North congregation of \$25,579 as at March 2015. After correspondence with the Presbytery of Kilnoorat, it is the recommendation of the Trusts Corporation that the funds be allocated to Presbytery for its general purposes or any other charitable purpose determined by Presbytery.

Kirkbrae

The advice of our auditors is that a constitution should be written for Kirkbrae and lodged with the ACNC. The Trusts Corporation has been working with the Social Services Committee towards this end. At the time of writing this report, there are a few matters which need to be resolved in relation to the constitution. It is the intention that the proposed constitution be presented to the Assembly by the Social Services Committee once these matters have been addressed.

Scots' Church Properties Trust

The Supreme Court of Victoria commenced hearing the matters in dispute in relation to the Scots' Church Properties Trust on 27 July. The matter remains before the Court. It is the intention of the Trusts Corporation to provide an up to date report on these matters in a Supplementary Report closer to the time of the Assembly.

Supplementary:

Scots' Church Properties Trust

For many years there have been differences between the Scots' Church Properties Trust (SCPT) Trustees (the Trustees) and the Trusts Corporation (representing the interests of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV)) over the interpretation of the 1891 Scots Church Trust Deed. More recently, the implementation of the sale of Assembly Hall to the Scots Church Trustees which the Assembly agreed to in December 2001, has led to further differences. The Trusts Corporation has reported to the Assembly on these matters a number of times over recent years. Those reports provide some of the background to the current matters.

For those not familiar with the background, we refer you to the following reports and minutes from the time of the agreement for the sale in 2001.

- April 2001 Commission – Minute 8 Blue Book page 3; Reports page 23, 28
- December 2001 pro re nata meeting – Minutes 6, 7 and 8 Blue Book (2002) p3; Reports p 7
- October 2004 Assembly – Minute 87 BB p 64; Report p 232
- October 2007 Assembly – Report BB p 271; (Minute 82 BB p 89)
- October 2008 Assembly – Minute 27 BB p 77; Report p 296
- October 2010 Assembly – Minute 29 BB p 131; Report p 330
- May 2011 Commission – Minute 16, BB page 14; Report page 84
- October 2011 Assembly – Minute 26 BB p 110, Minute 63 BB p 129; Report BB p 289
- May 2012 Commission – Minute 13 BB p10; Report BB p 74
- October 2012 Assembly – Report BB p 277; (Minute 26 BB p 84)
- October 2013 Assembly – Report BB p 363; (Minute 32 BB p 94)
- October 2014 Assembly – Report BB p368; (Minute 30 BB p 124)

The Trusts Corporation makes this report to inform the General Assembly of progress in the matter but as this matter is now before the Supreme Court of Victoria (the Court), we are limited in what we can say.

When the Trusts Corporation last reported to the Assembly in October 2014, it was anticipating that the matter would proceed to trial in December that year. One of the reasons for the subsequent delay in the trial was that the Trustees initiated a third party action against Mr Harry Hearn, who had been their solicitor for more than 40 years. Under the Court's rules, all actions relating to the same facts are usually heard together. This means that the third party action against Mr Hearn is being heard together with the matters between the Attorney General, the PCV, the Trustees and the Scots' Board of Management. Not only has this created an additional level of complexity and led to increased costs, it also delayed the trial.

Ultimately the trial commenced on 27 July 2015 in the Supreme Court under Justice Michael Sifris who heard 11 days of opening submissions and an interlocutory application before adjourning the matter with the case to be managed as follows:

- The proceeding be referred to a mediator, such mediation to take place by 30 September 2014

- The mediator report back to the Court by 7 October as to whether the mediation is finished
- There be a trial for the determination of eight preliminary questions fixed for hearing on 16 November 2015 with an estimate of 3-4 hearing days.

The mediation, which is the fourth since this matter began, was held under the Hon Susan Crennan AC QC, a retired High Court judge, on Thursday 17 September. The mediation was then adjourned with further discussions to take place.

The Trusts Corporation put what it believes was a constructive and comprehensive settlement proposal to the Trustees and the Board of Management, with a view to resolving all outstanding matters in the proceeding and avoiding the continuation of the trial. As at the date of writing this report, the mediation process continues.

The mediations and related responses and correspondence from the Trustees and the Board of Management have been on a confidential and 'without prejudice' basis. Consequently these matters cannot be publicly discussed.

Should settlement fail to be reached, the matter will resume in the Court on 16 November.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

3 Lorne grove

Bamberwell

8 October 2014

The Clerk of Assembly
The Presbyterian Church of Victoria
156 Collins Street
Melbourne.

Dear John

Please convey to the Assembly
my sincere thanks for their greeting
on my retirement from the office of
Law Agent, and for the gift handed to me
by the Moderator.

I did not open the gift at
the time. Although there was, as I now
learn, consultation by you with my
wife and daughter, I was caught by
surprise.

It is interesting that the
gift was a painting of a country scene
near Malmesbury, the painter being a
grand-daughter of Charles Martin, whom
I mentioned in my address.

It will remind me daily
of the fellowship in the Gospel which
I have shared and will yet share
with members of the Assembly

Yours sincerely
Frank Bayston



COMMUNICATION 3 (Min. 122)

The Presbyterian Church of Queensland

ABN 43 015 755 489

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

Our ref:

Date: 30 June 2015

Rev John Wilson
Clerk of Assembly
c/- Presbyterian Church of Victoria
Mezzanine Level
156 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear John

At a meeting of the Queensland State Assembly last week the Assembly resolved to declare its support for its Commission of Assembly in asking the GAA Code Committee to overture the GAA to bring about a change in the Code of Discipline Rule 3.12 to ensure that such suspension referred to in the rule is mandatory by deleting the words 'may at any time' and inserting the words 'shall immediately' so that the rule would read as follows:

If an allegation is made against a person who holds office in the Church, including a minister of a parish, which concerns inappropriate behaviour with young people, including child molestation, then having regard to the need to protect children the Court shall immediately suspend the accused person from office even though the Court has not at the time resolved to proceed to judicial process as referred to in Rule 5.01.

Once the Assembly declared its support for the Commission's request to the GAA Code Committee it resolved to instruct me to advise all State Assemblies in relation to the content of this clause.

In fact this is the procedure normally followed in Queensland but the Assembly wishes to make our zero tolerance abundantly clear.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely in Christ

(Rev) Ron Clark
Clerk of Assembly

Street Address: Level 4, 19 Lang Parade, MILTON Q 4064

Postal Address: PO Box 1351, MILTON LPO Q 4064

Phone: (07) 3716 2800 Fax: (07) 3716 2810 Website: www.pcq.org.au

What we do

We are committed to making known the good news of Jesus Christ and His claim on our lives.

10 JUL 2015

COMMUNICATION 4 (Min. 20)

**Presbyterian Church of Australia****Memo:** To all Presbyteries and State Assemblies**Subject:** Moderator Elect, General Assembly of Australia, 2016

Please be advised that, pursuant to the regulations of the Moderator's Nominating Committee of the General Assembly of Australia, the Rev. John Wilson, Clerk of Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, has been appointed as Moderator-Elect for the Assembly in 2016 and the subsequent triennium.

The results of the ballot were:

Rev. John P. Wilson, 18 votes

Rev. David A. Burke, 14 votes.

The next meeting of the General Assembly of Australia is scheduled to be held in Sydney on 12 September 2016 at which time the election of the Rev. John Wilson will be confirmed.

Bruce Meller
Assembly Clerk, and
Convener of the Moderator's Nominating Committee

Mailing address:

PO Box 2196
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012

Email: assembly@pcnsw.org.au

Phone: +61 2 9690 9371

Street address:

Level 2, 168-180 Chalmers St
Surry Hills NSW 2010

Web: www.presbyterian.org.au

Fax: +61 2 9310 2148

COMMUNICATION 5 (Min. 57)



P.O. Box 4014, Croydon Hills VIC 3136
ABN 41 197 813 187
Phone: (03) 9005 8256
Fax: (03) 9876 1941
Email : admin@pim.org.au
Web : www.pim.org.au

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION COMMUNICATION TO STATE ASSEMBLIES 2015

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. Isaiah 35:1,2

There is great encouragement to know that God is fulfilling His purpose within this world. He has not supplied any escape clauses in His declared purpose. He will bring His purpose to pass and we shall see all glory given to the victorious, risen, ascended and glorified Christ Jesus the LORD.

One small part of the advance of His Kingdom is seen in the work of the ministry teams of the Presbyterian Inland Mission. We encourage you to regularly visit the PIM web site (www.pim.org.au) for up to date information on each of our ministries.

As PIM moves into its second century of gospel ministry in the Outback, we continue to be thankful to Almighty God for our dedicated PIM 'family' of patrol teams and church workers spread across our great Commonwealth. The PIM is active in every State and the Northern Territory. The work continues to grow, but there is much, much more that could be done. Join us in asking the Lord of the Harvest to send forth more workers into his harvest field. The Lord willing, the PIM 'family' will all gather in Alice Springs later this year for a time of prayer, planning and further preparation.

These ministries are ably supported by our Office Manager, Michael Timmins and our Secretary/Projects Officer, Erica Erasmus.

The Committee has been pleased to welcome Rev Peter Barber and Rev Derek Bullen onto the Executive. This has given us a much needed boost in our work.

Very soon, we expect to be able to announce the appointment of a CEO. This role will include the role of Superintendent, and has become necessary because of both the advances of the Mission in recent years and the increasing complexity of the environment in which we operate. We trust that this will prove to be a great advance in the effective ministry of the PIM.

This move has been fully supported, promoted and initiated by the current Convener and Superintendent. In due course, however, they will both step down from their current roles – a partnership in those roles of more than ten years and much longer in terms of involvement on the Committee. There is likely to be a period of overlap between the Superintendent and the new CEO, but due to health pressures and local church needs in Darwin, the Convener will depart sooner. We of course remain committed to the spread of the Gospel throughout our land and are delighted in the ability and competence of all the PIM workers in their various roles. We thank the Lord for being able to undertake these roles in recent years, it has been a real privilege to do so.

.....
"We aim to serve and bring Christ beyond the furthest fences."

PIM invites you to consider how your congregation or missions group could partner with us in prayer, perhaps adopting a patrol team or mission church as your focus.

We sincerely thank those who already partner with us and we ask that you keep going or even increase your support, as the Lord guides you.

For Christ and the Continent!

Rob Duncanson
Convener

Stuart Bonnington
Superintendent

Rob Duncanson | Convener
Mobile: 0413 021 716 Phone: 08 8945 7878
Email: convener@pim.org.au

COMMUNICATION 6 (Min. 123)



Department of Premier and Cabinet

Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship

Rev John Wilson
Assembly Clerk
C/- Church Office
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
156 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Level 3, 3 Treasury Place
Melbourne Victoria 3002
Australia
GPO Box 4912
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9651 1101
Facsimile: +61 3 9651 0612
DX210753

RECEIVED

14 SEP 2015

Dear Reverend Wilson,

I am writing to seek the advice of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria with regards to the most appropriate representative of the Church on the Victorian Government's Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG).

The MAG meets quarterly and is a group of approximately 20 faith leaders from a diverse range of faiths in Victoria. The MAG aims to ensure ongoing dialogue between the Victorian Government and Victoria's faith leaders and communities, support peer learning and information sharing, and assist the government to understand and appropriately respond to situations which arise in diverse faith and multicultural communities around Victoria.

Reverend David Palmer was previously nominated as the representative of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria on the the MAG, however he advises that as he is no longer in the position of Moderator he may not be the most appropriate representative. Moderator Reverend David Brown recommended seeking the advice of the General Assembly with respect to the Church's nomination.

The next MAG meeting is on 14 October 2015 and it would be welcomed if the new representative were selected in time to attend the meeting.

I look forward to your consideration and advice. Please email me at hakan.akyol@dpc.vic.gov.au or call me on 9651 0650.

Yours sincerely,

Hakan Akyol
Director
Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship



COMMUNICATION 7 (Min. 124)
The Presbyterian Church of Queensland
ABN 43 015 755 489

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

Our ref:

Date: 30 September 2015

Rev John Wilson
Clerk of Assembly
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
Mezzanine Level
156 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear John

May I wish you and your colleagues a very happy Assembly which you will be involved in next week. May God be glorified in your work and your actions be productive.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely in Christ

(Rev) Ron Clark
Clerk of Assembly

Street Address: Level 4, 19 Lang Parade, MILTON Q 4064

Postal Address: PO Box 1351, MILTON LPO Q 4064

Phone: (07) 3716 2800 Fax: (07) 3716 2810 Website: www.pcq.org.au

What we do

We are committed to making known the good news of Jesus Christ and His claim on our lives.

PresAID

Presbyterians Assisting In Development

**Are YOU
and YOUR
Congregation
involved?**

PresAID is the Aid and Development Department of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. It works in co-operation with Australian Presbyterian World Mission, and under the patronage of the Moderator General, Rt Rev David Cook. PresAID seeks to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ as 'He had compassion on them' and 'went about doing good'. It raises funds by asking all PCA congregations to donate their Christmas Day and Good Friday offerings to PresAID for two or three worthy causes selected in consultation with receiving churches and APWM, whose Director, Rev Kevin Murray, is an active member of the PresAID Committee.

Every cent raised from these offerings is sent off to receiving churches to be used for the stated purposes on the understanding that we will follow up in due course so that we can report progress to our donors for the purpose of encouraging their ongoing Christian generosity. Since its formation by the General Assembly of Australia in 2007, PresAID has become an enhancement to traditional mission work and relations with sister churches in other parts of the world.

Since beginning with a trial scheme in 2006 we have raised \$850,000. Some of the things we have been able to do are: assist recovery from earthquake in Pakistan, provide food aid in Malawi famine, build five churches in Zambia between Lusaka and Victoria Falls, build and help establish Chasefu Theological College in Zambia, establish a HIV-AIDS education program in Namibia, upgrade Tangoa Training Institute in Vanuatu, establish a Christian Education program in East Timor, provide food aid for Myanmar, assist Darjeeling Hills Bible College in India, provide a four wheel drive vehicle for Himalaya Education and Welfare project, help establish Correspondence Bible Course in Bangladesh, establish branch of PCVanuatu Bible Training College on Tanna, build water reticulation scheme on Tangoa, fund a water purification scheme for a village on the shore of Lake Victoria in partnership with PresAID Uganda.

We have been pleased to see kindred spirits in the denomination do similar things: ORBUS has established an orphanage in Blantyre, the Presbytery of Melbourne East has raised scholarship money for two students from Zimbabwe to train at Chasefu, five shipping containers of goods have been sent to Malawi, Zambia and Lokichoggio (Kenya), three congregations bought a minibus for CCAP Zambia and funded a study trip for students for the ministry to visit Malawi and Zambia.

Projects for the upcoming PresAID 2015 Christmas Appeal are:

1. Farm water project at Santo Bush Mission, Vanuatu – fund in full (\$10,000).
2. Ablution block at Meekathara Community Centre, WA – fund in full (\$15,000).
3. Completion of St Peter's Prayer House, Kabwata, Zambia – fund in full (\$9,000).
4. Establishment of children's village, Uganda – remainder of funds raised.

We thank God for what He has enabled our people to do directly through PresAID and in addition to what PresAID has done.

Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID.

Phone: 0417 592 646. Email: crthomas@pcvic.org.au

WATER PURIFICATION IN UGANDA – A RECENT PRESAID PROJECT

Rev Robert Benn Writes:

I'VE just been out to the garage, and the remote control doesn't work any more! Poor me. How can I operate if my rear vision mirrors don't automatically turn down so I can see the kerb? And if my car doors don't open and lock with the press of a button? And if 1000 more comfort and convenience things weren't pandering to my special appetites!

Now think of those who get up in the morning, take their empty 20 litre yellow container, trudge up the hill 700 metres, draw the water with a bucket, fill the container and trudge with a heavy load back home. They're only 10 years old, and it's their only way to get household water!

Enter PresAid Australia. Engage with PresAid Uganda. And 2 years later the whole of a community has clean running water at 12 central points, close to home. No more trudging. No more boiling the water. Just drink it, use it, revel in this basic human right. And the whole community looks in, and attributes this boon to the community of Christians of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and Uganda in co-operation.

But There's A Background To All This. The Mt Stuart Congregation from Tasmania sent work teams to Uganda. They, like so many others who do short term mission visits, got the message: here are people who need help; people who still live in the shadow of the horrendous administration of Idi Amin! Of course they're behind much of the world, for 'the Pearl of Africa' was raped. They're still attempting to catch up. Away from the cities and larger towns, even clean running water was not available.

Mt Stuart Congregation Rose To The Challenge. They raised the funds for the first water purification system in a village on the shore of Lake Victoria. PresAid brought the PCA into the project, so at Christmas 2013 many congregations contributed to the Clean Water Project for the Presbyterian Church of Uganda, Buikwe district.

Engineers, Scientists And Chemists Got To Work. The project got under way as Dr Kefa turned the first sod, and by the end of 2014 the project was finished.

Rev Bob Thomas, Convener of PresAid Australia heard that I was heading in that direction and asked if I would be able to arrange my travel in order to visit the PCU and formally commission the Clean Water Project. So on 14 April we went up the hill to the source of the water in a joyous procession! The well; the solar-powered pump; the tank; the ongoing testing of the water; the outlets were all working – and you should have seen the satisfaction written all over the faces of the delegation.

After the dedication we moved into the heart of the village with the mayor, the councillors, the ministers and elders of the church to gather with the whole community to give thanks to our great God for the beautiful co-operation which resulted in clear, clean, running water for all.

Of course, 'if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink, the words of the Lord Jesus, were our central focus. And on Sunday, the woman at the well, 'Sir, give me this water so that I will never have to come here again, to draw water.'

Thank you PresAid Australia. Thank you Presbyterians of Australia. Thank you Noel Kalunda, Co-ordinator of PresAid Uganda. This has been so special to be with these 'fellow workers together with God'.

Sometimes we are a bit too comfortable, aren't we? Everything turned on, all remotes working – while other brothers and sisters have so little. It's great to address these issues, isn't it?

Robert Benn,

Convener, Relations With Other Churches Committee of the GAA and
Representative of PresAid in the commissioning of the Clean Water Project in Uganda.

OVERTURE 1 (Min. 107)

**From: Presbytery of Gippsland
Re: Gippsland Presbytery bounds**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) a lack of clarity as to the location of the Gippsland Presbytery bounds;
- b) it being a matter for the General Assembly of Victoria (5:71);
- c) agreement with the Presbyteries of Benalla and Maroondah (noting that the Presbytery of Flinders has not replied to the correspondence of the Gippsland Presbytery regarding this matter).

Now therefore the Presbytery of Gippsland humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

Align the Gippsland Presbytery bounds with Local Government Area bounds so that presbytery contains the Local Government Areas as follows:

Bass Coast; South Gippsland; Baw Baw; East Gippsland; Latrobe; Wellington

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Gary Stephens
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 9 August 2015

Rev Cameron Garrett and Rev Mark Smith were appointed to state the overture.

OVERTURE 3 (Min. 115)

From: Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee
Re: General Mission Program

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) the confusion that has been and is being caused among the congregations, boards and treasurers of the PCV who believe that they are contributing directly to the financial support of our APWM (Vic) missionaries because they give to the General Mission Program, and
- b) the ongoing need for increased financial support from within the PCV for our APWM (Vic) missionaries separate to any giving to the General Mission Program.

Now therefore the APWM (Vic) Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

- 1. Change the name of the General Mission Program (and its associated Committee) to the General Administration Program (GAP).
- 2. Advise all sessions and boards of this change and the reasons for doing so.

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Phil Simmonds
CONVENER

Dated: 3 August 2015

Rev Phil Simmonds and Rev Dean Carroll were appointed to state the overture.

OVERTURE 7 (Min. 117)

From: Code and General Administration Committee
Re: Code Revision Project

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of the following:

- a) The church last engaged in a serious revision of its Rules and Regulations on the basis of a 1994 decision of the General Assembly (min. 60.2).
- b) It took eight years, including the work of a diligent sub-committee, the precision of Dr Paul Swinn, and a Barrier Act procedure to bring this to completion by the 2002 Assembly (min. 29.7).
- c) The church has been working with this 2002 edition ever since – though tinkering with it year by year.
- d) This current revision of Rules and Regulations emerged from the 2012 General Assembly (min 28.3), exactly a decade since the enactment of the current version - the Assembly instructed the Code Committee to revise the Code to bring it into line with the changing policy of the church.
- e) The Code Committee, through the Clerk, consulted on a state-wide basis with each presbytery last year, and was greatly encouraged and helped by 35 pages of presbytery responses.
- f) The Committee was nearly ready to report to the 2014 General Assembly when a very generous offer was made by Philip Barton (an elder in the Camberwell congregation) to review and revise the whole Code Book.
- g) The Code Committee, through the Clerk, consulted again on a state-wide basis with each presbytery this year, and was greatly encouraged and helped by 12 pages of presbytery responses.
- h) This proposed Revision is a far better set of rules to guide the work of the PCV, in that it has:
 - i) Clearer definitions given for a congregation, charge, parish and mission field (see 2.1).
 - ii) Clearer definitions given for the status of a charge (see 2.4 and 4.62), namely:
 - Pastoral Charge
 - Appointment Charge
 - Home Mission Charge
 - Church Plant Charge
 - iii) Clarity in the recognition of a church plant in the Code, and also making it clearer as to the initial steps for forming the first session (see 4.59 to 4.61).
 - iv) The bringing together of scattered and misplaced prescriptions to their proper place within the rules - whereas some now sit, partially hidden, in the regulations (see 4.31 to 4.34).
 - v) Provided more logic in the order of procedures where there is a perceived disconnect in the sectioning of the rules.

- vi) Avoided unnecessary duplication – and therefore the need for side references – so that we can find one place in the Code that describes a particular area of church life and be confident that all that is necessary to understand this matter is in the one place, rather than having to build a composite picture from different sections.
- vii) Greater clarity in outlining matters such as:
 - rights and duties of communicants and adherents (see 2.8 to 2.10);
 - procedures for managers elections and elders' elections (see 3.10-3.17 and 3.35 to 3.39), and bringing a measure of conformity between them.
- viii) Inserted, in place of an Index, a list of Contents that is easily referred to at the beginning of every chapter.

Now therefore, the Code and General Administration Committee humbly overtures that the General Assembly take these premises into consideration and:

send this version of the Code Revision down to presbyteries under the Barrier Act, according to Rule 5.57(b).

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Rev John Wilson
CONVENER

Dated: 5 August 2015

Rev John Wilson and Rev Peter Phillips were appointed to state the overture.

PETITION 1 (Min. 93)

Presbytery of Ballarat MDC Funding for Ararat Parish

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The regulations of the Ministry Development Committee, under 17, state as follows:

'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

- send it to the committee for information, and
- bring the matter before the General Assembly for evaluation.'

- b) The parish of Ararat has received a subsidy from the Ministry Development Committee for a period of 10 years and must therefore bring this matter by petition to the General Assembly.

- c) The presbytery believes that the maintenance of a full-time ministry in the parish of Ararat is essential for the work of God and the witness to Christ of the Presbyterian Church for the following reasons:

- i) there is no other Presbyterian witness along the Western Highway between Ballarat and Horsham. Presbyterian churches at Stawell and Beaufort no longer exist and the nearest Presbyterian congregation is Skipton – the congregation is therefore drawn from a wide area;
- ii) if a Presbyterian church were to be planted at Stawell, Ararat would be the ideal base;
- iii) the Presbyterian reformed witness at Ararat has been appreciated and valued by a significant number of people moving into the region;
- iv) a new and vital ministry has just commenced at Ararat and it is essential that it be maintained: already, progress has been seen in the recommencement of a Bible study in the Stawell area, with personal growth in prayer and bible study generally, recommencement of nursing home services and a greater church community involvement;
- v) it has been noted that with the rising cost of city property there may be a trend to population shift to regional areas: the government predicts a small but steady growth in regional population in the coming decade;
- vi) 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;
- vii) 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.

At this stage in its history the continuance of such a necessary 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 Ararat and continue to give them consideration

or to do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Keith Allen
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 12 June 2015

Rev Steve North and Rev Rod Waterhouse were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 2 (Min. 94)

Presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat Moving Colac from Geelong to Kilnoorat

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Colac parish is the only truly country parish in the Presbytery of Geelong with other parishes considered to be semi-rural or city parishes being no further out of Geelong than a half hour drive.
- b) The Colac session feels that the Presbytery of Geelong is very much city-centric and not representative of country feelings, attitudes and activities.
- c) The Colac session has been considering for some time the advantages of belonging to a majority country parish presbytery such as Kilnoorat, where they will find some affinity through like-minded parishes.
- d) The Colac session feel that they are disadvantaged through evening presbytery meetings which do not suit them, while at the same time recognising that evening meetings better suit the other parishes. Kilnoorat Presbytery has daytime meetings.
- e) The Colac session met on 18 March 2015 and agreed to take a proposal to join the Presbytery of Kilnoorat to the congregation for their consideration.
- f) The Colac congregation met on the 29th March 2015 to consider the session's proposal. The meeting was attended by 37 communicants and no adherents and the congregation endorsed the proposal by a vote of 34 in favour to 3 against, with no recorded dissent.
- g) The Colac congregation then voted to report their decision to the Presbytery of Geelong with a request that the necessary steps be taken to implement their decision.
- h) The Presbytery of Geelong, at its meeting held on 14th April 2015, considered the request from the Colac charge and agreed to seek the mind of the Presbytery of Kilnoorat.
- i) The Presbytery of Kilnoorat met on the 12th May 2015 and resolved that it would be in favour of such a proposal.
- j) The Presbytery of Geelong met on 9th June 2015 and formally agreed to request the Presbytery of Kilnoorat to join the Presbytery of Geelong in petitioning the General Assembly of Victoria to seek agreement to the Colac charge's request to join the Presbytery of Kilnoorat.
- k) The Presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat agree that the new Presbytery boundary should become a direct line between Cressy and Skenes Creek.

Now therefore the Presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat humbly petition the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

vary the boundary between the Presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat so that the parish of Colac will fall within the boundary of the Presbytery of Kilnoorat, effective from 1 December 2015

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Bert Stasse
PRESBYTERY CLERK (Geelong)

Dated: 9 June 2015

Signed:

Ian Leach
PRESBYTERY CLERK (Kilnoorat)

Dated: 12 May 2015



PETITION 3 (Min. 96)

Presbytery of Melbourne West MDC Funding for the Cross-Cultural Worker of the Sunshine Parish

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) Under the leadership of Pastor Charles Okwo, also an elder at the Sunshine Presbyterian Church (SPC), the Sudanese Fellowship (SF) group has made significant contributions to Sudanese communities in Brimbank, Melton, Werribee, Thomastown, Bundoora, Geelong and across Melbourne.
- b) The SF group runs choir practices, Sunday School, Bible Study and Discipleship Training to provide a Christian community for the Sudanese in Melbourne. Charles also undertakes extensive visitations all across Melbourne to provide spiritual support and pastoral care to families in homes and hospitals.
- c) Charles has an important role in uniting divided Sudanese communities in Melbourne in the spirit of the gospel of Jesus Christ through his cross-cultural ministry. He is one of three Sudanese church leaders on the South Sudanese Unification Committee advocating for peace and reconciliation among the tribes of South Sudan in Victoria.
- d) The SF group has grown steadily to be an active ministry with an average attendance of 45 adults and 25 children, and this trend continues to rise.
- e) The SF group has continually battled to be a financially sustaining group however offering levels remain very low (less than \$100/week at present). This is due to the fact that the Sudanese in general are from refugee backgrounds and do not have the means or biblical understanding of giving.
- f) Charles is persisting in his efforts to teach on tithing, and the SF group has shown a sign of increase in giving as a result. However, it has proven to be a difficult and slow process to change the perception of members on this particular doctrine.
- g) SPC has sustained this invaluable cross-cultural ministry with financial support from the Ministry Development Committee (MDC) over the last 10 years, which has now exceeded the limit on subsidy funding.
- h) This cross-cultural ministry has been greatly enhanced by the support received from the MDC grant.
- i) At present SPC contributes to the SF \$3,500 per year and expects about \$15,000 per year from MDC.
- j) Without the MDC grant, SPC cannot sustain the SF group as a self-supporting cross-cultural ministry given the ministry's own financial limitations.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Melbourne West humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

Authorise the Ministry Development Committee to continue to provide a grant to the Sunshine parish for five more financial years starting from the 2015/2016 financial year. If approved, such a grant would demonstrate the love and support of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria toward the Sudanese Community by maintaining this vital cross-cultural Christian ministry in association with the Sunshine Presbyterian Church

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Glenys Wright
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 19 August 2015

Rev John Cho and Rev Phil Simmonds were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 4 (Min. 97)

Presbytery of Melbourne North MDC Funding for the Templestowe Parish

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) Templestowe Presbyterian Church, a Home Mission Station of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is of strategic importance to the Presbytery of Melbourne North and for the denomination as a whole due to its peculiar (atypical) and particular ministries to groups of people who have come to Templestowe from a wide range of socio-economic (and in many cases disadvantaged) backgrounds.
- b) The Presbytery of Melbourne North is encouraged by the signs of growth at Templestowe, growth that is reflected in the unity of the congregation and the desire on the part of the members to share the gospel regularly both within and outside of the church leading to an invitation to attend either morning or evening worship.
- c) Templestowe is continually reaching out to the community in various ways, having recently produced a gospel tract that is being warmly received, and Pastor Kebbe is now discipling church members to do outreach and conduct Bible studies.
- d) In 2006, twenty-seven adults and children attended Sunday morning worship at Templestowe and now, in 2015, there is an average of fifty-six adults and children meeting as a gospel-centred community of worshippers who care very much for the welfare of not only those attend but also the welfare of the surrounding community.
- e) Weekly offerings have improved by 50% in the past twelve months, rising to just over \$1,000 in the past six months.
- f) There is a weekly Bible study open to all members of the congregation and a strong ladies' group in the church working to help other ladies grow in the Lord.
- g) During the past year Templestowe has had many unbelievers come to faith through Bible studies, however, as yet, many of those people have not been able to attend the church.
- h) Through the ministry of Templestowe, many drug addicts and alcoholics have been helped to overcome their addictions and are now very keen to help others who are in the grip of alcohol and drug addiction.
- i) The pastor at Templestowe also works with others who suffer with other ailments, such as depression and anxiety.
- j) A working Board of Management is now established at Templestowe and the church is working towards inducting a second elder into the congregation.

- k) The Board of Management recognises that Templestowe needs to become a self-supporting congregation and is working towards reducing the annual grant application to the Ministry Development Committee, always trusting that the Lord will provide.
- l) The Ministry Development Committee has supported the work of ministry at Templestowe for ten years now and thus the limit of subsidy funding has been reached, requiring that Templestowe petition the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for a further five years' support.

Now therefore, the Presbytery of Melbourne North humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

Authorise the Ministry Development Committee, at their discretion and subject to Ministry Development Committee guidelines, to provide grants to the Templestowe Presbyterian Church for a further five years from 2015-2016 through to the end of July 2020 in order to maintain full-time ministry at Templestowe

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

John Wilson
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 22 August 2015

Rev Alan Every was appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 5 (Min. 98)

Presbytery of Melbourne East MDC Funding for the Canterbury Japanese Congregation

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Japanese congregation of Canterbury Presbyterian Church (also known as the Melbourne Japanese Christian Church ('MJCC')) was planted by Rev Stephen Young, a Mission to the World ('MTW') missionary from the USA, in 1991 and has ministered the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Japanese people in Melbourne (and Victoria) since that time, being the only Protestant Japanese church.
- b) The MJCC has strategic importance for gospel ministry to Japanese people in Melbourne and Victoria (totalling just over 20,000, or even more if Japanese students on working holiday or student exchange visas are included) and the presbytery remains encouraged by the spiritual health of the congregation and its concern to be ministering the gospel to each other and the Japanese community in Melbourne.
- c) Over the years the numbers regularly attending weekly worship have fluctuated between a low of 30 adults to a high of 60 adults (together with a minimum of 10-15 children). The Japanese congregation combines with the Canterbury English congregation on the first Sunday of each month, at which services the sacraments are administered and following which a joint lunch is held.
- d) Since first planted in 1991, there has been consistent fruit in the life of the MJCC with a total of almost 50 adult baptisms, mainly women, many of whom have returned to Japan, although a number of those currently playing key roles in the life of the congregation came to faith through the ministry of the MJCC, including one eldership candidate.
- e) Consistent outreach ministry operates from the MJCC in various ways:
 - i) Fortnightly through a babysong playgroup, supported by 8-10 volunteers from the congregation, which sees up to 16 Japanese women and their children (almost all non-church) attend regularly, significant relationships being fostered and the gospel shared.
 - ii) Free English conversation classes held 5 days a week and an International Young Adults meeting every Friday evening (an outreach to international students conducted by Canterbury Presbyterian Church), at which contact is made with Japanese young people, both working holiday visa holders and student visa holders, relationships are built and the gospel is shared.
 - iii) Specific evangelistic events, including a stall at the Melbourne Japan Festival in May each year, which build contacts with Japanese families and individuals in Melbourne and beyond.
- f) Over the years, the MJCC has provided opportunities for missions candidates from agencies including APWM, OMF, Pioneers and CMS preparing for service in Japan to be trained and further equipped by involvement in the life of the congregation (usually for periods of 6-12 months).

- g) In the early years (1991-2000), the ministry was largely funded by the support received by Rev Stephen Young as MTW missionary (although in a number of years grants in the order of \$5,000 per annum were received from the MDC) but since the 2004-2005 financial year, the MJCC has relied on financial support from the MDC (ranging from \$15,000-\$32,000 per annum) to sustain full-time ministry, such support coming until just recently from the Thompson Cross-Cultural Trust. The MJCC has now reached the 10-year limit and is required to seek Assembly approval for further funding.
- h) The Canterbury Board of Management, continuing to prioritise resources towards gospel ministry, seeks to manage its budget so as to support and facilitate gospel work while minimising grant applications, trusting the Lord to provide. In order to enhance the Church' cross-cultural ministry, the Board undertook considerable renovation works to its property in 2005-2006 which were of considerable benefit to the MJCC, but the loan of \$300,000 secured from the Capital Fund to help finance those works was almost exclusively repaid by the Canterbury English congregation.
- i) Although the giving of the MJCC reached \$43,000 per annum during the ministry of Rev Shoji Tsuchihira (2009-2012), the giving has declined in the last two years without any full-time ministry to \$30,000 per annum. With the arrival of Rev Hideyoshi Kashiwagura (and his family) at the end of March 2015, the giving has begun to increase and the Canterbury Board of Management has budgeted for giving of \$41,000 in the 2015-2016 financial year.
- j) Rev Kashiwagura (a native Japanese pastor from the Reformed Baptist Church) will provide consistent gospel ministry which is crucial both for the growth in the Lord of the exiting members and the mission of the gospel to Japanese people in Melbourne. He has been appointed for an initial 5-year term which commenced on 1 April 2015. He has already set in place measures aimed at consolidating and growing the core group of members living permanently in Melbourne and there are now four home fellowship groups meeting regularly for Bible study and prayer.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Melbourne East humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

Authorise the Ministry Development Committee at its discretion and subject to MDC guidelines, to provide a cross-cultural subsidy grant to the Canterbury Japanese congregation (MJCC) for the 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 financial years in order to secure full-time ministry in the congregation for effective and fruitful ministry to Japanese people in Melbourne and beyond

or do otherwise as in its wisdom it may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Kevin Childs
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 19 August 2015

Rev Grant Lawry and Mr Kevin Childs were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 6 (Min. 100)

Presbytery of Flinders MDC Funding for South East Samoan Presbyterian Church

This petition shows that:

- a) The South East Samoan Presbyterian Church has been making steady progress in establishing a reformed and evangelical ministry amongst the Samoan community in the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne over the last 10 years.
- b) During the last few years, the South East Samoan Presbyterian Church has made a major commitment to purchase its own manse with the assistance of a loan from the PCV Capital Fund.
- c) The Presbytery of Flinders has recently carried out a five-yearly visitation of the South East Samoan parish and found a growing and healthy congregation with great support for the current minister Rev Kainano Opetiaia and his family.
- d) Recognising the South East Samoan participation in the PYV Volleyball competition each year, the Presbytery of Flinders is encouraging the South East Samoan congregation to engage more widely in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to strengthen the work of gospel ministry.
- e) Progress is being made within the South East Samoan congregation to embrace English as a second language in its worship and administrative activities to facilitate greater involvement in the wider church.
- f) The South East Samoan Presbyterian Church is still in need of financial assistance to support the current ministry and move the church forward to become a fully self-supporting charge.
- g) The Ministry Development Committee has been providing financial subsidies to the South East Samoan congregation for the last 10 years and is unable to continue this support without an evaluation of the situation by the General Assembly (see note below from the MDC regulations):

Grants – Time Limit

17. 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.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Flinders humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

- 1. Give thanks to God for the progress that has been made in establishing a reformed and evangelical ministry amongst Samoan people through the South East Samoan Presbyterian Church over the last 10 years.
- 2. Grant the South East Samoan Presbyterian Church approval to receive funding support from the Ministry Development Committee for a further 5 years.

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Dallas Clarnette
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 22 September 2015

Rev Michael Jensen and Rev Hui Lim were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 7 (Min. 101)

Presbytery of Flinders MDC Funding for Cranbourne Presbyterian Church

This petition shows that:

- a) The Cranbourne Presbyterian Church has been growing steadily in numbers and spiritual maturity over the last 5 years.
- b) Prior to this period, the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church went through a number of challenging disruptions to pastoral ministry that hindered its growth.
- c) The Presbytery of Flinders has recently carried out a five-yearly visitation of the Cranbourne parish and found a growing and healthy congregation with great support for the current minister Rev Peter Roberts and his family.
- d) The Cranbourne Presbyterian Church is still in need of financial assistance to support the current ministry and move the church forward to become a fully self-supporting charge.
- e) The Cranbourne Presbyterian Church is strategically located on a large property in a growth corridor in the South Eastern region of Melbourne.
- d) The Ministry Development Committee has been providing financial subsidies to Cranbourne for the last 10 years and is unable to continue this support without an evaluation of the situation by the General Assembly (see note below from the MDC regulations)

Grants – Time Limit

17. 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.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Flinders humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

1. Give thanks to God for the steady growth in numbers and spiritual maturity of the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church over the last five years.
2. Grant the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church approval to receive funding support from the Ministry Development Committee for a further five years.

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Dallas Clarnette
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 22 September 2015

Rev Michael Jensen and Rev Peter Roberts were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 8 (Min. 102)

Presbytery of Melbourne East MDC Funding for the Korean Presbyterian Church of Melbourne

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- (a) The Korean Presbyterian Church of Melbourne ('KPCM'), also known as the Balwyn Korean Church, was planted in July 1988 by Rev Sang Gyoo Lee while he was studying for his Doctor of Theology at the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne.
- (b) The KPCM is of strategic importance to the Presbytery of Melbourne East and to the denomination as a whole for gospel ministry in the Korean language due to its being the only established ethnic Korean congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria ('PCV').
- (c) In its early years, the KPCM did not have its own church buildings but used the buildings of other PCV congregations (including Camberwell and Surrey Hills) under agreed leasing arrangements. However, in 1997 the KPCM purchased church buildings at 16 Walnut Road, North Balwyn with a loan of almost \$650,000 (nearly \$500,000 from the Commonwealth Bank and \$150,000 from the Presbyterian Capital Fund)
- (d) Up until 2000, the numbers regularly attending worship each week ranged between 150-200 people, but there was no called minister, with a number of different ministers from Korea serving for only a few years each, under the supervision of an interim moderator appointed by the Presbytery of Melbourne East.
- (e) In 2002, Rev Sung Dae Yang came to minister at the KPCM to a communicant membership of around 90 people. Due to theological and other concerns, the Presbytery decided not to appoint Rev Yang as minister of the KPCM and, as a result, he moved to the Uniting Church, taking half of the communicant members with him. The Presbytery appointed two assessors to assist the Session in restoring stability and unity in the congregation.
- (f) Between 2004 and 2008 the KPCM was a home mission station under the ministry of Suk Won Kim who, with the assistance of the Presbytery assessors, trained two new elders for the congregation, those elders being elected and ordained and inducted in 2007. In 2008, the status of the congregation was raised to appointment parish and, in December 2008, Rev Stephen J M Kim (a minister of the PCA with previous pastoral experience in Australia) was appointed as minister for a 3-year term. Rev Kim was reappointed by the Presbytery for a further 3-year term in December 2014.
- (g) The Presbytery remains encouraged by the spiritual health of the congregation. In 2015 there has been an average of 60 adults (together with 40 children) meeting each week as a gospel-centered community of believers which cares very much for the welfare of not only those who attend the KPCM but also the wider Korean

community in Melbourne and Victoria. There are currently 6 home groups meeting regularly in various parts of Melbourne for Bible study and prayer, a vibrant Sunday school ministry and a small youth group.

- (h) In 2006, the outstanding loan from the Commonwealth Bank was transferred to the Presbyterian Capital Fund and since that time the KPCM has been making an annual repayment of principal and interest to the Capital Fund of \$23,000. The current balance of that loan is \$124,000. In addition, as the KPCM does not have a manse of its own, an annual rental payment of around \$22,000 is paid for accommodation for the minister in the outer east of Melbourne.
- (i) Weekly offerings are increasing toward \$2,000 with the Board having budgeted for total offerings of \$100,000 in the 2015-16 financial year. The Session and Board have set the vision and goal before the congregation of becoming a self-sustaining charge, capable of calling their minister, by the end of 2018.
- (j) For the past 10 years the KPCM has received grants from the Ministry Development Committee of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per annum to sustain full-time ministry in the congregation. Thus the limit of subsidy funding has been reached, requiring that the KPCM petition the General Assembly for approval for further funding.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Melbourne East humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

Authorise the MDC, at its discretion and subject to its guidelines, to provide cross-cultural subsidy grants to the Korean Presbyterian Church of Melbourne for a further three and a half years commencing with the 2015/16 financial year in order to secure full-time ministry in the congregation for effective gospel ministry to Korean people in Melbourne and indeed Victoria

or do otherwise as in its wisdom it may consider appropriate.

Signed:

Kevin Childs
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Dated: 30 September 2015

Rev Grant Lawry and Rev Stephen Kim were appointed to present the petition.

GAV COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – DECEMBER 2015

ad hoc Christian Schools Development Committee

Very Rev Dr A M Harman, Rev D Schulz, Rev P Owen, Rev M Wishart, Mr J Bligh, Rev J Cho, Mrs A Withers.

Convener: Mr J Bligh

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 M Crabb
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	Very Rev Dr C R Thomas
Melbourne North	Mr B Miller
Melbourne West	Mr D Wright
North Western	Mr C Morrow

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Vic] Committee

[10 Members appointed by the Assembly, 2 by PWMU]

RT 16: Mr N Johnston [22], Mrs S White [22], Rev P Simmonds [17], Rev L H C Pearce [19]

RT 17: Mr D Bennett [17], Rev P J Burns [22], Vacancy [19]

RT 18: Mrs W Pearce [22], Miss E Slater [17], Rev Dr F Chung [24]

Convener: Rev P Simmonds [17]

Board of Investment and Finance [Trusts Corporation]

[10 Members, eligible for a second consecutive 5 year term]

RT 16:

RT 17: Mr I Bramley [17], Rev S Deroon [22], Rev M Smith [22]

RT 18: Mr G Cox [23], Mr M Duke [23]

RT 19: Rev B Oakes [24], Mr J Tharapos [24]

RT 20: Mr T Arnold [20], Mr A Letcher [20], Rev A Bray [25]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property [Architectural] Committee

[3 Members]

RT 16: Mr D Wright

RT 17: Rev M Tegart

RT 18: Rev P Phillips [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 16: Mr D Fraser [24]

RT 17: Mr K Childs [22]

RT 18: Rev P Mercer [19]

Convener: Rev D Carroll [22]

Christian Education and Nurture Committee

[11 Members, at least 6, including the Convener, Members of Assembly]

RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev A Humphries [24], Mrs A Harvey [20]

RT 17: Vacancy, Mrs M Girgis [22], Rev D Assender [22], Rev H Lim [18]

RT 18: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev M James [24]

Convener: Rev M James [22]

Church and Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev D R Middleton [19]

RT 17: Vacancy, Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 18: Vacancy, Mr J Ballantyne [15], Rev D Combridge [20], Mr B Palmer [20]

Convener: Rev D R Middleton [19]

Church Planting Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 16: Rev J Hyunh [24], Rev P Roberts [24]

RT 17: Rev B P Johnson [21], Rev S North [24]

RT 18: Rev T Fishwick [24], Rev A Boyd [24]

Convener: Rev C B Garrett [22]

Clerkship Committee

Immediate Past Moderator (Convener), Law Agent, Convener Business Committee, Convener Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance, and the Moderator prior to Past Moderator.

Code and General Administration Committee

[3 Members, plus ex officio the Clerks of Assembly, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, Chairman of Trusts Corporation]

RT 16: Rev G Nicholson [17]

RT 17: Mr B Stasse [23]

RT 18: Mr P Barton [23]

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: Rev Dr R Carner [23], Rev P Orchard [17], Rev G Weber [19]

Elders: Mr V Vasiliades [23], Mr N Sharp [18], Rev B Downes [22]

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 16: Rev P Mercer [22]

RT 17: Rev K Nazir [24]

RT 18: Mr J Cawood [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

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Persons]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev G Vayne [22], Rev P Court [22]

RT 17: Vacancy, Rev M Fagan [18], Rev C Le Page [18]

RT 18: Vacancy, Rev P Chang [22], Mrs T Orchard [17], Mrs A Robertson [19]

Convener: Rev M Fagan [18]

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

[6 Members]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev K D W Allen [21]

RT 17: Rev M Crabb [21], Mr R Taylor [21]

RT 18: Mr R Butcher [16], Mr D Wright [22]

Convener: Mr D Wright [21]

METRO Committee

[6 Members, plus the PCV Training Officer]

RT 16: Rev A Vines [24], Rev B Harvey [22]

RT 17: Rev C Le Page [19], Ms J Wort [24]

RT 18: Rev H Easton [22], Rev T McIntosh [22]

Convener: Mr A May [17]

Ministry Development Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 16: Mrs M Brennan [16], Rev A Slater [23]

RT 17: Dr B Ellis [20], Rev M Wishart [23]

RT 18: Rev P Greiner [24], Rev G Vanderwert [22]

Convener: Rev I Hutton [21]

Safe Church Panel of Reference

[Safe Church Facilitator *ex officio*, 4 other members of the PCV, Convener must not be the Safe Church Facilitator]

RT 16: Rev B Harvey [24]

RT 17: Mrs K James [24]

RT 18: Vacancy, Vacancy

Convener: Rev B Harvey

Social Services Committee

[Convener and 9 Members]

RT 16: Miss B Firth [15], Mr J Nuske [21], Mr B Evans [21]

RT 17: Mr T Cunneen [24], Miss R Strother [22], Mr G Hamilton [22]

RT 18: Mr B Miller [18], Mr D Gibb [19], Mrs R Rodgers [21]

Convener: Mr R Lowe [15]

State News Committee

[2 Ministers and 2 Elders]

RT 16: Mr A Zirngast [22], Mr P Betts [19]

RT 17: Rev L Isham [23]

RT 18: Rev N Harvey [18]

Convener: Rev N Harvey [16]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, plus *ex officio* the Principal and another member of the Faculty]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev P Mercer [24], Mr B Georges [22]

RT 17: Vacancy, Rev N Benfell [23], Vacancy [22]

RT 18: Mr D Wright [24], Rev P Owen [23], Rev I H Barker [22], Mr C Manners [22]

Convener: Rev N Benfell

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

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

[2 PCV, 1 PWMU + Convener (alternates between PCV & UCA Victoria/Tasmania)]

PWMU: Vacancy

GAV: Mrs C Closter, Mrs T Assender

Convener: Rev Dr J P Wilson

St Andrew's Foundation

Mrs M Conradi, Rev R O'Brien, Mr C Morrow

FURTHER APPOINTMENTS

Commission for Church Institutions

The Moderator (Chairman), Assembly Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Law Agent, Rev Douglas Robertson, Ivan Barker, Andrew Bray, John Cho, Trevor Cox, Phil Daffy, Graham Nicholson, Chris Siriweera, Graeme Weber, Luke Isham and elder Dr Robert Baldock.

Selection Committee

Metro: Rev Hui Lim (Rt 18), Rev Dr Robert Carner (Rt 16), Rev Dean Carroll (Rt 17), Elder Reg Butcher (Rt 16), Elder John Angelico (Rt 17);

Non-Metro: Rev Cameron Garrett (Convener) (Rt 16), Rev Neil Harvey (Rt 17)

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