

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA



PROCEEDINGS OF THE

URGENT MEETING
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MARCH 2022

AND OF THE

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
MAY 2022

AND OF THE

URGENT MEETING
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 2022

AND OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 2022

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

2021-22

Moderator:	Rev Peter W Phillips, BA, BTh Email: moderator@pcv.org.au
Chaplains:	Rev Ben Nelson Rev Jesse Walz
Clerk of Assembly:	Rev John P Wilson, BSc, DipEd, BTh, DMin Email: clerk@pcv.org.au
Acting Deputy Clerk:	Rev Dean A Carroll, BNursing, BMin, DipTh
Business Convener:	Rev Dr Jared C Hood, DipTh, BTh(Hons), GradCertTh, GradDipIS, MA(Th), MTh, ThM(1st hons), PhD
Law Agent:	Mr Geoff Cox, BA, LLB McCracken and McCracken Level 9 – 501 La Trobe Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Office of the General Assembly

Presbyterian Church of Victoria
Mezzanine Level, 156 Collins Street, MELBOURNE VIC 3000
Telephone: 9650 9311 Email: office@pcv.org.au

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
URGENT MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MARCH 2022**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE URGENT MEETING
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA**

By Zoom, an electronic means of meeting, on Wednesday 30 March 2022 at 3:00pm.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by order of the Moderator. The Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips, constituted the Assembly with the reading of Ephesians 1:1-23 and prayer.

2. Roll

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare that the names recorded in the draft Roll of Assembly, compiled from the certified rolls of presbyteries, as amended, be the Roll of March 2022 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Approval of Meeting

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

In accordance with Code 5.38(c), approve the Moderator's action in convening this Urgent Meeting of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Apologies

The following apologies were sustained:

Ministers:

Keith Allen, Tony Archer, David Assender, Keith Bell, Graham Bradbeer, Andrew Bray, Andy Buchan, Philip Burns, Neil Chambers, Phil Court, Trevor Cox, Mark Crabb, Martin dePyle, Kyung Ee, Alan Every, Theo Fishwick, David Hann, Brian Harvey, Neil Harvey, Peter Hastie, Ian Hutton, Grant Lawry, Ian Leach, Clinton LePage, Bill Medley, Douglas Milne, Chris Siriweera, Mark Tonkin, Ian Touzel, Andrew Venn, Rod Waterhouse, Michael Wharton, Richard Wilson.

Elders:

John Angelico, Phil Betts, Malcolm Browning, Drew Chittenden, Geoff Cross, Elizabeth Cutler, Keith Ferres, Sabyan Hardjo, Jim Hare, Graeme Harris, Rob Herweynen, Michael Javaid, Andrew Kerr, Endre Papajcsik, Alan York, Anton Zirngast.

5. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 3:00pm to the finish of business.

2. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:

15 minutes in total for:

Conveners and seconders moving deliverances (as a whole and total of clause-by-clause)

Petitioners stating the petition

Question time (including 15 mins for total deliverance questions)

5 minutes for:

Movers of substantive motions and amendments

Seconders of substantive motions and amendments

All other speakers.

3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
Rev Adam Humphries (Convener), Luke Brownley, Brett Cummins,
Stephen McDonald,
and determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at
the dissolution of this Assembly.
4. Appoint the Zoom meeting hosts as follows:
Rev Adam Humphries, Luke Brownley, Dean Carroll, Brett Cummins,
Stephen McDonald,
and thank them for their service.
5. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Assembly including when
meeting in private, and to answer any financial management questions.
6. Permit the Privacy Officer to be present in the Assembly including when
meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any
privacy-related matters.
7. Permit the Safe Church Facilitator to be present in the Assembly including
when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during
any Safe Church related matters.
8. Permit the Law Agent to be present in the Assembly including when meeting
in private, to give advice as requested or required during all matters, and to
ask questions of petitioners, appellants, and respondents.
9. Suspend sufficient of standing orders to enable the Assembly to meet by Zoom
in accordance with the meeting procedures in the 2022 Urgent Assembly
Zoom Meeting Guide.
10. Authorise the live-streaming of the public session of this Assembly on
YouTube.
11. 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 all
members, unless a later determination be made by this Assembly.
12. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Special Judicial Committee

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the nature of the petition, noting that the Law Agent was not part of this SJC as he advised the petitioner.

The report was received.

7. Petition: Hawthorn Presbyterian Board of Management Re: Securing a loan for a Building Project

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Graham Nicholson and Elder Dirk Jackson.

The Moderator invited the Law Agent to speak to the petition.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

2. Approve and ratify:

- (a) the re-development of the property known as 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Victoria (more particularly described in certificate of title volume 09495 folio 336) (**Property**) into a multi-unit residential complex (as outlined in the accompanying documents) (the **Development**);
 - (b) all actions taken and to be taken and all agreements (including the Development Management Deed) and arrangements entered into and to be entered into by Kevin Hutchinson, Dirk Cloete Jackson and John Singleton as Trustees (the **Trustees**) to effect the Development;
 - (c) the entry into and provision of:
 - (i) a guarantee and indemnity in favour of Bank of Melbourne – a division of Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 (the **Bank**) for the payment of money and/or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or corporation in connection with the Development. The guarantee and indemnity will be limited to the moneys that the Bank may recover by enforcement of its mortgage over the Property;
 - (ii) a mortgage of the Property in support of the guarantee and indemnity in favour of the Bank; and
 - (iii) documents ancillary to the guarantee and indemnity and mortgage granted in favour of the Bank.
3. Approve and confirm that in connection with the Development the powers of the Trustees irrevocably (until all monies – actual or contingent - due and payable to the Lender in connection with the Development have been repaid in full) include, and have since the Trustees' involvement in the Development included, each of the following powers:
- (a) to hold the Property or any rights or privileges necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Property and, in particular, any land, buildings, easements, machinery, plant or stock in trade connected with the Property;
 - (b) to guarantee and give guarantees or indemnities for the payment of money or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or corporation connected with the Development and/or the Property;
 - (c) to secure or undertake in any way the repayments of moneys lent or advanced to or the liabilities incurred by any person or corporation connected with the Development and/or the Property;
 - (d) to sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, dispose or turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the Property;
 - (e) to secure any repayment or performance of any debt, liability, contract, guarantee or other engagement incurred or to be incurred by the Trustees in any way and in particular by mortgaging or charging the whole or any part of the Property; and
 - (f) to appoint from time to time, pursuant to any Security in connection with the Property and/or the Development, one or more attorney under a power or powers of attorney.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Approve and ratify:

- (a) the re-development of the property known as 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Victoria (more particularly described in certificate of title volume 09495 folio 336) (**Property**) into a multi-unit residential complex (as outlined in the accompanying documents) (the **Development**);
 - (b) all actions taken and to be taken and all agreements (including the Development Management Deed) and arrangements entered into and to be entered into by Kevin Hutchinson, Dirk Cloete Jackson and John Singleton as Trustees (the **Trustees**) to effect the Development;
 - (c) the entry into and provision of:
 - (i) a guarantee and indemnity in favour of Bank of Melbourne – a division of Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 (the **Bank**) for the payment of money and/or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or corporation in connection with the Development. The guarantee and indemnity will be limited to the moneys that the Bank may recover by enforcement of its mortgage over the Property;
 - (ii) a mortgage of the Property in support of the guarantee and indemnity in favour of the Bank; and
 - (iii) documents ancillary to the guarantee and indemnity and mortgage granted in favour of the Bank.
3. Approve and confirm that in connection with the Development the powers of the Trustees irrevocably (until all monies – actual or contingent - due and payable to the Lender in connection with the Development have been repaid in full) include, and have since the Trustees' involvement in the Development included, each of the following powers:
- (a) to hold the Property or any rights or privileges necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Property and, in particular, any land, buildings, easements, machinery, plant or stock in trade connected with the Property;
 - (b) to guarantee and give guarantees or indemnities for the payment of money or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or corporation connected with the Development and/or the Property;
 - (c) to secure or undertake in any way the repayments of moneys lent or advanced to or the liabilities incurred by any person or corporation connected with the Development and/or the Property;
 - (d) to sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, dispose or turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the Property;
 - (e) to secure any repayment or performance of any debt, liability, contract, guarantee or other engagement incurred or to be incurred by the Trustees in any way and in particular by mortgaging or charging the whole or any part of the Property; and
 - (f) to appoint from time to time, pursuant to any Security in connection with the Property and/or the Development, one or more attorney under a power or powers of attorney.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

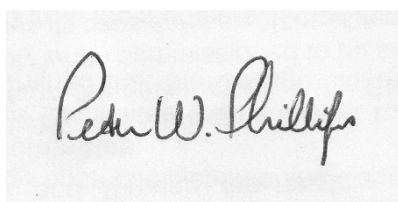
8. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer and the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
D A Carroll

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Urgent Meeting, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 5(11) thereof.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Peter W. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Rev Peter W Phillips
Moderator

URGENT MEETING OF THE PCV GENERAL ASSEMBLY
3.00pm Wednesday 30 March 2022
(via Zoom)

By order of the Moderator (see note below), there will be an Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, via Zoom, commencing at 3.00pm Wednesday afternoon 30 March 2022, to deal with the matters raised in a petition from the Board of Management of the Hawthorn congregation in connection with their building program. It is hoped that the meeting will be concluded by 4.00pm.

John P Wilson
(Clerk of Assembly)

Rev John P Wilson
Clerk of Assembly
Presbyterian Church of Victoria

John

In response to a request dated 12 March 2022 from Rev Graham Nicholson and eleven other persons entitled to be members of the General Assembly representing more than three presbyteries, in accordance with Code rule 5.38, I hereby give notice of an Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly to be held on Wednesday 30 March 2022 at 3:00pm by Zoom to deal with the matters raised in a petition from the Board of Management of the Hawthorn congregation to the General Assembly.

In Christ's service

Rev Peter W Phillips
(Moderator)



Hawthorn Presbyterian Church

580 Glenferrie Road Hawthorn Victoria 3122

Minister: Rev Graham Nicholson

B.E. (Hons), B.A., PGDip(Arts)

www.hawthornchurch.org

12th March, 2022

The Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church of Victoria Rev. Dr
John Wilson.

Dear John,

In accordance with Rule 5.38 of the Victorian code I, along with those who have added their names below or forwarded this request separately to you by email, being eligible to be a member of the Victorian State Assembly, request the Moderator to exercise his discretion and call an Urgent meeting of the State Assembly by Zoom if possible, to receive and deal with a Petition from the Board of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church, which petition requests the Assembly to make decisions necessary to satisfy the Bank providing finance for the redevelopment of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church manse site.

Signed,

Graham Nicholson
Hawthorn Presbyterian Church,

Presbytery of Melbourne East.

John Singleton
Hawthorn Presbyterian Church
March 2022

Presbytery of Melbourne East 13th

Phil Mercer
Camberwell Presbyterian Church
March 2022 at 4:24:49 pm AEDT

Presbytery of Melbourne East 14

John Huynh
St Stephen's Presbyterian Church
Mar 2022, at 4:12 pm

Presbytery of Melbourne East 14

Ignatius Bagoes Seta
Heidelberg Presbyterian Church
Mar 2022, at 4:28 pm

Presbytery of Melbourne North 14

Stephen McDonald
Benalla Presbyterian Church

Presbytery of North East Victoria 14

March 2022 at 5:19:32 pm AEDT

David Brown
Cheltenham Presbyterian Church
March 2022 at 5:38:11 pm AEDT

Presbytery of Flinders 14

Peter Owen
Point Cook Presbyterian Church
March 2022 at 6:38:07 pm AEDT

Presbytery of Melbourne West 14

Ben Nelson
Presbyterian Theological College, Victoria
March 2022 at 8:38:16 am AEDT

Presbytery of Melbourne East 15

Luke Isham
St Kilda Presbyterian Church
March 2022 at 11:13:26 am AEDT

Presbytery of Melbourne East 15

C. Duke

Chris Duke
Clifton Hill Essendon Pastoral Charge
March 2022

Presbytery of Melbourne West 15

Colin Morrow
Sunraysia Presbyterian Church
March 2022

Presbytery of North Western Victoria 15

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 10 • Hawthorn • Victoria • 3122 Telephone:
03 9819 5347 • Email: g.nicholson@optusnet.com.au

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 5)

The Business Committee has received all papers currently proposed to be submitted to the 30 March 2022 Urgent Meeting of Assembly. It has resolved to transmit to the Assembly those papers that seem competent and respectful.

E-meeting

It is proposed that the Zoom Guide be used with minor updates for this Assembly. It provides the Zoom registration link for members and the YouTube link for public observers.

Outline of business

The committee will present a proposed agenda at the start of the Assembly. As a guide, the committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline, and if no updates are required, will present this as the proposed order of business.

1. Devotions and Constitution
2. Roll, WB p17, NOM A1 (WB p16)
3. Approval of meeting (code 5.38.c), NOM A2 (WB p16)
4. Apologies, NOM A3 (WB p16)
5. Associations
6. Business Committee, WB p10 (del p10-11, 12 clauses)
7. Special Judicial Committee
8. Petition 1: Hawthorn Presbyterian Board of Management Re: Securing a loan for a Building Project WB p12
9. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

PETITION 1 (Min 7)
From: Hawthorn Presbyterian Board of Management
Re: Securing a loan for a Building Project

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, from the Board of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church:

This petition shows that whereas:

1. At its meeting in May, 2018 (BB 2018 min. 13), the Commission of the General Assembly, gave the following permission
That the Commission of Assembly:
Noting Presbytery's approval:
 - a. *approve the mortgage of the property at 573 Glenferrie Road when such mortgage becomes necessary in order to provide security for the funding of the re-development of the site (such re-development into a multi-unit residential complex as outlined in the accompanying documents); and*
 - b. *approve the sale of such units other than those being retained by the Church; and*
 - c. *approve the allocation of the proceeds of such sales in the manner more particularly to be provided for in the Development Management Deed, with any surplus funds to be paid into Sites Reserve to meet the future needs and requirements of the Hawthorn congregation.*
2. The Development Management Deed governing the project from its inception has not been altered in any material respect.
3. This project is a joint project involving the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church and Sinclair Brook.
4. Costs to this point have been borne by the project partner in accordance with the Development Management Deed but the project has progressed to the point where finance is needed.
5. The necessary pre-sale requirements have been met so that the bank's pre-conditions for finance have all been satisfied.
6. Major construction work is able to commence as soon as finance is approved.
7. The Model Trust Deed under which the Trustees hold the property does contemplate the provision of a mortgage of property to "raise such sums or sum of money for the completion extension or reparation of the said buildings or the improvement of the said hereditaments or for any other purposes of the said Congregation..." and the permission previously given by the 2018 Commission of Assembly was within the scope of the Model Trust Deed.
8. The lending arrangement in connection with the development is one directly between the Bank and the project partner, Sinclair Brook. In

accordance with the Development Management Deed, the lending arrangement is secured by the provision of a guarantee and indemnity by the Trustees supported by the mortgage.

9. The bank, having considered the nature of the trusts with respect to the property is concerned to be assured that the Hawthorn Trustees, limited to the purpose of the development, have powers to enter into the mortgage, the guarantee and indemnity and ancillary documents and that those powers will not be overridden for the duration of the development.
10. The officers of the Assembly do not have executive authority in themselves to give assurances sufficient to the bank on its behalf.
11. The Bank has maintained its requirement for such assurances as a precondition for finance approval.
12. The Bank is not seeking any security other than the Trustees' guarantee and indemnity and the mortgage of the land on which the development is to take place, either from the Hawthorn Congregation or from the PCV generally.
13. The resolution proposed in this petition has been reviewed and amended by the PCV Law Agent and is in a form in which the Law Agent has been advised is acceptable to the Bank.
14. This is a matter that needs to be settled urgently because delays are beginning to be very costly.
15. This urgent request to the Assembly is not because of any dereliction of duty by either the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church or its partner, Sinclair Brook.
16. The finance documents from the project's financiers, (the Bank) have only been prepared in the last few weeks so this request could not have come earlier, or to the October 2021 Assembly.
17. The relief sought by this petition is purely to give practical effect to furthering the outworking of the Assembly's decision in May, 2018.
18. Fortunately, the Assembly can meet by Zoom, and thus save considerable expense.
19. The Board of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church at its meeting on Thursday 10th May requested its Chairman to put in place the calling of an Urgent Assembly and requested its Chairman and Secretary to prepare this petition for that Assembly.

Now therefore the Board of the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and pass the following motions as a matter of urgency so that construction can commence without delay:

That the Assembly, noting its decision at the Commission of Assembly on 1 May 2018 (BB 2018 min. 13):

1. Approve and ratify:

- (a) the re-development of the property known as 573 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Victoria (more particularly described in certificate of title volume 09495 folio 336) (**Property**) into a multi-unit residential complex (as outlined in the accompanying documents) (the **Development**);
- (b) all actions taken and to be taken and all agreements (including the Development Management Deed) and arrangements entered into and to be entered into by Kevin Hutchinson, Dirk Cloete Jackson and John Singleton as Trustees (the **Trustees**) to effect the Development;
- (c) the entry into and provision of:
 - (i) a guarantee and indemnity in favour of Bank of Melbourne – a division of Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 (the **Bank**) for the payment of money and/or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or corporation in connection with the Development. The guarantee and indemnity will be limited to the moneys that the Bank may recover by enforcement of its mortgage over the Property;
 - (ii) a mortgage of the Property in support of the guarantee and indemnity in favour of the Bank; and
 - (iii) documents ancillary to the guarantee and indemnity and mortgage granted in favour of the Bank.

2. Approve and confirm that in connection with the Development the powers of the Trustees irrevocably (until all monies – actual or contingent - due and payable to the Lender in connection with the Development have been repaid in full) include, and have since the Trustees' involvement in the Development included, each of the following powers:

- (a) to hold the Property or any rights or privileges necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Property and, in particular, any land, buildings, easements, machinery, plant or stock in trade connected with the Property;
- (b) to guarantee and give guarantees or indemnities for the payment of money or the performance of contracts or obligations by any person or corporation connected with the Development and/or the Property;
- (c) to secure or undertake in any way the repayments of moneys lent or advanced to or the liabilities incurred by any person or corporation connected with the Development and/or the Property;
- (d) to sell, improve, manage, develop, exchange, lease, dispose or turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the Property;

- (e) to secure any repayment or performance of any debt, liability, contract, guarantee or other engagement incurred or to be incurred by the Trustees in any way and in particular by mortgaging or charging the whole or any part of the Property; and
- (f) to appoint from time to time, pursuant to any Security in connection with the Property and/or the Development, one or more attorney under a power or powers of attorney.

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

Signed:



[Dirk Jackson, Secretary, Hawthorn Presbyterian Church Board]

Dated:

17-3-2022

Petition to be stated by:

Rev. Graham Nicholson

Mr Dirk Jackson

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAY 2022

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 10:30am.

1. Constitution and Devotion

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the General Assembly 15 October 2021 (BB 2021 min 109). The Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips, following the reading of Romans 8:18-39, a devotion and the singing of a hymn, constituted the Assembly in 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 2021 and who remain qualified to be members of the Assembly.

3. Apologies

The following apologies were sustained:

Ministers:

Keith Allen, David Assender, Keith Bell, Tony Bird, John Brennan, Mark Crabb, John Cromarty, Stephen Deroon, Don Elliott, Russ Ginter, Neil Harvey, Karl Hood, Ian Hutton, Michael Jensen, Stephen Jones, Jared Keith, Grant Lawry, Dave Martin, Greg Matthews, Bill Medley, Philip Mercer, Luke McSeveny, Darren Middleton, Peter Owen, Len Pearce, Barry Porter, Peter Roberts, Chris Siriweera, Andrew Slater, Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel, Willem Vandenberg, Andrew Venn, Surendra Wesley.

Elders:

Jack Adlawan, John Angelico, Phil Betts, Malcolm Browning, Reg Butcher, Drew Chittenden, Daniel Chung, Geoff Cross, David Cutler, Bob Farquharson, Keith Ferres, Colin Flynn, Doug Fraser, Tom Guilford, Graham Hammond, Jim Hare, Michael Javaid, Andrew Kerr, Ralph Kop, Andrew Letcher, Neil Mansfield, Richard McArdle, Stewart McKerrow, Keith Mitchell, Ben Palmer, Endre Papajcsik, Graeme Presser, David Selman, John Singleton, Bert Stasse, Stephen Weir, Dennis Wright, Tony Zirngast.

4. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

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

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30am to the finish of business, with lunch 12:30pm–1:30pm, refreshments 3:40pm–4:00pm, dinner 5:30pm–6:30pm, as necessary.
2. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:
 - 20 minutes in total for:
 - Conveners and seconders moving deliverances (as a whole and total of clause-by-clause)
 - Petitioners stating the petition
 - Appellants stating the appeal
 - Respondents to appeals
 - Question time (including 20 mins for total deliverance questions)

15 minutes in total for:

Overturists stating the overture

5 minutes for:

Appellants in reply

Movers of substantive motions and amendments

All other speakers.

3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Commission of Assembly consisting of:
Rev Adam Humphries (Convener), Luke Brownley, Brett Cummins
Elders Bert Stasse, Doug Fraser
and determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at the dissolution of the Commission.
4. Permit Committee Conveners and Chairpersons who are not members of the Commission of Assembly to address the Commission when their respective committee's report and deliverance is before the Commission.
5. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Commission of Assembly including when meeting in private, and to answer any financial management questions.
6. Permit the Privacy Officer to be present in the Commission of Assembly including when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any privacy-related matters.
7. Permit the Safe Church Facilitator to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any Safe Church related matters.
8. Permit the Law Agent to be present in the Commission of Assembly including when meeting in private, and to give advice and to ask questions so as to formulate advice as requested or required during all matters.
9. Authorise the Moderator and the Clerks of Assembly to scrutinise the minutes of this Commission, to make any necessary corrections, to confirm them, but only after circulating the corrected minutes among the members of the Commission for comment or further correction, and to send or make available a copy of the confirmed minutes to the members of the Commission, unless a later determination be made by this Commission.
10. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

5. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this Commission.

No declarations were forthcoming.

The Clerk intimated that one Conflict of Interest Declaration had been submitted to him prior to this meeting, which had been withdrawn after discussion.

6. Election of Moderator-Designate

Past Moderator, Elder Colin Morrow, took the chair.

The Clerk's report was received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Receive the nomination of Rev Peter William Phillips (retired minister).
2. Elect Rev Peter William Phillips, retired minister, as the Moderator-Designate for the 2022 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

7. Ad Hoc Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation Committee

The report of the Ad Hoc Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Peter Phillips, moved the proposed deliverance:

(1) Rev Jesse Walz moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend the proposed deliverance by replacing all words in subsection 3 'Sex and gender in the Statement' from the 'Gender' heading to the last sentence beginning with 'Intersex people', with:

Gender is determined by biological sex. Notwithstanding the medical (including surgical) options available to those who are intersex to embrace their biological sex as far as it may be known (4.8), such medical treatments cannot change a person's biological sex and should not be sought by those with gender dysphoria unless to reverse treatments already undergone.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(2) The motion to approve the proposed deliverance was approved.

That the Commission of Assembly:

Approve the following Addendum to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage:

Addendum – Presbyterian Church of Victoria Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage

1. Introduction

This addendum is an explanatory document to provide additional clarity to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage ('the Statement'), and is to be read in conjunction with it.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria, in approving this addendum to the Statement affirms that the teachings of the church as set forth in the Statement are not new or merely shaped by contemporary departure from or opposition to these teachings. Rather, they are a declaration of the unchanged biblical, Christian and confessional position of the church in every age and which the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has held since its beginning.

2. Sex, gender and marriage in the doctrinal standards of the PCV

The subordinate (or secondary) standard of the church is the Westminster Confession of Faith (1646), as amended from time to time by the General Assembly of Australia, read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union (1901).

The supreme standard of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is the Bible.

Regarding sex and gender, the Westminster Confession of Faith teaches that God made 'man' (mankind, or humankind) 'male and female':

IV Of Creation

II. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female¹

The Bible support cited for this teaching is:

Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

¹ All biblical passages referenced in the Addendum employ the English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008).

Regarding marriage, the Westminster Confession of Faith teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman:

XXIV Of Marriage and Divorce

- I. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband at the same time.

The Bible support cited for this teaching is:

Genesis 2:24: Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:5-6: And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

3. Sex and gender in the Statement²

Sex is a biological descriptor and that includes at least genitals, reproductive system, hormones and chromosomes.

The use of 'natal' [birth] sex in the Statement (6.7) is emphatic and intended to direct the action of church courts regarding qualifications for marriage, church membership and church office and is synonymous with 'sex' elsewhere in the Statement.

Gender is determined by biological sex. Biology remains determinative (4.8), but persons experiencing gender dysphoria or intersex persons may find it difficult to discern this fundamental truth (4.9).

Intersex people are to embrace their biological sex 'insofar as it may be known' (4.8).

4. Gender expression

Gender expression, while not dealt with in the Statement, is relevant, especially given that in the wider community gender identity is often based on self-appraisal according to the traits most often associated with one sex or the other (gender traits). Such traits are influenced to some degree by cultural norms, so that gender is viewed as a social construct based on the norms, behaviours, and societal roles expected of individuals primarily on the basis of their sex.³

Biblically, gender expression depends upon both nature and nurture; the Bible teaches that 'men and women are created differently, for different purposes, with different strengths, and with different natural orientations'⁴, while it is evident that there are significant differences in

² The understanding of sex and gender affirmed in the Statement contrasts with views of sex and gender widely held outside the PCV, where:

- **Sex** is often considered in terms of three categories: genotypic sex, phenotypic sex, and gender;
- **Genotypic sex** refers specifically to an individual's two sex chromosomes;
- **Phenotypic sex** refers to an individual's sex as determined by their internal and external genitalia, expression of secondary sex characteristics, and behaviour; and
- **Gender** refers more broadly to an individual's subjective perception of their sex and their sexual orientation.

³ [What Is Sex? - Neuroscience - NCBI Bookshelf \(nih.gov\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4026418/)

⁴ See, for example, Alistair Roberts <https://calvinistinternational.com/2016/09/13/natural-complementarians-men-women/>

gender expression across cultures. Indeed, it is arguable that all cultures have ways in which men and women differentiate themselves from each other – and while these distinctions may be cultural, it is clear from the Bible that God regards them as important in distinguishing male from female and vice versa.⁵

Three relevant questions for Christians in any culture are:

- how do they understand themselves;
- how do they seek to present themselves to those around them; and
- how are they understood by those around them.

These should all align with biological sex and with the biblical and cultural norms that distinguish men from women, while allowing reasonable freedom in self-expression.

⁵ For example, the teaching of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, where, notwithstanding any complexities in this passage, the text clearly requires that both men and women maintain the gender distinctions appropriate to the sexes.

8. Board of Investment and Finance

The Moderator resumed the chair.

The Convener sought leave to present the report in an amended form and move clause 8 of the proposed deliverance in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

The report of the Board of Investment and Finance was received.

It was resolved to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-6 were approved.

Clause 7 was approved.

Clause 8 as amended was approved.

(1) Rev Stuart Withers moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend the proposed deliverance by inserting the following new clause (so that current clause 9 becomes clause 10):

9. Instruct all Sessions to submit 2021 statistical returns for each of their congregations by 30 June 2022.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses 10-13 were approved.

(2) The Convener, Rev Barry Oakes, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Notwithstanding Board of Investment and Finance regulation 12(b), approve funding from the General Mission Program for the 2022–23 year and two successive years to support the Theological Education Committee bursary fund in the amounts of 2022–23 \$40,000; 2023–24 \$30,000; and 2024–25 \$15,000.
2. Approve the General Mission Program for the financial year 2022–23 as follows:

	2022–23 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:	
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	58,150
Safe Church Committee	150,000
State News Committee	13,600
Theological Education – Bursary Fund	50,000
Women's Ministries Victoria	5,000
Total General Mission Program	266,750

3. Resolve that the total GMP be apportioned according to the attendance figures in the respective presbyteries as reported to the Ministry Development Committee (using the latest data available), then applying an equalisation factor of 0.6 for presbyteries in country areas to take account of the different situation faced in those areas.
4. Approve the allocation of the total GMP for the financial year 2022–23 as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of total	2022–23 \$
Western Victoria	3.54%	9,455
Flinders	13.71%	36,566
Geelong	3.08%	8,227
Gippsland	4.55%	12,145
Maroondah	10.30%	27,468
Melbourne East	22.24%	59,333
Melbourne North	18.93%	50,496
Melbourne West	15.26%	40,702
North East Victoria	3.01%	8,018
North Western Victoria	1.98%	5,276
South West Victoria	3.40%	9,063
TOTAL	100.00%	266,750

5. Request presbyteries to allocate the GMP to their several charges, and instruct them to advise charges in writing of their respective allocated amounts, and further, to advise the Church Office of such allocations.
 6. Request presbyteries to ask charges to pay their General Mission Program allocations in full early in the financial year 2022–23, or where this is not possible, to pay the amounts by monthly or quarterly instalments.
 7. Approve the PCV contribution to the GAA operating costs for 2022–23 (budget of \$30,000) being met from the funds set aside to assist the GAA.
 8. Set the General Assembly Rate at \$100,000 for 2022–23 plus the additional component of \$12,000, to be allocated to each congregation in proportion to the attendance figures collated by the Ministry Development Committee as at 30 June 2022.
 9. Instruct all Sessions to submit 2021 statistical returns for each of their congregations by 30 June 2022.
 10. Transfer the excess \$850,000 from the General Funds of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to the General Assembly for the time being.
 11. Approve a budget of \$60,000 for sustentation in 2022–23 to be funded from the income on funds held by the General Assembly that were returned from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, with the grants to be administered and approved by the Ministry Development Committee.
 12. Request the Board of Investment and Finance, in consultation with the Ministry Development Committee, to bring a recommendation to the Commission of Assembly in May 2023 for the allocation of the funds returned from the Maintenance of the Ministry committee that first meets the foreseeable need for sustentation support and then any other appropriate needs within the church.
 13. Approve the committee budgets for 2022–23 as presented.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

9. Church Planting Committee

The report of the Church Planting Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the Church Planting Officer (CPO) Position Description

Church Planting Officer (CPO) Position Description

1. **Title**

There shall be an Official (see rule 5.19) of the General Assembly (the Assembly) called the Church Planting Officer (CPO), formerly known as the Church Planter Evangelist (CPE).
2. **Accountability**

The CPO shall be accountable to the Church Planting Committee (CPC).
3. **Attributes**
 - a) mature, wise, humble, prayerful
 - b) consistent life and doctrine
 - c) hard-working, self-motivated
 - d) leadership and team gathering
 - e) strategic thinker and clear communicator
 - f) able to analyse church and secular culture
 - g) discipling
 - h) evangelistic
4. **Qualifications**
 - a) Essential
 - i) Demonstrated church planting experience
 - ii) A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA) or willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches.
 - iii) Practitioner of a training model of ministry
 - b) Desirable
 - i) More than five years of pastoral experience
 - ii) Denominational policy, governance and vision experience
 - iii) Ministry experience in multiple contexts (e.g. city, regional, cross-cultural)
 - iv) Well-read in the field of Church Planting
5. **Responsibilities**
 - a) Provide advice to the CPC concerning but not limited to:
 - i) church planting progress
 - ii) future church plants
 - iii) grant applications
 - iv) potential church planters
 - v) barriers to effective church planting
 - vi) systems and processes
 - vii) developments in church planting practice, both domestic and international
 - viii) recent academic thought in the area of church planting
 - ix) cultural trends and population statistics as they touch upon the work of the Committee
 - x) property suitable for land banking and future church planting
 - xi) the training of church planters
 - b) Engage with:
 - i) presbyteries to:
 - A. identify potential locations for new congregations
 - B. develop and maintain strategies for the formation of new congregations
 - C. identify suitable property for land banking and church planting

- ii) sessions to:
 - A. equip the charge to church plant
 - B. foster a church planting outlook
 - C. partner with other sessions to work towards church planting
 - iii) Assembly committees to:
 - A. keep church planting on their agendas
 - B. promote a unified denominational church planting approach
 - iv) church officials to identify areas of mutual understanding and potential cooperation
 - c) Produce content for circulation in state and federal church media
 - d) Develop and revise:
 - i) policies and procedures
 - ii) handbooks and manuals
 - iii) other resources and materials
 - e) Be an ambassador for church planting within the denomination
 - f) Seek and identify potential church planters from:
 - i) within the PCV
 - ii) interstate presbyterian churches
 - iii) theological colleges
 - iv) church planting and ministry networks
 - g) Oversee the ongoing training, coaching and mentoring of church planters
 - h) Execute any other CPC directive
6. **Safe Church Obligations**
- a) The CPO shall:
 - i) at all times, hold a current WWCC
 - ii) complete Basic Safe Church Training or equivalent
 - iii) complete Advanced Safe Church Training
 - iv) complete the relevant Safe Church Refresher course annually.
7. **Denominational Involvement**
- a) The CPO shall have a seat on the presbytery in which he resides.
 - b) The CPO shall not, without CPC approval:
 - i) serve on any committee, board, panel or council of the Church
 - ii) serve as Moderator of a Home Mission Charge or Interim Moderator of a vacant charge
 - iii) serve as Presbytery Moderator or Presbytery Clerk
 - iv) serve as Assembly Moderator
 - v) teach at the theological college
8. **Residence**
- The CPO shall have his place of residence within the Melbourne Metropolitan Area.
9. **Appointment**
- a) The appointment shall be up to full-time (1.0 EFT)
 - b) The initial appointment shall be for five years.
 - c) Subsequent appointments shall be for five years.
10. **Performance Reviews**
- a) The CPO shall receive annual formative reviews performed by the CPC.
 - b) Prior to any subsequent appointment, the CPO shall undergo a summative review performed by the CPC (with external support).
11. **Termination or Resignation**
- a) The position shall conclude effective 90 days after:

- i) termination notice is given by the CPC or Assembly.
 - ii) resignation notice is given by the CPO.
 - b) Termination shall be immediate if the CPO ceases to be an Ordained Minister.
 - 12. **Position Description Changes**
 - a) The Assembly may at any time change this position description.
 - b) Prior to each appointment, the CPC shall review the CPO position description and, if necessary, bring any recommended changes to the attention of the Code and General Administration Committee for consideration before seeking Assembly approval.
 - 2. Approve the Terms of Employment for the Church Planting Officer
 - Church Planting Officer (Terms of Employment)**
 - 1. Minimum Terms of Settlement for Ministers *pro-rata* as approved by the Assembly with the following additions, all of which shall be calculated *pro-rata*:
 - a) Manse allowance.
 - b) Manse energy up to 10% Stipend.
 - c) Communications (phone/internet/mobile/NBN) up to 4% Stipend.
 - d) Children's primary and secondary education up to 5% Stipend.
 - 2. Work Cover and Disability Insurance.
 - 3. Removal costs for initial appointment only.
 - 4. Long Service Leave subject to the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave and LSL Fund Regulations.
 - 5. Any other provision the Assembly may declare from time to time.
 - 3. Pray for the Church Planting Committee as it advertises and interviews candidates for the position of Church Planting Officer and as it prepares to bring a name to the 2022 General Assembly.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

10. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was received.

In the absence of the Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett sought leave to move clause 2 of the proposed deliverance in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

- 1. Require all 'responsible bodies' (as defined in LSL Regulations) to inform the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee of all new ministries and, where relevant, also provide evidence of:
 - a) Licence
 - b) Ordination
 - c) Induction
 - d) Signing the Formula (Reception of Ministers)
 - e) Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
 - f) Start date (and if an appointment, end date)
- 2. Note the MMR Rates for the 2022–2023 financial year as follows:
 - a) MMR Total: \$59,064
 - b) Minimum stipend component of MMR: \$38,400
 - c) Maximum non-cash benefits (NCB) component of MMR: \$20,664
 - d) Minimum superannuation: \$8,868
 - e) Sustentation qualifying stipend: \$29,532
 - f) LSL Levy: \$410

- g) Travel rate: \$0.54/km
- h) Supply Rates
 - i) One service: \$148
 - ii) Two services: \$177
 - iii) Three services: \$207
 - iv) Two or more services (different sermons): \$266

3. Remind all charges that from 1 Jul 2022, the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee will no longer be responsible for Sustentation Grants, as the Ministry Development Committee has taken on this responsibility.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Safe Church Committee

The report of the Safe Church Committee was received.

The Convener sought leave to move the proposed deliverance in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

The Convener, Rev Brian Harvey, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Instruct sessions to be cognisant of the Child Safe Standards that come into effect on 1 July 2022.
2. Note that Presbyterian Church of Victoria is currently compliant with standards 1–11.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Adam Humphries, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Permit the Selection Committee to delay reporting on General Assembly of Australia committee nominations and details about current Presbyterian Church of Victoria members serving on those committees until the October 2022 General Assembly of Victoria.
2. Instruct the Selection Committee to invite presbyteries to alter their nominations for General Assembly of Australia committees or make new submissions to the convener of the Selection Committee by Monday, 25 July 2022.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Special Judicial Committee

The report of the Special Judicial Committee was received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

- Waive the 30 days' notice period in this instance in order to receive and deal with Petition 3.

The motion was seconded and approved.

14. Petition 1: Wyndham Congregation—Use of Sites Reserve Funds

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Peter Greiner and Elder Harry Carpenter.

The Commission of Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

- Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Approve, in accordance with the provision of BIF: reg 17(c)(i)B, the application of the entirety of the Wyndham Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund for the purpose of a new carpark and associated improvements at the church property, 116 -120 Black Forest Road, Wyndham Vale.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Commission of Assembly had resolved to:

2. Grant the prayer of the petition.
3. Approve, in accordance with the provision of BIF: reg 17(c)(i)B, the application of the entirety of the Wyndham Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund for the purpose of a new carpark and associated improvements at the church property, 116 -120 Black Forest Road, Wyndham Vale.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

15. Petition 2: Malvern Congregation—Use of Sites Reserve Funds

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Luke Isham.

Questions were asked and answered.

The Commission of Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Approve, in accordance with the provision of BIF: reg 17(c)(i)B, the application of \$642,000 from Malvern Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairs and renovations to the manse at 36 Thanet St, Malvern.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Commission of Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Approve, in accordance with the provision of BIF: reg 17(c)(i)B, the application of \$642,000 from Malvern Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund for the purpose of repairs and renovations to the manse at 36 Thanet St, Malvern.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

16. Introduction of the PCV Ministry Wives' Chaplain

The Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee introduced their recent appointee to the role of PCV Ministry Wives' Chaplain. The Moderator welcomed Mrs Kellie Davis who then addressed the Commission. The Moderator prayed for Kellie as she commences her new role, and for the work of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee.

17. Petition 3: Ad Hoc Committee for the Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited—Alteration to section 15 of Constitution (chaplains)

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Mr Duncan McGregor.

The Commission of Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Consent to the short notice of the proposed alteration.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

Approve the proposed alteration, namely:

Alteration of Section 15, of the constitution of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd such that the first five sub-clauses will read (altered words in bold text):

15 Chaplains

- a) The directors may appoint chaplains to carry out chaplaincy in support of any service provided by the company.
- b) Chaplains who are not ministers **or elders** of the Presbyterian Church of Australia must be able to subscribe to the Doctrinal Basis.
- c) In the case of any chaplain appointed to carry out chaplaincy services within any aged care facility operated by the company from time to time, such chaplain shall be a minister **or elder** of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, **or some other Protestant Church** recommended to the directors by the Chief Executive Officer following consultation with the presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria within whose bounds the facility is located.
- d) Such chaplaincy may be:
 - 1) full or part time;
 - 2) remunerated or honorary.
- e) In the case of remunerated chaplains then:
 - 1) if any such chaplain is appointed in the circumstances described in clause 15(c) **who is a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia**, they shall be appointed on terms not less than the minimum terms of settlement declared from time to time by the General Assembly; and
 - 2) for all other such chaplains, they shall be appointed on the terms as the directors deem fit.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Commission of Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Consent to the short notice of the proposed alteration.
3. Approve the proposed alteration, namely:

Alteration of Section 15, of the constitution of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd such that the first five sub-clauses will read (altered words in bold text):

15 Chaplains

- a) The directors may appoint chaplains to carry out chaplaincy in support of any service provided by the company.
- b) Chaplains who are not ministers **or elders** of the Presbyterian Church of Australia must be able to subscribe to the Doctrinal Basis.
- c) In the case of any chaplain appointed to carry out chaplaincy services within any aged care facility operated by the company from time to time, such chaplain shall be a minister **or elder** of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, **or some other Protestant Church** recommended to the directors by the Chief Executive Officer following consultation with the presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria within whose bounds the facility is located.
- d) Such chaplaincy may be:
 - 1) full or part time;
 - 2) remunerated or honorary.
- e) In the case of remunerated chaplains then:
 - 1) if any such chaplain is appointed in the circumstances described in clause 15(c) **who is a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia**, they shall be appointed on terms not less than the minimum terms of settlement declared from time to time by the General Assembly; and
 - 2) for all other such chaplains, they shall be appointed on the terms as the directors deem fit.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

18. Clerk's Report

The Moderator ruled that the Commission sit in private.

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the progress of matters about which Commissioners needed to be informed.

The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

The Moderator ruled that the Commission resume in open court.

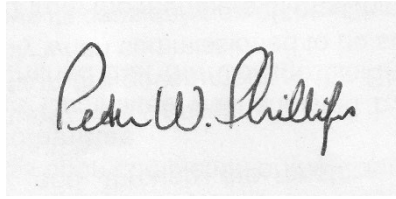
19. Dissolution

The business of the Commission of Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator closed the meeting with the reading of 1 Thessalonians 5:3-11, the singing of a hymn and the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
D A Carroll

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Commission, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 5(9) thereof.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter W. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'P'.

Rev Peter W Phillips
Moderator

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 4)

The Business Committee has received all papers of a non-judicial nature currently proposed to be submitted to the Commission of Assembly. It has resolved to transmit to the Commission those papers that seem competent and respectful.

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, p7 (del p7-8, 10 clauses)
6. Nominations for Moderator-Designate, p9
7. Ad hoc Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation Committee, p10 (del p13-15, 1 clause)
8. Board of Investment and Finance, p16 (del p21-22, 12 clauses)
9. Church Planting Committee, p60 (del p61-63, 3 clauses)
10. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, p64 (del p68, 3 clauses)
11. Safe Church Committee, p69 (del p80, 3 clauses)
12. Selection Committee, p86 (del p87, 2 clauses)
13. Petition 1: Wyndham congregation—use of Sites Reserve funds, p88
14. Petition 2: Malvern congregation— use of Sites Reserve funds, p90
15. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

AD HOC CHANGE OR SUPPRESSION PROHIBITION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE (Min 7)

This committee was appointed by the March 2021 General Assembly (BB 2021 min 12(3)(5)) to consider the denomination's response to the passing of the suppression legislation and report to the October 2021 General Assembly.

The October 2021 General Assembly, in response to the committee's report and proposed deliverance, resolved (BB 2021 min 24) to:

2. Authorise the committee to undertake a review of the 2019 Assembly statement, *The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage*, in light of the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*, and report to the Commission of Assembly in May 2022 with a proposed revision, noting that the committee will co-opt members if deemed necessary.

The committee, having reviewed the Statement, resolved that:

- the Statement is adequate in making clear the doctrine of the church in relation to the matters covered by the legislation and should not be changed, but that clarification by way of footnotes might be useful on some points; and
- any supplement to the Statement should make it clear that the church's position on sex, gender, and marriage is not a response to the 'change or suppression' legislation but reflects the unchanged biblical, Christian and confessional position of the church in every age.

The committee then put to Rev John McClean, Convener of the GAA Church and Nation Committee, a number of questions designed to clarify the use of 'sex' and 'gender' in the Statement, especially in the light of the way these expressions are used in the wider community. These questions, together with his answers, are as follows:

- What is the definition of gender?

We deliberately did not seek to give an explicit definition of gender. We adopted contemporary usage in which 'sex' is a biological phenomenon and 'gender' is a matter of self-understanding and social presentation.

- How is it [gender] determined by biological sex—i.e. how is the relationship between sex and gender conceived?

2.3 says that in the created order, 'gender identity was determined by sex'. In the unfallen situation (treated in 2.3), I assume this would be unproblematic. Adam knew himself as male and as a man and knew Eve as female and woman (Gen 1:28, 2:22-23). The notion of gender implies some level of a person being self-conscious of their sex and how they relate to others as male or female. That knowledge may be to some extent intrinsic, but I suspect that is it predominantly socially conveyed. We know that we are men or women because others treat us that way, and we learn from them 'how' to be that gender.

The statement implies that biology remains determinative (e.g. 4.8, 4.9), but that in the case of transgender and intersex, this takes more discernment on behalf of the person themselves, or others, or both.

- To what extent does the expression of gender vary from culture to culture and individual to individual? Does that matter for this debate?

The statement doesn't deal with that, but I agree it is very relevant. Clearly, there are significant differences in gender expression across cultures. I think it is also the case (though perhaps not quite as straightforward to show) that all cultures have ways in which men and women differentiate themselves from each other.

I suspect that it would be difficult to develop a statement about the scope of permissible expression of gender across cultures. Some Christians have argued that it is possible to derive normative descriptions of masculinity and femininity from Scripture (e.g. Piper, Köstenberger, and Köstenberger). I'm not convinced that is possible beyond a fairly minimal description, which will probably be closely related to sexual attributes. I am inclined to agree with Alistair Roberts, who calls for Christians to have greater confidence in nature and to be less concerned about ensuring men and women are distinct since that will occur anyway — it is written into nature. He argues that 'the focus in the biblical teaching on sex is less upon gender roles and rules than it is upon the fact that men and women are created differently, for different purposes, with different strengths, and with different natural orientations'. Roberts upholds the importance of the dimorphism of human life but warns against abstract discussions of normative gender types.

<https://calvinistinternational.com/2016/09/13/natural-complementarians-men-women/>

For Christians in any particular culture, I think there are three relevant questions — how does an individual understand themselves, how do they seek to present themselves to those around them, and how are they understood by those around them. We should seek to have all of those align with biological sex. At the same time, we need to allow reasonable freedom in self-expression.

- How does the understanding of gender employed in the paper relate to other understandings of gender [e.g. as psychologically determined] used in the current debate about gender or used in our change and suppression legislation?

I hope that the statement engages with current understandings by using the terminology of gender and sex and recognising that someone people experience their gender as not aligned with their sex (3.4), and setting out a biblical view that gender arises from sex.

- What is the definition of sex?

The Statement doesn't give a definition but implies that it is biological and related to human reproduction. Biological sex at least includes genitals, reproductive system, hormones, and chromosomes.

- At one point, the paper speaks of 'natal' [birth] sex? Is there any other?

No. The use of 'natal' at that point was intended to be emphatic because this was a statement which is intended to direct the action of church courts. We

understood natal or biological sex to be synonymous with 'sex' at other points in the paper.

- How does the way 'sex' is used in the paper relate to the use of the term by others and distinctions sometimes made between 'chromosomal', 'phenotypic'?

If I understand the question properly...The Statement says sex is biological (which would involve the binary forms of male and female reproductive organs, hormones and chromosomes). We did not try to define if one of those is the 'real' definition/ ground of sex. 4.8 refers to intersex people embracing their biological sex 'insofar as it may be known'. I don't think that the church should legislate beyond this, given the complexity of intersex conditions. In pastoral care and in any church rulings, each person has to be considered in their own circumstances, both in relation to their biology and their life story.

The committee, in the light of its deliberations on these matters, commends the Addendum to the church's Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage to the Commission of Assembly as contained in the proposed deliverance attached to this report.

The committee is continuing its work in relation to the other matters assigned to it by the October 2021 General Assembly and is working towards a full report to the October 2022 General Assembly.

Peter Phillips
CONVENER

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min 8)

General Mission Program

TEC Bursary funding

In October 2022 the General Assembly resolved:

19. Ad hoc Assessing General Mission Program Recipients Committee

The report of the ad hoc Assessing General Mission Program Recipients Committee was received.

4. Request the Board of Investment and Finance in consultation with the Theological Education Committee to bring a funding proposal to the next Assembly that addresses the TEC GMP anomaly.

(BB 2020 min 19, p170)

Arising from discussions between the BIF and the TEC, the proposal as drafted by the TEC is as follows:

“The TEC continues to hold the view that it is both healthy and appropriate for the present-day church to support the ongoing work of the College in some tangible financial way, rather than constantly depending upon the prudent provision of the past.

The TEC also recognises that the current funding arrangements creates the “GMP anomaly” as mentioned in GAV 2020 Minute 19.4.

The TEC intends to bring an alternate funding proposal to the Assembly in October which may bring an end to the GMP funding.

In the meantime we are agreeable to phasing out the GMP funding over a three-year period as below:

2022/23	\$40,000
2023/24	\$30,000
2024/25	\$15,000”

The BIF considers this an appropriate response to the issue and has formulated the GMP for the current year on this basis. This represents a reduction in GMP of approximately \$14,500 compared to the formula which has been applied since the 2015 Commission of Assembly.

Safe Church funding

Last year the Safe Church Committee was funded from GMP in the amount of \$95,000. It was anticipated then that GMP would rise to \$140,000 in 2022/23.

In October 2021 the General Assembly approved increases in the remuneration of Safe Church Committee employees in recognition of the responsibilities associated with those roles and the need to adequately fund the positions relevant to the market place both for existing staff and in view of succession planning. The additional cost was met from the General Assembly budget for the current year on the basis that the committee will assume responsibility for the full cost from the new financial year. This has added approximately \$30,000 to the SCU budget for 2022/23.

In the past while an amount has been budgeted within SCU to undertake investigations by external parties when appropriate, these costs have not been called upon until this year.

It is not surprising then that SCU has an increased need for funding which at the moment can only be met from GMP. The BIF has recommended an allocation of \$150,000 for SCU. This increase follows from the increase in wages awarded by the Assembly and the historic budget deficit, which was not realised whilst no investigation costs were incurred, but this has now changed.

From last year the funding model for SCU was changed to a GMP model instead of a levy. The rationale for that change remain sound. The increase in proposed GMP this year should not be confused with the change in the funding model. Whether the funding is by way of a levy or from GMP, the demand as explained above is the same and needs to be funded one way or the other. As reported to the Commission in May 2021, the BIF is looking at ways to increase the capital allocated to SCU so that the dependence on GMP can be reduced over time. There is no obvious source of funds available for the time being.

GMP recommendation

The requests from other committees are shown in the table below. The resulting net total of the GMP for 2022/23 is \$266,750. This represents an increase of approximately 15% over the approved GMP for the prior year.

The proposed GMP funding for 2022/23 is shown below with the 2021/22 amounts shown for comparison:

	Approved 2021/2022	Request 2022/2023
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES		\$
APWM (Vic)	40,000	40,000
Presbyterian Inland Mission	7,000	7,000
Ellis chair in theological studies, PTS Dehra Dun	11,150	11,150
APWM Total	58,150	58,150
Safe Church Committee	95,000	150,000
State News	14,200	13,600
Theological Education (Bursary)	54,684	40,000
Women's Ministries Victoria	10,000	5,000
TOTAL GMP	232,034	266,750

The 2012 Commission of Assembly approved the formula for the allocation to presbyteries of the total GMP until a further recommendation is brought from the BIF 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.
(BB2012 Min 10.2 p8)

There have been significant unexplained movements in the reported figures for communicants and adherents in recent times. Different congregations have different

perspectives on the 'adherents' statistic. The BIF considers that the attendance figures to be a more equitable measure. It therefore proposes a revised formula for apportioning the GMP to presbyteries:

The total GMP to be apportioned according to the attendance figures in the respective presbyteries as reported to the Ministry Development Committee (using the latest data practically available) then applying an equalisation factor of 0.6 for presbyteries in country areas to take account of the different situation faced in those areas.

Based on this method the recommended allocations to presbyteries for 2022/23 are as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of LY total	Percentage of total	2022/23 \$
Western Victoria	3.41%	3.54%	9,455
Flinders	12.25%	13.71%	36,566
Geelong	2.41%	3.08%	8,227
Gippsland	4.06%	4.55%	12,145
Maroondah	9.13%	10.30%	27,468
Melbourne East	21.12%	22.24%	59,333
Melbourne North	18.66%	18.93%	50,496
Melbourne West	16.72%	15.26%	40,702
North East Victoria	4.17%	3.01%	8,018
North Western Victoria	2.68%	1.98%	5,276
South West Victoria	5.39%	3.40%	9,063
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	266,750

The percentage allocation for 2021/22 are shown for comparison purposes. There have been significant movements in the statistics over the last two years regardless of which measure is used to allocate GMP.

With the change to the basis of GMP allocation the BIF plans to look into the origins of the equalisation factor between country and metropolitan presbyteries and to review whether this is still applicable. We would welcome any comments from presbyteries in relation to this review.

GAA Funds

In 2005 the General Assembly decided to set aside funds from its surplus for a period of 5 years with the intention of providing financial assistance to the General Assembly which was at that time in need. At the end of the 5 years the circumstances had changed and the original intentions were no longer appropriate. Subsequent General Assemblies have approved various plans to expend the funds in support of appropriate PCA activities (2012, 2016 and 2017). Despite the best intentions and applying funds within the terms of those proposals to the extent possible, a balance of \$270,000 remains.

The most recent approvals have lapsed and there is no likelihood of any further calls on the funds to meet those purposes. The Clerk intends to explore whether any new needs can be identified to make use of these funds, and report to a later Assembly.

It is proposed for 2022/23, with the agreement of the Clerk to fund the PCV contribution of the GAA operating costs from this fund. These are anticipated to be \$30,000 for 2022/23. They would normally be funded from General Assembly funds. By funding

them as proposed, the pressure on the General Assembly Levy is accordingly reduced by \$30,000.

General Assembly Rate

In accordance with BIF regulation 10, the BIF recommends a General Assembly Rate of \$100,000 to be allocated to each congregation in proportion to the number of communicants and adherents based on the figures collated by the Ministry Development Committee at 31 March 2022.

Note that the General Assembly has previously approved an additional component of the General Assembly Rate of \$12,000 for each of 3 years in order to fund unforeseen employment liabilities (BB 2021 min 18.5, p99).

The BIF considers a more appropriate measure for allocating the Assembly Levy is to use the total attendance figures in place of communicants and adherent which has been used previously. This issue is discussed further under General Mission Program below.

The BIF is conscious that both GMP and the Assembly Levy have increased compared to last year. This is not something which is done lightly - only after exhausting all possible alternatives. The fact of the matter is that the General Assembly has no unallocated funds or reserves which it can draw on by way of remediation. The increases are a reflection of the increasing costs while the income remains constrained. Many of the increases in costs reflect the prior approvals made by the General Assembly and are simply a reality for which the BIF budgets. The BIF considers that the longer term solution to this issue rests with the Assembly when it is faced with dealing with allocation of resources which are not directly committed elsewhere. The most obvious area where this could be addressed is in the purposes approved for proceeds of sale of property where either the congregation no longer exists or where the immediate needs of the congregation have been addressed and a surplus remains. The delegation of the authority of the Assembly to presbyteries in the first instance to bring a recommendation to the Assembly, tends to lead to the needs of the Assembly being overlooked in favour of local needs. This is entirely understandable particularly as the local needs are more readily identified as "ministry". A broader perspective on the needs of the church along these lines could lead to a more effective allocation of resources without necessarily compromising the needs of the presbytery.

Committee Budgets

In accordance with BIF regulation 9, the BIF presents the Committee Budgets for approval by the Commission. The BIF has reviewed the budgets and sought further explanations or details from committees when appropriate.

Christian Education Committee / Presbyterian Youth Victoria

In relation to the decision of the Commission of Assembly in May 2020 in minute 7.8(d) which directed the CENC to bring to the next Assembly (October 2021) a long-term plan for the ministry of the YMD the CENC has advised that:

"The CENC intends to bring a long term plan for the ministry of the YMD to the October 2022 Assembly. This plan would include a revision of CENC regulations and the YMD job description. Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, including a leaner budget, the YMD will become a part-time role

during 2023. Despite multiple pandemic lockdowns, PYV ministry will continue unabated throughout 2022 and 2023.”

The budgets of the CENC and PYV for 2022/23 have been presented on the basis that the position of the Youth Ministries Director will not continue beyond the expiry of the current 3-year term which ends in February 2023. This has resolved the funding deficiency across the committees for the budget to be approved.

Sustentation grants

In October 2021 the General Assembly transferred the responsibility for determining sustentation grants from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to the Ministry Development Committee (2022 BB Min 69.8, p134). There is no identifiable source of funds which is specifically tied to sustentation (apart from the CS & MS Campbell bequest which is held by external trustees). Sustentation grants have been funded from the general funds of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee. Now that it no longer has responsibility for making sustentation grants the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee has identified \$850,000 of its funds as being excess and has requested that these funds be returned to the General Assembly and reassigned.

As these are general funds, it is open to the Assembly to reassign them as it sees fit. MDC is formulating regulations around sustentation now that it has been integrated into that committee, and hopes to bring a submission to the General Assembly in October. The future demand for sustentation is not clear. Only 3 congregations have applied for sustentation in the current year which admittedly has been impacted by other covid related funding. In the circumstances it is premature to simply apply the entire \$850,000 to sustentation. With the agreement of MDC, the recommendation is to hold those funds within the General Assembly funds for the time being and meanwhile approve a budget of \$60,000 for sustentation grants for 2022/23 to be administered by the MDC in accordance with its current regulations. The intention is to allocate an appropriate sum to MDC for sustentation once there is more clarity. This is likely to be in 12 months' time.

Bequests

The following bequest has been received by The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation.

Estate of Donald Ian Gillies:

\$15,000 to be used for the education and training of clergy through the Theological College of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (sic) at Box Hill, and
\$49,239.04 to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation.

In accordance with s14 of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1980*, the General Assembly may apply the second part of the bequest for any charitable purpose within the church. The BIF is considering the most effective allocation of these funds for the benefit of the church and intends to bring a recommendation to a future Assembly.

Property matters

Since last reporting to the Assembly approval was given by the BIF under BIF Reg. 16 (a) for the following urgent property transaction:

- lease of the manse at 30 Graham Road Kangaroo Ground until 30 June 2022 (BIF 203/21);

- extension of the lease of 11 Wilson Street Brighton for a further two years until December 2024.

Additional Expenditure

Since last reporting to the General Assembly BIF has not given any further approval for amendments to committee budgets in accordance with BIF regulation 9(b)(ii)(1).

Barry Oakes
CHAIRMAN

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1010	Assembly Rate	-	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	130,000	130,000
	Assembly Rate: Employment Liabilities					12,000	12,000	12,000
1359	C&N funds / Pensioners Reserve - Interest Transfer	-	24,854	20,660	32,444	32,444	32,444	32,444
1080	General Mission Program	26,440	-	-	-	-	-	-
1358	Interest Common Fund General and Assembly Hall	410,570	387,000	282,366	429,000	449,000	448,000	448,000
1359	Interest Transfer ex Fraser Trust	52,771	20,630	19,842	23,615	23,750	24,210	24,715
1440	Other investment income (Porter)	24,666	12,000	35,666	35,666	28,000	28,000	28,000
1252	Jobkeeper Grant & Cashflow boost	102,644	-	-	-	-	-	-
1501	Management Fees	142,240	154,648	98,656	154,648	164,464	167,753	171,127
1601	Rental Trusts Corporation	20,424	22,368	14,396	22,368	22,974	23,617	24,337
1640	Trusts Corporation donation (SCPT)	57,700	60,000	71,967	71,967	75,000	75,000	80,000
1160/1650/	Sundry Income	5,530	5,000	1,245	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total Income		842,985	786,501	644,799	872,708	911,632	945,024	954,623
Expenditure								
Staff Related Expenses								
2810	Salaries & Wages	436,767	475,039	288,744	417,523	452,785	464,363	476,233
2245	Fringe Benefits (Employee)	35,775	31,800	33,125	47,700	47,700	47,700	47,700
2550	Long Service Leave accrual	5,306	(14,220)	4,085	7,000	(8,750)	7,200	7,416
2870	Superannuation	43,850	47,643	30,905	49,235	50,386	51,436	52,512
2830	Staff Amenities	912	1,000	180	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	1,330	2,000	3,071	3,071	4,000	4,000	4,000
2250	Fringe Benefits Tax	16,814	14,946	15,569	22,419	22,419	22,419	22,419
2140	Other Personnel Costs	17,580	-	9,106	18,675	-	-	-
2930	Temporary Staff	12,361	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2950	WorkCover Levy	4,246	4,642	4,365	4,365	4,370	4,674	4,776
2920	Travelling Expenses	-	500	-	100	500	500	500
Total Staff Related Expenses		574,942	567,350	389,149	575,087	578,410	607,292	620,556

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Office Related Expenses								
2010	Accounting & Audit Fees	27,620	27,957	15,522	27,957	22,382	23,501	24,676
2060	Bank Charges	732	-	958	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300
2130	Computer & Software Costs	5,198	15,000	9,626	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2141	Consultancy	-	8,000	-	15,000	4,500	-	-
2180	Depreciation - Furniture & Equipment	3,784	9,700	2,559	6,000	8,000	6,000	6,000
2280	General Expenses	360	500	-	500	500	500	500
2399	Insurance Public Liability etc	6,842	7,116	8,095	8,095	8,419	8,672	9,019
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	2,359	2,500	1,008	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,300
2760	Maintenance Office Equipment	160	200	-	200	200	200	200
2910	Telephone & Fax	1,536	1,400	677	1,400	1,400	1,400	2,880
Total Office Related Expenses		20,239	72,373	38,445	77,752	64,001	58,873	61,875
Property Related Expenses								
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	1,338	3,093	2,002	3,003	3,093	3,153	3,311
New	General Maintenance		2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
2391	Insurance Fire & General	95	100	109	109	100	100	100
2540	Light Power & Heating	1,251	2,000	970	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,100
2753	Office Rent General Assembly	65,400	67,367	44,904	67,367	69,388	71,470	73,614
Total Property Related Expenses		68,084	74,560	47,984	72,479	76,581	78,723	81,125

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Assembly Related Expenses								
2048	Church Architect	1,824	2,010	2,960	2,010	2,111	2,164	2,218
2285	Committee Expenses - Travel	-	600	2,000	200	600	600	600
2292	Grants PWMU	3,600	3,600	2,400	3,600	3,600	3,708	3,819
2293	Grants - Kirkbrae	1,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
2300	General Assembly week - Expenses	804	8,000	72	1,500	8,000	8,200	8,405
2300	Ministers Wives Dinner		1,500	-	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
2310	GMP Distributions outside PCOV	26,440	-	-	-	-	-	-
2131	Website Hosting & Development	3,507	3,348	2,932	3,140	3,500	3,570	3,641
2350	Honoraria	6,216	6,308	4,589	4,889	6,434	6,563	6,694
2270	General Assembly Australia Expenses	4,918	35,000	17,440	35,000	0	70,000	30,000
2705	Printing, Postage & Stationery	6,541	10,000	2,501	4,000	4,000	4,080	4,162
2925	Clerk's Denominational Travel & Accommm	751	2,000	851	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	SUBTOTAL	56,402	72,367	35,745	55,339	31,745	102,385	63,039
	Provision for Employment Liabilities				-	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Consultancy re Structure				30,000	45,000		
2510	Legal Expenses	43,669	70,000	42,396	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total Assembly Related Expenses		100,070	142,367	78,141	135,339	138,745	164,385	125,039
Total Archive Related Expenses		47,639	57,765	21,343	39,268	59,194	55,641	56,409
Total Expenses		839,326	914,415	575,062	899,925	916,932	964,913	945,003
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		3,659	(127,915)	69,737	(27,217)	(5,300)	(19,889)	9,620
Capital Items				(75,623)				
	Server/ws replacement / Computer equipment	2,131	9,000		9,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	Office Furn & Equip		1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Photocopier		15,000		11,000	0		
Balance Sheet Items								
	Increase/(Decrease) in Assets	1,855		199,698				
	(Increase)/Decrease in Current Liabilities	(24,929)		19,254				
	Increase/(Decrease) in Loans to MDC and CPC	137,651						
	Recoupment of SCPT legal fees	(1,022,973)	(451,267)	(275,321)	(275,321)			
Total Capital Expenditure & BS items		(906,265)	(426,267)	(56,369)	(254,321)	4,000	4,000	4,000
General Funds		3,886,353	4,231,761	4,015,577	4,127,830	4,118,797	4,108,733	4,128,406
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 2022/23**

						Budget for Approval		
						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:								
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
ARCHIVES								
Income								
1652	Archival Fees ex Private Researchers	-	-	-	-	500	-	-
Total Archival Income		0	0	0	0	500	0	0
Archive Expenses								
2122	Cleaning & Preservation Costs	-	50	-	50	60	60	60
2132	Computer & Software Costs	449	200	-	200	4,220	200	200
2182	Depreciation	593	523	559	523	404	-	-
2222	Education & Training	-	100	-	100	-	-	-
2282	General Expenses	346	350	317	350	350	350	350
2552	Long Service Leave	624	850	410	850	613	625	637
2702	Postage, Printing & Stationery	298	500	-	250	250	250	250
2703	Archival Boxes & Wallets	-	350	-	350	400	400	400
2704	Retrieval	1,457	1,500	226	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000
2752	Rent	5,000	5,000	3,333	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2812	Salaries	34,672	34,512	9,163	18,270	33,415	34,084	34,765
1253	Less: Jobkeeper	(8,929)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2835	Storage	8,838	9,000	5,536	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
2852	Subscriptions & Reference Books	-	100	-	100	120	120	120
2872	Superannuation	3,317	3,451	916	1,827	3,342	3,408	3,477
2912	Telephone & Internet	677	850	585	850	860	850	850
2922	Travelling Expenses	-	50	-	50	-	-	-
2952	WorkCover Levy	298	380	298	298	161	294	300
Total Archive Related Expenses		47,639	57,765	21,343	39,268	59,194	55,641	56,409
Surplus/(Deficit) on Archival Operations		(47,639)	(57,765)	(21,343)	(39,268)	(58,694)	(55,641)	(56,409)

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
David and Sarah Donaldson Trust								
Income								
1352	Interest Common Fund Specific	656	-	316	460	-	-	-
1339	Franking Credits	17,739	-	26,451	26,451	-	-	-
1440	Other Income	84,901	33,985	26,565	33,985	101,400	98,100	100,500
1995	Unrealised Gains revaluation	291,117	-	81,845	81,845	-	-	-
Total Income		394,413	33,985	135,177	142,741	101,400	98,100	100,500
Payments								
2291	Grants Paid	8,720	25,000	48,995	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Surplus		385,693	8,985	86,182	117,741	76,400	73,100	75,500
Balance of Specific Funds in Comm Fund		16,934	0	6,294	0	0	0	0
Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested)		268,912	271,333	302,759	302,759	302,759	302,759	302,759
Specific Balance (Separately Invested)		2,476,106	2,512,388	2,432,038	2,593,847	2,670,247	2,743,347	2,818,847
Forster Trust								
Income								
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	2,099	1,800	1,417	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
Payments								
2292	Grants Paid	2,100	2,200	2,280	2,100	2,200	2,000	2,300
Surplus		(1)	(400)	(863)	0	(100)	100	(200)
Balance of Specific Funds		1,236	1,299	373	1,236	1,136	1,236	1,036
Perpetual Funds		29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
Ministers Retirement Housing								
Income								
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	12,805	2,000	9,839	10,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
1441	Other Invest Inc - Housing	163,504	145,396	51,608	51,608	205,100	185,600	176,900
1996	Unrealised Gains/Losses - HSG	508,463	-	158,290	158,290	-	-	-
Total Income		684,772	147,396	219,737	219,898	207,100	187,600	178,900
Payments								
2400	Interest Rebate	307	-	184	184	-	-	-
2510	Legal Expenses	2,932	8,000	-	20,000	8,000	4,000	4,000
2751&2752	Property Expenses	6,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	36,000	48,000	48,000
Total Expenditure		9,239	20,000	12,184	26,184	44,000	52,000	52,000
Surplus		675,533	127,396	207,553	193,714	163,100	135,600	126,900
Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments								
Loans Advanced/Repaid		(65,000)	400,000	-	200,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Balance of Specific Funds (Separately Invested)		5,867,177	4,573,934	6,074,730	5,860,891	5,623,991	5,359,591	5,086,491
Surplus/(Deficit) Beneficiary Trusts		1,068,249	124,781	296,072	303,826	231,200	200,000	192,800
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds in Common Fund	5,937,256	4,587,044	6,136,505	5,906,406	5,661,206	5,388,106	5,105,406
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds in Common Fund	152,658	152,658	152,658	152,658	152,658	152,658	152,658
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds (Separately Invested)	2,476,106	2,512,388	2,432,038	2,593,847	2,670,247	2,743,347	2,818,847
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested)	268,912	271,333	302,759	302,759	302,759	302,759	302,759

General Assembly

Unallocated Trusts Income and Expenditure

						Budget for Approval		
						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1050	Bequests	-	-	49,239	49,239	-	-	-
1350	Interest Common Fund - Excess from C&N Funds	6,810	5,838	5,967	6,811	6,810	6,810	6,811
1354	Interest Common Fund - Pensioners Reserve	22,186	19,017	14,693	25,633	25,633	25,633	25,633
Total Income		28,997	24,854	69,899	81,683	32,444	32,444	32,444
Payments								
2400	Interest transfer to GA Operations	28,997	24,854	20,660	32,444	32,444	32,444	32,444
Total Expenditure		28,997	24,854	20,660	32,444	32,444	32,444	32,444
Surplus		0	0	49,239	49,239	0	0	0
Balance of Funds		414,241	414,241	463,480	463,480	463,480	463,480	463,480
John & Elizabeth Walters (P Owen Trustee)								
This budget is presented for information purposes only. The approval of the Commission is not required.								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund Specific	12,024	8,800	8,199	12,370	11,800	11,200	10,600
Payments								
2293	Grants Paid	5,000	20,000	5,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Surplus		7,024	(11,200)	3,199	(7,630)	(8,200)	(8,800)	(9,400)
Balance of Specific Funds		51,909	11,811	55,108	44,279	36,079	27,279	17,879
Perpetual Funds		123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

						Budget for Approval	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Deakin (Moderators) Trust								
Income								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	18,250	15,500	12,422	18,870	18,800	18,800	19,000
Payments								
2590	Moderators Expenses	11,411	18,000	3,308	18,000	18,000	16,000	16,000
	Total Expenditure	11,411	18,000	3,308	18,000	18,000	16,000	16,000
	Surplus	6,839	(2,500)	9,114	870	800	2,800	3,000
	Balance of Specific Funds	267,322	255,191	276,436	268,192	268,992	271,792	274,792
Fraser Trust								
Income								
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	64,442	55,000	43,570	65,860	66,500	67,800	69,200
Payments								
2791	Rent Paid Missionaries on Home Assignment	13,946	20,630	-	23,615	23,750	24,210	24,715
2400	Interest transfer to General	23,774	20,630	19,842	23,615	23,750	24,210	24,715
2870	Superannuation Missionaries	12,651	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Expenditure	50,371	41,260	19,842	47,230	47,500	48,420	49,430
	Surplus (Indexation of Capital)	14,071	13,740	23,728	18,630	19,000	19,380	19,770
	Balance of Funds	931,410	929,670	955,138	950,040	969,040	988,420	1,008,190
Insurance								
Income								
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	8,997	7,900	5,625	8,550	7,300	6,100	4,800
Payments								
2385	Insurance Claims & Risk Management	23,630	24,575	0	23,630	24,575	24,575	24,575
	Surplus	(14,633)	(16,675)	5,625	(15,080)	(17,275)	(18,475)	(19,775)
	Balance of Funds	119,678	114,980	125,303	104,598	87,323	68,848	49,072
Balfour Memorial Trust								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund Specific	69,610	59,400	46,526	70,170	69,600	69,800	70,000
1600	Rentals Received Ministers Holiday Homes	6,350	10,000	5,575	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Total Income	75,960	69,400	52,101	80,170	79,600	79,800	80,000
Payments								
2790	Rent Paid Ministers' Holiday Home	70,050	70,000	33,875	70,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
2403	Interest transfer to General	-	0	-	8,333	-	-	-
2810	Wages - Ministers Holiday Homes	1,351	1,837	-	1,837	1,874	1,911	1,949
	Total Expenditure	71,400	71,837	33,875	80,170	76,874	76,911	76,949
	Surplus	4,560	(2,437)	18,226	0	2,726	2,889	3,051
	Balance of Funds	994,901	987,905	1,013,127	994,901	997,627	1,000,516	1,003,567

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

						Budget for Approval		
							7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Capital Fund Reserve								
Income								
1340	Interest on Loans to Congregations @ 2.5%	59,335	65,625	33,317	55,108	87,500	112,500	112,500
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	107,375	89,900	72,406	88,500	109,100	113,000	117,000
1440	Other Investment Income	143	592	-	396	396	396	396
Total Income		166,853	156,117	105,723	144,004	196,996	225,896	229,896
Payments								
2295	Grant to Property Development Fund	54,537	-	-	-	-	-	-
2296	Interest Rebate	23,073	-	-	-	-	-	-
2297	Grants to Borrowers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2401	Interest on Loans from TC @ 4% (from April 2020)	88,653	140,000	53,310	87,410	140,000	180,000	180,000
2402	Interest paid to Depositors	591	592	264	396	396	396	396
Total Expenditure		166,853	140,592	53,574	87,806	140,396	180,396	180,396
Surplus		(0)	15,525	52,149	56,198	56,600	45,500	49,500
Balance of Funds		1,558,036	1,543,866	1,610,185	1,614,234	1,670,834	1,716,334	1,765,834
Deposits from Congregations, PWMU etc		59,286	59,165	39,618	39,618	39,618	39,618	39,618
Loans		2,040,956	4,500,000	2,614,946	2,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000
Break Even Loan Balance: ie maximum loans available		7,514,061	4,585,024	7,514,196	7,533,092	7,533,092	7,797,226	8,009,559
GAA Funds								
Income								
1357	Common Fund Interest	28,921	19,300	12,299	15,100	19,500	20,900	22,300
Total Income		28,921	19,300	12,299	15,100	19,500	20,900	22,300
Payments								
2270	General Assembly Australia Expenses	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-
2290	Grants Approved - 2016 Commission (minute 11)	-	68,500	-	-	0	-	-
Total Expenditure		0	68,500	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus		28,921	(49,200)	12,299	15,100	19,500	20,900	22,300
Balance of Funds		263,393	273,008	275,692	278,493	297,993	318,893	341,193
Overseas Visitors Fund								
Income								
1350	Common Fund Interest	16,866	14,300	11,882	14,500	18,600	19,900	20,300
Total Income		16,866	14,300	11,882	14,500	18,600	19,900	20,300
Payments								
2291	Grants Paid - Overseas Visitors Fund	-	0	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
Total Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000
Surplus / (Deficit)		16,866	14,300	11,882	14,500	18,600	4,900	5,300
Balance of Funds - O/S Visitors		251,577	252,912	263,459	266,077	284,677	289,577	294,877
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		56,624	(27,247)	133,024	90,218	99,951	77,894	83,145
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds	6,216,848	5,816,170	6,359,196	6,334,788	6,103,322	5,296,484	5,036,050

Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1089.19	General Mission Programme - APWM	34,948	40,000	48,342	39,200	40,000	40,000	40,000
1089.19	General Mission Programme - Other	-	18,150	-	18,150	18,150	18,150	18,150
1162.19	Mission Lunch Income	-	2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
1169.19	Donations and Gifts General	590	-	-	-	-	-	-
1165.19	Coins 4 Mission Income	-	25,000	12,530	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
1359.19	Interest Common Fund	39,971	33,200	23,924	41,600	40,000	40,900	41,900
1440.19	Other Investment Income	155	-	66	66	-	-	-
1990.19	Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	-	-	9,091	9,091	-	-	-
Total Income		75,663	118,350	93,953	133,107	125,150	126,050	127,050
Expenditure								
Grants								
2296.19	Grants - Mission Expenses	4,869	6,000	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2297.19	Grants - General	27,500	29,000	14,000	29,000	29,000	28,000	28,000
2298.19	Grants - Christmas Gifts	7,840	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
2299.19	Grants - Re-entry Expenses	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2302.19	Grants - Presbyterian Inland Mission	-	7,000	3,500	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2300.19	Grants - Ellis Chair	-	11,150	2,875	11,150	11,150	11,150	11,150
2322.19	Coins 4 Mission Expenses	-	25,000	7,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
2870.19	Superannuation - Missionaries	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Grant Payments		55,209	103,150	35,375	103,150	103,150	102,150	102,150
Committee								
2130.19	Computer & Website Expenses	159	200	-	200	200	200	200
2183.19	Depreciation Motor Vehicles	6,828	6,850	4,022	6,850	6,850	6,850	6,850
2280.19	Mission Lunch Expenses	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2289.19	General Expenses-Committee	-	100	-	100	100	100	100
2550.19	LSL Levy	-	350	-	350	350	350	350
2600.19	Motor Vehicle Expenses	11,517	13,000	8,507	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
2705.19	Promotion - New Poster	-	1,000	320	320	-	1,000	1,000
2709.19	Postage & Stationery	10	50	19	50	50	50	50
2929.19	Travelling Expenses	-	150	-	150	150	150	150
2950.19	WorkCover Levy	119	200	212	212	200	200	200
Total Committee Expenses		18,633	23,900	13,080	23,232	22,900	23,900	23,900
Total Expenses		73,843	127,050	48,454	126,382	126,050	126,050	126,050
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		1,821	(8,700)	45,499	6,725	(900)	0	1,000
Capital Items								
	Motor Vehicle							
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Funds		249,555	254,906	306,277	270,331	283,483	297,534	312,585
Perpetual Funds		307,671	301,422	301,422	301,422	301,422	301,422	301,422

Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Vanuatu Trusts								
Income								
1352	Interest Common Fund	8,846	7,500	5,119	8,800	8,700	8,700	8,600
Expenditure								
2292	Grants (Falls)	8,600	8,150	4,075	8,150	7,700	7,700	7,700
2295	Blackwell Scholarship Grant	2,000	1,700	850	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600
Total Expenditure		10,600	9,850	4,925	9,850	9,300	9,300	9,300
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,754)	(2,350)	194	(1,050)	(600)	(600)	(700)
Specific Funds		83,810	81,460	84,004	82,760	82,160	81,560	80,860
Perpetual Funds		41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451
Beatty Trust								
Income								
1353	Interest Common Fund	8,093	6,900	4,666	8,000	7,900	7,700	7,600
Expenditure								
2293	Grants - APWM National Office	10,000	10,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,907)	(3,100)	(334)	(2,000)	(2,100)	(2,300)	(2,400)
Specific Funds		114,413	111,313	114,079	112,413	110,313	108,013	105,613
Dehra Dun								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund	1,824	1,500	1,097	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,000
Expenditure								
2294	Grants	2,227	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Surplus/(Deficit)		(403)	0	1,097	400	400	400	500
Specific Funds		1,824	1,824	2,921	2,224	2,624	3,024	3,524
Perpetual Funds		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		1,821	(8,700)	45,499	6,725	(900)	0	1,000
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		(4,064)	(5,450)	957	(2,650)	(2,300)	(2,500)	(2,600)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,244)	(14,150)	46,456	4,075	(3,200)	(2,500)	(1,600)
TOTAL	Specific Funds	200,047	194,597	201,004	197,397	195,097	192,597	189,997
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451

Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	8 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1030	Colloquium Registration Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1060	Colloquium Product Sales	18	-	-	-	-	-	-
1160	Donations - Church and Nation	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
1061	Sponsors	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
1068	Sales Booklets	14	500	-	-	-	-	-
1250	Cash Flow Boost	841	-	-	-	-	-	-
1255	Jobkeeper Grants	7,446	-	-	-	-	-	-
1359	Interest Common Fund	24,894	21,500	16,906	25,200	24,800	24,400	24,300
Total Income		34,213	27,000	16,906	25,200	24,800	29,400	29,300
General Expenditure								
2130	Computer & Software Costs	850	400	(450)	400	400	400	400
2180	Depreciation	666	668	444	668	-	-	-
2289	General Expenses	-	200	-	200	200	200	200
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	450	473	666	666	699	734	771
2580	Conference & Travel	-	500	400	500	200	200	200
2810	Researcher Wages	25,394	25,841	16,896	25,841	26,358	25,968	25,968
2870	Researcher Superannuation	2,419	2,584	1,690	2,584	2,636	2,597	2,597
2850	Journal Subscriptions (& Books)	-	200	-	200	100	100	100
2911	Researcher - internet, phone, office supplies	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
2920	Committee travel expenses	-	200	-	100	100	100	100
2950	Insurance W/Cover Premiums	223	230	223	223	227	232	237
Total Committee Expenditure		30,002	31,396	19,869	31,382	30,920	30,531	30,573
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		4,211	(4,396)	(2,963)	(6,182)	(6,120)	(1,131)	(1,273)
General Funds		359,866	356,138	357,347	354,352	348,231	347,100	345,827
Capital Items / Prepayments								
	Computer							
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Christian Education & Nurture
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

						Budget for Approval		
						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%								
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund General	52,955	45,100	30,822	53,100	53,500	53,600	53,600
1160	Donations & Gifts	-	-	50	50	-	-	-
1650	Sundry Income	-	-	64	64	-	-	-
1662	Women's Ministry Income	3,425						
Total Income		56,380	45,100	30,936	53,214	53,500	53,600	53,600
Expenditure								
Seminars								
2582	Women's Ministry	4,186						
Total Seminar Expenses		4,186	0	0	0	0	0	0
Committee								
2133	Website	700	800	-	800	800	800	800
2180	Depreciation	681	75	401	681	429	75	19
	Donations: Korus connect (2020 GAV Minute 19)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2222	Education & training	-	500	-	500	500	500	500
2280	General Expenses	554	500	300	500	500	200	200
2392	Insurances Professional Indemnity	450	460	666	666	699	713	742
2920	Travel Expenses	208	600	-	600	600	1,500	1,500
Total Committee Expenses		2,593	2,935	1,367	3,747	3,528	3,788	3,761
Grants to PYV								
2295	PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	57,096	35,665	20,804	35,665	29,757	33,700	33,000
2292	PVV General Subsidy	-	-	-	-	13,000	16,000	17,000
2292	PYV Camp Fees	455	6,500	-	6,500	6,500	-	-
Total Grants to PYV		57,551	42,165	20,804	42,165	49,257	49,700	50,000
Total Expenses		64,330	45,100	22,171	45,912	52,785	53,488	53,761
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(7,950)	0	8,765	7,302	715	112	(161)
General Funds		487,934	488,009	497,100	495,917	497,061	497,247	497,106
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250
Capital Items								
Enter Details Here					0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Christian Education & Nurture
Specific Trusts - Allan Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	48,023	40,600	27,808	47,900	47,200	47,400	48,700
Total Income		48,023	40,600	27,808	47,900	47,200	47,400	48,700
Expenditure								
2071	Bursaries & Prizes	5,135	7,500	-	7,500	7,000	1,000	1,000
2281	General Expenses	736	350	-	350	350	350	350
2293	Contribution to Youth Worker	45,899	34,470	20,104	34,470	24,346	27,573	27,000
2350	Consultants Fees - Primary version of SFY	12,083	14,000	1,358	14,000	12,000	-	-
Total Expenses		63,853	56,320	21,462	56,320	43,696	28,923	28,350
Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts		(15,830)	(15,720)	6,346	(8,420)	3,504	18,477	20,350
Specific Funds		654,411	638,691	660,757	645,991	649,495	667,973	688,323
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 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Social								
1039	Income	-	1,313	-	1,313	-	-	-
2729	Expenses	-	1,313	-	1,313	-	-	-
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Social	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Camp (July 2022)								
1029	Income	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,500	26,010
2731	Expenses	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,500	26,010
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Ministers Family Camp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summer Camp (Jan 2023)								
1025	Income	445	60,000	-	-	61,200	62,424	63,672
2725	Expenses	333	60,000	-	-	61,200	62,424	63,672
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Summer Camp	112	0	0	0	0	0	0
West State Event								
1033	Income	9,917	12,120	-	12,120	1,000	1,020	1,040
2736	Expenses	3,443	12,120	-	12,120	1,000	1,020	1,040
	Surplus/(Deficit) on West State Camp	6,474	0	0	0	0	0	0
East State Event								
1034	Income	-	10,100	-	10,100	1,000	1,020	1,040
2737	Expenses	-	10,100	-	10,100	1,000	1,020	1,040
	Surplus/(Deficit) on East State Camp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North State Event								
1042	Income	837	12,120	-	-	1,000	1,020	1,040
2740	Expenses	1,069	12,120	-	-	1,000	1,020	1,040
	Surplus/(Deficit) on North State Camp	(232)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bookstall & Tuckshop								
1021	Income	451	1,010	-	1,010	1,030	1,051	1,072
2724	Expenditure	-	1,010	-	1,010	1,030	1,051	1,072
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Bookstall & Tuckshop	451	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merchandising								
1022	Income	-	2,020	-	2,020	2,000	2,040	2,081
2722	Expenses	-	2,020	-	2,020	1,500	1,530	1,561
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Merchandising	0	0	0	0	500	510	520
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on all Events		6,805	0	0	0	500	510	520

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1169	Donations Miscellaneous	5,614	4,500	1,250	4,500	5,000	5,150	5,253
1241	Grants from CENC (General)					13,000	16,000	17,000
1241	Grants from CENC (Youth Worker)	57,096	35,665	20,804	35,665	29,757	33,700	33,000
1248	CENC Youth Worker Funding (Allan Trust)	45,899	34,470	20,104	34,470	24,346	27,573	27,000
1359	Interest Common Fund - General	34,071	30,300	20,285	34,600	33,600	34,000	35,000
1250	Cash Flow Boost & Job Keeper	22,467	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income (excl Camps & Events)		165,147	104,935	62,443	109,235	105,703	116,423	117,253
General Expenses								
2060	Bank charges	233	-	-	-	-	-	-
2130	Software & Website Expenses	2,155	2,851	1,238	2,851	2,908	2,966	3,026
2150	Council Expenses - Gifts					200		
2180	Depreciation - Furniture/Equipment	7,352	6,536	4,284	7,273	7,273	7,273	6,274
2275	First Aid Expenses	458	250	-	250	255	260	265
2278	General Printing & Publicity Expenses	120	500	-	500	510	520	531
2279	Music Expenses	520	600	531	600	612	624	637
2280	General Expenses	-	300	300	300	-	-	-
2392	Professional Indemnity Insurance	2,570	2,699	5,200	5,200	5,460	5,733	6,020
2296	Policy Review Expenses				-	300	315	331
Total General Expenses		13,407	13,736	11,553	16,974	17,518	17,692	17,083
Office								
2910	Telephone	150	150	-	150	150	153	156
2752	Rental - PYV	4,080	4,121	1,360	4,121	4,080	4,162	4,245
2705	Office & Stationery	1,832	1,515	301	1,515	1,545	1,576	1,608
Total Office Expenses		6,062	5,786	1,661	5,786	5,775	5,891	6,009

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Staff Related Expenses								
Youth Worker position as % of Full time							60%	60%
2812	Administration Officer	28,004	26,591	15,341	26,590	26,989	27,529	28,080
2872	Superannuation PYV Admin Officer	2,620	2,659	1,534	2,659	2,699	2,825	2,825
2811	Stipend - Youth Worker	39,693	37,539	21,896	37,536	22,334	23,431	23,900
2640	NCB Youth Worker	19,524	19,817	11,564	19,824	11,795	12,375	12,622
2790	Manse Allowance - Youth Worker	24,768	24,768	14,448	24,768	14,448	14,861	14,861
2870	Superannuation - Youth Worker	8,476	8,603	5,019	8,604	5,119	5,371	5,478
2221	Training - YMD (Youth Worker)	-	338	-	338			
2282	Hospitality/books - Youth Worker	-	591	112	591			
2950	Workcover Premium	790	716	687	687	406	424	430
Total Staff Related Expenses		123,875	121,622	70,600	121,597	83,791	86,816	88,197
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		28,608	(36,209)	(21,371)	(35,122)	(881)	6,534	6,485
	Deposits in Common Fund	239,073	209,400	221,486	211,224	217,615	231,422	244,181
	Paypal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total General Funds		239,073	209,400	221,486	211,224	217,615	231,422	244,181
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250
Summary								
Camp Fees & Events		11,651	98,683	0	26,563	92,230	94,075	95,956
Income		165,147	104,935	62,443	109,235	105,703	116,423	117,253
Total Income		176,797	203,618	62,443	135,798	197,934	210,498	213,209
Camp & Event Costs		4,846	98,683	0	26,563	91,730	93,565	95,436
Other Costs		143,344	141,144	83,814	144,357	107,085	110,399	111,288
Total Expenses		148,190	239,827	83,814	170,920	198,815	203,964	206,724
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		28,608	(36,209)	(21,371)	(35,122)	(881)	6,534	6,485
Capital Items / Prepayments								
Camp Deposits		(591)		500				
Total Capital Expenditure		(591)	0	500	0	0	0	0

Church Planting Committee

**Specific - Scots Church Properties Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Acct No.	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected		2025/2026 Projected
Income										
1359	Interest Common Fund	1,908	-	-	-	-	7,500	20,400		31,800
2400	Interest paid to GA on overdraft	(1,004)	(8,200)	(3,734)	(7,207)	(4,100)	-	-		-
1250	Cash Flow Boost & Job Keeper	13,174	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
1243	Income from GA re PCV rent	16,350	19,353	11,788	19,353	20,208	20,210	20,816		21,441
1640	Scots Church Distribution	-	194,620	125,489	125,489	330,000	330,000	330,000		330,000
Total Income		30,427	205,773	133,543	137,635	346,108	350,210	350,816		383,241
Expenditure										
Committee operations										
2220	Training & Conferences	-	5,000	-	5,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		3,000
2130	Media	-	6,000	4,985	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000		6,000
2141	Ch Plant Consultancy Fees	1,800	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
2285	Geneva Push	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	16,000	16,000		16,000
2560	Meeting Room Hire (Assembly Hall)	-	540	-	540	540	540	540		540
2920	Travel	-	2,000	-	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		3,000
Total Committee Operations		2,800	14,540	4,985	14,540	13,540	28,540	28,540		28,540
Church Planter Evangelist										
2810	Church planter evangelist - Stipend	40,505	37,354	21,896	37,536	38,287	39,052	39,834		40,630
2640	Non-Cash Benefit	19,290	19,661	11,477	19,824	20,220	20,625	21,037		21,458
2870	Superannuation	8,476	8,552	5,019	8,604	8,776	8,952	9,131		9,313
2752	Rental/Manse Allowance	23,400	25,735	14,863	25,480	25,480	25,480	25,480		25,990
2541	Manse Energy Expenses	5,488	5,000	2,649	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000		5,000
2550	LSL Levy	350	1,000	-	350	350	350	350		1,000
2955	Disability Insurance/Workcover	2,677	3,172	2,449	2,449	2,523	2,598	2,676		2,944
2910	Telephone/Fax	778	1,450	620	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450		1,450
Total Church Planter Evangelist		100,964	101,924	58,974	100,693	102,086	103,507	104,958		107,785
Committee Grants										
	Startup Grants	16,200	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
	Operating Grants	83,198	103,840	55,900	103,840	68,640	43,120	25,520		25,520
Total Committee Grants		99,398	103,840	55,900	103,840	68,640	43,120	25,520		25,520
TOTAL Expenses		203,162	220,304	119,858	219,073	184,266	175,167	159,018		161,845
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(172,735)	(14,531)	13,685	(81,438)	161,842	175,043	191,799		221,396
Balance of General Funds		(87,628)	(102,159)	(73,943)	(169,066)	(7,224)	167,819	359,618		581,014
Overdraft prior to receipt of distribution					(151,040)	(261,199)	(94,808)	88,310		278,695
MAXIMUM approved overdraft: prior to distribution					(270,000)	(340,000)	(190,000)	(15,000)		-

Church Planting Committee
Specific - Property Development Fund
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2022/23

						Budget for Approval		
						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1162	Donations Property Development	25,045	27,500	21,245	40,970	27,500	27,500	27,500
1240	Grant from Capital Fund	54,537	-	-	-	-	-	-
1350	Interest Property Development Fund	37,109	32,600	26,106	45,700	13,500	15,000	16,500
Total Income		116,691	60,100	47,351	86,670	41,000	42,500	44,000
Expenditure								
2140	Consultancy	-	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2292	Grants Property Development	-	500,000	-	500,000	-	-	-
Total Expenses		0	520,000	0	520,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		116,691	(459,900)	47,351	(433,330)	21,000	22,500	24,000
Property Development Fund		626,113	166,213	673,464	192,783	213,783	236,283	260,283

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/2023

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1040	Family Camp Income	-	-	-	-	39,000	39,000	39,000
1160	Donations and Gifts	-	750	200	750	750	750	750
1161	Good Friday Appeal	26,959	18,000	1,224	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
1250	Cash Flow Boost & JobKeeper	6,608	-	-	-	-	-	-
1359	Interest Common Fund General	75,480	64,600	44,524	76,600	77,300	77,900	78,400
Total Income		109,047	83,350	45,948	95,350	135,050	135,650	136,150
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising (inc Good Friday Appeal)	-	750	-	750	750	750	750
2114	Tertiary Chaplains (AFES Workers)	25,000	20,000	12,500	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2180	Depreciation Furniture/Equipment	767	450	265	450	263	75	75
2310	Displan	-	700	-	700	700	700	700
2310	Council for Tertiary Chaplains	-	590	-	590	590	590	590
2226	Pastors Renewal Retreats	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2227	Chaplaincy Resources(Tracts,books,DVDs)	244	500	38	500	500	500	500
2116	Deaf Chaplaincy	20,000	20,000	11,667	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2228	Education & Training (Conferences/Seminars)	697	2,000	364	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2229	Ministers & Family Support	5,006	7,000	1,484	7,000	8,000	9,000	9,000
2280	General Expenses	-	500	458	500	500	500	500
2282	Chaplains' Appreciation Luncheon	-	150	-	150	150	150	150
2283	Chaplains Commissioning Service	-	200	-	200	200	200	200
2110	Chaplaincy Fees : Healthcare	2,425	6,000	1,100	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Chaplaincy Support Worker								
2818	Salary	18,197	19,073	10,948	18,977	19,736	20,526	21,347
2879	Superannuation	1,870	1,907	1,095	1,898	1,974	2,053	2,135
2954	Workcover Levy - General	380	354	311	311	323	336	349
2911	Telephone	175	240	-	240	240	240	240
	Chaplaincy Support Worker	20,621	21,574	12,354	21,425	22,273	23,154	24,071
	Ministry Family Camp Co-ordinator- Casual	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
	Telephone	-	-	-	-	120	120	120
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	1,125	1,180	666	666	699	713	749
2752	Heathmont House office rental	2,880	3,043	960	2,160	2,880	3,024	3,175
2580	Ministry Family Camp	-	-	-	-	35,000	35,000	35,000
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery & Secretarial Fees	65	400	5	400	400	400	400
2922	Travelling Expenses - Committee	-	200	-	200	200	200	200
Total Committee Expenditure		78,830	86,236	41,860	84,691	126,225	128,076	129,180
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		30,218	(2,886)	4,088	10,659	8,825	7,574	6,970
General Funds		1,092,833	1,090,397	1,098,530	1,103,942	1,113,029	1,120,678	1,127,723
Capital Items								
	Accrued Leave			(672)				
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	(672)	0	0	0	0

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/2023

P Burnett Trust

						Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1252	Cash Flow Boost & Jobkeeper	13,202	-	-	-	-	-	-
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	41,641	36,300	24,271	41,600	41,100	40,000	38,700
Total Income		54,843	36,300	24,271	41,600	41,100	40,000	38,700
Expenditure								
Ministry Wives Chaplain								
2142	Professional Supervision	-	750	-	750	750	750	750
2221	Professional Development- Ministry Wives Chaplain	-	500	45	500	500	500	500
2812	Ministry Wives Chaplain Salary	35,851	37,199	24,236	37,199	38,687	40,234	41,843
2872	Super MWC	3,656	3,720	2,424	3,720	3,869	4,023	4,184
2912	Ministry Wives Chaplain - Phone	605	480	-	480	480	480	480
2923	Ministry Wives Chaplain - Travel	5,000	5,000	2,885	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2924	Ministry Wives Chaplain - Accommodation	43	800	-	800	800	800	800
2952	Workcover	842	900	845	845	900	900	900
	Total Ministry Wives Chaplain	45,997	49,348	30,435	49,294	50,985	52,687	54,458
2112	Chaplaincy Fees - Police	1,750	4,000	650	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2921	Travel - Corrections	2,000	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Expenses		49,747	55,348	31,085	55,294	56,985	58,687	60,458
Surplus/(Deficit)		5,096	(19,048)	(6,813)	(13,694)	(15,885)	(18,687)	(21,758)
Specific Funds - Burnett		600,679	581,631	593,866	586,985	571,100	552,413	530,655

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/2023

Harold Hughes Trust

						Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1163	Donations to Hughes Trusts	22,500	-	-	22,500	22,500	-	-
1251	Cash Flow Boost / Job Keeper	25,020	-	-	-	-	-	-
1249	Grant Hospitals	23,602	-	12,438	24,876	-	-	-
1350	Interest Common Fund Specific	2,671	600	2,426	4,800	600	700	700
1440	Other Investment Income	44,985	21,690	17,873	44,000	50,400	50,400	49,500
1339	Franking Credits	3,151	-	5,748	5,748	-	-	-
1440	Management Fee - Separate Investments	-	(2,851)	(1,817)	(5,100)	(4,318)	(4,317)	(4,246)
Total Income		121,928	19,439	36,668	96,824	69,182	46,783	45,954
Expenditure								
	Chaplaincy wages	85,365	52,910	33,692	56,432	56,901	59,178	61,545
	Superannuation	7,577	5,291	3,309	5,643	5,690	5,918	6,154
	Long Service Leave	2,903	4,498	672	4,498	4,723	3,967	4,166
	Workcover	787	640	445	445	439	456	475
	Professional Development & Supervision	2,363	1,800	505	1,800	1,800	900	3,600
Total Expenses		98,995	65,140	38,623	68,818	69,553	70,419	75,939
Surplus/(Deficit)		22,933	(45,701)	(1,956)	28,005	(372)	(23,636)	(29,986)
Common Fund - Hughes		54,613	10,000	80,311	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Separately Invested Funds - Hughes		206,907	205,819	179,582	279,525	279,154	255,518	225,532
1995	Gain / (Loss) on Investments	137,643	-	37,514	37,514	-	-	-
Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested) - Hughes		1,122,334	1,028,457	1,154,011	1,159,848	1,159,848	1,159,848	1,159,848
Total Hughes Funds		1,383,854	1,244,276	1,413,904	1,449,373	1,449,002	1,425,366	1,395,380
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		30,218	(2,886)	4,088	10,659	8,825	7,574	6,970
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		28,029	(64,750)	(8,769)	14,312	(16,257)	(42,323)	(51,743)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		195,890	(67,636)	32,833	62,484	(7,432)	(34,750)	(44,773)

Ministry Development Committee
Specific - Scots Church Properties Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

7

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Budget	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1250	Cash Flow Boost & Job Keeper	27,224	-	-	-	-	-	-
1359	Interest Common Fund	14,198	-	242	-	-	-	16,000
	MDC Conference Fees	-	-	-	-	1,750	-	-
2400	Interest paid on overdraft	(69)	(4,000)	(3,762)	(11,400)	(15,000)	(2,000)	-
1640	Scots Church Property Trust distribution	-	577,275	292,807	292,807	560,000	770,000	770,000
1243	Share of General Assembly Rental	49,050	46,511	27,503	46,511	46,511	47,906	49,344
Total Income		90,403	619,786	316,790	327,918	593,261	815,906	835,344
Expenditure								
1. Grants								
2860	Ministry Development Grants	238,890	260,000	132,935	236,252	230,000	230,000	250,000
2864	Second Ministry Workers	64,722	67,500	28,750	41,250	22,500	22,500	26,250
2867	Cross Cultural Subsidies	31,391	45,000	27,825	47,700	42,000	35,000	40,000
2290	Grants Paid - Capital	103,833	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Grants		438,836	372,500	189,510	325,202	294,500	287,500	316,250
2. Ministry Development Officer								
2181	Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	5,997	6,048	3,533	6,048	6,048	6,048	6,048
2790	Manse Allowance	30,000	30,000	17,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2831	HM Director's Discretionary	1,054	2,000	584	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2955	Disability Insurance	2,113	2,198	2,125	2,125	2,210	2,298	2,390
2540	Light Power & Heating	2,500	2,600	1,458	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	350	350	-	350	350	350	350
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Costs	7,003	7,500	3,775	7,500	7,500	7,600	7,600
2640	Non Cash Benefits	23,429	24,375	13,877	23,789	24,265	24,750	25,245
2810	Salary	43,897	46,174	26,275	45,043	45,944	46,863	47,800
2870	Superannuation	10,171	10,582	6,023	10,325	10,531	10,742	10,957
2141	Professional Supervision	-	600	-	600	600	600	600
2910	Telephone & Fax	2,400	2,400	1,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
2920	Travelling Expenses	2,034	6,200	881	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,400
2950	WorkCover	722	754	739	739	752	762	771
Total Ministry Development Officer Expenses		131,670	141,781	78,170	139,719	141,500	143,413	145,161
3. Office								
2030	Advertising	70	500	-	500	500	500	500
2131	Website development	710	-	-	-	-	-	-
2180	Depreciation Office Equipment	2,060	1,800	1,173	1,922	1,385	1,385	1,385
2282	General Expenses	435	1,000	246	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2551	Long Service Leave Accrual	2,237	1,420	710	1,420	1,448	1,477	1,507
2912	Telephone & Fax	1,182	1,400	545	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
2130	Computer & Software Costs	929	1,500	692	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	383	2,500	474	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
2812	Salaries	55,747	56,355	33,012	56,355	57,482	58,632	59,805
2850	Subscriptions	57	200	-	200	200	200	200
2872	Superannuation	5,729	5,636	3,357	5,636	5,748	5,863	5,980
2952	WorkCover Levy	484	498	486	486	507	518	528
Total Office Expenses		70,022	72,808	40,697	72,919	73,671	74,975	76,305
4. Committee								
2830	Staff Amenities	376	1,200	92	1,200	800	800	800
2510	Legal Fees	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2922	Travelling Expenses	-	1,200	-	1,200	800	800	800
Total Committee Expenses		376	3,400	92	3,400	2,600	2,600	2,600
5. District Interim Moderator Expenses								
6. Miscellaneous								
2140	MDC Consultancy Fees	4,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MDC Conference	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	-
2220	Education & Training	(559)	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
2581	Training inc. Embers to Flame, ESL, Peacewise	732	2,000	548	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		4,373	4,500	548	4,500	14,500	4,500	4,500
Total Expenses		645,276	594,989	309,016	545,740	526,771	512,988	544,816
Surplus/(Deficit) Operations		(554,873)	24,796	7,774	(217,822)	66,490	302,919	290,528
Balance of General Funds / (overdraft)								
Overdraft prior to receipt of distribution		(50,023)	(15,959)	(36,833)	(258,455)	(183,083)	88,746	384,213
MAXIMUM approved overdraft: prior to distribution		-	-	-	-	(477,942)	(396,828)	(138,261)
Capital/Balance Sheet Items								
3290	Computer	2,530	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
	Increase in leave provisions	(1,353)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Bond on MDO manse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Motor Vehicle (less trade in)	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
Total Capital Expenditure		1,177	-	-	-	-	40,000	4,000

Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Ministry Development Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Projected	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Church Extension - Victoria								
Income								
1351	Common Fund Interest Specific	2,239	2,000	1,369	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,900
Total Income		2,239	2,000	1,369	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,900
Expenditure								
2291	Grants Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,239	2,000	1,369	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,900
	Specific Funds	6,485	8,485	7,854	8,885	11,385	14,085	16,985
	Perpetual Funds	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913
Church Extension - Other States								
Income								
1352	Common Fund Interest Specific	484	400	242	400	500	500	500
Total Income		484	400	242	400	500	500	500
Expenditure								
2292	Grants Paid	484	400	242	400	500	500	500
Total Expenses		484	400	242	400	500	500	500
Surplus/(Deficit)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Specific Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Perpetual Funds	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913
Evangelism								
Income								
1353	Common Fund Interest Specific	99,410	81,300	56,629	97,000	92,100	88,500	84,300
Total Income		99,410	81,300	56,629	97,000	92,100	88,500	84,300
Expenditure								
2293	Grants Paid Evangelism	16,100	40,000	12,992	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
2294	Grant Evangelism Workers-see below distribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2861	Second Ministry Workers	21,574	22,500	5,833	13,750	7,500	7,500	8,750
2294	Ashburton	11,000	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
2294	Daylesford	25,000	24,000	12,833	24,000	18,000	24,000	24,000
2294	Bundoora	15,000	15,000	10,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2294	West Footscray	7,500	7,500	4,375	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
2297	TEC grant	20,007	25,000	-	25,000	20,000	25,000	25,000
	MDC Conference	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-
2863	AFES Workers	30,000	30,000	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total Expenses		146,181	174,000	61,534	165,250	143,000	149,000	150,250
Surplus/(Deficit)		(46,771)	(92,700)	(4,905)	(68,250)	(50,900)	(60,500)	(65,950)
	Specific Funds	1,343,593	1,250,893	1,338,688	1,275,343	1,224,443	1,163,943	1,097,993
	Perpetual Funds	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992
Noble Trust								
Income								
1161	Donations to Noble Trust	40	-	280	280	-	-	-
1355	Common Fund Interest Specific	27,222	21,600	14,772	25,500	21,900	19,600	15,900
Total Income		27,262	21,600	15,052	25,780	21,900	19,600	15,900
Expenditure								
2813	Salaries (NCB)	34,167	35,547	13,216	35,547	19,824	26,000	28,000
2281	General Expenses	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2873	Superannuation	34,398	39,684	17,137	39,684	30,716	40,282	41,088
2953	Workcover Levy	310	357	-	-	276	363	370
2586	Ministers Conference	530	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2295	Grants Paid	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2923	Travelling / Training Expenses	105	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Expenses		69,510	80,588	30,353	80,231	55,817	71,645	74,458
Surplus/(Deficit)		(42,248)	(58,988)	(15,301)	(54,451)	(33,917)	(52,045)	(58,558)
	Specific Funds	242,923	183,935	227,622	188,472	154,555	102,511	43,953
	Perpetual Funds	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
HMWA								
Income								
1356	Common Fund Interest Specific	2,600	2,100	1,552	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,600
Total Income		2,600	2,100	1,552	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,600
Expenditure								
2298	Home Missionary Costs	500	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Expenses		500	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,100	(900)	1,552	(300)	(300)	(400)	(400)
	Specific Funds	38,287	37,387	39,839	37,987	37,687	37,287	36,887
TOTAL								
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		(84,680)	(150,588)	(17,285)	(120,601)	(82,617)	(110,245)	(122,008)
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(554,873)	24,796	7,774	(217,822)	66,490	302,919	290,528
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(639,553)	(125,792)	(9,511)	(338,423)	(16,127)	192,674	168,520
Total Specific Trusts		1,631,288	1,480,700	1,614,003	1,510,687	1,428,070	1,317,826	1,195,818
Total Perpetual Funds		198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818

**METRO Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Feb-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund General	52,013	40,400	29,380	50,000	46,400	45,100	43,300
1160	Donations	4,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
1650	Youth METRO Income	1,000	2,500	750	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
1040	Events Income	-	600	-	600	600	600	600
Total Income		57,013	43,500	31,130	54,100	49,500	48,200	46,400
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising & Website	-	500	-	500	1,000	500	500
2221	Youth METRO Expenses	548	10,000	225	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
2222	Adult METRO Expenses	2,500	3,000	-	3,000	8,500	8,500	8,500
2223	Equip METRO Expenses	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2250	Events	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2289	General Expenses	-	-	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
2290	Grants paid	95,377	101,500	47,650	94,000	36,500	44,000	44,000
2709	Postage, Printing & Stationery	46	350	-	350	350	350	350
2810	Wages (Administration)	-	6,000	3,854	5,455	6,300	6,300	6,300
2870	Super - Metro Assistant	-	-	385	545	630	630	630
2920	Travel	100	500	-	500	500	500	500
2950	METRO Workcover	-	-	47	47	50	50	50
Total Committee Expenditure		98,571	125,850	54,661	120,897	67,830	74,830	74,830
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(41,558)	(82,350)	(23,531)	(66,797)	(18,330)	(26,630)	(28,430)
General Funds		729,849	647,499	706,318	663,052	644,722	618,092	589,662
Capital Items								
Enter Details Here								
Enter Details Here								
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1440	Other Investment Income (sustentation fund)	868	6,000	-	3,000		-	-
1359	Interest Common Fund	66,611	57,700	39,070	67,000	9,500	9,800	10,200
Total Income		67,479	63,700	39,070	70,000	9,500	9,800	10,200
Expenditure								
2130	Computer & Software Expenses	-	100	-	-	100	100	100
2401	Interest Subsidy Ministers Car Loans	2,445	3,100	1,537	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100
2700	Postage, Printing & Stationery	-	100	-	-	150	150	150
2889	Sustentation Grants	74,592	60,000	14,955	33,856			
2910	Telephone & Fax	-	100	-	-	150	150	150
2920	Travelling Expenses	-	300	-	300	500	500	500
Total Expenses		77,037	63,700	16,492	37,256	4,000	4,000	4,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(9,558)	0	22,578	32,744	5,500	5,800	6,200
General Funds		909,671	909,671	932,249	92,415	97,915	103,715	109,915
Perpetual Funds		42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466
Capital Items								
Enter Details Here								
Return of excess funds to General Assembly					850,000			
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	850,000	0	0	0

**Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Long Service Leave Funds
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1130	LSL Levy	42,000	40,600	-	40,600	45,100	45,100	45,100
1135	LSL Transfers in	-	-	8,802	8,802	-	-	-
1358	Interest Common Fund	102,415	78,300	8,802	52,000	98,400	95,800	93,100
Total Income		144,415	118,900	17,604	101,402	143,500	140,900	138,200
Expenditure								
2550	Accrue Ministers Entitlements	142,911	138,750	8,802	120,000	164,705	167,324	170,054
Total Expenses		142,911	138,750	8,802	120,000	164,705	167,324	170,054
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		1,504	(19,850)	8,802	(18,598)	(21,205)	(26,424)	(31,854)
	Long Service Taken - cash	69,092	180,000	10,922	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
Provision for Long Service Leave		981,826	812,331	979,707	921,826	906,531	893,855	883,909
General Funds		1,484,146	1,423,046	1,490,828	1,405,548	1,369,048	1,329,948	1,288,148

Safe Church Unit
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

						Budget for Approval		
						7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1120	Safe Church levy	83,184	-	-	-	-	-	-
1250	Cash Flow Boost & Job Keeper	20,411	-	-	-	-	-	-
1080	GMP	-	95,000	78,977	95,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
1359	Common Fund Interest	8,729	7,708	6,681	12,000	8,504	7,717	6,784
Total Income		112,325	102,708	85,658	107,000	158,504	157,717	156,784
Projected Levy from 2020/21 Budget presentation		-	97,872	-	-	142,683	142,763	142,763
Safe Church Expenses								
2811	Salaries & Wages	64,415	63,487	36,627	63,488	90,391	92,199	94,043
2871	Superannuation	6,265	6,349	3,663	6,349	9,039	9,220	9,404
2510	Legal Fees	4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
2550	Long Service Leave	6,926	2,170	925	1,657	1,690	1,724	1,759
2701	Office expenses	3,034	4,442	1,959	4,442	4,553	4,667	4,783
2221	Professional Development	1,925	1,680	-	1,680	1,925	1,764	2,021
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	-	-	666	666	699	713	742
2923	Travel	1,085	4,253	445	4,253	4,465	4,688	4,688
2911	Phone/Internet	1,285	1,292	743	1,292	1,325	1,358	1,392
2147	Investigator	-	45,000	12,226	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
2148	Counselling Assistance	-	1,200	-	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2751	Office Rent	4,080	4,097	1,360	3,060	4,080	4,182	4,287
2184	Depreciation	1,000	786	743	1,262	732	344	82
2141	Professional Services	920	2,208	330	2,208	2,263	2,320	2,378
2851	Professional Ass'n, Journals	0	862	-	120	883	905	928
2951	Workcover	606	629	548	548	895	913	931
2830	Staff Amenities	80	200	46	200	200	200	200
Total Safe Church Expenses		95,621	138,654	60,281	137,424	169,340	171,396	173,837
Surplus/(Deficit)		16,704	(35,946)	25,377	(30,424)	(10,836)	(13,679)	(17,053)
Capital Items								
	Office Furniture & Equipment	2,090	700		700	1,140		
	Decrease in Levies receivable	(1,491)						
	Allocation of D Mickle funds	(60,000)						
		(59,401)	700	0	700	1,140	0	0
Balance of funds carried forward		151,351	115,491	178,396	121,489	110,245	96,910	79,938

State News Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Month to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1080	General Mission Programme	-	14,200	11,805	13,916	13,600	13,600	13,600
1062	Advertising Revenue	45	-	-	-	-	-	-
1359	Interest Common Fund	4,468	3,700	2,501	4,500	4,300	4,300	4,300
Total Income		4,513	17,900	14,306	18,416	17,900	17,900	17,900
Expenditure								
2851	Books	-	100	-	100	100	100	100
2630	Magazine Production Costs	9,395	19,000	5,790	18,500	19,000	19,000	19,000
1064	Less Contribution from APWM National	(200)	(1,200)	-	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,200)
Total Expenses		9,195	17,900	5,790	17,400	17,900	17,900	17,900
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(4,682)	0	8,516	1,016	0	0	0
General Funds		60,423	60,423	68,939	61,439	61,439	61,439	61,439
Capital Items								
	Computer							
	Enter Details Here							
	Enter Details Here							
Total Capital Exenditure		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

5

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1702	Tuition Fees (non-candidates)	331,632	300,000	207,386	393,690	400,000	400,000	400,000
1700	Tuition Fees ex Bursary Candidates	167,920	125,000	73,700	160,190	160,000	160,000	160,000
1704	Tuition Fees ex Bursary - other (Cat 2-5)	61,920	35,566	27,840	44,868	34,482	35,344	26,203
1704	Tuition Fees ex Bursary - other (Diaconal)	15,840	19,278	12,600	25,620	25,000	18,000	18,000
1706	Tuition Fees - Chinese Course	28,530	30,000	19,920	34,320	40,000	40,000	40,000
1703	Tuition Fees Short Courses	900	-	-	-	-	-	-
1700	Israel Study Tour	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1705	Study Tour expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL Tuition Fees	606,742	509,844	341,446	658,688	659,482	653,344	644,203
1707	Collegial Supervision training	-	-	1,800	1,800	1,800	-	-
1709	Ministers Conference Income	5,442	6,000	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2586	Ministers' Conference Expenses	(5,588)	(7,000)	-	(7,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)
1050	Bequests	-	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
1168	Donations and Gifts - General	8,447	-	5,380	5,380	-	-	-
1244	MDC Evangelism grant	20,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
1250	Cash Flow Boost & Job Keeper	96,332	-	-	-	-	-	-
1359	Interest Common Fund - General	233,769	208,000	102,893	251,000	258,000	273,000	297,000
1440	Other Investment Income (Porter trust)	2,287	7,000	26,807	26,807	26,807	26,807	26,807
1241	Funding for ministry conference in WA (ex GAA fund)	-	3,500	-	3,500	-	-	-
1242	Overseas Visitors Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1600	Rental of TEC Manse	15,691	13,921	6,712	16,109	16,431	16,431	16,431
1601	Rental Income - Accommod Units	53,941	72,000	30,742	71,000	71,000	73,130	75,324
1650	Sundry Income	200	5,500	182	5,500	-	-	-
Total Income		1,037,264	828,764	530,961	1,063,783	1,043,519	1,052,711	1,069,765
Expenditure								
Australian College of Theology Affiliation and Admin Fees								
2045	ACT Admin Fees	66,766	59,980	39,034	59,980	76,056	75,235	74,012
2050	ACT Affiliation Fees	9,150	11,108	-	11,108	11,984	12,615	12,993
Total ACT Affiliation and Admin Fees		75,916	71,089	39,034	71,089	88,040	87,849	87,005

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

5

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Staff Related								
2810	Salaries & Wages	227,505	239,880	110,956	241,320	281,653	263,269	251,207
2640	Non Cash Benefits	75,265	64,876	36,179	64,876	88,566	77,653	70,055
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Expenses	6,715	8,000	2,393	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
2830	Staff Amenities	9	800	-	200	200	200	200
2870	Superannuation	52,403	50,947	26,655	50,947	61,805	57,296	54,231
2950	WorkCover Levy	5,775	5,948	4,924	4,924	5,072	5,224	5,381
2955	Disability Insurance	6,656	6,789	5,949	5,949	6,068	6,189	6,313
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	5,010	1,400	0	1,640	1,640	1,640	1,640
2550	Long Service Leave accrual (non cash)	-	1,302	1,125	1,302	1,367	1,435	1,507
2840	Study Leave accrual (non cash)	(8,979)	36,061	15,000	36,061	49,360	44,174	46,162
2848	Study Leave Travel Expenses (non cash)	3,996	7,000	2,905	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2541	Lighting & Heating - Manses	11,791	12,000	6,789	12,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
2911	Telephone - Manses	6,015	7,000	1,931	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2490	Lecturers' Fees	84,390	106,661	59,121	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
2240	Lecturers' Fees - Exam Marking	10,419	10,000	7,953	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
2920	Travelling Expenses	1,957	16,000	530	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
2229	Education & Training	-	2,000	-	2,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Total Staff Related Expenses		488,926	576,665	282,409	582,719	674,230	635,580	615,196
Total Staff Related CASH Expenses		493,909	625,859	287,661	601,809	616,503	619,673	624,440
2520	Library Related Expenses ex General Fund	99,332	135,825	36,661	126,713	139,697	137,239	136,485
Office Related								
2910	Telephone & Fax - College	4,186	4,000	2,014	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2060	Bank Charges	548	1,664	788	1,664	1,731	1,800	1,872
2180	Depreciation - Furniture and Equipment	6,059	4,972	2,324	5,100	6,745	2,500	2,500
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	2,887	6,000	831	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2540	Light Power & Heating - College	9,094	10,400	5,976	10,400	10,816	11,249	11,699
2760	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	-	500	-	500	500	500	500
2130	Computer Software Costs	1,742	4,000	780	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2850	CCLI, Copyright, Subscriptions	1,321	1,850	405	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	4,673	4,907	8,572	8,572	9,001	9,451	9,923
Total Office Related Expenses		30,511	38,293	21,692	38,086	40,642	37,349	38,344

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

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Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Property Related								
2183	Depreciation Plant & Equipment	2,261	2,000	947	2,000	500	500	500
2186	Depreciation Buildings	33,333	33,600	13,972	33,600	33,600	33,600	33,600
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	13,397	15,000	5,180	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2711	Outdoor Property Maintenance	3,256	3,000	1,627	3,200	3,500	3,500	3,500
2750	Rates & Taxes - College	13,894	11,500	5,589	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
2820	Security Costs	1,125	1,200	284	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Property Related Expenses		67,266	66,300	27,599	69,000	68,100	68,100	68,100
Miscellaneous Expenses								
2010	Audit Fees	6,000	6,000	2,670	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2030	Advertising / Student Prospectus	320	4,000	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
2032	Marketing	596	8,000	749	8,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2927	College Mission Support - Travel Exp	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-
2290	Graduation Ceremony	4,794	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2921	Hospitality	509	3,000	71	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2922	End of year dinner	-	-	500	-	-	-	-
2831	Student Expenses	122	2,000	9	200	1,000	1,000	1,000
2587	Ministry conference in WA	-	3,500	-	3,500	-	-	-
2284	Contingencies - TEC	-	2,000	-	-	-	-	-
2280	General Expenses	878	2,000	999	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2225	Post Grad Co-Ord Prof Devt (HDR)	-	6,000	-	6,000	3,000	-	-
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		13,220	43,500	4,998	32,700	27,000	24,000	24,000
Residential Units								
2185	Depreciation - Units	27,657	27,655	11,593	27,655	27,655	27,655	27,655
	Depreciation - Fixtures & Fittings				491	1,023	1,023	1,023
2391	Insurance - Units	1,212	1,273	1,391	1,391	1,461	1,534	1,610
2542	Light and Power - Units	192	-	-	-	-	-	-
2712	Maintenance - Units	4,348	6,000	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2713	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
2751	Rates - Units	332	342	214	342	352	363	374
Total Residential Units		33,740	36,270	13,198	35,879	36,491	37,575	37,662

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

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Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
PTC Media Income								
1065	Book Shop Sales	5,136	8,000	1,889	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
1066	Less: Purchases (enter as negative)	(4,940)	(6,400)	(2,184)	(5,700)	(5,700)	(5,700)	(5,700)
1067	Add: Stocktake variance	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total PTC Media Income		215	1,600	(295)	300	300	300	300
PTC Media Expenses								
2708	Printing & Stationery - PTC Media	-	200	-	200	200	200	200
2918	Office Expenses - PTC Media	17	200	-	200	200	200	200
2924	Travel Expenses - PTC Media	316	500	-	-	-	-	-
Total PTC Media Expenses		332	900	0	400	400	400	400
PTC Media Surplus(Deficit)		(118)	700	(295)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
Total Expenses		809,029	967,241	425,885	956,286	1,074,300	1,027,793	1,006,892
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		228,235	(138,477)	105,076	107,497	(30,780)	24,919	62,873
Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments								
	Library Shelving and Logos Software	11,531						
	Library Trolley			391	391			
	Tables and Chairs		26,000		26,000			
	Carpet replacement					100,000		
	College airconditioners					50,000		
	Computer Equipment & IT	3,884	5,000		4,000	6,000	5,000	5,000
	Dishwashers - units		3,000	3,627	3,627	3,000	3,000	3,000
	Units - replacement of carpets, fixtures					3,000	3,000	3,000
	Proceeds of sale of St Georges Geelong						(400,000)	
	Increase (decrease) in debtors	(20,806)		88,662				
Total Capital Exenditure		(5,391)	34,000	92,680	34,018	162,000	(389,000)	11,000
Non-Cash Items								
	Depreciation	69,310	68,227	28,836	68,355	68,500	64,255	64,255
	Long Service Leave Accrual	16,788	1,302	(2,397)	1,302	1,367	1,435	1,507
	Study Leave Accrual	(34,649)	36,061	17,905	36,061	49,360	44,174	46,162
Total Non-Cash Items		51,449	105,590	44,344	105,718	119,227	109,864	111,925
Cash Movement		285,075	(66,887)	56,740	179,197	(73,554)	523,783	163,797
General Funds		2,573,125	2,506,238	2,629,865	2,752,322	2,678,768	3,202,551	3,366,348
Perpetual Funds		965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159	965,159

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Building Fund								
Income								
1160	Donations & Gifts - Building	660	20,000	-	-	-	-	-
1165	Library Building Appeal - DGR	143,198	1,000,000	28,565	50,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	500,000
1350	Interest Common Fund - Building	13,558	12,700	6,905	26,500	36,100	104,200	211,900
1362	Interest-Library Bldg Appeal	7,887	-	4,530	18,121	-	-	-
Total Income		165,303	1,032,700	40,000	94,621	1,036,100	1,604,200	711,900
Expenditure								
2061	Bank Charges Building Fund	75	270	-	270	270	270	270
2390	Insurance Fire/General - College	5,638	5,920	6,471	6,471	6,794	7,134	7,491
2140	Library appeal - fundraising	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
2714	Library Upgrade - Capital Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
2710	Property Maintenance - College	2,081	48,620	2,494	20,000	51,051	53,604	56,284
Total Expenses		7,794	59,810	8,965	26,741	63,116	66,008	3,064,045
Surplus/(Deficit) Building Fund		157,509	972,890	31,034	67,880	972,984	1,538,192	(2,352,145)
Movement in bank account								
Specific Funds		447,874	1,420,764	478,908	515,754	1,488,738	3,026,931	674,786
Library Fund								
Income								
1161	Donations & Gifts - Library	2,814	2,000	2,165	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
1351	Interest Common Fund - Library	15,571	13,300	6,471	15,500	15,600	15,600	15,600
1651	Sundry Income - Library	112	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income		18,497	15,300	8,636	18,500	18,600	18,600	18,600
Expenditure								
2062	Bank Charges Library Fund	237	240	45	240	240	240	240
2131	Computer software: Logos licences		10,000		15,932	10,000	10,000	10,000
2182	Depreciation Library Equipment	1,290	342	1,590	1,590	4,323	2,000	82
2521	Library Books	31,160	30,000	9,420	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2523	Higher Degree by Research books	2,593	8,800	1,176	2,200	4,400	4,400	4,400
2529	Library Magazines & Journals	20,998	30,000	8,142	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery Library	4,495	6,000	1,234	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2814	Library Wages	41,414	40,903	17,305	40,903	41,721	42,555	43,407
2871	Superannuation Library	4,030	4,090	1,731	4,090	4,172	4,256	4,341
Total Expenses		106,217	130,375	40,643	120,955	120,856	119,451	118,469
Surplus/(Deficit) Library Fund		(87,720)	(115,075)	(32,007)	(102,455)	(102,256)	(100,851)	(99,869)

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Chinese Program - Specific Donations								
Income								
1170	Donations	7,909	10,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Income		7,909	10,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Expenditure								
2051	ACT affiliation fees	-	5,550	-	5,550	6,800	6,800	6,800
2522	Chinese Books	9,929	10,000	74	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
2815	Library assistant - Casual	12,000	13,200	5,082	13,200	13,200	13,200	13,200
2875	Superannuation Library Assistant	1,140	-	508	508	-	-	-
2815	Chinese Admin Assistant	-	12,000	-	-	12,441	11,388	11,616
Total Expenses		23,069	40,750	5,664	29,258	42,441	41,388	41,616
Surplus/(Deficit) Chinese Program		(15,160)	(30,750)	(3,664)	(24,258)	(37,441)	(36,388)	(36,616)
2535	Library expenses paid from General Budget	99,332	135,825	36,661	126,713	139,697	137,239	136,485
Surplus/(Deficit) Library Fund (inc Chinese)		(3,549)	(10,000)	990	0	0	0	0
Specific Funds		0	0	2,580	0	0	0	0
Perpetual Funds		98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964
H Swanton Bequest - Perpetual		123,377	123,377	123,377	123,377	123,377	123,377	123,377
Fernside Trust								
Income								
1353	Interest Common Fund - Fernside	101,536	85,000	42,231	102,000	100,000	101,000	102,000
Total Income		101,536	85,000	42,231	102,000	100,000	101,000	102,000
Expenditure								
2793	Manse Allowance-Specific	97,240	97,236	40,517	97,236	97,236	97,236	97,236
Total Expenses		97,240	97,236	40,517	97,236	97,236	97,236	97,236
Surplus/(Deficit) Fernside Trust		4,296	(12,236)	1,715	4,764	2,764	3,764	4,764
Specific Funds		167,592	129,356	159,620	146,356	109,120	85,884	62,648
Indexation of Capital		(13,560)	26,000	(9,687)	26,000	40,000	27,000	28,000
Perpetual Funds		1,293,738	1,319,738	1,303,425	1,319,738	1,359,738	1,386,738	1,414,738

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Bursary Trusts								
Income								
1162	Donations & Gifts - Bursaries	10,535	20,000	3,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
1163	Donations-Harman Scholarship	16,140	-	200	200	-	-	-
1167	Distributions from GAA - Whyte	-	-	24,836	24,836	-	-	-
1081	GMP Funding - Bursaries	65,463	54,684	40,467	53,043	40,000	30,000	15,000
1352	Interest Common Fund - Bursaries	81,459	70,100	33,417	83,700	83,800	82,900	82,100
1355	Interest Whyte Scholarship Fund	8,242	6,800	3,235	9,000	8,200	6,400	6,900
1360	Interest - Oliver Trust	17,567	14,600	7,455	19,400	19,600	19,600	19,600
1361	Interest - Harman	2,534	-	1,367	1,367	-	-	-
Total Income		201,940	166,184	113,977	201,546	161,600	148,900	133,600
Expenditure								
2072	Bursaries - Specific - Kent	20,235	-	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
2076	Bursaries (Oliver)	10,250	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
2078	Bursaries (Whyte)	29,563	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	20,000	20,000
2073	Scholarships - Candidates	89,400	68,750	-	73,590	80,000	80,000	80,000
2074	Scholarships - Other (Categories 2 to 5)	36,840	35,566	-	31,095	25,861	26,508	19,653
Total Expenses		186,288	159,316	2,500	162,185	160,861	151,508	144,653
Surplus/(Deficit) Bursaries		15,652	6,868	111,478	39,361	739	(2,608)	(11,053)
	Specific Funds - Bursary Fund	399,221	439,689	473,606	438,780	427,160	415,613	406,668
	Specific Funds - Whyte Scholarship Fund	112,869	89,669	140,940	116,705	91,069	99,269	99,769
	Specific Funds - Oliver Trust	232,568	222,168	240,023	226,968	227,168	227,168	227,168
Total Specific Funds for Bursary		744,658	751,526	854,569	782,453	745,397	742,050	733,605
	Perpetual Funds - Bursary Fund	757,682	757,682	757,682	757,682	757,682	757,682	757,682
	Perpetual Funds - Oliver Trust	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
	Perpetual Funds - A&M Harman Scholarship	51,676	51,676	53,243	53,243	53,243	53,243	53,243
Total Perpetual Funds for Bursary		835,358	835,358	836,925	836,925	836,925	836,925	836,925
Prizes Trusts								
Income								
1354	Interest Common Fund - Prizes	12,320	10,600	5,106	12,600	12,500	12,500	12,500
Total Income		12,320	10,600	5,106	12,600	12,500	12,500	12,500
Expenditure								
2084	Prizes Specific	7,888	12,000	-	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total Expenses		7,888	12,000	0	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Surplus/(Deficit) Prizes		4,432	(1,400)	5,106	600	500	500	500
	Specific Funds	146,968	145,568	152,074	147,568	148,068	148,568	149,068
	Perpetual Funds	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	5 Months to Nov-21	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Diaconal Fund								
Income								
1357	Interest Common Fund - Diaconal	16,305	13,800	6,778	16,600	15,900	15,300	14,700
Total Income		16,305	13,800	6,778	16,600	15,900	15,300	14,700
2075	Scholarships - Diaconals Funds	15,840	19,278	-	22,980	24,129	24,129	24,129
Total Expenses		15,840	19,278	0	22,980	24,129	24,129	24,129
Surplus/(Deficit) Diaconal Fund		465	(5,478)	6,778	(6,380)	(8,229)	(8,829)	(9,429)
Specific Funds		233,013	227,535	239,791	226,633	218,404	209,575	200,146
Miscellaneous Trusts - Hopkins, Overseas Students								
Income								
1356	Interest C Fund - Hopkins	2,793	2,267	1,147	2,700	2,749	2,942	3,148
1358	Interest O/S Student Fund	5,630	4,915	2,390	5,000	4,578	4,899	5,242
Total Income		8,423	7,182	3,536	7,700	7,327	7,840	8,389
Expenditure								
2077	Scholarships (Overseas Students)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2813	Salaries - Preaching Lecturer (Hopkins)	3,218	6,972	-	3,486	6,972	6,972	6,972
2925	Travel and Accommodation (Hopkins)	-	-	428	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses		3,218	6,972	428	3,486	6,972	6,972	6,972
Surplus/(Deficit) Miscellaneous		5,205	210	3,108	4,214	355	868	1,417
Specific Funds		96,977	97,187	100,085	101,191	101,546	102,414	103,831
Perpetual Funds		26,225	26,225	26,225	26,225	26,225	26,225	26,225
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		228,235	(138,477)	105,076	107,497	(30,780)	24,919	62,873
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		184,011	950,854	160,208	110,439	969,113	1,531,888	(2,365,945)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		412,246	812,377	265,284	217,936	938,333	1,556,806	(2,303,072)
Total Specific Funds		1,837,082	2,771,936	1,987,627	1,919,954	2,811,273	4,315,422	1,924,085
Total Perpetual Funds		2,408,177	2,434,177	2,419,430	2,435,743	2,475,743	2,502,743	2,530,743

Women's Ministries Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 7.0%						Budget for Approval 7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
Account No	Description	2020/2021 Actual	2021/2022 Budget	7 Months to Jan-22	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Proposed	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund General		-	258	800	1,600	1,583	1,518
1160	Donations: Congregations & Presbyteries		35,000	9,755	16,723	10,000	16,000	22,000
1080	GMP seed funding - for cashflow		5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
1080	GMP		5,000	4,157	5,000	5,000	5,400	5,400
1060	Bookstall		1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1061	Bookstall costs		(1,000)	(250)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
1660	Event income over 4 conferences		6,000	127	6,000	7,000	8,000	8,000
Total Income		0	51,000	19,047	33,523	23,600	30,983	36,918
Expenditure								
2580	Event expenses over 4 conferences		8,000	1,327	8,000	7,000	8,000	8,000
2220	Training and resources		700	-	700	700	1,000	1,000
2700	Advertsing, web hosting, admin		1,000	-	1,000	500	500	500
2810	Women's Ministry Facilitator - Wages & on costs		35,000	-	-	14,600	21,000	27,000
2910	Telephone		360	-	360	380	400	400
2950	Workcover		-	275	275			
Total Expenses			45,060	1,601	10,335	23,180	30,900	36,900
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations			5,940	17,446	23,188	420	83	18
General Funds		0	5,040	17,446	23,188	22,608	21,691	20,709
Capital Items								
	Equipment		900		900	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Capital Expenditure		0	900	0	900	1,000	1,000	1,000

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE (Min 9)

The 2021 General Assembly, among other things, determined in minute 60 to:

4. Authorise the 2022 Commission of Assembly to receive and deal with the Position Description and Terms of Settlement for the Church Planting Officer (however titled).
6. Send the current draft Church Planting Officer position description and draft Terms of Settlement to all presbyteries with all suggestions and comments made by presbyteries or presbytery members to be submitted to the CPC by 31 March 2022 for consideration.

Several presbyteries have responded, and the committee now presents to the Assembly for consideration a revised Position Description and revised Terms of Employment.

The most significant change arising from presbytery responses and committee discussions is the shift from an exclusive full-time position to a position that could be part-time.

To help members of the Assembly find the changes within the long Position Description, the committee highlights the following two changes made to the draft that was presented to the 2021 General Assembly:

1. The clause 'Report to the Assembly annually by means of an addendum to the CPC report' was removed.
2. The clause 'The appointment is full-time (1.0 EFT)' was changed to 'The appointment shall be up to full-time (1.0 EFT)'.

The Terms of Settlement have been renamed Terms of Employment because this better fits the context, and the Terms are now expressed with a *pro-rata* provision to provide the necessary flexibility to allow for an appointment that is up to full-time.

Next Steps

If the Commission is pleased to approve the Position Description and Terms of Employment, the committee will proceed to advertise the position according to rule 5.19.3 and to receive nominations. After considering all nominations and applicants, the committee will proceed to interview prospective candidates so that it can bring a name to the 2022 General Assembly for appointment in keeping with minute 60.5 of the 2021 General Assembly.

Cameron Garrett
CONVENER

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min 10)

Proposed Rates

Each Commission, the committee presents proposed Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MMR) rates for approval for the coming financial year. Last Assembly, a new calculation system was approved (BB 2021 min 65.7), and MMR rates are now based upon external reference figures published by the Government either through the ABS or the ATO. The two reference figures from which all PCV rates will be derived in the 2022–2023 financial year are as follows:

1. \$0.72 per km, published by the ATO.⁵
2. \$1,862.40 per week, published by the ABS.⁶

The committee notes that the ATO figure remains unchanged, while the ABS figure has increased from \$1,794.20 (Nov 2020) to \$1,862.40 (Nov 2021), which represents an increase of 3.8%.

Below is a table of the current year and proposed MMR rates and the percentage change.

Table 1: Previous and Proposed Rates

	2021–2022	2022–2023	% change
Remuneration			
MMR	57,360	59,064	+2.9%
Min Stipend of MMR	37,536	38,400	+2.3%
Max NCB of MMR	19,824	20,664	+4.1%
Min Superannuation	8,604	8,868	+3.0%
Sustentation Qualifying Stipend	28,932	29,532	+2.0%
Supply Rates			
One Service	148	148	no change
Two Services	171	177	+3.5%
Three Services	204	207	+1.3%
Two or more sermons	268	266	-0.8%
Travel Rate per km	0.50	0.54	+8.0%
LSL Levy	410	410	no change

⁵ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/average-weekly-earnings-australia/latest-release>

⁶ <https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Income-and-deductions-for-business/Deductions/Deductions-for-motor-vehicle-expenses/Cents-per-kilometre-method/>

Remuneration

The committee is aware that the proposed MMR rates appear to represent significant increases.

Travel Rate

The greatest increase for many will result from the increase in the travel rate. This change will have a more significant impact on vacant charges and those charges where the minister travels beyond 6,000km annually. Some may feel the pressure this will put on congregations and may even fear the increase will shut doors in various quarters. It is worth remembering that over the past four years, those who have been serving have been absorbing the costs of inflation. PCV's rates are not as generous as the PCQ, which has been \$0.66/km since 1 Nov 2020, or the PCNSW, set from 1 Jan 2022 at \$0.64/km. The committee also seeks to remind the Assembly that the current rate (\$0.50/km) has been in place since 1 Jul 2017 and has remained unchanged for five years. This has been a great blessing for which many praise God.

Ultimately, it is right for congregations to bear this increased cost, as the workers are indeed worth their wages (1 Tim 5:18).

Superannuation

The PCV superannuation rate continues to be 15% of actual remuneration (see 2008 Commission min 11.6a). This rate is equal to the PCQ rate but lower than the PCNSW rate of 16%. The committee brings to the attention of the Commission that from 1 Jul 2022, the PCNSW superannuation rate will be 16.5% of actual remuneration.

Long Serve Leave (LSL) Levy

On 1 Jul 2021, some 103 persons were covered by the PCV LSL Fund. It has taken the committee some time to confirm ministry arrangements. This is true not only due to documentation at times lacking sufficient detail (see above), but at times documentation does not exist (many appointments still do not have contracts in place), but at other times the committee has not been notified of the beginning or end of a ministry.

It seems well known that some of these 103 persons are serving part-time. However, the committee has not received any documentation concerning these part-time arrangements. This is odd, as every part-time ministry must receive both presbytery and MMC approval annually (Rule 4.71). Indeed, part-time ministries have occurred for many years without a single request from a presbytery seeking the concurrence of the MMC for the appointment to progress.

Without information to the contrary, the MMC must assume that each one of the 103 persons engaged in ministry on 1 Jul 2021 is full-time for the purposes of potential liability. This means that this year, the MMC has needed to set aside a provision for 132.6 weeks of liability. This liability represents \$146,268, based on the current MMR of \$57,360.

From the 'responsible bodies', \$42,230 was invoiced in March, which is \$104,038 less than the liability. As some of the liability may never be realised, together with a healthy balance (\$1,507,469 on 31/12/2021) and good interest, the LSL Fund appears to be able to meet its obligations.

Once the committee has an accurate picture of LSL, the committee will be better placed to evaluate the long term suitability of the levy to meet the LSL Fund's obligations, and if interest rates remain unchanged, a decrease from the current 0.7% of MMR may be possible in the future.

The PCV LSL Levy is significantly lower than the PCNSW and PCQ rates.

Long Service Leave Records

The committee has spent much time collecting and verifying information to ensure the records held by the committee are correct and up to date. The committee (at the time of writing) is about to conclude its first review. In this first review, the committee has found discrepancies in more than thirty existing records and records completely missing for nine individuals.

The work of the committee has been, at times, incredibly challenging. The information needed by the committee to confirm LSL entitlements is found in multiple locations, and while reviewing what is a significant corpus of documentation, the committee has found a general lack of precision in minutes and the associated descriptions of ministries. The start dates, end dates, and, if applicable, Full Time Equivalent (FTE), are often absent and, if present, are at times incomplete or inaccurate.

A better system is needed so that no ministry worker is disadvantaged. If a universally adopted system were adhered to, the committee and the ministry workers (who are now responsible for the accuracy of their own LSL records) would both benefit greatly. It may also lead to a lower LSL Levy as entitlements would be known accurately, and no provision for inaccurate records or unknown ministry workers would be necessary.

Statistical Returns

Last year the Ministry Development Committee (MDC) collected statistical returns from across the state. For the first time since the 1990s, financial figures were also collected. As the Annual Charge Report return rate has been quite abysmal for some time, it is the first accurate snapshot of the financial giving and reserves of congregations in many years.

The MDC, in their report to the 2021 GAV, highlighted the financial situation of many churches where ministry is not funded by the giving of the saints but is reliant on investment income, grants, or eating into reserves. This is, in the view of the MMC, not sustainable. Presbyteries would do well to reflect on the financial sustainability of congregations within their jurisdictions. As part of this consideration, Presbyteries would be wise also to consider if congregations have incomes that are growing at a rate less than the CPI (Consumer Price Index). If incomes are slowly falling behind, it will only be a matter of time before the ever-rising costs of insurance, utilities, supply, and other expenses (ongoing maintenance) will have significant consequences. For some, this will mean the possible severing of the pastoral tie, joining congregations, or a ministry model where there is no local minister or home missionary.

Once the 2021 statistics are complete, presbyteries will have ready access to the information needed to consider the financial situation of congregations compared with the same time last year. While one year is not a trend, and these past two years have been far from usual, presbyteries will be able to give due diligence to their responsibility of having oversight of the affairs within their jurisdiction.

Comparative Rates

The committee provides a comparison of rates for Assembly members to quickly see how the PCV compares to the other large State Churches.

	PCV		PCNSW		PCQ							
YEAR start	1 Jul 2021	1 Jul 2022	1 Jan 2022		1 Apr 2022							
	Actual	Proposal	Metro	Country	Urban	Provinci al	Rural	Remote	Urban	Provinci al	Rural	Remote
					No Manse				Manse Provided			
Stipend	37,536	38,400	44,287		36,229	36,956	37,683	39,138	36,229	36,956	37,683	39,138
NCB	19,824	20,664	18,980		12,910	13,644	14,365	15,820	12,910	13,644	14,365	15,820
Manse Allowance					23,304							
Travel Allowance // Ministry Expense			11,043	14,355	11,128	12,038	15,730	16,926	11,128	12,038	16,926	16,926
Technology Allowance			500									
SUBTOTAL	57,360	59,064	74,310	77,622	83,571	85,462	90,602	94,708	60,267	62,638	68,974	71,884
NCB Nominal Rate	35%	35%	30%		50%							
Superannuation Rate	15.0%	15.0%	16.0%		15.0%							
SUPERANNUATION	8,604	8,868	10,123		7,371	7,590	7,807	8,244	7,371	7,590	7,807	8,244
Long Service Leave Provision	410	410	1,012		1,228	1,265	1,301	1,374	1,228	1,265	1,301	1,374
MINIMUM COST TO CHARGE	66,374	68,342	85,445	88,757	92,171	94,317	99,711	104,325	68,867	71,493	78,083	81,501
comparison to PCV 1 July 2021		1,960	19,071	22,383	25,797	27,943	33,337	37,951	2,493	5,119	11,709	15,127
comparison to PCV 1 July 2021	100%	103%	129%	134%	139%	142%	150%	157%	104%	108%	118%	123%
Supply Travel \$/km	0.50	0.54	0.64		0.66							
Supply (one service)	148	148	85		100							

Dennis Wright
CONVENER

NOMINATIONS FOR MODERATOR-DESIGNATE (Min 6)

The following nomination for the position of Moderator-Designate 2022 has been received:

Rev Peter William Phillips (retired minister): presbyteries of Geelong and North Western Victoria.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE (Min 11)

The Safe Church Committee brings this report in response to the instruction of the October 2021 General Assembly: 'Instruct the Safe Church Committee to report to the 2022 Commission on the new Victorian Child Safe Standards' (BB 2021 min 29.6).

This is a lengthy report, and Commission members might wonder why the committee has deemed it necessary to give such detail. With the new Child Safe Standards commencing soon, the committee wants to go to this length for two reasons:

1. To assure members that the Presbyterian Church of Victoria can comply with the standards as they stand;
2. To provide a resource for members to return to when they wonder how the PCV complies.

The report contains some important background material that shows these standards, generally, are not specific to Victoria. A phrase from the 2021 Blue Book provides wisdom for the PCV as it considers how to interact with the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP). Then the official PCV statements further set the context in which the PCV ministers to children and young people and further confirm the context and setting in which the PCV applies these standards.

The final section of this report entitled 'PCV Compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards' should be read along with the Information Sheet also provided.

The committee acknowledges the magnificent work done by the Safe Church Facilitator, Fiona Bligh, in preparing this report.

Should Commission members have any questions, they may forward them to Rev Brian Harvey, Convener, before the Commission.

New Victorian Child Safe Standards—2022

Background and Context

The new Victorian Child Safe Standards will commence in Victoria on 1 July 2022. The Standards are implemented via the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic).

The new Victorian Child Safe Standards are the Victorian Government's adoption and version of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The following information is from the Australian Federal Government website <https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles/about-national-principles>:

As of February 2019, the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations [<https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles>] have been endorsed by members of the Council of Australian Governments, including the Prime Minister and state and territory First Ministers. The principles aim to provide a nationally consistent approach to creating organisational cultures that foster child safety and wellbeing.

The National Principles reflect ten child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and are the vehicle for giving effect to recommendations relating to the standards. The

National Principles have a broader scope that goes beyond child sexual abuse to cover other forms of potential harm to children and young people.

The National Principles are:

1. Child safety and wellbeing are embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld, and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child-focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

The National Principles are:

- Underpinned by a child-rights, strengths-based approach.
- Designed to allow for flexibility in implementation across all sectors engaging with children and young people, and in organisations of various sizes.
- Aligned with existing child safe approaches at the state and territory level.

Each State and Territory in Australia has committed to introducing State and Territory-based legislation to ensure compliance with these principles by all organisations with children within the States and Territories. Therefore, each State-based Church within the PCA will need to comply with essentially the same principles.

The new Victorian Government Standards have two distinct aspects to the implementation of the national principles:

- a) The inclusion of an additional standard in relation to the safety of Aboriginal children in organisations.
- b) Minimum requirements have been set out to aid organisations in understanding how to comply within their setting and context.

The PCV complies with the current Victorian Child Safe Standards and, as a result, is already compliant with the minimum requirements of new Standards 2–11, as set out in this report. Additional work has been undertaken to ensure the compliance of the PCV with Standard 1 (see later in this report).

Guidance provided by the CCYP is that organisations implement the Standards within the setting and context of each organisation. This approach is necessary given the vast array and diversity of the thousands of organisations within Victoria which are required to comply with the standards. The Commission advises that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to compliance.

The Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority is the regulator for school compliance with the new Standards. The regulator for non-school organisations (such as the PCV) is the CCYP. The compliance approach is different between the two government bodies by virtue of the different nature of the organisations each body regulates and the different powers each body has. The PCV is not a school, and hence the implementation of the Standards within the PCV is not the same as the implementation of the Standards within a school setting.

In the preparation of this report, the words in section 4.2.1 on page 197 of the 2021 Blue Book, contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee: *To Consider the Denomination's Response to the passing of the Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation*, have been especially helpful, as it is considered that the approach outlined here is particularly relevant, should the PCV encounter an audit by the CCYP in regards to compliance with the new Standards, or should the PCV be the subject of a complaint to the CCYP in regards to compliance with the new Standards. The following should be read in the light of section 4.2.1, as the words below are a direct 'cut and paste' of this section, with minor changes made to reflect the different context. This report particularly acknowledges the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for the inspiration and wisdom provided in section 4.2.1.

General Principles of interaction with the Commission for Children and Young People

- a) The Assembly should accept until there is evidence to the contrary that the operation of the CCYP is fair and reasonable and the new Child Safe Standards are a response to the desire of all Victorians that children be safe from abuse in organisations. In its engagement, the Church should seek to 'do what is good in the sight of all' (Rom 12:17).
- b) While it will be difficult, as the process of an audit or response to a complaint can make one defensive, one ought not to respond to an audit or response to a complaint as if to a threat.
- c) The PCV should submit to the government where its rulings and activities do not require disobedience to God.
- d) It should be remembered that the goal is not vindication but to enhance the reputation of Christ in the community, and so all engagement should evidence the 'obedience of faith.'
- e) Christians should make sure that if the life and practice of the Church in regards to child safety are examined, the Church will be of such a character, so rich in doing good, that it can 'silence the ignorance of foolish people' (1 Pet 2:11–17) with Christians in the Church living 'such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us' (1 Pet 2:12).

PCV Compliance with the New Child Safe Standards

In accordance with the current guidance provided by the CCYP (as at the date of this report being written), the PCV implements the Victorian Child Safe Standards within the context and setting of our Church. To explain the context and setting of the Church,

the following information from page 3 of the PCV Code Book 2021 is included below, as follows:

Presbyterian Church of Victoria Vision Statement

As part of the redeemed people of God, having been brought out of darkness into God's light through faith in Jesus Christ, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria seeks to glorify and enjoy God—as Father, Son and Holy Spirit—serving, loving, and obeying him, in the light of his revealed Word, the Bible.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria holds the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant revelation of God, a book fully trustworthy to guide the Church in all matters of faith and practice. Embracing this particular view of the inspiration of Scripture means that our work and witness have distinctive guiding values, these being expressed in what is known as:

- reformed doctrines and church practice;
- the confessional position of the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) as read in the light of the declaratory statement adopted by this church in 1901

We seek to serve and obey God by:

- worshipping God in Spirit and truth;
- edifying God's people by teaching God's Word in order that they become mature in Christ, living a holy life;
- evangelising the lost through proclaiming and living the gospel;
- engaging in social witness, demonstrating God's love and righteousness in both word and deed.

By being faithful in these things, it is our passionate prayer that, by God's grace:

- lives will be changed according to the pattern of Christ's life;
- there will be growth and maturity in existing churches;
- the unsaved will come to faith in Christ;
- new churches will be planted;
- and in all this, churches will have an effect in changing society's values for good.

In pursuing this mission, we seek to:

- depend at all times on God's leading;
- be aware of the culture in which we minister;
- be prepared to take bold steps to fulfil this mission in the State of Victoria, throughout Australia, and toward all parts of the world.

Our specific goal, both individually and as a denomination, is to be engaged in making disciples of the Lord Jesus, to direct all our efforts to preaching repentance to God and faith in Jesus, and to nurturing those who believe the gospel.

Summary Vision Statement

By God's grace, we exist to glorify and enjoy God through worship, teaching God's Word, evangelism and social interaction, always in the light of the inspired Scriptures and relying on God's presence, power and wisdom.

Further information on the PCV setting and context:

The PCV provides ministry to children under 18 via:

- The churches in the denomination which have children's ministry programmes in place
- PCV organisation—Presbyterian Youth Victoria (PYV)
- PCV organisation—Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU)

The vast majority of people providing ministry to children are unpaid volunteers.

Not all PCV churches offer children's ministries. In some churches, there may be no children attending or participating and in other churches, whilst there may be children attending Sunday church services with their parents, there may not be specific children's ministries in operation.

Participation by children in PCV ministries is voluntary and is determined by the decision of the child/ren's parent(s)/guardian(s). Parent(s)/guardian(s) who choose to allow their child/ren to participate in a children's ministry in the PCV do so in the knowledge that the children's ministries uphold the Christian faith as expressed in the PCV Vision Statement and beliefs. PCV churches which operate children's ministries are clear that the Christian faith will be taught and upheld to children in these ministries.

If people from outside the PCV, of any faith or no faith, of any ethnicity, people group or culture, choose to allow their child/ren to participate in any PCV children's ministry, it has been made clear through the information provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) prior, and through the promotional material relating to the particular children's ministry, that their child/ren will be attending a ministry activity which upholds the Christian faith (as expressed in the PCV Vision Statement and beliefs).

Experience in PCV churches and organisations has shown that the majority of parent(s)/guardian(s) of participating child/ren *require* that their child/ren will be taught faith and values in PCV children's ministries, in accordance with the PCV Vision Statement and beliefs, and in accordance with their own faith and beliefs.

Children's ministry programmes and activities include, but are not limited to:

- PYV camps for children in secondary school and specific ministry activities and events, such as bush dances and specific bible teaching events.
- PWMU Dayspring Magazine for children (sent three times a year to primary aged children via subscription) and the annual Dayspring Day, which is a one-day event including bible teaching, games, stories, and activities.
- Children's Bible Talk in church services – for primary aged children (offered during the Sunday church service at some PCV churches. Children come to the front of the Church during the service for a children's bible talk. Parents/guardians of children participating are always present)
- Sunday School (a weekly Bible lesson for children provided at some PCV church services in school terms on Sundays. Duration of the lessons: approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on local circumstances)
- Youth Group – for children aged years 7-12 (a weekly group for children provided at some PCV churches in school terms. Duration of the youth group sessions: approximately 1-2 hours, depending on local circumstances)
- Kids Club – for primary aged children (a weekly group for children provided at some PCV churches in school terms. Duration of the Kids Club sessions: approximately 1-2 hours, depending on local circumstances)

- Holiday Club - for primary aged children (offered in school holidays once a year at some PCV churches. Duration of the Holiday Club sessions: approximately 1-3 hours, on 2-3 days, depending on local circumstances)
- Creche – for children under school age (child-minding for parents attending the Church, offered by some PCV churches during the church service sermon time. Duration of creche sessions: approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on local circumstances)
- Playgroups and Mainly Music—play and music programmes with a Christian focus, for children under school age. Children attend with their parent(s)/guardian(s) at all times.
- Christian discipleship and training programmes for children aged 16-17 years of age (a voluntary programme available in some PCV churches).

Note: the following information is provided as an explanatory note to new Child Safe Standard 1:

Standard 1 – Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

There is an absence of an official denominational position on the subject of Aboriginal Australia and Australians. However, the committee is advised that the General Assembly of Australia is currently working to produce a statement relating to this subject matter from a more holistic viewpoint. In addition, the committee is waiting for further information about this Standard to be released by CCYP.

The following information about how to implement cultural safety for Aboriginal children has been provided by subject matter expert, Adele Cox from SNAICC – National Voice for our Children. This is the national non-governmental peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. SNAICC works for the fulfilment of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, in particular, to ensure their safety, development and wellbeing. Adele spoke on cultural safety in a new Child Safe Standards compliance guidance webinar provided by ChildSafe on 2 February 2022. Adele noted:

- There is great cultural diversity across the many nations of Aboriginal people in Australia. Hence, local initiatives by organisations are especially helpful to make sure the organisation is welcoming and safe for the Aboriginal children and families who reside in that particular locality.
- Cultural safety means that Aboriginal children are included; treated fairly; respected; are free to talk about and have acknowledged their differences and culture; have access to speaking their mother tongue and have a right to visit country and learn about their history, culture, and language.
- Organisations which are empathetic, understanding and conscious of the importance of culture, language, and history to Aboriginal children, are important to ensuring that Aboriginal children are culturally safe in the organisation.

PCV Compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards

Please read the next section in reference to the CCYP fact sheet provided with this report, 'Victoria's new Child Safe Standards', which sets out the minimum requirements under each Standard.

Standard 1 – Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

- 1.1** Christians recognise the uniqueness of each child as a person made in the image of God, with unique cultural and linguistic backgrounds that are safely expressed and lived out within the unity of the Church in Christ Jesus.

The PCV is committed to actively supporting and facilitating Aboriginal children to be welcomed; included; treated fairly; respected; encouraged to participate in the children's ministries; and be free to talk about and have acknowledged their differences and culture within the PCV.

Making people welcome and practising hospitality to all (including Aboriginal children) is a key biblical value:

- Matthew 25: 42-46
- 1 Timothy 5:10
- Titus 1:8
- 1 Peter 4:9
- Romans 12:13
- Hebrews 13:2
- Galatians 6:10
- Exodus 22:21
- Exodus 23:9
- Leviticus 19:33-34

- 1.2** The information contained within this section will be included on the PCV Safe Church website, along with links to resources by Aboriginal Christian evangelical bible-based organisations. When the relevant GAA statement is finalised, this statement will also be linked to on the PCV Safe Church website. Sessions in individual PCV churches are also able to implement local initiatives and strategies as they see fit, over and above this.

- 1.3** Racism towards children is unbiblical, sinful and will not be tolerated in the PCV.

- Galatians 3:28 says, 'all are one in Christ Jesus'.
- Colossians 3:11–15 says, 'Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free, but Christ is all and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.'
- Romans 15:7 says, 'Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.'

The PCV is committed to addressing any instances of racism towards children with appropriate consequences and will consider and respond to each instance with seriousness and gravity. Complaints of racism against children under 18 are to be made to the Session of each Church or the Safe Church Unit.

1.4 The PCV recognises that Aboriginal families who participate in the children's ministries of the PCV will be doing so as people who find their identity in Christ Jesus and who also identify as Aboriginal or who are seeking to find out more about Christianity.

- John 1:12
- 1 Corinthians 12:27
- Galatians 3:27–28

1.5 See 1.1–4.

Standard 2 – Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

2.1 PCV Safe Church Policy

2.2 PCV Safe Church is the expression of a child-safe culture in the PCV. PCV Safe Church has been established and championed by the General Assembly of the PCV and is implemented in all PCV churches and in all PCV organisations via Sessions, Presbyteries, Committees and Councils, Safe Church Representatives (in all PCV charges) and PCV employees and volunteers. Relevant documents and programmes include the PCV Code Book, Safe Church Policy, Code of Conduct, Safe Church Policy, Procedure & Practice Manual, and Safe Church Training.

2.3 The General Assembly has mandated that PCV Safe Church be implemented at all levels of the PCV, funds the Safe Church Unit to facilitate and implement PCV Safe Church and has included mandatory child safety requirements for employees and volunteers in particular roles in the PCV Code Book. The Safe Church Committee reports on an annual basis to the General Assembly of the PCV.

2.4 PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct

2.5 Use of Person of Concern Strategy (i.e. Safety Agreements and Risk Management Plans) and Risk Assessments in the PCV via PCV Safe Church. These strategies and measures are child-focussed, as the purpose of implementing these strategies and measures is to protect children from abuse in the PCV.

2.6 Accomplished via PCV Safe Church Policy, Procedure & Practice Manual, Safe Church Training, PCV Privacy Policy programme, resources and training, regular Safe Church newsletters and updates sent to the PCV by the Safe Church Unite and the PCV Safe Church website.

Standard 3 – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

3.1 Accomplished via the use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church and via the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches, Committee work and PCV organisations.

3.2 Accomplished via the use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church and via the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches

- 3.3** This is not applicable to the PCV as in the PCV setting, this is a parental responsibility, not the responsibility of the PCV.
- 3.4** Accomplished via Safe Church Training and via the use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church and via the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches, Committee work and PCV organisations.
- 3.5** Accomplished via Safe Church Training and via the use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church and via the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches, Committee work and PCV organisations.
- 3.6** Accomplished via Safe Church Training and via the use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church and via the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches, Committee work and PCV organisations.

Standard 4- Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

- 4.1** Accomplished via:
- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
 - use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church
 - the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches, Committee work and PCV organisations.
- 4.2** PCV Safe Church is promoted in all PCV churches and organisations via the Safe Church website, brochures, display of the Safe Church Policy and Safe Church Unit Contact Details poster as a requirement in all PCV churches, availability of the Safe Church Manual in all churches, and via PCV churches and organisations websites and Safe Church posters. In addition, the Safe Church Committee publishes a report in the General Assembly of Victoria Blue Book every year, which is a publicly available document.
- 4.3** Accomplished via:
- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
 - Availability of the Safe Church Unit as the place for families in the PCV community to provide feedback and input to PCV Safe Church
 - PCV Safe Church website promotes that feedback is welcome to the Safe Church Unit
- 4.4** Accomplished via:
- PCV Code Book and governance information, including the governance structure of the PCV, are available at the PCV website and via PCV churches and organisations websites, the PCV Safe Church website, PCV newsletters, PCV Email Network, Fellow Workers magazine
 - existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations

Standard 5 – Equity is upheld, and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.

5.1 Accomplished via:

- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
- Safe Church Basic Training and resources

5.2 Accomplished via:

- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
- use of PCV Safe Church resources promoted and made available to the whole Church
- the implementation of these resources in practice in the PCV in local churches, Committee work and PCV organisations.

5.3 The PCV pays particular attention to the needs of diverse children in PCV churches and children's ministries by:

- Acknowledging that families have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of their child
- Strengthening the parents/guardians of children in the PCV in raising their children as Christians
- Showing children God's love
- Showing children understanding
- Teaching and encouraging children to follow God's blueprint for a happy life and flourishing in life
- Affirming all children's value as people made in the image of God
- Engaging in open, two-way communication with families about the particular needs of their children – especially in the case of children with diverse needs and circumstances – in order to create a children's ministry environment that seeks to be free of abuse and encourages the participation of children with diverse needs and circumstances
- Providing resources to the PCV to assist in paying particular attention to the needs of diverse children within the context and setting of the PCV.

5.4 See Standard 1.

Standard 6 – People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

6.1 Volunteer Approval Process and Appointments Process.

6.2 WWCC requirements as mandated by the law, PCV Code Book and the PCV Safe Church Manual.

6.3 Safe Church Training, local church training and support for people working with children in children's ministries, Privacy Policy programme, training and resources via the Safe Church PCV website.

6.4 PCV Safe Church Policy, Code of Conduct, Safe Church Training, existing practices and culture in PCV churches and organisations.

Standard 7- Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focussed.

7.1 PCV Safe Church Manual.

- 7.2 Accomplished via the PCV Safe Church programme and the work of the Safe Church Unit in conjunction with PCV Sessions, Presbyteries, Committees and Councils.
- 7.3 Accomplished via the PCV Safe Church programme and the work of the Safe Church Unit in conjunction with PCV Sessions, Presbyteries, Committees and Councils.
- 7.4 PCV Safe Church Policy, Code of Conduct, PCV Safe Church Manual and the work of the Safe Church Committee and the Safe Church Unit.
- 7.5 Accomplished via PCV Safe Church Policy, Code of Conduct, PCV Safe Church Manual, PCV Law Agent and the work of the Safe Church Unit.

Standard 8 – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

- 8.1 PCV Safe Church Manual, Safe Church Training, the work of the Safe Church Unit and the PCV Safe Church website and resources.
- 8.2 PCV Safe Church Manual, Safe Church Training, the work of the Safe Church Unit and the PCV Safe Church website and resources.
- 8.3 PCV Safe Church Manual, Safe Church Training, the work of the Safe Church Unit and the PCV Safe Church website and resources.
- 8.4 PCV Safe Church Manual, Safe Church Training, the work of the Safe Church Unit and the PCV Safe Church website and resources.

Standard 9 – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

- 9.1 Safe Church Training and Safe Church resources, for example, *Online and Smart Phone Usage Guidelines, Your Digital Reputation*
- 9.2 Accomplished via:
 - existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
 - Safe Church Basic Training and resources
- 9.3 The Safe Church Unit has completed a Risk Assessment and Management Plan for the PCV as a whole and made available to the PCV a local church Risk Assessment and Management plan for use in the local church setting.
- 9.4 Not applicable to the PCV.

Standard 10 – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

- 10.1 Accomplished by:
 - the Safe Church Unit annual review of child safety policy, procedures and practices each January, encompassing evaluation and continuous improvement of child safety policy, procedures and practices

- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations.

10.2 Review is part of all responses to complaints, concerns, and safety incidents as part of the response and is conducted by one or more of the Safe Church Unit, the relevant PCV Committee, organisation, or council, the relevant court of the Church, and relevant ministry leaders and teams. Hence, this is accomplished by:

- the work of the Safe Church Unit
- existing practices and culture in PCV churches and organisations.

10.3 This would be undertaken by the Safe Church Committee should this occur.

Standard 11- Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

11.1 Accomplished by PCV Safe Church programme.

11.2 Accomplished by PCV Safe Church programme.

11.3 Accomplished by the work of the Safe Church Committee and the Safe Church Unit, in conjunction with PCV churches and organisations.

11.4 Accomplished by:

- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
- Safe Church Training.

11.5 Accomplished by:

- existing practices and a safe church culture in PCV churches and organisations
- Safe Church Training
- compliance by PCV sessions, presbyteries, Assembly, committees, organisations, and councils, with PCV Code Book and Safe Church requirements.

Brian Harvey
CONVENER

SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT (Min 12)

The committee was given two tasks at the October 2021 General Assembly of Victoria (GAV) in min 67.11. The first was to invite presbyteries to make nominations for certain General Assembly of Australia (GAA) committees and to bring competent nominations to the 2022 Commission of Assembly for approval. The second was to report to the 2022 Commission the names of those Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) members currently serving on said committees, along with their total years of service and an indication of their willingness to serve for another triennium.

In light of the next GAA meeting being delayed until 2023, the committee wishes to postpone reporting on nominations until the October 2022 GAV. Some presbyteries have submitted nominations but may wish to change them given the delay in the GAA. It also provides an opportunity for presbyteries who missed the 28 February deadline to make submissions.

The committee has thus far identified several PCV members who are members of the relevant GAA committees. These committees are those listed in min 67.11, except the Christian Education Committee, which has been discharged. The committee is still in the process of confirming these names, identifying total years of service and their willingness to continue serving.

NAME	COMMITTEE
Martin de Pyle	Defence Force Chaplaincy (Convener) Presbyterian Inland Mission
Chris Duke	Relations with Other Churches
Luke Isham	Public Worship and Aids to Devotion
Andrew Letcher	Finance
Richard O'Brien	Finance
Peter Owen	Defence Force Chaplaincy
Peter Phillips	Code
Barry Porter	Defence Force Chaplaincy
Gerald Vanderwert	Reception of Ministers
Chris Siriweera	Reception of Ministers
John Wilson	Relations with Other Churches (Convener) <i>ex officio on all committees</i>
Dennis Wright	Presbyterian Inland Mission

Adam Humphries
CONVENER

SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (Min 13)

The committee reports on how the petitions may be dealt with.

PETITION 1

From: Wyndham congregation

Re: use of Sites Reserve funds

Sites Reserve funds may be applied to projects according to the regulations of the BIF: reg 17(c)(i)B. This gives the Assembly the authority to decide this matter one way or another.

PETITION 2

From: Malvern congregation

Re: use of Sites Reserve funds

Sites Reserve funds may be applied to projects according to the regulations of the BIF: reg 17(c)(i)B. This gives the Assembly the authority to decide this matter one way or another.

PETITION 3

From: Ad Hoc Committee for the Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd

Re: alteration to section 15 of Constitution (chaplains)

Firstly, the committee suggests that the petition be permitted to come to the Assembly by, in this instance, waiving the requirements of the 30 days' notice rule (rule 5.54.2).

Secondly, the committee, while understanding the intent of the petitioner, suggests that the petitioner's request is not quite right. We refer the petitioners and members of Assembly to clause 10(a) of the constitution which says that any act of altering the constitution lies with the company itself to achieve provided that the conditions listed are met, namely:

- a) the Assembly gives consent to the short notice (usually it requires 3 months' notice);
- b) the Assembly approves the proposed alteration; and
- c) the company continues to be charity following the proposed alteration.

In other words, the Assembly does not alter the constitution, rather the company does that itself. The Assembly may approve both the short notice and the proposed alteration – should it wish to.

PETITION 1 (Min 14)
From: Wyndham congregation
Re: use of Sites Reserve funds


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

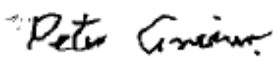
This petition shows that:

- a) The Congregation of Wyndham Presbyterian Church desires to increase the kerb appeal and safety of the property to ensure that the facilities are inviting.
- b) The Board of Management and congregation have recently completed a substantial maintenance program of the interior, painting the entire building, replacing mats, and refurbishing some furniture, and since the last General Assembly, what has emerged is the necessity to carry out plans for improving the exterior to complete the project.
- c) It is now over 25 years since the building was constructed, without much maintenance needed during that time, and the board and congregation hope that after the now proposed project is complete little significant maintenance work will be needed for several more years.
- d) The congregation desires and plans to surface the carpark with asphalt, install new signage, install pedestrian footpaths from the new pedestrian gate to the entrance of the church and install garden beds around the perimeter of the asphalt and the church.
- e) These improvements will improve the safety of the congregation and visitors by creating an even, stable surface from the carpark to the foyer entrance and so reduce trip and slip hazards (the congregation has several elderly and physically challenged persons who find the present earthen surface difficult to cross and a couple of worshippers have already fallen).
- f) At present, parking is haphazard and inadequate, the drainage is not adequate, and the car park is often underwater during winter; therefore, these improvements would improve functionality by maximising parking spaces, improving drainage, and controlling weeds.
- g) The planned improvements will enhance conformity to government regulations by creating accessible parking for people with disabilities and wheelchair-bound persons, eliminating the current tripping hazard upon entry to the church building and providing an adequate number of clearly marked car parking spaces for parishioners and others (including attenders at weddings and funerals), also adding permanent pedestrian footpaths.
- h) The firm of Roadseal Civic of Airport West has given the most satisfactory quote of \$167,750 for the work.

- i) There are currently funds amounting to approximately \$146,600 in Wyndham Sites Reserve Fund.
- j) At a congregational meeting held within WPC on 13 March 2022, it was agreed with a vote of greater than two-thirds of members present voting in favour to apply for the application of the entirety of its Sites Reserve Fund (approximately \$146,600) to this project of a new carpark and associated needs.
- k) At a Presbytery meeting held at Darebin on 16 March 2022, this request from WPC to apply for the use of its Sites Reserve Fund was approved.
- l) This project is now considered to be urgent and in need of executive action before another winter sets in and before an expected price rise cripples the project.

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned, on behalf of the congregation and pursuant to BIF reg 17(c)(i)B, ask the Commission of the General Assembly to approve: applying the entirety of the Wyndham Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund to the project described in recitals (a) to (l) above, namely a new carpark and associated needs, or do otherwise as in their wisdom they see fit.

Steven Letcher
Senior Clerk


Peter Greiner
Minister


PETITION 2 (Min 15)
From: Malvern congregation
Re: use of Sites Reserve funds

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

This Petition shows that:

- a) The Malvern congregation, while in vacancy during 2021, decided to make various repairs to the manse at 36 Thanet St, Malvern.
- b) As the year progressed, the full extent of the repairs required became apparent. For example, there were drainage issues, asbestos that needed to be removed, plumbing to be fixed, walls painted and mould to be removed. It was also discovered that previous renovations, for example, a sunroom at the back of the manse, estimated to be more than twenty years old, had not been properly constructed according to building standards.
- c) Additionally, the Board noted that relocating a toilet and opening up the kitchen (into the space previously occupied by the substandard sunroom) could make the manse more liveable and closer overall to the PCV Manse Standards.
- d) Therefore, because the scale of repairs and improvements was beyond any one manager or individual church member, a builder was contracted to assess the drainage issues, give recommendations and provide a quote for carrying out the work.
- e) The Board received a report (a short summary enclosed as an appendix, and the full 84-page version is available on request), approved it and put it to the congregation.
- f) At a special congregational meeting on Sunday, 13 Feb 2022, the congregation decided to apply for the application of sufficient Sites Reserve funds to carry out the repairs and improvements instead of either selling the manse or doing nothing. The motion was carried unanimously, 17 out of 17 members present voting in favour of the work and seeking Presbytery's permission.
- g) At an ordinary Presbytery meeting on 16 Feb 2022, the Presbytery of Melbourne East evaluated the request and approved the improvements being carried out, the application of sufficient Sites Reserve funds to complete the project, and a petition being brought to the Commission of Assembly.
- h) As per the Building and Property Committee regulations, these improvements have been inspected by the Building and Property Committee. If this Petition is approved and after the initial plumbing work is complete, the Malvern Board will again be consulting with the Building and Property Committee.
- i) This Petition should be considered emergent because of the dire situation of the manse's condition and the presentation of the report to the congregation, which took place since the last meeting of the General Assembly.

- j) This Petition should also be considered urgent and in need of executive action for the following reasons. Firstly, if this request is considered at the October meeting of the General Assembly, the manse will have been vacant for two years, compounding the building issues and creating a security issue as it sits empty. Secondly, the Malvern congregation hopes to have a liveable manse to accompany a call to a minister, God willing, later this year. Thirdly, each additional year of providing a manse allowance while the manse is vacant will unnecessarily drawdown Sites Reserve funds. Lastly, nearly a year's delay would require new quotes and possibly a higher cost.
- k) The Malvern Session has drafted a ministry plan (available on request) to support this Petition to demonstrate that the large expenditure of funds is not frivolous but accompanied by a desire to grow spiritually and numerically as a congregation.

Now, therefore, the Malvern congregation humbly petitions the Commission of Assembly to take these premises into consideration and pursuant to BIF reg 17(c)(i)B:

Approve the application of \$642,000 from Malvern Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund to pay for the project described in recitals (a) to (e) above and as described in detail in the attached builder's report, namely: repairs and renovations to the manse at 36 Thanet St, Malvern or do otherwise as in their wisdom they see fit.

Signed:

Luke Isham, Interim Moderator of Malvern Presbyterian Church

Dated: 22 Mar 2022

PETITION 3 (Min 17)
From: the Ad Hoc Committee for the
Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited
Re: alteration to section 15 of Constitution (chaplains)

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

This Petition shows that:

- a) the General Assembly of Victoria (GAV) established the Ad Hoc Committee for the Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited (AHEC or PCVL as required by the context) for the purpose of establishing PCVL which would then receive from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation the assets, liabilities and undertaking of Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes (“Kirkbrae”)
- b) as part of its ministry to the aged, Kirkbrae employs a Chaplain
- c) the GAV drafted and approved the Constitution of PCVL which requires, inter alia, that any Chaplain be a minister of good standing within the Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA)
- d) the position of Chaplain at Kirkbrae has been vacant since 3 January 2022 due to the retirement of the incumbent
- e) the notice of intention to resign was only communicated to AHEC in November 2021
- f) efforts to employ a new Chaplain has resulted in no applications from ministers within the PCA or, who in the opinion of AHEC would be acceptable to the Committee for the Reception of Ministers
- g) the position of Chaplain is not full time and so the pool of interested persons is small and the prospect of receiving an application from a suitably qualified PCA minister is seen as remote
- h) AHEC/PCVL consider the spiritual ministry to the aged is greatly prejudiced by a continuing vacancy and this can be solved by the appointment of a suitably qualified evangelical Protestant minister, or in the alternative, a suitably qualified elder

Now therefore AHEC in its own capacity and on behalf of PCVL, humbly petitions the Commission of the General Assembly to find that the matter is both urgent and emergent and thus appropriate to be dealt with by the Commission.

- Urgent on the basis that a protracted vacancy in the Chaplaincy is spiritually detrimental to our residents who are in their twilight years and
- Emergent as the resignation of the previous incumbent was effected post the 2021 General Assembly of Victoria.

AHEC/PCVL therefore petitions the Commission of the General Assembly to amend the Constitution of PCVL to enable the appointment of either an evangelical minister

from another acceptable protestant denomination, or an elder of the Presbyterian Church, subject to them being suitably qualified and them signing in good conscience the Doctrinal Statement which the Directors and CEO are required to sign. The proposed wording appears as an attachment hereto.

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

Signed:

Duncan McGregor Convenor, AHEC

Dated: 30 March 2022

Petition to be stated by: Duncan McGregor

Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd Constitution

Current wording – Section 15 of the Constitution

15 Chaplains

- (a) The directors may appoint chaplains to carry out chaplaincy in support of any service provided by the company.
- (b) Chaplains who are not ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia must be able to subscribe to the Doctrinal Basis.
- (c) In the case of any chaplain appointed to carry out chaplaincy services within any aged care facility operated by the company from time to time, such chaplain shall be a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia recommended to the directors by the Chief Executive Officer following consultation with the presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria within whose bounds the facility is located;
- (d) Such chaplaincy may be:
 - (1) full or part time.
 - (2) remunerated or honorary;
- (e) In the case of remunerated chaplains then:
 - (1) if any such chaplain is appointed in the circumstances described in clause 15(c), they shall be appointed on terms not less than the minimum terms of settlement declared from time to time by the General Assembly; and
 - (2) for all other such chaplains, they shall be appointed on the terms as the directors deem fit.

*Revised wording **in bold** – Section 15 of the Constitution*

15 Chaplains

- (a) The directors may appoint chaplains to carry out chaplaincy in support of any service provided by the company.
- (b) Chaplains who are not ministers **or elders** of the Presbyterian Church of Australia must be able to subscribe to the Doctrinal Basis.
- (c) In the case of any chaplain appointed to carry out chaplaincy services within any aged care facility operated by the company from time to time, such chaplain shall be a minister **or elder** of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, **or some other Protestant Church** recommended to the directors by the Chief Executive Officer following consultation with the presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria within whose bounds the facility is located.
- (d) Such chaplaincy may be:
 - (1) full or part time;
 - (2) remunerated or honorary.
- (e) In the case of remunerated chaplains then:
 - (1) if any such chaplain is appointed in the circumstances described in clause 15(c) **is a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia**, they shall be appointed on terms not less than the minimum terms of settlement declared from time to time by the General Assembly; and

- (2) for all other such chaplains, they shall be appointed on the terms as the directors deem fit.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
URGENT MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Thursday 8 September 2022 at 10:30am.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by order of the Moderator. The Assembly was constituted with reading Ephesians 5:1-20, prayer and singing 'O God, our help in ages past'.

2. Roll

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare that the names recorded in the draft Roll of Assembly, compiled from the certified rolls of presbyteries, as amended, be the Roll of September 2022 Urgent General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Approval of Meeting

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

In accordance with Code rule 5.38(c), approve the Moderator's action in convening this Urgent Meeting of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Apologies

The following apologies were sustained:

Ministers:

Keith Allen, Tony Archer, David Assender, Nello Barbieri, Keith Bell, Tony Bird, Robert Boan, Jordan Born, David Brown, Andy Buchan, Dong Choi, Mark Crabb, John Cromarty, Heath Easton, Kyung Ee, Don Elliott, John Ellis, Alan Every, Miles Fagan, Theo Fishwick, Neil Harvey, Jared Hood, Karl Hood, Ian Hutton, Steven Jones, Karam Krayyem, Ian Leach, Wayne McArdle, Bill Medley, Philip Mercer, Joel Mestry, Douglas Milne, Richard O'Brien, Kainano Opeteia, Peter Orchard, Raymond Patchett, Len Pearce, Bruce Riding, Nathan Runham, David Schulz, Chris Siriweera, Andrew Slater, John Stasse, Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel, Willem Vandenberg, Gerald Vanderwert, Rod Waterhouse, Graeme Weber, Michael Wharton, Andrew Wong, Walter Zurrer.

Elders:

John Angelico, Philip Barton, Iain Bramley, Malcolm Browning, Reg Butcher, Geoff Cross, Tom Cunneen, Elizabeth Cutler, Bob Farquharson, Keith Ferres, Colin Flynn, Adam Foster, Ken Fuhrmeister, Graham Hammond, Sabyan Hardjo, Jim Hare, Rob Herweynen, Michael Javaid, Ralph Kop, Stewart McKerrow, Colin Morrow, Rob Paix, Jeremy Peet, Tony Ruggeri, Ryan Smith, Bert Stasse, Stephen Weir, Richard Worth, Alan York.

5. Appoint Acting Business Convener

The Clerk sought leave to move Notice of Motion A4 in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Notwithstanding Business Committee reg 2, appoint Rev Cameron Garrett Acting Business Convener for the Urgent Assembly.
The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

The Acting Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank Assembly members who attended the Assembly prayer meeting at 9:30am in the Robert White Meeting Room.
2. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30am to the finish of business, with breaks as determined by the Moderator.
3. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:
 - 30 minutes in total for:
 - The Clerks' report
 - Report question time
 - The Clerk's notice of motion
 - Questions of the Clerk's notice of motion
 - 15 minutes for:
 - Questions of substantive motions and amendments
 - 5 minutes for:
 - Movers of substantive motions and amendments
 - Seconders of substantive motions and amendments
 - All other speakers.
4. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
 - Ministers: Adam Humphries (Convener), Luke Brownley, Hui Lim
 - Elders: Kevin Childs, Doug Fraserand determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at the dissolution of this Assembly.
5. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to answer any financial management questions.
6. Permit the Privacy Officer to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any privacy-related matters.
7. Permit the Safe Church Facilitator to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any Safe Church related matters.
8. Permit the Law Agent to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, to give advice as requested or required during all matters, and to ask questions of petitioners, appellants, and respondents.
9. 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 all members, unless a later motion be required to allow for dissent as per Rule 6.40.3 or some other later determination be made by this Assembly.
10. Suspend sufficient standing orders (especially 7.15) so that all notices of motion may be taken clause by clause (or by subclauses) or in convenient groups.
11. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

7. Conflicts of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this General Assembly. The Clerk reported that Mr Ben Palmer had declared a conflict of interest in relation to Notice of Motion A5 clause 7(b) relating to the Balfour Trust.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Allow Mr Palmer to remain in the court at the time the Balfour Trust is discussed, and that Mr Palmer be directed to not participate in the discussion or vote on that motion.

The motion was seconded and approved.

8. Clerks' Report

The Moderator declared that the Assembly was sitting in private.

The report of the Clerks was received.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Through the Clerk, convey a request to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (PCVTC) for its consent to being nominated by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) to act on its behalf as a proper defendant:
 - a) to the claim brought by Mark Hinneberg (Supreme Court of Victoria Case No. S ECI 2022 01821) and to incur any liability on its behalf arising from the said claim, under Section 7 of the Legal Identity of Defendants (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2018; and

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Through the Clerk, convey a request to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (PCVTC) for its consent to being nominated by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) to act on its behalf as a proper defendant:
 - b) to any and all further claims brought against the PCV founded on or arising from child abuse alleged by any such claimant to have been committed by Graeme Eldridge and to incur any liability on its behalf arising from any and all such claims should they arise.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

2. Note that the PCVTC has indicated it would be willing to be nominated as the proper defendant on the terms of the preceding clause provided arrangements are in place at the time of the nomination referred to in clause 1(a) to ensure that \$5 million is held in the Sinking Fund by 31 December 2022.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A5 clause 3.

The motion was seconded.

(4) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM A5 clause 3 by removing the word 'suitable' so that it reads:

3. Thank the PCVTC for acting on behalf of the PCV in the previous Hinneberg case and for achieving a resolution through the mediation process.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(5) Notice of Motion A5 clause 3 as amended was seconded and approved.

(6) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

4. Through the Clerk and subject to the consent of the PCVTC to such nominations referred to in clause 1, do all things necessary to have those nominations put into effect for the purposes of these proceedings as and when may be required.
5. Provide additional funding to the Sinking Fund of an amount sufficient to achieve a balance of not less than \$5 million as at 31 December 2022 ('Top-up Amount').

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A5 clause 6.

The motion was seconded.

(7) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 clause 6 by removing the words 'to use best endeavours' so that it reads:

6. Commit to provide funding to the Sinking Fund over and above the Top-up Amount when advised by the PCVTC that such funding is necessary.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(8) Notice of Motion A5 clause 6 as amended was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A5 clause 7.

The motion was seconded.

(9) Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 clause 7 by the addition of new subclauses (a) and (b) (with the following subclauses renumbered as necessary) as follows:

- a) Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts for a judicial ruling for an out-of-purpose payment from the Common Fund Reserve of whatever Top Up Amount might be required to achieve a balance of not less than \$5 million in the Sinking Fund as at 31 December 2022.
- b) Make further provision for the Sinking Fund Top Up Amount to the extent that the Top-up Amount is not able to be provided in accordance with the preceding clause, as identified in the following clauses.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(10) The Clerk moved:

7. Agree that the Top-up Amount will be provided by the following method:
 - a) Transfer the balance of the Overseas Visitors Fund, thus extinguishing this program of funding overseas speakers/lecturers, and rescind the associated regulations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A5 clause 7(b).

The motion was seconded.

(11) Rev Hui Lim, arising out of the debate, moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 7(b) by adding the figure "50% of" after the word "Transfer" and delete all words after the word "made," so that it reads:

- b) Transfer 50% of the balance of the Balfour Fund, after making provision for bookings already made.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(12) Notice of Motion A5 clause 7(b) as amended was seconded and approved.

(13) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 clause 7 by the addition of new subclause (c) (with the following subclauses renumbered as necessary) as follows:

7. c) Transfer \$500,000 from the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave Fund.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(14) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 subclause 7(c) by replacing the opening words, 'Make immediate application to the courts', with the words 'Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts' so that it reads:

- c) Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts for a judicial ruling for an out-of-purpose payment of 50% of the balance of the Donaldson Fund, after first ensuring that the availability of funds for emergency relief of ministers' needs is not affected based on the average number of applications per year (over the previous 10-year period), and reducing the percentage accordingly if that purpose appears to be threatened.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(15) Notice of Motion A5 clause 7(c) as amended was seconded and approved.

(16) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 subclause 7(d) by replacing the opening words, 'Make immediate application to the courts', with the words 'Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts' so that it reads:

- d) Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts for a judicial ruling for an out-of-purpose payment of 50% of the balance of the Minister's Retirement Housing Fund, after first ensuring that the availability of funds for provision of an interest-free loan upon ministers retiring is not affected based on the average number of applications per year (over the previous 10-year period), and reducing the percentage accordingly if that purpose appears to be threatened.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(17) Notice of Motion A5 clause 7(d) as amended was seconded and approved.

Dissent

Graham Nicholson

Barry Oakes

Reason: The Assembly has ignored the warning of the Chairman of the BIF.

(18) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

- e) Note the following presbytery resolutions:
 - i) Presbytery of Geelong, noting its previous commitment to allocate 20% of the proceeds of sale of St Georges to other causes, is supportive of allocating a further portion of the said proceeds to the Sinking Fund, upon receiving a favourable decision from the Victorian State Government Planning Committee.
 - ii) Presbytery of North East Victoria resolved to advise the GAV that upon the final dissolution of the Cobram congregation, Presbytery will take whatever steps are necessary to surrender all bank accounts held by and for the Cobram Presbyterian Church to the PCV under BIF reg 15, with the request that they be transferred to the PCV Sinking Fund.

iii) Presbytery of South West Victoria resolved:

1.
 - a) Agree to dissolve the congregation of Woodford, noting that the last regular Presbyterian worship service was conducted there on December 17th 2021.
 - b) Petition the General Assembly to give consent to the proposed dissolution and upon such consent being given consider the congregation to be finally dissolved.
 - c) Petition the General Assembly to authorise the sale of the Woodford property in Mill St, Woodford 3281, under Model Trust Deed clause 14, and to direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - i. \$200,000 to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Sinking Fund.
 - ii. The balance to the Presbytery of South West Victoria to be purposed once it has heard the mind of the Woodford Congregation.
2. As the Presbytery of South West Victoria manages the Roy Roland McFarlane Bequest, agrees to take whatever steps necessary to contribute \$80,000 to the Sinking Fund. The Presbytery asks the Trust Corporation to take whatever judicial action is required to be legally able to redirect these funds to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Sinking Fund.

- f) Note that the Hamilton congregation has agreed to contribute the sum of \$40,000 to the Sinking fund.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(19) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 clause 7 by the addition of new subclauses (g) and (h) as follows:

7. g) Transfer the balance of the Geelong St Georges Deposit Account to the Sinking Fund.
7. h) Transfer the balance of the Geelong St Georges Restoration Account to the Sinking Fund.

The motion was seconded.

Rev Barry Oakes sought leave to fall from the motion.

Leave was granted.

The motion was fallen from.

(20) The Clerk moved:

8. Authorise the Moderator and Clerk after consultation with the Safe Church Facilitator in her role as responsible person for apologies under the NRS, to offer an apology to each abused person on behalf of the church, should it be deemed appropriate.
9. If, as at 31 December 2022, the Sinking Fund balance is less than \$5 million, fund the amount by which the Sinking Fund is less than \$5 million ('Sinking Fund Shortfall') proportionately based on the balances at 31 August 2022 from those Sites Reserve accounts where the Assembly has not designated a purpose and which remain under moratorium.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A5 clause 10.

The motion was seconded.

(21) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 clause 10 by removing the words 'and which remain under moratorium'.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(22) The motion:

That the Assembly:

10. If, as at 31 December 2022, the Sinking Fund balance is less than \$5 million, fund the amount by which the Sinking Fund is less than \$5 million ('Sinking Fund Shortfall') proportionately based on the balances at 31 August 2022 from those Sites Reserve accounts where the Assembly has not designated a purpose and which remain under moratorium.

was put and approved.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A5 clause 11.

The motion was seconded.

(23) Rev Luke Isham moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend NOM 5 clause 11 by adding the words 'that requires Assembly approval' after 'new expenditure' so that the clause reads:

11. With the exception of Ballarat South, Surrey Hills and Ashburton who have already submitted petitions to the Assembly for use of their funds, place an immediate freeze on the approval of any new expenditure that requires Assembly approval from those Sites Reserve accounts identified in clause 10 above until 1 January 2023.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(24) Notice of Motion A5 clause 11 as amended was seconded and approved.

(25) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

12. If the Sinking Fund Shortfall must be paid into the Sinking Fund, replenish those Sites Reserve accounts proportionately if and when the decisions made under clauses 7(a) to 7(g) above come into effect.
13. Thank via letters from the Clerk:
 - a) those presbyteries who have resolved to surrender their normal expectations and desires for funds and consented to such funds being transferred to the Sinking Fund, and
 - b) all congregations who have responded positively and with generosity to this cause, with particular appreciation expressed to those congregations whose Sites Reserve funds were made available to meet the first round of Sinking Fund finance.
14. Authorise the Clerk, in consultation with the Law Agent, to issue a statement on behalf of the PCV, to inform and explain this process to congregations, asking each congregation to engage in prayer for the outcome.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Final Decision

The Assembly resolved:

1. Through the Clerk, convey a request to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (PCVTC) for its consent to being nominated by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) to act on its behalf as a proper defendant:
 - a) to the claim brought by Mark Hinneberg (Supreme Court of Victoria Case No. S ECI 2022 01821) and to incur any liability on its behalf arising from the said claim, under Section 7 of the Legal Identity of Defendants (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2018; and
 - b) to any and all further claims brought against the PCV founded on or arising from child abuse alleged by any such claimant to have been

committed by Graeme Eldridge and to incur any liability on its behalf arising from any and all such claims should they arise.

2. Note that the PCVTC has indicated it would be willing to be nominated as the proper defendant on the terms of the preceding clause provided arrangements are in place at the time of the nomination referred to in clause 1(a) to ensure that \$5 million is held in the Sinking Fund by 31 December 2022.
3. Thank the PCVTC for acting on behalf of the PCV in the previous Hinneberg case and for achieving a resolution through the mediation process.
4. Through the Clerk and subject to the consent of the PCVTC to such nominations referred to in clause 1, do all things necessary to have those nominations put into effect for the purposes of these proceedings as and when may be required.
5. Provide additional funding to the Sinking Fund of an amount sufficient to achieve a balance of not less than \$5 million as at 31 December 2022 ('Top-up Amount').
6. Commit to provide funding to the Sinking Fund over and above the Top-up Amount when advised by the PCVTC that such funding is necessary.
7. Agree that the Top-up Amount will be provided by the following method:
 - a) Transfer the balance of the Overseas Visitors Fund, thus extinguishing this program of funding overseas speakers/lecturers, and rescind the associated regulations.
 - b) Transfer 50% of the balance of the Balfour Fund, after making provision for bookings already made.
 - c) Transfer \$500,000 from the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave Fund.
 - d) Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts for a judicial ruling for an out-of-purpose payment of 50% of the balance of the Donaldson Fund, after first ensuring that the availability of funds for emergency relief of ministers' needs is not affected based on the average number of applications per year (over the previous 10-year period), and reducing the percentage accordingly if that purpose appears to be threatened.
 - e) Request the Trusts Corporation to make immediate application to the courts for a judicial ruling for an out-of-purpose payment of 50% of the balance of the Minister's Retirement Housing Fund, after first ensuring that the availability of funds for provision of an interest-free loan upon ministers retiring is not affected based on the average number of applications per year (over the previous 10-year period), and reducing the percentage accordingly if that purpose appears to be threatened.
 - f) Note the following presbytery resolutions:
 - i) Presbytery of Geelong, noting its previous commitment to allocate 20% of the proceeds of sale of St Georges to other causes, is supportive of allocating a further portion of the said proceeds to the Sinking Fund, upon receiving a favourable decision from the Victorian State Government Planning Committee.
 - ii) Presbytery of North East Victoria resolved to advise the GAV that upon the final dissolution of the Cobram congregation, Presbytery will take whatever steps are necessary to surrender all bank accounts held by and for the Cobram Presbyterian Church to the PCV under BIF reg 15, with the request that they be transferred to the PCV Sinking Fund.
 - iii) Presbytery of South West Victoria resolved:

1.
 - a) Agree to dissolve the congregation of Woodford, noting that the last regular Presbyterian worship service was conducted there on December 17th 2021.
 - b) Petition the General Assembly to give consent to the proposed dissolution and upon such consent being given consider the congregation to be finally dissolved.
 - c) Petition the General Assembly to authorise the sale of the Woodford property in Mill St, Woodford 3281, under Model Trust Deed clause 14, and to direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - i. \$200,000 to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Sinking Fund.
 - ii. The balance to the Presbytery of South West Victoria to be purposed once it has heard the mind of the Woodford Congregation.
2. As the Presbytery of South West Victoria manages the Roy Roland McFarlane Bequest, agrees to take whatever steps necessary to contribute \$80,000 to the Sinking Fund. The Presbytery asks the Trust Corporation to take whatever judicial action is required to be legally able to redirect these funds to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Sinking Fund.
- g) Note that the Hamilton congregation has agreed to contribute the sum of \$40,000 to the Sinking fund.
8. Indemnify the PCVTC and the Trustees against any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities, losses, costs, and expenses which may be made or brought against or incurred by the PCVTC in respect of, or arising from, being nominated by the PCV to act on its behalf as a proper defendant to the claim brought by Mark Hinneberg (Supreme Court of Victoria Case No. S ECI 2022 01821) and to such further claims described in clause 1(b).
9. Authorise the Moderator and Clerk after consultation with the Safe Church Facilitator in her role as responsible person for apologies under the NRS, to offer an apology to each abused person on behalf of the church, should it be deemed appropriate.
10. If, as at 31 December 2022, the Sinking Fund balance is less than \$5 million, fund the amount by which the Sinking Fund is less than \$5 million ('Sinking Fund Shortfall') proportionately based on the balances at 31 August 2022 from those Sites Reserve accounts where the Assembly has not designated a purpose and which remain under moratorium.
11. With the exception of Ballarat South, Surrey Hills and Ashburton who have already submitted petitions to the Assembly for use of their funds, place an immediate freeze on the approval of any new expenditure that requires Assembly approval from those Sites Reserve accounts identified in clause 10 above until 1 January 2023.
12. If the Sinking Fund Shortfall must be paid into the Sinking Fund, replenish those Sites Reserve accounts proportionately if and when the decisions made under clauses 7(a) to 7(g) above come into effect.
13. Thank via letters from the Clerk:
 - a) those presbyteries who have resolved to surrender their normal expectations and desires for funds and consented to such funds being transferred to the Sinking Fund, and
 - b) all congregations who have responded positively and with generosity to this cause, with particular appreciation expressed to those congregations

whose Sites Reserve funds were made available to meet the first round of Sinking Fund finance.

14. Authorise the Clerk, in consultation with the Law Agent, to issue a statement on behalf of the PCV, to inform and explain this process to congregations, asking each congregation to engage in prayer for the outcome.

The Moderator declared that the Assembly was now sitting in open court.

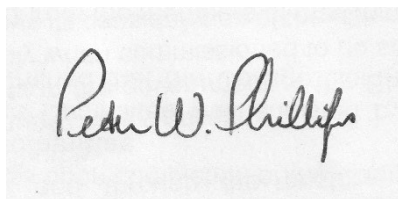
9. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer, singing 'Not unto us, O Lord of Heav'n' and the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
D A Carroll

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Urgent Meeting, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 5(9) thereof.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Peter W. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'P' and 'W'.

Rev Peter W Phillips
Moderator

URGENT MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 Sept 2022

Members of the General Assembly

18 July 2022

In response to a request dated 27 June 2022 from Rev Barry Oakes and fourteen other persons entitled to be members of the General Assembly and representing more than three presbyteries, in accordance with Code rule 5.38, I hereby give notice of an Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly to be held in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Thursday 8 September 2022 at 10:30am, to deal with the following urgent matters:

- noting the Supreme Court writ against the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by plaintiff Mark Hinneberg;
- declaring who is the Proper Defendant to represent the PCV in this matter;
 - setting aside funds into the Sinking Fund to cover this and other expected liabilities related to Eldridge;
- any other related matter.

In Christ's service,
Rev Peter W Phillips
(Moderator)

Rev Peter W Phillips
Moderator
moderator@pcv.org.au

27 June 2022

In accordance with Rule 5.38 of the Victorian code, the undersigned request the Moderator to exercise his discretion and call an Urgent Meeting of the State Assembly to deal with the urgent matter before us, namely:

- noting the Supreme Court writ against the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by plaintiff Mark Hinneberg;
- declaring who is the Proper Defendant to represent the PCV in this matter;
- setting aside funds into the Sinking Fund to cover this and other expected liabilities related to Eldridge;
- any other related matter.

Barry Oakes
Ashburton Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Melbourne East

Brett Peatman
Aspendale Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Flinders

Cameron Garrett
Morwell Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Gippsland

Chris Duke
Clifton Hill Essendon Pastoral Charge
Presbytery of Melbourne West

Colin Morrow
Sunraysia Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of North Western Victoria

Dennis Wright
Melton Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Melbourne West

Graham Nicholson
Hawthorn Presbyterian Church,
Presbytery of Melbourne East

Gerald Vanderwert
Donvale Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Maroondah

Ian Leach

Presbytery of South West Victoria

Jared Hood
Presbyterian Theological College, Victoria
Presbytery of Melbourne East

John Stasse
Presbytery of Geelong

Philip Burns
Bendigo Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of North Western Victoria

Philip D Mercer
Trinity Camberwell Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Melbourne East

Robert White
Presbytery of Geelong

Stephen McDonald
Benalla Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of North East Victoria

with warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Rev John P Wilson
Clerk of Assembly
0418 537 209
john.wilson@pcv.org.au

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 6)

The Business Committee has received all papers currently proposed to be submitted to the 8 September 2022 Urgent Meeting of Assembly. It has resolved to transmit to the Assembly those papers that seem competent and respectful.

Prayer meeting

A prayer meeting will be at 9:30am on the morning of the Assembly in the Robert White Meeting Room.

Outline of business

The committee will present a proposed agenda at the start of the Assembly. As a guide, the committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline, and if no updates are required, will present this as the proposed order of business.

1. Devotions and Constitution
2. Roll, WB p7, NOM A1 (WB p18)
3. Approval of Moderator's convening (code 5.38.c), NOM A2 (WB p18)
4. Apologies, NOM A3 (WB p18)
5. Associations
6. Appoint Acting Business Convener, NOM A4 (WB p18)
7. Business Committee, WB p15 (del p15, 10 clauses)
8. Conflict of Interest Declarations
9. Private Paper: Clerks' Report (WB p17)
10. NOM A5 (WB p18)
11. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
OCTOBER 2022

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
1st Sitting: Monday 3 October**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, Monday 3 October 2022 at 7:30pm.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the last Assembly (BB 2021 min 110).

Immediate Past Moderator Rev Philip D Mercer constituted the Assembly with prayer.

2. Roll

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant interim authority to the certified rolls of presbyteries and the Roll of Assembly compiled from them and direct that they be submitted for confirmation at the 2nd sitting.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Apologies

The following apologies were sustained:

Ministers:

For this sitting: Brian Harvey, Luke Isham, Joel Mestry, Surendra Wesley.

For all sittings: Keith Allen, Ivan Barker, Keith Bell, Tony Bird, Robert Boan, David Brown, Dean Carroll, John Cho, Miles Fagan, Theo Fishwick, Neil Harvey, Ian Leach, Peter Roberts, Andrew Slater, Ian Touzel, Graeme Weber.

Elders:

For all sittings: Philip Betts, Malcolm Browning, Elizabeth Cutler, Bob Farquarson, Keith Ferres, Ken Furrhmeister, Robert Herweynen, Ralph Kop, Andrew Letcher, Tony Zirngast.

4. Assembly Papers

The Clerk reminded members of the Assembly of papers to be collected.

5. Appointment of Moderator

The Clerk intimated that Rev Peter William Phillips, Deputy Clerk, had been elected as Moderator Designate of this General Assembly by the Commission of Assembly in May 2022 (min 6).

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev Peter William Phillips BA, BTh, as Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Induction of Moderator

Immediate Past Moderator Rev Philip D Mercer put the moderatorial questions to Mr Phillips and 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.

7. Worship

The Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips, conducted public worship and preached the occasional sermon, 'Towards a Flourishing Church'.

8. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9:30am on Tuesday 4 October 2022 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 sitting with the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
P J Burns

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
2nd Sitting: Tuesday 4 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, and afterwards in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, on Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 9:30am.

9. Communion Service and Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips led the Assembly in worship and at his invitation, the Acting Deputy Clerk, Rev Philip Burns constituted the Assembly with prayer. The Assembly Expositor, Rev Ben Nelson, Lecturer at PTC Melbourne, led the Assembly in the first of his Assembly expositions based on Luke 1:26-56 and the Moderator conducted the Lord's Supper.

10. Roll

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare that the names recorded in the draft Roll of Assembly, compiled from the certified rolls of presbyteries, as amended, be the Roll of the 2022 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Clerk's declaration

The Acting Deputy Clerk, Rev Philip Burns, made the 'Declaration of Faithful Duty'.

12. Apologies

The following apologies for this sitting were sustained:

Ministers: Brian Harvey, Michael Jensen, Joel Mestry, Ray Patchett, Len Pearce, Surendra Wesley.

13. Associations

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Associate the following for all sittings of the General Assembly:

- a) Rev Kevin D Murray, member of the General Assembly of the PCA in NSW;
- b) Rev Kwang Ho Song, member of the General Assembly of the PCWA;
- c) Rev Lesleigh J F Hall, member of the General Assembly of the PCQ;
- d) Rev Gary J Ware, member of the General Assembly of the PCSA.

The motion was seconded and approved.

14. Welcomes

The Moderator welcomed all members, those recently associated and visitors to the Assembly.

15. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved the proposed deliverance.

Clauses 1-13 were seconded and approved.

(1) Rev Stephen McDonald sought leave to move an additional clause.

Leave was granted.

Rev Stephen McDonald moved:

That the Assembly:

14. Encourage the Business Committee to use a consent agenda at the 2023 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Convener moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Encourage Assembly members to attend the remaining Assembly prayer meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30am in the Robert White Meeting Room.
2. Determine that the hours of meeting be:
 - First Sitting, Monday 3 October, 7:30pm
 - Second Sitting, Tuesday 4 October, 9:30am–5:30pm
 - Third Sitting, Tuesday 4 October, 7:00pm–9:00pm
 - Fourth Sitting, Wednesday 5 October, 9:30am–5:30pm
 - Fifth Sitting, Wednesday 5 October, 7:00pm–9:00pm
 - Sixth Sitting, Thursday 6 October, 9:30am to the finish of business
3. Determine that lunch be taken daily from 12:30pm–2:00pm, that refreshments be taken daily from 3:30pm–3:50pm, and that a dinner break be taken on Thursday from 5:30pm–6:30pm, as necessary.
4. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:
 - 20 minutes in total for:
 - Conveners and seconders moving deliverances (as a whole and total of clause-by-clause)
 - Petitioners stating the petition
 - Appellants stating the appeal
 - Respondents to appeals
 - Question time (including 20 mins for total deliverance questions)
 - 15 minutes in total for:
 - Overturists stating the overture
 - 5 minutes for:
 - Appellants in reply
 - Movers of substantive motions and amendments
 - Seconders of substantive motions and amendments
 - All other speakers.
5. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
 - Ministers: Adam Humphries (Convener), Luke Brownley, Heath Easton
 - Elders: Kevin Childs, Doug Fraserand determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at the dissolution of this Assembly.
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 any financial management questions.
8. Permit the Privacy Officer to be present in the Assembly, including when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any privacy-related matters.
9. Permit the Safe Church Facilitator to be present in the Assembly, including when meeting in private, and to give advice as requested or required during any Safe Church related matters.

10. Permit the Law Agent to be present in the Assembly, including when meeting in private, to give advice as requested or required during all matters, and to ask questions of petitioners, appellants, and respondents.
11. 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 all members, unless a later motion be required to allow for dissent as per Rule 6.40.3 or some other later determination be made by this Assembly.
12. Approve generally the outline of business as given in the report.
13. Approve the Order of Business for the second sitting, Tuesday, 4 October 2022.
14. Encourage the Business Committee to use a consent agenda at the 2023 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved

16. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this sitting.

The Clerk reported that no conflict of interest declarations were forthcoming.

17. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Acting Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 1st Sitting.

18. Minutes of the May 2022 Commission of Assembly

The confirmed minutes of 3 May 2022 meeting of the Ordinary Commission of Assembly were received.

19. New Members

The Moderator invited the new members to the Assembly to identify themselves.

New members of the Assembly introduced themselves to the Assembly. The Moderator led the court in prayer for these new members.

20. Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

The Clerk reported that Elders Philip Barton, Warwick Davidson and Elizabeth Cutler, and Ministers Allan Harman, Bob Thomas, Douglas Milne and Graham Bradbeer, have celebrated jubilees since the last meeting of Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the faithful 40-year service of Philip Barton and Warwick Davidson as long-serving elders, as follows:
 - a) Philip H Barton, ordained and inducted onto the Trinity Camberwell Session in 1982;
 - b) Warwick F Davidson, ordained and inducted onto the Trinity Camberwell Session in 1982.
2. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the faithful 50-year service of Mrs Elizabeth Cutler as a long-serving elder of the church. Elizabeth Cutler was ordained to the eldership of the Presbyterian Church of St Leonard's, Brighton Beach, 29 October 1972. In the early 1980s, Elizabeth and her husband Dudley joined St Cuthbert's Brighton, and was inducted into the eldership there in March 1990 and now celebrates her 50th anniversary of ordination as an elder on 29 October 2022.

3. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the long and faithful service of Rev Dr Allan M Harman as an ordained minister for 60 years since his ordination/induction into the Geelong congregation by the Victorian Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in March 1962. Allan's father, Rev J A Harman of Hastings River (NSW), performed the ceremony of ordination/induction.
4. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the long and faithful service of Rev Dr C R (Bob) Thomas:
 - a) as an ordained minister for 51 years since his ordination/appointment in Ungarie Methodist/Presbyterian church in 1971 by the Presbytery of Young (NSW);
 - b) upon his retirement as editor of the independent evangelical publication, New Life, after 34 years.
5. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the long and faithful service of Rev Dr Douglas J W Milne as an ordained minister for 50 years since his ordination/induction in Drumnadrochit Free Church of the Free Church of Scotland in 1972.
6. Note with appreciation, and place on record, the long and faithful service of Rev Graham M Bradbeer as an ordained minister for 50 years since his ordination in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in Armidale, NSW, September 1972.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the court in prayer.

21. Ministerial and Elders' Deaths

The Clerk reported that home missionary Richard Jeganathan, Rev Steven North, Rev Marvin Hagans, elder Robert Belcher, Rev Peter Owen and Rev Douglas Morey had died since the last meeting of Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note the passing of home missionary Richard Jeganathan and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

Richard and Shantha Jeganathan, with their two young sons, fled from Sri Lanka during the civil strife in the north of the country. They found accommodation in the Auburn area and so Richard went looking for the nearest church which was Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Auburn. Mr Graham Tassiker was the home missionary there at the time.

Richard was an engineer with Melbourne Water, but upon taking early retirement, he subsequently spent three years studying at the Presbyterian Theological College. Following the completion of training, he was appointed as home missionary to West Footscray Presbyterian Church where he served for a number of years, retiring in February 2017. It was to Chalmers Church that they returned in retirement.

Richard's work as a pastor was well received by the congregation at West Footscray. His quiet and gracious manner endeared him to everyone, and he always modelled what he preached. This meant Richard did not simply preach the need to live a life of faith, he personally modelled it. He did not simply teach the priority of loving your neighbour, he demonstrated it. He not only proclaimed the requirement to humbly serve, but he did it. He was a real man of faith who loved the Bible and sought to live in obedience to all of it, every day of his life. Even when

Richard's health was failing, he faithfully maintained his pulpit ministry, even when he required assistance to walk to the front of the church.

The ministry of Richard might best be described as a ministry of comfort. Whether in the lounge room, the hospital ward or the pulpit, there was always a message of comfort that showed genuine warmth, biblical love and clearly his saviour Jesus Christ.

Richard died, 4 November 2021 and the service of thanksgiving was held 8 November 2021, conducted by his pastor, Rev Nick Arundell, at Chalmers Presbyterian Church Auburn. His widow, Shantha, gave a fitting tribute to her husband during the service and the Scriptures were read by their two sons.

2. Note the passing of Rev Steven F North and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

Rev Steven North passed away 2 January 2022 after his 2½ year battle with cancer. Steven was formerly the minister at Ebenezer-St John's Presbyterian Church (Ballarat South).

Through his many years of ministry, Steven was always known and respected for his humble and faithful service to God. His reputation was that of selflessness, of always putting others needs before his own.

Steven's ministry began at Albury as the youth pastor in 1995, followed by an appointment to Engadine (1996–2002), Tweed Heads as Associate Minister (2003–2006), Moss Vale (2007–2012), Ballarat South (2013–2016), and finally St Ives-Pymble from October 2016 to December 2021.

During his 27 years of ministry he ran youth groups, playgroups, bible studies, church camps, holiday clubs, after school clubs. He took Scripture in schools for over 30 years and facilitated homework clubs and ESL programs for refugees and migrants.

God used Steven and his ministry to bring many people to know him and become Christians, a few also have entered ministry themselves. His steadfast love of the Lord and unwavering biblical teachings were a constant throughout his 27-year ministry. Even when he knew he was dying, he never once questioned why him but accepted his lot and it only made his preaching more purposeful right to the end.

The funeral service was conducted in Queensland at Hervey Bay Presbyterian Church.

3. Note the passing of Rev J Marvin Hagans and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

The Presbytery of South West Victoria sadly recorded the death of Rev J Marvin Hagans, who passed away 7 March 2022 at the age of 87 after a prolonged illness.

Marvin was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in October 1935. He was educated in Belfast and then trained as a teacher, followed by training for the ministry. He completed a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Divinity degrees in Dublin, then Master of Theology from Queens University in Belfast.

He was known as an elite rugby player which he enjoyed. In 1958, he married Margaret Critchley in Glasgow, who later qualified as a minister for the Anglican Church in Australia. They were most happily married for

63 years and have four surviving children: two sons Jonathan and Stephen and two daughters Rhoda and Carys.

In 1968, the family migrated to Fremantle Australia, as Marvin was called to Scots Church, Fremantle, then Canterbury Presbyterian Church in Melbourne (1970–1979.) In 1979, the family returned to Northern Ireland as he was called by the Seaview Presbyterian Church Belfast where he remained until 1986 when St David's Uniting Church Newtown, Geelong, called him.

Upon petition to the General Assembly of Australia for recognition by the Presbyterian Church, the GAA received him back into the PCA in 2004. The Presbytery of Geelong inducted him to the Appointment Parish of Colac in November of 2004 where he remained until his retirement.

Following his death in 2022, a thanksgiving service was conducted in Colac by Rev Allan Harman and Rev John Cromarty. He is fondly remembered and sadly missed by his many parishioners and friends.

4. Note the passing of Elder Robert S Belcher, a long-serving elder in the Caulfield/Elwood Presbyterian Charge and place on record the following as a tribute:

Robert went to his eternal home in heaven on 13 April 2022. He was a long-serving elder of the Caulfield/Elwood Presbyterian Charge. First ordained as an elder of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria at the Erskine Church Carlton, in April 1952, Robert Belcher served as an elder of the Presbyterian Church for a record term of 70 years and was greatly loved by the Lord's people.

He is survived by his son William and his Christian family, and the funeral was held at the Elwood Presbyterian Church on 22 April 2022.

5. Note the passing of Rev Peter A Owen and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

Peter Alexander Owen was born on 1 November 1957, at Wanganui New Zealand, son of Norman John George and Freda Molly Owen. He relocated to Australia in 1980.

He was converted to Christ and having become convinced of the truths of the reformed system of doctrine, joined the Somerville Presbyterian Church in the mid-1980s, being set apart as a ruling elder of that congregation in August 1990.

He applied to and was accepted by the Presbytery of Flinders as a candidate for the ministry and completed his training in 1993 while working as a nurse to support his family.

He was appointed to the Melton-Bacchus Marsh congregation as an ex-student in December 1993 and has been a part of the Presbytery of Melbourne West since January 1994.

In 2007, the Melton congregation graciously released Peter to serve, fulltime, in the Brimbank congregation—a congregation which he had initiated some time before as a church plant.

In 2012, the Point Cook congregation began as a preaching place of the Brimbank Charge. Later that year, Presbytery declared it an Appointment Charge with Peter being appointed as its minister, commencing work in January 2013, formally being set apart by the Presbytery in April of that year. In 2020, the charge was raised to the status of a Pastoral Charge. Peter was duly called and inducted as the minister of the congregation and he continued as minister there until his death, 25 July 2022.

In addition to parish-based ministry, Peter served as a volunteer Police chaplain for 24 years in numerous stations across the western suburbs, and as a part time chaplain in the Royal Australian Air Force. In response to the exhortation of 2 Timothy 2:2, he disciplined many younger men who have become ministers of the gospel, serving either in parishes or as chaplains in the Australian Defence Force.

Peter Owen exemplified what it means to have a pastor's heart. He was an evangelist who had a passion to see Christ's kingdom grow. He was a truly humble servant who had great vision, boundless energy and who loved the Lord with all his heart, mind, soul, and strength. Now at rest and with the Lord.

6. Note the passing of the moderator of the 1985 General Assembly, Rev Douglas Victor Morey, on 14 July 2022, aged 94. He was the son of Rev B W Morey and was the minister at Millicent (1955–1961), Devonport (1961–1965), Chelsea (1965–1970), Tatura (1970–1981) and then Morwell and Yarram (1981–1993).

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

22. Royal Address and Loyal Addresses

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Send the following address through the Governor of Victoria to his majesty, King Charles III:

'To the King'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, 4 October 2022, respectfully renew our expression of loyalty to the throne and to your majesty's person.

We were saddened at the news this year of the passing of your loving and gracious mother, HRH Queen Elizabeth II. We recognise her loyalty to the throne, her Christian witness and her devotion to a lifetime of service, and in our various worship services recently, we have expressed our thanks to God for her life, service and witness.

We are mindful of the heavy responsibilities now resting on your shoulders. 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 blessing needful for discharging the duties of your office, and further, that the inspiration and example of your dear mother's 70-year reign will lift, guide and encourage you.'

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

The motion was seconded and approved.

23. Communication 1: Buckingham Palace

Communication 1 was tabled.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly receive the communication.

The motion was seconded and approved.

24. Communication 7: Moderator-General, Rev Dr Peter E Barnes

Communication 7 was tabled.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly receive the communication.

The motion was seconded and approved.

25. Past Moderator

The report of the Past Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips, was received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the Past Moderator, Rev Peter W Phillips, for his faithful attention to duty as moderator over the past 12 months, especially for the wisdom and diligence shown at every call.
2. Thank Mrs Lorraine Phillips for her selfless and prayerful support of her husband which has enabled him to carry out this task for the good of the church and the glory of God.

The motion was seconded and carried with acclamation.

26. Moderator, GA of the PCWA, Rev Kwang Ho Song

The Moderator welcomed Rev Kwang Ho Song, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia, and invited him to address the Assembly. Mr Song expressed his thanks on behalf of the GA of PCWA, for the contribution and support made by this Assembly for the strengthening of the church in his state, reporting on recent difficulties created by the COVID pandemic and encouraging signs of gospel growth.

The Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Jesse Walz, led the Assembly in prayer.

27. GAA Clerk, Rev Lesleigh J F Hall

The Moderator welcomed Rev Lesleigh J F Hall, the recently appointed Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia, and invited him to address the Assembly. Mr Hall spoke about his enthusiasm for the work of the GAA and invited the members of the Assembly to join with him in praying regularly for the ministry of the GAA expressed through its various Committees.

The Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Ben Nelson, led the Assembly in prayer.

28. PCV Archives

The Clerk's report on the Archives was received.

The Moderator welcomed the Archivist, Mr Michael G Smith, and invited him to address the Assembly. Mr Smith spoke, giving thanks and praise to God, concerning the 'near-miss' of the recent fire at South Yarra PC, but also the lesson learned that there is a desperate need for a permanent home for the Archives.

The Moderator led the court in prayer.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Form an ad hoc PCV Archives Committee consisting of the Clerk (convener), Dean Carroll (secretary), Ben Nelson, Cameron Garrett, Fiona Bligh, Cameron Weir or Annie Weir as alternate, Chris Palmer, and the Archivist, to:

- a) support the work of the Archivist;
- b) secure a permanent home for the PCV Archives;
- c) promote the value of the Archives' ministry; and

d) enhance its future.

The motion was seconded and approved.

29. Board of Investment and Finance

The report of the Board of Investment and Finance was received. (min 32)

The Assembly adjourned for lunch.

The Assembly resumed after the lunch break with the singing of a hymn and the Moderator leading the court in prayer.

30. Special Judicial Committee supplementary report on Petition 11

The Special Judicial Committee's supplementary report on Petition 11 was received

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Receive and consider Petition 11 from the Presbytery of North East Victoria despite it not meeting the 30 days' notice.

The motion was seconded and approved.

31. Petition 2: Presbytery of South Australia—Change in Allocation of proceeds of Nelson property

The petitioner was brought to the Bar.

The petition was received.

It was agreed that the court should meet in private.

The petition was stated by Rev Gary Ware.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly;

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved;

That the Assembly;

2. Authorise a variation of purpose (as permitted under clause 5 of the Model Trust Deed for Church Site) for the proceeds of sale of church property at Nelson so that they may be applied by the Assembly treasurer to presbytery-approved church extension and revitalisation work of the Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church and towards payments in response to claims arising from historical abuse in connection with Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly;

3. Pray for the Mt Gambier congregation and their pastor and reassure them of our prayers.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the court in prayer.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly has resolved to:

3. Grant the prayer of the petition.

2. Authorise a variation of purpose (as permitted under clause 5 of the Model Trust Deed for Church Site) for the proceeds of sale of church property at

Nelson so that they may be applied by the Assembly treasurer to presbytery-approved church extension and revitalisation work of the Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church and towards payments in response to claims arising from historical abuse in connection with Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church.

3. Pray for the Mt Gambier congregation and their pastor and reassure them of our prayers.

The Moderator removed the petitioner from the Bar.

It was agreed that the court resume in public.

32. Board of Investment and Finance (min 29)

The Chairman, Rev Barry Oakes declared a conflict of interest in relation to clauses 3 and 4.

(1) The Clerk moved;

That the Assembly:

Permit the Chairman to remain in the court but to take no part in the nominated clauses 3 and 4.

The motion was seconded and approved.

It was agreed to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-2 were approved.

Clauses 3-4 were disapproved.

(2) Rev Cameron Garrett moved, arising out of the debate:

That the Assembly:

Request the Code and General Administration Committee to draft a new BIF regulation that prohibits a minister serving in pastoral ministry from serving as BIF/TC Chairman.

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev Jared Hood moved:

That the Assembly:

Adjourn the debate.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) Rev Jared Hood moved:

That the Assembly:

Resume the debate.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(5) Rev Cameron Garrett sought leave to fall from his motion.

Leave was granted and the motion was fallen from.

Clause 5 was moved and seconded.

(6) Rev Stephen Deroon moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Amend deliverance clause 5 by replacing all words with:
'Consider the recommendations of the report on the PCV legal identity structure, with a view to considering any deliverance the Board of Investment and Finance may care to submit at the next Commission of Assembly;
2. Amend deliverance clauses 6-9 by deleting all words.

The motion was seconded.

The Moderator ruled that the clauses of the NOM may be taken separately.

Clause 1 was approved

Clause 2 was disapproved:

Clauses 6-9 were approved.

(7) Rev Barry Oakes moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend those charges and presbyteries which have fully subscribed their allocations for the 2021–2022 General Mission Program.
2. Remind congregations and presbyteries to ensure that all incidents and information relating to any alleged or presumed sexual abuse are promptly reported to the Safe Church Unit for disclosure to the insurer.
3. Consider the recommendations of the report on the PCV legal identity structure, with a view to considering any deliverance the Board of Investment and Finance may care to submit at the next Commission of Assembly.
4. Establish an ad hoc ‘New Entity’ Committee to develop:
 - a) a constitution for a new entity as proposed in this report for advancement to the 2023 Commission of Assembly, or, if that is not possible, to the October 2023 General Assembly.
 - b) a proposed service agreement between the PCV and the entity to define the role and responsibilities of the entity and govern its relationship to the church in all its forms;
 - c) a proposal to ensure the proposed entity has the financial capability to deliver on its responsibilities to the Assembly;
 - d) a proposal for the restructure of the Board of Investment and Finance;
 - e) a proposal for the restructure of membership of The Trusts Corporation of the PCV.
5. Appoint the membership of the ad hoc committee as follows: Moderator (convener); the Clerk of Assembly, the Law Agent, the Convener of the Board of Investment and Finance, three other members appointed by the BIF, and three members of the Assembly appointed by the Selection Committee.
6. Direct the Code and General Administration Committee to cooperate with the ad hoc committee in the preparation of any necessary amendments to the rules and regulations of the church for advancement to the 2023 General Assembly.
7. Request the Board of Investment and Finance to provide a budget to enable the ad hoc committee to obtain specialist legal advice with regard to the proposed constitution for the new entity and other relevant matters that may arise during the course of the committee’s work.

The motion was seconded and approved.

33. Communication 6: PWMU Cookbook Committee

Communication 6 was received.

The Clerk introduced Mrs Pam Grant, Secretary of the PWMU Cookbook Committee.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Grant and invited her to address the court.

Mrs Grant addressed the Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the amended Terms of Reference for the PWMU Cookbook Committee (dated Nov 2021) and authorise the Clerk to update this in the PCV Code Book 2023 edition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

34. Presbyterian Ladies College

The report of Presbyterian Ladies College was received.

35. St Andrews Christian College

The report of St Andrews Christian College was received.

36. Scotch College

The report of Scotch College was received.

37. Trusts Corporation

The report of the Trusts Corporation was received.

38. Church and Nation Committee

The report of the Church and Nation Committee was received.

It was agreed to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-12 were approved.

Clause 13 was moved and seconded.

(1) Rev Luke Isham moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 13 by replacing all words with the following:

Authorise the Assembly Clerk to publish video content from the Church and Nation Committee.

The motion was second and approved.

Clause 13 as amended was seconded and approved.

Clause 14 was moved and seconded.

(2) Rev Jesse Walz moved, arising out of the debate:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 14 by deleting the words 'You Tube Channel'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 14 as amended was seconded and approved.

Clause 15 was approved.

Clause 16 was moved and seconded.

Rev Barry Oakes sought to amend clause 16 with the addition of words.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Adjourn the debate

The motion was seconded and carried. (min 60)

39. METRO Committee

The report of the METRO Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Toby McIntosh, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for the METRO, EquipMETRO, and YouthMETRO graduates who are now serving Christ and his church as a result of their traineeships.
2. Pray for all the present trainees to grow to be more like Jesus and to think and serve like Jesus.
3. Pray that God would continue to raise up many more METRO, EquipMETRO, and YouthMETRO trainees and that he will raise up future gospel workers, pastors and evangelists from among them.
4. Thank God for our Administrative Assistant, Maddy O'Brien and all the work Maddy has completed this year.
5. Pray that the partnership between MTS and METRO will continue to enable more METRO trainees in the future.

The motion was seconded and approved.

40. State News Committee

The report of the State News Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Stephen McDonald, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for the work of Luke Isham, Jo Craig, and Tony Zirngast on the State News Committee and for the appointment of Rob Paix.
2. Acknowledge the many contributors from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and beyond who serve the Church by informing and encouraging the denomination through *Fellow Workers*.
3. Encourage committees, presbyteries, and churches to inform the State News Committee of items of interest to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
4. Encourage presbytery clerks to keep the State News Committee up to date with ministry moves.
5. Encourage members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to subscribe to receive *Fellow Workers* through the sign-up form on the PCV website.

The motion was seconded and approved.

41. Church Planting Committee

The report of the Church Planting Committee was received.

It was agreed to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

The debate was adjourned. (min 58)

42. Overture 3: Code and General Administration Committee—A Commission appointing a commission (rule 6.50.3)

The overture was received.

The Clerk stated the overture.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Sustain the Overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 6.50.3 reads:
6.50.3 Except for a special commission to scrutinise, correct and confirm its minutes, a commission cannot itself appoint a commission, but can, unless prohibited by the terms of its appointment, appoint any committee to perform specified duties. A commission is responsible for, and may set aside or vary, the actions of any committee it has appointed.

The motion was seconded and approved.

43. Overture 4: Code and General Administration Committee—Amending regulations by notice of motion (rule 5.45.1)

The overture was received.

The Clerk stated the overture.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Sustain the Overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

2. Remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 5.45 reads:

5.45 Enactment of regulations

5.45.1 Regulations may only be enacted, amended or repealed pursuant to a proposal made in an overture or in the proposed deliverance of the Code Committee's report, provided that an urgent amendment to a regulation may be enacted pursuant to a proposal made by notice of motion.

5.45.2 A proposal may first be remitted by the General Assembly to presbyteries for consideration and report.

The motion was seconded and approved.

44. Overture 5: Code and General Administration Committee—Church discipline and being reinstated to the roll (rule 3.32.2)

The overture was received.

The Clerk stated the overture.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Sustain the Overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

2. Remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 3.32.2 is repealed, leaving rule 3.32 and the note to read:

3.32 Discipline

A session has the power of discipline over communicants and adherents of any congregation under its oversight in accordance with the law of the church (see PCA 'Code', chapter 8).

Note: Rule 10.04 of the Code of Discipline provides that 'the removal of a censure is effected only by the Court by which it is inflicted or, in cases where an appeal is taken against the finding in regard to the offence or against the consequent censure, by the Appellate Court and takes place only after satisfactory evidence of the repentance of the offender'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

45. Overture 6: Code and General Administration Committee—Record apart referenced in the ordinary minutes of the court (rule 6.19)

The overture was received.

The Clerk stated the overture.

The overture was adjourned. (min 83)

46. Permission for the ad hoc Denominational Response to the Change and Suppression Prohibition Law Committee to meet

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant permission for the ad hoc Denominational Response to the Change and Suppression Prohibition Law Committee to meet during the Assembly in accordance with Rule 6.13.3.

The motion was seconded and approved.

47. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday 4 October 2022, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Jesse Walz, prayed for the METRO Committee and closed the sitting with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P J Burns

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
3rd Sitting: Tuesday 4 October**

At Melbourne, in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, on Tuesday 4 October 2022 at 7:00pm.

48. Constitution

The Assembly resumed pursuant to adjournment with Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Jesse Walz, constituting the Assembly with the reading of James 1:1-8 and prayer.

49. Apologies

The following apologies for this sitting were sustained:

Ministers: Aaron Boyd, Luke Brownley, Dong Choi, Brian Harvey, Adam Humphries, Michael Jensen and Joel Mestry (for the rest of the sittings).

Elders: Tom Cunneen, Graham Hammond (and for the rest of the sittings)

50. Business Committee

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

51. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this sitting.

The Clerk reported that Rev Richard Wilson had declared a conflict of interest on the Church Planting Committee clauses 3, 4 and 5.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Request Rev Richard Wilson to be absent from the business of clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the Church Planting Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

52. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Acting Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 2nd Sitting.

53. Building and Property Committee

The report of the Building and Property Committee was received.

The Acting Convener, Mr Dennis Wright, moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the Church Architect, Andrew Wilson, for his valued assistance provided to the committee and the various congregations who have sought his advice over the last 12 months.
2. Thank Glenys Wright for her service to the committee.
3. Appoint Andrew Wilson to the position of Church Architect.
4. Adopt the Manse Design Manual as in the report to replace the Manse Standards.
5. Adopt the Procurement Guidelines for Major Building Projects as in the report.

The motion was seconded and approved.

54. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

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

Rev Daniel Dixon moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank Rev Andrew Bray for his over two decades of ministry as a volunteer visiting hospital chaplain.
2. Thank God for Rev Peter Owen's 24 years of service as a volunteer police chaplain.
3. Thank all who contributed to the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee's 2022 Good Friday Appeal.
4. Thank the Church's volunteer chaplains in public hospitals, police stations, and prisons for their commitment and efforts in manifesting the love of Christ in those settings.
5. Encourage sessions to consider the opportunities presented through health and community chaplaincy for suitable members of their congregations to reach out to others in the name of Christ.

The motion was seconded and approved.

55. Communication 8—Victoria Police Chaplaincy re Rev Chris Siriweera 25 years of service

Communication 8 was tabled.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly receive the communication.

The motion was seconded and approved.

56. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was received.

The Convener, Mr Dennis Wright, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Remind all 'responsible bodies' that the LSL Fund provides grants equal to the Assembly approved Minimum Remuneration (see reg 22b of the PCV LSL Fund regulations), and it remains the responsibility of the 'responsible body' to ensure persons receive all their entitlements (Terms of Settlement) while on LSL (regs 22c and 4).
2. Remind all presbyteries that LSL for inducted ministers no longer requires presbytery approval, but LSL is now authorised by the appropriate 'responsible body' (which in most cases will be the session) (see reg 13).
3. Remind all those covered under the LSL Fund that approval to accumulate LSL beyond thirteen weeks is only possible with the approval of the 'responsible body' and the MMC (see reg 10).
4. Remind all ministers that, while presbytery approval to take LSL is no longer needed, any minister who intends to be away from his pulpit for more than two months must seek the leave of presbytery (see rule 4.52).
5. Remind all presbyteries and ministers that beginning a part-time ministry in a charge requires presbytery approval in the first instance, and then the presbytery must seek the approval of the MMC (see rule 4.71) before that part-time ministry can commence.
6. Thank Rev Mark Crabb for his service to the assembly by serving on this committee over the last 10 years.

7. Thank Elder Dennis Wright for his service to the assembly by serving on this committee over the last 10 years.
 8. Approve the new Terms of Settlement Report (TSR) Form and advise that it is to be used when reporting to presbytery and other interested parties.
- The motions were seconded and approved.

57. Social Services Committee

The report of the Social Services Committee was received.

The Clerk moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the Trusts Corporation and Social Services Committee as they work together to ensure the administration of the trusts is aligned with the terms of each trust.
2. Thank all the committee members of the Social Services Committee for their ongoing dedication to ensuring that the social service of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria continues to support those in need.

The motion was seconded and approved.

58. Church Planting Committee (min 41)

It was agreed to sit in private.

Clauses 3-5 were approved unanimously.

(1) The Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend to the Church the Church Planting Conference to be held on Saturday, 19 November 2022, in Assembly Hall.
2. Approve a variation of the budget for the Property Development Fund so that line 2292 for 2022–2023 becomes \$828,000 with immediate effect.
3. Approve the Church Planting Officer (CPO) Position Description

Church Planting Officer (CPO) Position Description

i. Title

1. There shall be an Official (see Rule 5.19) of the General Assembly (the Assembly) called the Church Planting Officer (CPO) formerly known as the Church Planter Evangelist (CPE).

ii. Accountability

1. The CPO shall be accountable to the Church Planting Committee (CPC).

iii. Attributes

1. mature, wise, humble, prayerful
2. consistent life and doctrine
3. hard working, self-motivated
4. leadership and team gathering
5. strategic thinker and clear communicator
6. able to analyse Church and secular culture
7. discipling
8. evangelistic

iv. Qualifications

1. Essential

- a. Demonstrated church planting experience
- b. A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA) or willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches.

- c. Practitioner of a training model of Ministry
- 2. Desirable
 - a. More than five years pastoral experience
 - b. Denominational policy, governance and vision experience
 - c. Ministry experience in multiple contexts (eg city, regional, cross-cultural)
 - d. Well read in the field of Church Planting
- v. Responsibilities
 - 1. Provide advice to the CPC concerning but not limited to:
 - a. church planting progress
 - b. future church plants
 - c. grant applications
 - d. potential church planters
 - e. barriers to effective church planting
 - f. systems and processes
 - g. developments in church planting practice both domestic and international
 - h. recent academic thought in the area of church planting
 - i. cultural trends and population statistics as they touch upon the work of the committee
 - j. property suitable for land banking and future church planting
 - k. the training of church planters
 - 2. Engage with:
 - a. presbyteries to:
 - i. identify potential locations for new congregations
 - ii. develop and maintain strategies for the formation of new congregations
 - iii. identify suitable property for land banking and Church planting
 - b. sessions to:
 - i. equip the charge to church plant
 - ii. foster a church planting outlook
 - iii. partner with other sessions to work towards church planting
 - c. Assembly committees to:
 - i. keep church planting on their agendas
 - ii. promote a unified denominational church planting approach
 - d. church officials to:
 - i. identify areas of mutual understanding and potential cooperation
 - 3. Produce content for circulation in state and federal church media
 - 4. Develop and revise
 - a. policies and procedures
 - b. handbooks and manuals
 - c. other resources and materials
 - 5. Be an ambassador for church planting within the denomination
 - 6. Seek and identify potential church planters from:
 - a. within the PCV

- b. interstate presbyterian churches
 - c. theological colleges
 - d. church planting and ministry networks
 - 7. Oversee the ongoing training, coaching and mentoring of church planters
 - 8. Execute any other CPC directive
- vi. Safe Church Obligations
 - 1. The CPO shall:
 - a. at all times hold a current WWCC
 - b. complete Basic Safe Church Training or equivalent
 - c. complete Advanced Safe Church Training
 - d. complete the relevant Safe Church Refresher course annually.
- vii. Denominational Involvement
 - 1. The CPO shall:
 - a. have a seat on the presbytery in which he resides.
 - 2. The CPO shall not without CPC approval:
 - a. serve on any committee, board, panel or council of the Church
 - b. serve as Moderator of a Home Mission Charge or Interim Moderator of a vacant charge
 - c. serve as Presbytery Moderator or Presbytery Clerk
 - d. serve as Assembly Moderator
 - e. teach at the theological college
- viii. Residence
 - 1. The CPO shall have his place of residence within the Melbourne Metropolitan Area.
- ix. Appointment
 - 1. The appointment shall be 0.5 EFT.
 - 2. The appointment shall be for four years.
- x. Performance Reviews
 - 1. The CPO shall receive annual formative reviews performed by the CPC.
 - 2. Prior to any subsequent appointment the CPO shall undergo a summative review performed by the CPC (with external support).
- xi. Termination or Resignation
 - 1. The position shall conclude effective 90 days after:
 - a. termination notice is given by the CPC or Assembly.
 - b. resignation notice is given by the CPO.
 - 2. Termination shall be immediate if the CPO ceases to be an Ordained Minister.
- xii. Position Description Changes
 - 1. The Assembly may at any time change this position description.
 - 2. Prior to each appointment the CPC shall review the CPO position description, and if necessary, bring any recommended changes to the attention of the Code and General Administration Committee for consideration before seeking Assembly approval.
- 4. Appoint Rev Richard Wilson as the Church Planting Officer (CPO) 0.5 EFT for a four-year term from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026 subject to the Position Description and Terms of Employment as approved by the Assembly from time to time.
- 5. Pray for Rev Richard Wilson as he begins his new appointment.

The motion was seconded and approved.
It was agreed to resume in open court.
The Moderator led the court in prayer for Rev Wilson.

59. Overture 1: Presbytery of Maroondah—Two branches of Deacons

The overture was received.

Rev Tony Archer and Rev Cameron Griffiths stated the Overture.

(1) Rev Tony Archer moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Sustain the Overture

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Tony Archer moved:

That the Assembly:

2. Ask the Code and General Administration Committee to put together a proposal to be considered at the 2023 Assembly that would potentially see the formation of two branches of Deacons: Deacons for people (current deacons) and Deacons for property (the old Board of Management).

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev Jesse Walz moved, arising out of the debate, to add the following words at the end of clause 2:

That the Assembly:

‘Also request a proposal for broadening the current role of deacons to include the current role of the Board of Management.’

The motion was seconded.

The Moderator ruled that he would allow the amendment.

The previous question on the overture was moved, seconded and disapproved.

The previous question on the amendment was moved, seconded and approved.

(4) Elder Peter Stanton moved:

That the Assembly:

Adjourn the debate.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(5) Elder Colin Morrow moved:

That the Assembly:

Remove the words ‘(current deacons)’ and ‘property (the old Board of Management), the second expression to be replaced with the words, ‘affairs temporal’.

The motion was seconded.

The previous question on the overture was moved, seconded and approved, and the overture was departed from.

60. Church and Nation Committee (min 38)

(1) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Amend the deliverance clause 16 by adding new sub-clauses (d) – (e) as follows:
 - d) the need for repentance for our failure to consistently live faithfully before the Lord and to seek forgiveness;
 - e) the need to live faithfully in dark times and to ask the Lord to instruct our hearts and give us the grace and strength to bear a faithful, loving, and compassionate witness.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Christopher Duke moved clause 16 as amended.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(3) Rev Christopher Duke moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended.
That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the prayerful support of the PCV and for this committee as it has sought to present the claims of Christ and Christian concerns and perspectives to members of Parliament and other leaders in our community.
2. Encourage members of the General Assembly to pray for the work of this committee and its members, praying that God will continue to equip and guard committee members in this challenging ministry.
3. Gives thanks to God for the hard-working and dedicated committee members and the researcher, Mrs Moira Deeming.
4. Encourage all ministers, elders, and congregations to make good use of the Church and Nation website, Facebook page, Monthly Update, and other PCV network articles to maintain prayerful engagement in and support for the work of this committee.
5. Commend the work of Nourishing Media and various individuals who have contributed time with writing and reviewing scripts and for those who are presenters and the face of the church.
6. Encourage churches to make good use of the videos as a resource once they are released and to encourage further use and sharing across and beyond the denomination.
7. Invite churches and individuals to consider contributing donations to the video project.
8. Encourage the members of the General Assembly and the sessions and congregations of the PCV to support the efforts of Victoria's 2022 March for the Babies through advertising, participation, and prayer.
9. Encourage the members of the General Assembly to pray for Christian candidates in the upcoming November State Parliament election.
10. Encourage churches to pray that the men, women, and children involved in the prostitution trade would find freedom in Christ.
11. Encourage churches to pray regularly for religious freedom in Victoria, and for the ability of religious bodies and schools to legally employ those who hold to their doctrine and ethical standards.
12. Enclose with the Assembly's communication of greetings to the Victorian Premier, the Legislative Assembly, and the Legislative Council, a letter lobbying for legal protection of the unborn from abortion, the elderly, and sick from assisted suicide, and children from radical gender theory, with the wording of the letter determined by the Church and Nation Committee and signed by the Moderator.
13. Authorise the Assembly Clerk to publish video content from the Church and Nation Committee.
14. Authorise free access to the PCV's Church and Nation Video Library for the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the State Churches within the PCA, and congregations.
15. Authorise the Church and Nation Committee to release and market the availability of the PCV Church and Nation Video Library in internet and social media settings.

The motion was seconded and approved.

61. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9:30am on Wednesday 5 October 2022, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with prayer.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P J Burns

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
4th Sitting: Wednesday 5 October**

At Melbourne, in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, on Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 9:30am.

62. Constitution

The Assembly resumed pursuant to adjournment, with the Moderator constituting the Assembly with prayer.

63. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev Ben Nelson, led the Assembly in the second of his Assembly Expositions, based on Luke 18:9-14.

64. Apology

The following apology for all sittings was sustained: Brian Harvey.

65. Business Committee

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

66. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this sitting.

The Clerk reported that there were none forthcoming.

67. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Acting Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 3rd Sitting.

68. Ministry Development Committee

The report of the Ministry Development Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Stuart Withers, moved the proposed deliverance.

Clauses 1-13 were seconded and approved.

(1) Rev Adam Humphries moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance by adding a new clause as follows:

14. In light of the PCV statistical information on eldership, instruct the Ministry Development Committee to oversee the development and production of a training course to be used in local congregations for identifying and discipling men to serve as elders.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Stuart Withers moved the deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend the work of Rev Chris Siriweera as Ministry Development Officer and pray that he would be blessed with wisdom and insight that enables him

to serve others in further developing ministry and mission in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

2. Thank God for the contribution of retiring committee member Rev Gerald Vanderwert and pray for his ongoing ministry in the service of Christ.
3. Thank God for the work of Mr Ben Palmer as administrative assistant to the committee and the MDO.
4. Thank God for the provision of the Thompson Trust and for the work of evangelism that has been funded in the past year and request prayer for the Lord to draw all his people savingly to himself (John 6:44).
5. Give thanks to God for the Kingdom Come Online Prayer meetings and urge ministers, home missionaries, and elders to attend and labour in prayer for the advance of the gospel in Victoria.
6. Thank Rev Cameron Garrett for his work in operating the online collection system ARMS and elder Ralph Kop for preparing and analysing the data collected in the 2021 Statistical Returns.
7. Approve the adjustment of the Statistical Return questions for 2022 so that the question on congregational debt is removed and the following questions added:
 - a) How many new elders were ordained in the congregation?
 - b) How many new deacons commenced work in the congregation?
8. Give thanks to God for the continuing gospel ministry and congregational life in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria reflected in the Statistical Returns, and thank congregations, through presbyteries, for submitting their 2021 Statistical Returns through the online collection system.
9. Urge presbyteries to utilise the Statistical Returns data as a tool for ministry planning that aspires to work for lasting congregational revitalisation.
10. Urge sessions and congregations to pray and toil with all Christ's energy that he powerfully works in his people so that we see Christian conversions, the raising up of new elders, and the saints engaging in church renewal and revitalisation efforts.
11. Urge all ministers, elders, and fellow workers in the gospel to attend the Ministry Development Conference 'Faithful and Fruitful' in February 2023.
12. Acknowledge that the gospel of God teaches us not to be indifferent to the great commission, knowing the God who gives good things to both the just and the unjust (Matt 5:43–47) and knowing Jesus Christ, who in redeeming love, laid down his life for his people (1John 3:16).
13. Give thanks for the ongoing opportunities for gospel partnership with the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church of Western Australia through the ministry visits and consultation of the Ministry Development Officer.
14. In light of the PCV statistical information on eldership, instruct the Ministry Development Committee to oversee the development and production of a training course to be used in local congregations for identifying and discipling men to serve as elders.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the court in prayer.

69. Ministry Development Committee and Church Planting Committee Joint Report

The Joint Report of the MDC and the CPC was received.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Adopt the principle that church planting and church revitalisation are of equal importance to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
2. Adopt the principle that the equal importance of church planting and church revitalisation in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria should not necessarily lead to their equal strategic prioritisation or funding in every season of ministry.
3. Note that both the Ministry Development Committee and Church Planting Committee are committed to developing the best mechanism that navigates the tension that exists in the strategic prioritisation of funding.
4. Determine for the next five years the split of the Scots' Church Properties Trust Distribution between the Ministry Development Committee and the Church Planting Committee shall be set at:
 - MDC 70%, CPC 30% for 2023–2024;
 - MDC 60%, CPC 40% for 2024–2025; and
 - MDC 50%, CPC 50% for 2025–2026, 2026–2027, and 2027–2028.

The motion was seconded and approved.

70. Ad Hoc Committee: Options for Minority Interest in Assembly Hall

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee: Options for Minority Interest in Assembly Hall was received.

It was agreed to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-2 were approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

The Clerk sought leave to insert additional words without notice in clause 3.

Leave was granted.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Add the words 'of the PCV's interest' in clause 3a, and the word 'entire' before 'property' and 'at 156 Collins Street' after 'property' in clause 3b, so that the clause would read;

3. Request the committee further investigate the possibility of:
 - a) a purchase of the PCV's interest by Scots' Church or Scots' Church Properties Trust; and
 - b) the development and commercialisation of the entire property at 156 Collins Street, so that it provides an acceptable return on investment to the respective beneficial interests, and to report to the 2023 Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 3 as amended was approved.

Clauses 4-5 were approved.

(2) Rev Philip Campbell moved, arising out of the debate, an additional clause.

That the Assembly;

6. Recognise that the sale of 37% share in the Assembly Hall to an outside party would not be in the interest of the denomination.

The motion was seconded.

The debate was adjourned. (min 94)

71. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee

Rev Kevin Murray, National Director, Australian Presbyterian World Mission, addressed the Assembly with a special focus on the wide and fruitful ministry of APWM through partner churches and gospel workers all over the world, encouraging the members of Assembly to commit to prayerful and financial support of all that God is doing among the nations.

The Convener, Dr Noel Johnston, introduced the following missionaries to the Moderator who greeted each of them in turn.

Chris Griffioen (Operation Mobilisation)

Mavis Price (Summer Institute of Linguistics)

Hannah Davies (Pioneers)

Matt and Kate Vinicombe (Church Mission Society)

Rob Paix (Pioneers)

Paul Pearce (Pioneers)

Rosie Timmins (Arab World Media/Pioneers)

The report of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee was received.

Dr Noel Johnston, moved the proposed deliverance.

Clauses 1-12 were seconded and approved.

(1) Rev Rod Waterhouse moved:

That the Assembly;

13. Note the retirement of three members who have completed nine years of service:

- a) Wendy Pearce, especially involved in the publishing of the APWM posters in addition to the Coins for Mission project;
- b) Dr Noel Johnston, convener (and continuing as the coordinator of the vehicle pool for missionaries);
- c) Rev Philip Burns as Secretary, whose diligence has allowed the Committee to work very efficiently and effectively in its promotion of APWM;

and give thanks to God for their dedication to the work of mission, in supporting our much-loved missionaries as they faithfully serve the Lord.

The motion was seconded and carried with acclaim.

(2) Dr Noel Johnston moved the deliverance as a whole as amended.

That the Assembly;

1. Encourage all churches to pray regularly for their APWM missionaries wherever they are, asking the Lord of the Harvest to send out more labourers, and that his church may be enabled to set them aside and fully support them.
2. Praise God for the APWM missionary team, and commend to God and the wider Church those who serve the Lord Jesus as part of that team.
3. Request the Moderator to give the greetings of the Assembly to all our serving missionaries.
4. Give thanks for God's blessing upon the Coins for Mission program, the participating churches, and the extra support provided for our workers in times of need, and encourage other churches to join.
5. Praise God for relationships with PTS India and the Partner Churches of South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Ethiopia, North India, and Japan, and remind the church that Partner Churches will benefit from regular prayer. Any financial gifts and donations should be done carefully and follow the ACNC External Conduct Standards.
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 (depending on international travel becoming more readily available and appropriate vaccinations).
7. Promote the work among indigenous communities, for example, that of Rev Rick and Mrs Kayleen Manton (APWM NSW).
8. Praise God for the work of the PWMU State Council and branches in their support of missions.

9. Thank God for the ministry of the APWM National Office in Sydney, and encourage the wider church to extend financial and prayer support for the ministry of the APWM National Director, Rev Kevin Murray.
10. Commend the regular APWM Vic Prayer Update and APWM National publications to the wider church.
11. Pray for the Moderator and his wife, who plan to visit and encourage (either in person or via Zoom) one or more of the mission team in the field in the coming year.
12. Encourage PCV congregations to prayerfully review their giving to the work of cross-cultural mission, both locally and overseas.
13. Note the retirement of three members who have completed nine years of service:
 - a) Wendy Pearce, especially involved in the publishing of the APWM posters in addition to the Coins for Mission project;
 - b) Dr Noel Johnston, convener (and continuing as the coordinator of the vehicle pool for missionaries);
 - c) Rev Philip Burns as Secretary, whose diligence has allowed the Committee to work very efficiently and effectively in its promotion of APWM;
 and give thanks to God for their dedication to the work of mission, in supporting our much-loved missionaries as they faithfully serve the Lord.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the court in prayer for Rev Kevin Murray and the spread of the gospel through our APWM missionaries.

72. Petition 1: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—Dissolution of the Pyramid Hill Congregation

The Immediate Past Moderator, Rev Phillip Mercer, took the chair.

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Peter Phillips.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

Agree with the Presbytery of North Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the congregation of Pyramid Hill.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Immediate Past Moderator advised the petitioner of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Agree with the Presbytery of North Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the congregation of Pyramid Hill.

The Immediate Past Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

73. Christian Education and Nurture Committee

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

The Convener, Rev Luke Isham, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for Matthew James' work as the convener of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee and Andrew Edmonds' work as the Youth Ministry Director.
2. Thank Matthew James and wish him well in his retirement, and thank Andrew Edmonds and wish him well in his new role with Hills Bible Church.
3. Encourage the youth of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to attend the upcoming PYV Summer Camp in January 2023.
4. Invite PCV youth in years 10–12 to register for the PYV Leadership Launch Camp in April 2023.
5. Replace the YMD Job Description with the following 'Youth and Children's Worker Job Description.'

Job Description –Youth and Children's Worker

1. Position Purpose

To lead and implement the operations of the Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) Organise state-level events:
 - i) arrange bookings and speakers, and then delegate roles and responsibilities to volunteers.
 - ii) adhere to the committee's 'Policy and Procedures Manual' for all events.
 - iii) report on all events to the committee.
- b) Recruit, train and lead volunteers:
 - i) create a pool of eligible volunteers (PCV Safe Church and pastor approved).
 - ii) work with the committee's Safe Church Representative (and/or the SCU) to ensure all volunteers are up to date with PCV Safe Church accreditation.
 - iii) organise the necessary training events for volunteers prior to events, and appropriate pastoral follow up for volunteers after events.
 - iv) provide oversight of volunteers at events.
- c) Discipleship and training:
 - i) encourage a culture of disciple-making-disciples among the children, youth and volunteers.
 - ii) oversee the annual leadership launch camp.
 - iii) develop a long-term plan for events, discipleship and local congregational support.
 - iv) oversee the Catechism Curriculum.
- d) Support state-level youth and children's ministry across the PCV:
 - i) build an informal network of support for state-level youth and children's ministry.
 - ii) support local PCV youth and children's ministries and their leaders with training and advice.
 - iii) participate in national PCA children's and youth networks and training.
 - iv) support the work of METRO in relation to youth ministry.

- v) be the person with overall responsibility for Child Safety at all committee approved events (or ensuring that a suitable person is delegated into this role).
- e) Fundraising:
Work with the committee Fundraiser to raise funds as required.

3. Working Relationships

- a) Reporting to, supervised by, and reviewed by the committee.
- b) Chairing the 'Operations and Strategy' subcommittee.
- c) Supervising other employees as required by the committee.
- d) Coordination with the PCV Safe Church Unit.
- e) Recruiting, training and leading volunteer leaders.
- f) Networking with church leaders within the PCV.
- g) Interacting with PCV youth and children, and their parents.

4. Requirements

- a) Affirm and uphold the theology and practices of the PCV.
- b) Attributes: a deep interest in discipleship, organisational skills, ability to manage volunteers, and a pastoral manner.
- c) Theological training.
- d) Fulfill all applicable PCV Safe Church requirements.
- e) Attendance at residential events.
- f) Ability to work effectively with other committee staff.
- g) Be or become a communicant member of a PCV congregation.

5. Terms

- a) Appointed period of five years, with a one-year probation, and with the possibility of renewal after a review.
 - b) A position regulated by a PCV Board of Investment and Finance approved employment agreement, reviewed annually and terms varied accordingly.
 - c) Provision of a laptop, mobile phone and travel expenses.
 - d) Appropriate professional development.
 - e) Use of the Committee Office.
6. Approve the revised Committee budget effective 1 November 2022.
 7. Grant the Committee permission to bring a Youth and Children's Worker nomination to the May 2023 Commission of Assembly.
 8. Ask God to raise up a new Youth and Children's Worker and ask God to guide and bless the fundraising efforts of the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

74. PresAID

The Acting Convener of the GAA PresAID Committee, Rev John Wilson, addressed the Assembly.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch.

The Assembly resumed after the lunch break with the singing of a hymn and the Moderator leading the court in prayer.

75. Belgrave Heights Christian School

The report of the Belgrave Heights Christian School was received.

School Principal, Peter Cliffe, addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for the Principal and the School.

Rev Graham Nicholson sought leave to bring a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

(1) Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly;

Give thanks to God and express its sincere appreciation for the years of service to the Belgrave Heights Christian School by its past Principal, Mr Andy Callow, and past Council member and Chairman, Mr Dirk Jackson.

The motion was seconded and approved.

76. Petition 3: Ebenezer-St John's, Ballarat South Congregation—Purchase of a second manse using Sites Reserve Funds

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Toby McIntosh and Mr Keith Mitchell.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

Approve the application of the balance of the Ebenezer-St John's (Ballarat South) congregation Sites Reserve Funds for the purchase of a second manse.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Approve the application of the balance of the Ebenezer-St John's (Ballarat South) congregation Sites Reserve Funds for the purchase of a second manse.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

77. Petition 4: Presbytery of Geelong—Dissolution of Shelford Congregation and Sale of Associated Property

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Robert White and Rev Andrew Bray.

Questions were asked.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

2. Agree with the Presbytery of Geelong regarding its intention to dissolve the Shelford congregation.
3. Declare resolution 2 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.
4. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification that the congregation has been finally dissolved.

5. Authorise the sale of the Shelford property on Main Road (Volume 10530, Folio 998) (as permitted under Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14) and direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - a) as to 95%, to the Leigh Charge for the purposes of its general ministry and property development;
 - b) as to 2.5%, to the Property Development Fund; and
 - c) as to 2.5%, to the APWM(Vic) Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Agree with the Presbytery of Geelong regarding its intention to dissolve the Shelford congregation.
3. Declare resolution 2 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.
4. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification that the congregation has been finally dissolved.
5. Authorise the sale of the Shelford property on Main Road (Volume 10530, Folio 998) (as permitted under Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14) and direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - a) as to 95%, to the Leigh Charge for the purposes of its general ministry and property development;
 - b) as to 2.5%, to the Property Development Fund; and
 - c) as to 2.5%, to the APWM(Vic) Committee.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

78. Overture 2: Ministry Development Committee—Code changes on congregations and mission (rules 2.1.1; 3.41; 4.64)

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by Rev Stuart Withers and Rev Darren Middleton.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

(1) Rev Stuart Withers moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Dismiss the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

79. Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

The report of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to the Lord for the work of Rev Philip Mercer on this committee.
2. Pray for ADF chaplains as they engage in all facets of life with the men and women of the ADF and that they may be the presence of Christ in their midst.
3. Encourage and urge presbyteries and congregations to put forward candidates for chaplaincy in the ADF.
4. Give thanks to God for the life, ministry, and service of CHAP Peter Owen.

The motion was seconded and approved.

80. Presbyterian Inland Mission

The Moderator welcomed the CEO of PIM, Mr Hugh Castleden, to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Castleden addressed the Assembly.

Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Jesse Walz, prayed for Mr Castleden and the work of PIM.

81. Clerkship Committee

The report of the Clerkship Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Robert White, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Express its appreciation and give thanks to God for the faithful, conscientious, and God-honouring work done on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by the Assembly Clerk, Rev Dr John Wilson, the Deputy Clerk, Rev Peter Phillips, who is currently serving as Moderator, the Acting Deputy Clerk, Rev Dean Carroll, and the Assistant to the Clerk, Siew Teng Yap.
2. Note the committee's re-appointment of Rev Dean Carroll as Acting Deputy Clerk for the period 11 October 2022–9 October 2023.

The motion was seconded and approved.

82. Commission for Church Institutions

The report of the Commission for Church Institutions was received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint the Moderator (chairman), Clerks of Assembly, John Cho, Trevor Cox, Peter Hastie, Philip Mercer, Graham Nicholson, John Stasse, Graeme Weber, elders Tom Guilford, Dr Jim Hare, Dennis Wright and Tony Zirngast, with five members to form a quorum as the Commission for Church Institutions, a commission to exercise the powers of the General Assembly:
 - a) 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;
 - b) 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.
2. Instruct the Commission, when considering appointments to church schools or institutions, to satisfy itself prior to appointment that the nominee has a current Working With Children's Check card and can meet requirements set out under ACNC regulations for the governance of not-for-profits organisations.
3. Thank Rev Ivan H Barker for his faithful attention to duty through his service on the Commission for the last 25 years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

83. Overture 6: Code and General Administration Committee—Record apart referenced in the ordinary minutes of the court (rule 6.19) (min 45)

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 6.19 reads:

6.19 Record apart

6.19.1 A court:

- a) must keep records in a separate record apart when:
 - i) required to do so by the Code of Discipline; or
 - ii) conduct in breach of the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct is alleged;
- b) may keep records in relation to matters other than those specified in rule 6.19.1(a) in a record apart.

6.19.2 When a court resolves to keep records in a record apart as provided for:

- a) by rule 6.19.1(a):
 - i) the resolution must be minuted in the record apart; and
 - ii) no entry is made of the matter in the ordinary minutes of the court until the case is finally disposed of as provided for in rules 6.19.4 and 6.19.5 below;
- b) by rule 6.19.1(b), the resolution must be minuted in the ordinary minutes of the court.

6.19.3 Minutes kept in a record apart must be:

- a) taken down on separate sheets consecutively numbered and secured within a separate folder;
- b) kept apart in a private and secure place separately from the regular minute book and other records;
- c) when confirmed, signed by the moderator and the clerk page by page.

6.19.4 In the case of proceedings under the Code of Discipline:

- a) where a matter does not proceed to judicial process no statement regarding it is inserted in the ordinary record of the court, but all minutes and other records held in connection with the matter must be retained for fifty years from the conclusion of the matter;
- b) where a matter proceeds to judicial process, at the conclusion of the process a general statement of the terms or nature of the accusation and of the judgment arrived at must be inserted in the ordinary minutes of the court and the evidence taken together with all minutes and other relevant documents kept must be retained permanently.

6.19.5 In the case of an allegation of conduct in breach of the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct, where the allegation is resolved without the matter proceeding under the Code of Discipline:

- a) a general statement of the matter and the decision of the court is included in the ordinary minutes of the court; and
- b) all records in connection with such an allegation must be retained for fifty years from the conclusion of the matter.

- 6.19.6** In the case of a resolution to keep records in a record apart as provided for by rule 6.19.1(b), all records in connection with such a resolution must be retained permanently.
- 6.19.7** Where records kept in a record apart must be retained for fifty years (see 6.19.4(a) and 6.19.5):
- a) the minutes in the record apart must be formally inspected as provided for by rule 4.96 or rule 5.49.1;
 - b) two bound copies must be prepared, sealed up and endorsed externally with a note of the subject matter, the date, and the date when they are to be destroyed;
 - c) one copy must be placed in the PCV Archive and the other copy forwarded to Safe Church PCV; and
 - d) these facts (a, b, c, above) must be recorded in the ordinary minutes of the court.
- 6.19.8** Where records kept in a record apart must be retained permanently (see 6.19.4(b) and 6.19.6):
- a) the minutes in the record apart must be formally inspected as provided for by rule 4.96 or rule 5.49.1;
 - b) two bound copies must be prepared, sealed up and endorsed externally with a note of the subject matter and the date;
 - c) one copy must be placed in the permanent records of the church in the PCV Archive, with the notation, 'To be opened only by the Session Clerk of Congregation', or 'the Clerk of the Presbytery of', or 'the Assembly Clerk' and the other copy forwarded to Safe Church PCV; and
 - d) these facts (a, b, c, above) must be recorded in the ordinary minutes of the court.

The motion was seconded and approved.

84. Overture 7: Code and General Administration Committee—Response to GAA's position on paedocommunion (rules 3.24.2 and 3.24A)

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

The overture was adjourned. (min 95)

85. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday 5 October 2022, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with prayer.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P J Burns

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
5th Sitting: Wednesday 5 October**

At Melbourne, in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, on Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 7:00pm.

86. Constitution

The Assembly resumed pursuant to adjournment with Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Jesse Walz, constituting the Assembly with the reading of James 1:18-27 and prayer.

87. Apologies

The following apologies for this sitting were sustained:

Ministers: Michael Jensen, Shady Mehanni (for all subsequent sittings)

Elders: Geoff Cross (for all subsequent sittings)

88. Business Committee

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

89. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this sitting.

The Clerk reported that there were none forthcoming.

90. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Acting Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 4th Sitting.

91. Safe Church Committee

The report of the Safe Church Committee was received.

The Clerk moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Acknowledge and give thanks to God for the work of Ian Atkinson and wish him well upon his retirement.
2. Give thanks to God for the continued work of Fiona Bligh as the Safe Church Facilitator.
3. Give thanks to God for Mrs Amelia Thomas for her years of faithful service to the Church as a member of the Safe Church Committee.
4. Give thanks to God Rev David Brown's time on the Committee, and pray for God's blessing upon his retirement.
5. Give thanks to God for the members of the Safe Church Committee.
6. Give thanks to God for the commitment to safe ministry practices by faithful servants across the PCV.
7. Adopt the risk-assessment tool provided by the Safe Church Unit to ensure the ongoing safety of children.

The motion was seconded and approved.

92. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was received.

Rev Adam Humphries moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank Almighty God for the operations of the Assembly's committees, boards, and councils in the 2021–2022 Assembly year.
2. Thank all committee members and conveners who have served in the past year.
3. Confirm the appointment of those members appointed by the Selection Committee to fill casual vacancies on committees since the 2021 Assembly.
4. Appoint all those nominated to committees, boards, councils, and other bodies and positions as presented in the Selection Committee's report.
5. Nominate to the General Assembly of Australia the following people for appointment to GAA committees:
 - Code: Mr Philip Barton; Rev Peter Phillips.
 - Defence Force Chaplaincy: Rev Paul Lee; Rev Barry Porter.
 - Finance: Mr Andrew Letcher; Rev Richard O'Brien.
 - Presbyterian Inland Mission: Rev Martin de Pyle; Mr Dennis Wright.
 - Public Worship and Aids to Devotion: Rev Luke Isham.
 - Relations with Other Churches: Rev Chris Siriweera.
6. Conduct a ballot at an appropriate time to determine which two of the following names will be the Victorian Assembly's nominees to the General Assembly of Australia for the Reception of Ministers Committee: Rev Neil Chambers; Rev Kyung Ee; Rev Brian Harvey; Rev Chris Siriweera; Rev Gerald Vanderwert.
7. Authorise the Selection Committee to bring to the 2023 Commission of Assembly further nominations of ministers and elders for the Victorian Assembly's Commissioners to the 2023 General Assembly of Australia.
8. Encourage members of the Assembly to consider whether they would be willing to serve as GAV Commissioners to the 2023 GAA and, if so, to contact the Selection Committee Convener prior to 28 February 2023.
9. Appoint Mrs Aimee Grinter to the Church Planting Committee.
10. Appoint Mr Colin Morrow to the Maintenance of Ministry Committee as a member and the convener of the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

93. Privacy Officer

The report of the Privacy Officer was received.

94. Ad Hoc Committee: Options for Minority Interest in Assembly Hall (min 70)

(1) Rev Phil Campbell moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance by adding new clause 6 as follows:

6. Recognise that the sale of the PCV's 37% interest in the Assembly Hall to a third party is not in the overall interests of the denomination.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Barry Oakes moved the deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly

1. Note that Rev Cameron Garrett retires from the Church Planting Committee owing to expiry of his term and will be replaced on this committee by the new Convener of Church Planting Committee or his nominee.

2. Appoint Rev Cameron Garrett to this committee as an additional member in order to facilitate continuity.
3. Request the committee further investigate the possibility of:
 - a) a purchase of the PCV's interest by The Scots' Church or The Scots' Church Properties Trust; and
 - b) the development and commercialisation of the entire property at 156 Collins Street, so that it provides an acceptable return on investment to the respective beneficial interests, and to report to the 2023 Commission of Assembly.
4. Approve a budget of \$75,000 for consultancy fees.
5. Request the Assembly Hall Management Committee to meet the costs from funds held in its bank account (noting the funds belong to the respective beneficial interests in proportion to their ownership of the building), and should it be the determination of the beneficial owners that consultancy costs cannot be fully funded from the management committee's bank account, request the BIF to consider where funds may be sourced for any shortfall.
6. Recognise that the sale of the PCV's 37% interest in the Assembly Hall to a third party is not in the overall interests of the denomination.

The motion was seconded and approved.

95. Overture 7 Code and General Administration Committee—Response to GAA's position on paedocommunion (rules 3.24.2 and 3.24A) (min 84)

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved his notice of motion:

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev Cameron Garrett moved, arising out of the debate:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 3:24A.2c) by the deletion of all words after 'faith'.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(4) Rev Robert White moved, arising out of the debate:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 3:24A.2c) by the deletion of the words 'the satisfaction of'

The motion was seconded and approved.

(5) The Clerk moved his notice of motion as amended:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 3.24 and the new rule 3.24A read:

A. Proposed amendment to rule 3.24.2

3.24 Lord's Supper

3.24.1 A session must appoint the time and place, and make suitable provision, for the public observance of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It also may arrange, normally through the minister, accompanied by at least one elder, for the sacrament to be administered privately, when necessary, for sick or aged communicants.

3.24.2 Public invitation to participate in the Lord's Supper is ordinarily given by the minister, in a form approved by the session, to:

- a) communicants of the congregation;
 - b) adherents to whom the session has extended the privilege of participation in the Lord's Supper;
 - c) children who have been admitted to the Lord's Supper as provided for in rule 3.24A;
 - d) visiting communicants of other Presbyterian congregations;
 - e) visiting members of other branches of the Christian church.
- 3.24.3 The minister must encourage all present to examine themselves before the Lord in light of such Scripture as 1 Corinthians 11:27–29 and Matthew 5:23-24 whether they should accept the invitation to participate in the Lord's Supper.

B. Proposed new rule 3.24A

3.24A Admission of children to the Lord's Supper

3.24A.1 In this rule, a 'child' is a young person who has not been admitted to communicant membership by profession of faith or has not been extended the privilege of participation in the Lord's Supper by a session as an adherent.

3.24A.2 Before admitting a child to the Lord's Supper, the session must ensure that the child;

- a) has been baptised; and
- b) has been instructed in the Christian faith and the nature of the sacrament; and
- c) has made a public profession of faith or a credible profession of faith to his or her believing parent/s or guardians; and
- d) has a life consistent with his or her profession.

The motion was seconded and approved.

96. Ballot for the GAA Reception of Ministers Committee

The Moderator declared the result of the ballot in favour of Rev Chris Siriweera and Rev Gerald Vanderwert.

97. Overture 8: Code and General Administration Committee—changing from mandatory ACRs to specific use MMRs

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that the affected rules read as follows, and in order to maintain consistency between rule and regulation on this matter, to give the proposed changes interim authority under rule 5.47.1(b), and to allow the committee to make any other unforeseen consequential minor-order word changes, outside of the normal process of rule 5.44, in order to maintain consistency:

A. Proposed amended rule 2.14

2.14 Annual congregational meetings

2.14.1 A session must convene a meeting of each congregation of the charge within four months of its annual reporting period to:

- a) approve the annual report of its board;
- b) adopt the annual audited financial statement of accounts submitted by its board;
- c) approve (except in the case of linked congregations):
 - i) the proposed terms of settlement for the current year of any:
 - A. inducted or appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - B. licentiate; and/or
 - ii) the proposed terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
- d) adopt an acceptable budget;
- e) if a congregation (except for linked congregations) has an annual reporting period other than 1 July – 30 June, grant the board authority to vary the terms of settlement as declared by the Commission of Assembly, so that the board can make timely beginning of financial year (1 July) adjustments;
- f) appoint congregational auditors for the coming year (see rule 2.16); and
- g) determine the number of persons to be elected from and by the communicants and adherents of the congregation, termed 'managers', or in special circumstances determine for a limited time to delegate this right of determination to the session.

2.14.2 A written review by the session of the life and work of the congregation may be presented to this meeting. Reports of congregational organisations, with or without financial statements, may also be presented in whole or in part to this meeting as the session sees fit. But, unless the session has resolved to seek the mind of the congregation on any particular matter, no such review or report is received or adopted or formally dealt with by this meeting.

2.14.3 This meeting may resolve to refer to the session for consideration any complaints or recommendations concerning the report or financial statement of a congregational organisation.

2.14.4 A session of a linked charge must also convene an annual joint meeting of the congregations of the charge within four months of the federal board's annual reporting period to:

- a) approve the annual report of the federal board;
- b) adopt the annual audited financial statement of accounts submitted by the federal board;
- c) approve:
 - i) the proposed terms of settlement for the current year of any:

- A. inducted or appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - B. licentiate; and/or
 - ii) the proposed terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
 - d) adopt an acceptable budget;
 - e) if the federal board has an annual reporting period other than 1 July – 30 June, grant the federal board authority to vary the terms of settlement as declared by the Commission of Assembly, so that the board can make timely beginning of financial year (1 July) adjustments;
 - f) appoint federal board auditors for the coming year; and
 - g) consider any other matter referred to it by the session.
- Note: A board must report on the congregation's property and its activities during the preceding year (see rule 2.45).

B. Proposed amended Rule 2.15

2.15 Annual submission of financial documents to presbytery

Every charge must submit annually financial documents to presbytery. Every charge that has not submitted a Maintenance of Ministry Report as required by rule 4.81 must submit annually to the presbytery:

- a) its audited financial statements;
- b) i) the terms of settlement for the current year of any:
 - A. inducted minister; and/or
 - B. appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - C. licentiate; and/or
- ii) the terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; approved by the annual congregational meeting; and
- c) the budget or budgets adopted by the annual congregational meeting.

C. Proposed amended Rule 2.44

2.44 Financial records

- 2.44.1 A board must keep proper and adequate records of account and other necessary financial records.
- 2.44.2 The financial records of each congregation must be kept by the use of separate columns in a cash book or by posting to separate ledger accounts or electronic recording or otherwise, so that it shall be readily possible to ascertain the amounts of:

- a) collections by plate or by other systematic means for ordinary congregational purposes;
- b) other regular sources of congregational revenue, such as rents of property, or interest on endowments;
- c) special donations, sales, gifts and proceeds of special efforts;
- d) the amount contributed by the congregation to the schemes of the church including the General Mission Program;
- e) the amount contributed to charitable and other objects outside the church; and
- f) every payment made from congregational funds.

D. Proposed amended Rule 2.45 and new rule 2.45A

2.45 Annual reporting by a congregational board

Every congregational board must annually prepare and approve:

- a) a report on the congregation's property and the board's activities during the preceding year;
- b) a financial statement of its accounts, which is audited; and
- c) except where there is a federal board:
 - i) the terms of settlement it proposes for the current year for any inducted or appointed minister or licentiate in the form approved by the General Assembly; and/or
 - ii) the terms and conditions for the current year for any appointed home missionary or assistant to the minister or any other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
- d) a proposed budget; and
- e) submit these documents to the annual congregational meeting.

2.45A Annual reporting by a federal board

Every federal board must annually prepare and approve:

- a) a report on any congregational property used as a manse and the board's activities during the preceding year;
- b) a financial statement of its accounts, which is audited;
- c) i) the terms of settlement it proposes for the current year for any inducted or appointed minister or licentiate in the form approved by the General Assembly; and/or
 - ii) the terms and conditions for the current year for any appointed home missionary or assistant to the minister or any other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
- d) a proposed budget; and
- e) submit these documents to the annual joint congregational meeting of the charge.

E. Proposed amended rule 4.81

4.81 Submission of financial documents to presbytery

- 4.81.1 A presbytery must ensure that any charge within its bounds which has not completed a Maintenance of Ministry Report as provided for by rule 4.81.2 submits annually to the presbytery,

- a) its audited financial statements;
 - b) i) the terms of settlement of any:
 - A. inducted or appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - B. licentiate; and/or
 - ii) the terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role;
 - c) approved by the annual congregational meeting; and
 - c) the budget or budgets adopted by the annual congregational meeting for the presbytery's consideration.
- 4.81.2 A presbytery in the following circumstances must ensure that a Maintenance of Ministry Report in the form approved by the General Assembly is completed by charges within its bounds:
- a) after the presbytery has dissolved the pastoral tie of a charge;
 - b) when, in the opinion of the presbytery, any change in circumstances requires a review of terms of settlement;
 - c) annually, by any charge that requires a grant or where the minister is appointed on a part-time basis (see rule 4.71 and MDC regulations 9 and 10); or
 - d) when satisfactory arrangements have been made for a part-time ministry within the charge as provided for by rule 4.82.2(b)(ii);
- and forwarded forthwith to the presbytery for its consideration. The presbytery, having approved the proposed terms of settlement, must forward them to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for its consideration and await the committee's declaration of the terms of settlement.

F. Proposed amended rule 4.82

4.82 Inability or failure to implement terms of settlement

4.82.1 If a presbytery receives:

- a) a report from either a minister or the treasurer that the board is, or is likely soon to be, unable to pay the stipend or make available non-cash benefits at least monthly or to implement the terms of settlement as declared by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee and promised to its minister at his induction; or
- b) a notice from Ministry Development Committee that it has decided to reduce or discontinue a grant to the congregation following which the presbytery believes that this is likely to seriously impair the congregation's ability to meet the terms of settlement in the near future;

it must take expedient steps to rectify the situation, which may include:

- i) encouraging the congregation to increase its financial support;
- ii) with the concurrence of the minister, approving a reduction (but not to less than the minimums set by the General Assembly) to the approved terms of settlement;
- iii) recommending and assisting in the removal of the minister to another sphere of labour; or

- iv) with the concurrence of the minister, dissolving the pastoral tie.
- 4.82.2 If a presbytery is unable to ensure the speedy rectification of the matter by any of the steps suggested under rule 4.82.1, and it is satisfied that the terms of settlement are not being fulfilled, then it must dissolve the pastoral tie within six months of it declaring itself so satisfied unless:
- a) it sees cause in the meantime to grant the prayer of a petition from the minister that he be allowed to retain his charge; or
 - b) it satisfies the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee that satisfactory arrangements have been made for a part-time ministry within the charge, in which case a Maintenance of Ministry Report with revised terms of settlement must be completed and approved (see rule 4.81.1).

G. Proposed amended rule 4.114

4.114 Payment of arrears and proposed terms of settlement

- 4.114.1 The congregation, at its first meeting in connection with filling the vacancy, must arrange to pay any arrears in:
- a) remuneration to the former minister or his personal representative; and
 - b) rates due to the General Assembly, the presbytery, and the superannuation fund.
- 4.114.2 Either at this meeting, or shortly afterwards, and thereafter each financial year during the vacancy, the congregation must decide on proposed terms of settlement which, without delay, must be submitted by the interim moderator to the presbytery or its appropriate committee.
- 4.114.3 The presbytery must consider the proposed terms of settlement in the light of all available information and either approve them and forward them to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for its consideration and action or return them to the congregation for reconsideration.

The motion was seconded and approved.

98. Overture 9: Code and General Administration Committee—Maintaining minutes of meetings in a bound minute book

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The debate was adjourned. (min 130)

99. Overture 10: Code and General Administration—Presbytery oversight of trials for licence

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rules 4.35, 4.38 and 4.48 read:

4.35 Trials for licence

A candidate who:

- a) is a communicant of the church;
- b) has notification from the Theological College Faculty that its requirements have been satisfied up to that time; and
- c) has entered the final year of his studies.
may make formal request to the presbytery having oversight over him for trials for licence.

The presbytery must then appoint trials for licence for him, with two or more of its members as examiners. The trials for licence cannot be regarded as completed, and no act of licensing can be undertaken, until an Exit Certificate has been issued by the College Committee of the General Assembly of Australia and until one year has elapsed from the date of his acceptance as a candidate.

4.38 Removal of a candidate to another presbytery during trials

4.38.1 If at any stage of his trials a candidate wishes to transfer his trials for licence to another presbytery, the presbytery, if satisfied with the reasons for his move, must transfer his trials for licence to that presbytery.

4.48 Licentiates, ministerial members and ministers who are not members of a presbytery

4.48.1 A licentiate remains under the jurisdiction and oversight of the presbytery which licensed him until he is appointed to a charge outside its bounds or the presbytery transfers him to the jurisdiction of another presbytery.

The motion was seconded and approved.

100. Overture 11: Code and General Administration—Order of business for presbytery meetings

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rules 4.22.1 and 4.22.2 read:

4.22 Order of business

4.22.1 The order of business of a presbytery meeting is normally:

- a) constitution by prayer;
- b) recording of members present;
- c) sustaining of apologies for absence;
- d) sustaining of elders' commissions;

- e) adjustment of the roll;
 - f) association of eligible persons, and welcomes;
 - g) declaration of conflicts of interest;
 - h) tabling of notices of motion for a future meeting;
 - i) adoption of agenda;
 - j) confirmation of minutes of previous meeting(s);
 - k) attention to any reasons for dissent from decisions recorded in the minutes of the previous meeting;
 - l) other business arising from the minutes;
 - m) any other business;
 - n) safety agreements and PCV Safe Church requirements;
 - o) fixing the date of the next meeting (see rule 4.16.3);
 - p) closure with prayer.
- 4.22.2 However, save for (a), (g), (n), (o) and (p) of the previous rule, a presbytery may vary the order of its business as it sees fit.
- 4.22.3 A notice of motion may also be handed in immediately before the close of the meeting.

The motion was seconded and approved.

101. Overture 12: Code and General Administration Committee—procedural steps for linking congregations (rule 4.68B)

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 4.68B may be enacted as follows:

4.68B Linking of congregations (a form of adjustment)

4.68B.1 Following the procedure described in rule 4.68.2, and having obtained the agreement of any inducted minister of any pastoral charge affected by the proposed linking, the presbytery must in consultation with the sessions and boards of the congregations prepare a proposed Basis of Linking as an instrument for linking the congregations.

4.68B.2 The proposed Basis of Linking must deal with:

- a) the choice of a name for the linked charge;
- b) the placing of the linked congregations under a session (rule 4.60.1);
- c) the bounds of the parish within which the linked congregations will be situated;
- d) the provision of a manse or a manse allowance for any minister or ministers of the linked congregations; and
- e) the provision of a minister or ministers for the linked congregations.

4.68B.3 The proposed Basis of Linking may deal with such other matters as the presbytery, in its discretion, considers necessary.

4.68B.4 After granting provisional approval of the proposed Basis of Linking the presbytery must submit the proposed Basis of Linking to the congregations for their approval.

However, the presbytery may:

- a) proceed with the proposed linking notwithstanding the failure of one or more of the congregations to approve the Basis of Linking; or
- b) defer or abandon the proposed linking.

4.68B.5 If the presbytery resolves that the proposed linking is necessary for the good of the church it may:

- a) declare the linking of the congregation as proposed in the Basis of Linking;
- b) fix the date on which the linking will come into effect;
- c) declare the creation of a charge from the date of linking;
- d) declare the bounds of the parish in which the linked congregations will be situated;
- e) place the linked congregations under the oversight of the session;
- f) direct the session to declare the formation of a federal board and determine its membership (rule 2.32.1);
- g) arrange a service of Declaration of Linking and, as appropriate, of the Introduction of its minister(s); and
- h) notify the Moderator and Clerk of the General Assembly that linking has been effected.

Note: A service of Declaration of Linking and of Introduction of [name of the minister] is appropriate where the Basis of Linking provides that the linking is to be effected under the minister of one of the charges.

The motion was seconded and approved.

102. Overture 13: Code and General Administration committee—PCV Gifts, Benefits, and Hospitality policy

The overture was received.

The overture was stated by the Clerk.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Adopt the PCV Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy, as follows:

PCV Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to guide General Assembly office bearers and committee members in receiving and giving gifts, benefits and hospitality in the performance of their duties.

2. Policy principles

- a) General Assembly office bearers and committee members must:
 - i) not solicit for themselves or others, gifts, benefits or hospitality;
 - ii) not accept gifts, benefits or hospitality:
 - that could be perceived as influencing them in performing their duties; or

- from persons with whom they are likely to make business decisions;
- iii) refuse all offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality which:
 - are money, items used in a similar way to money, or items easily converted to money;
 - may adversely affect their standing as a workplace participant or which may bring the PCV into disrepute; or
 - are non-token offers without a legitimate business benefit.
- iv) refuse bribes or inducements and report inducements and bribery attempts to the Clerk of Assembly or his delegate (who must report any criminal or corrupt conduct to Victoria Police or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission);
- v) ensure that when they provide any gift, benefit or hospitality:
 - it is provided for a business purpose of and in connection with the PCV or otherwise promotes and supports the interests of the PCV; and
 - any costs are proportionate to the benefits obtained for PCV and would be considered reasonable in terms of community expectations.
- vi) ensure that when they provide hospitality, individuals demonstrate professionalism in their conduct, and uphold their obligation to extend a duty of care to other participants.
- a) conveners of General Assembly committees are accountable for:
 - i) overseeing management of committee members' acceptance or refusal of non-token gifts, benefits and hospitality, modelling good practice; and
 - ii) promoting awareness of this Policy among the members of their committees.

3. Definitions

In this Policy:

- a) **'business associate'** means an individual or body with whom the church organisation has, or plans to establish, some form of business relationship;
- b) **'benefit'** means any form of preferential treatment, privileged access favour, or other advantage offered to an individual (including but not limited to invitations to sporting, cultural or social events, access to discounts and loyalty programs or promises of a new job);
- c) **'gift'** means a free or discounted item or service and any item or service that would generally be seen by the public as a gift;
- d) **'hospitality'** means the friendly reception and entertainment of guests. This may range from light refreshments at a business meeting to expensive restaurant meals and sponsored travel and accommodation;
- e) **'legitimate business benefit'** means a gift, benefit or hospitality that may further the conduct of official business or other legitimate goals of the PCV;

- f) **'register'** means a record of all declarable gifts, benefits and hospitality;
- g) **'token offer'** means a gift, benefit or hospitality worth not more than \$50;
- h) **'non-token offer'** means a gift, benefit or hospitality worth more than \$50.

4. **Management of offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality**

This section sets out the process for accepting and declining offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality by General Assembly office bearers and committee members and recording the same. Any exceptions to this process must have the prior written approval of the Clerk of Assembly or his delegate, or, where the Clerk is seeking an exception, the Deputy Clerk.

a) **Acceptance risks**

When deciding whether to accept an offer, individuals must first consider if the offer could be perceived as influencing them in performing their duties, or lead to reputational damage, taking into account that the more valuable the offer, the more likely that a risk exists.

Figure 1. GIFT test

G	Giver	Who is providing the gift, benefit or hospitality and what is their relationship to me? Could the person or organisation benefit from a decision I make?
I	Influence	Is he/she seeking to gain an advantage or influence my decisions or actions? Does its timing coincide with a decision I am about to make?
F	Favour	Is he/she seeking a favour in return for the gift, benefit or hospitality? Would accepting it create an obligation to return a favour?
T	Trust	Would accepting the gift, benefit or hospitality diminish public trust? What would my colleagues, family, friends or the general public think of this gift?

b) **Refusing offers**

Individuals must consider the GIFT test at Figure 1 and the requirements below to help decide whether to refuse an offer.

Individuals must refuse offers:

- i) likely to influence them, or be perceived to influence them, in the course of their duties;
- ii) which could bring them, their committee or the PCV into disrepute;
- iii) made by a person or organisation about which they will likely make or influence a decision, particularly offers made:
 - by a current or prospective supplier; or
 - during a procurement or tender process by someone involved in the process.
- iv) likely to be a bribe or inducement to make a decision or act in a particular way;
- v) that extend to their relatives or friends;
- vi) of money, or used in a similar way to money, or something easily converted to money;

- vii) where, in relation to hospitality and events, their committee or the PCV will already be sufficiently represented to meet its business needs;
- viii) where acceptance could be perceived as endorsement of a product or service, or acceptance would unfairly advantage the sponsor in future procurement decisions; or
- ix) made in secret.

If an individual considers he or she has been offered a bribe or inducement, the offer must be reported to the Clerk of Assembly who must report any criminal or corrupt conduct to Victoria Police or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission.

c) **Accepting offers**

i) **Token offers**

Individuals may generally accept token offers without approval or declaring the offer on the General Assembly's register, as long as the offer does not influence them in performing their duties or is not likely to lead to reputational damage.

ii) **Non-token offers**

Individuals may only accept non-token offers if they have a legitimate business benefit. All accepted non-token offers must be approved in writing by the committee convener or Clerk of Assembly, recorded in the gifts, benefits and hospitality register and be consistent with the following requirements:

- it is not likely to influence them, or be perceived to influence them, in the course of their duties or have the potential to bring the individual, their committee or the PCV into disrepute; and
- there is a legitimate business reason for acceptance, it is offered in the course of the individual's official duties, relates to the individual's responsibilities and has a benefit to their committee or the PCV.

Individuals may be offered a non-token gift or hospitality where there is no opportunity to seek written approval from the convener of their committee or the Clerk of Assembly prior to accepting. For example, they may be offered a wrapped gift that they later identify as being a non-token gift. In these cases, the individual must seek approval within five business days. Where the gift could influence an individual, or be perceived to influence an individual, in the course of his or her duties, the committee convener or Clerk of Assembly (as the case may be) must either return the gift or transfer ownership to the PCV to mitigate this risk.

iii) **Recording non-token offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality**

All non-token offers, whether accepted or declined, must be recorded in the General Assembly's gifts, benefits and hospitality register. The business reason for accepting the non-token offer must be recorded in the register with sufficient detail to link the acceptance to the individual's

work functions and benefit to their committee or to the PCV. Individuals must consider the following examples of acceptable and unacceptable levels of detail to be included in the General Assembly's register when recording the business reason:

Unacceptable

- 'Networking'
- 'Maintaining stakeholder relationships'

Acceptable

- 'Individual is responsible for evaluating and reporting on the outcomes of the committee's sponsorship of Event A. Individual attended Event A in an official capacity and reported back to the committee on the event.'
- 'Individual presented to a visiting international delegation. The delegation presented the individual with a cultural item worth an estimated \$200. Declining the gift would have caused offence. The gift was accepted on behalf of the PCV.'

Access to the register is restricted on a need to access basis under the supervision of the Clerk of Assembly.

d) **Reporting by the Clerk of Assembly**

The Clerk must report annually to the General Assembly on the administration and quality control of this Policy and the register. The report must include analysis of gifts, benefits and hospitality risks (including multiple offers from the same source and offers from business associates), risk mitigation measures and any proposed improvements.

e) **Ownership of gifts given to individuals**

- i) Non-token gifts with a legitimate business benefit accepted by an individual for his/her work or contribution may be retained by the individual where the gift is not likely to bring them or the PCV into disrepute, and where the Clerk of Assembly or their supervising committee has provided written approval.
- ii) Official gifts or any gift of cultural significance or significant value must be transferred to the PCV.

f) **Repeat offers**

Given that repeat offers (token or non-token) from the same person or organisation can generate a stronger perception that the person or organisation could influence an individual, individuals must refuse repeat offers from the same source if they may lead to reputational damage.

5. Management of the provision of gifts, benefits and hospitality

This section sets out the requirements for the provision of gifts, benefits and hospitality by General Assembly office bearers and committee members.

Figure 2. HOST test

H	Hospitality	To whom is the gift or hospitality being provided? Will recipients be external business associates, or individuals within the PCV?
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O	Objectives	For what purpose will hospitality be provided? Is the hospitality being provided to further the conduct of official business and likely to promote and support the PCV's objectives?
S	Spend	Will church funds be spent? What type of hospitality will be provided? Will the costs incurred be proportionate to the benefits obtained?
T	Trust	Will public trust be enhanced or diminished? Could the rationale for providing the gift or hospitality be publicly explained? Have records in relation to it been kept in accordance with reporting and recording procedures?

Requirements for providing gifts, benefits and hospitality

Gifts, benefits and hospitality may be provided when welcoming guests, to facilitate the development of business relationships, to further church business outcomes and to celebrate achievements. When deciding whether to provide gifts, benefits or hospitality or the type of gift, benefit or hospitality to provide, individuals must ensure that:

- a) any gift, benefit or hospitality provided furthers the conduct of official business or other legitimate church goals, or promotes and the interests of the PCV; and
- b) any costs are proportionate to the benefits obtained for the PCV, and would be considered reasonable in terms of community expectations.

It is expected that the instances where gifts, benefits and hospitality may be provided would rarely arise. It is advisable to seek the prior approval of the Clerk of Assembly as far as is it is practical.

6. Reporting breaches of this Policy

Individuals who consider that gifts, benefits and hospitality by General Assembly office bearers or committee members may not have been declared or are not being appropriately managed must notify the Clerk of Assembly, or, where it involves the Clerk of Assembly, the Deputy Clerk. Individuals who believe they have observed corrupt conduct in their colleagues may also make a protected disclosure directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

7. Advice on the application of this Policy

Individuals unsure about accepting a gift benefit or hospitality or any other aspect of the application of this Policy should ask the Clerk of Assembly for advice.

The motion was seconded and approved.

103. Code and General Administration Committee

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

It was agreed to take the proposed deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-8 were seconded and approved.

(1) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend deliverance clause 9 by replacing the figure 0.7% with 1.4% in regulation 5f of the proposed Maintenance of the Ministry regulations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Amended clause 9 was approved.

Clauses 10-16 were seconded and approved

(2) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend deliverance clause 17 by deleting all words in regulation 2 and replacing them with:

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of seven members, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 17 by the addition of '(see rule 5.19)' following the word 'Assembly' in proposed regulation 5.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Amended clause 17 was approved.

The debate was adjourned. (min 123)

104. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9:30am on Thursday 6 October 2022, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with prayer.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P J Burns

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
6th Sitting: Thursday 6 October**

At Melbourne, in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 9:30am.

105. Constitution

The Assembly resumed pursuant to adjournment with the Moderator constituting the Assembly with the reading of Psalm 97 and prayer.

106. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev Ben Nelson, led the Assembly in the third of his Assembly Expositions, based on Acts 4:13-31.

107. Encouragement for ‘City on a Hill’ Church

Rev Jesse Walz sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

Rev Jesse Walz moved:

That the Assembly:

Request the Moderator to write a letter to the leadership of ‘City on a Hill’ Church to encourage them in their time of public scrutiny because of their faithfulness to Christ (Philippians 1:27-28).

The motion was seconded and approved with acclamation.

108. Apology

The following apology for this sitting was sustained: Rev Richard O’Brien.

109. Thanks of the Assembly

The Clerk sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Place on record the Assembly’s gratefulness for:

- a) the business convener, Jared Hood, for his meticulous attention to the running of this year’s General Assembly, especially noting helpful initiatives such as the UAP;
- b) the Acting Deputy Clerk pro tem, Philip Burns, for his willingness to stand-in at short notice as minute-taker and for his faithfulness to duty;
- c) the Acting Deputy Clerk, Dean Carroll, who, even though at home on sick-leave, gave himself diligently to the proof reading of draft minutes of each sitting;
- d) the Law Agent, Geoff Cox, who silos his McCracken and McCracken work for the week so as to make himself available each day for this General Assembly and for his erudite advice that he offers;
- e) the Moderator’s chaplains, Jesse Walz and Ben Nelson for their valuable devotional leadership that sets the tone and guides the focus of this General Assembly, and especially for Ben’s insightful expositions of three of the prayers of Scripture;

- f) the Assembly projectionist, Brett Cummins, who has given much of his time in prior preparation and also in continued vigilance throughout the week so as we can more easily follow the business before us;
- g) the Assembly audio technician, Dave Assender, who gave his entire day on Monday to set up the sound system, and then also for his team of assistants who have given us trouble free audio for the week;
- h) all Assembly Committee conveners, unsung heroes in the faith, who willingly give so much of their time, energy and talent in serving this Assembly week by week and month by month to prosper the work of the gospel under the name of the PCV;
- i) the Assembly pianist, David Schulz, who makes his God-given talent available to assist us to sing God's praises;
- j) the Clerk's Assistant, Siew Teng Yap, who rearranges her entire week to serve us in her usual cheerful and efficient way so that papers are produced, phone calls monitored, and even the dishes of afternoon tea are washed in order that our meetings can proceed in the best possible manner.

The motion was second and approved with acclamation.

110. Business Committee

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

111. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator asked for declarations by members of the court of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business of this sitting.

The Clerk reported that there were none forthcoming.

112. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Acting Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 5th Sitting.

113. Communication 3: Korus Connect

The communication was received.

114. Theological Education Committee

The report of the Theological Education Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Kevin Maxwell moved the proposed deliverance.

Clauses 1-9 and 11-13 were approved.

Rev Dr Felix and Mrs Mei Chung were brought before the Assembly and their upcoming retirement noted.

Clause 10 was approved with acclamation.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer, giving thanks for and praying for God's blessing upon Rev Dr Felix and Mrs Mei Chung in their retirement.

Rev Michael Jensen sought leave to move a new clause without notice.

Leave was granted.

(1) Rev Michael Jensen moved:

That the Assembly:

14. Give thanks to God for the contribution of Rev Ivan Barker to the Theological Education Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Convener, moved the deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Praise God for the leadership of Rev Ben Nelson in his role as Acting Principal during the Principal's sabbatical.
2. Give thanks to God for the return to face-to-face lectures and the strong sense of collegiality and community that this brings to the college.
3. Thank God that the Principal, Rev Peter Hastie, is able to complete six months of sabbatical leave.
4. Praise God for the provision of a gifted team of adjunct lecturers who ably support the college, its staff and students.
5. Thank God for a favourable result from the ACT surveys and reviews, and pray for the development of the College's students, that they might be equipped to rightly divide the word of God.
6. Praise God for the calibre and quality of the students and candidates preparing for gospel ministry at PTC, and pray that they will continue to grow in their love for God and giftedness for his service as they study.
7. Encourage sessions to consider how their churches could contribute to the development of a new library at PTC.
8. Ask Christ to continue to give gifts to his church in the form of faithful and godly men and women who are willing to serve his people in gospel ministry.
9. Pray that God will grant the TEC wisdom and prudence as it seeks to meet the challenging circumstances that lie ahead.
10. Give thanks to God for the life, work, and ministry of Rev Dr Felix Chung and for his faithful and humble contribution to the Presbyterian Theological College, the wider PCV, and the extended body of Christ.
11. Approve the job description for the lecturer in Church History and Public Theology.

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is seeking a Lecturer in Church History and Public Theology.

The PTC is a reformed and evangelical institution which has a vital role in developing, disseminating, and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria and beyond. The Assembly, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Victorian Assembly, is looking for a faithful Christian, academically able in the discipline of historical studies and with experience in pastoral oversight who can help students understand the challenges and Gospel opportunities of the intellectual, moral, and cultural context in Australia. The lecturer will also have a role in leading the PCV as it engages with doctrinal and cultural issues. The Assembly, through the TEC, will set the lecturer apart for this ministry and teaching appointment by a public act of commissioning.

2. Responsibilities

The lecturer in Church History and Public Theology will be responsible, under the Principal of the PTC, for delivery of ACT lectures in Introductory Church History and the Reformation, as well as in the areas of Western intellectual history and contemporary cultural engagement.

A lecturer must:

- Set an example in life and ministry to the students.
- Contribute to the well-being of the college community.

- Be involved in and represent the College's interests in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- Undertake administrative tasks delegated by the Principal.
- Stay abreast of educational developments and be willing to be innovative in the delivery of his courses and in their assessment.
- Seek to engage the wider Christian Church and the general public in areas relevant to his field.

These tasks will involve attendance at faculty meetings and participation in Australian College of Theology meetings in his area and being available to advise Assembly Committees as requested and appropriate.

3. Attributes

- Able to meet the qualifications of a ministry leader as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- A capacity to communicate clearly.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

4. Qualifications

Essential

- Qualified in History at Research Masters level or above.
- Preferably already possessing or working toward a doctorate and be interested in writing journal articles and/or books
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia, willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches, or similarly able to provide theological and spiritual leadership as a teacher of the Church (including in conducting worship services).
- A wholehearted commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith, as read in the light of the Declaratory Statement of 1901, as a systematic exposition of the teaching of Scripture.
- Fully committed to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
- Already possessing, or able to obtain, a WWCC and willing to sign the Safe Church policy agreement.

Achievements and Capabilities

- Demonstrated ability to teach in his discipline, ideally with some experience in curriculum design and assessment.
- Educational experience with an awareness of different modes of delivery of courses.
- Understanding of the Australian higher educational context, especially of the expectations of the Australian College of Theology.
- Involvement in discipling and training others in ministry skills.
- Demonstrated capacity to work in a team.
- Experience in the activities of the courts of the Church.
- Availability to preach at weekends and represent the College, as well as teaching evening classes.
- Administrative experience with an ability to share in the administrative work of a tertiary institution.

5. Terms

- a) 1.05 times the minister's minimum 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 month's paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of appointment or alternatively twelve month's paid study leave during each seventh year of appointment.
 - f) removal costs paid by the Theological Education Committee within Australia but a negotiated figure if from overseas.
 - g) annual leave equivalent to ministerial annual leave as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly, currently five weeks.
 - h) Workcover.
 - i) payment of manse energy bills up to \$3,000 per annum as a non cash benefit.
 - j) any other provisions the Assembly may determine.
12. Approve the job description for the lecturer in Christian Studies (Mandarin) and Asian Programme Coordinator.

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is seeking a lecturer in Christian Studies (Mandarin) and a Coordinator for the Asian Programme at PTC.

The PTC is a reformed and evangelical institution which has a vital role in developing, disseminating and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria and beyond. The Assembly, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Victorian Assembly, is looking for a faithful Christian, academically able in biblical and theological studies and with experience in pastoral ministry, who can help to develop the delivery of courses in Mandarin at PTC. A lecturer at the PTC will also have a role as a theological resource to his brothers in congregational ministry. The lecturer will also have a role in leading the PCV as it engages with issues in multi-cultural ministry. The Assembly, through the TEC, will set the lecturer apart for this ministry and teaching appointment by a public act of commissioning.

2. Responsibilities

The Lecturer in Christian Studies (Mandarin) and Asian Programme Coordinator will be responsible, under the Principal of the PTC, for the delivery of ACT units in Christian studies in Mandarin. As the Asian programme coordinator, the lecturer will coordinate other lecturers in the programme, assist with student enrolment and engagement, advise on developing the Library's Asian collection, mentor Asian and Chinese students, and connect with Asian and Chinese congregations.

A lecturer must:

- Set an example in life and ministry to the students.
- Contribute to the well-being of the college community.
- Be involved in and represent the College's interests in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- Undertake administrative tasks delegated by the Principal.
- Stay abreast of educational developments and be willing to be innovative in the delivery of his courses and in their assessment.

- Seek to establish and maintain a trusting working relationship with Chinese churches both in the PCV and in the broader Christian context in Victoria and Australia.
- Be responsible for obtaining and maintaining ACT approval for the delivery of a Chinese academic programme at PTC.

These tasks will involve attendance at faculty meetings, participation in Australian College of Theology meetings in his area and being available to advise PCV congregations as requested and appropriate.

3. Attributes

- Able to meet the qualifications of ministry leader as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- A capacity to communicate clearly.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Ability to integrate with the broader PTC Faculty.

4. Qualifications

Essential

- Qualified in an area of Christian studies at Research Masters level or above.
- Preferably already possessing or working toward a doctorate and be interested in writing journal articles and/or books.
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia, willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches, or similarly able to provide theological and spiritual leadership as a teacher of the Church (including in conducting worship services).
- Pastoral experience and credentials, particularly among Chinese churches either in or outside of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- A wholehearted commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith, as read in the light of the Declaratory Statement of 1901, as a systematic exposition of the teaching of Scripture.
- Fully committed to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
- Bilingual or trilingual (English, Mandarin, Cantonese), though English and Mandarin is preferred.
- Already possessing, or able to obtain, a WWCC and willing to sign the Safe Church policy agreement.

Achievements and Capabilities

- Demonstrated ability to teach in his discipline, ideally with some experience in curriculum design and assessment.
- Educational experience with an awareness of different modes of delivery of courses.
- Understanding of the Australian higher educational context, especially of the expectations of the Australian College of Theology.
- Involvement in discipling and training others in ministry skills.
- Demonstrated capacity to work in a team.
- Experience in the activities of the courts of the Church.
- Availability to preach at weekends and represent the College, as well as teaching evening classes.
- Administrative experience with an ability to share in the administrative work of a tertiary institution.

5. Terms

- 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.
13. Approve the job description for the prospective Principal of PTC.

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is seeking a new principal. The PTC is a reformed and evangelical institution which has a vital role in developing, disseminating and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria, and beyond in the coming years. The assembly, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Victorian Assembly, is looking for a faithful Christian, academically able and with experience in pastoral ministry, who can give direction to the development of the college, be a model of integrity and faithful Bible teaching to the students, support and encourage the work of his colleagues, and encourage the work of the gospel in congregations throughout the State. The Assembly believes that the College is in a unique position to have a significant role in promoting the work of the gospel in the State of Victoria both within and beyond the bounds of the denomination and is looking for a person of energy and determination who can see the opportunities and lead the College in making its contribution through the training of faithful gospel ministers.

2. Responsibilities

2.1. The principal is responsible for the day to day work of the College, co-ordinating the delivery of high quality courses to prepare men and women for gospel ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and beyond. As such the Principal must:

- Give academic, educational, and pastoral leadership to the Faculty, encouraging them in the fulfilment of their own teaching, pastoral, and research responsibilities;
- Oversee the administration of the college;
- Set an example in life and ministry to the students and be responsible for their pastoral support while they study;
- Maintain the well being of the college community;
- Be involved in and represent the College's interests in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

These tasks will involve teaching in his own discipline, presiding at faculty meetings, participation in Australian College of Theology

meetings, interviewing new students and meeting with continuing students, participation in Presbytery and Assembly, having a seat on the TEC, supervision of office staff, meeting with relevant student bodies, and having awareness of the financial management of the College.

2.2. The principal is responsible for giving direction to the development of the College. The principal will need to engage in:

- Considering the need for innovation in the delivery of the College's courses;
- Anticipating regulatory requirements;
- Giving guidance to the TEC in relation to the resources needed to maintain and develop the College property.
- Consideration of further opportunities for gospel ministry and anticipated needs for gospel ministers in the PCV and wider Victorian community.

2.3. The principal is responsible for promoting the college in the denomination and beyond. As such the principal will be involved, where invited, in preaching in Presbyterian congregations throughout the state, speaking to university groups, and taking part in appropriate interdenominational meetings.

3. Attributes

- Able to meet the qualifications of an overseer as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- A capacity to communicate a biblical model of pastoral formation and theological education.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

4. Selection Criteria

Essential Qualifications

- Possessing or working towards a doctorate in one of the major theological disciplines.
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian church of Australia or willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches.
- Pastoral experience.
- A wholehearted commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith, as read in the light of the Declaratory Statement of 1901, as a systematic exposition of the teaching of Scripture.
- Fully committed to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
- Already possessing, or able to obtain, a WWCC and willing to sign the Safe Church policy agreement.

Achievements and Capabilities

- Understanding of the Australian Higher Educational context, especially of the expectations of the Australian College of Theology.
- An ability to sustain a public platform ministry
- Involvement in discipling and training others in ministry skills
- Demonstrated capacity to lead a team
- Administrative experience with an ability to coordinate day to day operations of an educational institution
- Experience in the activities of Presbytery and Assembly

5. Terms

- a) 1.23 times the minister's minimum 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 month's paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of appointment or alternatively twelve month's paid study leave during each seventh year of appointment.
- f) removal costs paid by the Theological Education Committee within Australia but a negotiated figure if from overseas.
- g) annual leave equivalent to ministerial annual leave as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly, currently five weeks.
- h) Workcover.
- i) payment of manse energy bills up to \$3,000 per annum as a non-cash benefit.
- j) fully serviced car with running costs for church, or equivalent cost benefit as set by the Theological Education Committee.
- k) any other provisions the Assembly may determine.

14. Give thanks to God for the contribution of Rev Ivan Barker to the Theological Education Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

115. Ad Hoc Library Appeal Committee

The report of the Ad Hoc Library Appeal Committee was received.

Dr Allan Harman moved the proposed deliverance.

That the Assembly:

1. Instruct the ad hoc Library Appeal Committee to consider the possibility of housing the PCV archives in the new college library, and, after consultation with the Theological Education Committee and the Clerk, to present a full report to the Commission of Assembly in May 2023, to include matters relating to the necessary funding for the whole project.

The motion was seconded and approved.

116. Communication 4: Queensland Theological College

The Communication from the Queensland Theological College was received.

(1) Rev Phil Campbell moved clause 1 of his notice of motion.

That the Assembly:

Note with regret the negative impact the financial crisis of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (due to the failure of PresCare) has had upon the Queensland Theological College.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

(2) Rev Phil Campbell moved clause 2 of his notice of motion.

Request the Board of Investment and Finance to investigate any possible means to provide a loan of \$1 million to the QTC 'Securing the Future' Fund.

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev Luke Isham moved his notice of motion.

Rev Luke Isham sought leave to fall from the motion.

Leave was granted.

(4) Rev Neil Chambers sought the Moderator's ruling to move an amendment to the notice of motion clause 2 via the addition of words so that the clause would end with

‘and if a possible means is found, to offer that, in a timely manner, to the QTC ‘Securing the Future’ Fund.

The Moderator ruled that the proposed amendment arose out of the debate.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

(5) Rev Phil Campbell moved his notice of motion clause 2 as amended:

Request the Board of Investment and Finance to investigate any possible means to provide a loan of \$1 million to the QTC ‘Securing the Future’ Fund and if a possible means is found, to offer that, in a timely manner, to the QTC ‘Securing the Future’ Fund.

The motion was seconded and approved.

117. Presentation: Mrs Christine Closter

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Christine Closter, thanking her for 20 years of service to the PWMU Cookbook Committee and presenting a certificate acknowledging this milestone.

Mrs Closter returned her thanks to the Assembly.

118. Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union

The report of the Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union was received.

The Moderator welcomed the President of PWMU, Mrs Roslyn Brown, who addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Brown and led in prayer for the work of the PWMU.

Rev Brett Cummins sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

(1) Rev Brett Cummins moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank the PWMU for their incredible support of missions and for their encouragement to children to be involved with missions through the Dayspring Day and the Dayspring magazine.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch.

The Assembly resumed after the lunch break with the singing of a hymn and the Immediate Past Moderator leading the court in prayer.

119. Women’s Ministries Victoria Committee

The report of the Women’s Ministries Victoria Committee was received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Annie Weir and newly appointed WMV Women’s Ministries Facilitator, Mrs Kathryn Gatt, who both addressed the Assembly.

The Acting Convener, Rev Russ Grinter moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the women in the PCV that they might continue to mature in Christ, be equipped to minister to others in the body of Christ, and be salt and light as ambassadors of Christ in the world.
2. Encourage the women in the PCV to commit to attending the closest, ‘On the Road’ conference in the next twelve months to be built up in their faith and to strengthen the bonds of fellowship across women in the denomination.
3. Commend the appeal for financial support of the Women’s Ministries Facilitator to presbyteries, churches, and individuals so that this vital ministry to the women of the Church can continue with strength.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Immediate Past Moderator prayed for the ministry of the WMV Committee and Mrs Gatt.

120. Petition 5: Scots' Church Properties Trust trustees—Consent to a new Georges' site lease

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Mr Paul Kerss.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

Consent to the Scots' Church Property Trust trustees entering into a new Georges' Site (162-168 Collins Street) lease on the terms contained in the LEASE submitted on 29/9/2022.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank the trustees for their diligent work for the cause of the gospel.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Immediate Past Moderator advised the petitioner of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Consent to the Scots' Church Property Trust trustees entering into a new Georges' Site (162-168 Collins Street) lease on the terms contained in the LEASE submitted on 29/9/2022.
3. Thank the Trustees for their diligent work for the cause of the gospel.

The Immediate Past Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

121. Ad Hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd was received.

Elder Iain Bramley moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Continue to pray for:
 - a) the wellbeing of Kirkbrae residents, staff, and management and the members of the committee; and
 - b) the continued improvement in the financial situation for the betterment of the Kirkbrae residents and staff.
2. Express its thanks and appreciation to Kirkbrae's CEO/FM Ms Angelica Oyarzun and to all Kirkbrae's staff for the contribution they make to the life and work of Kirkbrae and to the well-being of the residents.
3. Request all members of the Assembly to prayerfully seek out potential candidates for appointment to the committee, and more importantly as

directors of PCVL and pass on the names of these candidates to the committee's convener.

The motion was seconded and approved.

122. Petition 6 Surrey Hills Congregation—Use of Sites Reserve Funds

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Russell Walley and Rev John Hyunh.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

Approve applying the balance of the Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund, to the congregation's property development project.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Approve applying the balance of the Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church Sites Reserve Fund, to the congregation's property development project.

123. Code and General Administration Committee (min 103)

(1) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly;

18. Request that the Code and General Administration Committee and the Board of Investment and Finance discuss ways and means by which the BIF Convener can be relieved of burdens or obligations beyond chairing meetings and if necessary, bring a proposal to the 2023 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Christopher Duke sought leave to bring a motion without notice.

Leave was not granted

(2) The Clerk moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Amend rule 4.31.2 by enacting an additional clause (c), as follows:
 - c) the presbytery must also require the candidate to undergo psychological testing and assessment, arranged by the presbytery at its expense and administered by a mental health professional external to the PCV, for the purpose of assisting the presbytery in determining the candidate's suitability to undertake work involving children as a minister of the church.
2. Repeal rule 4.74.1, and in its place enact the following:
 - 4.74.1 A presbytery must supervise the selection of church planters for appointment to church plants by the presbytery. Church Planters are ministers or licentiates accredited by the Church Planting Committee as church planters.
3. Amend rule 2.7.1(a) such that it shall read:

The material affairs:

- a) of a congregation are cared for by its board, provided that:
 - i) by agreement the material affairs of a linked congregation may be cared for by its federal board;
 - ii) in the case of a congregation being dissolved, during the period of time between the cessation of services and final dissolution its material affairs may be cared for by the board of another congregation appointed by the presbytery for this purpose;
4. Repeal all words of rule 4.69 and in its place enact the following:
- 4.69 Dissolution of congregations**
- 4.69.1** Should a presbytery declare its intention to dissolve a congregation, it must:
- a) direct the session to:
 - i) cease services of worship in the congregation without unnecessary delay; and
 - ii) inform it of the date of the last regularly authorised Presbyterian service of worship of the congregation held by a minister or elder or home missionary of the church;
 - b) arrange through the session for the issue of transfer certificates to any communicants of the congregation and letters of introduction to any adherents of the congregation (see rule 3.31); and
 - c) authorise the board of another congregation to care for the material affairs of the congregation until it is finally dissolved and the property sold or otherwise disposed of.
- 4.69.2** When a congregation (other than a newly formed congregation for which temporary arrangements have been made as provided for by rule 2.37) is unable either:
- a) i) to elect sufficient managers to enable a quorum for its board; or
 - ii) in the case of a linked congregation, to arrange for the care of its property by its federal board;
- or
- b) i) to constitute for a congregational meeting; or
 - ii) in the case of a linked congregation, to constitute for a joint meeting of the linked congregations;
- within four months of its being required to meet by rule or regulation, the presbytery must be informed forthwith of the particulars of this inability.
- 4.69.3** The presbytery, having been informed of the congregation's inability, must then, without delay, inquire into the circumstances which resulted in the inability. Should the presbytery judge:
- a) that the congregation is unable to manage its affairs as required by the rules of the church; and
 - b) that this inability is unlikely to be rectified within a reasonable time;
- it must consider whether to dissolve the congregation.
- 4.69.4** If the presbytery then proposes to dissolve the congregation, it must follow the procedure prescribed by rule 4.68.2 so far as possible, except that the agreement of the inducted ministers of any pastoral charge affected by the proposed dissolution is not necessary. If after following this procedure the presbytery declares its intention

to dissolve the congregation it must follow the procedure prescribed by rule 4.69.1.

- 4.69.5** A presbytery cannot declare that a congregation is dissolved until:
- a) at least a year has elapsed since the last regularly authorised Presbyterian service of worship of the congregation was held by a minister or elder or home missionary of the church; and
 - b) its intention to dissolve the congregation has been reported to the General Assembly and agreed to by it.

- 4.69.6** A presbytery must ensure that any monies held for all or some of the purposes of a congregation that is dissolved are forwarded to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation to be dealt with by it according to law.

5. Amend rule 3.38 so that it shall read:

- 3.38** A session must count the votes in a board election and in deciding who is to be declared elected it must follow the order of the voters' preference, first satisfying itself that each of the persons indicated by this choice:

- a) has received the number of votes session considers sufficient;
- b) is suitable to hold office; and
- c) has a current Working With Children Check and has completed all relevant PCV Safe Church requirements.

Insofar as it is so satisfied, it records this by resolution.

6. Amend the following rules so that they shall read:

2.20 Board responsibility

The board must:

- a) ensure that the property of the congregation is kept in good condition and repair, and raise funds for this;
- b) appoint a property committee which must inspect the property before and after winter each year and report to it on its condition;
- c) obtain the advice of the Church Architect, on such contractual terms as they agree, when:
 - i) there is any serious defect in any building; or
 - ii) a new building is to be erected or purchased; or
 - iii) an existing building is to be substantially altered.

However, plans and/or specifications of proposed works are not required to be prepared by the Church Architect.

d) when:

- i) a new building is to be erected; or
- ii) proposed alterations to an existing building require the issue of a building permit prior to the commencement of work;

obtain from the Building and Property Committee:

- iii) in principle approval of the proposed works at the concept stage; and
 - iv) final approval of the completed plans and specifications of the proposed works; and
 - v) approval of any variations to the approved plans and specifications proposed during the course of the works;
- e) not without congregational approval spend on repairs in any one of its annual reporting periods more than 10% of the preceding annual reporting period's ordinary congregational revenue;

- f) obtain approval, at a congregational meeting called for that purpose, by a majority of at least two-thirds of the communicants and adherents personally present (as required by the Model Trust Deeds) to:
 - i) sell, purchase, lease, mortgage, or otherwise incur debt which is to be secured on, property;
 - ii) erect, demolish, remove or structurally alter or add to any building.
- g) fix and collect any charges for use of congregational buildings, where the session has approved this use.

2.21 Approval for property matters

2.21.1 The erection, demolition, removal, alteration or addition to a congregational building which must be approved by the Building and Property Committee is subject to prior approval by the presbytery and any other prescribed authority.

2.21.2 The sale, lease, purchase or mortgage of congregational property is subject to approval by the presbytery, the Law Agent, and any other prescribed authority.

- 7. Amend reg 10 of the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave regulations so that it reads:

10. Accumulation of leave

Persons entitled to long service leave shall not without the approval of the responsible body and the committee allow their leave entitlement to exceed thirteen weeks except that in the case of a person moving within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria from one service to a new service, the person shall not without the approval of the new responsible body and the committee commence in the new service with a leave entitlement exceeding six weeks.

- 8. Amend reg 5 of the Building and Property Committee regulations so that it reads:

5. Duties – Committee

The committee shall:

- a)
 - i) consider plans and specifications of proposed new congregational buildings or alterations to congregational buildings submitted to it in accordance with rule 2.20 (d) of the Code; and
 - ii) consult with the Church Architect regarding the proposed works (or, in the case of documentation prepared by the Church Architect, with another architect of its choice); and
 - iii) if satisfied:
 - A. that the proposed works, if constructed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted, will:
 - 1) meet the needs of the particular congregation; and
 - 2) comply with the principles approved by the General Assembly, with such variations as the committee may in any special case approve; and
 - B. that the site on which the proposed works are to be constructed is:

- 1) suitable in area, situation and character to the needs of the particular congregation; and
 - 2) laid out in such a manner as to ensure its full, proper and economic utilisation;
 - b)
 - i) approve the plans and specifications; administer the General Assembly's Minimum Manse Standards; and
 - ii) submit to the General Assembly for approval from time to time any alterations necessary to keep the Standards in line with best practice.
9. Repeal the regulations of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee and in their place enact the following:

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Regulations

1. Title

There shall be a committee of the General Assembly entitled the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (the committee).

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of five members, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly.

3. Duties

The committee shall:

- a) report to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly as appropriate:
 - i) on all matters connected with the maintenance of the ministry, making such recommendations thereto as it sees fit from time to time;
 - ii) the actual dollar (\$) amounts derived from the operation of regulation 5 of these regulations;
 - iii) with a proposed way forward for determining Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MinMR) rates should two consecutive annual decreases in the 'Earnings; Males; Full Time; Adult; Ordinary time earnings; Victoria' occur (see regulation 5(a)) of these regulations);
 - iv) long service leave taken in the previous year and any other matters related to long service leave as the committee deems necessary;
- b) approve or disapprove proposed terms of settlement in accordance with rule 4.81;
- c) administer the Long Service Leave Fund.

4. Definitions

- a) **'Ministerial remuneration'** is comprised of stipend and non-cash benefits.
- b) **'Stipend'** is the regular amount paid or payable to an inducted or appointed minister or licentiate or home missionary by a charge;
- c) **'Minimum Stipend'** is 65% of Minimum Ministerial Remuneration;
- d) **'Non-cash benefits'** are services, or things paid for, for an inducted or appointed minister or licentiate or home missionary by a charge
- e) **'Terms of settlement'** are the specified conditions (see Regulation 6 of these regulations) for the settlement of or

- continuance of a minister or licentiate in a pastoral or appointment charge or ministerial appointment;
- f) **'Supply preaching fees'** are payments made for preaching in the absence of the minister or home missionary of the charge.

5. Rates

- a) **Minimum ministerial remuneration (MinMR):** the minimum ministerial remuneration in any financial year is 61% of the 'Earnings; Males; Full Time; Adult; Ordinary time earnings; Victoria' as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the November of the preceding tax year (ABS cat. no. 6302.0; table 13B, series id. A85006425W) except where this will result in a reduction in the minimum ministerial remuneration, when it remains unchanged for that financial year, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded down to the nearest multiple of 12;
- b) **Maximum non-cash benefit:** the maximum non cash benefit proportion of actual ministerial remuneration is 35%, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded down to the nearest multiple of 12;
- c) **Supply preaching fees:** in any financial year are, rounded to the nearest dollar (\$):
- i) 0.25% of MinMR for one service;
 - ii) 0.30% of MinMR for two services with the same sermon;
 - iii) 0.35% of MinMR for three services with the same sermon;
 - iv) 0.45% of MinMR for two or more services with more than one sermon.
- d) **Travel rate:** the travel rate in any financial year is 75% of the Australian Tax Office's 'cents per kilometre method' rate for the previous tax year, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded to the nearest cent.
- e) **Minimum rate of Employer Superannuation Contributions:** is 15% of the actual ministerial remuneration, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded up to the nearest multiple of 12.
- f) **The Long Service Leave Levy:** in any financial year is 1.4% of the minimum ministerial remuneration, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded down to the nearest multiple of 10.

6. Minimum terms of settlement

Minimum terms of settlement must include the promise by a charge of:

- a) all removal costs of the minister or licentiate's family and goods to his new place of residence, except where the committee approves a variation in special circumstances;
- b) the minimum ministerial remuneration as specified in regulation 5(a) of these regulations or otherwise declared by the Assembly or Commission of Assembly;
- c) the travel rate as determined by the operation of regulation 5(d) of these regulations based on annual distance of all church-related travel in excess of 6,000 km;
- d) rent free occupation of a suitable dwelling in the locality of the church building or place of worship or an amount equivalent to rent as an additional non-cash benefit if the minister lives in his own home;

- e) direct payment or reimbursement (not including expenses related to travel) necessarily incurred in carrying out ministerial duties including, but not limited to, telephone rental, internet/NBN and all church calls, stationery, printing, copying and postage;
- f) annual leave from pastoral duties for five weeks being non-cumulative unless approved by the session and the presbytery, including pulpit supply on five Sundays;
- g) study leave from pastoral duties for the purpose of professional development for seven days annually being non-cumulative, including one Sunday's pulpit supply, subject to the prior approval by presbytery of the study leave and the proposed study program;
- h) superannuation contributions as determined by the operation of regulation 5(e) of these regulations;
- i) payment of the long service leave levy by the charge as determined by the operation of regulation 5(f) of these regulations.

7. Remuneration above the minimum

Remuneration above the minimum may be additional stipend or additional stipend and additional non-cash benefits provided that the maximum NCB proportion of actual Ministerial Remuneration complies with regulation 5(b) of these regulations.

8. Notification of changes to minimum terms of settlement

The committee shall notify all charges of any changes to the minimum terms of settlement within two months of such changes being declared by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly.

9. Declaration of terms of settlement

The committee shall carefully examine proposed terms of settlement forwarded to it by presbyteries and consider any accompanying recommendations. It may make such further enquiries as it deems fit, and may refer part or all of the proposed terms of settlement back to a presbytery for further negotiations with the charge. Where the committee is satisfied that there is likely to be sufficient income to meet expenditure and that the proposed terms of settlement are equal to or in excess of the minimum it shall declare the terms of settlement and inform the presbytery of its decision, which shall be final.

10. Additional review

The committee may at any time require relevant financial information in respect of any charge.

11. Part-time ministries (see also rule 4.71 and 4.82.2(b))

The committee may approve terms of settlement for part-time ministries in charges provided that:

- a) it is satisfied:
 - i) that the objects of the ministry and the welfare of the charge are being properly served; and
 - ii) that the minister will not suffer hardship; and
- b) the presbytery expresses the working time of the minister as a number of days out of five and allows adequate time for the minister's preparations.

Such arrangements may only be approved for one year and must be reviewed and approved annually by the presbytery and the committee.

12. Discretionary powers of committee

Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations, the committee shall have discretionary powers to deal with exceptional cases not provided for therein, provided that the committee shall report annually any use of these discretionary powers to the General Assembly.

10. Repeal the regulations of the Ministry Development Committee and in their place enact the following:

Ministry Development Committee Regulations

1. Title

There shall be a committee of the General Assembly entitled the Ministry Development Committee (the committee).

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of seven members, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the committee is to bring glory to God as it actively engages people within the PCV in the development of biblically healthy gospel ministries so that local Presbyterian congregations experience spiritual health and growth and are better equipped to fulfil the great commission.

4. Scope

The committee, in partnership with presbyteries (who have primary oversight and responsibility for congregations within their bounds), engages with people in pastoral, appointment and home mission charges and with special interest congregations of any age. The committee does not partner with presbyteries in church planting work.

5. Duties

To achieve the stated purpose the committee shall use its God given resources to:

- a) advance biblically based ministry practices within the PCV that will foster church revitalisation and mission;
- b) develop and promote suitable vocational training resources that equip people within the PCV for gospel ministry and mission;
- c) advance and develop an effective home mission programme;

This will include, but is not limited to, the committee:

- i) proactively identifying, recruiting, and accrediting home missionaries for service;
- ii) providing avenues of training for serving home missionaries including the occasional provision of book grants and study grants for approved courses to defray costs and travel expenses;
- iii) collaborating with presbyteries and sessions, to assist with the development of ministry and mission plans for home mission charges to experience increasing health and growth;
- iv) collaborating with presbyteries and sessions to help provide ministry reviews, charge assessments, and

- strategic thinking for the health and growth of home mission charges;
 - v) collaborating with presbyteries and sessions to help facilitate the appointment of Home Missionaries, District Interim Moderators (DIMs) and Intentional Interim Moderators (IIMs). This will include, but is not limited to, the committee helping to develop appropriate regulations and guidelines for DIMs and IIMs, as well as providing, within the limits of funding, some financial support for DIM and IIM appointments.
 - d) administer ministry development grants from funds received as distributions from The Scots' Church Properties Trust for Home Mission and Church Extension in accordance with regulations 7 and 8;
 - e) administer the Sustentation Fund in accordance with regulations 9 and 10; and
 - f) administer evangelism grants within the PCV.
- 6. **Ministry Development Officer**
The committee shall, when occasion warrants, bring to the General Assembly the name of a suitably gifted person for appointment as the Ministry Development Officer (MDO). The MDO will be accountable to the committee and work under a General Assembly approved job description to actively prosecute the purpose and function of the committee.
- 7. **Ministry Development Grants**
To the limit of available funds, the committee may make annual ministry development grants (MDGs) to eligible charges. The primary purpose of a MDG is to supplement a charge's finances for an approved gospel worker to lead the development of biblically healthy ministry and mission in a charge. The committee from its funds may also provide MDGs for other secondary purposes such as:
 - a) to supplement finances in a home mission or appointment charge so that the terms of settlement for a home missionary, licentiate, or minister can be met for ministry and mission development;
 - b) for the support of a second worker;
 - c) for the support of a cross-cultural worker;
 - d) for the support of ministry and mission in Special Interest charges; and
 - e) for capital grants, to assist with the purchase of land and/or buildings or the carrying out of building works or renovations which will enable a charge to enhance, develop or extend their gospel ministry and mission.
- 8. **Conditions of Ministry Development Grants**
The following conditions apply to ministry development grants made by the committee:
 - a) grants to charges are made annually within the limits of funds available;
 - b) MDGs are open to home mission and appointment charges;
 - c) MDGs are open to pastoral charges for second worker and cross-cultural worker grants according to published guidelines;

- d) the committee may make grants to a charge for up to ten consecutive years, after which the ten-year rule described in Code rule 4.83.2 shall be followed;
- e) MDGs are not to be confused with an annual Sustentation Grant (Reg 9);
- f) all MDG applications shall be made on the prescribed forms and submitted with the approval of the presbytery (see rule 4.83);
- g) MDGs are limited and will not exceed 50% of the minimum terms of settlement for a home missionary, licentiate, or minister in any given year;
- h) MDGs are subject to the development and implementation of a ministry and mission plan for the charge;
- i) MDG applications are to be lodged on or before the 13th of May each year;
- j) MDG applications must be presented using financial year accounting; and
- k) MDGs are subject to all other published guidelines provided by the committee in any given year.

9. Sustentation Fund and Grants

Within the limits of the sustentation fund the committee may make annual sustentation grants to eligible charges so that minimum term of settlement for a minister inducted into pastoral charge is sustained.

10. Conditions of Sustentation Grants

- a) To be eligible for a sustentation grant, a charge must:
 - i) provide evidence that the Sustentation Qualifying Stipend declared by the Commission of Assembly from time to time is being provided;
 - ii) demonstrate the short-term nature of the need for a sustentation grant;
 - iii) have only one inducted or appointed minister or licentiate; and
 - iv) not have any assistant to the minister or other paid pastoral worker labouring in the charge.
- b) A grant receiving charge shall cease to be eligible for sustentation if:
 - i) in the case of an inducted minister the pastoral tie is severed or in the case of an appointed minister his appointment ceases;
 - ii) the charge is reduced in status to an appointment or home mission charge;
 - iii) the financial situation of the charge so alters such that sustentation is no longer considered short term;
 - iv) the ministry is reduced to a part-time ministry; or
 - v) an assistant to the minister or other pastoral worker is appointed in the charge.
and the grant shall cease at the end of the month in which the charge became ineligible.

11. Evangelism Grants (Thompson Evangelism Trust)

Within the limits of funds available, the committee may make grants that:

- a) support evangelism by charges, or presbyteries for presbytery wide evangelism according to published guidelines;
 - b) support university evangelism directly associated with a PCV charge; or
 - c) support the evangelism training of candidates for the ministry.
- Applications must be made on the prescribed forms.

12. Grant Reports

The committee shall report annually to the General Assembly all relevant information on the administration of grants awarded in the relevant reporting period.

13. Home Missionaries and Home Mission Appointments

a) Definition

A home missionary is a suitably qualified and accredited man who is appointed by a presbytery to a home mission charge for leadership in gospel ministry and mission as part of the home mission program (rule 4.73).

b) Application

Before an applicant for home missionary service is nominated by the committee to a presbytery for appointment he must:

- i) complete and submit the published committee application forms;
- ii) request his presbytery, session and minister to send letters of recommendation directly to the committee before the application is fully processed;
- iii) provide the committee with three additional current referees;
- iv) be interviewed by the committee with (if applicable) his wife present; and
- v) provide proof of permanent residency in, or citizenship, of Australia; or that he holds a valid working visa allowing him to reside and work in Australia.

c) Accreditation

Before accrediting anyone as a home missionary, the committee must:

- i) by interviewing the applicant and by any other means it chooses to adopt, satisfy itself of:
 - A. the applicant's Christian character and conviction and his sense of divine call;
 - B. his satisfactory length of membership in and service to the Presbyterian Church of Australia, which should not be less than 12 months;
 - C. his subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith as read in the light of the Declaratory Statement;
 - D. his attainment to a sufficient level of theological understanding;
 - E. his owning and acceptance of the purity of worship as practised in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria;
 - F. his owning of the Presbyterian form of government as founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto and his commitment to firmly and constantly adhere to, and to the utmost of his power, to assert, maintain and defend the same;

G. his right motivation for gospel ministry, namely, zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a desire to save souls;

H. his willingness and ability to undertake such further study as may be directed by the presbytery in consultation with the committee;

I. his ability in preaching and public speaking;

J. his capacity for making acceptable contacts with people;

K. his good health as assessed by a medical practitioner;

L. his having a satisfactory police record check;

M. his having a current Working with Children Check;

N. his having completed all PCV Safe Church requirements for a person in leadership; and

O. if the applicant is a candidate for the ministry, his application having the approval of the Theological Education Committee.

- ii) by requiring the applicant to undergo psychological testing and assessment to be arranged by the committee at its expense and administered by a mental health professional external to the PCV, satisfy itself of the applicant's suitability to undertake work involving children as a home missionary.

d) Appointment

Presbyteries with oversight of a home mission charge are responsible for appointing home missionaries. When making such appointments a presbytery must:

- i) ensure that there is an approved BIF contract of employment in place;
- ii) ensure that the home missionary's remuneration is not less than 85% of the minimum stipend for ministers as declared from time to time by the General Assembly, and 100% of the maximum NCB component of minimum remuneration likewise declared;
- iii) notify the committee when the appointment commences;
- iv) seek approval from the committee for removal expenses to be paid by the committee prior to transition; and
- v) inform the home missionary that the committee may from time to time, for the purpose of vocational training and professional development, make suitable grants for books and for prescribed courses of study or approved course of study met all or part of the associated costs including travel expenses.

e) Oversight

Home missionaries in the course of their duty shall be under the oversight of the presbytery within whose bounds they are working. Additionally, the Ministry Development Officer will engage home missionaries on a regular basis to provide on-site, one-to-one training and advice as may be required or requested.

11. Establish a committee called the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee and enact the following as its regulations:

Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee Regulations

1. Title

There shall be a committee of the General Assembly entitled the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 Committee (the committee).

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of the Moderator (Convener), the Immediate Past Moderator, the Assembly Clerk, the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee and two other members appointed by the Assembly.

3. Duties

The committee shall:

- a) i) determine the eligibility of members of the PCV subject of a complaint under the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act) for support by the church in accordance with clause 2 of the PCV 'Protocols for the support of members subject of a complaint under the Act and their families and congregations' (the Protocols); or
- ii) refer a question of eligibility to the General Assembly for determination;
- b) allocate legal and/or financial support to eligible members in accordance with clause 6 of the Protocols;
- c) provide training to the members of the PCV regarding bearing Christian witness in the context of the Act;
- d) monitor the implementation and operation of the Act;
- e) report to the following General Assembly or Commission of Assembly as the case may require on its handling of the matters referred to in (a) and (b) above, such reports to be confidential to the members of the Assembly and kept in a Record Apart; and
- f) report to the General Assembly on matters relevant to the implementation and operation of the Act.

12. Appoint the following to the Selection Committee:

RT 23: Rev P Orchard [29], Rev I Leach [29]

RT 24: Mr J Angelico [24], Rev J Walz [29], vacancy

RT 25: Rev A Humphries [28], Mr B Palmer [28]

Convener: Rev A Humphries [26]

13. Amend reg 3(f) of the Selection Committee so that it reads:

- f) ensure, whether nominations are made by the committee itself or by members of the General Assembly during the week the General Assembly meets, that except for those holding office 'ex officio':
 - i) no minister shall be a member of more than four committees other than ad hoc committees;
 - ii) for committees of eight or more members, there shall be a maximum of three members from a single charge;
 - iii) for committees of seven or less members, there shall be a maximum of two members from a single charge;

14. Amend reg 3 of the Selection Committee by adding a new clause 3(b), renumber the following subclauses and add a consequent change to the new 3(c) so that they read:

3. Duties

The committee shall:

- a) unless otherwise expressly provided for in the rules or regulations of the General Assembly, nominate to the General Assembly the members and conveners of all General Assembly committees (which term herein includes boards and councils) and publish these nominations in the White Book;
 - b) receive late nominations from committees after the publication of the White Book, provided that notice of these nominations has been given in writing to the convener not later than ten days prior to the day of the opening service of the General Assembly;
 - c) receive other such nominations made by committees and/or members of the General Assembly, provided that notice of these nominations has been given in writing to the convener not later than noon on Tuesday of the General Assembly and submit any such nominations for determination and appointment by ballot at 12:15pm on the Wednesday of the General Assembly;
15. Appoint Rev Jesse Walz interim convener of the Selection Committee while Rev Adam Humphries is on long service leave 17 October 2022–12 January 2023.

16. Amend reg 3 of the State News Committee so that it reads:

3. Purpose

The committee shall from time to time produce a printed publication to inform and encourage the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, containing general news items as well as articles and viewpoints from individuals, congregations, committees or courts within the church and even beyond the church. Such items may be published when deemed by the committee to be of interest to the people of the church and pertinent to and supportive of the church's mission. Such items may also be published on the Presbyterian Church of Victoria website and through the Presbyterian Church of Victoria email list.

17. Repeal the regulations of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee and in their place enact the following:

Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee

1. Title

There shall be a committee of the General Assembly entitled the Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee (the committee).

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of seven members, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly.

3. Purpose

The committee shall engage in making and nurturing disciples of the Lord Jesus among youth and children in Victoria.

4. Duties

The committee shall:

- a) oversee state-level PCV youth and children's ministry in Victoria;
- b) engage in the training and making of disciples primarily through residential events; and
- c) provide advice and training to congregations as requested.

5. Youth and Children's Worker

The committee shall direct the Youth and Children's Worker appointed by the General Assembly (see rule 5:19), who shall work under its direction to lead the operation of state-level PCV youth and children's ministry in Victoria.

6. Employees

The committee may appoint such other persons as it sees fit to support the Youth and Children's Worker or the committee in its work.

7. Allan Bequest

The committee shall administer the Allan Bequest.

18. Request that the Code and General Administration Committee and the Board of Investment and Finance discuss ways and means by which the BIF Convener can be relieved of burdens or obligations beyond chairing meetings and if necessary, bring a proposal to the 2023 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

124. Petition 8: Presbytery of Western Victoria—dissolution of Carisbrook congregation and sale of associated property.

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Toby McIntosh.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

2. Agree with the Presbytery of Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Carisbrook congregation.
3. Declare resolution 2 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.
4. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification that the congregation has been finally dissolved.
5. Authorise the sale of the Carisbrook properties on McLachlan Street (Volume 5115 Folio 1022843 and Volume 9418 Folio 581) (as permitted under Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14) and direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - a) as to 50%, to the PCV Sinking Fund; and
 - b) as to 50%, to the PCV Trusts Corporation to be held in a Sites Reserve Account associated with the Castlemaine Charge for its general ministry costs.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition
2. Agree with the Presbytery of Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Carisbrook congregation.
3. Declare resolution 2 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.

4. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification that the congregation has been finally dissolved.
5. Authorise the sale of the Carisbrook properties on McLachlan Street (Volume 5115 Folio 1022843 and Volume 9418 Folio 581) (as permitted under Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14) and direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - a) as to 50%, to the PCV Sinking Fund; and
 - b) as to 50%, to the PCV Trusts Corporation to be held in a Sites Reserve Account associated with the Castlemaine Charge for its general ministry costs.

The Moderator removed the petitioner from the Bar.

125. Petition 9: Presbytery of Western Victoria—sale of Scarsdale property

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Toby McIntosh.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

2. Direct that the net proceeds of the sale of the Scarsdale property, Church Street, Scarsdale are paid:

- a) as to 80%, to the PCV Sinking Fund; and
- b) as to 20%, to the Ebenezer-St John's (Ballarat South) Presbyterian Charge for its general ministry costs.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Direct that the net proceeds of the sale of the Scarsdale property, Church Street, Scarsdale are paid:
 - a) as to 80%, to the PCV Sinking Fund; and
 - b) as to 20%, to the Ebenezer-St John's (Ballarat South) Presbyterian Charge for its general ministry costs.

The Moderator removed the petitioner from the Bar.

126. Petition 10: Clifton Hill Congregation—establishing a GAV Special Commission to more efficiently approve necessary application of Sites Reserve Funds

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Christopher Duke and Rev Bill Medley

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

2. Appoint a Special Commission for Clifton Hill Property Purchase for the purpose of authorising application of funds from the Clifton Hill - Essendon Sites Reserve Account in relation to purchasing a manse in the area.
3. Appoint to the Special Commission (see (2) above): the Moderator (chairman), Clerks of Assembly, chairman (or his nominee) and secretary of the Trusts Corporation, two members of the General Assembly appointed by the Selection Committee, the inducted ministers of the Clifton Hill – Essendon Charge with five members to be a quorum.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Appoint a Special Commission for Clifton Hill Property Purchase for the purpose of authorising application of funds from the Clifton Hill - Essendon Sites Reserve Account in relation to purchasing a manse in the area.
3. Appoint to the Special Commission (see (2) above): the Moderator (chairman), Clerks of Assembly, chairman (or his nominee) and secretary of the Trusts Corporation, two members of the General Assembly appointed by the Selection Committee, the inducted ministers of the Clifton Hill – Essendon Charge; with five members to be a quorum.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

127. Media/Press release from the Moderator re CEO of Essendon FC

Rev Christopher Duke sought leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave was granted.

Rev Christopher Duke moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the Moderator to make any press release or otherwise, either singly or jointly with other Presbyterian State moderators and the PCA Moderator-General on the business surrounding the forced resignation of the newly appointed CEO, Mr Thorburn, from the Essendon Football Club.

The motion was seconded and approved.

128. Petition 11: Presbytery of North East Victoria—Dissolution of Cobram

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Brett Cummins.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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:

2. Agree with the Presbytery of North East Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Cobram congregation.
3. Declare resolution 2 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.

4. Request the Presbytery to transfer all funds held by or for the Cobram congregation to the PCV Trusts Corporation in accord with BIF reg 15, and request the PCV Trusts Corporation, subject to BIF reg 15, to transfer the whole amount to the PCV sinking fund.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Agree with the Presbytery of North East Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Cobram congregation.
3. Declare resolution 2 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.
4. Request the Presbytery to transfer all funds held by or for the Cobram congregation to the PCV Trusts Corporation in accord with BIF reg 15, and request the PCV Trusts Corporation, subject to BIF reg 15, to transfer the whole amount to the PCV sinking fund.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

129. Ad Hoc Committee: Denominational Response to the Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation

The Immediate Past Moderator took the Chair.

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee: Denominational Response to the Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation was received.

The Assembly met in private.

The Convener, Rev Peter Phillips moved Clause 1 of the proposed deliverance.

(1) Rev Andrew Vines moved:

That the Assembly:

Replace all clauses in the deliverance with new clause 1 as follows:

In the light of the numerous proposed amendments to the PCV Code of Conduct and Protocols (regarding the Change and Suppression Act), the Assembly ask the committee to consider the proposed amendments and bring a revised report and deliverance to the next Assembly.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(2) Elder Peter Stanton moved his notice of motion.

Elder Peter Stanton sought leave to amend the motion.

Leave was not granted.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Dissent

Elder Peter Stanton

(3) Rev Darren Middleton moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 1 by amending the proposed Code of Conduct by deleting the word 'non-directive' in the paragraph at the end of clause 3, so that the paragraph reads: 'provided that the principles in this Code of Conduct do not prohibit pastoral care of issues of sexuality and gender and do not regulate the clinical practices of members of the church who are health care professionals.'

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) Rev Tony Archer moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 1 by amending the proposed Code of Conduct by deleting the word 'equally' from 4. a) ii).

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(5) Rev Darren Middleton moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 1 by amending the proposed Code of Conduct by deleting 4. b) v) and 6 d) i) C.

Rev Darren Middleton sought leave to fall from his motion.

Leave was granted.

(6) Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 1 by amending the proposed Code of Conduct 4. b) v) by: adding the word 'simply' after the words 'is not' and by the addition of the words 'but that being an obedient disciple of the Lord Jesus will inevitably lead to changes in many areas of a person's life at the end of the existing proposed wording, so that the whole of 4. b) v) reads:

v) clarifying that the teaching of the gospel command to repent and believe is not simply a practice intended to change or suppress a person sexual orientation or gender identity but that being an obedient disciple of the Lord Jesus will inevitably lead to changes in many areas of a person's life.

Rev Graham Nicholson sought leave to fall from his motion.

Leave was granted.

(7) Rev Graham Nicholson, moved, arising out of the debate, the addition of words;

'in a way prohibited by the Act' to 6.d.i B and 6.d.i.C.

The previous question was moved, seconded and approved.

(8) Elder Peter Stanton, moved, arising out of the debate, the addition of words to the end of the statement in 6.d.i.B;

'with the intention of changing or altering or changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 1 as amended was seconded and approved.

Dissent

Rev Darren Middleton

Rev Jared Hood

Rev Tony Archer

(9) Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 2 of the deliverance by:

- a. replacing the word 'direct' in the first line and in clause b) with 'request';
- b. replacing the word 'run' with the words 'consider running' in a) and b);
- c. deleting the words 'the required' in c) and replacing it with the word 'such'; and
- d. adding the word 'any' before the word 'training' in d);

so that the entire clause reads:

2. Request presbyteries to:

- a) consider running a presbytery 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training day within the next twelve months;
- b) request sessions within their bounds to also consider running 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training days for members of their congregations and to report to presbytery;

- c) inform the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee when such training has been completed; and
- d) request sessions to keep records of any training completed by members.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was approved.

(10) Elder Philip Barton moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 4 by amending the proposed Protocols by deleting proposed Protocol 2 a) ii).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(11) Elder Philip Barton moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 4 by amending the proposed Protocols by deleting proposed Protocol 2 a) iii).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(12) Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the deliverance clause 4 by amending proposed Protocol 2. a) iv) by adding the following words after 'issue' –

'or has given a clear statement outlining why he or she was not able to comply in good conscience with every requirement of the Code of Conduct in a particular case, remembering that 'God alone is Lord of the conscience' (Declaratory Statement iv)' so that the whole of 2. iv) reads:

iv) has complied with the PCV Code of Conduct on this issue or has given a clear statement outlining why he or she was not able to comply in good conscience with every requirement of the Code of Conduct in a particular case, remembering that 'God alone is Lord of the conscience' (Dec. Statement iv).

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 4 as amended was approved.

Clauses 5-8 were approved.

(13) Rev Peter Phillips moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following Code of Conduct.

PCV Code of Conduct for members of the church in the context of *the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act)*⁷

1. Purposes

- a) In adopting this Code of Conduct the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (the church) affirms that the gospel calls all people including those who are same-sex attracted or gender confused to salvation through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) The primary purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that where members of the church share the gospel and faithfully witness about God's will for human flourishing in the areas of sexual attraction and gender identity that they do so in accordance with the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the church, and that they treat every other person at all times with:

⁷ [Change or Suppression \(Conversion\) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](https://legislation.vic.gov.au/Change-or-Suppression-(Conversion)-Practices-Prohibition-Act-2021)

- i) respect, courtesy, compassion and thoughtful love as befits people made in the image of God; and
 - ii) wisdom.
- c) A secondary purpose of this Code of Conduct is to:
 - i) minimise any risk to members of the church of their being subject to proceedings under the Act for their continued faithfulness to the gospel;
 - ii) ensure that should members of the church be subject to proceedings under the Act they would be able to mount a reasoned defence; and
 - iii) protect the church from possible consequences of ill-advised conduct by its members in these matters.
- d) This Code of Conduct is to be read subject to:
 - i) the PCV Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage, including the Addendum; and
 - ii) the PCV Safe Church Policy and the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct.

2. Definitions

- a) Words and phrases in this Code have the following meaning:
 - doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the church** means the doctrines tenets and beliefs of the PCV as set out in its Constitution, comprising:
 - i) **its Supreme Standard**: the Word of God contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments;
 - ii) **its Subordinate Standard**: the Westminster Confession of Faith (1646), as amended from time to time by the General Assembly of Australia, read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union (1901); and
 - iii) **all subsidiary statements and codes of the church** including (but not limited to) the PCV Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage, the PCV Safe Church Policy and the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct as interpreted by the courts of the church.
- b) **gender** describes the physical, social and psychological expression of a person's sex. Biblically understood, gender is an expression of sex and is not independent of it.
- c) **gender confusion** means a psychological condition where a person considers that their biological sex and/or associated physical characteristics and/or societal sex-based norms, expectations or stereotypes do not align with their gender identity. This is often called gender incongruence.
- d) **gender dysphoria** is a form of gender confusion that is a clinically diagnosed psychological condition accompanied by psychological distress.
- e) **gender identity** describes a person's subjective conception of self-identity that a person manifests in self-description, appearance, behaviour and mannerisms that may not correspond to the person's sex or to societal sex-based norms, expectations and stereotypes. Gender identity describes a psychological phenomenon.
- f) **gender transition** the practice of social, hormonal or surgical alteration of a person's external appearance to present in accordance with an adopted gender identity that is contrary to a person's biological

sex or contrary to societal sex-based norms, expectations or stereotypes.

- g) **LGBTQI+** is an umbrella term to include persons who have adopted an identity:
 - i) in relation to sexual orientation that is not heterosexual; and/or
 - ii) in relation to gender identity that is inconsistent with their sex and is not male or female.
- h) **sex** means the immutable biological identity of each person which is binary - male or female. Sex is determined by a person's genotype (chromosomes XX for female and XY for males) and reproductive function. Sex is discernible from conception and identifiable at birth by phenotype (a person's anatomy and normatively expressed in secondary sex characteristics – like body shape, voice pitch, hair distribution – except in a small percentage of people (0.015% of the population⁸) born with physical and/or genetic differences/disorders of sexual differentiation (commonly called “intersex”)).
- i) **sexual attraction** means a person's sexual desire or attraction towards one or both sexes and is either heterosexual (opposite sex attraction), homosexual (same-sex attraction) or bisexual (attraction to both sexes).
- j) **sexual orientation** means a person's a subjective conception of identity based on their sexual attraction. Sexual orientation is a description of a person's attraction.

3. General principles

Every member of the church must:

- a) treat every other person (including people who identify as LGBTQI+ persons) as befits a person made in the image of God by:
 - i) rejecting all bullying and abusive behaviour and language in accordance with the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct, paragraph 10:

‘You will not condone or participate in bullying behaviour, where bullying is the repeated seeking out or targeting of an adult, child or young person to cause them distress and humiliation or to exploit them, including exclusion from a peer group, intimidation and extortion.’
 - ii) ensuring that all people, whatever their sexual attraction, sexual orientation or gender confusion or gender identity, are treated with kindness;
 - iii) refraining from any language of compulsion, pressure or coercion;
 - iv) refraining from the use of language that demeans any person's humanity because of his or her sexual orientation or gender identity;
- b) remember that everyone who has faith in Christ, including persons whose personal trials and afflictions in this life include same-sex attraction or gender confusion, is loved by God and belongs to the body of Christ;
- c) in regard to persons who are same-sex attracted:

⁸ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12476264/>

- i) remember that while both our inclination to sin and our disordered desires are themselves sinful, same-sex attraction and same-sex sexual activity are different;
 - ii) remember that temptation to a sin is not the same as engaging in the sin;
 - iii) treat a same-sex attracted person and his or her issues of temptation as the member would treat any person who is tempted to sin sexually or in other areas;
 - iv) always speak as though there may be a same-sex attracted person present;
 - v) remember that holiness is the goal of the Christian life, not identifying as heterosexual or entering into marriage;
 - vi) refrain from offering any medical advice, counselling or purported therapy in respect of same-sex attraction with the intention of altering or changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- d) in regard to persons experiencing gender confusion:
- i) treat the gender confused with great gentleness and thoughtfulness, especially in relation to language;
 - ii) refrain from offering any medical advice, counselling or purported therapy in respect of gender confusion with the intention of altering or changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity;
- provided that the principles in this Code of Conduct do not prohibit pastoral care of issues of sexuality and gender and do not regulate the clinical practices of members of the church who are health care professionals.

4. Teaching

Teaching, both formal and informal, both in public and private, by any member of the church must at all times be consistent with the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the church and:

- a) on sex, gender and marriage, must be consistent with the PCV Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage, and especially its affirmations:
 - i) that the only place for sexual expression is within the marriage of a man and a woman; and
 - ii) that all sex outside the marriage of a man and a woman falls under the category of sexual immorality and that all such sex is equally to be warned against and avoided (Matthew 15:19-20, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11);
- b) on sexual attraction and gender, must be set in the context of:
 - i) affirming the goodness of God's creation and his intention that the only place for sexual expression is within the marriage of one man to one woman;
 - ii) the corruption of human nature and human sinfulness due to the Fall and human personal rebellion against God and his holy law;
 - iii) the proclamation of the gospel of grace in which:
 - A. God offers full and free forgiveness to every person upon condition of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;

- B. all who will repent and believe are welcomed by God and by the church; and
- iv) affirming that the command to repent and believe is also a call to be disciples of the Lord Jesus by obedience to him in all things;
- v) clarifying that the church does not accept that the teaching of the gospel command to repent and believe is a practice intended to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity which is prohibited by the Act;
- c) on same-sex attraction for a believer, must be set in the context of:
 - i) the fact that temptations to same-sex desires⁹ or sexual activity are only some of the many temptations a believer may face;
 - ii) the teaching of the Westminster Confession of Faith on Sanctification¹⁰; and
 - iii) the scriptural assurance of forgiveness of sins (e.g. 1 John 1:5-10).

5. Setting an example

In order to reinforce teaching and especially teaching in relation to sexual expression, under this Code of Conduct every member of the church must:

- a) commit themselves to living sexually pure lives, which means faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman and chastity if they are single or same-sex attracted;
- b) avoid all forms of pornography, acknowledging that sexual sin includes the indulging of lust in the heart and mind (Matthew 5:27-30); and
- c) reject the hypocrisy that tolerates opposite sex sin while condemning same-sex sin.

6. Faithful Christian witnessing

- a) The Act:
 - i) includes:
 - definitions of "*gender identity*" and "*sexual orientation*" which are broad and ambiguous and which this Code interprets and applies through the definitions set out in clause 2.
 - a broad definition of change or suppression practices as anything that is directed at a person on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity with the intention to change or suppress that person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
 - four new criminal offences¹¹ for:
 - practices which cause serious injury
 - practices which cause injury
 - removing someone from Victoria for the purpose of subjecting them to a change or suppression practice
 - advertising change or suppression practices
 - a civil (non-criminal) scheme for preventing and responding to change or suppression practices.

⁹ James 1:12-15

¹⁰ Presbyterian Church of Australia - Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 13 - Of Sanctification

¹¹ A list of practices that the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) suggests are illegal under the Act is provided in Appendix B to this Code of Conduct

- ii) defines change or suppression practices so loosely that the practices prohibited by the Act might be interpreted to include the gospel command of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and prayer in relation to a person's sexual attraction or gender confusion.
- b) Our Lord says to his disciples, 'Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.' (Matthew 10:16);
- c) Faithfulness in Christian witness may sometimes require members of the church to bring the gospel commands of repentance and faith to individuals and/or to pray for individuals in terms of clause 6(a)(ii) above. The PCV does not accept that it is a breach of the Act to engage in a faithful Christian witness of these gospel commands to any person including those who experience same-sex attraction or gender confusion;
- d) Wisdom in Christian witness in light of the Act means that every member of the PCV:
 - i) must, before bringing the gospel commands of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus to an individual and/or praying for an individual in terms of clause 6(a)(ii) above to:
 - A. take every reasonable step to be well-informed in regard to both the Act and to wise ways of presenting the truth of the gospel, including the specific training provided by the church;
 - B. make clear that they are not providing medical advice, counselling or therapy in relation to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity with the intention of altering or changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity;
 - C. make clear that they are not seeking to change or suppress the person's sexual orientation or gender identity;
 - D. seek at all times to bring the gospel on sexual attraction and gender identity with another member as a witness;
 - E. document those steps in the form set out in Appendix A; and
 - F. retain that documentation as a confidential, secure and permanent record.
 - ii) with whom a conversation regarding sexual attraction and/or gender confusion is initiated must make every reasonable effort to discern whether the person initiating the conversation is a sincere seeker after truth, and:
 - A. in the case of a sincere seeker:
 - (1) if the person is a believer, the member could gently and lovingly appeal to that person to do what they know God would have them do consistently with the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the church; or
 - (2) if the person is not a believer, the member could gently and lovingly present the gospel in trustful dependence upon God; or

- B. in the case of a person whose sincerity is not clear the member could state the teaching of the church set out in the doctrines, tenets and beliefs of the church without directing it at the person, pray privately for the person and leave the outcome in the hands of God;
 - iii) who holds a gospel conversation about sexual attraction and/or gender confusion that might give rise to an allegation of the exercise of a change or suppression practice as defined by the Act must:
 - A. make as full a written record of the conversation as is possible, either during the conversation or immediately following it (or, if that is not possible, as soon as possible thereafter) in the form set out in Appendix A of this Code of Conduct; and
 - B. retain that documentation as a confidential, secure and permanent record.
- 2. Direct presbyteries to:
 - a) run a presbytery 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training day within the next twelve months;
 - b) direct sessions within their bounds to also run 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training days for members of their congregations and to report to presbytery;
 - c) inform the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee* when the required training has been completed; and
 - d) request sessions to keep records of training completed by members.
- 3. Refer the drafting of clear guidelines for the use of social media by all ministers, elders, and Session-appointed ministry leaders to the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee* for report to the May 2023 Commission of Assembly or, if that is not possible, to the October 2023 General Assembly.
- 4. Approve the following protocols:
 - PCV Protocols for the Support of Members Subject of a Complaint under the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act) and Their Families and Congregations**
 - 1. **General**
The PCV will support as far as possible its members (communicants or adherents) who become subject of a complaint under the Act and their families and/or their congregations.
 - 2. **Eligibility**
 - a) A member of the PCV who is subject to a complaint under the Act is eligible for support by the church provided that he or she:
 - i) was a member of the PCV at the time of the alleged offence;
 - ii) has complied with the PCV Code of Conduct on this issue; and
 - iii) has satisfactorily completed the training offered by the PCV regarding bearing Christian witness in the context of the Act.

- b) Notwithstanding the above, the Committee shall have the discretion to consider each application for support on its merits.
 - c) Eligibility for support shall be determined by the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 Committee or by the General Assembly.
- 3. **Support for members**
 - a) An eligible member subject to a complaint under the Act is entitled to pastoral support from:
 - i) their minister, or their session or presbytery; and/or
 - ii) the Clerk of Assembly or his Deputy or the Assistant to the Clerks as appropriate and according to their availability; and
 - iii) other gifted persons set apart by the Assembly for this purpose.
 - b) An eligible member subject to a complaint under the Act may be entitled to:
 - i) legal support from and through the Law Agent; and/or
 - ii) financial support towards any legal costs and any financial penalty or penalties imposed upon the member as a result of the complaint from funds set aside for this purpose by the General Assembly.
- 4. **Support for families and congregations**

Family members of an eligible member subject to a complaint under the Act and members of his or her congregation are entitled to the same pastoral support as is the member.
- 5. **Accessing support**

An eligible member subject to a complaint under the Act may apply to access support:

 - a) in the case of pastoral support, by application to his or her minister or the clerk of the relevant session or presbytery; and
 - b) in the case of legal and/or financial support, by application to the Assembly Clerk.
- 6. **Allocation of legal and/or financial support**

The allocation of legal and/or financial support to an eligible member subject to a complaint under the Act shall be determined by the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 Committee, which must, in allocating such support, take into account:

 - a) the circumstances of the member and especially his or her ability to fund the demands placed upon him or her; and
 - b) the General Assembly funds available for this purpose.
- 5. Refer the question of setting aside funds for providing financial support for eligible members of the church who may be subject to complaints under the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* to the Board of Investment and Finance for report and recommendation to the May 2023 Commission of Assembly.
- 6. a) Overture the General Assembly of Australia in the following terms:

OVERTURE
From: the General Assembly of Victoria
**Re: Formulating a response to Victorian legislation prohibiting change
or suppression (conversion) practices**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas:

- a) Rule 2.01(d) of the Presbyterian Church of Australia's *Constitution, Procedure and Practice* provides that an overture is a formal written proposal submitted to the Assembly 'to have something done or declared which is for the general benefit of the Church'.
- b) The *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* (the Act) passed both houses of the Victorian Parliament in the summer of 2021 and commenced operation on 16 February 2022.
- c) The Act blurs the positive intent to minimise harm with an extreme gender ideology, affirms LGBTQI+ orientation or ideation to be not broken, and asserts that any contrary view or practice amounts to 'bigoted quackery' against which the Victorian community needs to be protected.
- d) The legislation seeks to stamp out abusive therapies and practices of a spiritual or psychiatric nature that are no longer practised, and in doing so, appears to deliberately catch up what we would regard as Gospel ministry and practice into the ban, thus placing the church on a collision course with the state regarding these issues.
- e) The church has long held that questions of morality are to be determined by the truth of God's Word, but this legislation seeks to impose upon both church and society a secular morality determined by a parliamentary majority that is contrary to the truth of God's Word.
- f) To guide the church in forming a considered response to the passing of this legislation, a GAV committee was formed and tasked with the responsibility of preparing advice for the Assembly to consider and act upon in relation to these matters because much wisdom, discernment, and grace are called for to navigate these new challenges to faith and godliness.
- g) There is much wisdom in the church beyond the boundaries of the state of Victoria, and it seems prudent to approach the General Assembly of Australia for help and encouragement.
- h) It is not beyond possibility, given the mood of politics around the country, that similar legislation will be introduced in states other than Victoria in the next few years, so there is value in drawing the attention of the federal church to this legislation.

Now therefore, we, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, draw the attention of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to the recitals above, and humbly ask that it (i) take notice of this new legislation lest something similar is introduced in other states; (ii) support and encourage the Victorian church in its endeavour to give faithful gospel work

and witness under the effect of this new legislation; and (iii) if it becomes necessary, to prayerfully support and advocate for the church if adverse circumstances come to bear on members of the church because of it - or do otherwise as in its wisdom the Assembly may see fit.

Signed: John P Wilson (Clerk of Assembly, GAV)

Approved: 6/10/2022

The overture is to be stated by Rev John Wilson

b) Approve the following proposed Notice of Motion:

That the Assembly:

- a) take notice of this new Victorian legislation, the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*, and consider its implications, lest something similar is introduced in other Australian states;
 - b) support and encourage the Victorian church in its endeavour to continue to be faithful to the teaching of God's Word and in its gospel work and witness under the effect of this new legislation; and
 - c) if it becomes necessary, prayerfully support and advocate for the Victorian church if adverse circumstances come to bear on members because of it, on the basis of our federal connectedness.
7. Request the Law Agent to report as necessary to the October 2023 General Assembly regarding the implementation and operation of the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* with a view to further refining the Assembly's protocols, policies, and procedures in connection with the Act.
8. Thank and discharge the ad hoc Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The court resumed in public.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

130. Overture 9: Code and General Administration Committee—maintaining minutes of meetings in a bound minute book (min 98)

(1) Elder Drew Chittenden moved, arising out of the debate;

That the Assembly;

Amend clause 2 by adding the words "numbered and" at 3 places: 2.31f, 2.40 and 6.16.2 before the word 'initialled' so that;

- 2.31f reads:
minutes must be entered in the organisation's minute book and, when confirmed, signed and each page being numbered and initialled by the chairman;
- 2.40 reads:
The minutes of every board meeting are entered in its minute book. At every meeting, the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, which must contain the names of those present, is ordinarily the first business after the opening. When confirmed, the minutes are signed and each page numbered *and* initialled by the chairman.

- 6.16.2 reads:
The minutes of every meeting of a court are entered in the court's minute book. When confirmed, the minutes are signed and each page numbered *and* initialled by the chairman.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved the clauses as amended:

That the Assembly:

Remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rules 2.31, 2.40, 5.20 and 6.16 read:

2.31 Meetings

When any business meeting of a congregational organisation occurs:

- a) minutes must be entered in the organisation's minute book and, when confirmed, signed and each page being numbered and initialled by the chairman;
- b) the minister must be duly notified of the meeting;
- c) unless the session has decided otherwise the minister has the right to preside but may appoint a deputy, failing which either the senior officer of the organisation present presides or the meeting appoints a communicant of the congregation as chairman.

2.40 Minutes

The minutes of every board meeting are entered in its minute book. At every meeting, the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, which must contain the names of those present, is ordinarily the first business after the opening. When confirmed, the minutes are signed and each page numbered and initialled by the chairman.

5.20 Appointment of committees

5.20.3 If a committee meets:

- a) three of its members constitute a quorum;
- b) motions need not be seconded;
- c) a member may speak more than once to the same question;
- d) the convener, without leaving the chair, may speak to a question and may move motions or amendments, and has both a deliberative and a casting vote;
- e) it may, however, at any time resolve to be guided strictly by Chapter 7 (Standing Orders);
- f) any member of the Assembly has a right to be present and may be associated with the committee;
- g) it must keep accurate minutes of its proceedings conforming to the requirements of rule 6.16.
- h) reports of its proceedings may not be published without its consent.

6.16 Form of minutes

6.16.1 A court must keep accurate minutes of its proceedings.

6.16.2 The minutes of every meeting of a court are entered in the court's minute book. When confirmed, the minutes are signed and each page numbered and initialled by the chairman.

6.16.3 Minutes must be a statement of fact only and must include:

- a) the circumstances of the meeting, whether by appointment, following adjournment, urgent or special purpose, and the place, date, and time;
- b) except for the General Assembly, a list of those present;

- c) the names of members for whose absence apologies were received and sustained;
 - d) all decisions of the court;
 - e) the appointment of the next meeting if this needs to be made.
- 6.16.4 Minutes should not contain unnecessary corrections or alterations. Further:
- a) typographical errors require only initialling by the clerk;
 - b) if words are struck out, the number of them (or of the lines) must be noted in the margin and signed by the clerk;
 - c) if words are inserted, they must be written in the margin and signed by the clerk;
 - d) no records may be deleted without the authority of the higher court;
 - e) the minutes must not contain blank spaces giving opportunity for unauthorised insertions;
 - f) headings of subjects must be made in the margin or in bold font above the minute;
 - g) the keeping and recording of minutes must not be such as to permit a doubt as to the authenticity of the record.
- Note: rule 6.9 provides that the fact of opening and closing with prayer is also to be recorded in the minutes.

The motion was seconded and approved.

131. Petition 7: Ashburton Congregation—Repurposing the use of Sites Reserve interest to include general ministry expenses.

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Barry Oakes.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(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 a variation of purpose (as permitted under clause 5 of the Model Trust Deed for Manse Site) for the proceeds of sale of the Ashburton manse property currently held in Sites Reserve so that the interest accrued on such proceeds may be applied towards the general ministry expenses and manse allowance of the Ashburton Presbyterian Church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise a variation of purpose (as permitted under clause 5 of the Model Trust Deed for Manse Site) for the proceeds of sale of the Ashburton manse property currently held in Sites Reserve so that the interest accrued on such proceeds may be applied towards the general ministry expenses and manse allowance of the Ashburton Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

132. Substantive motion: ad hoc Committee on Deacons

Rev Stephen McDonald moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Establish an ad hoc Committee on deacons to report on the biblical definition and function of deacons and the diaconate, including reference to Presbyterian standards, principles, and practice, to report to the 2023 General Assembly of Victoria and to make recommendations for the better functioning of this office.
2. Appoint Rev Douglas Milne (Convener), Rev Darren Middleton, Rev Jared Hood, Rev Adam Humphries, Rev Jordan Born and Rev Stephen McDonald to the ad hoc Committee on Deacons.

The motion was seconded and approved.

133. Substantive motion: Presbytery of South West Victoria, GAV Commission

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Permit the Presbytery of South West Victoria to bring a petition concerning the dissolution of the Woodford Congregation and the sale and purposing of the sale of the Woodford property to the 2023 Commission of Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

134. Ad Hoc Covid-19 Restriction Advice Committee

The report of the Ad Hoc Covid-19 Restriction Advice Committee was received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank and discharge the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

135. Clerk's Report: Records

The Clerk's report on Records was received.

136. Clerk's Report: Institutional Reporting

The Clerk's Report on Institutional Reporting was received.

137. Communication 2: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Communication 2 was received.

138. Commendation

The Immediate Past Moderator took the chair.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express best wishes to its Moderator, Rev Peter W Phillips, and his wife Lorraine, for God's blessing on them both for the coming year.

The motion was seconded and carried with acclamation.

The Immediate Past Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for Rev and Mrs Phillips.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

139. Appointment of Commission of Assembly

The Clerk sought leave to move his notice of motion in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint a Commission of Assembly consisting of all the members of this Assembly who remain eligible, 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 9 May 2023, at 10:30am, or at such other times and places as the Moderator of the Assembly shall determine.

140. Appointment of next Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

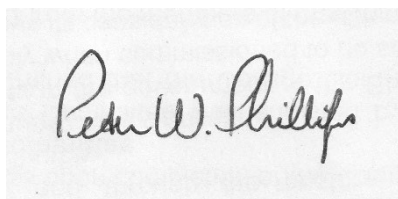
Appoint the next General Assembly to convene within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday 2 October 2023, at 7:30pm for the opening sitting, and on Tuesday 3 October 2023, at 9:30am for a Communion Service, and thereafter for business in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, or at such other times and places as the Moderator of the Assembly shall determine.

141. Dissolution

The Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer, benediction and the singing of the hymn 'I love your Kingdom, Lord'.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
P J Burns

I certify that the minutes of 3, 4, 5, and 6 October 2022, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 15.11 thereof.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter W. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Rev Peter W Phillips
Moderator

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

Presbytery of Flinders (V1)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Charges	Ministers	Elders
Aspendale	Brett Peatman	
Brighton		Elizabeth Cutler
Cheltenham		
Clarinda (HMC)		
Clarinda Nuer		Abraham Chol
Clayton	Michael Jensen Lam Paul Gak (Associate)	Arnis Putnins
Cranbourne	Peter Roberts	
Dandenong	Joel Mestry	Robert Paix
Dromana-Mornington	Matt Cole	
Embrace Melbourne	Paul Jang	
Frankston	Jared Keath	
Mordialloc (AC)	Paul Huynh	
Officer (New Life)	David Martin	Sabyan Hardjo
Somerville		
Sorrento-Rye	Hui Lim	
South East Samoan (HMC)	Kainano Opeteia	
Retired Ministers:	Peter Barclay	
	Ivan Barker	
	David Brown	
	Ken Brown	
	Frank Savage	
	Graeme Weber	
	Wally Zurrer	

Presbytery of Geelong (V2)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Bannockburn	Matthew Deroon	G (Bert) Stasse
Bellarine		
Geelong West	Luke McSeveny	Drew Chittenden
North Geelong	Darren Middleton	Richard Worth
The Leigh	Surendra Wesley	
Retired Ministers:	Andrew Bray	
	John Cromarty	
	Allan Harman	
	Ian Hutton	
	John Stasse	
	Robert White	

Presbytery of Gippsland (V3)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Bairnsdale	Gary Stephens	Roger Mclvor
Drouin	Heath Easton Stephen Jones (Associate)	Alan York
Leongatha (HMC)		Stephen Weir
Moe-Yarram	Stephen Deroon	
Morwell	Cameron Garrett	
Sale (HMC)		
Warragul	Raymond Patchett	Tom Guilford
ADF Chaplain	Nathan Runham	
PTC Lecturer	Karl Hood	
Retired Ministers:	Robert Boan	
	Michael Wharton	

Presbytery of Maroondah (V4)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Belgrave Heights	Mark Tonkin	
Blackburn (HMC)		Keith Ferres
Croydon	Cameron Griffiths	Andrew Letcher
Doncaster (HMC) formerly Templestowe		Colin Flynn
Donvale	Gerald Vanderwert Jordan Born (Assistant) Xien Yao (Assistant)	Iain Bramley
Heathmont	Brian Harvey	Doug Fraser
Kirkbrae		
Mt Evelyn	Miles Fagan	Bruce Timmins
Warburton (HMC)		
Woori Yallock	Tony Archer	Andre Dahmen
PTC Lecturers	Felix Chung	
	Jared Hood	
Retired Ministers:	Tony Bird	
	Trevor Cox	
	Wally Gear	
	Grant Lawry	
	Peter Orchard	
	Andrew Slater	
	Willem Vandenberg	
	Cor Vanderhorn	
	Andrew Venn	

Presbytery of Melbourne East (V5)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Arabic	Karam Krayyem	Zaher Saad
Ashburton	Barry Oakes	John Angelico
Auburn (Chalmers)	Nick Arundell	Colin Spackman
Burwood Community	John Elnatan	Paul Lee
Camberwell	Philip Mercer	Philip Barton
Canterbury	David Hann Dong Choi (Assistant)	Kevin Childs
Caulfield-Elwood	Phillip Chang	Micheal Javaid
Deaf	Tony Salisbury	
Gardenvale East		
Hawthorn	Graham Nicholson	John Singleton
Korean	Jae Kook Kim	Daniel Chung
Malvern		
South Yarra		Jack Adlawan
St Kilda/Balaclava	Luke Isham	
Surrey Hills	John Huynh Oliver Blythe (Associate)	Russell Walley
Scotch Chaplains	David Assender	
	Douglas Campbell	
PTC Lecturer	Ben Nelson	
MDC Officer	Chris Siriweera	
Retired Ministers:	Graham Bradbeer	Parity:
	Alan Every	Haddon Chang
	Douglas Milne	Ken McClimont
	Richard O'Brien	Jim Hare
	Bob Thomas	Ben Palmer

Presbytery of Melbourne North (V6)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Bundoora	Neil Chambers Clinton Le Page (Associate) Chris Shaw (Assistant)	Andrew May
Donnybrook (Fresh Start)	Ben Kelada	
Eltham	Don Elliott	Ian Courts
Epping	Nello Barbieri Brian Luong (Associate)	Neil Furlong
Heidelberg	Bagoes Seta	Tom Cunneen
Hume	Luke Brownley	Tony Ruggeri
Kangaroo Ground (HMC)		
Reservoir	Andrew Vines Dean Carroll (Associate)	Reg Butcher
Samoan		
Valley	Richard Wilson	Luke Yelland
Whittlesea-Mernda	Botros Botrosdief	
Clerk of Assembly	John Wilson	
PTC Principal	Peter Hastie	
Retired Ministers:	Simalu Cowley	Parity:
	Theo Fishwick	Rob Herweynen

Presbytery of Melbourne West (V7)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Brimbank (AC)	John Hudson	Ken Fuhrmeister
Clifton Hill/Essendon	Christopher Duke Bill Medley (Associate)	David Cutler
Darebin	Aaron Boyd Adam Humphries (Assistant)	Adam Foster
Gisborne	Wayne McArdle	Adrian Guillot
Melbourne Scots'	Philip Campbell Christian Tirtha (Assistant) Andrew Wong (Assistant)	Graeme Harris
Melton		Dennis Wright
Point Cook		Peter Stanton
Sunshine		Charles Okwo
West Footscray (HMC)	Martin de Pyle	
West Melbourne Korean (AC)	Samuel Son	Ho-Hyun Do
Williamstown	Daniel Dixon	
Wyndham	Peter Greiner	Harold Carpenter
APWM (Vic) Convener		Noel Johnston
Retired Ministers:	John Cho	Parity: Bob Farquharson
	Philip Court	
	John Ellis	
	Walter Johnson	
	Len Pearce	
	Bruce Riding	

Presbytery of North East Victoria (V8)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Benalla-Balmattum-Thoona	Stephen McDonald	Graeme Hayes
Broadford (AC)	Barry Porter	Ross Barnett
Numurkah-Tallygaroopna		George Elliott
Seymour-Nagambie-Yea (HMC)		Bill Day
Shepparton-Stanhope-Kyabram	Kyung Ee	Philip Betts
Tatura-Rushworth		Gary Dunstan
Wangaratta- Myrtleford-Yarrawonga	Brett Cummins	Malcolm Browning
Wodonga	Stuart Withers	
Retired Ministers:	Neil Harvey	Parity: Ralph Kop
	Kevin Maxwell	
	Ian Touzel	

Presbytery of North Western Victoria (V9)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Bendigo	Philip Burns	Andrew Kerr
Bendigo East (Reforming)	Russ Grinter	Ryan Smith
Eaglehawk	Jesse Walz	
Kerang/Swan Hill	Paul Lee	Ken Pinchen
Rochester		
Sunraysia (HMC)		Colin Morrow
Retired Ministers:	Keith Bell	Parity: Tony Zirngast
	Peter Phillips	
	John Sutherland	

Presbytery of South West Victoria (V10)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Camperdown-Terang-Noorat	Damian Meeuwissen	
Colac		Geoff Cross
Hamilton	David Schulz	Graeme Presser
Heywood-Portland	Rod Waterhouse	
Koroit-Port Fairy-Woodford		
Warrnambool	Ben Johnson Shady Mehanni (Associate)	Robert Prout
Retired Minister:	Neil Benfell	Parity: David Selman
	Ian Leach	

Presbytery of Western Victoria (V11)

Charges	Ministers	Elders
Ararat-Skipton-Lismore		Stewart McKerrow
Ballarat North	John Brennan	Graham Hammond
Ballarat South	Toby McIntosh	Keith Mitchell
Ballarat West	Rob Duncanson	Jeremy Peet
Carisbrook-Castlemaine (HMC)		Richard McArdle
Daylesford	Mark Crabb	
Horsham	Greg Matthews	
Kaniva-Nhill (HMC)		Bruce Meyer
Retired Minister:	Keith Allen	

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 15)

*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us,
let us use them. (Rom 12:6–8, NKJV)*

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 Business Committee is pleased to report that Rev Ben Nelson, Lecturer in New Testament at the Presbyterian Theological College, has agreed to be the Assembly expositor for 2022. It is planned that he will preach at the Tuesday morning communion service and at the opening of the Wednesday morning and Thursday sittings.

Lunches (including the Mission lunch)

The Tuesday Assembly 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). Booking is required.

Prayer meetings

Prayer meetings will be held during the Assembly week in the Robert White Meeting Room as follows:

Monday afternoon: 4:30pm

Tuesday —Thursday mornings: 8:30am

Unified Assembly Paperwork

The Business Committee is cognisant of the increasing use of electronic devices for accessing Assembly papers. In an effort to see if that experience can be enhanced, the Committee has allowed the Business Convener to distribute a PDF that will have almost all the Assembly papers combined into one. The idea is to allow members simply to scroll through one document as business is taken up in the Assembly.

The Unified Assembly Paperwork PDF will be made available in the Assembly week and will be updated as time allows across the week, hopefully before each sitting. It is important to understand that this is not the official paperwork of the Assembly and will be offered for experimental purposes only. Members should rely only on the official papers and only refer to the official papers in debate (e.g. if citing page numbers).

The Unified Assembly Paperwork PDF is based on the personal working document of the Business Convener. As such, it may have material that has not been approved by the Business Committee or the Assembly. Material, once dealt with by the Assembly, will be deleted from the document, so the PDF will get progressively shorter across the Assembly week. Private papers will not appear in the Paperwork.

If members wish to experiment using the Unified Assembly Paperwork PDF on a mobile device, they might like to try it on Acrobat Reader in 'liquid' mode. Select the 'liquid' icon in the application. It makes the text fit the screen at a readable size and makes navigation easier. If using the PDF on a laptop, the side table of contents bar

in Acrobat can help with navigation (which is the same for the electronic version of the official White Book).

For those willing to experiment with the PDF, please provide feedback to the Business Convener. It is possible that the PDF will prove too complex to produce in a helpful way within the short timeframe between some sittings.

Thanks

The Business Committee takes this opportunity to thank:

1. the Minister, Session and members of the Scots' Church, Melbourne, for the use of their facilities and especially for hosting the opening and communion services and organising the supper after the opening service;
2. the Assembly Office staff members for their work in assisting in the smooth running of the Assembly;
3. APWM for organising the Mission Lunch and the speakers at the lunch;
4. Brett Cummins and others assisting with data projection;
5. Those assisting with the audio system; and
6. David Schulz and others assisting with music.

Commission and next Assembly

The Business Committee recommends that:

- the ordinary Commission of Assembly meet on Tuesday, 2 May 2023, at 10:30am in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall; and
- the 2023 General Assembly convene in the Scots' Church, Melbourne, at 7:30pm on Monday, 2 October, for worship and the induction of the Moderator, then at 9.30am on Tuesday, 3 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 sitting (other than the first). As a guide, the Committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline. The below cannot be relied upon as definitive of when an item will be taken up.

FIRST SITTING

Monday, 3 October 2022, at 7:30pm in the Scots' Church, Melbourne
Service of worship and the induction of the Moderator

SECOND SITTING

Tuesday, 4 October 2022, 9:30am–5:30pm
Assembly Communion Service (constitution)
11:00am Roll
Apologies
Associations
Welcomes
Business Committee
Conflict of Interest Declarations
Minutes of previous sitting
Minutes of the 2022 Commission of Assembly
New members
Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

Ministerial and Elders' deaths—Prayer
 Royal address and Loyal addresses
 Communication 1: Buckingham Palace
 Past Moderator
 Moderator, GAWA, Rev Kwangho Song
 GAA Clerk
 Rev Lesleigh J F Hall
 Archives
 Mr Michael G Smith (Archivist)
 Board of Investment and Finance
 Trusts Corporation
 [12:30pm—2:00pm Lunch]
 Church and Nation Committee
 Church Planting Committee
 FOD 3:15pm PWMU Cookbook Committee
 Presentation: Mrs Christine Closter (20 years' service)
 [3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]
 METRO Committee
 State News Committee
 King's College
 Presbyterian Ladies College
 St Andrews Christian College
 Scotch College
 Appeals, Overtures, Communications, References, Petitions
 Business Committee

THIRD SITTING

Tuesday, 4 October 2022, 7:00pm–9:00pm

Constitution
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Conflict of Interest Declarations
 Minutes of previous sitting
 Building and Property Committee
 Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee
 Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
 Social Services Committee
 Ad Hoc Committee: Suppression Prohibition Legislation
 Clerkship Committee
 Commission for Church Institutions
 Unfinished business from previous sitting
 Business Committee

FOURTH SITTING

Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 9:30am–5:30pm

Constitution
 Assembly expositor
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Conflict of Interest Declarations
 Minutes of previous sitting
 Ministry Development Committee

Ministry Development Committee and Church Planting Committee Joint Report
 Exit Students Committee
 FOD 11:00am Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic)
 Rev Kevin Murray (National Director, APWM)
 Presentation of missionaries
 Overture 1: Presbytery of Maroondah—Two branches of deacons
 FOD 12:15pm Ballot (if required)
 FOD 12:20pm GAA PresAID
 Rev John Wilson (acting-convener)
 [12:30pm—2:00pm Mission Lunch]
 FOD 2:05pm Belgrave Heights Christian School
 Mr Peter Cliffe (Principal)
 Overture 2: Ministry Development Committee—Code changes on
 congregations and mission (rules 2.1.1; 3.41; 4.64)
 Special Judicial Committee—Petitions
 Petition 1: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—Dissolution of the Pyramid Hill
 congregation
 Petition 2: Presbytery of South Australia—Change in allocation of proceeds of
 Nelson property
 [3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]
 FOD 3:50pm Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee
 Communication: Presbyterian Inland Mission
 FOD 4:00pm Presbyterian Inland Mission
 Hugh Castleden (CEO, PIM)
 Christian Education and Nurture Committee
 Petition 3: Ebenezer-St John's, Ballarat South Congregation—Purchase of a
 second manse using sites reserve funds
 Petition 4: Presbytery of Geelong—Dissolution of Shelford Congregation and
 Sale of Associated Property
 Unfinished business from previous sittings
 Business Committee

FIFTH SITTING

Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 7:00pm–9:00pm

Constitution
 Apologies
 Business Committee
 Conflict of Interest Declarations
 Minutes of previous sitting
 Ad Hoc Committee: Options for Minority Interest in Assembly Hall
 Safe Church Committee
 Selection Committee
 Communication 4: Privacy Officer
 Code and General Administration Committee
 Unfinished business from previous sittings
 Business Committee

SIXTH SITTING

Thursday, 6 October 2022, 9:30am to the finish of business

Constitution
 Assembly expositor
 Apologies

Business Committee
 Conflict of Interest Declarations
 Minutes of previous sitting
 Communication 3: Korus Connect
 Theological Education Committee
 Communication 4: Queensland Theological College
 FOD 12:00pm Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union
 [12:30pm—2:00pm Lunch]
 Petition 5: Scots' Church Properties Trust trustees—Consent to a new Georges' site lease
 Petition 6: St Stephen's, Surrey Hills Congregation—Use of Sites Reserve Funds
 Petition 7: Ashburton Congregation —Repurposing the use of Sites Reserve interest to include general ministry expenses
 [3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]
 Conciliation Committee
 Overture 3: Code and General Administration Committee—a commission appointing a commission (rule 6.50.3)
 Overture 4: Code and General Administration Committee—Amending regulations by notice of motion (rule 5.45.1)
 Overture 5: Code and General Administration Committee—Church discipline and being reinstated to the roll (rule 3.32.2)
 Overture 6: Code and General Administration Committee—Record apart referenced in the ordinary minutes of the court (rule 6.19)
 [5:30pm—6:30pm Dinner]
 Overture 7: Code and General Administration Committee—Response to GAA's position on paedocommunion (rules 3.24.2 & 3.24A)
 Overture 8: Code and General Administration Committee—Changing from mandatory ACRs to specific use MMRs (rules 2.14; 2.15; 2.44; 2.45; 2.45A; 4.81; 4.82; 4.114)
 Overture 9: Code and General Administration Committee—Maintaining minutes of meetings in a bound minute book (rules 2.31; 2.40; 5.20; 6.16)
 Overture 10: Code and General Administration Committee—Presbytery of oversight and trials for licence (rules 4.35; 4.38; 4.48)
 Overture 11: Code and General Administration Committee—Order of business for presbytery meetings (Rule 4.22)
 Overture 12: Code and General Administration Committee—Procedural steps for linking congregations (rule 4.68B)
 Overture 13: Code and General Administration Committee—PCV Gifts, Benefits, and Hospitality Policy
 Communication 2: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
 Closing formalities
 Commendation
 Appointment of Commission of Assembly
 Appointment of next Assembly
 Dissolution

Jared C Hood
 CONVENER

AD HOC COVID-19 RESTRICTION ADVICE COMMITTEE (Min 134)

The committee met from time to time and issued advice for sessions after each new edition of government advice and regulations was published.

John P Wilson
CONVENER

AD HOC ENACTMENT OF PRESBYTERIAN CARE VICTORIA LTD COMMITTEE (Min 121)

Incorporation and registration of Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited

The Ad Hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd ('the committee') was formed for the purpose of setting up Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited (PCVL), which was accomplished in October 2020. The committee subsequently sought registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a not-for-profit charity with status as a public benevolent institution subtype. The ACNC registration was successfully achieved by November 2020.

Following the successful registration of PCVL with both the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the ACNC, the committee has been preparing the necessary documentation to be submitted to the Australian Government's Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) to be registered as an 'approved aged care provider.' This process has taken longer than first anticipated and following review by our lawyers and a preliminary discussion with the federal Department of Health, it was planned to have the ACQSC application submitted by 30 June 2022. However, due to changes in, and the tightening of, requirements following the aged care sector's response to the COVID-19 pandemic the application needed to be revised and additional information collated and so it is now planned for submission by the end of September 2022.

In the meantime, discussions have begun with the Trusts Corporation over the assets and liabilities that will be transferred to PCVL once formal registration as an approved aged care provider has been granted.

Financial performance

The committee has had the responsibility for the operational governance of Kirkbrae since November 2020, taking over from the PCV Social Services Committee. The difficult decisions implemented earlier in 2021 have started stabilising operations at Kirkbrae and the annual losses have begun to be reduced considerably.

However, the overall operating result for financial year ended 30 June 2022 as presented in the accompanying audited financial statements, was a deficit of \$2,298,976. This is a worse result than in 2020-21 where the overall result was a deficit of \$820,839. However, in 2020-21 Kirkbrae's overall result included an unrealised gain on investments of \$1,191,349 and a realised gain of \$415,832 on the sale of investments. With the changes in the Australian economy and the fall in the Australian stock market towards the end of the 2021-22 financial year, this year's result includes unrealised losses on investments and realized losses on the sale of investments totalling \$1,213,598 which accounts for over half of the overall result for the financial year.

The more appropriate measure of operational performance is the operating result for the year, which in 2021-22 was a deficit of \$1,085,378 compared with the result for the previous year of \$2,428,074. When looking at Kirkbrae's earnings before depreciation the improved result for the year is even more stark. The operating result excluding depreciation expense for 2021-22 was a deficit of \$135,113 compared with a deficit of \$1,431,988 for 2020-21.

While the committee is pleased with the improved operating performance, there is still more improvement needed. There is a need to cover the depreciation expenses to improve the scope for future investment, and when looking at the balance sheet, as our auditors have reported ‘...*current liabilities are greater than its current assets by \$5,033,172. The financial report has been prepared on the going concern basis as the majority of current liabilities are related to Refundable Accommodation Bonds, Refundable Accommodation Deposits and Refundable ILU Entry Contributions from residents.*’ Therefore, should Kirkbrae suffer a similar experience as in 2020 when the serious impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affected our residents and their families resulting in a need to repay the accommodation and entry contributions, there would be a need to raise the over \$5 million dollars shortfall in current assets. Having said this, if the current trends continue and Kirkbrae can be run as a going concern, the committee is confident this will not be needed. Further, once PCVL can take full control of Kirkbrae this burden will be lifted from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as a whole.

At the end of the financial year, the residential aged care facility (RACF) was still running at a monthly loss, and the committee is seeking ways to reduce the monthly losses further in 2022–2023 and, by God’s grace, turn it around. The caveat is that in the RACF there are many moving parts and margins are narrow. We therefore continue to examine opportunities to improve and seek new revenue opportunities and maintain control of, and if possible, reduce expenses. The retirement village continues to generate a modest operating surplus which helps mitigate the overall position.

Residential Aged Care

Last year, the committee reported that Kirkbrae is seeking to take part in the Victorian Government’s transitional care program. However, after further investigation and discussion, it was decided that Kirkbrae not take part in this program. While there was a potential loss of income arising from this decision, Waratah House was fully re-opened and is now fully occupied. In fact, at the end of August 2022, the occupancy rate for the RACF was sitting at 92.6 per cent and it is expected to increase further during the year.

While Kirkbrae is making every effort to maintain occupancy rates, the RACF continues to face ongoing challenges through the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the impacts are not as severe or significant as in 2020-21, residents continue catch the virus and need to be isolated. The committee gives praise and thanks to God that the symptoms appear to be mild, and the affected residents (and staff) are recovering. The impact of these minor outbreaks does have an impact on occupancy as some potential residents’ families choose not to send their loved one to Kirkbrae. Regardless, our staff and our Clinical Governance Committee are paying frequent and particular attention to our COVID readiness. Lock downs are, regrettably, now almost routine; and they are implemented smoothly.

Independent Living Units (ILU)

Kirkbrae has 78 ILU’s of which at the end of August 2022, 91 per cent were occupied, with several of the vacant units under offer. While there is a need for some refurbishment and possible replacement of several existing units, it is pleasing to see the occupancy rate still high. As mentioned earlier, the retirement village is largely trouble free and, based on the present allocation of overheads, delivers a reliable annual surplus which contributes towards covering part of the RACF deficit.

As indicated at the start of this section, the individual units have suffered from a lack of attention and therefore a lack of reinvestment. The tired appearance is one thing, but infrastructure which can no longer be used is another. Last year, the committee indicated that it had commissioned a review of the retirement village and with the benefit of this review, the committee has been discussing how, when, and where to reinvest in the village. As such, our first priority is the community hall that is in need of considerable, urgent repair and the vacant unmarketable cottages now needing to be demolished.

Personnel

Like any service industry, Kirkbrae is dependent on its staff. The current going hourly wage is not significant and yet most of our people work cheerfully and deliver a high standard of care to our RACF residents. The committee gives thanks to the Lord for all the staff employed at Kirkbrae for their contributions to help maintain the level of care to our residents and support for the changes put in place over the last few years. The committee specifically wants to thank Ms Angelica Oyarzun, Kirkbrae's CEO/FM, and Mrs Wendy Pennicuik, the Commercial/Business Manager for the support they give to the committee in conducting its role.

Pastoral Care

Rev Matt James and Mrs Janine Motyer who provide chaplaincy and pastoral care to both the RACF residents and those in the retirement village have both retired from Kirkbrae. Mr James and Mrs Motyer between them delivered one-on-one pastoral care, three church services a week, the Lord's Supper twice monthly and weekly Bible study. The committee is grateful for their contribution to the life and work of Kirkbrae and wish them both well in their future endeavours.

Following their retirement, the committee is grateful for the support provided under the coordination of the Mount Evelyn Session in providing pastoral care to residents, their families and friends and our staff as well as the provision of Sunday services for the Kirkbrae congregation as the committee undertook a review of requirements. The review has determined that the pastoral care and support can now be provided through a single full-time worker. Consequently, the CEO/FM, with the support of the committee, has revised the position description and sought applications for the position. At the time of drafting this report, interviews for the position have occurred and the committee hopes to fill the position soon.

The Committee

The members of the committee are Messrs James Bligh, Iain Bramley, Brad Georges, Duncan McGregor (Convener), Colin Morrow, the Rev Grant Lawry, and Mrs Toni Orchard. I am indebted to my fellow members of our committee for their diligence, engagement, and support.

The committee is ably supported in its work by its Clinical Governance Sub-Committee three of whose members are not members of the committee, Dr Elizabeth Lewis (acts as Chair of the sub-committee), Mrs Jenny Pilgrim and Mrs Jill Barnett. The committee is indebted to the work of these three women who have a long association with Kirkbrae. Their care and devotion continues. Clinical governance is not just pivotal to Kirkbrae, it is crucial. If Kirkbrae fails on Clinical Governance, it fail on everything in terms of providing aged care. The committee is truly grateful for the continuing service of these three servants of the Lord.

As was reported last year, the committee remains at seven members against a desired complement of nine. In common with many Assembly committees, the majority of our members are no longer young, and renewal and succession planning are essential. Apart from new—and younger—blood, the committee needs relevant skills; in particular, geriatric or healthcare skills as well as commercial, accounting, and legal skills. The committee has contacted several potential members (and possible directors) but have had no success in increasing the size of the committee. At the Assembly's request the Selection Committee has also tried to encourage potential new members to come forward for appointment without success. So, the committee again ask Assembly members to prayerfully consider approaching people they may know or passing details to the Convenor so that he can follow-up with relevant individuals.

Looking forward

Kirkbrae is stabilising financially, but unrelenting effort is still required to see it consolidate and rebuild. However, the committee gives thanks to Almighty God for the improvements to date which have allowed us to start contemplating—in very general terms—how Kirkbrae should be preparing for a future in a challenging environment. Stewardship does not mean standing still.

The committee looks forward to this time next year, by which time this committee can be dismissed and PCVL can be reporting to the General Assembly and have taken full control of Kirkbrae on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Duncan McGregor
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: TO CONSIDER THE DENOMINATION'S RESPONSE TO THE PASSING OF THE CHANGE OR SUPPRESSION PROHIBITION LEGISLATION (Min 129)

This committee was appointed by the March 2021 General Assembly (BB 2021 min 12 (5)) to consider the denomination's response to the passing by the Parliament of Victoria of the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021* ('the Act') and report to the October 2021 General Assembly.

The October 2021 General Assembly resolved (BB 2021 min 24) to:

- Request the committee to draft written protocols and codes of conduct relative to the Act, including steps to train ministers, elders, and Session-appointed ministry leaders in dealing with issues in a manner consistent with The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage.
- Request the committee to draft clear guidelines for the use of social media by all ministers, elders, and Session-appointed ministry leaders.
- Request the committee to draft protocols outlining what steps are required to be taken to support a member of the church who has become the subject of a complaint under the Act, such protocols to include eligibility criteria, the full range of legal, pastoral, and financial help that is on offer, both for the member, and where relevant, their family and congregation, and to quantify the limits of such assistance and how it may be accessed.
- Overture the General Assembly of Australia, drawing its attention to the legislation, outlining the response of the General Assembly of Victoria, and seeking its support and advocacy in the federal sphere, the final wording of the overture to be approved by the Moderator, Clerk and Law Agent.
- Request the committee to monitor the implementation of the Act and request the Law Agent to report to the 2022 Assembly with a view to further refining the Assembly's protocols, policies, and procedures.

1. Written protocols and codes of conduct

The committee has drafted a 'PCV Code of Conduct for members of the church in the context of the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*'. Clause 1 of the committee's proposed deliverance advances this Code of Conduct.

The proposed Code is not presented as the last word on this matter; rather, it will be subject to review and possible improvement in the light of any experience gained through its use and the operation of the Act. However, the committee is confident that until such experience is gained, the proposed Code will serve as a sound guide for the members of the church in bearing Christian witness in the context of the Act. The committee commends it to the Assembly for approval.

In the preparation of this Code, the committee sought and received expert legal advice from Mr John Steenhof, principal lawyer at the Human Rights Law Alliance (HRLA). The committee is grateful for his expert input and significant contribution to the development of the Code and for his generous support of the committee in its work.

Mr Steenhof also provided the committee with a memorandum to help the committee understand some of the legal risks around the adoption and operation of a PCV Code of Conduct that arise under the Act and how the changes to the Code proposed by HRLA help reduce this risk.

It was agreed with Mr Steenhof that the memorandum would be taken as a helpful guide for the purposes of the committee's work and that if HRLA were formally engaged by the General Assembly, the advice would be much more fulsome and considered.

However, it is clear, even in the absence of more fulsome and considered advice and notwithstanding improvements to the Code proposed by HRLA aimed at reducing risk, that there remain legal risks associated with the publication by the General Assembly of documents relative to the Act such as this Code of Conduct. As the memorandum points out, 'Given the expansive scope of the Conversion Act, any form of written policy which references the Biblical position on sexuality, gender and marriage will attract legal risk. The only risk-free approach under the Conversion Act would be to adopt a Code that affirms all aspects of LGBTQI+ ideology.'

The committee believes that the only reason the General Assembly might need more 'fulsome and considered' advice in this matter is if the General Assembly were seriously considering muting its witness to the Biblical position on these matters. The committee does not see this as a desirable course of action. Rather, a combination of wisdom and firmness is necessary; the church must maintain its public witness to the Biblical position on sexuality, gender and marriage while seeking as far as possible to mitigate whatever risks such witness may incur.

The committee wishes to emphasise that compliance with the Code of Conduct does not obviate risks associated with dealing with change or suppression issues; even if members of the church comply with the Code, there is some risk still present that their conduct may attract proceedings under the Act in one form or another.

2. Training relative to the Act

While the committee has commenced work on the preparation of suitable training material, as at the date of writing this report, this material is not yet ready for presentation to the General Assembly.

Training is a responsibility of the proposed *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee's* regulations (see paragraph 4 below and the Code and General Administration Committee's report and proposed deliverance), and the ad hoc Committee intends to have suitable training material prepared ready by October 2022 or shortly thereafter for use by the new committee. The chief focus of the intended training would be to engage practically on the question of bearing Christian witness in the context of the Act and of the PCV's stated position on sex, gender, and marriage.

The committee believes it would be helpful if the Assembly directed presbyteries to:

- a) run a presbytery 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training day within twelve months;
- b) direct sessions within their bounds to also run 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training days for members of their congregations and report to the presbytery; and
- c) inform the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee* when the required training has been completed.

One of the eligibility criteria of the proposed *PCV Protocols for the Support of Members* is that the member has satisfactorily completed the training offered by the PCV regarding bearing Christian witness in the context of the Act. This means that the keeping of records of the completion of this training is important, and the committee recommends that these records be kept by sessions. Clause 2 of the proposed deliverance advances these proposals.

3. Guidelines for the use of social media

At the time of drafting this report, the committee has not been able to complete this aspect of its work. The committee believes the best way forward is for the Assembly to refer this matter to the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee for report to the May 2023 Commission of Assembly or, if that is not possible, to the October 2023 General Assembly. Clause 3 of the proposed deliverance advances this proposal.

4. Protocols to support a member of the church subject to a complaint

The committee has drafted *PCV Protocols for the Support of Members Subject of a Complaint under the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act) and Their Families and Congregations*. The Assembly requested that such protocols:

- include eligibility criteria
- include the full range of legal, pastoral, and financial help that is on offer, both for the member, and where relevant, their family and congregation;
- quantify the limits of such assistance and how it may be accessed.

The committee believes that the draft protocols meet these requirements, except that it will not be possible to quantify the limits of the legal, pastoral, and financial support that might be on offer until the General Assembly sets aside funds for this purpose—and then in any particular case the limits of such assistance would be determined by the funds available (see clause 3(b)(ii) of the draft protocols). The committee believes that the question of setting aside funds for providing such support be referred to the Board of Investment and Finance for report and recommendation to the May 2023 Commission of Assembly or, if that is not possible, to the October 2023 General Assembly.

In drafting these protocols, it became clear that there is a need to provide for their administration and to provide for the determination of the eligibility for support by the church of members of the PCV subject of a complaint under the Act and the allocation of legal and/or financial support to eligible members. The committee, having considered alternatives, decided that the best way forward is the appointment of a dedicated committee to carry out these and other tasks associated with the PCV's ongoing interaction with the Act—the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee*. The appointment of this committee and the approval of its regulations are in the proposed deliverance of the Code and General Administration Committee in accordance with rule 5.45.1.

The appointment of this committee would both preserve the knowledge and experience gained by the ad hoc Committee thus far and provide a sound basis for the relevant administration of the church's response to the Act. The committee commends both the appointment of the proposed committee and the approval of its regulations to the General Assembly as essential to the operation of the protocols and necessary for an orderly administration of ongoing matters such as training relative to

the Act and the monitoring of the implementation of the Act requested by the 2021 General Assembly. Clauses 4 and 5 of the committee's proposed deliverance advance these proposals.

5. Overturing the General Assembly of Australia

The committee has prepared an Overture to be brought to the General Assembly of Australia, with the wording of the overture to be approved by the Moderator, Clerk, and Law Agent. Clause 6 of the committee's proposed deliverance seeks to advance this overture to the GAA.

6. GAV expectations of the Law Agent (BB 2021 min 24(6))

This minute requests the Law Agent to report to the 2022 Assembly with a view to further refining the Assembly's protocols, policies, and procedures. However, the Law Agent and the committee agree that given that he is a member of this committee and that he has both contributed to and approved the committee's report and the proposed protocols, policies, and procedures, the Assembly defer the proposed report to the October 2023 General Assembly. Clause 7 of the committee's proposed deliverance advances this matter.

7. Discharging the Committee

The committee recommends that as its work has either been completed or assigned to the new committee it be thanked and discharged.

Rev Peter Phillips
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: OPTIONS FOR MINORITY INTEREST IN ASSEMBLY HALL (Min 94)

The GAV resolved at the October 2021 Assembly to establish an ad hoc committee called Ad Hoc Committee: Options Regarding the Minority Interest in Assembly Hall, comprising three members of the Trusts Corporation (with the Chairman of the Trusts Corporation as Convener), the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, and the conveners of the Ministry Development Committee and Church Planting Committee.

The task set the committee is to investigate the feasibility of the options available in relation to the PCV's beneficial interest in Assembly Hall, namely:

- a) the commercial feasibility of maintaining the 37% interest in Assembly Hall through the redevelopment of the building and/or reassessment of the leasing options, working jointly with representatives of the Scots' Church Board of Management,
 - b) the sale of the PCV's 37% interest to a third party, and
 - c) any other option that may arise,
- and report to the 2022 General Assembly.

In addition, the committee was instructed to continue negotiations with Scots' Church. It was also suggested that it seek from Scots' Church (SC) an increase to the proposed rent-free period to the PCV, investigate means to allocate a portion of funds from future rental savings toward the charitable purposes.

Review of the respective ownership interests in Assembly Hall

The respective ownership interests in Assembly Hall (AH) held by Scots' Church Board of Management Ltd (SCBOML) and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (PCVTC) arise from the recent legal action in which Justice Sifris found the Scots' Church Properties Trust (SCPT) trustees in breach of trust in the manner in which the refurbishment of AH was funded. In place of restitution of the moneys, which would have flowed through to the respective beneficial interests as distributions, he awarded a 63% ownership interest in AH to Scots' Church BOM and a 37% interest to the PCVTC as tenants in common (see diagram in the Appendix), such ownership interests being held in trust as follows:

- a) Scots' Church Board of Management Limited as trustee to hold and apply their interest for the Board of Management of the congregation of the Scots' Church Melbourne to be applied by the board:
 - i. towards the maintenance improvement and enlargement of the church now erected or hereafter to be erected on the church site and
 - ii. towards building mission halls and premises in connection with the said congregation and towards the maintenance improvement and enlargement of the same; and
 - iii. for any other purpose approved of by the GAV;
- b) PCVTC for the PCV to be applied for home mission and church extension purposes in Victoria.

The PCVTC and the SCBOM Ltd interest hold their respective interests in Assembly Hall under the terms of the judgement of Justice Sifris. He made clear that the remedy does not permit any variation or departure from the terms of the SCPT Trust Deed but addresses past breaches of trust. In other words, in its character and purpose the

remedy is to be treated no differently to distributions made to the beneficiaries by SCPT.

SCBOML and PCVTC have a duty to strictly adhere to the terms of the trusts they administer, to preserve the trust estate, and to fulfil their statutory obligations. In character, the respective interests in AH are held as an investment.

Further approaches from Scots' Church regarding purchase

The committee has held discussions with representatives of SC on two separate proposals.

Initially SC and SCPT advised of a potential lease extension between SCPT and Georges which would inject some \$7.55 million of extraordinary income into SCPT. Their proposal involved the PCV transferring the 37% interest in AH (held for home missions and church extension) to SC by accepting its share of the distribution (\$3.68 million) in lieu of payment. SC would then use its portion of the distribution to fund maintenance (stonework) and waive a potential contribution from the PCV beneficial interests. This would be implemented by way of a joint petition to the GAV.

The committee advised that it did not favour that proposal as the \$3.68 million distribution from SCPT would flow to the PCV beneficial interests in the normal course of events. The consideration for the transfer of title would then be the release from its share of the estimated restoration liability, that share being around \$1.83 million. This was considered an inadequate deal for the charitable purposes of the church.

The committee was also mindful that accepting an offer substantially below its worth would potentially place the PCVTC trustees in breach of duties.

The committee advised SC that the alternative proposal involving the PCV beneficial interests retaining 37% ownership and using funds from the extraordinary distribution to meet its share of restoration costs was fair and reasonable. The Law Agent has confirmed that distributions may be lawfully used to maintain trust assets.

A subsequent suggestion was made involving SCPT acquiring the 37% interest held by PCVTC. The committee thanked SC for the suggestion and indicated that it would be necessary for SC/SCPT to consider how this may be financed and transacted in terms of the SCPT Deed. It was suggested that they could seek appropriate legal advice. There has been no further dialogue on this approach.

Sale of PCV's 37% interest to a third party

In considering our various options we have sought to determine whether there is a market for sale of PCV's 37% interest in Assembly Hall, as unlikely as proceeding down this path may be.

Colliers advise that the market for 37% of Assembly Hall would be thin.

JLL confirmed that the current value of Assembly Hall would still be within 5% of the recent valuation. They advise there would be a market for a minority interest, however it would be at a discount and a prospective buyer would most likely have a view to moving to 100% ownership.

We recognise that such a sale would not be in the overall interests of the denomination and therefore do not favour this approach.

Maintaining our 37% interest in Assembly Hall

The alternative to sale to SC/SCPT or to a third party is for the PCV beneficial interests to retain their 37% ownership and seek to make it commercially viable. In this regard there are two considerations:

1. All tenancies of AH are placed on a commercial basis and the Assembly Hall Management Committee seeks to make the optimal use of space and to secure tenants on higher market rentals. We note that SC is not in favour of paying a market rental for the space it occupies, and indeed may not have the financial capacity to do so. We are also mindful that the rental market post COVID-19 lockdowns is more difficult.

2. The committee has engaged in discussions with Mr Peter Lovell of Lovell Chen, a multi-disciplinary firm with more than 40 years' experience in architecture and heritage properties. Peter was a principal of Allen Lovell & Associates who drafted the Assembly Hall Conservation Plan in 1999.

The committee Convener, the Clerk of Assembly and the Senior Minister of Scots' Church met with Peter Lovell at Assembly Hall to do a walk through of the building with a view to seeking some advice on development feasibility.

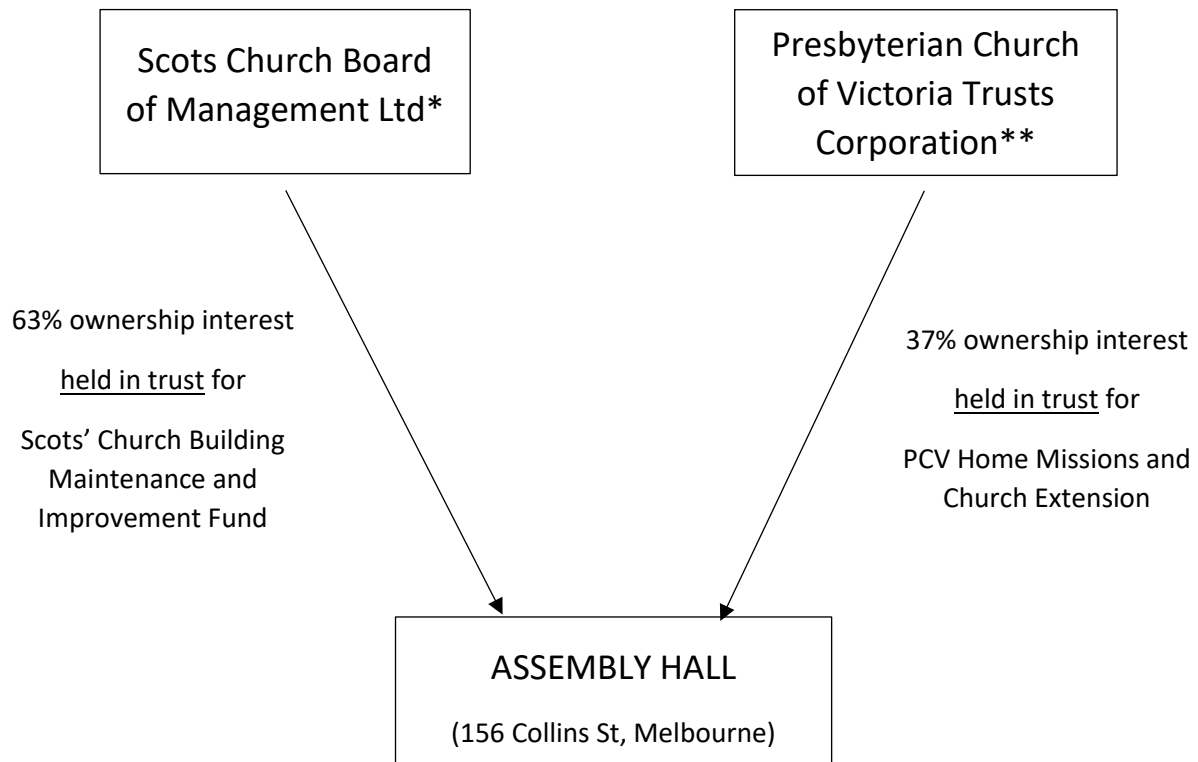
The initial discussion concluded that the Collins Street frontage may not be changed owing to heritage considerations, however there may be a possibility of opening access to the side of the building facing Scots' Church, with opportunity particularly for a food and drink focus. The existing walkway to the Westpac building lends itself to opening up such an opportunity that would not only mean ownership may be commercially viable but would be a drawcard opening up ministry opportunities for Scots' Church.

The committee has received a proposal from Lovell Chen that would encompass an audit of the building, review of commercial tenancy, development of refurbishment/upgrading options with high-level costings, consultation with Heritage Victoria regarding the options and consequential assessment of approvals risk, and preparation of a report for consideration by relevant owning parties.

Engineering, property and costing consultants, along with building surveyors, would be engaged by Lovell Chen in the process. The review would be undertaken in two stages with a quoted total cost of around \$70,000. If commenced on a timely basis it may be completed by December this year.

Appendix

The following diagram depicts the ownership structure of Assembly Hall (156 Collins Street, Melbourne):



* The Constitution of Scots' Church Board of Management Ltd is found at: https://acncpubfilesprodstorage.blob.core.windows.net/public/b89e501d-7dc2-ea11-a814-000d3ad1f9f4-932a7c84-7735-48f3-bb17-d216d399aa15-Governing%20Document-c7559a16-7dc2-ea11-a812-000d3ad1cc03-Scots_Church_BOM_Constitution.pdf

** The Act constituting the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation is found at: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/presbyterian-trusts-act-1890/002>
See also: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/presbyterian-trusts-act-1979/001>

Barry Oakes
CONVENER

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) (Min 71)

1. Committee

The committee has met eight times since the October 2021 Assembly. The committee is using Zoom. The committee is made up of ten people appointed by the Assembly and two by the PWMU. Three members are retiring under the nine-year rule. They are Wendy Pearce (Poster Co-ordinator), Philip Burns (Secretary), and Noel Johnston (Convener). The committee thanks each of them for their many years of service. The committee asks for prayer for those replacing them and for the committee as it continues.

2. Missionary interviews, applicants, departures and endorsements

Apart from regular items of business, the committee also met with and interviewed the following missionaries on home assignment, leaving APWM, or preparing to return to the field. These included: Chris and Julie Dean (Timor Leste), Ross Maxwell (Madagascar), Jared Killey (with wife Bethany {nee Canavan} heading to Vanuatu as Bible translators with WBT), C and N (South East Asia), Andrew Adams (Japan), Douglas Bennett (WBT, Kangaroo Ground), Ian and Rachel (Pioneers), Chris and Sarah Griffioen (OM), Mavis Price (WBT), Yousif Kunda and Vivian Ajawin (GRN), and Joy Hill (Pioneers). The committee always appreciates meeting with our missionaries, even if by Zoom, as it gives them the opportunity to review and discuss firsthand their experiences or concerns and to share any special needs they may have.

The committee also met on Zoom with the APWM National Director, Rev Kevin Murray, to be kept up to date with developments within APWM National.

At the time of writing, there are two families waiting to go to the field and four returning to Victoria.

The committee welcomes new members Jared and Bethany Killey, who are preparing to go as linguists with WBT to Vanuatu. The committee also welcomes new members, Chris and Sarah Griffioen, working with OM (Operation Mobilisation). After spending four years in Japan, they are now working to help prepare, send and support people in ministry.

The following no longer have membership with APWM Vic due to retirement: Douglas Bennett (working with WBT at Kangaroo Ground), Mavis Price (WBT-SIL), who has worked mainly in PNG in literacy, and Warwick and Natalie Short, who have returned from Niger. They will continue working part-time with SIM in helping prepare people and supporting those overseas.

The committee realises that not all missionaries who seek financial and prayerful support from the wider church have applied for the endorsement of this committee. However, the committee encourages Assembly members, if it is their desire and intention to give priority to APWM-endorsed missionaries or if they have any concerns about missionaries who come seeking financial support, to contact either the Convener or the Secretary to enquire about the status of that missionary with respect to this committee.

3. Missionary Poster

This year the committee produced the poster digitally and made it available to those churches who agreed to ensure it, or any digital photos were not placed on websites.

So far, 27 churches have requested these. They can print either A3 or A4 posters and also have digital photos broadcast to a screen.

4. Finances

The committee continues to praise God for His wonderful provision of funds to help the committee provide pastoral care to our missionaries while on home assignment. The committee is also able to give to the whole team of missionaries (including the many children among them) Christmas gifts in November. Superannuation contributions are made to all our workers each June, providing some support towards their retirement. Both of these grants will be decreasing this financial year.

The committee's Trust Funds continue to provide support for our Vanuatu Partner Church missionaries plus scholarship assistance for students at the Talua Ministry Training Centre (Vanuatu) and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary Dehra Dun (India), as well as support for ministry among Aboriginal peoples through the ministries of Rev Rick and Mrs Kayleen Manton (APWM NSW) and Alvin and Narelle Chai (PIM, Mount Magnet, WA).

The committee wishes to thank churches who take a specific and committed interest in any of our missionaries for both prayer and financial support. While missionaries are financially supported by individuals, it is actually the support of the churches (often with a tithing of church income) that keeps these special people in the work.

5. Coins for Mission (C4M)

The committee continues to praise God for the 30-plus Victorian Churches that gave nearly \$24,000 in the last financial year. The committee was able to give funds from C4M to assist with emergency health/medical and travel needs, unanticipated quarantine costs when returning to Australia, repairs and purchases not covered by normal supply funds, as well as support shortfall. All monies that are given through the C4M programme are distributed by the APWM Vic Committee.

Again, the committee wants to point out that the programme was never meant to replace a church's or individual's missionary giving but as a supplementary effort. We encourage churches to let us know any urgent needs of which they are aware in relation to any APWM missionaries they support. Please prayerfully consider your participation in this programme and the wonderful blessings it provides to our missionaries!

Contact our C4M representative, Rev Rod Waterhouse, at coins@apwmvic.org.au.

6. Cars for missionaries on Home Assignment

The committee currently owns a seven-seater Toyota Kluger (2010) and a Holden Commodore (2017). The Toyota Tarago (2007) was stolen while in Sydney. It was recovered but was then written off by the insurance company. The Ford Focus (2008) needed expensive repairs and so was sold.

A retired Victorian minister purchased a new car last year (Kia Seltos S Wagon). He has recently become unable to drive. The PCV Trusts Corporation has now purchased this car for \$25,000. This means there are now three cars that are available for use by our missionaries on furlough.

7. Prayer Updates

This is the most critical part of the programme. The committee distributes a bi-monthly Prayer Update to the PCV email network and other interested parties. The Update gives the latest news regarding missionary movements and a summary of prayer needs. If an Assembly or a congregation member is not included in the circulation of this Update and would like to be, they may email secretary@apwmvic.org.au with that request.

8. Mission Lunch

The committee is expecting to be able to meet in person at this year's Assembly. The speaker at this year's lunch will be Chris Griffioen (OM). Please make a booking and come to this lunch on the Wednesday. The committee expects to have several of its workers there for you to encourage and be encouraged by. The Mission Lunch is a great opportunity to informally ask them how you can best partner with them in prayer and giving. The committee wishes to thank the Assembly for previous years of faithful support to the Mission Lunch and looks forward to your continued support.

9. Presbyteries

The committee recommends that churches in the various presbyteries co-ordinate their missions programs so that the same missionaries are supported by multiple churches in each presbytery. This will decrease travel by those workers on home assignment or those working in Australia who travel to report to their supporters. In addition, multiple churches can join together for conferences.

10. Partner Churches and Partner Mission Agencies

The committee has been enabled to continue, with APWM National, to support and encourage our relationship with PTS India and our Partner Churches in South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Myanmar, Vanuatu, Timor Leste, Ethiopia, North India and Japan. In addition, we seek to work closely with the many Partner Mission Agencies within Australia (with whom most of our missionaries serve) in order to provide a more comprehensive pastoral service to our missionaries in the field and on home assignment.

11. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

The PWMU State Council has continued to work alongside the committee in support of the team of workers across the world, and they continue to be represented on the committee through the two members they appoint. The committee thanks them for their support and generosity, interest in and care for its workers while on the field and at home.

12. APWM National

APWM Vic has two members (the Convener and Mrs Lyn Ellis) on the APWM National Committee, which meets annually in Sydney for the AGM and for an additional three meetings throughout the year. These meetings have been via Zoom. The committee greatly appreciates the support, encouragement, and partnership the committee enjoys with the APWM National Director, Rev Kevin Murray, and the members of the National Committee.

Noel Johnston
CONVENER

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Min 75)

A chapter closed and a new one opened for Belgrave Heights Christian School (BHCS) this past year, while challenges and opportunities continue for us as we serve God's kingdom in the sphere of Christian schooling.

The end of a chapter

A chapter closed for BHCS in the past year with the retirement of our long-serving school Principal, Andy Callow, and our long-serving school council member and Chairman, Dirk Jackson, both at the end of 2021.

Andy started as Principal in 2004 and led significant changes during his time, including adding a secondary school up to VCE and extensive growth in students and buildings and facilities. In numbers, BHCS saw enrolments grow five times from 158 students in Prep to Year 6 to 777 students in Prep to Year 12. The school income grew 7.5 times, from about \$2M to almost \$15M. The number of staff grew five times from around 25 to about 130. To the school campus were added the Discovery Centre and Administration block, the Multi-Purpose Hall, Treetops Café, the Middle and Senior School buildings, the basketball courts and a new junior school playground, amongst others, as well as the start of the new Junior School development. Finally, we were able to add an extra 0.8 ha of land to the school with the recent purchase of land from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV). He was beloved by staff and students. He encouraged his staff to thrive and left behind a strong leadership team.

Dirk joined the school council in 1995 when we only had 12 students, fewer than ten staff, and the school was in the midst of questions about its viability. As can be seen, the school has grown since then. Prior to Andy's tenure, Dirk was on the School Council when it purchased the current primary school site (3.362 ha) and a further 1.766 ha from the adjoining land from the PCV. During this time, the 'Isabel Bell Library' was built, and four general-purpose learning areas were built as well, including a reception area, Principal's office, sick bay, remedial office, staff offices and storeroom. His time included serving on the council during the same changes mentioned above in Andy's tenure and serving as Chairman for the past five years. As someone without any children or relatives at the school, his service was really from a desire to see God at work here.

A couple of other significant changes were the departure of our Business Manager, William Neil, in May to Flinders Christian School and the upcoming departure of Lance Davidson, our long-serving Deputy Principal, at the end of 2022, as he takes up a Principal role at Kerang Christian College.

The end of the chapter is a good occasion to thank God for his care and provision for our school, these men for their service, and the PCV for all the support it has provided over these years.

The start of a new chapter

We began the new chapter by welcoming Peter Cliffe as the new Principal at the start of 2022, who hit the ground running, handled the transition with aplomb, and demonstrated great Christian leadership for the school. Peter brings 22 years of experience as a Principal to our school, previously serving as Executive Principal over two Christian schools, Heatherton Christian College and Wyndham Christian College. The School Council thank our Lord for providing him to take over the reins from Andy.

As a result of COVID-19 and other impacts, around 30 new staff started in 2022 – the largest year-on-year change in the history of BHCS – which means there has been a time of adjustment.

Continuing to serve our school community

Our school faced many challenges in the past 12 months as we went through a further series of lockdowns due to COVID-19, as well as significant changes in people from our teachers and management through to the council. These circumstances placed a lot of pressure on students, teachers, other staff, and families. Nevertheless, to the credit of our management and staff at BHCS, we have continued to provide our community with the holistic development of every student in a Christ-centred environment.

Amidst the challenges of 2021, our Year 12 results were most encouraging and point to the hard work of the students and our staff—88% of students received their first or second preference for tertiary studies, and we had the highest ATAR in the history of our school for the dux of 98.60.

Continuing in 2022, there have been ongoing staff movements and staff offsite due to COVID-19 infections or isolation requirements. We recognise the incredible, hard work of school staff in ensuring our school continues to educate our students and care for the community in the face of these ongoing absences by stepping in to fill gaps and go the extra mile. We acknowledge this has come after two tough years where people are still dealing with the aftermath of significant periods of lockdowns and remote learning.

We had 774 students at 2022 Census Day in Prep-Year 12, as well as 51 children in kinder. For our building projects, there has been progress on the new Junior School complex though it is taking longer than hoped through a combination of factors such as more stringent building requirements and increased costs of key materials across the industry. It is currently expected to be completed later in 2022. We received Block Grant Authority approval for funding towards our planned new Senior Learning Centre/Performance Arts Centre, which was a welcome blessing.

The local Belgrave Heights Presbyterian Church continues to meet in our school building.

Challenges and opportunities in our wider society

We also face external challenges from our society—in particular, the impacts of the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* and the *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*, which have aspects that may impact sharing the gospel. We also only need to look at recent news to see growing antagonism toward long-standing Biblical teaching.

Great wisdom is required to know how to show Jesus's love in these situations. We draw encouragement from Jas 1:5 'If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.'

Furthermore, following Prov 11:14, we appreciate the support from the PCV through resources such as the overarching doctrinal statement of the Westminster Confession

of Faith, the Basics of Christianity summary as well as the more specific statements on contemporary issues. But we also seek the support of the PCV in these matters by:

1. Advocating for the freedoms for us to provide a holistic, Christ-centred education through prayer to our heavenly Father and advocacy to the authorities he has appointed at a federal, state and local level; and
2. Facilitating and encouraging our sister PCV schools to continue to work together on navigating the best path forward and for mutual encouragement in the current environment.

Nonetheless, God's people have always faced challenges and God's love and purposes are at work even now in 2022. Our school community members—whether staff, students, council, or families—can be instruments in the Redeemer's hands in sharing that love with our local community through the holistic, Christ-centred way we educate our students and through the friendships and relationships which develop.

Conclusion

We praise and thank God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for his ongoing work in BHCS by the Holy Spirit. We are glad to report another year that shows God at work even amidst circumstances that we find challenging. We hope you are encouraged by these things. We also ask that you please keep us in your prayers, advocate for freedoms for us to provide a distinctive, holistic Christ-centred education, and support us in working together with other PCV schools to address our shared challenges.

We greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication of all our School Council members over the past year, as well as the BHCS management, teachers, other staff and volunteers who make BHCS such a special place.

Chris White
CHAIRMAN

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min 32)

Duties

The Board of Investment and Finance (the BIF) 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 also form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

The duties of the BIF 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;
- Formulate a budget and allocation of the General Mission Program for approval by the Assembly;
- 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 disburse funds as approved by presbytery and the General Assembly; and
- Administer the Capital Fund including the approval of loans from the fund.

Membership of the Board of Investment and Finance

Membership and committee responsibilities in the past year were as follows:

Rev Barry Oakes	Chairman, Audit Committee
Mr James Bligh	Audit Committee
Mr Edward de Zilwa	Vice-Chairman, Audit Committee
Mr Adam Foster	Audit Committee
Mr Matt Gibson	Investment Committee
Mr David Graham	Investment Committee
Mr John Walter	Vice-Chairman, Investment Committee
Mr Dennis Wright	Secretary, Audit Committee

Church Office

The Board is grateful for the dedicated service of the General Manager, Mr Michael Ellison, and the office staff (Mrs Sharee Barnett and Mr Jason Zhang) who support the Assembly, congregations, and denominational bodies through their administrative support and advice. The Board also expresses appreciation for Michael's expertise and application brought to extraordinary and complex matters that confront the church from time to time.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, work practices have changed substantially. While the government is no longer pursuing a lockdown policy, from time

to time it is recommending that employees work from home when they can. Most employees who can, continue to encourage their staff to work from home or limit the time that they work from the office. Having experienced working from home out of necessity, that is now becoming mainstream. The issues are the same for the PCV General Office. From both health and employee flexibility perspectives, the practice has changed.

This means that the office in Assembly Hall is not always open every day of the week. The Office is still working through the details of the new arrangements to determine a sustainable pattern. While the health warnings continue to change, it remains unclear what 'normal' is. The intention is to have staff in the office three or four days each week in normal circumstances. For those who have a reason to come to the office, it is recommended that they confirm that the office will be open and the person or people they plan to see will be there on the planned date.

Law Agent's Retainer

In accordance with Code 5.16c, the Trusts Corporation and BIF has fixed the Law Agent's retainer for the 2022–2023 year at \$43,500.

General Mission Program receipts 2021–2022

A report showing all charges and their annual contributions to GMP during the preceding year is attached in accordance with BIF regulation 12(d).

Outstanding Assembly Rate and Long Service Leave Levies

The following levies determined by the Assembly for the 2021–2022 year remain unpaid at the date of this report:

Charge	Rate / Levy	Amount
Clarinda Nuer	Assembly Rate	\$201.10
Koroit-Port Fairy	LSL Levy	\$451.00
Kaniva-Nhill	LSL Levy	\$410.00

Capital Fund

The interest rate charged on Capital Fund loans is 2.5% per annum. The costs of funds borrowed from the Trusts Corporation is 4.0% per annum. Income from the investment of the Capital Fund reserves is used to fund the difference in interest and provide a low cost of funds to congregations and schools.

A summary of accounts in relation to the Capital Fund follows:

	2020-21	2019-20
	\$	\$
Receipts		
Interest on loans to congregations	51,488	59,335
Interest from Common Fund	109,656	107,375
Other Investment Income	0	143
Total Income	161,144	166,853
Payments		
Interest paid on loans from Common Fund	82,385	88,652
Interest paid on deposits	457	591
Interest rebate to borrowers	0	23,073
Grant to Property Development Fund	78,302	54,537
Total Expenditure	161,144	166,853
Surplus	0	0
Balance of Capital Fund Reserve	1,535,186	1,558,036
Deposits held for congregations, PWMU, etc	36,557	59,407
Loans to Congregations and Schools	1,687,825	2,040,956

Property matters

Since last reporting to the Assembly approval was given by the BIF under BIF reg 16 (a) for the following urgent property transactions:

- lease of 28 Hamilton Street Broadford for no less than \$1,250 per month for up to 3 years (BIF 109/22).
- lease of the manse at 33 Station Street Yea for no less than \$350 per week for up to 3 years (130/22).
- lease of the manse at 6 Guild Street Seymour for no less than \$420 per week for up to 3 years (194/22).
- lease of the church hall at 1-3 Gordon Crescent Seymour for no less than \$300 per week for up to 3 years (194/22).

Additional Expenditure

Since last reporting to the Commission of Assembly, the BIF has approved the following amendment to committee budgets in accordance with BIF regulation 9(b)(ii)(1):

Committee	Amount \$	Purpose
Archives	\$1,460	for the cloud/web storage (offset by lower employment expenses).
Ad hoc	\$10,000	Legal costs
Change or Suppression Committee		

Assembly-approved appeals

Donations to the 'Sinking Fund Appeal' approved by the Commission of Assembly in May 2021 totalling \$106,000 were received in the 12 months to June 2022.

Church Funds

The funds available to the church to meet its ministry objectives are shown in the table below. The Assembly has allocated general 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 2021	Balance as at 30 June 2022			
	Total Invested	Common Fund	Separate Investments	Total Funds Invested	% of Total
Sites Reserve	17,481,658	11,321,996	10,689,363	22,011,359	25%
GA - Beneficiary & Special	17,521,186	7,927,229	7,747,639	15,674,868	18%
Social Services	14,357,258	616,632	12,668,325	13,284,957	15%
Assembly Hall held for HM	10,175,000	-	-	10,175,000	12%
Theological Education	7,783,544	8,179,517	-	8,179,517	9%
General Assembly Operations	6,173,349	6,170,874	-	6,170,874	7%
Health & Community Chaplaincy	3,077,605	1,802,562	1,173,680	2,976,243	3%
Maintenance of the Ministry	2,436,282	2,492,720	-	2,492,720	3%
Ministry Development	1,830,106	1,791,372	-	1,791,372	2%
Christian Education & Nurture	1,438,447	1,463,808	-	1,463,808	2%
APWM (Victoria)	830,926	832,397	-	832,397	1%
Property Development Fund	626,113	835,971	-	835,971	1%
METRO	729,849	709,820	-	709,820	1%
Presbyterian Youth in Victoria	507,323	509,988	-	509,988	1%
Church & Nation	359,866	355,718	-	355,718	0%
Safe Church	151,351	153,466	-	153,466	0%
Women's Ministry	-	22,173	-	22,173	0%
Victoria	-	22,173	-	22,173	0%
State News	60,423	70,561	-	70,561	0%
Church Planting	-	-	-	-	0%
Total Church funds	85,540,286	45,256,805	32,279,008	87,710,812	100%

The investment in Assembly Hall which is held by the PCV for home mission and church extension forms part of the funding available to the church.

The Church Planting Committee has a loan of \$132,821 (2021 \$87,628) from the General Assembly.

The Ministry Development Committee has a loan of \$235,163 (2021 \$50,023) from the General Assembly.

Arising from the May Commission of Assembly, the responsibility for approval of sustentation was transferred from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to the Ministry Development Committee on 1 July. Surplus funds of \$850,000 held by the

Maintenance of the Ministry were transferred to the General Assembly at that time pending further determination.

The Social Services funds include \$12,668,325 for Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes which is anticipated to be transferred for Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited within the next 12 months.

Sites Reserve Accounts

The Sites Reserve Account holds funds which are the proceeds of sale of church property. The following is a summary of movements in the accounts for the year:

	2021–22	2020–21
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	17,506,230	18,002,524
Plus		
Receipts from Sale of Property	8,046,100	1,467,219
Interest & Other Income	1,007,876	704,818
Capital gain/(loss) on Investments	(1,492,039)	1,018,430
Less		
Payments – ministry support	(1,108,425)	(624,032)
Property improvements and expenses	(1,836,015)	(1,041,587)
Funding for PCV purposes	-	(2,021,142)
Balance at 30 June	<u>22,123,727</u>	<u>17,506,230</u>

Church Property

The application of funds derived from the sale of property, typically held by the Trusts Corporation under one of the church's Model Trust Deeds, has been an ongoing source of contention. The purpose of drawing attention to the matter here is to draw us back to the gospel work of the denomination as a whole with a view to aligning our thinking for the future for the sake of Christ's kingdom. In doing so we wish to consider the terms of the Model Trust Deeds and the broader ministry opportunities of our denomination.

Model Trust Deeds

Properties (church and manse) are typically held by the PCV Trusts Corporation under the relevant Model Trust Deed. The Model Trust Deed for Church Site, for example, states that:

- The property does not belong to the Trustees beneficially, but they stand in ownership as Trustees for the religious denomination purposes mentioned in the Trust Deed (recital B, clause 1);
- The Trustees permit the property to be used for such purposes as the General Assembly 'may from time to time direct' (clause 1(a)); and
- The Trustees shall permit the property to be used as a site for public worship by a congregation recognised by the Assembly and permit the minister, elders and office-bearers to have free and uninterrupted enjoyment of the said land and hereditaments

The Trust Deed operates on the premise that denominational resources are allocated to local churches for the purpose of ministry. It is also recognised that ministries have seasons under the providence of God and that from time to time the assets held for the benefit of that ministry are no longer used or needed. In the situation where an asset becomes surplus, the Model Trust Deed provides that the disposition of any proceeds of sale of the property shall be directed by the Assembly or paid to the congregation (should it continue to exist) in absence of any other determination (clauses 5 and 14).

This authority residing in the Assembly for the allocation of property and any proceeds of its sale recognises that the asset always remains a denominational resource.

Resourcing ministry opportunities: the bigger picture

Over time it appears to have been embedded into the thinking, by past practice, that the assets allocated to a congregation under the Model Trust Deed have become the property of the local congregation (i.e. they have assumed the rights of ownership). It is then assumed that the proceeds of sale, by right, should be directed to the congregation. This understanding is further compounded by the perception that the Model Trust Deed has somehow given the presbytery of the bounds priority in allocation of the proceeds of sale.

Such an approach, which encourages a mindset of ownership rather than stewardship, constrains the gospel ministry in that it prevents the redistribution of resources from areas where they are no longer needed to areas where they can be more profitably employed for the kingdom.

This deficiency in our administration of assets is highlighted in the case of Darebin Presbyterian Church. The parish has been fruitful in gospel ministry but has been constrained by the need to hire premises in which to meet, giving limited access with no certainty of tenure. The opportunity arose to acquire a disused Uniting Church building (originally Presbyterian) in Thornbury. The BIF has assisted with a Capital Fund loan and the congregation has taken on a substantial ongoing commitment. Crucial assistance in the amount of \$1,450,000 has come from the Property Development Fund and the Thornbury Sites Reserves held by the Presbytery of Melbourne West.

This situation demonstrates the need for a denominational Sites Reserve which would provide for the reallocation of resources from where they are no longer needed to where they currently are needed. We therefore believe that the Assembly should consider establishing a denominational pool of resources from current unpurposed Sites Reserves and future property sales (where no purpose is specified) in order to service the growth of gospel ministry across the State.

This approach does not necessarily require any change to the Model Trust Deed, but simply a declaration by the Assembly, when approving the sale of a property, that the proceeds be directed to a denominational pool where the funds are not otherwise purposed for the relevant congregation. Currently unpurposed Sites Reserves, or a portion thereof, may also be declared to be held for this purpose. In this way, surplus assets may be used to assist in the acquisition of properties for new church plants, or congregations that do not have their own property, or to assist in the development of existing church properties where growing congregations are unable to fully support the required infrastructure development.

We encourage the Assembly to consider such an approach.

Insurance

The renewal this year has been challenging, especially in relation to the ISR policy for insurance of congregational property. Various factors have contributed to this including:

- The market is generally more challenging due to high claims relating to natural disasters;
- Fewer insurers are offering cover for religious institutions;
- Insurers' risk appetite has reduced, including capacity;
- Our recent claims history is not good; and
- Specific internal policy changes and a realignment by the incumbent insurer – Ansvar.

The BIF uses the services of AJ Gallagher as our broker to negotiate the renewal each year. The broker is engaged by us and works directly for us. The BIF arranges a group ISR policy covering congregational properties which most boards have elected to insure through. Each board is free to make its own election whether it takes out cover under this policy or finds alternate cover elsewhere. Over many years the group policy arranged by the BIF through AJ Gallagher and ultimately insured with Ansvar has proven to be substantially better than any other coverage available.

Within the industry, brokers will generally issue invoices for insurance renewals rather than the insurer. Be assured that AJ Gallagher is working in our best interests. It is not the insurer and has no allegiance to any insurer. Their only focus is obtaining the best renewal terms for their client—the PCV. The Board has been working with them for many years and has been very satisfied with their professionalism and the quality of their service. This is especially so in difficult times such as those we are now faced with.

This year Ansvar has made some important changes to the terms of the group ISR policy, as well as substantially increasing the premium.

Until now Ansvar has been performing property valuations free of charge to congregations on a rotational basis as part of the service. As long as we have been insuring for the sum assessed, the coinsurance clause within the contract has not been exercised by the insurer even if the valuation is found to be less than the cost of replacement. The coinsurance clause operates in the event of a claim where it is established that the declared insured value is less than the cost of replacement. The claim can then be proportionately reduced to the level of underinsurance. This applies not only in the case of a total loss but in relation to every claim. This clause is found in all ISR policies. Ansvar has recently notified us that they will no longer be undertaking property valuations as part of their service. The effect of this is that congregations will need to obtain professional valuations every 3–5 years in order to be assured that there is no gap between the declared values and the true replacement cost. Insured sums are increased each year based on the building price index. This maintains some parity with replacement cost but over time can lead to underinsurance without the comfort of a professional valuation. The broker is working with us to implement a program to address this including transitional arrangements with Ansvar.

In addition, Ansvar have made changes to the flood cover on all properties by increasing the excess from \$2,000 to \$20,000 and initially declining to provide flood cover for any properties which are subject to flooding more than 1 in 100 years. 14 properties are affected by this change in policy. The broker is continuing to pursue various options in response to this change.

Despite the changes to Ansvar's terms and the increase in premiums, the considered assessment is that for the time being Ansvar remains the most appropriate option. The timing of notification of some of these changes by Ansvar has been disappointing and left us insufficient time to properly respond. We will undertake a more comprehensive market review in conjunction with the broker prior to the next year's renewal.

Public Liability Insurance

Ansvar has also changed the basis on which the Sexual Abuse extension of the Public Liability policy operates. This extension now operates on a 'claims made **and notified**' basis. Previously the cover operated on an 'occurrence' policy wording. While there are various consequences which flow from the change in policy wording, the key issue for the congregations and presbyteries is that it is now more critical that any incidents which may give rise to a claim are disclosed to the insurer. Failure to do so at the time the incident occurs or is first known to have occurred may lead to a loss of cover.

Ministers Disability Insurance

The same conditions mentioned above apply in the context of Ministers Disability Insurance. Consolidations within the industry and the reduced appetite for risk has resulted in only a few insurers remaining who are able to offer terms.

Religious organisations have a higher proportion of stress related claims than in other sectors. For insurers, stress related claims present the greatest risk due to the uncertainty of recovery, which can often take many years. Our experience over many years bears that out. Most of the time there is at least one minister within the PCV on claim for stress related issues.

When the insurers do their sums on claims paid against premiums collected their sums don't add up. It is not surprising that they are not prepared to take on the risk or increasing premiums in search of a more commercial transaction.

The incumbent insurer sought a 67% increase in premiums for this year's renewal. Ultimately the broker (Brian Corboy of Hunter Redding Financial Services) managed to obtain cover on similar terms from Zurich at a premium about 30% higher than last year. This rate is locked in for the next 3 years. While there is a big cost increase this year, the next two years should not see any substantial change. While the rate is fixed, the premium may increase depending on the age profile of the insured members.

The situation is unlikely to become any easier over coming years. We are likely to see another substantial rate increase at the end of the third year. The broker has recommended that we review the arrangements over the coming year before the next renewal to see whether the risk can be addressed in other ways. There may be an administrative solution which mitigates the cost. The BIF encourages the Assembly to also consider how ministers can be better supported and managed in order to reduce the risk of stress and mental health issues.

Chairman

The role of members of the Board of Investment and Finance is very demanding and requires a significant investment of time and energy. Under the regulations members of the BIF also form the membership of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation. In addition to the regular monthly meetings for each body, there are two sub-committees: the Audit Committee and the Investment Committee each requiring further commitment.

BIF members are often nominated by the Assembly to join with others in populating various ad hoc committees of the Assembly. In most cases such ad hoc committees are tasked with dealing with complex issues.

The role of the BIF Chairman is especially demanding.

The Chairman is also an ex-officio member of the Clerkship Committee and the Code and General Administration Committee.

The Chairman and all BIF members serve willingly and make no complaint.

A conservative estimate of the time commitment of the Chairman is between one and two days per week. This impacts not only on the incumbent but also on his employer or charge in the case of a minister.

In order to mitigate the impact on the charge in the case where the Chairman is an active ordained minister, the BIF is proposing that a payment be made to the charge representing approximately 20% of the total cost of the minister – primarily stipend, NCB, housing and superannuation. This would assist the charge in implementing other arrangements to provide ministry support while its minister is otherwise occupied outside the charge for the benefit of the whole church. It would go some way to removing one of the very real pressures which contribute to the early retirement of a minister as Chairman and member of the BIF and Trusts Corporation.

PCV Legal Identity Structure

The October 2021 General Assembly instructed the Board of Investment and Finance (BIF) to 'engage an external consultant, with experience in the governance of the temporal affairs in a Presbyterian context, to do a review of the PCV structure, consult widely within the PCV and make tangible recommendations for change that can be considered by the 2022 Assembly. The consultancy fees to be sourced from the General Assembly budget' (GAV 2021 min 18.8).

In response to this instruction the BIF commissioned Resolve Consulting, a Christian based consulting company specialising in the faith-based sector, to carry out a review as directed.

The results of the review are encapsulated in the document annexed to this report ("Review").

The work done by Resolve involved broad stakeholder engagement, is comprehensive and the recommendations are sound. As an external entity, it would be unwise for the recommendations made to be tabled directly with the GAV without a response being developed by the Clerks and the BIF to ensure the proposed approach and deliverances are consistent with Presbyterian tradition and polity.

The purpose of this document is to provide a response to the recommendations and observations contained in the independent review conducted by Resolve and to propose deliverances that can be presented to the GAV for consideration.

Target audience

This document has been written by the BIF with input from the Clerks primarily for the members of the GAV to assist them in understanding and critiquing the proposed deliverances.

It is recognised, however, that the changes proposed by this document will have a tangible impact on the entire PCV. The secondary audience of this document is, therefore, the wider PCV community. For this reason, a section containing frequently asked questions has been included in the document to assist Assembly members in explaining the context and impacts of the proposed changes with the members of the congregations they represent.

How to read this document

Where possible, this document has been written assuming that the reader has not already read the Resolve report. The Resolve report is an excellent resource that covers the matters addressed in this document in some detail. As a result, it is strongly recommended that the Resolve report be read before reading this document.

This document is designed to provide a proposal and rationale for organisational change and the management of temporal affairs and should be read in that context. It does not contain any proposal to change the ministry, beliefs, or inherent characteristics of the PCV.

Response to external review

Review Highlights

The key highlights of the review conducted by Resolve Consulting, and the subsequent report that they have provided, are as follows:

- To create the report, Resolve consulted broadly across the PCV. This included surveys, to ensure breadth, and many targeted interviews, to ensure depth.
- As a result of this consultation nine areas of challenge were identified.
- To address these areas of challenge the report proposes that an ACNC registered entity be incorporated and delegated the powers and resources to manage the current and future challenges facing the PCV.
- The report was at pains to ensure that the recommended changes in structure would improve the “Temporal Activities” of the PCV – defined as “the day-to-day business, finance and operational processes and functions of the PCV” – without impacting ministry, PCV polity or the Courts of the Church.

The last point is worth highlighting as it is a known concern across the PCV. The Resolve report, and this document, are seeking to address real operational issues within the PCV. The proposals contained in both documents are not intended to change the character or polity of the PCV. In fact, great care has been taken to prevent such impacts as far as it is possible to do so.

Areas of challenge

The Resolve report identified nine areas of challenge facing the PCV that need to be addressed. The Clerks and the BIF concur with the report that these challenges are

significant, of concern to the future health and viability of the PCV, and in need of urgent attention.

These nine areas of challenge are reviewed below.

- *Inadequate risk management*

“Lack of risk identification and management of shared services available to support Congregations and PCV related entities”

The review outlines this issue quite extensively and the information surfaced aligns with issues that the BIF has raised at Assembly previously. While this has been discussed as a relatively conceptual problem at previous Assemblies recent legal and compliance issues have demonstrated that the cost of not managing risk can be very expensive. The report identifies a number of these issues.

This is no longer a conceptual problem. It is a serious concern directly impacting the finances of the PCV.

- *Slow decision making*

“Decision making processes failing to address issues in a timely or coherent fashion”

Decision making within the PCV is designed to support the Courts of the Church in addressing issues such as theology, discipline and ministry support. This decision making is exercised through the Courts of the Church and is fit for purpose.

These processes, however, are not fit for purpose for many operational decisions that are highly time dependent or require specialised knowledge. Anything where an emerging issue or opportunity must be responded to quickly, such as the purchase of a property or a response to a legal case, need a faster turnaround time to be handled well.

Any structural change we undertake needs to allow decisions arising from opportunities and issues that are time sensitive to be made quickly, wisely and judiciously.

- *Unclear operational governance*

“Ambiguity of governance over temporal activities, in particular authority boundaries and scope of the PCVTC and Board of Investment and Finance”

This is currently a critical issue that has surfaced recently via the incorporation of Kirkbrae and establishment of the National Redress Scheme and responding to litigation brought against the PCV for historical child sexual abuse. These scenarios required an incorporated entity with appropriate governance to exist but the only entity available was the Trust Corporation which is limited by the Presbyterian Trusts Act and therefore is not appropriately authorised or empowered to take on these accountabilities. In each of these cases a specific solution had to be worked through which is ultimately compromised and significantly delays the response to the issues at hand.

To respond to growing environmental complexity we need a dedicated organisation that has the authority and capacity to respond on behalf of the PCV.

The Resolve report did not conclude that the PCVTC should be empowered to take on additional responsibilities in response to the identified issues. The fact that the PCVTC is governed by an Act of the Victorian Parliament constrains the options open for change. If the operational activities of the church were to be consumed by the PCVTC this would potentially expose all of the assets held by the PCVTC to meet any operational failure, as was the case in PCQ, and potentially in PCNSW. This new organisation should be distinct from the PCVTC to properly separate responsibilities and avoid confusion and conflicts.

- *Asset risk*

“Potential for increased risk to assets”

There is growing risk to the assets of the Church, both financial and physical.

The assets of the church are at increasingly being called upon to resolve unplanned issues, for example, lawsuits for historic child sex abuse. There is also increased external pressures of accountability and responsibility at many levels. While these external factors are beyond our control, our present structure potentially amplifies the financial risk of such situations due to the areas of challenge which are mentioned in this report.

At the same time, the operational assets of the PCV are being used inconsistently. While there are cases where operational income is used constructively and productively by congregations and presbyteries across the PCV, there are situations where we are essentially burying our talents.

Each of these factors contribute to an inefficient and often less than optimal response which in most cases comes at an increased financial cost.

As we assess the structural changes we should consider we should be mindful of options that will allow assets to be leveraged and amplified to their maximum extent to support ministry and the future health of the PCV as a whole.

- *Changing without polity impact*

“Meeting the requirements of commercial necessity without compromise to polity”

This challenge came through strongly in the review and was also a concern that was identified before the review commenced. There is no value, and potentially much harm, in compromising the inherent characteristics of the PCV – the things that make us unique and distinct. This includes our polity and many of our traditions.

Any changes we undertake should be sensitive to, and consistent with, the essence of what makes us Presbyterian.

In this context, it is worth highlighting that Presbyterians have historically been known, from John Dunmore Lang to John Flynn, not just for our polity, structure and faith but also our inventiveness, industry and competence.

- *Lack of primary governance*

“The GAV as a moral ownership group is ill equipped to also be the primary governance body for the PCV. The stakeholder/ moral ownership or stewardship role of the GAV needs to occur in a manner that ensures the GAV is not watered down or replaced in terms of its role in delegated polity authority on behalf of the PCV”

This may be a controversial challenge to highlight in a paper designed to be tabled with the GAV but it is, nonetheless, the truth. This is not a shortcoming of the GAV or its members, it is recognition of the practicality of a large group, meeting for three days once a year.

Forums of this nature are designed to deal with a small number of very significant issues but are not able to provide the probing and continuous questioning and consideration needed for the oversight of complex and evolving issues.

Explicit and judiciously defined delegation is a practical necessity.

- *Blurred responsibilities*

“The members of the Board of Investment and Finance are also the trustees of the PCVTC”

While there are many benefits which arise from this overlap in membership in the present structure, it is also a source of confusion and misunderstandings.

The BIF/TC concurs that this is an opportunity to reconsider that relationship and more clearly delineate the separate functions. As the details of a new organisational entity are explored in further detail it is expected that the benefits of separating the membership of these two bodies will significantly outweigh any efficiencies which may currently exist as a consequence of the joint membership.

- *Inconsistent operations*

“Inconsistency in structure and adherence to established protocols abound within the courts of the PCV to various degrees and these have lain unresolved for many years”

Regarding temporal management, the best of the PCV is as good as the best anywhere. Unfortunately, it is clearly the case, that we are not consistently our best and when we are lax or unwise in some areas – such as legal compliance or financial management, we create problems that can escalate to impact the Church as a whole.

- *Lack of collaboration*

“Identified need for improved relational collaboration”

The fact that this has been surfaced through the review built about stakeholder engagement is non-trivial in nature. It highlights that the process of structural change should not just be legal entities, regulations and constitutions. It also needs to be about how we work together, as people, across the Church to bring glory to God.

We need to work together better as brothers and sisters in Christ as stewards of the provision that God has granted us.

We should consider this as we review changes in structure and process.

▪ *Proposed entity*

The Resolve report proposes the establishment of a new entity with the following characteristics:

- The new entity would be incorporated and operate under delegation from the GAV
- The new entity would act as the appropriate entity when interfacing with external organisations such as regulators, insurers, and financial institutions
- The new entity would take over the current delegations of the BIF and would have additional delegations to address the challenges identified above
- The Board of the new entity would be distinct from the Trust Corporation and would be appointed by the GAV
- Specifically, the new entity would provide services (i.e.. act as a servant) to the PCV as a whole

The Clerks and the BIF support this proposal and believe the rationale presented in the report is sound. In light of the challenges the PCV is facing there is a need to take this step.

Regarding the specifics of the additional delegations to be considered for the new entity, some specific suggestions are outlined in the recommendations section below.

An important point to note is that we believe that the entity being proposed is analogous to a Board of Management. We are all familiar with the need for a Board of Management in individual congregations. In the same way, the boundaries between a Session and a Board of Management are generally clear and well defined across our congregations.

Thinking of this new entity as a denominational Board of Management, subordinate to the oversight of the GAV, is possibly the best way to understand what is being proposed. This can also help Assembly members understand how this entity will best fit into our existing traditions and polity.

Also, this understanding could assist as we discuss the regulations, constitution, supporting agreements and membership of the new entity.

Recommendations

▪ *Recommendation 1 – Acknowledge that the status quo is insufficient*

When discussing change, the option of leaving the status quo in place should always be included for consideration.

In this case we believe that there is enough evidence built up from the experiences of the last decade to indicate that the status quo will not be viable. The Resolve report provides even more evidence to that effect in a systemic manner.

Just as Paul did when visiting Athens, when the environment around us changes we must hold on to our core but adapt our approach.

▪ *Recommendation 2 – Establish a central Board of Management*

Establish a new incorporated entity (BoM) as recommended in the Resolve report, conceptually modelled on the Boards of Management that are already common across the PCV.

▪ *Recommendation 3 – BoM accountable for PCV financial health*

Delegate accountability for budgeting, financial management and the treasury function of the PCV to the BoM. This essentially means transferring the current accountabilities of the BIF and decommissioning the BIF as a committee.

▪ *Recommendation 4 – BoM accountable for PCV compliance*

Delegate accountability for ensuring PCV compliance with our legal obligations to the BoM.

This would be a new accountability and would need to be well defined for all parties concerned. The intent of this recommendation is not for the BoM to take over the governing of all compliance related activities. For example, the Safe Church Committee already performs a specialist compliance function and does it exceptionally well. The intent of this recommendation is to ensure that there is a body with the clear obligation to identify any compliance gaps across the PCV and to ensure that those gaps are addressed.

▪ *Recommendation 5 – BoM accountable for PCV strategy and risk management*

Delegate accountability for the development of strategic intent for the PCV as it relates to temporal matters to the new Board of Management.

This would be a new accountability that does not currently exist formally within the PCV. The absence of broad-based risk assessment and strategic planning should be considered a serious concern for any complex organisation and is a gap that needs to be filled.

▪ *Recommendation 6 – BoM accountable for PCV people management*

Delegate accountability for the technical aspects of employing the employees of the PCV to the BoM. The employees would remain accountable to the Committees, Presbyteries and Sessions they currently serve but the legal and compliance aspects of employment, such as policies, contracts, leave management and remuneration should be centrally managed by the BoM.

This would relieve Committees, Presbyteries and Sessions from the need to maintain technical expertise at each level to cover the increasingly complex array of employment law, OHS compliance and related legislation. Service agreements between the PCV and BoM would clearly delineate the distinction between employment recruitment, selection and oversight from the administrative support necessary to implement the employment arrangement.

▪ *Recommendation 7 – Allow for the management of allocated assets*

To provide the financial means to develop and deliver strategy, the BoM should be given the ability to be stewards of capital and physical assets entrusted to it by the GAV. The BoM would then be expected to ensure any allocated assets are used optimally to support the ministry and function of the PCV as a whole.



Presbyterian Church of Victoria

STRUCTURE REVIEW/ DISCUSSION REPORT



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AUSTRALIA + NEW ZEALAND

Prepared: July 2022

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

important notice

This report should be read in conjunction with the terms and conditions noted in the attachment to this document.

about the reviewer

About Resolve Consulting Group

Resolve Consulting Group (Resolve) is a specialist Chartered Accounting and Consulting firm.

Resolve provides consulting advice to schools, churches, charities, missions and other not for profit organisations. We specialise in the Christian faith based not for profit sector, and we understand the challenges and issues faced by these organisations and have tailored solutions ready for implementation in an ethos consistent manner.

Resolve is headed up by two Partners; David Bartlett and Paul Campey. Both are Fellows of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and have extensive experience in assisting hundreds of not for profit organisations in the areas of governance, leadership, financial management and the development of engaged communities.

Our Vision:

Our resolve is to equip, develop and sustain healthy Not for Profit organisations. We pursue our vision through the provision of high quality, cost effective Governance, Leadership and Financial Management solutions to our clients.

Our Values:

Integrity – in all that we do and say

Flexibility – to meet the needs of clients in solutions and time

Community – strengthening in both our clients and our firm

Generosity – Through pro bono work for small clients and start-ups

Quality – balancing stewardship of client resources and time in providing quality advice

background and scope

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following deliverables as outlined in our proposal document dated 29 March 2022:

- Provision of consulting advice to meet the objectives and deliverables outlined in the *Governance and Legal Structure brief* provided to us dated March 2022 specifically:
 - To identify, with documentary support and rationale, the areas within the structure of the Church that are deficient or inadequate;
 - To recommend an appropriate organisational governance structure which will address these deficiencies and would remain appropriate for the long term;
 - To propose a high level change management plan, including appropriate phases and communication plans, to effect the recommended change in structure.

The following report presents a summary of the key matters and recommendations which were identified during our review.

key review assumptions and summary of research

In performing our review of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) the following key assumptions and limitations of the review are noted. These have informed our advice and recommendations and are listed in no particular order of importance:

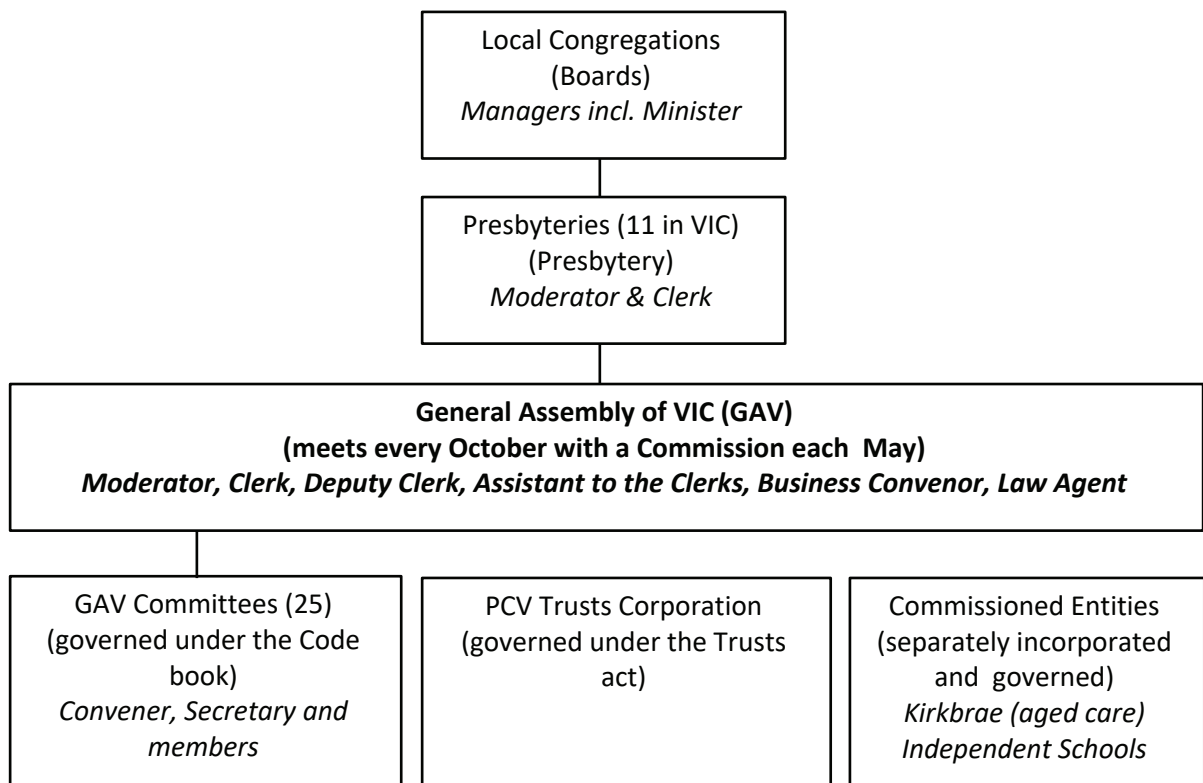
1. The review examines the temporal activities of the PCV only, with the aim to be better able to operate in the legislative framework and society of the 21st Century in Australia. The review seeks to discover changes to structure that provide sustainable governance and temporal operational foundations for ministry
2. The review does not examine or seek change to PCV polity or delegated authority to the courts of the PCV
3. The review considers both the temporal operations and governance components of the PCV. Temporal operations means the day to day business, finance and operational processes and functions of the PCV. Governance is defined in the terms used in the Community Governance framework developed by Resolve specifically for Christian faith based organisations, as distinct from other frameworks of governance (e.g. Policy Governance as promoted by John Carver). More information on the Community Governance framework can be obtained from the General Manager of the PCV or from our website at www.resolve.consulting
4. The Code book of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (the Code book) is the core constitutional document that guides the polity of the PCV. The *Presbyterian Trusts Act (1890)* (the Trusts Act) provides the legislative basis for the establishment of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation and empowers it to hold the property of the Church. Any structural changes are required to be consistent with these established documents
5. As the only incorporated body within the Church, The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (PCVTC) is often called upon to represent the PCV legally for both internal and external temporal activities despite it not being legally empowered to do so
6. Our review engages with the whole PCV and input has been sought through one to one interviews, group discussions and survey responses to gather feedback and inform the review
7. The reviewer has researched and has extensive experience in both overseas and Australian governance and operational structures being used by church and para church organisations. The Australian legal and regulatory environment is quite distinct when compared to the global environment (particularly in relation to Not for Profit taxation and governance requirements from the Australian Commonwealth Government). Importing principles from overseas structures is not recommended due to these distinctives.
8. The review has been performed on a principles basis rather than trying to look for a convenient model to “scratch an itch”. Starting with the ethos (core values, core purpose and foundational courts structure of the PCV) the reviewer has sought to modify existing structures where required to meet the temporal needs of the PCV without compromise to the foundational ethos of the PCV

9. The reviewer notes that alternative church and para church structures in Australia in other States have been reviewed in detail (in particular the Presbyterian Church of QLD and NSW, the Churches of Christ in NSW and the Baptist Association of NSW). The unique culture and ethos of these entities have been reflected in their structures. Both temporal necessity and governance requirements have been examined when reviewing other structures in terms of their relevance to the PCV review
10. The connection of PCV to the General Assembly of Australia and the activities or authority areas delegated to the General Assembly of Australia is outside the scope of our review

current governance structure

When seeking to understand the current structure we were focused on the governance of the PCV - lines of accountability and delegated authority. This is summarised below:

Current PCV Structure for Temporal Activities



Comments of note by the reviewer on the above structure are as follows:

1. The GAV is the primary entity that determines the governance and temporal structures of the PCV. It establishes and appoints members of all sub entities and committees, and is charged with managing the accountability of these via the Code book

2. The Code book includes accountability requirements and tools to be utilised for the effective management of all functions of the PCV, including but not limited to reporting requirements
3. The GAV legally cannot direct or interfere with the PCVTC, so this relationship is represented by a dotted line between PCVTC and the GAV. The members of the Board of Investment and Finance are also the current trustees of the Trusts Corporation, although legally this is not required
4. At present both the PCV Theological College and Kirkbrae are administered by committees. The PCV Theological College is therefore included as one of the 25 committees noted in the diagram. Kirkbrae is in the process of formally incorporating as a Public Company Limited by Guarantee, therefore has been included with other Commissioned Entities
5. The GAV has authority to appoint to the Councils and Boards of the Commissioned Entities in accordance with the constitutions of those bodies. The PCV has no role to play in the temporal activities of those bodies as they strictly fall outside the scope of the Church, so there is no line connecting the Commissioned Entities to the GAV.

stakeholder feedback and current challenges

Following our review of the current structure of the PCV and stakeholder feedback, we present the following summary of our perceived challenges with the current structure of the PCV:

AREA OF CHALLENGE	DESCRIPTION OF CHALLENGE
1. Lack of risk identification and management of shared services available to support Congregations and PCV entities	<p>1A. Increasing compliance requirements at the local congregation level are difficult to meet in many smaller congregations. Only informal mechanisms exist between the courts of the PCV to persuade congregations to attend to areas of temporal operation that require expertise and also carry legal exposure and other risks.</p> <p>1B. There is no coherent legal body in place with the delegated authority from the GAV at present to coordinate the provision of these support services to congregations,</p> <p>1C. There is no mechanism in place to identify liability exposure across the PCV ie. no method to audit or review the temporal health of the congregations and their ability to meet these management requirements</p> <p>Examples noted by the reviewer include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregations failing to register with the ATO or ACNC as charities • Employment contracts not in place and other HR issues • Workcover issues with no funding available to cover these and no active management of Workcover cases • Management of Long Service Leave liability exposure and provisions not made • Management of depreciating assets and maintenance • Compliance risk is unknown across the PCV in terms of whether it is happening • Child protection and vulnerable persons management • Governance risk in associated PCV entities

<p>2. Decision making processes failing to address issues in a timely or coherent fashion</p>	<p>2A. The current structure is designed to make long term polity style decisions and therefore creates risk when temporal decisions need to be made over a shorter time frame</p> <p>2B. The GAV is large (approx. 220) meeting together without any clear legal status or accountability for the decisions it makes. Committees are in place to access specific expertise and provide advice and recommendations to the GAV, a system which works well in matters of ministry direction and mission because of the autonomy and innovation encouraged by the court structure. However governance and temporal decision making processes are not clear, and significant risk is added to decision making under this structure due in part to the informality and lack of supervision of the Committees, GAV meeting infrequently, and being of a size that is unwieldy when considering some temporal matters, especially decisions requiring governance or specialist expertise or short timeframes</p> <p>2C. There are also many mundane temporal matters that the GAV need not concern itself with that have no place to be delegated to at present</p>
<p>3. Ambiguity of governance over temporal activities, in particular authority boundaries and scope of the PCVTC and Board of Investment and Finance</p>	<p>3A. The Trusts Act defines the activities of the PCVTC to be confined to the internal governance of PCV property, trusts and bequests (investments). The PCVTC is increasingly being asked to legally represent the PCV in a number of external governance and temporal matters.</p> <p>3B. The Board of Investment and Finance GAV Committee also operates as the trustees of the PCVTC which contributes to the challenges in this area.</p> <p>3C. There is no legally identifiable entity or entities in place for the management of many of the temporal areas of responsibility that have been outlined in point 1. without personal legal risk to individual volunteers of the Committees</p>
<p>4. Potential for increased risk to assets</p>	<p>4A. With PCVTC having responsibility to hold the property of the Church, and the same group of people as members of the BIF often being expected to respond to urgent financial and risk issues which arise while not being authorised to do so, the assets and reputation of the Church are put at risk. The distinct roles and obligations of the PCVTC and BIF often become confused</p>

<p>5. Meeting the requirements of commercial necessity without compromise to polity</p>	<p>5A. Banks, Insurance companies, ATO, the Australian Charity and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and other regulators require the PCV to nominate a formal entity to operate with and to ensure coherence in relation to specific areas of responsibility with the PCV, allowing for clear boundaries and lines of accountability to be communicated to these external entities</p>
<p>6. The GAV as the authority for establishing spiritual standards and values and setting the objectives and direction of the church is ill equipped to also be the primary governance body for the PCV. The stakeholder/ moral ownership or stewardship role of the GAV needs to occur in a manner that ensures the GAV is not watered down or replaced in terms of its role in delegated polity authority on behalf of the PCV</p>	<p>6A. Under the Community Governance framework the foundational member group of the PCV are described as moral owners (fulfilling a stewardship role over the PCV). Moral owners have the primary purpose of holding on to the core values and purpose of the organisation and ensuring that delegated authority is issued used wisely across the organisation to pursue a vision that is consistent with those values and purpose. At present the GAV is structured to be BOTH the moral ownership of the PCV as well as the primary governance body of the PCV charged with making decisions around the temporal operations of the PCV. The GAV cannot do this effectively as it is too disconnected from the temporal operations of the PCV, the details and complexity of many temporal and legal issues which arise and practicalities of group size dynamics and decision making. Given the above challenge, we also note and confirm that any changes to structure need to sit consistently within the foundational core values and core purpose of the PCV. These are described and uniquely characterised by the Code, courts structure, collaborative group decision making, and avoiding a concentration of authority</p>
<p>7. The members of the Board of Investment and Finance are also the trustees of the PCVTC.</p>	<p>7A. This is a case of two distinct entities with different functions being performed by the same individuals as members of both groups, sometimes confusing the GAV and its understanding of accountability lines of these two entities, and also presenting a potential conflict of interest</p>
<p>8. Inconsistency in structure and adherence to established protocols abound within the courts of the PCV to various degrees and these have lay unresolved for many years</p>	<p>8A. Examples of this challenge include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. property holdings not being universally held within the PCVTC, plus the related confusion that exists in some local congregations around responsibility for maintenance and insurance expenditure on property held by the PCVTC despite this being outlined in the Code book. 2. in relation to the employment of ministry workers, aspects of the Code that are not clear lead to uncertainty and improvisation. At the same time, workers are often engaged in ways which are not consistent with the Code leading to complications in managing these worker relationships

	8B. There are a very large number of PCV Committees for the size of the PCV, with a number of Committees overlapping in their terms of reference.
9. Identified need for improved relational collaboration	9A. Stakeholder feedback from surveys and one to one discussions by the reviewer noted that an absence of a governance framework to manage temporal activities contributes to relational collaboration being difficult and largely informal in nature. Adopting Community Governance principles in the operation of a Services entity will strengthen relationships as policies and processes are developed whilst also being anchored to Church Values, Purpose and Vision, helping to sustain healthy relationships across the Church as a whole.

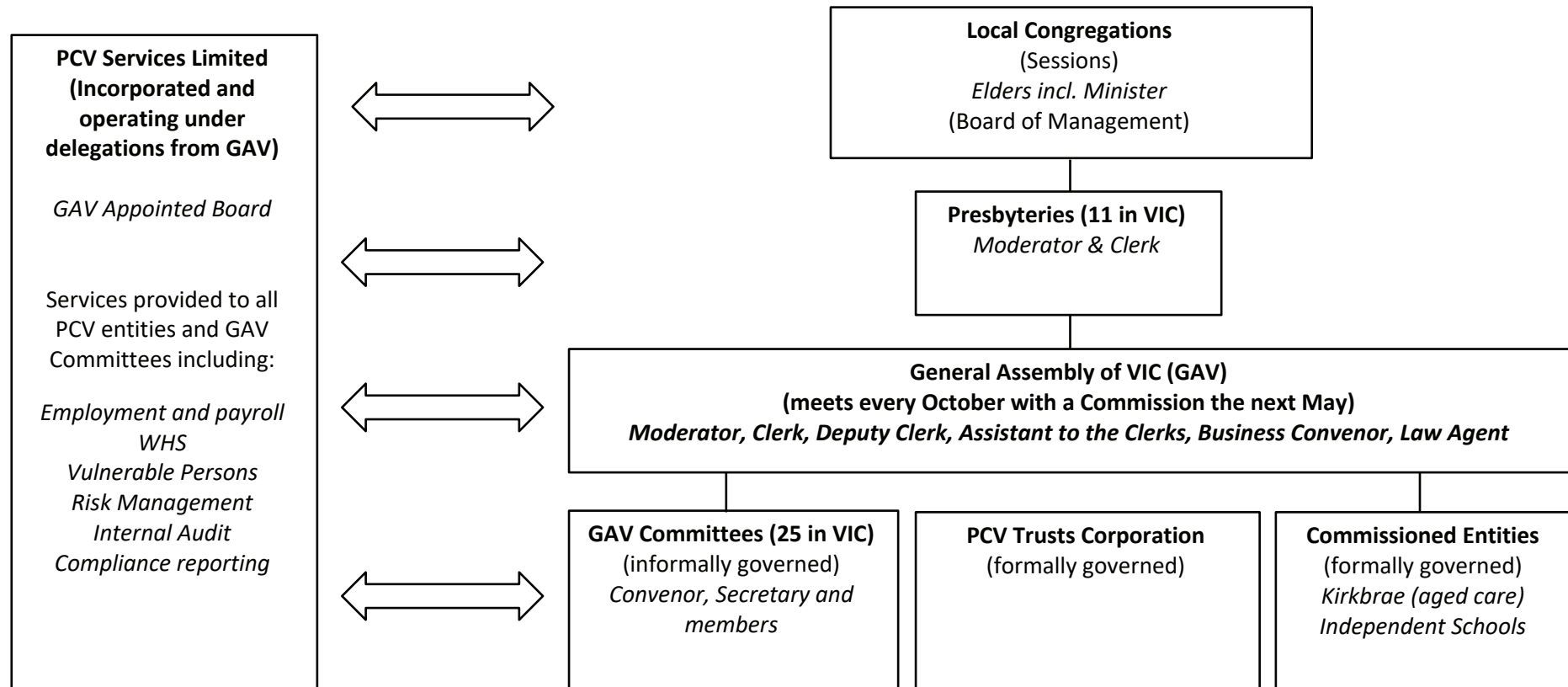
structure change principles

The following key features or principles have been taken into account when recommending changes to the PCV structure given the above challenges:

1. The importance that congregational autonomy be maintained and supported through any change in structure
2. Any proposed changes to structure needs to ensure mechanisms are in place to seek approval from the GAV in relation to decisions not otherwise specifically delegated. The Code prospectively could provide for delegation tables to facilitate establishing these mechanisms of reporting by exception to matters within delegated authority
3. The purpose of a proposed incorporated entity for the PCV is to provide the following:
 - a. to provide a PCV identity to outside bodies including but not limited to banks, insurance companies, the ACNC, the ATO and other regulators
 - b. to give expression to the GAV under delegated authority in order to operate GAV functions, delegations and duties between GAV meetings (a secretariat style function)
 - c. to provide temporal services and support to Congregations, Presbyteries and Committees of the PCV as established and delegated by the GAV from time to time
4. Resolve recommends the creation of an incorporated service entity. This entity shall not act without reference to the GAV, therefore requiring clear delegations of authority and governance accountability to the GAV via robust performance and compliance reporting
5. Any structure change that involves delegations of authority must also involve formal reporting and compliance systems that enable assessment of the appropriate use of that authority. To do otherwise is recognised as abdication of authority not delegation. A changed structure needs to also have in place a robust communication protocol. Stakeholders (pastors, committees, board members etc) would need to know who in the organisation is responsible for what and how to communicate with them. A reporting protocol would also ideally provide templates for consistent standards in relation to formatting, agendas, minutes and extracted minutes etc
6. A concentration of authority into the hands of a few is undesirable (a centralised model). Alignment of authority to the appropriate courts of the PCV is a key principle. To illustrate, employment of ministers of a Congregation needs to remain with the Presbytery in terms of accountability for role, however administrative employment support and advice might be provided to Presbytery and the Congregation by another entity within the PCV. In this way the organic unity of the PCV as described in the Code is maintained

recommended structure changes

The following diagram provides an overview of suggested structure change recommended for the PCV:



NB: The new proposed PCV Services Limited company operates in a similar way to a Local Congregation Board of Management except that it provides temporal services to the Church as a whole. In the same manner the GAV can be seen to be like a Session of the Local Congregation.

recommended structure changes and their advantages

Establish a Support Services type entity to service the temporal needs of the PCV. Resolve recommends establishing a Public Company Limited by Guarantee structure registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC), with the directors (essentially functioning as the GAV Executive) being appointed by the GAV as a skills based Board (nomination process to be developed and included in the Constitution of the company). The benefits and features of this structure are that it

1. Provides the PCV with an ongoing consistent structure that maintains the GAV's main role to make Church law and providing direction (parliament), whilst the new structure allows for a new entity that can administer the laws and deliver services (services body or GAV executive), and the Boards and Sessions, Presbyteries, Committees and others interpreting and applying the laws within their areas of delegated authority (the courts of the PCV)
2. Provides a focused support services entity. Whilst not expected to be a cure all, this will provide a mechanism to establish standards and "PCV wide" approaches to be put forward to the GAV for their consideration and approval to resolve a number of long term unresolved temporal issues. A support services entity will be able to represent the authority of the GAV between meetings in implementing decisions that might be difficult or sensitive to implement, rather than delegating these currently to Committees of volunteers often being perceived to have no authority
3. Provides clearer lines of accountability. Shared organic unity is maintained while being supported with systems, policies and processes to improve the management of temporal matters
4. Allows a support services entity to take responsibility for operational risk management and WHS across the PCV, plus coordination of other regulatory requirements as needed eg. Safe Church
5. Is a less confusing structure with a single point of contact for people who can be directed to the most appropriate entity if they are unsure
6. Is an entity that can be recognised to regulators and others as the PCV legally
7. Frees the members of the PCVTC to again focus on the core purposes of the PCVTC
8. Supports long term sustainability for the PCV in terms of maximising support, training and services to volunteers involved in Committees and other roles
9. Offers improved effectiveness and efficiency through systems and services that maximise economies of scale where it makes sense
10. Better manages the personal liability of individuals
11. Is an entity that can provide additional services to support the PCV including Employment and HR services, WHS coordination and the like
12. Allows for agile management of strategic risk proactively which will help the PCV move forward with surety into an unknown future and set strategic goals, being prepared to take advantage of ministry opportunities in a timely fashion, whilst minimising the negative impact of challenges associated with those strategic opportunities
13. Allows for the provision of training for PCV entities in areas related to their responsibilities and delegated authority, including for example governance, legal and financial training for treasurers, sessions and pastors

14. Envisions the creation of service agreements or guidelines to be used between PCV entities to better explain communication, roles, delegated authority and accountability across the PCV

15. Facilitates better support and coordination of PCV Committees, and rationalisation of Committee's where there is overlap, unclear or even expired terms of reference.

It is also recommended to have separate committee membership (with some membership overlap) of the Board of Investment and Finance and the PCVTC Trustees. It would help the GAV understand that it can't direct the PCVTC, and prevent it from trying to do so via the Board of Investment and Finance (which it does have accountability over). A restructure in staffing is envisioned as a consequence of establishing a support services entity to assist in creating objective support structures to both the Board of Investment and Finance and the PCVTC

conclusion

The reviewer has presented findings of the review in a summarised form to assist reading of our report however note that occasionally this may lead to further questions, or a miscommunication of details surrounding the structure change recommendation.

If you have any questions in respect of this report or require further assistance with the implementation of recommendations in this report or any other matter please contact the undersigned on 02 4324 4800 or david@resolveconsulting.net



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Partner

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Report Terms and Conditions

Attachment 2 – PCV Services Limited proposed model

Attachment 1 - Report Terms & Conditions

This report has been provided to the client in accordance with the written proposal provided.

The information obtained is dependent upon the disclosure of issues by the client therefore not all issues relevant may have been identified by the reviewer.

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It should be noted that the taking up of some recommendations in this report may result in a financial benefit to Resolve Consulting Group in the form of consulting fees and other commissions.

Resolve currently has commercial arrangements with the following suppliers:

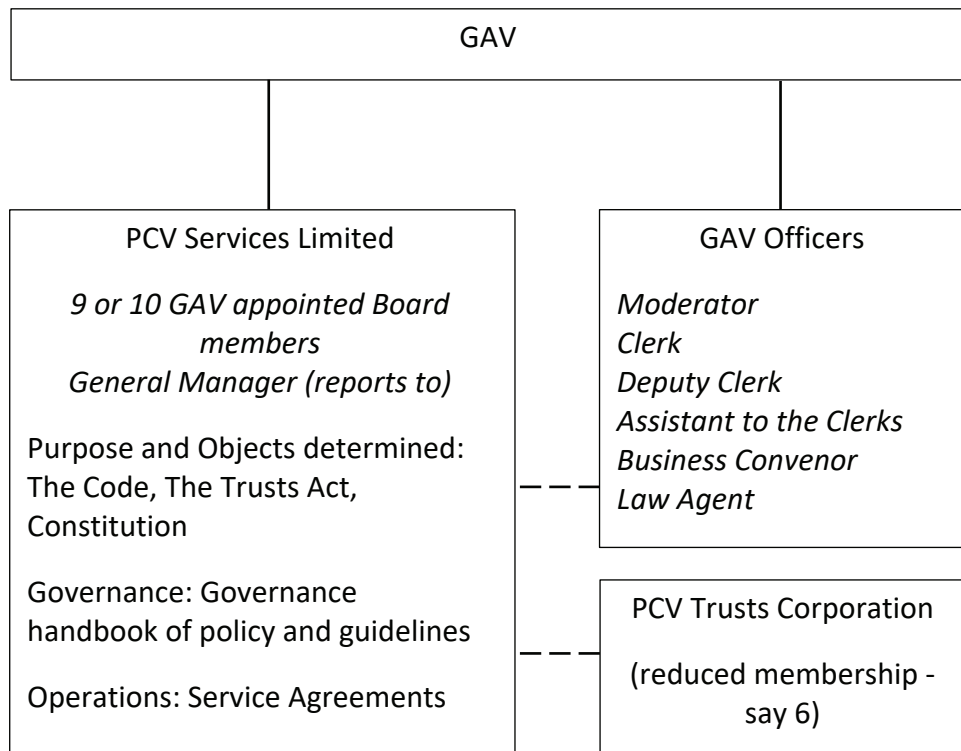
- Reseller for Xero accounting software (Gold)

Please note that these financial arrangements do not result in an additional loading on the cost of the products or services provided.

Attachment 2 – PCV Services Limited proposed model

Organisational structure

The following are the key characteristics of the PCV Services Limited structure and model of operation:



Features and notes

1. Board members are appointed for a 3 year term, with a maximum of 3 terms before retirement for at least 12 months (or 5 year term x 2).
2. Board members are appointed by GAV, and could be nominated by PCV Services Limited Board, Presbyteries and General Assembly members.
3. GAV officers remain accountable directly to the GAV and work collaboratively with the Board of PCV Services Limited, aided by policies, guidelines and service agreements.
4. GAV Committees, PCV Trusts Corporation and Boards serviced by PCV Services Limited in accordance with policies, guidelines, service agreements in place between the various entities as needed.

Services provided

The following schedule outlines the proposed services to be provided by PCV Services Limited, and how these interconnect with existing structures of the PCV:

AREA OF SERVICE	PCV SERVICES LIMITED (PCVSL) ROLE	PRESBYTERY ROLE	LOCAL CONGREGATION BOARD ROLE
1. Legal representation and authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporated legal representative of the PCV in relation to issues that carry actual or potential denominational implications - Identify potential liability exposure areas and develop resources to address these across the PCV - Provide operational reviews and similar services to sustain healthy temporal operations in Congregations in collaboration with the Presbyteries - Maintain ACNC and ATO registration records on behalf of the PCV entities - In accordance with The Code, review and manage the boundaries of authority across the PCV using Delegations policy and schedules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue as unincorporated entities with specific operational and legal responsibilities - Compliance responsibilities to PCVSL to fulfil legal responsibilities across PCV wide areas (see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue as unincorporated entities with specific operational and legal responsibilities - Compliance responsibilities to PCVSL to fulfil legal responsibilities across PCV wide areas (see below) - Receive services from PCVSL and the Presbyteries to sustain ongoing healthy temporal operations - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries
2. Employment and HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Employment and Ministry Service agreement template documents and processes to assist Presbyteries in the engagement of workers (paid or volunteer) - Management of the Long Service Leave Liability of the PCV - Management of bullying, burnout and Workplace Health and Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the support of the PCVSL in the onboarding and offboarding of workers within the Presbyteries and Congregations - Be responsible for workers engaged at the Presbytery and Congregational levels - Management of HR issues using PCVSL support resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the Presbyteries and PCVSL in relation to HR support as required for workers - Be responsible for workers in their local Congregation - Day to day management of HR using PCVSL support resources

	<p>matters cooperatively with the presbytery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act as the legal employer of workers within the PCV, Presbyteries and Congregations 		
3. Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and maintain PCV risk management framework incl. policy and related registers to manage compliance and other risks - Establish risk appetite statement with input from the Church as a whole - Identify and manage risks identified for the Church as a whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries - Identify and manage risks identified by the Presbyteries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries - Identify and manage risks identified by the Congregations
4. Vulnerable Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of systems to support Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons across the PCV through policy, process, training and accountability mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries
5. Policy and Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a robust set of policies and standards as well as a clear communications protocol to support the temporal operations of the PCV as it interfaces with secular legislation e.g. Employment manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries

<p>6. PCV Business, Finance and Administration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of PCV finances and budgeting processes per current Board of Investment and Finance (BIF) regulations (assuming the role of the BIF) - Ensure banking and treasury functions are established that take account of financial risk exposure minimisation across entities within the PCV - Develop standards for simplified financial reporting for PCV entities - Centralised support functions across finance, business and administration areas - Provide basic finance and legal training for Treasurers, Boards, Sessions and Pastors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries
<p>7. Accountability to and support of the GAV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accountable to the GAV as the authority for establishing spiritual standards and values and setting the objectives and direction of the Church as a whole through its Constitution, delegations policy and schedule boundaries and annual reporting - Provide template documents and processes and provide temporal oversight / support to GAV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries

	<p>Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide support to the Clerk as the chief administrative officer of the GAV and to other GAV officers as required 		
8. Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain records of all PCV assets and assist with short and long term maintenance advice and services to the PCV - Provide administrative support to the PCV Trusts Corporation - Hold PCV Insurances and negotiate head contracts where beneficial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major capital projects and longer term asset maintenance master plans - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local repairs and maintenance of assets - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries
9. Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in managing governance risk at all levels of the PCV through induction, training, supervision and intervention if crisis management is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate in accordance with delegations policy and schedule boundaries



COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

A BRIEF SUMMARY

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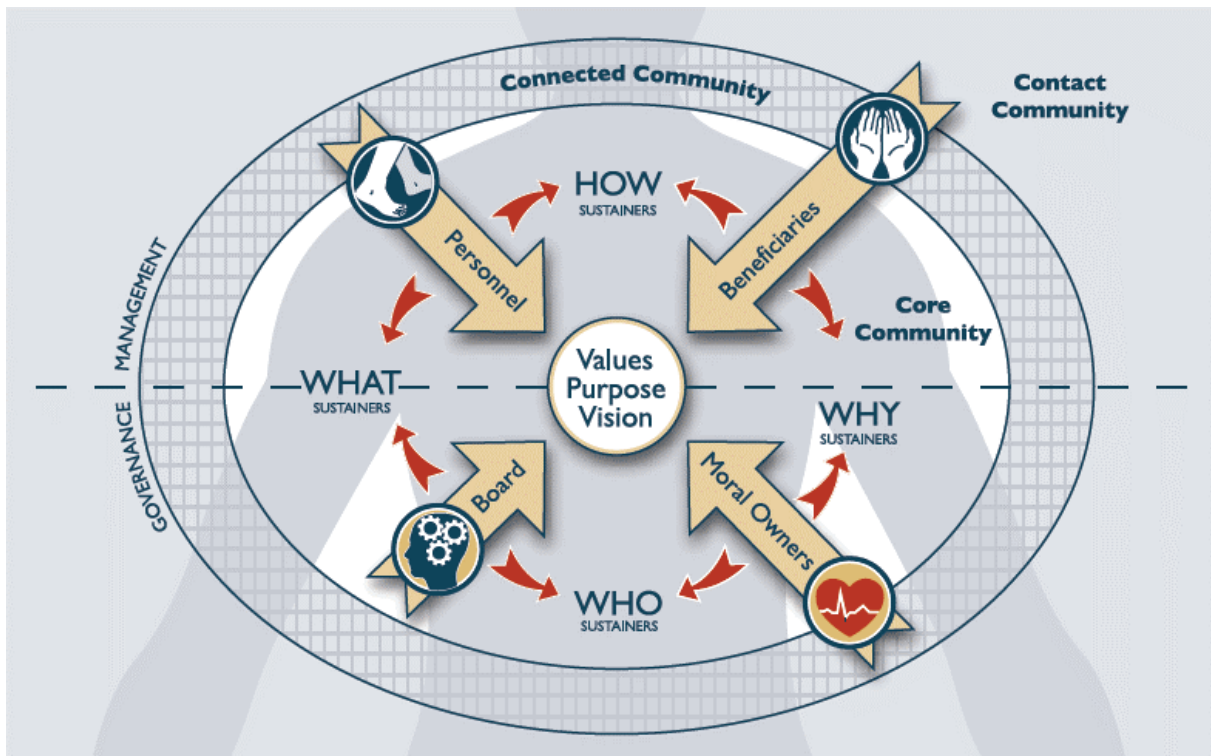
Introduction

"...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift...is leadership, let him govern diligently" Romans 12:5-6, 8

The task of governing a Christian Church or ministry organisation is becoming increasingly complex. Also, Board members are sometimes difficult to find, tend to be very busy people with limited time, and are often juggling multiple roles and responsibilities.

This article provides a very brief introduction to the Resolve Community Governance Framework. To read more please use the order form at the end of the article to order your copy of Community Governance: A Framework for Building Healthy Christian Organisations or order online at www.communitygovernance.com.au

Community Governance Framework



Central to the Resolve Community Governance Framework are relationships, as it is our belief that quality healthy relationships are critical to growing healthy organisations which reflect Biblical values. In other words, it's all about people. Whilst there are many similarities and familiar elements used in the Resolve Community Governance Framework, the unique difference is that the Resolve framework seeks to put all the pieces of the governance puzzle together in one place to show in effect what a healthy Christian organisation actually looks like. The framework has been developed through the practical experience of Resolve Consulting working with the Boards of hundreds of Christian Not for Profits, and it is provided to use as a litmus test for you to analyse the healthiness of your Christian organisation.

Community Governance - A Summary

The framework aims to be simple enough to be memorised, so that when you are talking to members of your community you can reflect on how a healthy community should be working in a given situation, and be able to refer to the framework to test yourself and help you to handle situations that you come across during your governance duties.

The framework is also designed to be transferable. We have used generic terms in describing the various components of the framework so that it remains relevant to the operations of all kinds of Christian organisations including Christian Schools, Churches, Aged Care providers, Welfare organisations, Mission Agencies, Foundations, and other para-church enterprises.

The following summarises the components of the framework and the interrelationships that exist in Christian organisations and how you can assess the strength of these relationships and therefore the overall health of your organisation.

Over time, referring to the framework can help the Board determine its areas of weakness or exposure, and provide priority areas to be worked on in a strategic planning context. The framework also provides an ongoing easy tool to perform a health check for the Board, to make sure that the organisations vision and mission are not being compromised over time. It also helps to minimize distractions and keep a strong focus on what is truly an important part of Christian organisational community – relationships!

Values, Core Purpose and Vision

A healthy Christian organisation has a clear understanding of God's call for their ministry both over the longer term (Core Purpose) and within the current generation (Vision), and a clear understanding of the Biblical foundations and principles under which all aspects of the organisation operate (Values).

Simple, clear values, core purpose and vision statements that are held centrally to all that is done in the organisation helps keep everyone focused on the same course. Having clear statements minimises the risk of competing visions or factionalism entering the organisation, and allows for clarity and organisational energy to be focused for maximum impact for the resources utilised.

One of the Board's key roles is to keep the organisation accountable to its values, core purpose and vision. In ensuring that the relational linkages between the Board, Personnel, Beneficiaries and Moral Owners are strong and healthy, the Board is continually seeking to focus all four groups towards the Values, Core Purpose and Vision of the organisation. By keeping everyone's focus on the bigger picture in this way, the Board can be an effective steward of the vision that God has given the organisation, as well as build personal ownership or "buy in" from all the stakeholder groups in the organisation through continually keeping the values and vision central to the organisation and how it operates.

Community

All organisations operate within community. This statement sounds obvious, but in the Resolve Community Governance Framework we make a distinction between three types of community that ministry organisations operate within, and note some of the issues that can arise when, in making key governance and management decisions, we blur these distinctions. Active, healthy Christian community is critical to a healthy Christian organisation, and understanding the interplay between the three types of community described in the Community Governance Framework will help an understanding of how unhealthy community can compromise the Christian organisation.

Governance vs Management

In the framework you will notice a dashed horizontal dividing line that separates the top two member groups of the Core Community (Personnel and Beneficiaries) from the bottom two groups (Moral Owners and Board). This represents a different emphasis in the leadership style of these two groups. In a healthy Christian organisation the Personnel and

Community Governance - A Summary

Beneficiaries are accountable for and concern themselves primarily with Management, whilst the Moral Owners and Board are accountable for and concern themselves with Governance. Recognising this distinction in roles will help the organisation implement good governance. Part of building a healthy successful Christian organisation is training CEO's and Board members to be able to distinguish between the two roles of the CEO, and facilitating rather than frustrating movement between these two roles by establishing good, clear Board policies!

Moral Owners – Board

The relationship between the Moral Owners and the Board is strengthened by a number of key documents, legislation and events. These are referred to collectively as WHO sustainers as they help sustain a healthy relationship between the Moral Owners and the Board of the ministry. Similarly, relational linkages are strengthened in the other three sectors of the framework through the use of other key tools, policies, processes and practices.

In our experience, unhealthy Christian ministry organisations often have some of the following keys problems with linkages between the Moral Owners and Board:

- The Moral Owners are the Board – there is not a sufficient depth to draw from long term in the organisation to allow for growth of and changes in Board Members, new input from fresh thinking etc because the membership is too small. Alternatively, a key Moral Owner (such as a Senior Pastor) is also on the Board as a Director but frequently uses their position of Moral Owner to veto or control Board actions.
- The Moral Owners are asleep and the Board is very happy with this malaise from the membership. Whilst this appears to be a positive for Boards who are allowed to get on with governing without a potentially interfering membership, the problem that often happens in this situation is that a crisis occurs in the organisation, a member finds out, and the “sleeping bear” is awoken angry and unprepared. The sleeping members, if allowed to remain ignorant and uninformed can, once awoken, turn on the Board, often armed with only partial facts or rumour.
- The Moral Owners micromanage the Board and the organisation – in effect they become the real governors of the organisation which usually results in painfully slow and often uninformed decision making as the Moral Owners have no official link with the Personnel and day to day operations of the organisation.

Board – Personnel

The two key groups that Resolve Consulting spend most of our time working with in governance are the Board and Personnel. The WHAT sustainers, or relational linkages between the Board and Personnel have been the priority of most authors, conference speakers, and advisors to Boards on good governance for many years now.

Increasingly Boards that have adopted some form of governance approach have tended to delegate varying degrees of authority to their CEO's to manage the day to day operations of the organisation, while they attempt to focus on governing the organisation (with varying degrees of success). Under the Resolve Community Governance Framework, this style of governance relationship between the CEO and board is only one of a number of tools necessary for a healthy relationship between the board and their Personnel.

One of the major reasons that Resolve has seen the need to develop the Community Governance Framework is an over reliance of many Boards on their CEO. This arises for a number of reasons including the Board's lack of experience with governance, a misunderstanding of Carver's Policy Governance model, or simply because many Boards are made up of good natured people who are happy to let the “professional” CEO and Personnel run the organisation. There has been a growing number of organisations that we have worked with where Board's have actually abdicated rather than delegated their governance responsibilities to their CEO. This is a disturbing trend. There is a need for Boards to strengthen the relational linkages between themselves and their Personnel in appropriate ways to allow them to govern their organisations in a healthy way that respects the authority of Personnel, but maintains the clear leadership and

Community Governance - A Summary

authority of governance within the Board. Regardless of the model of leadership you have in your organisation, you should examine what sustainers you are actively using to strengthen the relational linkages between your Board and Personnel.

Personnel – Beneficiaries

Day to day management of a Christian ministry organisation rests with the Personnel of the organisation. They manage the organisation in relationship with and to the Beneficiaries who receive the services and/or goods of that ministry. A healthy Christian organisation will develop strong HOW sustainers; relational linkages between Personnel and Beneficiaries - linkages that not only focus of strengthening the management issues associated with operating the ministry, but that also focus both groups toward the Vision, Core Purpose and Values of the organisation.

Beneficiaries – Moral Owners

The fourth relational linkage is that between Beneficiaries and Moral Owners, the WHY sustainers. This linkage is quite restricted, noting that Beneficiaries typically move to become Moral Owners through a process of membership application and approval (usually by the Board) to the company or association.

During the formation stage of a new ministry the Moral Owners respond to the “WHY” question, a call to establish a ministry in response to a Vision from God. This Vision and call need to remain connected and sustained, able to bend and respond to changes in Mission and even in possibly hearing a new vision as time progresses in the life of a ministry organisation.

The Board, having been delegated governance responsibility to act on behalf of the Moral Owners for their interests as per the objects in the Constitution, should be planning the long term sustainability of the membership of the Moral Owners of the ministry. In some ministries this is taken care of through an automatic membership to the organisation of members of a particular church, but increasingly we are seeing difficulties with this approach as there is sometimes no “buy in” to the vision and values of the ministry itself, and Moral Owners can end up being either passive toward or even hostile against the ministry that they are compulsorily members of.

The decline in the numbers of Moral Owners must be of serious concern to any Christian ministry organisation for its long term survival for a number of reasons:

- The Moral Owners usually provide the source of current and future Board Members, therefore a reduced membership reduces the pool of prospective and suitably qualified potential Board Members. The result long term is that the Board actually runs out of either quality membership or even actual members.
- Moral Owners provide overall input into the Vision and direction of an organisation. Without input from them it is easier for an organisation to “lose it’s way” and become disconnected from the Vision and Values of the organisation.
- A declining Moral Owner base could also pose significant financial risks for an organisation if the Moral Owners are also the dominant providers of finance to the organisation, such as supporters for a faith-based Mission Organisation. As the number of Moral Owners decline, financial support dwindles and ultimately the ministry will cease.

Whatever approach your Board works through, healthy community governance organisations ensure that there is a well informed, interested and strong membership base that understand their governance duties and the role of the Board that are acting on their behalf.

To purchase copies of Community Governance please visit the Resolve website shop at www.resolve.consulting

CENC Restructure

The Board considers that the financial projections based on the amalgamation of PYV and CENC funds is feasible (see Annexure A). The committee should not rely on future funds from the Allan bequest to subsidise the new Youth and Children's worker position as there is uncertainty over whether this will fall within the terms of the trust pending the outcome of the cy prés action.

Annexure A

Youth & Children's Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23		CENC	PYV	Combined	Revised Combined	(999)	
		7.0%			7.0%	7.0%	
Account No	Description	2022/2023 Approved	2022/2023 Approved	2022/2023 Approved	2022/2023 Revised	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on all Camps & Events			500	500	500		
Income							
1359	Interest Common Fund General	53,500	33,600	87,100	87,600	88,100	88,600
1160	Donations & Gifts	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	Grants from CENC		67,103				
Total Income		53,500	105,703	92,100	92,600	93,100	93,600
Expenditure							
Committee							
	Donations: Korus connect (2020 GAV Minute 19)	0	0	0	0	0	0
2133	Website & Software	800	2,908	3,708	3,500	3,500	3,500
2222	Education & training	500	-	500	500	500	500
2280	General Expenses	500	200	700	500	500	500
2772	Merchandise, Bookstall and Tuckshop	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2392	Insurances Professional Indemnity	699	5,480	6,159	6,200	7,000	8,000
2920	Travel	600		600	1,000	1,000	1,000
Office							
2180	Depreciation - Furniture/Equipment	429	7,273	7,702	7,702	7,702	7,702
2275	First Aid Expenses		255	255	255	255	255
2278	General Printing & Publicity Expenses		510	510	510	510	510
2279	Music Expenses		612	612	615	615	615
2296	Policy Review Expenses		300	300	300	300	300
2910	Telephone		150	150	1,350	1,350	1,350
2752	Office Rental		4,080	4,080	4,080	4,080	4,080
2705	Stationary and Photocopier hire		1,545	1,545	2,745	1,545	1,545
Total Committee Expenses		4,528	24,293	27,821	30,257	29,857	30,857
Staff							
2295	PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	29,757					
2292	PYV General Subsidy	13,000					
2292	Volunteer Subsidies	6,500	-	6,500	6,000	6,000	6,000
	Work Cover		408	408	408	450	500
	Admin Officer Wage		26,989	26,989	26,989	27,500	28,000
	Admin Officer Super		2,699	2,699	2,699	3,100	3,200
	Youth and Childrens Worker Super		5,119	5,119	4,400	4,510	4,620
	Youth and Childrens Worker Wage		48,578	48,578	40,000	41,000	42,000
	Less funding from Allen Trust			(24,346)	(19,980)	(20,480)	(20,979)
Total Staff		49,257	83,791	65,945	60,514	62,081	63,341
Total Expenses		53,785	108,084	93,766	90,771	91,938	94,198
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(285)	(1,881)	(1,166)	1,829	1,163	(598)
General Funds		497,061	217,615	714,676	722,707	729,571	736,675

Youth & Children's Committee General Operations Income & Expenditure Budget 2022/23				(999)			
Account No	Description	CENC 7.0%	PW	Combined	Revised Combined 7.0%	2023/2024 Projected 7.0%	2024/2025 Projected 7.0%
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	536,500	536,500	536,500	536,500
Capital Items							
	Computers (PYV Office and then new YMD)			2,000	2,000	2,000	-
	Enter Details Here	0				0	0
	Enter Details Here	0				0	0
	Enter Details Here	0				0	0
	Enter Details Here	0				0	0
	Enter Details Here	0				0	0
	Enter Details Here	0				0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	0

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM FY22
BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation FY22	Total Received for FY22	Received for Prior Year	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for FY22 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	<u>21,195</u>				
Belgrave Heights	902	902			100.0%
Blackburn	865	865			100.0%
Croydon	3,858	3,858			100.0%
Donvale	10,277	10,277			100.0%
Heathmont	1,118	1,118			100.0%
Kirkbrae	100	100			100.0%
Mt Evelyn	1,659	1,659			100.0%
Warburton	433	433			100.0%
Woori Yallock	1,983	1,983			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	<u>21,195</u>	<u>21,195</u>			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	<u>48,995</u>				
Arabic	2,425	500		1925	20.6%
Ashburton	2,302	2,302			100.0%
Auburn	1,210	1,210			100.0%
Burwood Community	4,243	4,243			100.0%
Camberwell	9,813	9,813			100.0%
Canterbury	6,222	6,222			100.0%
Caulfield/Elwood	686	686			100.0%
Gardenvale East	931			931	
Hawthorn	1,131	1,131			100.0%
Korean, Balwyn	5,291	5,291			100.0%
Malvern	2,503	2,503			100.0%
South Yarra	3,111	3,111			100.0%
St Kilda / Balaclava	2,018	2,018			100.0%
Surrey Hills	7,109	7,109			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	<u>48,995</u>	<u>46,139</u>		2,856	94.2%
Presbytery allocation not received				5.8%	
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	<u>43,300</u>				
Bundoora	9,965	9,965			100.0%
Donnybrook					
Eltham	5,204	5,204			100.0%
Epping	3,124	3,124			100.0%
Heidelberg	2,094	2,094			100.0%
Hume	1,099	1,099			100.0%
Kangaroo Ground	3,288	3,288			100.0%
Reservoir	5,464	5,464			100.0%
Samoan	4,713	4,713			100.0%
Valley	2,445	2,445			100.0%
Westminster Community(Templestowe)	1,940	1,940			100.0%
Whittlesea/Mernda	3,963	3,963			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	<u>43,299</u>	<u>43,299</u>			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM FY22
BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation FY22	Total Received for FY22	Received for Prior Year	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for FY22 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	7,901				
Ararat/Skipton/Lismore	878	878			100.0%
Ballarat North	878	878			100.0%
Ballarat South	1,302	1,302			100.0%
Ballarat West	1,869	1,869			100.0%
Carisbrook/Castlemaine	906	906			100.0%
Daylesford	340	340			100.0%
Horsham	765	765			100.0%
Kaniva/Nhill	963	963			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	7,901	7,901			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					
PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	28,432				
Aspendale	1,387	1,387			100.0%
Brighton	2,832	2,832			100.0%
Cheltenham	1,348	1,348			100.0%
Clarinda	873	873			100.0%
Clarinda Nuer	179	179			100.0%
Clayton	3,867	3,867			100.0%
Cranbourne	1,714	1,714			100.0%
Dandenong	1,154	1,154			100.0%
Dromana/Mornington	4,109	4,109			100.0%
Frankston	3,494	3,494			100.0%
Mordialloc	1,884	1,884			100.0%
Officer	1,906	1,906			100.0%
Somerville	891	891			100.0%
Sorrento/Rye	1,992	1,992			100.0%
South East Samoan	803	803			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	28,433	28,433			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	5,600				
Bannockburn	857	857			100.0%
Bellarine	655	655			100.0%
Geelong North	2,206	2,206			100.0%
Geelong West	1,389	1,389			100.0%
The Leigh	493	493			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	5,600	5,600			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					
PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,419				
Bairnsdale	1,299	1,299			100.0%
Drouin	4,042	4,042			100.0%
Leongatha	289	289			100.0%
Moe/Yarram	1,227	1,227			100.0%
Morwell	1,173	1,173			100.0%
Sale					
Warragul	1,389	1,389			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,419	9,419			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM FY22
BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation FY22	Total Received for FY22	Received for Prior Year	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for FY22 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	38,792				
Brimbank	1,288	1,288			100.0%
Clifton Hill	601	601			100.0%
Darebin	2,229	2,229			100.0%
Essendon	1,103	1,103			100.0%
Flemington	2,120	2,120			100.0%
Gisborne	1,800	1,800			100.0%
Indonesian (Scots Church)	3,590	3,590	2,010		100.0%
Melton	1,412	1,412			100.0%
Melbourne West Korean	2,728			2728	
Point Cook	1,735	1,735			100.0%
Scots Melbourne	14,257	14,257			100.0%
Sunshine	1,623	1,623			100.0%
West Footscray	726	726			100.0%
Williamstown	1,784	1,784			100.0%
Wyndham	1,798	1,798			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	38,792	36,064	2,010	2,728	93.0%
Presbytery allocation not received				7.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,680				
Benalla	2,464.28	2,464			100.0%
Broadford	263.78	264			100.0%
Numurkah	733.22	733			100.0%
Seymour/Nagambie/Yea	615.88	616			100.0%
Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram	1,613.44	1,613			100.0%
Tatura	1,613.44	1,613			100.0%
Wangaratta/Yarrawonga/Myrtleford	1,701.44	1,701			100.0%
Wodonga	674.54	675			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,680	9,680			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,216				
Bendigo	1,470.53	1,471			100.0%
Eaglehawk	541.22	541			100.0%
SE Bendigo(Reforming)	800.84	801			100.0%
Kerang/Swan Hill	492.35	492			100.0%
Pyramid Hill	384.70	385			100.0%
Rochester	1,388.40	1,388			100.0%
Sunraysia	1,136.60	1,137			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,214.64	6,215			100.0%
Presbytery allocation not received					
PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH WEST VICTORIA					
Total Allocated to Presbytery	12,504				
Camperdown/Noorat/Terang	1,890	1,890			100.0%
Colac	1,140	1,140			100.0%
Hamilton	2,509	2,509			100.0%
Heywood/Portland	950	950			100.0%
Koroit/Port Fairy/Woodford	1,020	1,020			100.0%
Warrambool	4,995	4,995			100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	12,504	12,504			100.0%
		226448.64			

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM FY22
BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation FY22	Total Received for FY22	Received for Prior Year	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for FY22 as % of Allocation
SUMMARY					
Total Allocated to Presbyteries	232,034				
WESTERN VICTORIA	7,901	7,901			100.0%
FLINDERS	28,432	28,433			100.0%
GEELONG	5,600	5,600			100.0%
GIPPSLAND	9,419	9,419			100.0%
MAROONDAH	21,195	21,195			100.0%
MELBOURNE EAST	48,995	46,139		2,856	94.2%
MELBOURNE NORTH	43,300	43,299			100.0%
MELBOURNE WEST	38,792	36,064	2,010	2,728	93.0%
NORTH EAST VICTORIA	9,680	9,680			100.0%
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA	6,215	6,215			100.0%
SOUTH WEST VICTORIA	12,504	12,504			100.0%
unallocated	1				
TOTALS	232,033	226,449	2,010	5,584	97.6%
Presbytery allocation not received				2.4%	

Barry Oakes
CHAIRMAN

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (Min 53)

Applications received for approval

During 2021–2022, the committee received the following applications for approval:

Applicant	Description of Application	Date of Approval
New Life Presbyterian Church, Officer	Seeking approval to vary approved plans	17/11/2021
Bendigo Presbyterian Church	Seeking approval to depart from manse standards in relation to new manse purchased	8/12/2021
Reforming Church Bendigo	Seeking approval to undertake internal modifications to church	10/12/2021
Malvern Presbyterian Church	Seeking approval for concept plans for the renovation of existing manse	Comments provided 25/3/2022

In addition to this, the committee received requests for architectural services from Kangaroo Ground (manse renovations), Darebin (purchase of property for a manse) and Hamilton (internal renovations to church).

Other congregations contacted the church architect directly for assistance.

The committee

The committee consists of Dennis Wright, Glenys Wright, and Ralph Kop (convener). Glenys has advised that she is retiring. The Committee thanks her for her service. The Committee looks forward to Philip Thomas, elder for the Shepparton congregation, coming on the Committee, subject to the Assembly approving his appointment.

Appointment of church architect

The church architect, Mr Andrew Wilson, whilst not a committee member, is an integral part of the services provided by the committee, and the committee could not do its work without his valued and professional input. Andrew quickly identified areas where the committee could make improvements, particularly in relation to the manse standards, and the committee has been working on this issue.

Andrew has been in the role for 14 months. It has been a period of learning as Andrew undertook his role and could see what the position entails and how much time was involved in the execution of those duties.

At the last Assembly, Andrew was appointed until the next Assembly. This was done to give all parties 12 months to assess whether the appointment was beneficial to all.

From Andrew's perspective, it would allow him to quantify the time commitments to carry out the role, and from the committee's perspective, it has allowed us to determine whether Andrew is suited to the position.

Andrew has indicated that he is willing to continue in the role of church architect. The committee has greatly benefited from Andrew's expertise, wisdom, insight and desire to get quality and affordable outcomes for projects. He also has a desire to make regulations and standards easier to understand and easier to comply with so that the congregation's time can be spent in the more important areas in the life of the church.

The committee has no hesitation in recommending that Andrew be appointed to the position of church architect. It should be noted that Andrew's fees for service will be reviewed every two years.

Church architect's report

As the church architect, it has been a pleasure to speak with a range of people across many congregations in a diverse array of circumstances. There is one particular sentiment that I would like to express here:

For much of the week, many church facilities across our nation lie dormant. Church property is one of the most under-utilised areas of property in our society. The conventional focus of church facilities being largely used for Sunday morning services is an obvious reason for this. However, there are undoubtedly other causes, including the decline in Christian faith generally as well as the growing hostility towards the Gospel. This last factor can result in a caution, or even a reticence, towards engaging with the surrounding community.

There was a time when Christian outreach was both the means and inspiration for the construction of hospitals, schools, universities, sporting clubs, kindergartens etc.

While Christianity is increasingly under siege, this does not mean we have to adopt a siege mentality. In contrast to something that is locked away and protected, church facilities are a potential means of outreach to our surrounding communities. I would encourage congregations, particularly with facilities that receive little use during the week, to prayerfully consider the facilities entrusted to them as potential opportunities.

Review of the Manse Standards

The committee has undertaken an extensive review of the manse standards by surveying each congregation to seek their view on whether the manse standards were still required and, if so, what changes, if any they would like to see.

Seventy-three responses were received, and valuable information was gained to assist the Committee in reviewing the standards. A copy of the detailed report detailing the responses has been provided to each congregation that made a submission.

Key findings of the review were:

1. There is a trend to pay a manse allowance rather than build or purchase a new manse. 25% of congregations pay a manse allowance.
2. Purchasing an existing house for a manse that meets the manse standards is very unlikely, and therefore the congregation must either pay to have the purchased property upgraded to meet the manse standards or apply to the Building and Property Committee, as a special case, for a departure from the manse standards.
3. That some respondents believed that there was a requirement for existing manses to be brought up to the manse standard over time. There is no such requirement.
4. The results of the survey suggest that overall existing manses generally complied with the manse standards, although a number of manses did not have an ensuite to the main bedroom.

5. That a number of respondents were concerned that the manse standards were excessive and costly to comply with.
6. An analysis of the average size of a new home built in Victoria (244.8m²) with a manse which has additional requirements of a larger office and an additional toilet showed that the additional cost as a result of complying with the manse standards is estimated to result in 7% increase in the total cost of building, based on 2021 building costs.
7. There was a lack of storage and parking in a number of manses.
8. The existing standards needed to be rewritten in a simpler and easier to use format to provide increased flexibility in how particular requirements are to be achieved and which recognise that the requirements need to vary according to whether a manse was being built, purchased, or upgraded.
9. That provisions which duplicated existing building regulations needed to be removed to avoid the possibility that they were not updated in a timely manner.
10. The manse standards needed to be replaced with the manse design manual as this would provide objectives for each section of the manual, which would give designers greater flexibility in how to achieve a particular requirement of the manual.

Manse Design Manual

The committee has prepared a Manse Design Manual to replace the Manse Standards, and these are included below for the Assembly's consideration.

MANSE DESIGN MANUAL [2022]

1. General

1.1 Introduction

This manual is designed to provide guidance to persons engaged by a congregation to design or alter a manse. It also provides guidance to congregations and others who wish to purchase an existing property and convert it to a manse.

The primary objectives of the manual are:

- To clearly document the PCV requirements for the design of a manse or the upgrade of a manse that will be owned by the PCV or the local congregation.
- To ensure that the design of the manse recognises that the manse is to be both a home and an office. Therefore, it is essential that these often competing elements of manse life are considered so that the work and the family life conducted within the manse do not negatively impact each other.
- To provide guidance for the three elements of the manse being the work zone, family zone and shared zone.
- To recognise and deal with various issues such as sustainability and affordability.

1.2 Format of the Manual

The manual has been formulated to include objectives to assist the designer to understand what the clause is aiming to achieve. This is followed by a set of requirements which if adopted, will meet the objectives. The manual provides the designer with flexibility in that if they believe that there is another way of achieving the objective, they can document compelling arguments why the Committee should vary the requirements of the manual and submit these with the plans and specifications when seeking approval from the Committee. The Committee will then assess whether they believe the reasoning is sound and has considered all relevant matters and decide whether it believes the variation to the requirements of the manual is to be approved or not.

1.3 Application of Manual

This manual applies to the

- Design of a manse: refer Clauses 2 – 5 below
- Upgrade of an existing Manse: refer Clause 6 below
- Purchase of an existing property for a Manse: refer Clause 7 below

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
2. Design of Manse – General Requirements				
2.1 Objectives				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide congregations and designers with clear guidance regarding the design of a manse recognising that a manse consists of three zones being the work zone, the family zone and the shared zone. To design each zone within the manse so that the activities undertaken in each zone do not negatively impact on activities being undertaken in the other zones. To design each zone to maximise the use of that zone for the purpose it is being provided. To ensure that maintenance requirements are considered at the design stage. To ensure that value for money, affordability, sustainability and cost of living are considered at the design stage. The manse should be located within a reasonable distance to the church so that valuable ministry time is not wasted travelling to and from the manse to the church. Where the manse is located on the church property there must be clear delineation between the portion of the property that has been allocated to manse use and that which has been allocated to church use. 				
2.2	General Requirements The design/layout of the manse should be functional, low maintenance, energy efficient, family friendly and achieve the intent and purpose of the manse design manual.			
2.3	Location If the manse is on the same land title as the church, it should preferably be a separate building fenced off from the church with separate private entrance and garden.	Consider	N/A	Consider
	If the manse is attached to the church buildings, it must not be linked internally and must have a separate private entrance and private garden.	Mandatory	N/A	N/A
	If the manse is on a separate land title it should preferably be located within 2 kilometres of the church.	Consider	Consider	N/A
2.4	Sustainability			
2.4.1	General Objective The Building Code of Australia has mandatory minimum energy rating standards that the manse design will be required to satisfy. The following guidance is provided towards meeting these standards as well as facilitating lower energy costs, reduced maintenance, and increased level of comfort for the occupants			
2.4.2	North Light Maximise north light to living areas where possible, while noting that the living areas should also provide access to the garden.	Mandatory	Not mandatory	Consider
2.4.3	Solar Panels This is not mandatory under current building standards, however the installation of a 5kw solar panels system is encouraged.	Consider	Consider	Consider
2.4.4	Lighting Do not use recessed down lights beneath rooves as these	Strongly encouraged	Consider	Strongly encouraged

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
	create holes in the ceiling insulation through which heat can escape, consequently diminishing thermal performance.			
2.5	Heating Provide efficient and economical form of heating to all habitable rooms and the work zone. It is suggested that congregations consider heat pump hot water services. They are more expensive to install but have significantly reduced electricity consumption and consequently provide energy and cost savings in the longer term.	Mandatory	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
2.6	Cooling Provide an effective and efficient air-conditioning system to cool the air in the work zone, shared zone and living area within the family zone.	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
2.7	Car parking and storage Provide onsite parking for a minimum of two cars, both preferably covered with a minimum requirement of one being covered.	Mandatory	Strongly encouraged	Consider
	Provide an enclosed storage facility for garden equipment, tools, work bench and general storage of not less than 4.5m ² area to be provided with a minimum 1.5m in width for working in. This provision may be satisfied by providing a double garage and a single carport.	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
2.8	Clothes Line Provide a clothes-line in the form of rotary hoist (3 metre diameter), rectangular hoist (2.4m x 1.5m) or wall mounted folding unit (2.2m x 1.5m) as a minimum.	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
3 Design of Manse Work Zone 3.1 Objectives Given the significant amount of time that a minister spends in carrying out his duties in his office, the office must be designed to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise the negative aspects of his work on the family being able to live in the manse • Have a sufficient size to enable a small meeting or counselling to be undertaken • Ensure that temperature, light and sun glare can be controlled to provide a comfortable work environment • Have at least one openable window • Have sufficient space to accommodate a library, office furniture and computer equipment and has adequate storage. 				
3.2 What is a Work Zone?				

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
<p>The work zone is an area set aside for the Minister to carry out his duties such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing sermons, bible studies and similar activities • Administration tasks • Holding meetings • Counselling • Library for books • Storage <p>The work zone includes a study / office, an entry including a waiting area and may include a toilet.</p>				
3.2	Study/Office To be part of the house with access from or near the front entrance and separate from the family zone.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Strongly recommended
	The access to the study/office is not to be through or past the family zone.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	The entry area is to be able to function as a waiting area.	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	A floor area, clear of built-in cupboards and shelving, of not less than 15.0m ² and be suitable for use for small meetings. In the case where there is separate office provided in the church, then the minimum floor area may be reduced to 12.0 m ²	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Not less than 14 lineal metres of bookshelf. This length may be reduced to 6 lineal metres if an office is provided in the church.	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Access to a toilet and basin located in either the work zone or shared zone.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
4 Design of Manse Shared Zone 4.1 Objectives <p>The objectives of the shared zone are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a space in the manse where meetings, bible studies and prayer meetings may be held without disrupting the family or requiring access to the family zone. • When the meeting room is not being use for ministry purposes it should be available for use by the family and therefore have direct access to the family zone. 				
4.2 What is a Shared Zone? <p>The shared zone is a place where work activities such as meetings, bible studies, prayer meetings and similar may be held and when the area is not used for this purpose, it may be used by the family for their activities, such as for a lounge/dining room.</p>				
4.3	Meeting/Shared Room. The manse to include a room where a meeting, bible study or prayer meeting or similar could be held without restricting the use of the rest of the house by the minister's family.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	This room is to be located at the front of the house so that access is not through the family zone.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Strongly recommended

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
	It should be located adjacent to the family zone and the work zone.	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	The room to have access to the kitchen through a servery or a door so that participants may be served refreshments without disrupting the family.	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	A separate toilet and hand basin to be available to the meeting participants. This may be the same facility associated with the study/office.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
5 Design of Manse Family Zone				
5.1 Objectives				
The objectives of the family zone are:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a separate zone for the family which is separate from areas where ministry activities are undertaken and which will ensure that the family zone has a minimum, separate living area, kitchen, bedrooms, bathroom, toilet, laundry, and access to the garden. To ensure that rooms within the family zone are adequate size to meet the requirements of the manse family. 				
5.2 What is a family zone?				
The family zone is that part of the manse that has been set apart for the exclusive use of the manse family and which will include as a minimum a separate living area, kitchen, bedrooms, bathroom, toilet, laundry, and access to the garden.				
5.3	Kitchen The kitchen to be open to the family room.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Strongly recommended
	Be capable of serving through to the meeting room.	Consider	Consider	Consider
	Floor area to be greater than 14m ²	Mandatory	Mandatory	Consider
	Adequate cupboard and pantry storage. Consideration should be given to providing a walk-in pantry.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Strongly recommended
	Facilities shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oven Cook top and range hood with external exhaust Space for microwave oven Dishwasher Space for a double door refrigerator or similar A minimum of three double power outlets over benches or in a walk-in pantry (separate provision for microwave oven, fridge, freezer and dishwasher) 	Mandatory	Mandatory	Strongly recommended
5.4	Family Room The family room to be of sufficient size (preferably 5m x 6m) so that when the lounge/dining room is located in the shared zone that the family can carry out its activities	Mandatory	Mandatory	Strongly recommended

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
	without the need to enter and use facilities in either the work or shared zone.			
	Direct access to the garden area.	Mandatory	Preferable	Preferable
5.5	Bedrooms Minimum number of bedrooms, all capable of accommodating two beds and a student's desk.	3 Mandatory 4 Strongly recommended	3 Mandatory 4 Strongly recommended	4 Strongly recommended
	Each bedroom to have two double power outlets.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Built-in wardrobes in each bedroom with a minimum depth of 630mm.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Bedroom 1 – not less than 13m ² area with 2 lineal metres of wardrobe.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Bedroom 2 and 3 – not less than 12m ² area with 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Bedroom 4 – not less than 11m ² area with 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Bedroom 1 to have an ensuite bathroom with shower, toilet and hand basin.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
5.6	Bathroom The bathroom is to be fitted with bath, shower cubicle (separate from bath), vanity cupboard with basin and mirror over, exhaust fan and some form of heating.	Mandatory	Mandatory (except a shower over the bath may be acceptable)	Mandatory
	Exhaust fan to be fitted with an automatic seal which closes when not in use	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Mandatory
5.7	Toilet A separate toilet, preferably with hand basin to be provided for use of the family.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
5.8	Laundry The laundry is to be provided with a trough and cabinet, storage cupboard for brooms, ironing board etc.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
	1m of clear width as a working space.	Mandatory	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
	Space for floor mounted washing machine (with hot and cold taps) and wall or floor mounted dryer.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
	Wall or ceiling mounted exhaust fan that is fitted with an automatic seal which closes when not in use.	Mandatory if there is no openable window	Strongly recommended especially if there is no openable window	Strongly recommended especially if there is no openable window
6 Design of Manse – Upgrade of Existing Manse				
6.1 Objectives				
The objectives of upgrading a manse are:				

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address shortcomings in an existing manse which are preventing or reducing the manse family's enjoyment of the manse; or preventing or causing distraction to the minister carrying out his work within the manse; or to address maintenance and repair issues; or to improve the solar efficiency of the manse. To reduce maintenance and operation costs. 			
	<p>6.2 Need for Professional Advice</p> <p>If congregations are conducting works that modify the existing external building envelope (anything within an existing house) they should be aware that a building permit may be required and if this is the case, then the provisions of Part J of the Building Code of Australia covering energy efficiency requirements will come into play.</p> <p>This is relatively complex area and the requirements are often updated. At present, even small alterations may require major upgrading of the general building fabric to meet compliance, or in some cases require dispensation measures (at the time of writing in the form of photovoltaic panels). It is recommended that compliance advice should be sought from a building industry professional such as a registered Building Surveyor and / or registered architect. If compliance is required then an accredited energy assessor will be required.</p>			
	<p>6.3 Improving the energy efficiency of existing manses</p> <p>The following measures are recommended as being the most practical for basic sustainability upgrades:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install bulk insulation to the ceiling. Sub floor insulation may be possible where there is sufficient sub floor clearance. Consider removing open ring downlights beneath rooves and replace with pendants or surface mounted fittings that do not create large holes in the ceiling insulation Photovoltaic (solar) panels presently attract strong government subsidies and can be a cost effective way of offsetting electricity bills Heat pump hot water services are more expensive to install but have significantly reduced electricity consumption and consequently provide energy and cost savings in the longer term 			
	<p>7 Purchase of Manse</p> <p>7.1 Objectives</p> <p>The objectives for purchasing a manse are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide guidance to congregations wishing to purchase a manse 			
	<p>7.2 Issues to consider when purchasing a manse</p> <p>Purchasing an existing house that meets the objectives and requirements of this manual, without modification is very unlikely because most houses are not set up for working at home. Offices are small and often located in areas where family activities are undertaken. Many houses have the main bedroom located at the front of the house, away from the other bedrooms which makes it difficult to upgrade the manse to satisfy the objectives and requirements of this manual.</p> <p>It is therefore wise to have a picture in mind of what are the minimum requirements of a manse and how a manse is designed to maximise both the work and family activities to be carried out in the manse.</p> <p>When purchasing an existing property there should be an expectation that additional expenditure will be required to modify the property purchased to optimise its use as a manse. Before purchasing a property, the cost of these modifications should be estimated to ensure value for money and in order that sufficient funds are available.</p> <p>Whilst purchasing a property can be quickly carried out compared with building a manse, upgrading it to comply with the requirements of the manse design manual, will negate this advantage and could end up costing more than building an equivalent manse.</p>			
	<p>7.3 Minimum Requirements</p> <p>Clauses 2 to 5 provide the details of the minimum requirements of a house to be purchased for use as a manse. Where these minimum requirements cannot be met, then the Board of Management must arrange for upgrade works to be carried out prior to the minister occupying the manse.</p>			

Item	Requirement	New Build	Purchase Existing	Refurbish Existing
7.4 General check list for purchasing a manse A checklist to help congregations assess whether the property they are considering is generally capable of satisfying the objectives and requirements of the manse design manual. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list but contain enough information to determine whether the property for sale is worth considering any further. If it is, then a more thorough assessment against the requirements of this manual will be required and the cost of compliance to be determined.				

Checklist for Purchasing a Manse

Please review the specific requirements of the Manse Design Manual in addition to using this checklist in preparing to purchase a property for a manse.

Item	Requirement	Y/N	Comment
General	Can the house easily be split into work, shared and family zones?		
	Is there suitable heating and cooling throughout the house?		
	Is there a double carport or garage provided?		
Work Zone	Office and toilet located at the front of the house. Note the office is not to be located apart from the house under any circumstances		
	Is the access suitable to act as a waiting room?		
	Is the proposed office of adequate size?		
Shared Zone	Is there a room located at the front of the house that can be used for meetings etc?		
	Does it have access to a toilet that is not located in the family zone?		
	Is it adjacent to the office?		
	Is it adjacent to the family zone?		
Family Zone	Does it have four bedrooms (preferably), 3 as a minimum?		
	Does the main bedroom have an ensuite?		
	Are the bedrooms of sufficient size to accommodate as a minimum of two beds and a desk?		
	Is there a family room which is open to the kitchen?		
	Is the kitchen large enough, with sufficient cupboards, pantry and spaces for a double door refrigerator?		
	Is the laundry of sufficient width to allow a clear 1m for a workspace?		

Item	Requirement	Y/N	Comment
	Does the family zone include a bathroom and toilet?		
	Is a linen/storage cupboard provided?		
	Does the family room have access to the garden?		

Issues that have arisen

The following issues have arisen during the last 12 months and have been referred to the code committee:

1. Purchase of a property.

The committee have had two cases where a Board of Management has sought approval to purchase a property. One was for a manse and the other was for a church. The Code has a flowchart of church procedures for the purchase of property that states that congregations should apply to the Building and Property Committee, under Rule 2.20(c)(ii) for approval prior to seeking the congregation's approval to purchase a property.

This rule states that the Board must 'd) obtain the approval of the Building and Property Committee when:

- i) a new building is to be erected; or
- ii) an existing building is to be substantially altered;'

There is no mention in this rule about the purchase of a property.

Historically, it is believed that the committee has given approval for the purchase of properties and therefore, for this to continue, the code needs to be altered to:

- a) Add (iii) under Rule 2.20 (d) when purchasing an existing building, and
- b) Add the duties of Building and Property Committee regulation 5a, '(iii) floor plans, pre-purchase condition inspection report from a qualified inspector and other reports for the purchase of any church property'

or otherwise as determined by the code committee.

2. Limitation of advice able to be given by church architect.

Rule 2.20(c) states that the Board of Management must obtain the advice of the church architect 'when:

- i) there is any serious defect in any building; or
- ii) a new building is to be erected or purchased; or
- iii) an existing building is to be substantially altered.'

When the church architect was appointed, he advised the committee that he was unable to undertake pre-purchase condition reports because insurance premiums are no longer available to architects for this service as a result of litigation against persons carrying out pre-purchase condition reports. The church architect has advised that because of the potential litigation, in his experience, condition reports are often 'padded' to provide additional protection.

The Code Committee has been asked to consider amending Rule 2.20 as follows:

- a) To insert the following on the end of Rule 20(c), 'Note that the church architect is not able to carry out pre-purchase condition reports.'

- b) Insert a new sub-rule under 2.20 stating, 'obtain a pre-inspection report from a qualified inspector.'

Procurement Guidelines for Capital Building Projects

As a result of assessing a number of building projects, the church architect advised the committee that there was a need to provide guidance to congregations involved in large building projects to assist them in the procurement of external expertise to get the necessary information to make informed decisions about the concept, scope, design, tendering and management of the project.

The Guidelines have been prepared and are now submitted for approval.

PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS

Introduction

These guidelines have been prepared to assist congregations in making sound long term decisions in the project management of major capital building projects. These guidelines cover the procurement of external expertise to provide congregations with the necessary information to make wise decisions about the aim of the project, the options for achieving that aim, the scope of the project, the design of project from concept stage to final design stage, the preparation of tendering documentation and the tender process and then the management of the construction of the project.

Too often, congregations who, in an effort to cut costs, have engaged draughtspersons or similar to prepare plans and specifications for their project. Whilst this may be reasonable for lower cost 'run of the mill' projects, it runs the risk of not considering all the necessary matters or options available for larger projects, resulting in poor decisions that fail to deliver best value for money for the project.

Applicability of these Guidelines

These guidelines are not mandatory but are considered good practice for all major capital building projects especially those whose estimated cost is greater than \$300,000. This is an arbitrary figure and therefore the decision to use these guidelines should not be based on cost alone and should consider the degree of complexity in delivering the project, which may include:

- What is the estimated time and cost of the project? The higher the cost and time required to complete the project, the more complex the project is e.g. simple projects are one whose duration is less than 3 months.
- Are there people in the congregation who have previous experience with projects of a similar nature, and if so, is their experience relevant to the project in today's construction environment?
- Are there specific constraints on the project that need to be considered e.g. proximity to other buildings on the property or adjacent to the property, roads, public areas?
- That there may be environmental factors that add complexity to the project e.g. poor foundations, contaminated soils, presence of asbestos?
- That there may be regulatory matters that make the project more complex e.g. zoning, heritage overlays and listings, flooding and inundation overlays, compliance with access and mobility standards?
- Is there more than one stakeholder involved in the project e.g. joint project between developer and the church?

Where there is a degree of complexity in the project, regardless of the cost, then it is strongly recommended that the Board of Management engage the services of a registered architect to manage the design, tendering and management of the contractor appointed to construct the works.

Engaging an Architect

There are two options available for a congregation wishing to engage an architect to design and manage their project as follows:

1. Engage the church architect
2. Engage another appropriately experienced and registered architect

It is important when engaging an architect to specify clearly what your expectations are and what parts of the project you want delivered.

An architect is able to provide the following services:

- Concept design – understanding your needs and helping you prepare a brief that is in line with your budget.
- Design development – translating your vision into designs that are cost effective and add value to your project. This will include the engagement of other professionals necessary to complete this task, e.g. structural engineers, quantity surveyors, geotechnical engineers.
- Town planning applications – assist in the preparation and submission of applications to local councils for approval.
- Preparation of construction documentation including coordinating consultants such as engineers and quantity surveyors, preparing plans, specifications and reports for obtaining building approvals, for tendering and for construction.
- Contractor selection – helping in the selection of appropriate tenders, setting intended contractual conditions, assessing the tenders and the selection of a suitable builder to carry out the works.
- Contract administration – administer the building contract on the congregation's behalf including assessing the builder's quality of work, payment of claims and compliance to the plans and specifications for the project.

Other Specialists

Cost Management - Quantity Surveyors

On all major capital works projects, it is strongly recommended that a quantity surveyor is engaged to assess the anticipated project costs. This should be completed once preliminary documentation drawings are completed, typically after preliminary advice is given from the Building and Property Committee.

If an architect is engaged to design and manage the project, then the briefing and appointment of a qualified quantity surveyor is usually managed by the architect.

Tendering

In general, it is recommended that congregations arrange documentation that can be tendered out to 3 or 4 builders to ensure that competitive prices are obtained and that this is done with thorough documentation to improve both pricing accuracy and the quality of construction. There can be good reasons for not following this model, however it is strongly recommended that congregations competitively tender works in most instances.

Ralph Kop
CONVENER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE (Min 73)

1. Thanksgiving and Current Activity

Matt James retired from Kirkbrae late last year and moved to New South Wales, so the Committee thanks God for Matt's role as convener of the Committee during a difficult season. The Committee also thanks God for the previous Youth Ministry Director (YMD), Andrew Edmonds, who was YMD during the tough COVID-19 years and has now taken up a new role at Hills Bible Church. Additionally, the Committee wants to thank God for Dave Assender's almost decade-long service on the Committee, which finishes at the close of this Assembly. As the Committee restarts in-person Presbyterian Youth of Victoria (PYV) events, the Committee wants to acknowledge the important work of the committee members (Cam Griffiths, Bec Walz, Paul Huynh, and Bagoes Seta), most of whom are new to their roles, the dedicated work of Suzy Vines as PYV Administration Officer, the hard work of the two subcommittees ('finance' and 'policy and procedure'), and the faithful focused work of the PYV Council led by Anna Burns.

The Committee has spent a lot of time listening to stakeholders, researching how New South Wales and Queensland youth ministry functions, and thinking about how this Committee can best serve the Assembly. The Committee is blessed to be the beneficiary of the Allan Bequest. The Trusts Corporation (TC) has wisely decided to have a court clarify the complex and convoluted wording of the Allan Bequest, a decision the Committee supports. The main focus since the beginning of the new year has been on revising the regulations and YMD job description. The PCV vision statement says, 'Our specific goal, both individually and as a denomination, is to be engaged in making disciples of the Lord Jesus, to direct all our efforts to preaching repentance to God and faith in Jesus, and to nurturing those who believe the gospel'. Therefore, the Committee wants its regulations, job descriptions, and future planning to be shaped by that goal. An explanation of how the Committee is going about the revisions and a rationale for the changes follows the PYV Council report.

2. PYV Council

The Council's prayer for PYV this year was twofold: that the Lord would refresh our Youth Leaders, and that He might make a way for us to minister face-to-face again. Praise God for hearing these prayers and answering them.

Summer Camp (January 2022)

Summer Camp was intended to be the big 'start-up' for the year. As the Council and Executive team prayerfully approached the date, it became clear that PYV needed to restructure this camp. With the wisdom God gave us, PYV released 'Summer Camp in a Box'—a package of Bible-based talks, activities, and Bible Studies to support ministry to teenagers over the summer holidays. Many teens, friends, siblings, families, and youth groups benefited from these resources and will continue to benefit from them in the coming years.

PYV Fun Run (April)

It was with great joy that PYV welcomed the multi-generational family of PYV back together at the PYV Fun Run. Together PYV had the opportunity to eat, talk, run (or walk), laugh, and listen to God's encouragement to 'run the race' unhindered.

Online Workshops (June, September)

PYV has continued to develop active teaching workshops, 'Why bother with School', 'Why bother with Friendship', 'Why bother with Church'. These workshops have been a great source of blessing, and are available on PYV's YouTube page.

Winter Camp (July)

Praise God for the way that He cleared the path for PYV to return to its first large-scale face-to-face camp event. More than 50 God-fearing leaders and 140 energetic teenagers met together to discuss 'Radical Christianity'—how Jesus' words shape our lives. The Lord has blessed the Presbyterian Church with a new generation of spiritually hungry teenagers. PYV prays that they might continue to grasp how wide and long and high and deep the Love of Christ is and share this mystery with others.

PYV Big Day Out (Sept)

The Council continues to prepare for another family-friendly day before the end of this calendar year. PYV looks forward to meeting together again as a multi-generational family, sharing our faith and building Spiritual friendship that spans across the state.

Summer Camp (January 2023)

Praise God for the team He has gathered for Summer Camp. Join with PYV in praying for this event and for the hearts of those leaders and campers who will be attending.

The 2022 Calendar and the events above have only been possible because of the gracious hand of the Lord working through His workers. PYV is thankful for the fatherly care offered to it through the CENC. PYV thanks Andrew Edmonds for being a faithful worker with PYV from 2020 until April 2022. The Council continues to depend on the support of its Administration Officer, Suzy Vines, and recognises with prayer that her workload has increased significantly in the absence of the Youth Ministry Worker. The workload of the Council has also increased. PYV is blessed to participate in the great work God has put on our hearts, but the Council members are limited in their capacity as volunteers. The Council prays (with some growing urgency) that God will provide another Ministry Worker in this space. Looking into the unknown days ahead, the Council continues to trust that God will equip and sustain it in His work. Please pray for PYV, that God might give times of refreshing, prepare more workers for His harvest, and send out His Word, unhindered, to save.

Anna Burns

PYV Council Convener

3. Rationale

'Making disciples who make disciples' is a slogan that both fulfills the Great Commission and helps grow local congregations. Smaller congregations and youth groups are blessed by economies of scale and the whole denomination is blessed by godly young men and women with leadership experience. Residential camps offer a unique communal experience of discipleship. They are also effective ways to deliver formal training. Therefore, the Committee is implementing a ministry plan of two annual regional camps (Western Winter and Eastern Summer) for grades 7–12 and a leadership camp for grades 10–12 focused on leadership training. Currently the PYV Council is governed by a constitution approved and regulated by the CENC. In anticipation of the revised Committee regulations, the Committee is slowly implementing a subcommittee model, delegating the workload to smaller subcommittees, and as per rule 5.26. The Committee has sometimes added extra

people with relevant experience and expertise to help out with one or more of these subcommittees.

The Committee has commenced the process of having its regulations revised and intends on bringing a proposed YMD job description to the Assembly as soon as possible.

The May 2021 Commission of Assembly directed the Christian Education and Nurture Committee (CENC) to report to the Assembly on a long-term plan for the Youth Ministry Director (YMD) role. This arose from a debate about how to fund the YMD. Currently, interest from the CENC and Presbyterian Youth of Victoria (PYV) Common Funds and interest from the Allen Bequest cannot sustain both a basic ministry budget and a full-time YMD role. However, it is vital to have someone lead the operations of the CENC committee and oversee state-level youth and children's work.

Therefore as outlined in the main body of the CENC Report, the committee has taken this opportunity to refine our strategic focus. We have revised the Committee regulations and YMD Job description. The committee also revised the budget. The Code Committee kindly convened a special meeting and reviewed our proposed changes. You can see the proposed revisions to the CENC regulations in Code Committee's deliverance. Part of the revision includes renaming the committee the Youth and Children's Committee. Members of the current PYV will join the renamed committee, and what is now the PYV Council will become a strategy and operations subcommittee. The Code committee also provided feedback on the revised YMD Job Description, which has been renamed to the Youth and Children's Worker to match the work of the committee. The new Youth and Children's worker role will be a part-time three days a week role. This means that the budget is now balanced and no longer in deficit. The committee is still figuring out how best to do fundraising in order to expand the funding for the new Youth and Children's Worker.

The committee is grateful to the Code Committee and the Board of Investment and Finance for considering our changes in time for this Assembly.

Luke Isham
CONVENER

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (Min 60)

Committee composition and membership

Since the GAV in October 2021, the committee has welcomed one new member to the Church and Nation Committee, Prof Ben Saunders. During this time, the committee has also seen the resignation of Rev Stephen McDonald and Mr Shane Robertson. Shane is no longer a member of a Presbyterian Church but is very supportive of our work and will continue in an advisory capacity, especially with the committee's website and IT issues.

The current members are Rev Chris Duke (Convener), Mr Ian Waller (Secretary), Mr John Ballantyne, Mrs Jeanette McHardy, Mr Peter Stanton, Rev Jesse Walz, Rev Michael Jensen, Prof Ben Saunders, and Mrs Moira Deeming (Researcher and non-voting).

Monthly updates

The Church and Nation Committee publishes regular monthly 'updates' (almost every month), which are prepared by our researcher and reviewed and edited by committee members. The goal of the *Monthly Update* is to raise awareness and encourage prayer amongst PCV congregations relating to those issues that impact the intersection of Christian faith and the culture, locally, Australia-wide, and internationally.

Facebook page

The committee publishes the *Monthly Update* on its Facebook page. It is apparent that people view this, and occasionally the committee receives positive and negative reactions. No doubt, the page is also visited by people who would take an opposing view, especially concerning issues around sexuality and gender. The committee is mindful of this while seeking to be faithful in bearing witness to the truth of God's word. In time, it is hoped that many people will visit the Facebook page and be encouraged in faith or challenged to consider the claims of Christ. In recent months, this appears to be taking place with an increased number of visits and 'likes' recorded.

New website

The committee has 'softly' launched a new website that brings together information on the committee's purpose and important resources on topical issues affecting the church. It also houses recordings from the committee's Religion and the Public Square colloquiums (www.churchandnationvic.org).

The website is modern and accessible and includes search functions that enable users to find topics or resources of interest. New functionalities are now available that enable people to register to receive newsletters and other updates on the committee's work. Importantly, too, the website has combined two previous websites historically managed by the committee. This change has reduced the committee's financial outlay and streamlined its communication outreach.

Online and accessible communication is increasingly important for the committee and church. The committee asks members to pray that this website will enable the church to be better informed about important public issues.

The committee warmly invites members to visit, publicise the website, and register to receive updates on the committee's work—and share relevant links with your congregations. Work will continue to make this a useful and simple website to use.

The committee is thankful for the efforts of Tanya and Shane Robertson in facilitating and maintaining this for us.

Video library project

The committee is hopeful that, by the October GAV, the Video Library Project will be completed and many Assembly members along with congregants will have been able to view many if not all of the videos. In total, 70 short videos have been produced, with an average length of 2.2–2.7 minutes and with a total run time of 3 hours, 10 minutes, along with approximately 550 illustrations.

The committee is thankful to the following people who gave up valuable time to write scripts: Rev Dr Peter Barnes, Rev Neil Chambers, Rev Darren Middleton, Rev Ben Nelson, Rev Dr Jared Hood, Rev Dr John Wilson, Rev Dr Kamal Weerakoon, along with committee members, Rev Chris Duke, Rev Michael Jensen, Rev Jesse Walz, Mr Ian Waller, Mrs Jeanette McHardy, Mr John Ballantyne, and Mrs Moira Deeming. The committee would also like to thank the following who gave their time to be presenters: Mrs Joy Arundell, Miss Kim Faith, Mr Andy May, Mr Leighton Rowe, Rev Dr Kamal Weerakoon, and Rev Darren Middleton. The committee is also very thankful for the efforts and professionalism of the media company, Nourishing Media, and its directors, Mr Matthew Boutros, and Mr Godfrey Orin. The committee would also like to thank the sub-committee, comprising of Peter Barnes, Neil Chambers, Ben Nelson, Darren Middleton, and Chris Duke, which initiated the topic list and began the process.

The committee appreciates that not all people will get excited with every video, but the committee trusts that people will find them helpful and promote them on the websites and among the congregations of their respective churches. The videos are freely available to all who desire to use them.

The aim of each video is to present an introduction to various biblical topics with minimal use of doctrinal and confessional language. In addition, there are also videos on current cultural issues that clash with our faith. Videos that cover Christology show a shape indicating the presence of the man Jesus. The committee commends these videos and this medium for the churches to use as a resource. The prayer is that, in time, people will recommend these and that they will eventually be viewed throughout Australia and the world by Christians and non-Christians.

Lastly, the committee is particularly grateful to a major anonymous contributor without whom this project could not have commenced. The committee is also thankful to those churches and individuals who have also contributed to the project. Further donations would be gratefully appreciated. Please pray for those who view the videos that the Lord will bless and encourage them all to inquire about the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Abortion

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in the United States, abortion has once again become extremely controversial in Australia. Of particular note was the expulsion of Bernie Finn MLC from the Victorian Liberal parliamentary party following his pro-life social media post praising the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In Victoria, abortion is legal for women up to 24 weeks pregnant ‘on demand’ (for any reason), and after 24 weeks if two doctors agree that it is physically, socially, or psychologically appropriate. This includes ‘partial birth’ abortion. Pro-life medical

practitioners in Victoria have been deprived of the legal right to conscientious objection and are forced by law to personally help facilitate abortions by providing referrals to practitioners without conscientious objections to abortions (even though that information is freely available online and via the fully funded *1800 My Options* service). The current Victorian premier Daniel Andrews introduced these laws in 2008 when he was Health Minister in the Labour government of John Brumby. Since then, he has also presided over the criminalisation of peaceful pro-life outreach ministries within 150 metres of abortion facilities.

Exclusion zones

It is currently illegal for pro-life advocates to offer women alternatives to abortion within 150 metres of an abortion facility, punishable with a fine of up to 120 penalty units or imprisonment for up to 12 months. Standard harassment laws already prohibited physical obstruction and abusive or threatening behaviours, but the new 'Safe Access Zones' also effectively criminalised peaceful pro-life outreach ministries by criminalising 'communicating in relation to abortions in a manner that is able to be seen or heard by a person accessing, attempting to access, or leaving premises at which abortions are provided and is reasonably likely to cause distress or anxiety' (Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Safe Zones) Act 2015).

Fiona Patten MP of the Reason Party (formerly called the Sex Party) has proposed the *Health Legislation Amendment (Conscientious Objection) Bill 2022*. The Labour government does not support private members' Bills in general and so it is expected that the Bill will fail. However, if passed, religious hospitals would be forced to provide abortions, abortive contraception, and euthanasia, effectively removing the right to 'organisational religious conscientious objection'.

March for the Babies

Victoria's annual *March For The Babies* peaceful public protest march is scheduled for 2022 to be in person in Melbourne's CBD on October 8, 1–3pm. Participants will gather at Treasury Gardens from 12:30pm, commence their march through the streets of Melbourne at 1pm, and finally gather before the steps of Parliament House for speeches and music. A larger-than-usual police presence and security measures are being arranged to ensure a smooth and safe event, despite the counter-protest currently being organised. Our researcher Mrs Moira Deeming has been secretary of the committee *March for the Babies*. She is also the endorsed Liberal candidate for Western Metropolitan in the Victorian state Legislative Council. The committee prays that she will be successful as she will be a voice in the Parliament for Christian values.

Prostitution in Victoria

The Andrews Government has radically deregulated laws concerning prostitution in Victoria. The *Decriminalisation of Sex Work Act (2022)* removes enforcement responsibilities for any prostitution-related offences from armed, trained, and legislatively empowered police and puts those responsibilities onto unarmed, untrained, local government 'compliance' officers, who will only be able to issue notices for noise, sound, odour, waste disposal, capacity, traffic, and car-parking issues.

The Act:

- legalises prostitution, even while infected with a sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- removes requirements to undergo regular STD testing

- removes the right of accommodation venues to refuse room hire for the purposes of prostitution
- removes restrictions on the size of commercial brothels, allows them to serve alcohol onsite and allows children under 18 months of age to be on the premises
- legalises public street prostitution — anywhere — apart from a 200m buffer zone during operating hours for certain places such as churches, mosques, schools and playgrounds
- legalises home-based brothels, even with children in the house, so long as they are in a separate room
- public advertisements for prostitution (public billboards, etc)

Critics expect a huge increase in prostitution itself, as well as the related criminal activity such as illicit drugs, public drunkenness and violence, sexual assaults, and human trafficking.

Equal Opportunity Law

Amendments to Victoria's *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* have placed a unique and almost impossible burden of proof on religious bodies and schools accused of unlawful discrimination in staffing decisions. The Act provides that in employment decisions religious bodies may positively discriminate in favour of those who share their doctrines, beliefs and practices. However, this may only occur in relation to the employment of a person to a position of employment if:

- (a) conformity with the doctrines, beliefs or principles of the religious body's religion is an inherent requirement of the position; and
- (b) the other person cannot meet that inherent requirement because of their religious belief or activity; and
- (c) the discrimination is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.

Equivalent provisions operate in connection with employment decisions in religious schools.

If an employment decision is challenged, a secular anti-discrimination Commissioner, tribunal, or court will be left to decide whether conformity to the stated 'religious doctrines, beliefs and practices' is an inherent requirement of the position (absolutely necessary for performance of the role) and to weigh any number of dissenting theological views about 'acceptable degrees/definitions of vice' and reach their own judgment! As Melbourne lawyer Mark Sneddon of the Institute for Civil Society notes, 'Determining how important (reasonable and proportionate) it is that a person in a particular position conforms to the religious doctrines, beliefs or principles, involves judgments as to the culture and mission and self-definition of the religious organisation and its fidelity to its own religious precepts—a task which is not appropriate for secular institutions and for which they are ill-equipped.'

A person's 'religious belief' appears to mean only stated agreement with a doctrine, and 'religious practice' appears to mean 'only specifically religious practices like attending religious observances, prayer, fasting, sacraments, following food rules and observing Sabbaths'.

Religious Discrimination Bill (Federal)

The convener was able to meet with the former federal government Attorney General, the Hon Michaela Cash, to discuss the then Morrison Coalition government's proposed *Religious Discrimination Bill*, modified from previous drafts and its provisions. The committee also was in communication with other faith groups such as Freedom for Faith and a multi-faith group chaired by Anglican Bishop Michael Stead (Sydney) to discuss and glean the positives and negatives of the proposed legislation.

Organisations, as well as individuals, were invited to write submissions to two investigatory federal parliament panels. The committee wrote submissions endorsed by the Moderator (PCV) Rev Peter Phillips to the following:

1. The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights
2. The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislative Committee

Copies of the PCV's submissions are available upon request.

In addition to our submissions, the committee was also able to present to both panels, along with Rev Dr John McClean of NSW, for the GAA. Video links are also available upon request.

The *Religious Discrimination Bill* (RDB) passed the House of Representatives with a resounding 84-vote majority, with both sides of politics strongly affirming the need for people of faith or no faith to be protected from religious discrimination. Prior to the vote, the RDB received bipartisan support from two separate parliamentary committees, both recommending it be passed with some minor changes.

However, the Bill was withdrawn after the Government effectively lost control of its own party and the Bill itself, when five 'progressive' Liberal MPs crossed the floor of Parliament and supported Labour-backed amendments that repealed Section 38(3) of the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA), an entirely separate Act of Parliament. The Government chose to withdraw the Bill in its entirety after recognising the legal consequences of this amendment for faith-based schools. The Government also faced Labour amendments to the RDB in the Senate, supported by progressive Liberal National Party (LNP) members, that would similarly weaken the legislation.

The Morrison government's original RDB was worthwhile, providing for the first-time nation-wide protection for individuals and groups against discrimination on the grounds of their religious belief or lawful religious activity. It protected the right of religious bodies to employ people who would uphold their religious ethos. Furthermore, it had some limited override of State legislation that infringed this right. Among its many other protections, it provided protection for people making reasonable and non-vilifying statements of belief.

Although the Bill did not protect Australians against all forms of religious discrimination, it filled a significant void in the protections of religious freedom in Australia's federal legislation. It also represented a significant step in Australia meeting its obligations under international treaties, such as the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which requires signatory countries to protect the freedom of religious belief and expression. With both the endorsement of the Morrison Cabinet and significant input from key faith leaders, the Bill represented strong legislation in the present political and social climate.

The RDB would have had no impact on laws against speech that incites violence, serious ridicule, or contempt, or on laws about statements that harm a person's

reputation. The Bill only protected statements of belief made in good faith and not deliberately malicious, intimidating or harassing, threatening, or vilifying. The freedom to make religious statements such as these is recognised in Article 18 of the ICCPR as a component of manifesting publicly one's religion or belief which ought to be protected.

The RDB protects persons who make religious statements from discrimination claims, but it does not authorise discriminatory actions against those who identify as LGBTQI. Protections against discriminatory actions based on sexual orientation and gender identity are covered under a separate Act of Parliament, the Sex Discrimination Act. Our biggest concern in the future will be changes made to Section 38(3) of the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA).

The SDA contains a critically important provision for faith-based schools, enabling them to maintain their ethos and doctrine. It allows schools to faithfully teach their beliefs to students and to set policies and standards that are in keeping with their religious ethos, such as requiring biological males and females to use separate change rooms and toilets or disallowing lunchtime groups that undermine the school's religious ethos by, for example, calling for the school to amend their beliefs. It also allows faith-based schools to pastorally care for individual students facing gender identity issues. The repeal of Section 38(3) in its entirety would have removed these rights from faith-based schools and, therefore, their right to teach and otherwise uphold their religious ethos and doctrines. The Act could have been amended to specifically preclude the ability of schools to expel students solely on the basis that they identify as LGBTQI without repealing the entire section. The ability to expel a student on that basis (first introduced in 2013 under a previous federal Labor government) has never been exercised by a faith-based school.

A good question that is asked is why should faith-based schools be allowed to make different rules from government schools?

Faith-based schools provide parents with an option to educate their children according to their own religious beliefs and values. This is affirmed in Article 18 of the ICCPR, which recognises the right of parents 'to ensure the religious and moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions'. Faith-based schools provide the religious and moral education sought by parents in their communities that are not offered in government schools. In order for faith-based schools to properly provide such education, they must be able to set policies and standards that are in keeping with their ethos and religious doctrines.

What was Labor's position on the RDB in February 2022? The ALP supported the religious discrimination legislation and voted for the Bill in the lower house. However, they also sought in Parliament a series of amendments that substantially weakened provisions within the Bill as follows:

1. Reducing the scope of the statements of belief clause so that it only applied in relation to allegations of religious discrimination and removing override provisions contained in the Bill that were designed to prevent cases such as that of Archbishop Julian Porteous in Tasmania, who was brought before an anti-discrimination tribunal for defining the Catholic doctrine of marriage publicly.
2. Repealing Section 38(3) of the SDA in its entirety.

3. Introducing a religious anti-vilification clause, the impact of which is somewhat unknown because its terms were not subject to any parliamentary or public scrutiny.

It is likely that, in the near future, current protections in Section (38) of the Sex Discrimination Act will be eliminated, thus weakening further religious freedom in Australia.

Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG)

Following the 2021 GAV, the convener was able to enquire through the Multifaith Advisory Group regarding attitudes to refugees having difficulty in obtaining residency status due to arriving by an illegal boat. The response was fairly disappointing from MAG members with minimal willingness to engage in direct conversations with the appropriate minister for immigration or an assistant.

Campaigning

The Church and Nation Committee has had another busy year in writing and endeavouring to communicate the PCV's views on most of the above issues. The committee has had limited response from the opposition, apart from the changes to the 'Equal Opportunity' legislation. A Liberal Party representative contacted me immediately after the parliamentary party to inform me that they were going to oppose the legislation. It had been mooted earlier that they were going to support the legislation before the combined parliamentary party meeting but must have considered a degree of communications received.

The committee did enquire whether they would rescind the legislation in the event they were able to form government one day. There was no response to this question.

Conference Attended

Moir Deeming helped to organise, fundraise and run the Coalition for Biological Reality conference (Gender Identity in Law: what are the harms of gender identity in law?) on Saturday, 26 February 2022, in Hobart. The Committee convener and his wife Julie attended in support and to network cross-political support for campaigning against gender identity in law. Currently, laws across the world are changing to protect gender identity instead of biological sex. This has grave consequences for children, women and men suffering from gender dysphoria and for freedom of religion, speech, conscience and association. The committee has made genuine, respectful, purposeful relationships which will be helpful in the future for advocacy.

Event speakers were Professor Emerita Bronwyn Winter, Transnational Studies, Member of Coalition of Activist Lesbians; Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Senator for Tasmania, Speakers; Professor Dianna Kenny, Psychologist, author of 'Dysphoria in Children and Young People'; Katherine Deves, Save Women's Sports Australasia, Lawyer; Professor Patrick Parkinson, TC Beirne School of Law, UQL; Associate Professor Holly Lawford-Smith, Political Philosopher, University of Melbourne; Sierra Weir/ Exulansic, Transgender Desister, Youtuber, Gender Studies at the University of California.

Overview

The Christian faith is certainly being challenged more and more in the present time, with changes to laws that prohibit what Christians are allowed to say and whom Christians are allowed to hire, especially in faith-based schools. The committee

exhorts the denomination to continue to remain firm in its faithful proclamation of the wonderful gospel of grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is the gospel, not politics, which is our primary hope and strategy for a more just and compassionate society. It is the transformation of the heart of man that it is necessary to continue to pray for and proclaim. Whilst the committee has been involved in political engagement, stating the views of the denomination, it must continue to approach these serious spiritual issues in light of scripture being very much in prayer for the state of Victoria and the nation.

PCV C&N YouTube Video Library Channel

The Video Project that the Church and Nation Committee embarked on from the GAV 2021 is now completed. The Church and Nation Committee would like GAV permission to establish a specific YouTube Channel to host these videos (PCV's C&N Video Library YouTube Channel) so that they can be accessed from the PCV website and other PCA state and individual church websites.

The Church and Nation Committee would like to release all the videos gradually. Currently, YouTube seems to be the most stable mechanism for hosting such videos. Other State churches and individual churches would access the videos via this established YouTube Channel and be able to have a link to their own websites if they so desire.

Call for a Day of Prayer and Fasting

State governments have, in recent times, introduced or changed laws that either conflict or intersect with our Christian faith. These include laws concerning:

- Abortion
- Euthanasia (Voluntary Assisted Dying)
- The *Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021*
- The *Equal Opportunity Act* changes regarding employing people of faith
- Safe Schools legislation
- Expansion of LGBTIQ rights in State public service and corporate
- Prostitution
- Restrictions on Religious Freedom
- The removal of religious education in State Schools.

With a State election to be held on 26 November, the committee would like the Assembly to encourage God's people to reflect and spend additional time praying and evening fasting that the Lord would be merciful to us. Ultimately, it is the Lord who rules, but His people can collectively beseech the Lord God Almighty to allow for the continued, effective, and bold proclamation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, seeking that Christians may be able to live peaceably with their neighbours as disciples and followers of Christ.

Christopher Duke
CONVENER

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE (Min 58)

This year, the committee has continued to complete its assigned duties.

Ministry Development Committee (MDC) – Church Planting Committee (CPC)

A separate joint report to the Assembly will advance a proposed way forward not only for allocations of Scots' Church Property Trust distributions for Home Mission and Church Extension for the next five years but also for key principle statements the committees are convinced the Assembly should adopt.

Church Planting Officer

The committee received a number of applications, and at the time of submitting this report, it is about to interview individuals. A supplementary report will be submitted in due time containing information about each applicant, and the committee will request the Assembly consider the Supplementary Report in private.

Advance Church Planting Conference

The committee is praying that the Lord will raise up amongst the PCV the next generation of church planters and teams. The Advance church planting conference will be a place to hear stories of what the Lord is doing amongst the PCV through church planting and dream big about what the Lord might do through the PCV in the next phase of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The committee encourages members to be praying about whom they could bring from the next generation to be part of the future leadership of the PCV. The Conference is planned for Saturday, 19 November 2022, at the Assembly Hall.

Church Plants

Warragul

The committee is encouraged that the Warragul church plant has been raised to the status of Pastoral Charge and is proceeding to call their first minister. Lord willing, Licentiate Ray Patchett will have been ordained and inducted by the time the White Book goes to print.

Donnybrook

At present, one Church Plant Charge is receiving a grant from the committee. Donnybrook, which started in 2021, is now nearing the end of its second year. The past two years have been a challenge for many congregations, and Donnybrook is no exception.

Embrace

The committee is greatly encouraged by the efforts of Rev Paul Jang, who planted a new church on Zoom during the lockdown in 2021. The Lord has continued to bless this congregation as they have continued to grow, and congregation is praying to plant additional congregations in the years ahead.

Officer

The committee is also encouraged to hear that New Life (Officer) has recently been raised to the status of Pastoral Charge. Please pray for the congregation as they move towards calling their first minister.

Property Development Fund (PDF)

The PDF on 31 July 2022 had \$836,468. In July, the committee received an urgent PDF grant request from Darebin for the purchase of a church site in Thornbury. The Presbytery of Melbourne West approved the application for a grant from the PDF of \$850,000. This was greater than both the balance of the PDF and the budget for such grants. As such, the committee determined to approve a grant of \$750,000 subject to the Assembly granting a variation of budget. The Board of Investment and Finance (BIF), Presbytery, and Darebin are all aware that the grant can only be finally authorised if the Assembly agrees to vary the budget. At the time of writing, Darebin has signed a contract, with settlement to occur in September.

Assembly Hall

The future of the Assembly Hall is still unresolved. This means any maintenance or restoration work required may impact the committee financially and, accordingly, the committee's work. The committee looks forward to the matter being resolved so that the committee is better equipped to make decisions about the funding of future church plants.

Is Church Planting Making a Difference?

Thanks to the work of the MDC in collecting the statistical return data and making it available, the committee is able to answer questions about the effectiveness of church planting.

Data collected by MDC shows that in 1992, the average weekly attendance was 6,226, and in 2021 it was, by the grace of God, 6,448. This is a net increase of 222 or 3.6% growth over three decades. The PCV saw 14 new congregations established during that time, while it also closed 42 congregations. The net change in congregations was 28 resulting in an average of one congregation closed per year.¹²

While the current rate of church planting (one congregation every two years) was not able to offset the decrease in congregations, it has been able to offset the decline in attendance experienced across the church. These 14 new congregations now account for 16.9% of average attendance (1,078). Without the 14 new congregations, the PCV would have seen attendance drop by 856 or 13.7%.

In order to understand how significant an impact these 14 new congregations have had, it is helpful to note that they alone have approximately the same number of people in worship on an average Lord's Day as our 67 smallest congregations (50.3% of all congregations). The average attendance for the 14 new congregations was 1,078, while the 67 smallest congregations had 1,071.

Not only are they a significant proportion of the church in terms of attendance, they are also different in a number of metrics. See the table below.

¹² It is of note that there are presently five additional congregations that have ceased worship but have not yet been finally dissolved that are not reflected in the figures.

	67 smallest	Pre-1992 (119)	Post-1992 (14)
Adult Baptisms ¹³	0.9	6.3	13.9 ¹⁴
Infant Baptisms ¹	6.5	11.6	18.6
Giving per adult ¹⁵ per year	\$1,986	\$2,189	\$3,197
Reserves relative to giving	1001%	451%	86%
Proportion 0-19 YO	14%	22%	40%
Serving	48%	45%	59%
Bible Study Participation	30%	38%	69%

The Future

Church planting has had a significant impact. Although significant, the PCV desperately needs more church plants and needs to be planting faster than one congregation every two years. Ed Stetzer in *Planting Missional Churches* says for a denomination to reach more people with the Gospel and make headway in the culture it needs to annually plant 3% of its existing congregations each year.¹⁶ This equates to four congregations for the PCV at this time. Some may feel like four is an unreasonably high number. If the aim is net denominational growth (making disciples that make disciples) the number must be high to offset attrition (the on average one closure per year currently experienced) and factor in the reality that not every church plant will reach self-sufficiency. In recent years, by God's grace, the PCV has not seen church plants fail, but the recent experience is not common. It appears clear that without the establishing of new congregations, the denomination will shrink.

Church planting and land

While the PCV is seeing new congregations planted, many of these still do not have their own property after many decades. For example, Hume 1985 (37 years), Melton 1988 (34 years), Croydon 1991 (31 years), Templestowe 2002 (20 years), Brimbank 2004 (18 years), Point Cook 2012 (10 years), Warragul 2014 (8 years) and Bellarine (5 years).

Without denominational assistance, it is unlikely that any of them will be able to purchase property as prices continue to rise and available land is purchased by developers. The PCV is being squeezed out of the market. Property prices in the Greenfields doubled during the pandemic.

Melbourne is expected to have nine million people by 2050, and the PCV will need consider how to best steward the resources entrusted to it by the Lord for the purposes of the Gospel.

Property Development Fund (PDF)

The Darebin PDF application was received in July and at the time the most recently received financial figures held by the committee indicated that the PDF had a balance slightly above \$750,000. As such, the committee determined to approve a grant of \$750,000 subject to the Assembly granting a variation of budget. In doing so the

¹³ Per 1,000 attendees

¹⁴ Increases to 16.3 if Special Interest Congregations (Deaf, Korean, Arabic) are excluded. Does this mean Special Interest Congregations are connecting with the already saved from within the subculture but not reaching the lost?

¹⁵ Those aged 0-19 YO are excluded from this calculation.

¹⁶ Ed Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches* (Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman & Holman, 2006), 5.

committee was cognizant that this was \$100,000 less than the presbytery approved application.

The Committee at its most recent meeting received correspondence from the BIF informing the committee that the PDF had since received additional funds. As the original application was for \$850,000 the committee determined to reconsider the application. As more funds are available the committee has now approved a grant of \$828,000 (still subject to assembly budget variation approval), which is \$78,000 more but still \$22,000 short of the original application. In doing so the committee has determined to reissue clause 2 of the proposed deliverance.

Cameron Garrett
CONVENER

CLERK'S REPORT: RECORDS (Min 135)

Since the dissolution of the Assembly Records Committee (2015), the Clerk has been requested to report annually to the General Assembly on the state of presbytery and committee records. This year, for reasons following, there is only a report on the state of presbytery records this year.

The clerks visited every presbytery twice this year: once for the regular visit and a second time in preparation for the Urgent Meeting of the Assembly. The pressure of the second visits and the timing of them immediately prior to my mission trip to Africa has meant I was unable to visit each Assembly committee or to review their minute book as planned. Plans are underway to visit each presbytery and committee in 2023.

Presbytery minute books are generally well-kept. This no surprise as each of our presbytery clerks and their assistants is faithful to duty and hardworking in his/her own spare time.

While I have communicated to each presbytery separately according to specific need, there are some commonly spotted errors of procedure that are worth pointing out in this report without naming the presbyteries concerned but so as we all can be alert to the issues.

1. Types of Presbytery Meetings. A presbytery cannot just meet because there's an immediate need, even if the moderator and/or clerk wants to. So as no member of the court is disenfranchised, there are ONLY four reasons for a presbytery meeting to happen and these are listed in rule 4.14 and explained in the rules that follow.

4.14 Types of meetings

Meetings of a presbytery are:

- a) Ordinary;
- b) Special Purpose;
- c) Urgent;
- d) Adjourned.

It appears to me that on several occasions a presbytery just decided it could meet OUTSIDE of rule 4.14. It casts everything "resolved" at that meeting in doubt as to its legitimacy if ever challenged. To date no one has challenged the business. We are grateful for that because in one instance it involved an ordination/induction: "Has that person ever been legitimately ordained?"

2. Composing resolutions. Each resolution of a court needs to be understandable by its own words. The crafting of some presbytery minutes need improvement so as 'in-house' expressions, shortened references are eliminated.

I found this surprising. It is as if the clerk wants to be as brief as possible for the sake of his colleagues of the day. But our PCV church court records are written with a FAR wider audience in mind. Consider someone researching for the 150th anniversary book of a congregation in your presbytery. What will they make of that minute just recorded? Will they understand who the person is that you have just referred to on a first name only basis?

3. A presbytery's right of review. My observation of attending twenty presbytery meetings this year and also reviewing eleven presbytery minute books leaves me with the impression that the rights and powers of review are not always taken up seriously or faithfully according to the rules of the church.

Presbytery has the right and duty to review everything and anything that takes place within its congregations. Most obviously, with regard to settling issues and questions that come up to it from those congregations within its bounds: i.e. determining any petitions or appeals.

Secondly, it also exercises the right of review by:

- periodic calling of Session, Board and Congregational minute books, and their Rolls and Registers for checking;
- checking the Terms of Settlement (ACRs), and checking Grant Application requests to see that the ministerial workers continue to be paid properly;
- five-yearly visitation to see how things are and to strengthen the hand of the ministers, elders and members and to advise if anything appear to be unsatisfactory or not in accord with church law and good order.

Some presbyteries have let five-yearly visitations lapse. Others give but a cursory flick through Session and Board minute books. I know that finding time for a proper review of records can be annoying, but the PCV insists on such practices even if we sometimes find them annoying or burdensome. They are essential.

If we don't insist on engaging in our duties of review properly, diligently, transparently, how else would we discover, for example:

- a Board is meeting without reaching a quorum and making binding financial decisions without legal security?
- a congregation's finances are declining and trending towards not being able to provide the MinMR by next year, when now is the time to consider?
- a Session is spending time on business that could rightly be handled by the Board?
- a congregation appears to be in an unsatisfactory state – could that be addressed now?

Using the powers of review is a blessing for the church, helps congregations avoid error or heresy and is an encouragement for the pastors.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE (Min 81)

The Clerkship Committee has only needed to meet once since the last Assembly, and as most committee members live in outlying areas, the meeting was conducted via Zoom. All other business has been conducted effectively following the prescribed email protocols laid down by the Assembly.

Committee Membership

The new membership structure implemented by the Assembly three years ago is serving the committee well with the less frequent changes in membership, providing greater continuity from year to year, thereby enhancing the committee's ability to provide effective support for the Clerk. Going forward, there will be two changes to the committee's membership. Under the new regulations, the convener serves for three years, with the current term expiring this year. The convener has thoroughly enjoyed his three years as convener but owing to commitments in other areas, he is not nominating for a further three-year term. Owing to his impending retirement as Maroondah Presbytery Clerk, the committee is also losing the services of Elder Doug Fraser, who has served the PCV so faithfully for so many years. The members of the committee take this opportunity to thank Doug for his contributions to the work of the committee and to wish him every blessing from the Lord in the years ahead.

Acting Deputy Clerk Appointment

With the nomination of the Deputy Clerk, Rev Peter Phillips, to serve a further term as Moderator of the General Assembly, the committee has reappointed Rev Dean Carroll to serve as Acting Deputy Clerk until Peter is in a position to resume his former role.

The Clerk's Report

Once again, the Clerk has reported in great depth on his duties and activities over the last 12 months, and this committee gives thanks to God for the dedication, godly wisdom and indefatigable energy he brings to his many tasks. John is involved in a wide range of extra activities and positions, both within the wider Presbyterian Church of Australia and internationally. John's involvement in such areas greatly enhances his ability to represent the public face of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and promote the work of the gospel both here and abroad.

A major part of this committee's role is to provide pastoral oversight and support for the Clerk. The committee members note with some concern the increasing number and complexity of tasks that are being added, bit by bit, to the Clerk's job description. Of particular concern is the heavy burden we have placed on the Clerk by deeming him to be the Head of Entity for the PCV for the purposes of the Reportable Conduct Scheme in Victoria. Another of the tasks assigned to the Clerk that could well benefit from re-examination is his appointment as the PCV's second representative (the 1st being the Moderator) to the Victorian Heads of Churches meetings. Neither the Clerk nor the members of this committee see much value in him being tasked with attending these meetings.

The committee is conscious of the challenges arising out of the recent fire at the South Yarra Presbyterian Church, which has presented the Clerk with the extra task of locating new premises for the housing of the PCV archives.

The Clerk's Support Team

It is once again incumbent on this committee to acknowledge the roles played by the Office assistant, Siew Teng Yap, the Deputy Clerk, Peter Phillips, and the Assistant to the Clerks, Dean Carroll, who is currently serving as Acting Deputy Clerk while Peter serves as Moderator of the General Assembly. These three provide invaluable support for John, and the committee is thankful to God for them and for the dedication and commitment they bring to their various roles.

Mission to Malawi and Zambia

At the time of reporting, the Clerk has indicated to the committee that he intends to spend the fortnight Tuesday 23 August–Wednesday 7 September visiting the brethren in Malawi and Zambia. The itinerary for the two weeks includes: time with Rev Colin M'Bawa; opening a new school building at Orbus; the dedication of the new ministry centre at St Peters; inspecting projects funded through PresAID; preaching at the CCAP Zambia Synod; visiting village CCAP churches in Zambia; and preaching at various locations during the fortnight.

The committee notes that due to the ongoing complications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, John has been unable to fulfil his original commitment to spend a month in Malawi and Zambia and has had to split his visit into two two-week blocks, the second of which is still to be undertaken.

World Reformed Fellowship Leave

The committee has given approval for John to have leave of absence from on-site duty 20 October–3 November to enable him to fulfil his duties as a member of the Board of the World Reformed Fellowship, which meets in Orlando, Florida 27–30 October 2022.

Robert White
CONVENER

CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Min 123)

The committee met as required throughout the year and deliberated on a number of proposals and suggestions put to it by members of the church, committees and presbyteries.

The increased level of interaction this year is indicated by the thirteen overtures being presented at this year's General Assembly plus re-writings of regs of two of our major working committees. It is not our desire to have so many rule and reg changes proposed – most of these ideas have emerged by request and from outside the committee.

The committee carries a vacancy and would like to hear from anyone with a flair to serve the church in this way – someone with a keen mind, an eye for detail and discernment for the well-being of the whole church.

1. Remit 1: Royal Commission response for psychological testing and assessment of candidates (rule 4.31.2)

This emerged as part of our response to the report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and especially the specific recommendations relative to churches. The Royal Commission recommended the psychological testing and assessment of all candidates for church ministry.

Although the remit was returned with only 8/11 presbyteries in favour, the committee considers that the rule change must be made. Clause 1 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

2. Remit 2: Presbytery (only) appoints church planters to church plants (rule 4.74.1)

This is a catch-up correction to the rules. We had previously altered other rules such that the appointment process of church planters could only be made by the presbytery of the bounds, while expecting the Church Planting Committee to focus on qualifications of and training for the position of Church Planter.

This rule, by its current wording, remains out of step with our procedure for appointing church planters. The remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 2 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

3. Remit 3: Who cares for congregational assets of a dwindling congregation? (rule 2.7.1)

This proposed change emerged because there was no provision in the rules for the proper management of a dissolving congregation's assets during the transition period between when worship services cease and the final dissolution of the congregation.

This remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 3 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

4. Remit 4: Procedure moving toward the dissolution of a congregation (rule 4.69)

The committee was aware three years ago that while there was a rule allowing for presbyteries to effect a union, adjustment or dissolution of a congregation (rule 4.68), there was no clear pathway to guide presbyteries through any of those processes.

The 2020 General Assembly established a pathway for the first of these processes (a union of congregations) by enacting rule 4.68A. Last year the General Assembly sent down to presbyteries via the Barrier Act a way of navigating the third of these processes (dissolution of a congregation) by proposing the new rule 4.69. Although it's a long rule, it was written in such a way to assist presbyteries follow a process and to guide them in decision-making.

The committee is pleased to report that this remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour. The committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 4 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

5. Remit 5: Safe Church requirements for Board Members (rule 3.38)

The Safe Church Committee alerted the Assembly to the lack of any specific requirement in the rules of the church for board members to hold a current WWCC or to have completed the PCV Safe Church requirements. That committee asked the Assembly to attend to this as soon as possible.

This remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 5 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

6. Remit 6: the role of Church Architect (rules 2.20, 21)

The Building and Property Committee asked for greater clarity to be given to the meaning of 'substantially' in rule 2.20 and the consequential role of the church Architect.

This remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 6 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

7. Long-Service Leave regulation change (reg 10)

This request came from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (MMC) regarding the need for extra words to be added to reg. 10 of the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave regulations.

The need is for greater clarity surrounding the accruing of leave for people moving within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria from one field of service to another.

While the Code Committee believes this is an appropriate change and supports it, questions should be directed to the convener of MMC. Clause 7 of the proposed deliverance advances the regulation change.

8. Building and Property Regulation change to include Minimum Manse Standards (reg 5)

This request came from the Building and Property Committee (B&PC) pointing out that there was no specific provision in their regulations for the supervision of Minimum Manse Standards.

The proposed regulation change would enable the B&PC to administer the General Assembly's Minimum Manse Standards and to submit from time to time any alterations necessary to keep the standards in line with best practice.

While the Code Committee believes this is an appropriate change and supports it, questions should be directed to the convener of B&PC. Clause 8 of the proposed deliverance advances the regulation change.

9. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Regulations – re-written to accommodate recent Assembly changes to grants etc.

Taking the opportunity created by recent General Assembly changes to its regulations regarding grants, the MMC has drafted a clearer and more precise re-write of the whole set.

While the Code Committee believes this is an appropriate change and supports it, questions should be directed to the convener of MMC. Clause 9 of the proposed deliverance advances the regulation change.

10. Ministry Development Committee Regulations – re-written to accommodate recent Assembly changes to grants etc.

Taking the opportunity created by recent General Assembly changes to its regulations regarding grants, the Ministry Development Committee (MDC) has drafted a clearer and more precise re-write of the whole set.

While the Code Committee believes this is an appropriate change and supports it, questions should be directed to the convener of MDC. Clause 10 of the proposed deliverance advances the regulation change.

11. Request from the ad hoc Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee

The request came to the Code Committee to bring to the General Assembly the need for a committee to advise and assist anyone who may in the future be caught up in a legal challenge in relation to the new Victorian law of the same name.

The proposal is to establish a committee called the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee and enact its regulations.

While the Code Committee believes this is an appropriate change and supports it, questions should be directed to the convener of the ad hoc committee ('Change or Suppression ...'). Clause 11 of the proposed deliverance advances this proposal.

12. Selection Committee

It is given to the Code and General Administration Committee (CGAC) the task of presenting to the General Assembly nominations for the Selection Committee. Clause 12 of the proposed deliverance advances these names.

The Selection Committee also raised two issues with their regulations for which they are seeking remedies. The first relates to the maximum number of people that can serve on one committee. Currently reg 3(f) refers to 'a single congregation', but the Selection Committee believes that this should refer to 'a single charge'. Clause 13 of the proposed deliverance advances this change.

The second issue relates to late nominations for committee membership by committees, an issue that causes significant difficulty to the Selection Committee having to engage in the normal process for approval in such a short timeframe. The proposed solution is to add a new reg 3(b) and make a consequent change to the new 3(c). Clause 14 of the proposed deliverance advances this change.

While the Code Committee believes these are appropriate changes and support them, questions should be directed to the convener of the Selection Committee.

The Convener of the Selection Committee is taking long service leave after the Assembly therefore the committee requires an interim convener. Clause 15 of the proposed deliverance advances this name.

13. State News Committee

The State News Committee requested a change to its reg 3 relating to the frequency of publishing its printed material.

While the Code Committee believes this is an appropriate change and supports it, questions should be directed to the convener of State News Committee. Clause 16 of the proposed deliverance advances this change.

14. 2022 GAV Overtures

Eleven of the overtures are in the name of the CGAC and so the merits of the proposed changes will be presented by the committee at the time they are brought forward to the Assembly.

However, Overture 1 and Overture 2 are not in the name of the committee, and so, acting under reg 4(f) we report on any bearing we believe they may have on the Code.

a) Overture 1, Presbytery Maroondah, two branches of deacons

While it's appropriate for the presbytery to state its case and persuade the Assembly, the Code Committee does not support the stated outcome (dividing Deacons into two branches). It might be argued that it's better to allow the overture to be sustained and pass the whole matter to the Code Committee anyway for consideration and report, but the committee thought it best to report now on how it sees the proposed change and its bearing on the whole Code.

Consider:

- i) The proposed change which would involve making alterations in over 100 places in the Code where 'board' or 'board of management' is mentioned. There are over 70 references to it in ch 2 alone. Simply accounting for the number of alterations being asked for, is it worth such an upheaval to the Code, not to mention the many references to 'boards' in committee regs, flow diagrams, application forms, ACRs or MMRs etc?

ii) Some major changes are worth it, of course, if that's the only way to achieve the intended outcome. But what if the main reason for the proposed change can be achieved in a much quieter and ready-made manner, then does not the need for this overture fall away? Is not the remedy for a perceived lack of spirituality in board members (recital (b)) is already in Session's hands? For every newly elected board member, Session has to assess him/her as 'suitable to hold office' (rule 3.38(b)). The code committee doesn't see that anything else is needed other than what Session currently possesses to correct this problem where it might exist.

iii) If, however, the main reason for the raft of rule changes is recital (c), then the committee suggests that the remedy for conflict and misunderstanding between Session and Board is not rule change, but rather clearer, better and more consistent communication and pastoral bridge-building.

iv) Throughout the code, even under our present system, there is sometimes deliberate and natural overlap between Session's duty of oversight for people and that of the Deacon's and even occasionally that of the Board's. i.e. it's not clear cut to say that presently the Deacons' role is essentially 'Deacons for people' and the Board's as 'Deacons for Property'.

b) Overture 2, MDC, congregational mission

Overall, the committee sees these proposals as having a strategic and helpful impact on the Code generally in that it may assist the church to have a clearer focus on what is of most importance. The committee has no concerns with the proposed additions to rules 3.41 and 4.64.

However, with regard to the proposed change to rule 2.1.1, the committee believes more consultation and preparation is required when proposing an alteration to something as foundational as the definition of a congregation. This is not merely an improvement to a functional or process rule of the church (such as 3.41 and 4.64) but it's a suggested improvement as to how the church defines itself. A definition has a consequential effect on the whole of the Code.

Members of the Code Committee believe that they may have a better suggestion for the wording of 2.1.1, but at this stage the committee didn't want to get in the way of the MDC presenting its suggestion and arguing for it.

15. Christian Education and Nurture Committee – Proposed new regulations

The CENC was directed by the 2021 Commission of Assembly to bring a long-term plan to the 2021 General Assembly in relation to the YMD. It was unable to do so at the time but has recently advanced proposed new regulations to the Code Committee. An extra meeting was scheduled to address the proposed new regulations and give feedback on the new job description in order to not hinder CENC's proposed timeline for employing a new Youth and Children's Worker by July 2023.

Questions about these proposed changes should be directed to the convener of CENC. Clause 17 of the proposed deliverance advances the new regulations. The proposed new job description will appear in a supplementary report from CENC.

The committee will move clause 10 of its deliverance in an altered form from that published in the White Book, to remove the words 'formerly known as the Home

Mission and Church Extension Committee' from regulation 1 of the proposed Maintenance of the Ministry Committee regulations. Everything else in clause 10 remains as published in the White Book.

John P Wilson
CONVENER

COMMISSION FOR CHURCH INSTITUTIONS (Min 82)

The Commission meets from time to time as required. A degree of flexibility is needed as it must meet in response to notification of vacancies and, in accord with some constitutions, make a replacement appointment within 30 days.

The need for careful management and oversight of the PCV's 57 annual appointments was made even more obvious this year as we have seen new appointments at three of our four schools, namely:

Belgrave Heights Christian School – Mr Peter Cliffe (from Wyndham Christian College);
St Andrews Christian College – Mr Nick Haines (from within the school);
Scotch College – Dr Scott H Marsh (from William Clarke College, Sydney).

Please feel free to engage with the Commission and ask questions should you want to know about its processes and appointments made on behalf of the PCV. Please pray for the Commission, as if it makes poor choices for appointments, then the council of a school is weakened, and then that council is less likely to be able to make the best appointment of a new Principal.

At the time of writing, the following appointments have been made for the 2022–2023 council years:

Belgrave Heights Christian School Council

i) General Assembly – Presbyterian nominees (7):

Mr Ian Birchall
Mr Ian Byles
Mr Andrew Edmonds
Mr Tom Hoerner
Mr Chris White (*chair*)
vacancy
vacancy

ii) BHCS Association (Parents Association) nominees (4):

Mrs Sandra Aggromito
Mrs Yolanda Cox
Mrs Amanda Wight
vacancy

Presbyterian Ladies College Council

Group A appoint:

Mr Daniel J Gregor
Mrs Fiona J Hare
Rev Benjamin P Johnson
Mrs Elizabeth McGregor
Dr Peter Y K Yong

Group B appoint:

Ms Debra Barbour
Ms Mui-Chun Chew
Mrs Sze Lin Foong
Mrs Christine Hopper
Dr Andrew McDonald

Group C approve & appoint:

Mr Wing Chang
Rev Mark Chew (*chair*)
Mrs Priscilla Mellado
Mrs Kate Sampson
Ms Andrea Sim
Mr Ben de Waard
vacancy

St Andrews Christian College Board

i) Nominator, the Presbytery of the bounds:

Mr James Bligh, term concludes 2023 (*chair*)

Mrs Susan Dunn, term concludes 2024

Dr Rachel Bird, term concludes 2024

Rev Brian Harvey, term concludes 2025

ii) Nominator, retiring members of the Board:

Mrs Sharon Rowland, term concludes 2023

Mr Jonathan Green, term concludes 2023

Mr Peter Lewis, term concludes 2024

Rev Dean A Carroll, term concludes 2025

iii) Nominator, the Company in General Meeting (Parent Group):

Mr Thomas Chong, term concludes 2023

Mr Alan MacGavin, term concludes 2024

vacancy, term concludes 2025

vacancy, term concludes 2025

Scotch College Council

Group A appoint:

Mr David P Graham

Mr W Duncan McGregor

Rev Graham J Nicholson

Mr John Walter

Rev Dr John P Wilson

Group B appoint:

Mr Jonathan P Buckley

Mr Peter M Findlay

Mr Robert W Phillpot

Mr Alex T Sloan (*chair*)

Mr Andrew A G Wilson

Group C approve & appoint:

Mr James C Douglas

Mr Richard J Loveridge

Dr Louise M Murdoch

Mrs Fiona M Pearse

Mr Michael K Sim

Ms Debra J Stirling

Mr Hamish R Tadgell

The Commission notes the long-standing service given to the church by Rev Ivan Barker, a member of this Commission since 1997. The church is grateful for his careful vigilance over every decision to appoint the right men and women to our school councils.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min 79)

The Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee (DFCC) stands to support the work of Defence Force Chaplaincy. The committee comprises the following people: Rev Philip Mercer, Mr Chris Perry, Mr James Kapelles, and all Defence Force Chaplains serving in Victoria. Both Chris Perry and James Kapelles are new to the committee and are defence members themselves, Chris as an Army Reservist and James as a full-time Flying Officer.

The committee wishes to thank Rev Phil Mercer, whose time on the committee has come to an end. His service to Defence Force Chaplains is appreciated.

Defence Force Chaplaincy has always been about taking Christ into the Defence workplace—a workplace that is often closed to most. Chaplaincy offers a listening ear, counsel soaked in prayer, and availability when situations arise that need the support of a chaplain. Two areas that have brought defence into the media recently are veteran suicide and the Afghanistan Inquiry Report conducted by the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force, Judge Brereton. The Assembly should note that several Presbyterian Chaplains are in significant Chaplaincy roles to provide support in these areas.

Chaplains are religious practitioners serving in an unusual workplace. To support the multifaith nature of the ADF, the Religious Advisory Committee (RACS) have produced the 2021 edition of *ADF@Worship—Services and Ceremonies for the ADF* and *Faith and Belief—A guide to Religious Practice in the ADF*. Both books contain all faith and religious practices that are found in the ADF, including Christian.

Chaplaincy in the ADF is not dissimilar from chaplaincy in other fields. The pressure for purely ‘Spiritual Wellbeing’ support is growing. The pressures are real and felt by many. The answer, this Committee believes, is to ensure Christian Chaplains can engage with Defence members of all ranks and from all different backgrounds and bring the presence of Christ into the ADF. The ADF needs Christian chaplains. The ADF needs Presbyterian chaplains because the work of Presbyterians in the military is very well received.

The committee encourages Assembly members to pray for their Defence chaplains that they may continue to be strong ambassadors for Christ in the context of our Defence Force.

Chaplains currently members of this Assembly are:

Navy

Chaplain Barry Porter	RAN	HMAS Cerberus
Chaplain Paul Lee	RAN	HMAS Cerberus
Chaplain Miles Fagan	RAN	HMAS Cerberus

Army

Chaplain Kyung Ee	ASLO	South Bandiana
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RAAF

Chaplain Nathan Runham	RAAF	RAAF Base Sale
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Chaplain Peter Owen

CHAP Peter Owen (RAAF, 21 SQN RAAF Williams) was called home to be with the Lord on the 25 July 2022. Peter served the Lord as the faithful pastor, but also contributed significantly to chaplaincy capability, both in the Royal Australian Air Force and Victoria Police. WGCDR Caroline Godfrey, Peter's Commanding Officer from 21 Squadron stated at his funeral service:

Chaplain Owen served in the Royal Australian Air Force for a total of 13 years and two months. During this time, he provided loyal and dedicated service, and gained the respect of those with whom he worked. Peter's support to me as the Commanding Officer was always open, honest, albeit ridiculously polite and ever welcomed.

His legacy will be remembered.

Miles Fagan
CONVENER

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min 54)

The committee's responsibilities are twofold:

- to arrange for spiritual welfare through various forms of chaplaincy, and
- to support the pastoral care of ministers and their families.

Paediatric chaplains

The trust dedicated to the provision of paediatric chaplaincy—the Harold Hughes Trust—is once more in a stable financial position. This provides the committee with a degree of certainty in continuing the employment of its two chaplains working at the Royal Children's Hospital, each for two days a week. They are Mrs Gita Dickinson and Mrs Suzanne Oakes. Both are highly regarded by the hospital's Spiritual Care manager and staff.

During the last financial year, they recorded 776 patient contacts. The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous stress on hospital staff, including our paediatric chaplains. The committee is grateful for their outstanding efforts in difficult circumstances.

Volunteer visiting hospital chaplains

During the last financial year, seven committee-authorised Presbyterian chaplains provided voluntary pastoral care in seven public hospitals and one private hospital. In several instances, chaplains' face-to-face access to patients was not possible due to COVID-19 protocols. Nevertheless, they managed to collectively make 227 patient contacts during that time.

Rev Andrew Bray has now retired from chaplaincy to the McKellar Centre in Geelong after nearly 22 years of faithful service. On the other hand, the committee has authorised Mrs Louise Campbell as a visiting chaplain to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

As noted in last year's report, volunteer visiting hospital chaplaincy remains a largely untapped yet fertile field of ministry. A full list of Victoria's public hospitals can be found at this link:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/public-hospitals-victoria>

The committee encourages sessions to take stock of the public hospitals within their parish bounds. Which of them do not yet have a Presbyterian visiting chaplain? Are there people within their congregation(s) that would be suitable and willing to engage in this sort of mercy ministry? If so, they may contact the Chaplaincy Support Worker, Mr Ashley Manly, to get the ball rolling (chaplaincy@pcv.org.au or 0432 537 359).

Prison chaplains

Despite being prevented by prison COVID-19 protocols from face-to-face visits for much of the last year, the two prison chaplains managed to maintain contact with several ex-prisoners and continued to make up kits for prisoners to make teddy bears, delivering them to prison gates. At the time of writing, face-to-face visiting has resumed.

Police chaplains

There are currently five PCV volunteer police chaplains. Rev Peter Owen retired from police chaplaincy last October, concluding 24 years of active service, which also

included a term as the committee's convener. Sadly, Peter died in July this year, following some months of serious illness.

Tertiary chaplains

The committee's regulations charge it with supporting and contributing to the funding of tertiary chaplains who are communicants or adherents of the PCV. In the last financial year, the committee contributed \$20,000 to the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students for this purpose, financially supporting 20 AFES workers active on nine Victorian university campuses.

Good Friday appeal

As of 30 June, this year's Assembly-sanctioned Good Friday Appeal had generated \$22,134 from PCV congregations, boards of management, and individuals. This is a pleasing result, for which the committee thanks God and all donors.

Ministry family camp

After a pandemic-driven hiatus of three years, the committee is now considering the future of ministry family camps. At the time of writing, there is no decision yet on if, when, or in what format(s) future camps might be feasible and affordable.

Ministry family assistance

The committee's Ministry Family Assistance Program continues to provide up to four free and strictly confidential Christian counselling sessions per family per year. The committee encourages ministers, their wives and dependent children to make use of this service provided for their spiritual and psychological wellbeing.

Ministry Wives' Chaplain

In March this year, the committee was delighted to appoint Mrs Kellie Davis to the position of PCV Ministry Wives' Chaplain. She is employed on a three-year contract, working three days a week. The Ministry Wives' Chaplain position supersedes the previous Pastoral Support Worker – Ministry Wives position occupied initially by Mrs Elspeth Slater and, for the last four years, by Mrs Robyn Johnson.

Kellie's appointment is, literally, a generational change. She has made an enthusiastic and promising start, and the committee is confident that she will blossom in this unique ministry to the wives of our front-line pastors.

Chaplaincy support

The committee continues to employ Mr Ashley Manly as its Chaplaincy Support Worker on a two-days-a-week basis. He is the committee's first point of contact for chaplaincy and ministry support inquiries and requests. Secretarial duties are also part of his role. Ashley is also now employed part-time by the Safe Church Committee. This is a welcome and convenient arrangement, with both committees' offices located in Heathmont House. The committee thanks Ashley for his good work throughout the year.

Committee membership

In April, the committee welcomed Dr John Neil to its ranks, filling its last remaining vacancy. The committee meets bi-monthly. Its current practice is to meet via Zoom five times a year, with its December meeting being face-to-face at Heathmont House.

Three members of the committee will retire at the dissolution of the October 2022 General Assembly. They are Revs Phillip Chang, Grant Vayne, and Philip Court. The Selection Committee has recommended Mrs Christine Le Page to fill one of these vacancies, a recommendation wholeheartedly endorsed by the committee. She has a wealth of experience and wisdom from her previous work as a paediatric chaplain at Northern Health. If Assembly members know of suitable candidates for the other two vacancies, they may let the incoming convener know.

The Selection Committee has also taken up the committee's suggestion that the Assembly appoint Rev Daniel Dixon as its next convener. In anticipation of that, the committee has agreed to a 'division of labour', which will significantly reduce the burden on an incoming convener who is also engaged in full-time pastoral ministry.

Philip Court
CONVENER

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min 56)

The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (MMC) exists to ensure that ministers receive their entitlements and to provide recommendations to the Assembly concerning many figures and rates relating to that objective.

1. Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MMR)

The committee is tasked via regulations 3a and 3c to bring recommendations each year to the Assembly, or the Commission, concerning the appropriate Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MMR). The committee recommended to the last Assembly a new methodology in calculating the MMR, moving to a policy-based, principled link to the average wage, to provide transparency and give a clear rationale for how and why the MMR is set. This link to the average wage ensures ministers are likewise impacted together with their congregation members when wages rise and fall.

Agreeing with the committee recommendations, the Assembly adopted the system that is linked to the external ABS data, so it would have a system where the rates and values for all positions and honoraria will become formulaic calculations based on figures that are timely and reflect the wages of those in Victoria. This new methodology brought new rates of MMR to the Commission of Assembly and those new rates applied as from 1st of July this year.

2. Sustentation

The MMC has been in negotiations with the Ministry Development Committee (MDC) over the past two years to investigate the benefits of a 'one-stop-shop' for committee grants. This would make the grant application process easier for congregations, while the MDC would not be left wondering if a Sustentation Grant will be forthcoming from the MMC, and the MMC would not be left wondering if a Ministry Development Grant will be forthcoming from the MDC for congregations which have applied to both committees.

These negotiations have concluded, resulting in the MDC taking on responsibility for Sustentation Grants from 1 July 2022. The MMC has transferred \$850,000 of committee funds to the MDC from 1 July 2022, for the purpose of administering Sustentation Grants, until such time as the Assembly defines another purpose.

3. Annual Charge Reports

In 2019, the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee brought an overture to the Assembly in a bid to provide a simplified reporting process for charges in terms of the completion of the Annual Charge Report (ACR) (BB 2019 min 80 pp. 179–180). The Code and General Administration Committee will bring recommendations to this or a future Assembly to facilitate this.

4. Long Service Leave

The committee moved to a new Long Service Leave (LSL) system as of 1 January 2021. There is great confusion, with many presbyteries continuing to approve LSL, a task which is now the function of the 'responsible body.' In the vast majority of cases, the 'responsible body' will be the Session.

Long Service Leave Approved

The MMC is required to report LSL taken annually (regulation 3h). Since the last Assembly, the following have taken Long Service Leave, and LSL Fund payments have been made for the respective persons to their charges:

- Rev Gerald Vanderwert (Donvale)
- Rev Richard Wilson (Church Planting Committee)
- Rev Ian Leach (Koroit-Port Fairy-Woodford)
- Rev Stephen Deroon (Moe-Yarram)
- Rev Philip Mercer (Trinity Camberwell)
- Rev Nello Barbieri (Epping)
- Rev Mark Crabb (Daylesford)
- Rev Toby McIntosh (Ebenezer Ballarat)
- Rev Mark Tonkin (Belgrave Heights)

Accrued LSL

One of the more significant challenges for the MMC has been the significant building up of LSL by ministers. Significant means beyond 26 weeks (half a year or double the 13-week threshold for prior approval). The committee has repeatedly informed presbyteries of this issue, as it longs to see ministers serve without burnout. The committee also notes how this is a big challenge for congregations. By not using LSL progressively, the final charge faces hardship. When a minister retires, all LSL must be used before retirement. While the minister is on LSL, the charge is not vacant. This means the congregation must wait at times more than half a year before being able to begin entertaining a call for a new minister. This unnecessary delay for congregations can be avoided if ministers ensure their entitlements do not exceed 13 weeks (regulation 10).

To this end, the committee encourages ministers in their sixth year to begin planning when and how they might build in a system of periodic LSL to ensure they do not hinder the work and witness of their final congregations.

Permission granted

It is now necessary to receive approval from the 'responsible body' and the MMC (regulation 10) in order to have a LSL entitlement accrue beyond 13 weeks. Since the current regulations came into effect (1 January 2021), the MMC has given such approval, in this year, to the following persons for a 12-month period:

- Rev Aaron Boyd (Darebin Charge)
- Rev Adam Humphries (Darebin Charge)
- Rev Heath Easton (Drouin Charge)
- Rev John Huynh (Surrey Hills Charge)

MMC reminds those members whose leave entitlement is approaching 13 weeks and who wish to defer for 12 months that formal approval to do so must be sought and obtained from the 'responsible body' and the MMC.

Long Service Leave Levy (LSLL)

The LSLL is now determined by the annual MMR. The LSLL is linked to MMR so that, as the liability increases, so does the Levy. At present, the LSLL is set at 0.7% of MMR, with the MMC continuing to monitor the appropriateness of the current LSLL rate and, if necessary, bringing any needed changes to a future Assembly to ensure it is able to meet all its obligations.

5. Part-Time Ministry

Since the last assembly, four (4) presbyteries have approved, and have received MMC approval for four (4) charges to commence part-time ministry. Three (3) of these were for 12 months, and one (1) for six months. The MMC is aware of other charges in other presbyteries, who are operating on a part-time ministry basis and the MMC has not been advised, as per rule 4.71 of our PCV Code.

The MMC reminds ALL presbyteries and charges that a part-time ministry **MUST** be approved by the presbytery and then approved by the MMC before such a ministry begins.

6. Publishing Figures

As the MMR rates and figures are now based on external figures and then calculated, anyone is able to look up these rates from the ABS, ATO, or other external agency to determine the figures themselves. As the necessary figures are all available by 28 February annually, the MMC will publish the new figures on the PCV website by the end of March each year. The committee recommends that all charges become accustomed to accessing the official rates from the PCV website.

7. Conclusion

The convener wishes to convey his grateful thanks to the members of the committee over the past 12 months for what we have achieved. It is with great sadness that we say farewell to the Rev Mark Crabb, who has served this committee for ten years. The convener of the last seven years, Elder Dennis Wright, also leaves the committee after ten years of service.

As always, the committee welcomes queries and questions on the report before the Assembly.

Long Service Leave Levy (LSLL)

The Urgent Assembly held in September determined to transfer \$500,000 from the Long Service Leave Fund to the Sinking Fund (min 8.7(c)). The LSLL must be set 'at a level sufficient to ensure that the Fund retains sufficient monies to meet all its commitments' (reg 20). As the balance of the fund has decreased, it is necessary to increase the LSLL to offset the loss of interest.

Currently the LSL Fund receives 7% interest, therefore the LSLL must increase by \$35,000—the interest that would have been earned. There are nominally 100 persons covered under the scheme, therefore an increase of at least \$350 per person is required. As the transfer has occurred partway through the financial year, the loss of interest does not start on 1 July 2023 but from the rising of the Urgent Assembly (8 September 2022). As such, the committee proposes that from 1 July 2023 the LSLL increase from the present 0.7% of MMR to 1.4% of MMR. Based on the current MMR, this would result in a LSLL of \$820. This is a 100% increase, and the PCV has been blessed by the Fund holding much more than its liability. While increasing costs is not something to be enjoyed, the committee notes that the 2022 LSLL rate in PCNSW is \$1,012 and in PCQ it is between \$1,228 and \$1,374 depending on geographic context (the PCQ has different minimum remunerations and levies based on geographic context: urban, provincial, rural, remote).

New Terms of Settlement Report (TSR) Form

The committee has finalised and approved the new Terms of Settlement Report (TSR) form to be used when reporting to presbytery and other interested parties.

Advance Notice (Travel Rate)

The Assembly in 2021 determined in min 65.7 to set the travel rate in the following way:

The Travel Rate in any financial year shall be equal to 75% of the Australian Tax Office's 'cents per kilometre method' rate for the previous tax year, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded to the nearest cent.

The Australian Tax Office has published the 'cents per kilometre method' rate for 2022–2023 (<https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Income-and-deductions-for-business/Deductions/Deductions-for-motor-vehicle-expenses/Cents-per-kilometre-method>). The ATO rate has increased from 0.72 to 0.78.

The committee, based on the new ATO rate, is now able to advise that from 1 July 2023, the PCV Travel Rate will be \$0.59 per km. The committee encourages congregations to factor in this increase (9.3%) that will apply from 1 July 2023.

Dennis Wright
CONVENER

Presbyterian Church of Victoria

Terms of Settlement Report (TSR)

2022-23 Budget Financial Yr

Charge Name:	
Presbytery:	

A Terms of Settlement Report (TSR), containing not less than Assembly approved minimums, is completed at the end of each financial period for the next financial period (Budget Year)

The Terms of Settlement Report (TSR) consists of the main page named 'TSR_Main' (see tabs below) and one (1) visible page for the primary ministry worker (TSR1). By unhiding pages (right click a tab below and select 'unhide'), up to five (TSR2 ... TSR6) additional worker's TOSs can be recorded.

When the TSR is part of the MMR, the remuneration totals (audited and budget) for minister 1 post through to the MMR and similarly for combined totals for TSR2 ... TSR6

Timetable	Calendar Year	Financial Year
End of the Financial Year:	31-Dec	30-Jun
Congregational meeting to be held before this date:	30-Apr	31-Oct
Date TSR to be submitted to Presbytery by:	31-May	30-Nov
Reporting period AND last day for Presbyteries to approve this form:	30-Jun	31-Dec
Last date by which Maintenance of Ministry approves TSR:	31-Aug	28-Feb

Board of Management	Following is an Important question concerning the previous AUDITED YEAR of: 2021-22	
	Was the Annual Information Statement (AIS) submitted to the ACNC. Yes/No?: 	
	BOM Treasurer/Secretary Name: 	
	Address: 	
	Email: 	
	Number of attached pages (one for each ministerial worker) approved: 	
This TSR, Date approved by BOM: 		

Annual Cong. Meeting	Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM)	Meeting Date:	
	Audited financial Reports - Date signed off by Auditor:		
	Was an acceptable budget [2.4.1 c) iii)] approved Yes/No?		
	Were the Terms of Settlement [2.4.1 c) i) & ii)] approved Yes/No?		
	Did Cong. Authorise BOM to impliment timely GAV remuneration updates. Yes/No?		
	Moderator/Interim Moderator Name:		

Presbytery	Presbytery Date Received:	
	Presbytery Date Approved:	

MMC	Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Date Received:	
	Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Date Approved:	

Comments/Remarks for all sections above

Terms of Settlement Report (TSR)

TSR for Budget Year

2022-23

Presbytery:

Minister 1:

Charge Name:

Type:

Minister 1 (Primary Worker)

Name:

Is this a part-time ministry (Y/N)

Days per week as Percentage

ACTUAL from
Audited Fin Rpt

BUDGET
Prepared for

2021-22

2022-23

1) Remuneration \$

a) Stipend (cash component of minimum remuneration)

b) Non Cash Benefits component of minimum remuneration

c) Additional stipend

d) Additional Non Cash Benefits

Over 6,000 km pa Note

i) Travel exceeding 6000 km pa ATO log book requirement

ii) Manse energy: If 'ALL' include estimated \$ amount in BUDGET & Amount \$:

iii) Children's Education

iv) Allocation in lieu of Manse (see note '4) Manse' below) If rented use line vi)

v) Other →

Total Remuneration paid to Minister 1

vi) Rent included in church 'Rent' account & not in iv) above & paid by church to rent agency→

2) Stipend Allocated to Superannuation

3) Non cash benefits available by:

If a portion of stipend is sacrificed for extra superannuation, state amount:

Describe other payment method:

4a) Manse: Y/N

Answer 'Y' if Manse provided?

4b) Distance in km minister resides

Y/N

Answer 'Y' if Rented by church or Allowance paid

from main worship centre? →

If manse NOT owned by church, then show additional NCB as manse allocation in 1)d)iv) above OR rent in line 1)d)vi)

5) Telephone

6) Internet

7) Annual Leave

Days(25 Days)

Sundays paid supply(5)

8) Study Leave

Days(5)

Sundays paid supply(1)

9) Relocation costs for new minister (only if filling a vacancy)

If all, Enter ALL here:

& amount\$

Total Remuneration per annum payable to this Worker

At the beginning of

2022-23

Annual Leave Accrued from previous year(s):

Days***

LSL accrued but not yet taken*:

Days**

*** ...requires congregational (for the charge) and the presbytery approval;... Code 16.7.i)

* LSL accrued minus LSL taken, can be taken after 7 years of service

**This is not the official record.

§ Calendar year Budgets: These amounts are adjusted at 1 July and must be not less than the Assembly minimum rates.

Notes, re Line above

1) d) i) Travel exceeding 6000 km pa - Over 6,000Km, ATO requires log book record for all travel payments

1) d) ii) Manse energy. If answer is 'ALL', an estimate is included in budget column

1) d) iv) is for Manse Allocation paid to the ministerial worker for his home purchase/upkeep.

1) d) v) For 'Other' add an appropriate note

1) d) vi) is for Rent paid by Church usually to a rent agency for occupancy of the ministerial worker

6) Internet: 'Medium' speed NBN up to 100 GB d/load or 'High' for unlimited speed and GB'. Use 'High' if shared with church.

Use 'Bundled' where mobile(s) and internet are together

Only sign below when this TSR page has been printed for presentation to a Minister/Licentiate as required by Code 4.134-6

(Interim) Moderator/Session Clerk :

Presbytery:

Maintenance of Ministry Committee:

METRO COMMITTEE (Min 39)

The purpose of METRO is to glorify the one true God who has revealed Himself in His Son Jesus Christ by training others to make Him known, who then train others to do the same. The METRO Committee has continued to partner with churches of the PCV to raise up and train gospel workers for the Kingdom of God. YouthMETRO and EquipMETRO enable church members to undertake a one-year part-time traineeship, and METRO enable church members to undertake a two-year full-time traineeship.

In such financially challenging and difficult times, it is very easy for Christians and church leaders to 'play it safe' and not ask people to consider gospel ministry. However, Christian elders in Ukraine indicate that God's kingdom is exploding amongst the misery and suffering of the war. The PCV must continue to make the gospel the priority and continue to challenge people to take up their cross daily. The METRO committee is continuing to partner with churches to help its members by equipping and training for gospel ministry as volunteers or as a full-time vocation.

MTS pathways

The partnership with MTS (Ministry Training Strategy) has been of great benefit for the churches involved in METRO. MTS continues to provide great training and teaching resources that have been of great benefit to the trainees and their pastors who are their trainers. MTS also has enabled the METRO committee to offer a wider range of METRO traineeships to meet the specific needs and aims of our trainees.

METRO 2021 Graduates

In 2020–2021 there were three people who completed their METRO traineeships. This included Jordan and Michelle, who are both studying theology full-time this year, with Jordan becoming a candidate at PTC.

In 2022, the Committee has the following undertaking its traineeships:

METRO

Alex Sheely at Darebin PC
Jake Martin at Warrnambool PC
Leighton Rowe at Clifton Hill PC
Solomon Perecharla at Geelong West PC

EquipMETRO has five people from Reservoir PC

YouthMETRO has three people from two churches including:

Frankston PC
Surrey Hills PC

Administrative Assistant

The METRO committee cannot thank our administrative assistant Maddy O'Brien enough. Maddy has worked very hard to review and overhaul the Committee's policies and procedures as well as update the application forms and website: <https://metro.pcv.org.au/>. The Committee would also like to thank Fiona Bligh for helping the Committee remove any grey areas regarding who is responsible for all METRO trainees.

Safe Church

METRO would like to remind the Assembly that METRO traineeships are a partnership between the METRO Committee and local churches. METRO, on behalf of the PCV Assembly, facilitates the availability of the programme by providing the process of coming into the programme, the framework, and the training materials. The METRO committee is responsible for the safety of trainees under 18 years of age at Graduation, Orientation, YouthMETRO Summer Intensive, and MTS Challenge. Local church sessions are responsible for the trainer, the trainee, child safe practices of the trainee/trainer, their ministries, one-to-one meetings, and other activities within their church. The METRO committee cannot be responsible for the ministries that occur within the local church context, including one-to-one meetings.

Toby McIntosh
CONVENER

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Min 68)

1. Personnel

1.1 Committee

The members of the committee consist of Rev Stuart Withers (Convener), Rev Peter Greiner, Rev Darren Middleton, Rev Gary Stephens, Rev Gerald Vanderwert, and Elders Mr Iain Bramley and Mr Ralph Kop. Long-serving member Gerald Vanderwert is retiring from committee service under the nine-year rule at the end of this Assembly. The committee takes this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to him for his faithful service, especially for his labours in recent years as Exit Committee convener.

1.2 Ministry Development Officer

The committee is pleased to report that its Ministry Development Officer (MDO), Rev Chris Siriweera, continues to engage in the work of ministry development across the Church. The committee is pleased to report that the MDO has been able to recommence regular face-to-face interaction with people and congregations throughout the PCV since the easing of COVID-19 rules. The committee can also report that the MDO has established a pastoral supervisor relationship since its recommendation in 2021. Our prayerful hope is that, under God, congregations and sessions will make the best use of the MDO as a resource to assist them to think through the development of their ministries and mission endeavours. A detailed report by the MDO on his activities is provided in section 4 below.

1.3 MDC Administration Officer

The committee would like to acknowledge the valuable administrative work done by Mr Ben Palmer in supporting the MDO and the committee as a whole. His administrative work and accumulated denominational experience help to create smooth communications and a supportive interface between the committee and various stakeholders in the Church as they make contact with the committee.

1.4 Home Missionaries

The committee is mindful that it has a long and valued history with home missions and church extension across the PCV. Within the home mission programme, the committee is connected with several home missionaries who serve in Victoria. The table immediately below provides a summary of the home missionary appointments and charges. The committee is thankful for these men and the valuable gospel ministries they lead.

	Home Mission Charge	Home Missionary or Minister
1	Blackburn	Rev Graham Bradbeer
2	Castlemaine	Supply
3	Clarinda	Michael Lee
4	Clarinda Nuer (Sudanese)	Supply
5	Deaf	Rev Tony Salisbury
6	Footscray West	Rev Martin De Pyle
7	Kangaroo Ground	Supply
8	Kaniva / Nhill	Tobias Crabb
9	Leongatha	Supply
10	Pyramid Hill	Imminent Closure

	Home Mission Charge	Home Missionary or Minister
11	Sale	No Services
12	Seymour / Nagambie / Yea	Supply
13	Sunraysia	Colin Morrow
14	Templestowe	Adrian Kebbe
15	Warburton	Supply

2. Committee Projects

2.1 Governance of Sustentation

The transition phase of sustentation being transferred from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (MMC) to the committee has been untroubled. GAV members should note the proposed Sustentation regulations being presented in the Code and General Administration Committee (the 'Code Committee') report for adoption in revised and renewed Ministry Development Committee regulations. If the Assembly accepts the proposed regulation changes, it will effectively make the committee a 'one-stop-shop' for charges seeking financial assistance. The committee trusts that the 'one-stop-shop' will not only simplify administration but also lead to better coordination and stewardship of our denomination's financial resources. Additionally, the committee looks forward to consulting with the Board of Investment and Finance to bring a recommendation to the Commission of Assembly in May 2023 for the allocation of the funds returned from the MMC. We envisage that the funds will first meet the foreseeable need for sustentation and then any other appropriate needs within the Church (See min 8.12, 2022 Commission of Assembly).

2.2 Committee Regulations

In seeking to bring greater clarity to the committee's work, the regulations have been reviewed. The timing of this aligned with both the re-appointment of the MDO under a revised job description in 2021 and also the anticipated inclusion of regulations for the governance of sustentation. The proposed regulations are found in the Code Committee's report. We believe these regulations will help the committee remain focused on the task of engaging people within the PCV in the development of biblically healthy gospel ministries so that local Presbyterian congregations experience spiritual health and growth and are better equipped to fulfil the great commission.

2.3 Collection of Statistics

The committee again extends its thanks to all congregations for submitting data in the 2021 statistical return. The committee is focused on the collection of data that best serves reflection on the ongoing development of gospel ministry and mission in the PCV. During the year, the committee was approached to include some new questions in the annual return. We appreciate that from time to time, some sections of the PCV would like access to some fields of data that are not currently surveyed. However, we are committed to keeping the statistical return small and focused on core fields of data. Of particular interest to the committee is using the data to help us all think about the development of ministry and mission throughout the PCV.

To this end, the committee is recommending to the Assembly that the question on financial debt be excluded from future returns. While this question reveals something, the committee is not convinced the information is critical. In addition, the committee proposes, in the deliverance, two questions that will ask congregations to report the number of new elders and deacons set apart for their work.

The committee expresses its thanks to the Rev Cameron Garrett for the further development of the Administration and Reporting Made Simple database (ARMS) that enables congregations to complete the standard statistical questions online. In this current reporting period, 134 of a possible 134 congregations submitted their data. The ARMS database provides the ability to crosscheck and correct data. An unusually high number of elders reported, in one instance, flagged questions for clarification. The committee notes that under the sunset arrangement, hardcopy returns will no longer be offered from January 2023. The committee also thanks Elder Ralph Kop for his lead effort in preparing the statistical report that is presented in section 5 below.

2.4 The Home Mission Programme

The committee's Home Mission Programme, at a principal level, focuses on partnering with people within the PCV in the development of biblical gospel ministry and mission so that, under God, local Presbyterian congregations experience spiritual health and are better equipped to fulfil the great commission. Since the last report, the committee has been discussing the role of home missionaries and life home mission charges at this principal level.

The role of home missionaries

The committee remains committed to the concept of lay leadership being an option for presbytery appointment in a congregation for gospel ministry and mission. However, we do acknowledge that the appointment of home missionaries often takes place in some of the most challenging gospel work environments. To this end, the committee is pleased to report that in partnership with the Presbyterian Theological College, a course of study for home missionaries who have not completed formal theological studies has been established. The committee has been heartened to hear that one presbytery has encouraged one of our home missionaries to enrol in studies. The prayerful hope is that this theological formation will enable gospel service to be more faithful and fruitful. It is also hoped that the availability of this training may encourage other suitable home missionary candidates to pursue service.

Home mission charges and small congregations

In thinking about the home mission programme, questions have been asked about small congregations and the development of models of ministry and mission in those places. Ideas such as 'tentmaking' ministry positions and provision in our polity for a 'preaching place' which does not have the status of a congregation pose an ongoing conversation.

Tentmaking or the bi-vocational model of ministry has its appeal in being a creative solution for ministry and mission leadership in small congregations. The advantages of 'tentmaking' are several, including the potential for the better development of evangelistic culture within the church family, the potential for embedding the idea of every member ministry in church culture, a clearer sense of team ministry and mission, and of course, the financial implications of self-funded gospel worker in small congregations. 'Tentmaking' is a different ministry model, and it challenges some of our established practices around the nature and function of pastoral ministry in congregational life. However, this model is not plain sailing. Several significant challenges could see appointments fail. Incremental exhaustion in the appointed worker is high on the list. The constant challenge of juggling time, especially preserving preparation time for teaching the Bible while undertaking other work. Likewise, the challenge of a second workplace not only builds the potential for regular conflicts within

the church calendar, but bi-vocational pastors are more likely to find themselves isolated from things like Presbytery, GAV, and professional development opportunities. Dr Carl Trueman thought ‘tentmaking’ was a ‘failed experiment’ (see his lectures at <https://wscal.edu/resource-center/a-failed-experiment>). Notwithstanding Trueman’s comments creating some clarity on how tentmaking ministry could be established may open up the possibilities for some small congregations to embrace it.

The committee holds genuine concerns over the development of polity structures for ‘preaching places’ that are recognised groups of believers but not formal congregations. Issues such as Safe Church arrangements are potentially complicated. There are also complications with a small congregation moving to a ‘preaching place’ (that is, not a formal congregation) because where there are buildings and land held in trust for local use we need a local Board of Management to care for the premises. It is possible that these things could be resolved. However, the committee does not see these things as the biggest impediment. The committee is more concerned that it may create a ‘palliative care’ environment instead of a culture of aspiration that leads to the development of healthy gospel life in congregations. The issues and challenges facing our small congregations are complex.

Finance—Congregation Living Income

The use of phrases like financially sustainable draws the discussion toward the affordability of ‘ministry’ and what happens in the life of a small congregation. Of course, the foundation of the Church is never finance (Eph 2:20). Thus, clear and careful thinking is needed when financial and or administrative polity solutions are proposed as ‘the fix’ for small congregations. Lasting renewal in any congregation will be about the development of best practice ministry that enables people to embrace the power of the gospel that leads to personal change and mission in a particular context. Yet finances are a key component in achieving this. Congregations use land and buildings, and there are costs. Setting aside a minister for leading the ministry and mission in a congregation has associated costs.

The committee has developed a term we call ‘Congregation Living Income’ (hereafter CLI). CLI is a calculated figure which includes the basic annual expenses involved in having a building for congregational use and a full-time ordained minister at work in a congregation. The table below sets it out by each component.

Stipend	\$38,400
NCB	\$20,664
Superannuation	\$8,868
LSL	\$410
Minister’s Disability insurance	\$2,000
Missions and evangelism	\$6,000
General Mission Program	\$1,000
Insurance	\$2,500
Assembly and Presbytery Rates	\$500
Property maintenance and insurance	\$10,000
Other	\$4,000
Total	\$94,342

The committee realises the indicative figures listed in the table may vary from place to place. What has not been included are things such as preaching supply for five weeks annual leave and one week study leave (plus travel) and the cost of any manse allowance paid. Of course, in situations where a manse is retained for use, the PCV does face a level of opportunity cost with capital invested in a building. However, we do not want the CLI to become overly complex. Further refinement in calculating the CLI may be needed, and the Committee is open to constructive discussion. For simplicity, in this discussion, the CLI for 2021 was set at \$94,000.

In 2021, there were 95 out of 134 reporting congregations that had annual giving less than the CLI of \$94,000. Of the 39 congregations where CLI was met by the weekly giving, the smallest average attendance was 25 people. However, the median attendance of these 39 congregations was 90 people.

Financial sustainability is a real challenge for small congregations. The pattern of data in the statistical returns confirms that small congregations in the PCV have been living through a slow, long-term decline. This decline, in many instances, has been imperceptible to local people. For them, things seem normal, and they do not immediately recognise the trajectory. The embedded aspiration is for things to stay the same.

What are the tell-tale signs of a church in decline? It can be as simple as the physical facilities not being well kept or updated. It can also be identified by listening to the priority discussions of local leaders. If and when the conversations are dominated by administrative concerns such as Safe Church or accounting compliance or the maintenance of land and buildings, rather than the equipping of the saints and evangelism, then to some degree, the mission of the Church is being forgotten. It is not that administrative things are unimportant. There are great advantages to being part of a denomination that asks for these things to be completed. The trouble is, in a declining congregation, administrative compliance becomes a master that is served for existence, not a servant of the gospel mission. Thus, there may be a meeting room where the decor is somewhat outdated, but no one is meeting to pray 'Your Kingdom come' (Matt 6:10). The very real question for ministers and elders tasked with leading gospel mission in small congregations is, what will we do now?

One of the long-term responses to overseeing small congregations has been the creation of linked charges. The combined 'wherewithal' of two or more congregations is able to sustain CLI. There are currently 20 linked charges within the PCV representing 47 of our 134 congregations (35%). The Committee notes that in 2021, 15 of the 20 have settled ministers, 6 of the 20 are metropolitan-based, and 9 of the 14 rural and regional linked charges have a settled minister.

In some cases, the history of the linked charge speaks of mission intentionality. Leaders were planning for growth and for congregations to stand alone in time. However, since the time of the Union, there are very few examples of linked charges achieving this aspiration. While linked charges share resources to afford the CLI, a review of the data since the turn of the century reveals a general trend of a slow decline in linked charges (see Statistical Returns Report in section 5 below). While not considered in this report, a focused discussion on the development and revitalisation of linked charges seems necessary.

Additionally, linked charges and other small congregations that are unable to meet the CLI from weekly giving have been maintaining operations by drawing down on the accumulated funds from past generations. This has included the much-debated use of site reserve monies. The Committee make the following comments with some trepidation, but we are convinced it is a necessary conversation.

Jesus' parable of servants and talents in Matt 25:14–30 seems to offer some insight on the use of resources and how the Church invests and what risk and responsibility the Church willingly takes on. In the parable, two men put their talents to work while one man, out of fear, hid his talent. He wanted neither risk nor responsibility. In the end, he was left with nothing because he failed to be faithful in doing something with his talent. Jesus chastises his slothfulness. At the very least, he ought to have deposited it with a banker for interest. However, in the parable earning interest is clearly a lower-order outcome. While acknowledging Jesus' central teaching point is not about congregational finance, the parable pushes some serious questions to the Church. Is the PCV learning how to invest our talents as Jesus wants? Do presbyteries need to evaluate best practices for drawing down on the accumulated assets of the past? Certainly, the accumulated funds of past generations enable the *status quo* to prevail. Still, should the Church be more willing to embrace the risk and responsibility of guiding best practices for the sake of ministry and mission development? Remembering change never happens until the pain of not changing is greater than the pain of change, the Church needs to develop wisdom when using its financial resources.

Original jurisdiction of every congregation lies with the presbytery (Code 4.62.1). It is not for this committee to usurp oversight, but it seems there is a serious conversation needed about the mission of small congregations. In some cases, the consolidation of small congregations through closure, when a larger centre is nearby, seems wise. The means of transport in the modern era are vastly different to the early days of European settlement. It is worth noting that the Victorian Government actively work with a 20-minute travel time in planning metro communities. The Committee's intuitive estimate for rural regional areas is 30-minute communities. Could this be a good guide for presbyteries? On the other hand, when accounting for factors such as distance, population density, the activity of other orthodox protestant denominations (Reformed/Evangelical), and competent local eldership, under God, some of our small congregations have a future mission to embrace.

The issues run deep. They are not isolated to rural and regional Victoria, and they are more fundamental than mere administrative challenges. The primary challenge for our small congregations is to be embracing their God-given gospel purpose. A congregation without clarity of purpose is more than likely to be embracing an imperceptible decline. Where the gospel is not growing humility, hope, love, and courage in a church family, the mission to the lost will evaporate. However, when we understand and rejoice in the gospel, humility, hope, love, and courage grow and God's people embrace the ongoing work of sowing and watering the Word into the lives of others, while prayerfully looking for God to give the growth (1 Cor 3). The great commission unfolds as the Church embraces our calling (Matt 28:18–20). The lasting development of ministry and mission in our small congregations involves looking at the foundations of what it means to be a church.

Leadership—our greatest strength and our present weakness

The committee need not defend the virtues of elder-led congregations. The biblical reasoning is sound (1 Tim 3; Acts 20). The shared responsibility of leading the mission of a church by biblically qualified men is good for leaders and congregations alike. However, as is highlighted in the statistical reporting, across the PCV, the collective eldership is older, not younger, and churches are increasingly using assessor elders to form sessions in small congregations. Biblical eldership, the denomination's greatest strength, is presently a weakness. The committee hopes the PCV will be known for intentionally addressing this weakness.

In the first instance, it must be acknowledged that men being raised up for gospel service as elders is a discipleship issue. For every believer reaching maturity in Christ takes time, within the safety of grace, as God's Word is taught. Being sufficiently mature in character and teaching competence that you can serve as an elder is the same formula. In the convener's case, it was 11 years between becoming a believer and first serving as an elder in Tasmania. Even then, the slow learner was very green. The current generation of ministers and elders need to prayerfully consider the 2 Tim 2:2 paradigm. In some cases, in small congregations, it is not immediately obvious to whom the gospel batten can be given. In other cases, the discipleship needed can begin in earnest. Going forward, the committee's hope is to be urging current leaders to engage in raising up a new generation of elders. To that end, the MDC conference being planned for February 2023 will include some input on growing church leadership.

Secondly, the importance of having a suitable number of elders who can serve locally in churches is important. It is possible that to some degree, one of the unwitting effects of assessor eldership is that it creates a culture where eldership is more a 'functionary position' than an active shepherding. Certainly, the checks and balances created within denominational structures are helpful in so many ways and to use a phrase, 'trellis work' is required in every Church. However, the Church ought to actively avoid allowing ruling eldership to become a 'functionary position'. For assessor elders who undertake their duty from afar, this is particularly challenging. It is also challenging for elders serving in linked charges. In a linked charge, there may be one or more of the congregations that do not have a local elder. In both cases, the need for a session quorum is met, but the vital pastoral connections are not close at hand. Certainly, within the life of any of our sessions, ministers and elders can actively ensure all members engage in real pastoral oversight and ministry planning and direction. How active can an assessor elder be 'on the ground' in the life of another congregation? Some level of involvement may be possible, though it will come at the cost of absence from his home church. In small congregations, this absence is felt keenly. These things underscore the vital necessity of raising up a new generation of elders who desire the noble task of serving the advance of the gospel in local churches.

The committee trusts this report has stimulated thinking. The committee desires to create an atmosphere of thoughtful engagement in relevant issues so that the PCV, under God, is not only faithful but fruitful in its ministry and mission. The continued development of the Church's ministries and mission in this generation is vitally important. Do the churches of Assembly members need revitalisation? Have members identified how they might work towards personal and corporate renewal? The committee is committed to partnering with people within the PCV in the development of biblical gospel ministry and mission. The committee invites members to engage so that, under God, PCV congregations experience spiritual health and are better equipped to fulfil the great commission.

2.5 Ministry Development Conference—Faithful and Fruitful

As signalled last year, the committee is actively collaborating on the development of an MDC conference. The conference aims to advance biblically based ministry thinking and practices that foster an environment of lasting church renewal and mission in the PCV. The conference is to be called 'Faithful and Fruitful' with 1 Corinthians 3 being the key passage of the main talks. At the time of writing, the guest speaker is not yet confirmed, but the committee has reserved Saturday 11 February 2023 as the date. The conference will also include two workshops, namely growing church leaders and growing church mission.

2.6 Kingdom Come Prayer

Since the latter half of 2021, the committee has promoted and hosted an online prayer meeting that is open to all ministers and elders of the PCV. There are very few opportunities for Assembly members to engage collectively in the work of ministry. These online meetings occur four times a year and enable us to labour for the advance of the gospel through prayer. The average attendance this year has been around 30 ministers and elders. It is only a fraction of leaders from the Church's ranks. Prayer is important in the life and work of the gospel and should be a priority for the Church as a whole. As such, while the committee realises that ministers and elders have many competing demands on their time, it encourages all to put time aside to join in at least two of these online prayer meetings a year.

3. Committee Finances

Currently, the Scots Church Properties Trust (SCPT) distribution received by the PCV for home mission and church extension within Victoria is split between the MDC and the Church Planting Committee (CPC) 70:30, respectively. The committee continues to rely on the overdraft facility established with the Board of Investment and Finance, which will still be needed, albeit at reduced levels, until the end of the 2024–2025 financial year. The overdraft facility enables the committee to maintain its commitment to existing activities to support various charges across the State. Ministry Development Grants are about providing the opportunity for church revitalisation, growth, and greater stability of gospel work in a congregation.

There is a separate joint report to the General Assembly detailing the result of the discussion between the MDC and the CPC. Assuming the joint report's deliverance is accepted, the current ratio of 70:30 will move to 50:50 by 2025–2026. This outcome will impact future funding available to the MDC to support church revitalisation across Victoria. However, the committee believes this outcome is manageable and will further the work of the PCV and the CPC in future years.

This anticipated change has been a major influence on the committee's budget for 2022–2023 and the coming years. The committee wants to reinforce the need for grants to be seen as development grants, not subsidies. The committee aspires to be partnering with congregations that are embracing ministry and mission opportunities in the hope of experiencing lasting renewal. Part of this development is an aspiration for congregations to reach financial sustainability (weekly giving meets CLI) and where grants are no longer required.

3.1 Ministry Development Grants

The table below indicates the charges where ministry development grants are currently being received. It also tables the cumulative total of support received over time. Rural and regional churches are shaded.

Charge	Starting year of grants	Total grants paid	MDG paid in 2021-22	MDG approved for 2022-23
Brimbank	2005	220,416	12,000	Did not apply
Broadford	2020	20,000	20,000	18,000
Clarinda	2017	157,385	27,000	25,000
Cranbourne	2010	301,717	10,000	10,000
Dandenong	2017	116,500	12,000	11,000
Daylesford	2013	254,100	22,000	Did not apply
Deaf Church	2002	391,533	16,200	11,000
Eaglehawk	2013	166,050	21,500	20,500
Heidelberg	2017	56,100	8,100	7,290
Horsham	2007	328,162	19,800	17,820
Hume	2019	52,764	0	17,000
Kaniva-Nhill	2019	54,436	34,912	32,400
Kerang-Swan Hill	2020	35,000	15,000	Did not apply
Leongatha	2013	247,850	5,000	Did not apply
Mt Evelyn	2016	91,000	12,000	10,000
West Footscray	2020	87,500	37,500	26,250
Wodonga	2022	4,166?	4,166	10,000

3.2 Sustentation Grants

The committee has facilitated the administration of sustentation grants through the transition period of grants being administered by the committee and not the MMC. The table below reports sustentation granted for 2022-23.

Charge	Approved for 2022-23
Cranbourne	7,800
Eaglehawk	8,800
Horsham	8,424
Hume	8,000
Mt Evelyn	8,400

3.3. Second Worker Grants

The primary purpose of this infusion of funds is to enable a church to attain the next level of development through the employment of a second ministry worker. The committee has supported second workers in the following congregations.

Congregation (Second Worker)	Paid in 2021–22	Approved for 2022–23
Darebin (Rev Adam Humphries)	11,250	concluded
Epping (Rev Brian Luong)	30,000	5,000
Korean North Balwyn (Jihoon Lee)	10,000	concluded

3.3 Cross-Cultural Worker Grants

As part of its support for second workers, the committee has made specific grants to support cross-cultural gospel work in the following congregations.

Congregation (Cross-Cultural Worker)	Paid in 2021–22	Approved for 2022-23
Ashburton (Mook Lee)	23,500	19,000
Bundoora Iranian Worker	18,000	15,000
Clayton (Rev Lam Paul Gak)	16,200	15,000
Dandenong (Rob Paix)	8,000	7,000

3.4 Capital Grants

Capital grants were historically provided for the refurbishment or development of buildings which enabled a congregation to enhance, develop and extend their ministry and mission. In recent years, while committee funding has been reliant on an overdraft provided by the General Assembly, capital grants have been unavailable. This is unlikely to change in the short to medium term. During negotiations with the CPC for establishing the ratio split of SCPT funds, it became clear that both committees share a mutual concern for funding that assists congregations in either renovating or purchasing land and building for gospel mission. The committee looks forward to partnering with the CPC to see what can be done to address this growing need.

3.5 Evangelism Grants

The committee oversees responsibility for an Evangelism Trust. Congregations are encouraged to make applications for evangelism grants within the published guidelines. In 2021-22 grants totalling \$21,582 were paid to the following churches: Ashburton, Aspendale, Bairnsdale, Belgrave Heights, Bundoora, Clarinda, Clifton Hill, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Donvale, Essendon, Heathmont, Moe-Yarram, Mordialloc, Mt Evelyn, Reservoir, St Kilda-Balaclava and Valley. With the easing of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the Committee has been able to support more evangelistic activities undertaken by churches in 2021-22 than in the previous two years.

In addition, the Trust has been used to support AFES workers who have established connections with PCV congregations and are labouring in the gospel on university campuses. In total, \$30,000 was granted for this purpose in 2021–2022.

4. Ministry Development Officer's Report—Rev Chris Siriweera

The last year has included the conclusion of the extension of my initial appointment by the Assembly and the commencement of my second appointment in January 2022. I am deeply honoured and humbled to serve our Lord in the PCV and the wider Church.

This year I have had the opportunity to have face-to-face meetings with many ministers, visit congregations, conduct Seminars, preach the Word, and attend to other MDC-related ministry matters. These ministry activities are outlined in my report.

Summary of Ministry Activities:

Ministry Meetings and Contacts

During the year, I have had 62 one on one meetings with PCV ministers, home missionaries, and other related personnel. These meetings have frequently involved pastoral care, support, or mentoring, and 12 of these were meetings with home missionaries or ministers serving in Home Mission Charges.

In addition, I have had over 300 phone contacts with PCV ministers, home missionaries, and other related personnel. Approximately 45 of these were also contacts with home missionaries or ministers serving in Home Mission Charges.

Preaching and visits to Congregations

It has been a joy to visit congregations and to meet His people across the State. I have enjoyed the warm hospitality and fellowship with our people. I am thankful to the ministers and sessions for inviting me and for the opportunity to preach the Word in the following churches: Malvern, Kaniva & Nhill, Rye, Wodonga, Aspendale, Morwell, Eaglehawk, Mt Evelyn, Clarinda, Donvale, Wyndham, Nagambie, Croydon, Mildura, The Leigh and Broadford.

Other churches I have had the opportunity to visit during this period are Surrey Hills, South Yarra, Point Cook, West Footscray, Mt Evelyn and Bundoora.

Additionally, in early 2022 I spoke at the Men's Breakfast conducted at Mt Evelyn on the topic 'The Unspoken Challenges Men Face'. This has led to the establishment of a men's ministry based on addressing some of those challenges in the light of Scripture.

Church Revitalisation Seminars

Since the 2021 General Assembly, I have conducted Revitalisation Seminars with the Wodonga, Aspendale, Clarinda, Inverleigh, and Broadford congregations. This involvement has included consultation with the minister and session in each case and ongoing support and contact. I am thankful for the opportunity to work closely with these congregations.

Presbytery Visits

During the past year, I visited the Presbyteries of Gippsland, Western Victoria, Melbourne West, and North-East Victoria. As part of these visits, I presented an analysis on the 2020 Statistical Returns for each presbytery, as well as on Revitalisation and other MDC-related matters, and listened to presbyters regarding matters of concern and strategic planning within their bounds. I am thankful for the opportunity to address these matters with our presbyteries.

Meetings/Consultations with Sessions

Prior to Church Revitalisation Seminars, I have met online with the relevant session of each congregation, as well as consulting with several other sessions during the year; Ballarat West, Mount Evelyn, Heathmont, Kaniva-Nhill, Aspendale, Clarinda, Seymour-Nagambie-Yea, Ararat-Skipton-Lismore, and Inverleigh.

Peer Support Groups

I have continued to meet regularly online with two Peer Support Groups, comprising a total of 13 ministers from both suburban and country churches, for mentoring and mutual encouragement. Both groups have met eight times since August 2021. In November 2021, Rev Ben Johnson was a guest speaker at a joint meeting, on the topic of 'Encouraging Cultural Change in Churches'. The Peer Support Groups are currently working together through the book *Lead* by Paul Tripp. I am also currently putting together a third Peer Support Group; ministers are invited to make contact if they are interested in joining it.

Individual Mentoring

In addition to the group meetings, I meet regularly with four ministers for individual mentoring. The mentoring involves talking through spiritual disciplines, ministry life, support and pastoral care and other matters.

New Training Seminars

I have developed two new training seminars:

- *How to Share Your Faith (Evangelism Training)*
Evangelism is a mandate by our Lord as we see in the great commission in Matthew 28. To assist congregations, focus on evangelism a training seminar 'How To Share Your Faith' was developed to be conducted with the Heathmont congregation over two evenings in June 2022. It is now available to be conducted in other congregations. Let me also encourage congregations to avail themselves of the evangelism grants that the MDC offers for evangelistic outreach.
- *Pastoral Leadership Training*
This training is offered to sessions and other congregational leaders. Its philosophy is that church leadership is more than managerialism applied to a congregation; we need visionary under-shepherds leading our churches with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. A short course based on this training will be offered at the PTC in 2023 and to congregations.

Exit Appointments

Towards the conclusion of 2021, I participated in finalising Exit Appointments along with my fellow members of the Exit Students Committee (ESC). Furthermore, along with ESC Convener Rev Gerald Vanderwert, I visited Licentiate Kalpan Vasa at Tatura following his appointment there in early 2022.

Presbyterian Theological College Involvement

I am thankful for the opportunity to preach once each semester at College Chapel services and to spend time with the faculty and candidates. I also attended the PTC's Ministry Conference in March 2022. I value very much the partnership the MDC has with the College and appreciate the close working relationship with the faculty and students.

Kingdom Come online prayer meetings: 27 November, 19 February, 28 May

This has been a great opportunity for Ministers, Home Missionaries, and elders of the PCV to come together in prayer. It has been encouraging to join with one another in prayer and to humbly seek our Lord in corporate prayer. As we continue to have these online prayer times let me encourage you to join so that together we can seek the Lord's grace, favour and blessings upon the congregations, our ministries, our State and Nation.

Wodonga Special Selection Committee

I represented the MDC on the Special Selection Committee for Wodonga that resulted in the appointment of the Rev Stuart Withers to that appointment charge in late 2021.

Partnership with Presbyterian Church of Western Australia (PCWA)

The Assembly has encouraged the MDC to provide encouragement and support to the PCWA through visits by the MDO. After several pandemic-related postponements, I was able to make my second ministry visit to Western Australia in May 2022. I was thankful for the opportunity to preach at the Mandurah and Fremantle congregations, and to spend time with their congregations and leadership. I had the opportunity to conduct segments of the Revitalisation Seminar with the Mandurah congregation followed with a leadership training/discussion with the elders.

I also met with the Presbytery of Western Australia for a time of fellowship and address the presbytery about the ministry of the MDC and the work in the PCV. PTC Graduate Rev Joel Otten has made great progress in his ministry at Mandurah, with a growing congregation and emerging leaders. A letter of thanks from Rev Stuart Bonnington, Clerk of the Presbytery of Western Australia, is included at the end of my report.

Meetings with interstate colleagues (PCNSW and PCQ)

I was blessed to be able to meet with other staff and conveners of Home Mission Committees of the NSW and Queensland State Assemblies in Sydney in March 2022 to discuss our work, how to work cooperatively with each other by supporting gospel work across the country, for mutual encouragement and prayer.

Police Chaplaincy

I continue to serve as a Chaplain for Victoria Police. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve VicPol in this role, and this year I completed 25 years of service as a Police Chaplain.

African Enterprise Australian Board

I continue to serve as a Board member of African Enterprise.

Where to from here?

As we face the many challenges in an ever-increasing secular and post-Christian world, let us continue to hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is faithful (Heb 10:23).

Let us take great comfort and confidence in our All-sufficient Saviour and Sovereign Lord who continues to build His Church (Matt 16:18).

As I have moved around the State, I have observed the critical need to develop the next generation of leaders, which includes training suitable men for eldership. This is

a real challenge as some of our congregations are in numerical decline. Let us make this a matter of prayer, that the Lord will provide faithful leaders for His Church.

I have also noted that some of our congregations are discouraged that they struggle to attract new people and find that the workload is falling on a few committed people. The challenges of the pandemic have only added to this. We need to be realistic about the struggles that confront us as a church, as the Committee has also noted in its report on the Statistical Returns. However, let us not be discouraged, but keep on encouraging each other, as we read in Heb 10:24-25, 'Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near'.

I will continue to work together with the MDC in focussing on church health by working alongside sessions and congregations in helping them stay focussed on spiritual health in their congregations. I will seek to do this by offering ongoing support to churches, offer pastoral leadership courses especially for elders, focus on evangelism by conducting how to share your faith seminars, ongoing church revitalisation seminars/workshops, assist congregations with strategic planning, and peer support for ministers.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I want to express my thanks to the MDC, and its Convener, Rev Stuart Withers, for their ongoing prayers, wisdom, support, and guidance given to me in fulfilling my role. I value very much the good working relationship I have with the MDC.

I am very thankful for the valuable work of the MDC's secretary and office administrator, Mr Ben Palmer. Ben continues to work closely with me and is a diligent, efficient, and faithful secretary. His work is very much appreciated.

I want to thank the Assembly Clerk Rev John Wilson and the PCV Office staff, and the General Manager, Mr Michael Ellison for their help and assistance.

At a personal level, I am very thankful to my wife Rose for her ongoing support and for the encouragement that she is to me. I am often away from home and on the road and appreciate her understanding, love, and prayers. Without such love and support, I would not be able to fulfil my role.

This year was particularly a sad and challenging one for me with the passing away of my Dad. Together with the family, I want to thank the MDC for their love and compassion extended to us.

I want to sincerely thank the General Assembly for reappointing me last year. Your ongoing prayers, and support, are an encouragement to me.

My thanks also to the congregations I have visited for their very warm, friendly, and loving hospitality extended to me.

Finally, I want to express my humble thanks to my Lord for granting me strength and grace throughout this year. I stand in awe of who He is and His saving grace upon my life. I thank Him for His sustaining power and wisdom granted to me in my role as the MDO.

Once again, I am deeply honoured and humbled to serve the LORD and His precious people in the PCV. It is a tremendous privilege to serve His people.

Let me close with Ps 127:1a;
Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.

Soli Deo Gloria
Rev Chris Siriweera
Ministry Development Officer

Letter from the Rev S Bonnington

[Dated 19 May 2022}
Presbytery of Western Australia
To the PCV Ministry Development Committee

Re The Visit of the Rev. C. Siriweera to the Presbytery of WA
Warm greetings to you in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST!

I write on behalf of the Presbytery of WA to warmly thank the Ministry Development Committee for agreeing to send the Rev. C. Siriweera to visit us around the time of our May meeting held on Tuesday 17 May 2022. The Presbytery is very thankful for the renewal of contact with Chris our highly valued friend.

Chris was involved in a wide range of activities while he was with us - a comprehensive visit (seminars and preaching) to the **Mandurah** congregation (Rev. Joel Otten) preaching at the SCOTS@5 night church of the **Fremantle** congregation, a visit to the **Bunbury** Presbyterian 'house church' leaders in WA second-largest urban centre two hours to the south of Perth, time with the ministry coordinator of the small Presbyterian congregation at **Joondalup** Perth's 'second CBD', attending the Presbytery meeting where he was able to interact in a very relaxed and friendly way with ministers and elders from all PCWA congregations and a very dynamic lead presentation on the work of MDC/MDO at the Presbytery meeting itself.

We remain very thankful for the placement with us of the Rev. Joel Otten with his exit appointment at Mandurah. This work is consolidating and developing in a very encouraging way, as no doubt Chris will further advise.

The fruit of Chris' earlier revitalisation seminars has been seen in several ways including the following:

- At the West Leederville congregation which has made good progress in vastly improving its streetscape presentation, the interior renovation of its church hall, and the internal reorganisation of the congregation as it emerges from the C-19 circumstances and awaits the arrival of more overseas students for its English and Bible study programme a central aspect of its ministry.
- In our own congregation at Fremantle, we have (among other things since Chris' last visit and in part catalysed by it) improved our streetscape

presentation, installed a new church sign, launched an attractive website, installed a children's playground on vacant land next to the 'downtown' church building, elected three new 'younger' elders, and reorganised the Sunday school to before AM Church. With the recent loosening of restrictions, we have seen the revival of our 'walk-up' ministry (one-off visitors given our situation in Fremantle's main 'Cappuccino Strip' and the resurgence of our 'international' ministry with the first overseas visitors for over two years.

Chris has given a lot of stimulus and many helpful suggestions in all this and has been and remains a very welcome 'listening ear'.

We are very grateful to the MDC for helping the PCWA in this vital way through the visit of Chris, and we trust that this contact might in God's good grace continue.

With sincere greetings

Stuart Bonnington, Clerk of Presbytery of Western Australia

5. Statistical Returns Report for 2021

The committee is pleased to present this section of its report. Of note, in this year's report is section 3 on church leadership and the finance section which highlights congregational living income. On leadership, analysis suggests that the PCV is currently stepping through a period of generational change. The future health and strength of our Church will require us to be intentional in raising up a new generation of leaders. On finance, it is clear that the PCV needs to engage thoughtfully in developing models of ministry and mission for small congregations. Some of the dynamics have been discussed earlier in the report (section 2.4).

b) 5.1 Executive Summary

c) In summary, the committee notes the following:

- a) There are 5,304 communicant members and 969 adherents in the PCV.
- b) Average attendance was 6,448 per week, a fall of 496 since the previous year.
- c) 104 of the 134 PCV congregations have 50 or fewer communicant members.
- d) The average attendance size of a PCV congregation is 48 members.
- e) 44 out of 134 congregations do not have any people younger than 10 years of age.
- f) The average age of congregations with fewer than 50 members is 10-20 years older than congregations with more than 50 members.
- g) 57 congregations have fewer than two elders.
- h) 61 charges out of 103 reported that their annual giving was less than the Congregation Living Income of \$94,000
- i) 54 congregations report greater than 40 percent of the membership attending regular bible studies.
- j) The number of professions of faith and baptisms is a small total but has nearly doubled what was recorded last year.
- k) The number of congregations with seven or more possible action indicators is 18. This is a significant number that needs urgent revitalisation attention to avoid closure.

5.2 Overview of Statistics Collected

The online data collection system was introduced in 2020. The benefit of the online database is that it enables comparison and longer-term trends to be monitored. The table below shows changes between 2020 and 2021. Given the immediate context of the COVID-19 years and the disruption of the lockdowns on church life we look forward to establishing a clearer picture as time unfolds.

Statistic	2020	2021	Change	% Change
Number of congregations	136	134	-2	-1.49%
Number of charges	104	103	-1	-0.97%
Communicants	5358	5304	-54	-1.02%
Adherents	820	969	149	15.38%
Attendance	6944	6448	-496	-7.69%
Visitors	3532	4223	691	16.36%
Professions of faith	90	188	98	52.13%
Infant baptisms	41	82	41	50.00%
Adult baptisms	28	49	21	42.86%
Serving	Not measured	3075		0.00%
Elders	367	328	-39	-11.89%
Assessor elders	91	94	3	3.19%
Deacons	115	117	2	1.71%
Managers	672	599	-73	-12.19%
Giving	\$10,998,026	\$11,318,747	\$320,721	2.83%
Capital	\$45,268,667	\$43,477,885	-\$1,790,782	-4.12%
Debt	\$2,309,843	\$1,480,231	-\$829,612	-56.05%
Lord's supper	4987	4704	-283	-6.02%
Bible study	3019	2833	-186	-6.57%
0-9	960	823	-137	-16.65%
10-19	725	778	53	6.81%
20-29	897	696	-201	-28.88%
30-39	912	822	-90	-10.95%
40-49	784	776	-8	-1.03%
50-59	823	682	-141	-20.67%
60-69	845	683	-162	-23.72%
70-79	818	681	-137	-20.12%
80+	746	508	-238	-46.85%

The comparison of results has been colour coded so that areas of concern and areas of positive growth are quickly identified. Positively there has been a significant increase in the number of professions of faith and infant and adult baptisms. This is most likely in line with COVID-19 restrictions lifting and congregations catching up on

personal faith events that are best celebrated face to face. Negatively, there has been a drop in attendance for the second year in a row. There has also been a drop in the number of elders, in bible study and Lord's Supper attendance. What is the new normal post COVID-19? Time will tell.

5.3 Leadership

Biblical leadership within local congregations is vital for church health and strength (Acts 20). We know from Paul's instructions to Titus that appointing qualified elders was a high priority for sustaining the life of local churches (Tit 1:5). Likewise, the office of deacon has a role in the life of a church (Acts 6; 1Tim 3). In the following section, the committee offers information gathered from the supplementary question asked in 2021 seeking information on the age of our serving elders, deacons, and managers. Local leadership, especially from an eldership, cannot be underestimated. Please note that only 80 out of 134 congregations completed the supplementary questions.

Ministers

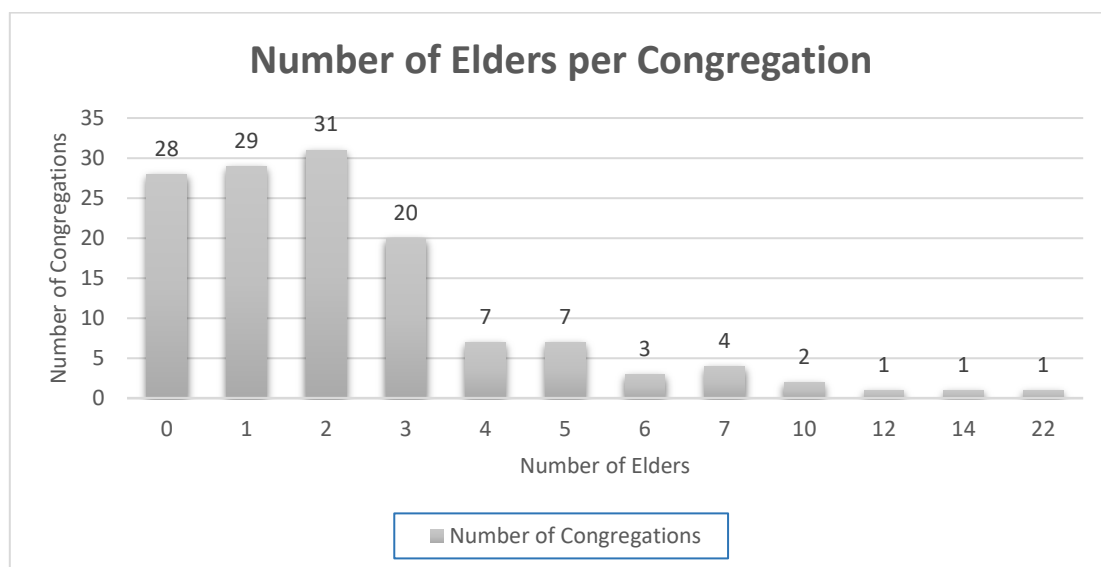
There are 92 active ministers with the average age being 52.8 years. Of the 92 ministers in active service, 34 of them are between 60 and 90 years of age.

The committee notes that since 1980 the PCV has averaged 3.5 exiting students annually.

Elders in the PCV

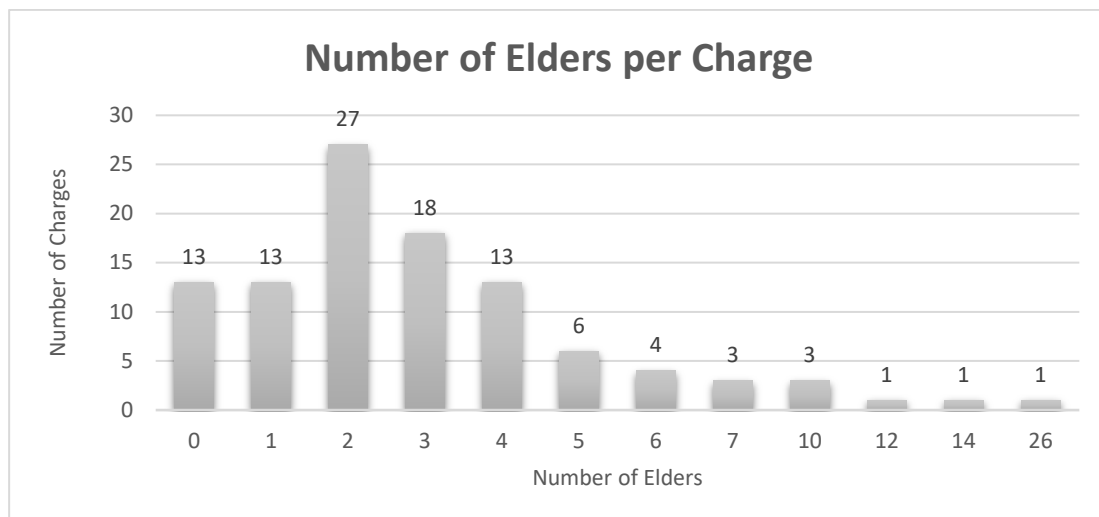
In 2020 there was a total of 349 active elders in the PCV (corrected figure). In 2021 there were 328, a drop of 21. While unconfirmed, this 6 percent drop appears to correlate with the overall drop in church attendance across the PCV. The average age of PCV elders is 62.6 years (10 years older than our ministers).

The graph below shows how elders are distributed across the 134 congregations.

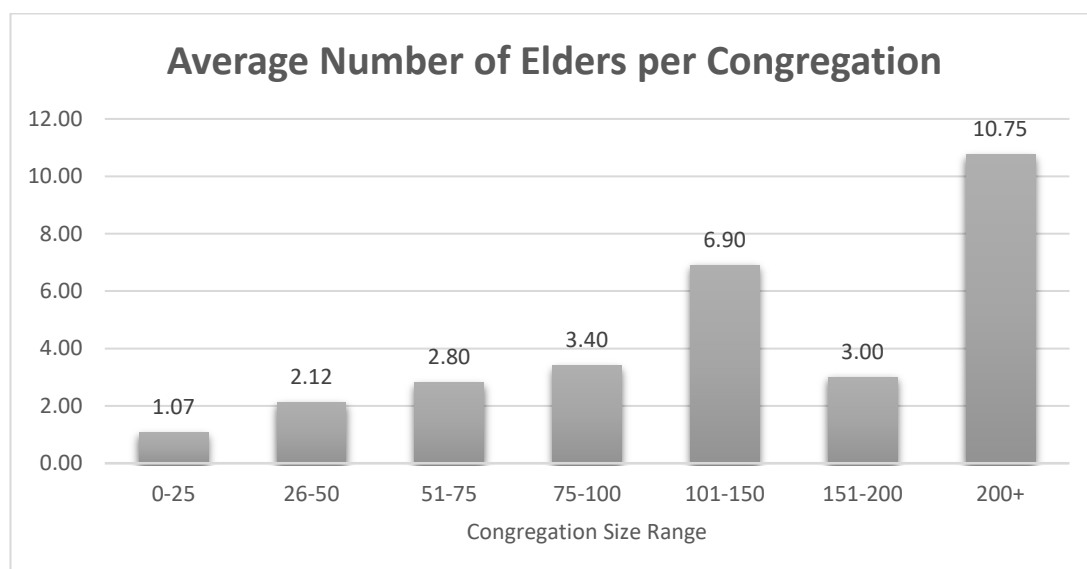


There are 28 congregations without an elder and a further 29 congregations with only one elder. Some congregations operate as linked charges and share eldership across two or more congregations.

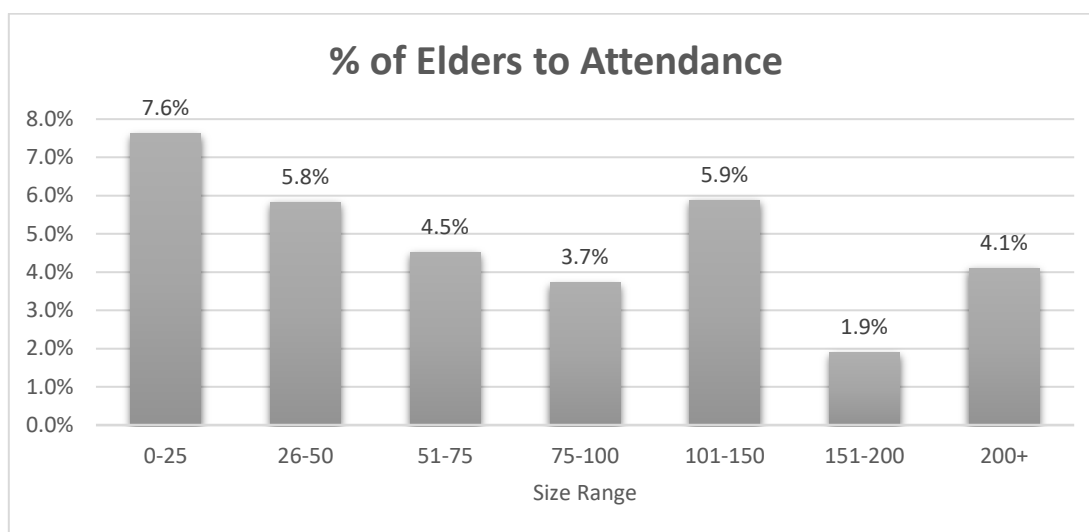
The graph below presents the number of elders serving in charges.



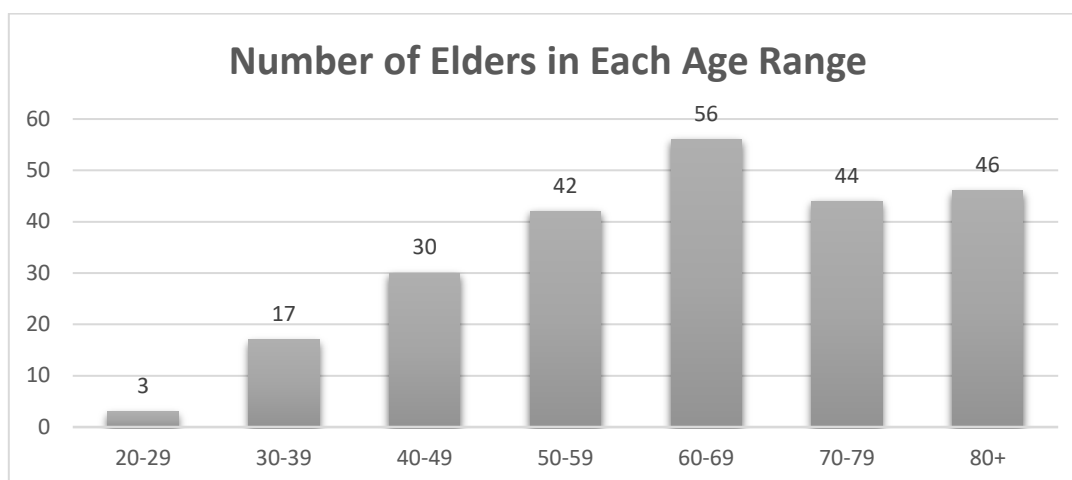
This lack of elders is found in the 0-25 sized congregations as shown in the graph below.



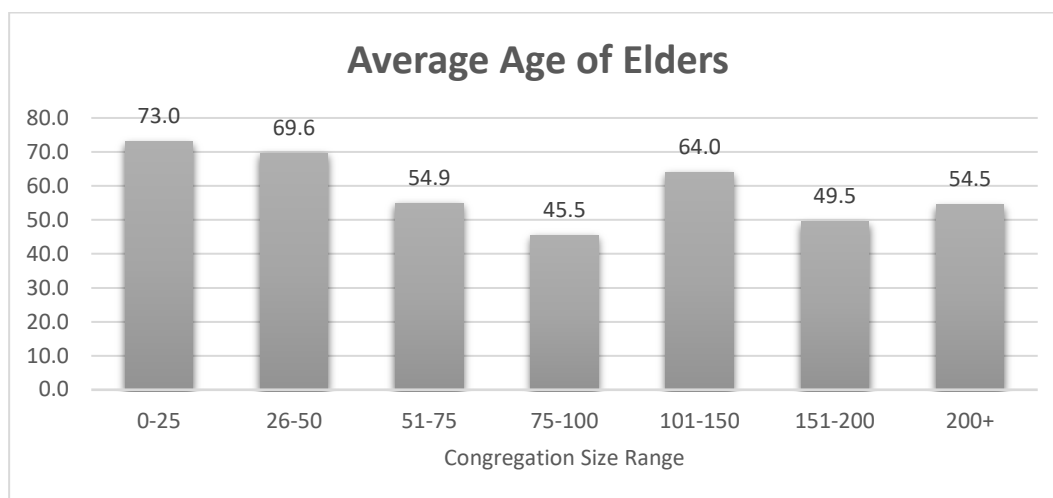
Even though a plurality of elders in small congregations is not common, the ratio of elders to people attending is high as can be seen from the following graph.



In 2021 there was a supplementary question asked to determine the age of the elders. In part, this helps to think through the question of future need. The following graph shows the age range of elders within the PCV (remembering data comes from 80 of our 134 congregations).



The average age of the elders is 62.6 years (10 years more than the average age of ministers). The spread of elders, by age, across congregation size range highlights that the smaller congregations have the older elders as shown below.



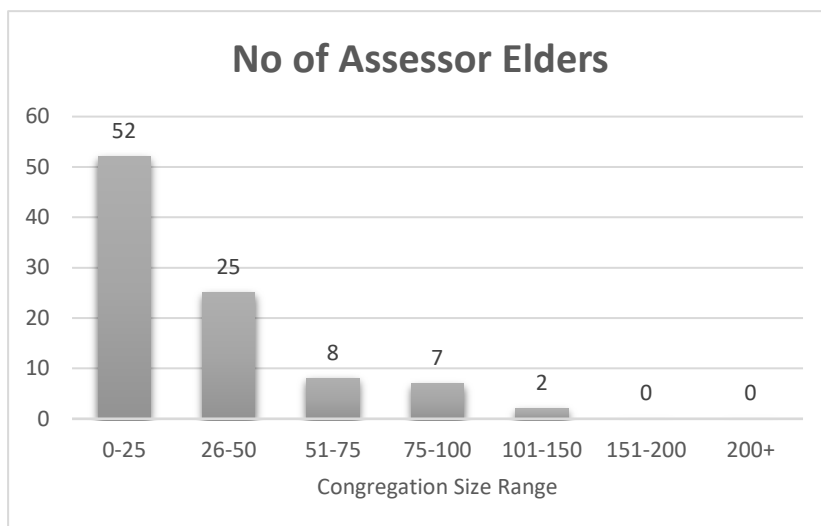
The committee contends that the PCV is stepping through a time of generational change in the leadership of the Church. In the tables immediately below, the committee sets out some important figures. In the first, the age ranges of those serving as a percentage of all elders. The second table has been built with operating assumptions in an attempt to highlight the need for the PCV to be active in discipling men who may, in time, be willing to serve as elders in their congregations. It assumes that elders begin serving from the age of 30 through to 70 years of age (40 years' service). With that assumption in mind, we anticipate retirement and need.

Elders Age	Percentage of total elders	Number of elders
20-29	1.26%	4
30-39	7.14%	23
40-49	12.61%	41
50-59	17.65%	58
60-69	23.53%	77
70-79	18.49%	61
80+	19.33%	63

Length of years remaining	Number of elders	Average number required per year
0-5	124	25
5-15	77	8
15-25	58	6
25-35	41	4
35-45	23	2
45-55	4	0

The committee notes that currently, 38% of elders are over the age of 70 years. While strength lasts, these men will undoubtedly have fine contributions to make in their congregations. Sadly, they will not be able to serve forever. Across the next 5–15 years, there is a need for current ministers and elders to be active in discipling men in a way that some will naturally step up to serve the advance of the gospel in our churches.

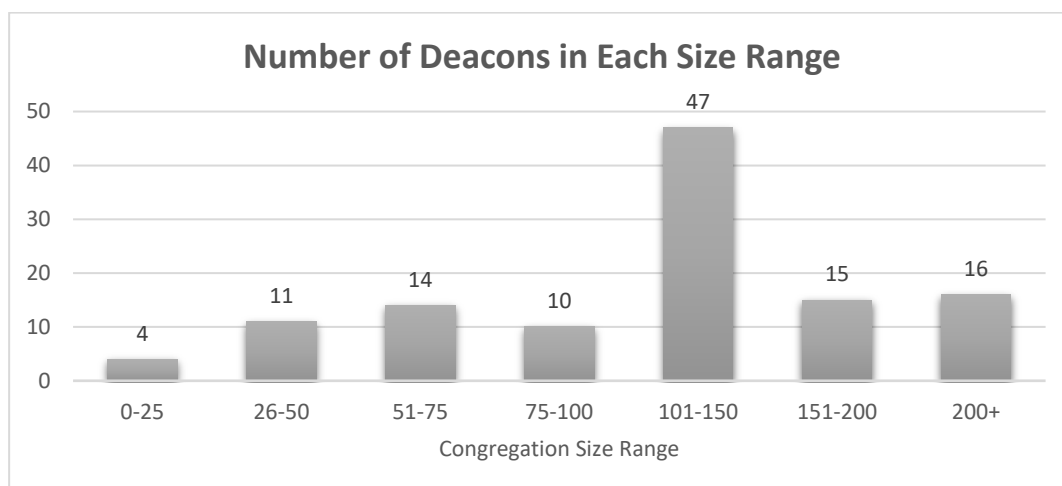
Spiritual leadership and oversight in PCV congregations are also undertaken by assessor elders. There are 94 assessor elders serving across the PCV in 57 congregations. This means 42% of congregations need at least one assessor elder. The majority are in congregations of less than 50 people in size, as seen in the following graph. Readers are directed to the discussion of small congregation in section 2.4 of this report.



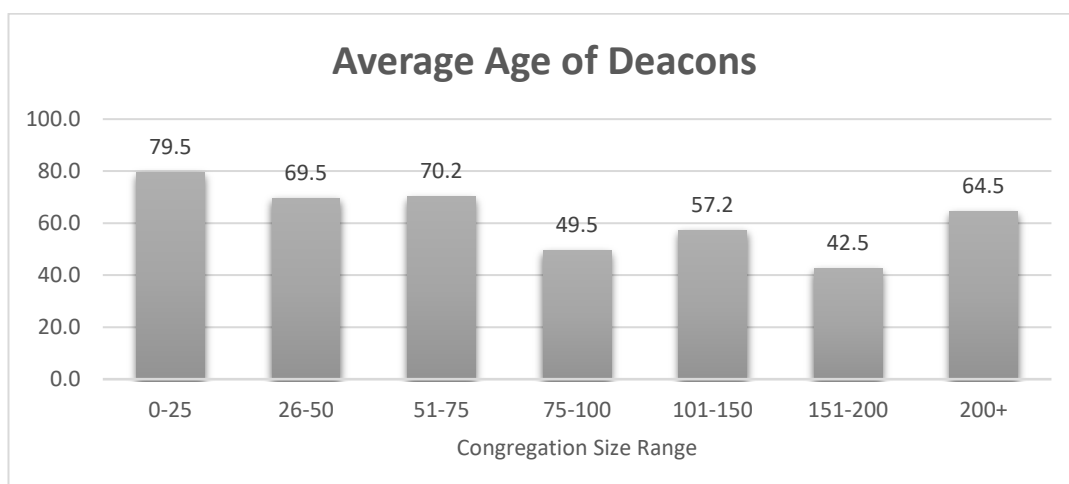
While assessor elders enable the denominational structures of our Church to function, they are limited in the ability to engage in spiritual oversight from afar. This again underscores the need to train new elders.

Deacons

There are currently 117 deacons in the PCV serving across 23 congregations. The following graph shows the numbers of deacons in each congregation size range



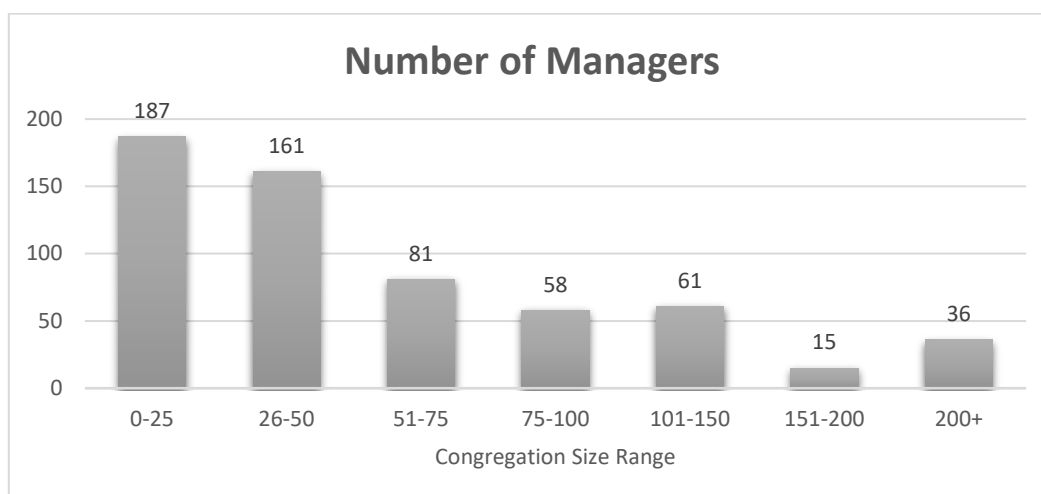
The following graph shows the average age of deacons across the various congregation sizes.



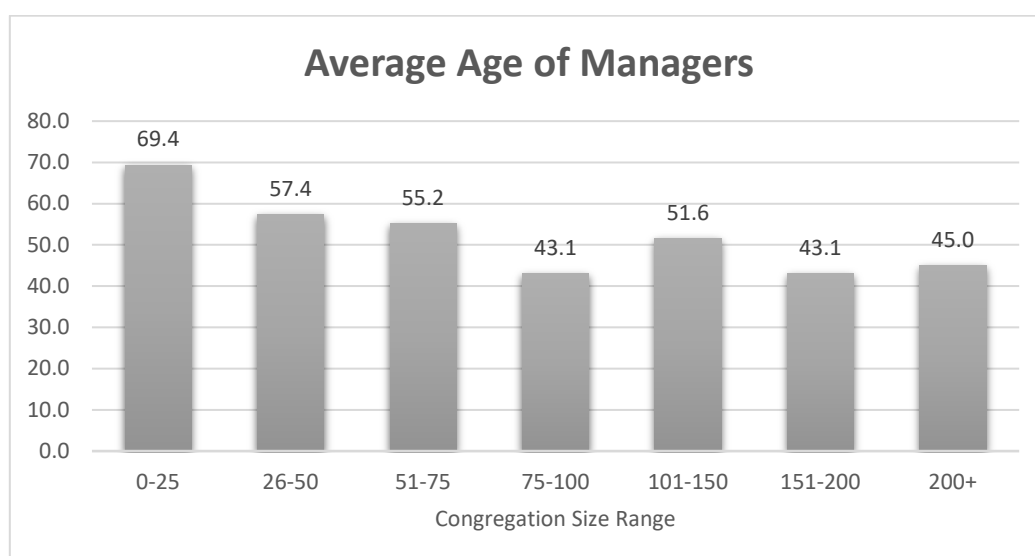
The average age of deacons serving is 58.3 years. There are relatively few deacons at work in our churches. The causes of what seems to be a low number are not clearly known. The committee believes that congregations would be blessed if they were to be actively identifying and training suitable people for the office of deacon.

Board of Management Managers

There are 598 managers across the PCV. The graph below shows the distribution of managers across differing congregation size ranges.



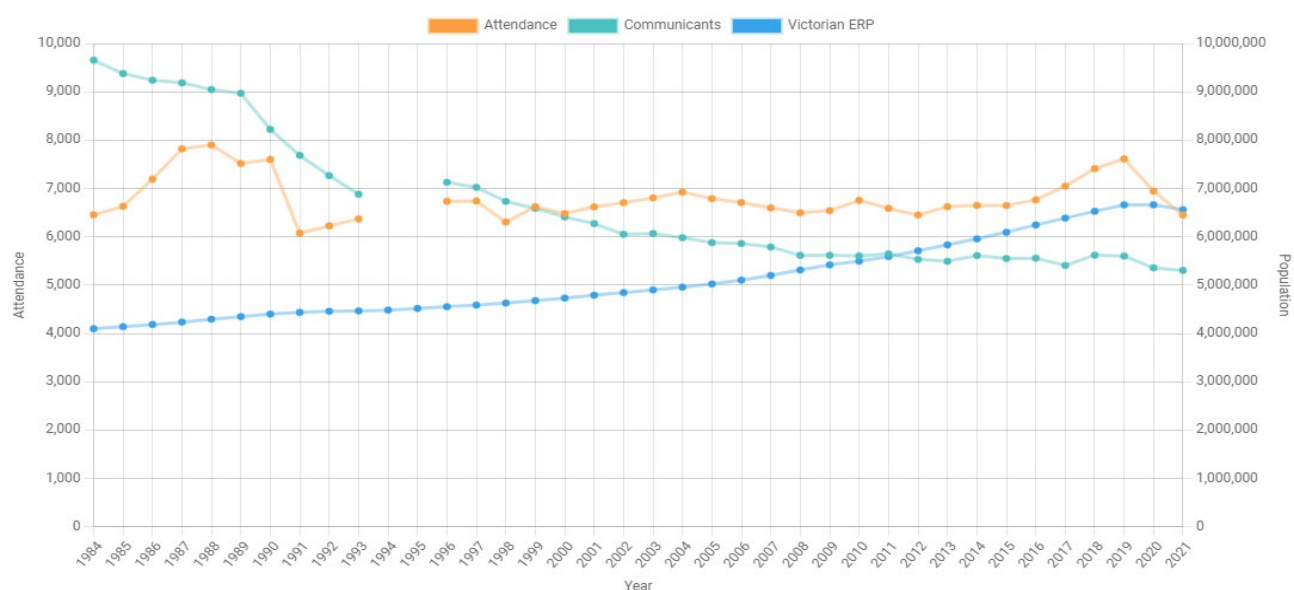
The following graph shows the age range of board managers, with an average age being 56.7 years.



5.4 Total membership/adherents/population

PCV vs. Population

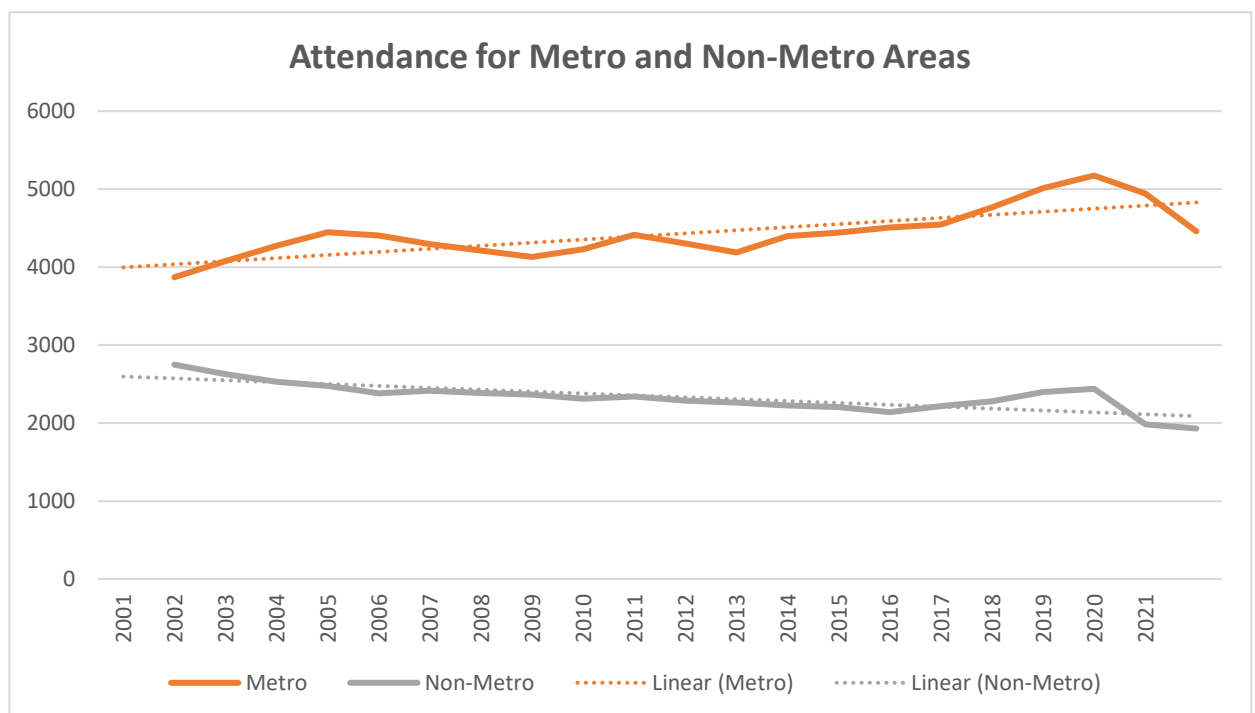
1984-2021



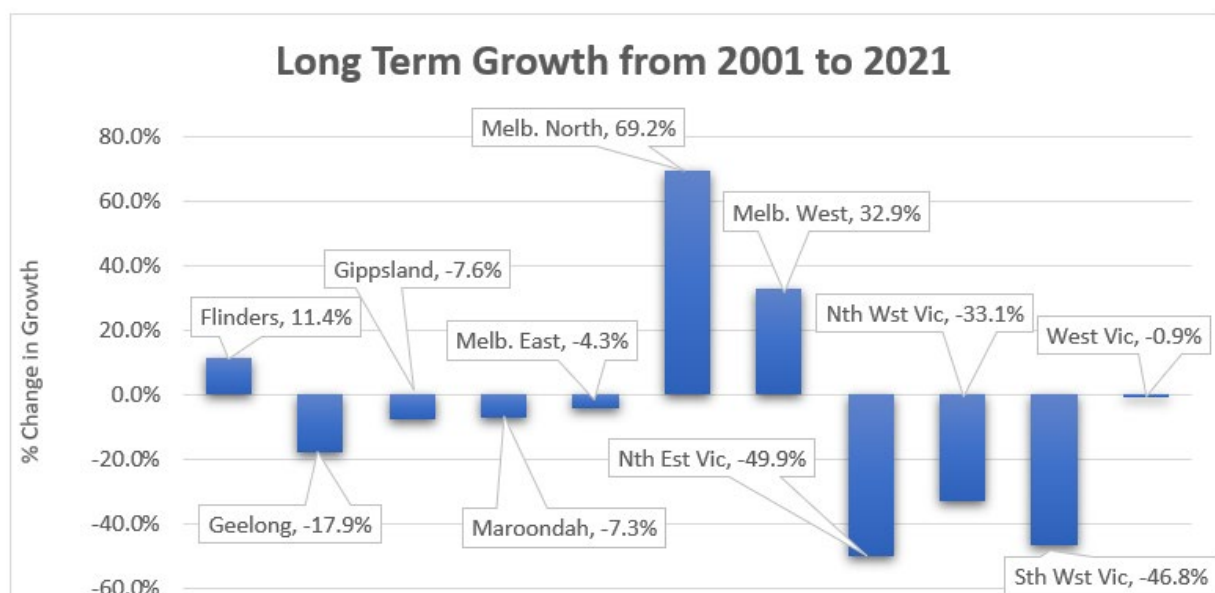
	2019	2020	2021	Change 19 to 20	Change 20 to 21	Overall change
Communicants	5,601	5,343	5,304	-258	-39	-297
Adherents	1,132	815	969	-317	+154	-163
Attendance	7,612	6,927	6,448	-685	-479	-1164

Attendance has dropped by 6.83% in the last 12 months, having already dropped by 15.2 percent since 2019. The committee believes this significant drop is largely the result of COVID-19 impacts.

Looking at the attendance figures 2001–2021, the metropolitan congregations have grown by 15% since the turn of the century and that non-metro congregations have dropped by 30% across the same period. The following graph displays this trend line.



There is also a marked variation in attendance across presbyteries during this period, shown in the following graph.



From a state-wide perspective, given that the population of Victoria in 2021 was 6.5 million, there is approximately one Presbyterian for every one thousand Victorians.

The ministry and mission dynamics at play in this trend are multi-faceted. Undoubtedly, many factors exist within our changing society that influence what is unfolding in the Church. Likewise, the life of a church is shaped by its membership. Lasting revitalisation involves looking at the foundations and philosophy of biblical ministry.

Certainly, contextualisation in our gospel work is needed (1 Cor 9:20). Has the PCV been too focused on the stability of the Church to the extent that it has been unable to creatively adapt and innovate in its mission?

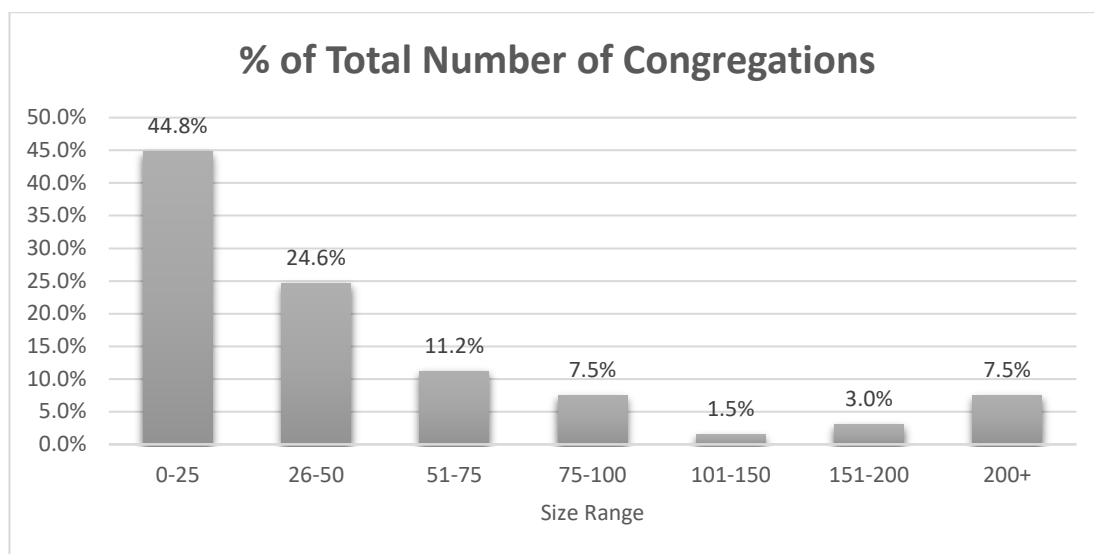
5.5 Congregation Numbers and Size

The PCV is made up of 134 congregations. The number has dropped by two over the last 12 months with the closures of the Pyramid Hill, Carisbrook, and Sale congregations, and the opening of a Korean congregation in the Dandenong area. The number of congregations in each size range is shown in the following table.

The table below also shows the variations in numbers between 2020 and 2021.

Congregation Size	2020 Number of Congregations	2021 Number of Congregations	Difference
0-25	65	60	-5
26-50	32	33	+1
51-75	11	15	+4
75-100	9	10	+1
101-150	11	2	-9
151-200	2	4	+2
200+	6	10	+4
Total	136	134	-2

This information for 2021 is shown in the following graph.



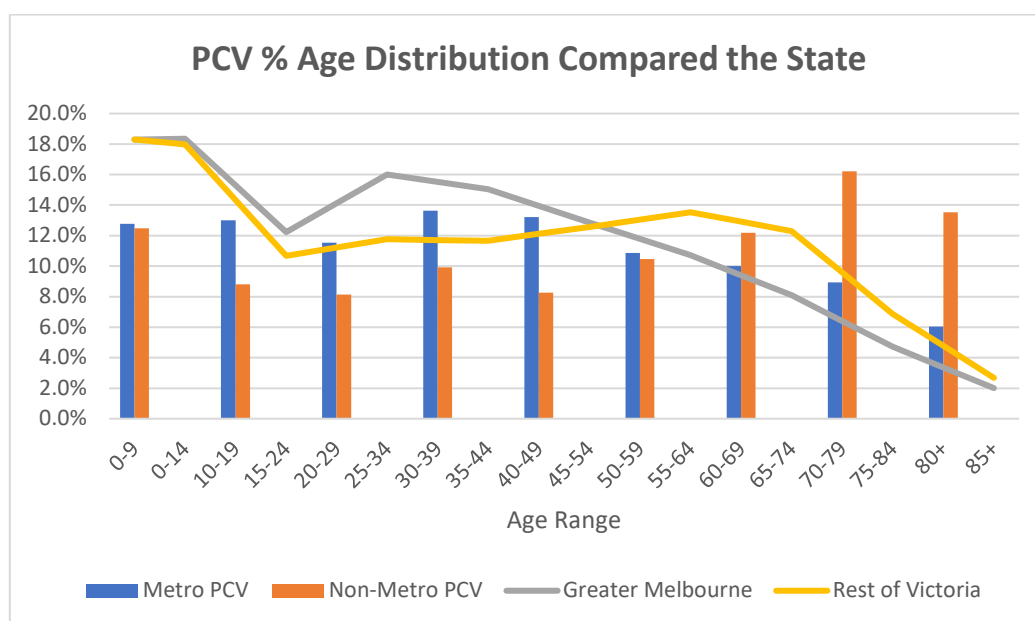
The following table shows the variation in congregation size across presbyteries.

Presbytery	Numbers of Congregations for Each Size Range							Total
	0-25	26-50	51-75	75-100	101-150	151-200	200+	
Flinders	7	5	2	2	1	1		18
Geelong		2	1	2				5
Gippsland	2	1	3		1			7
Maroondah	4	3			1		1	9
Melbourne East	5	6	1	1	1	1	2	17
Melbourne North	5	1	2	1	3		1	13
Melbourne West	2	6	4	1	2			15
North East Victoria	14	4						18
North Western Victoria	2	3	1	1				7
South West Victoria	10			1	1			12
Western Victoria	9	2	1	1				13
Total	60	33	15	10	10	2	4	134

The yellow highlighted areas show presbyteries where the greatest number of congregations have an average attendance of 50 or less.

5.6 Age distribution

The age distribution of congregation attendees varies across our metropolitan and non-metropolitan congregations as shown in the following graph.

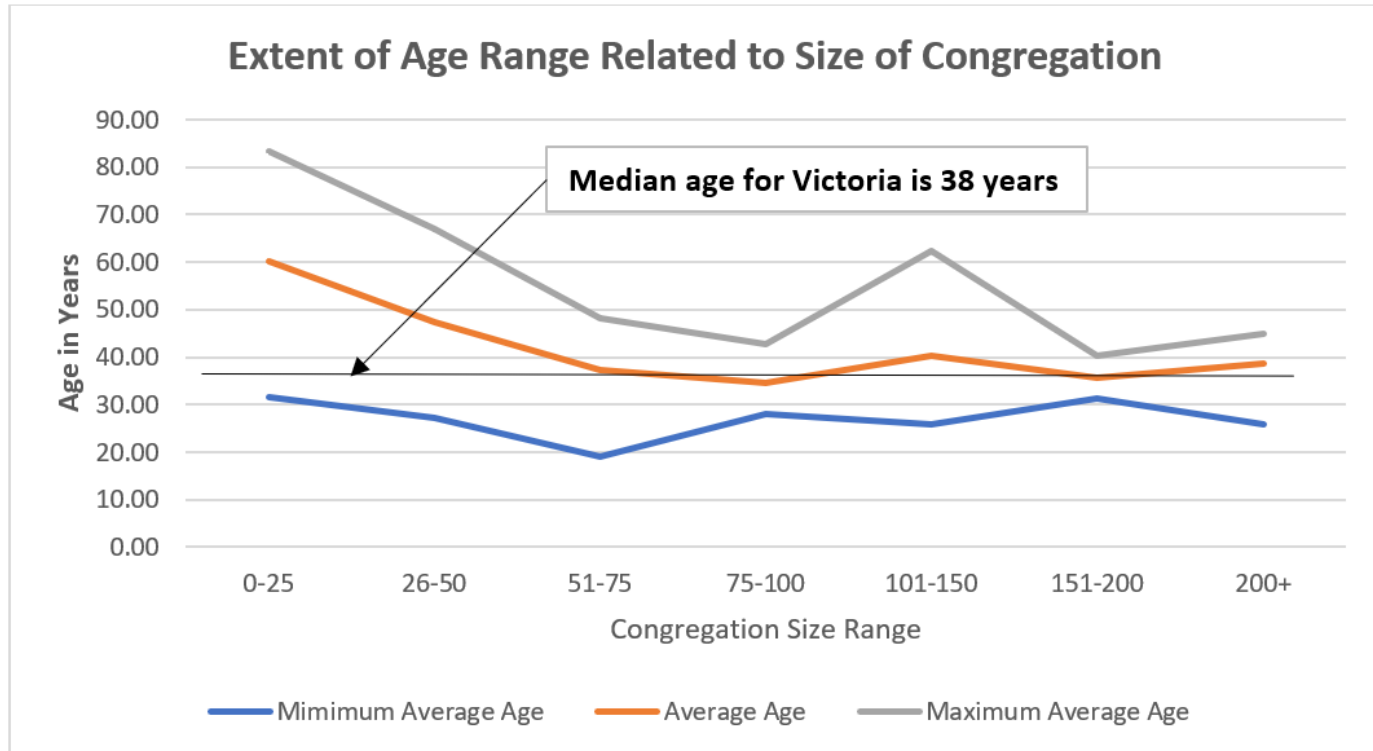


Please note the Greater Melbourne area does not include the city of Geelong. By comparing both graphs we can draw the following conclusions:

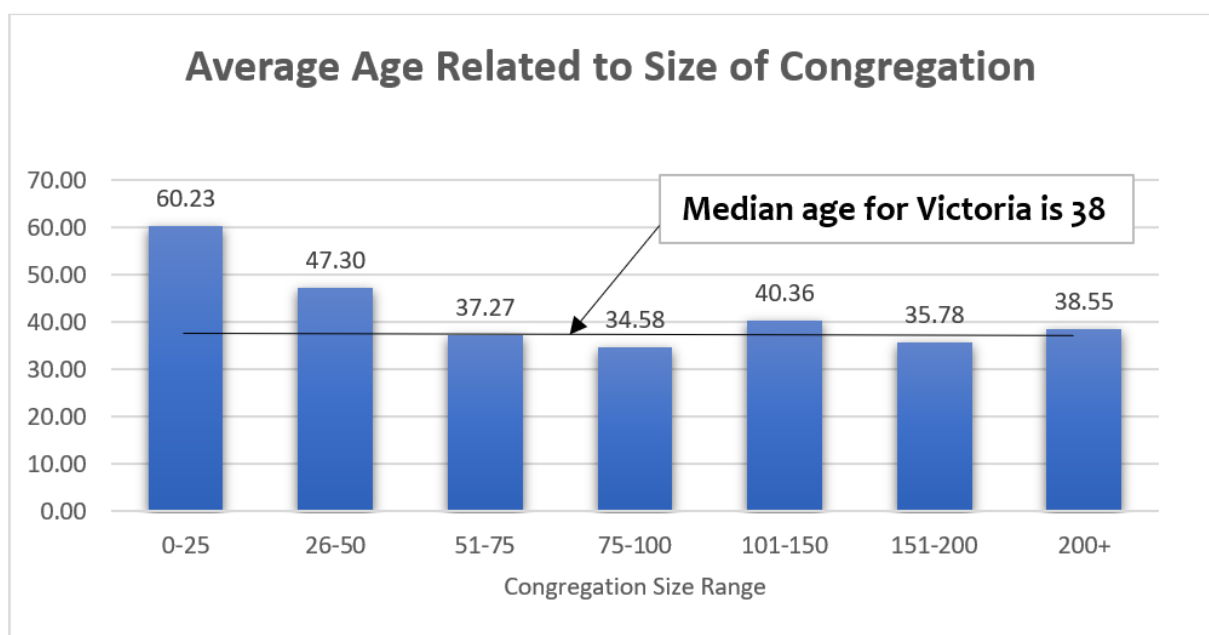
- The 70 plus age group has a greater representation in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas
- The 50-plus age group in non-metro congregations is significantly higher and continues to increase as the congregation age increases rather than drops as the metro and Victoria census data does.

- The 0–20 age group are under-represented in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas compared to state percentages.
- Non-metropolitan is under-represented in the mid-age range of congregations.

The following graph shows the minimum, average, and maximum values for the average range.



The following graph shows that PCV congregations larger than 50 persons all have average ages in the mid-to-high 30s, which closely parallels the Victorian median age of 38 according to the 2021 Census.



The following table displays the number of presbyteries that do not have people attending in the given age range. For example, 43 of 60 congregations do not have any children from 0–9 years of age. Twenty-six congregations of 60 congregations do not have any children from the 0–19 age range

Presbytery	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-9 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-19 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-29 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-39 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-49 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-59 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-69 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-79 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-80+ age group
Flinders	5	2	2	2	2	1			
Gippsland	2	2	1	1	1				
Maroondah	5	3	2	1					
Melbourne East	5	1	1						
Melbourne North	1								
North Eastern Victoria	12	7	6	6	6	5	2	1	1
North Western Victoria	1								
South Western Victoria	7	6	6	6	5	3	1		
Western Victoria	7	6	6	6	3	3	1		
Total	45	27	24	22	17	12	4	1	1

The following table displays the number of congregations in each size range that do not have people attending in the given age range. For example, Forty-three of 60 congregations do not have any children from 0–9 years of age. Twenty-six congregations of 60 congregations do not have any children from the 0–19 age range.

Size Range	Number of Congregations	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-9 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-19 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-29 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-39 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-49 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-59 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-69 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-79 age group	No of Congregations with 0 in 0-80+ age group
0-25	60	43	26	23	22	17	12	4	1	1
26-50	33	2	1	1						
51-75	15									
75-100	10									
101-150	10									
151-200	2									
200+	4									
Total	134	45	27	24	22	17	12	4	1	1

Note there is one congregation that did not hold services regularly in 2021, and therefore this resulted in one congregation that did not have any people attending in the 0–79 and 0–80+ range.

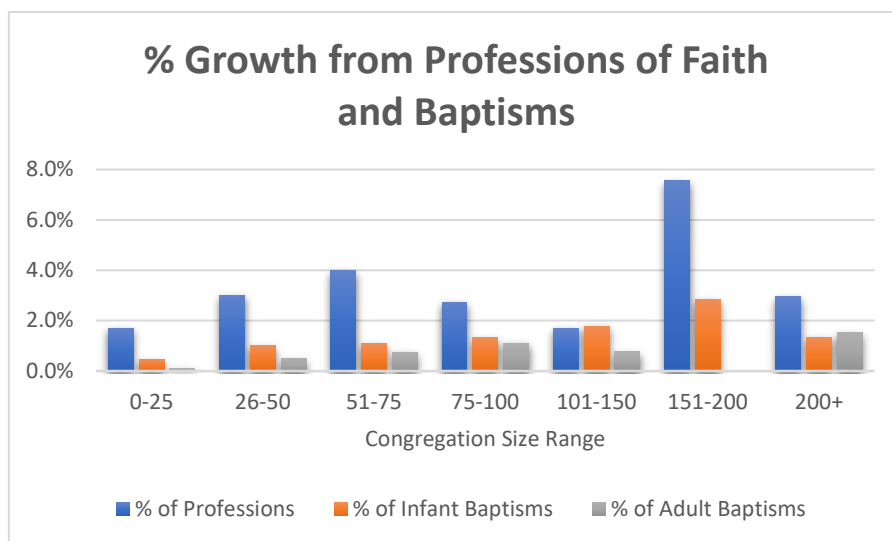
The above table makes it clear that the greatest problems with the lack of children occur with congregations with less than 26 people in them.

5.7 Professions of Faith, Baptisms, and Visitors

The numbers of professions of faith, adult and infant baptisms and the number of visitors a year are shown in the following table.

Metric	Number
Professions of faith	188
Infant baptisms	82
Adult baptisms	49
Visitors	4231

The following graph shows where this growth is occurring.

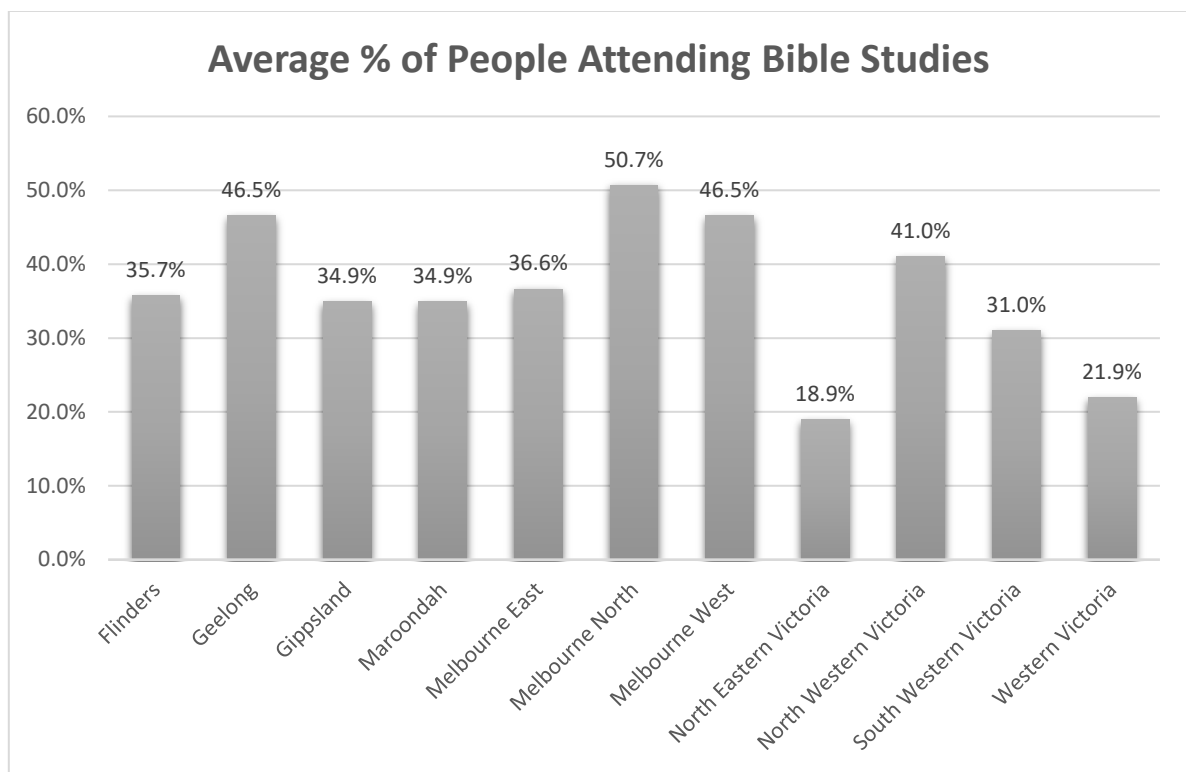
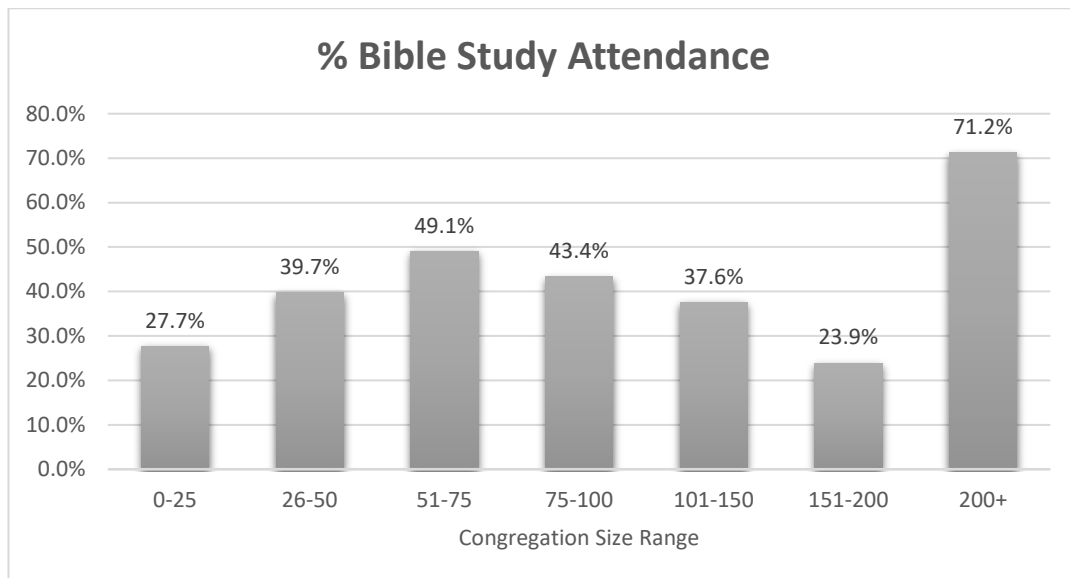


Eighty-three congregations had no professions of faith, i.e. 61.9%. Sixty-eight congregations had no infant baptisms, i.e. 50.7%. Sixty-eight congregations had no adult baptisms, i.e. 50.7%.

In relation to visitors, there were 4,231 visitors in 2021, which equates to 81.3 visitors a week across the State. This is equivalent to 1.2% of the average weekly attendance. The committee notes that collection accuracy in this field of data varies from place to place.

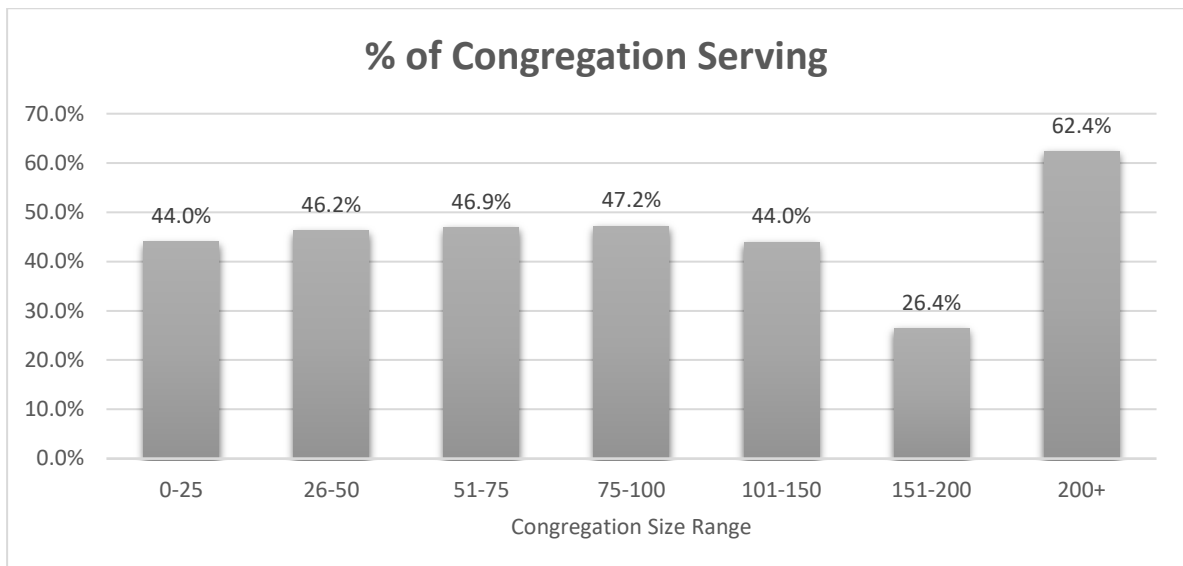
5.8 Bible Study Groups and Serving

The following graphs provide information on the percentage of PCV people compared with average attendance who are attending a bible study.



Twenty-two congregations out of 134 reported having no Bible Study attendees.

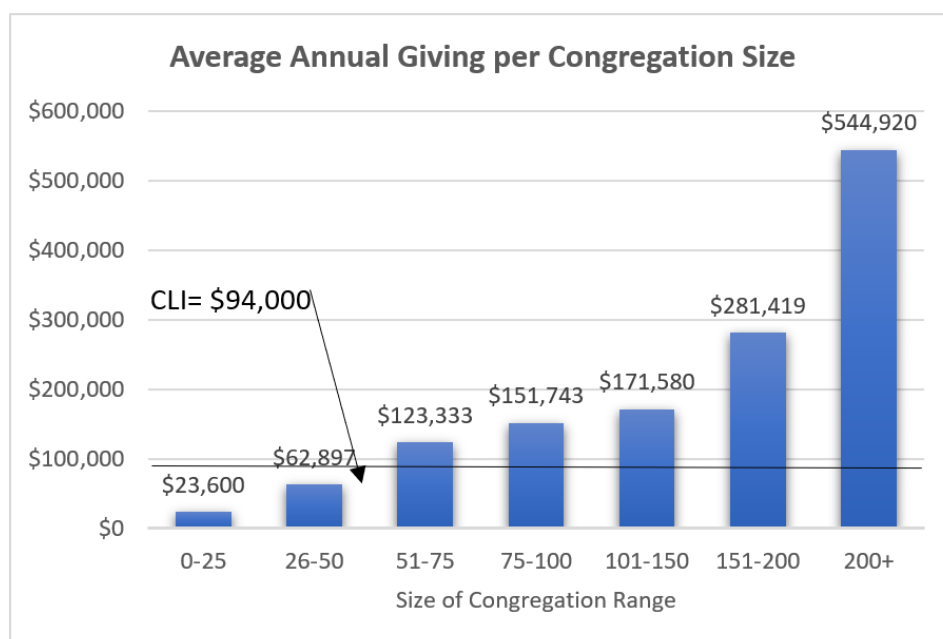
A new question for 2021 asked how many people were involved in active service within the congregation. The following graph shows the results.



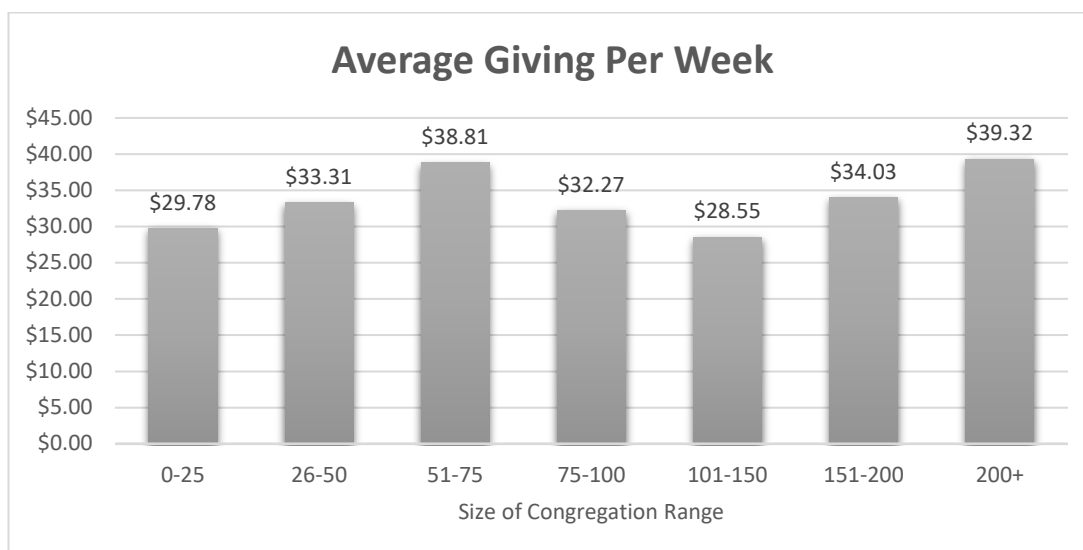
The committee acknowledges that this result seems general and non-specific, but it is hoped that with time and wisdom, the PCV may refine how it monitors active service in congregations so that data can be presented for conversation that helps the development of local ministry and mission. Service that maintains buildings is important in the life of a church. However, serving one another by speaking the truth in love (Eph 4:15) and spurring one another on in the faith is vitally important for healthy church life (Heb 10:24–25).

5.9 Finances

There are some complexities, and potential sensitivities, when reporting financial information. Last year the committee reported on the number of congregations who were able to meet the cost of stipend and NCB from the regular weekly giving of their people. While this is of interest, it does not represent the overall annual operating costs a congregation face. As mentioned earlier, the committee has developed a 'Congregation Living Income' [CLI]. It is acknowledged that further refinement of CLI may be needed, and explanatory details are found in section 2.4 of the report.

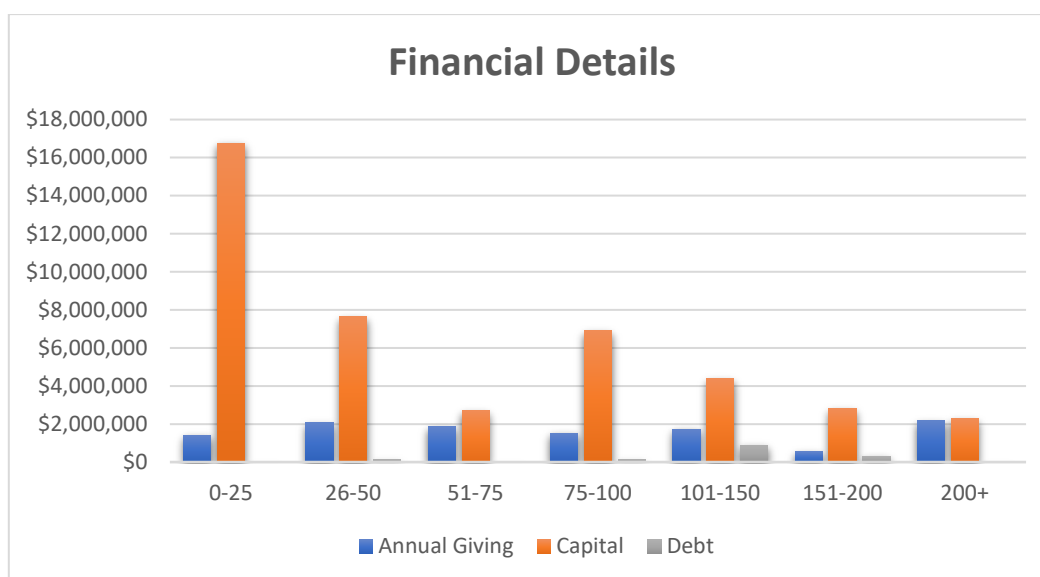


In 2021, there were 95 out of 134 congregations that had annual giving less than the CLI of \$94,000. The committee notes that in eight congregations, annual giving was less than the cost of 52 weeks of supply preaching (without including the cost of travel).



The average weekly giving a head across all PCV congregations is \$33.76.

The graph below indicates the distribution of accumulated generational capital across the size of our congregations.



5.10 Health Indicators for Congregations

In 2021, the committee reported to the Assembly that it was developing a set of indicators to assist presbyteries in discussing the development of health ministry and mission in congregations under their oversight. The first report including these indicators was provided to presbyteries late in 2021. Since then, the indicators have been revised as follows:

- Possible action indicator 2 had the average age dropped from 70 to 50 to better reflect when we should take action.
- Possible commendation indicator 2 was removed, i.e., average age between 30 and 50 years, as it was misleading.
- Possible commendation indicator 8 had the value increased to \$94,000 to reflect the minimum congregation living income.

Possible Action Required Indicators	Indication of
1. Size of congregation less than 25	Inability to call a minister
2. Average age of congregation greater than 50	Likely to cease services within 10 years
3. % of children to adults less than 10%	Indication of ageing congregation
4. % attending bible study less than 15%	Little or no discipleship being undertaken
5. The number of elders is less than 2	A minimum requirement for a healthy church
6. No infant baptisms	Indication of ageing congregation
7. No adult baptisms	Indicator of no outreach
8. No professions of faith	Indicator of no outreach
9. Annual Giving less than \$11,000	Cannot support pulpit supply
10. Average attendance less than 5	Do not have a quorum for a congregational meeting

Commendation Indicators	Indication of
1. Size of congregation greater than 100	Ability to call and sustain ministry
2. % of children to adults between 30% to 50%	Indication of a healthy spread of ages
3. % attending bible study greater than 40%	Good discipleship being undertaken
4. No infant baptisms greater than 5	Indication of growing congregation
5. No adult baptisms greater than 5	Indication of growing congregation
6. No professions of faith greater than 5	Indication of growing congregation
7. Annual Giving greater than \$94,000	Can supply a full-time minister

With the collection of the 2021 statistical data, it is now possible to undertake an initial comparison and tentatively observe changes. The total number of possible action indicators for 2021 is 552, which is a decrease of 70 from the 622 recorded in 2020. The total number of possible commendation indicators for 2021 is 150, which is an increase of 14 from the 136 recorded in 2020.

Total Possible Number of Action Indicators	2020 Number of Congregations	2021 Number of Congregations	Difference
0	4	10	+6
1	12	17	+5
2	12	19	+7
3	25	15	-10
4	17	10	-7
5	15	17	+2
6	17	15	-2
7	17	18	+1
8	9	8	-1
9	5	3	-2
10	3	2	-1

Congregations with seven or more possible action indicators are deemed to require urgent intervention by local leaders and presbyteries. The above table shows that the number of congregations with seven or more possible action indicators has dropped from 34 to 31. An encouraging sign. The 31 congregations are located in the following presbyteries.

Presbytery	Number of congregations with 7 or more possible action indicators
Flinders	1
Gippsland	2
Maroondah	1
Melbourne East	1
Melbourne North	1
North East Victoria	10
North West Victoria	2
South West Victoria	6
Western Victoria	7

The table below shows the change in the number of possible commendation indicators that has taken place over the last two years.

Total Number of Possible Commendation Indicators	2020 Number of Congregations	2021 Number of Congregations	Difference
0	64	55	-9
1	34	36	+2
2	17	22	+5
3	16	16	0
4	5	3	-2
5	0	2	+2

The number of congregations with three or more possible commendation indicators has remained the same. The report to be presented to presbyteries this year will detail the numbers of indicators for each congregation and the change since 2020.

The tables below outline the totals of each indicator across the PCV as a whole.

Indicators of Possible Action Required	Total number of congregations in 2020	Total number of congregations in 2021	Change
1. Size of congregation less than 25	65	60	-5
2. Average age of congregation greater than 50	65	58	-7
3. % of children to adults less than 10%	50	40	-10
4. % attending bible study less than 15%	30	30	0
5. The number of elders is less than 2	52	57	+5
6. No (zero) infant baptisms	117	99	-18
7. No (zero) adult baptisms	121	114	-7
8. No (zero) professions of faith	103	83	-20
9. Annual Giving less than \$11,000	13	8	-5
10. Average attendance less than 5	6	3	-3
Commendation Indicators	Total Number of congregations in 2020	Total Number of congregations in 2021	Change
1. Size of congregation greater than 100	19	16	-3
3. % of children to adults between 30% to 50%	25	28	+3
4. % attending bible study greater than 40%	48	54	+6
5. No infant baptisms greater than 5	1	2	+1

6. No adult baptisms greater than 5	1	3	+2
7. No professions of faith greater than 5	4	8	+4
8. Annual Giving greater than \$94,000 (CLI)	38	39	+1

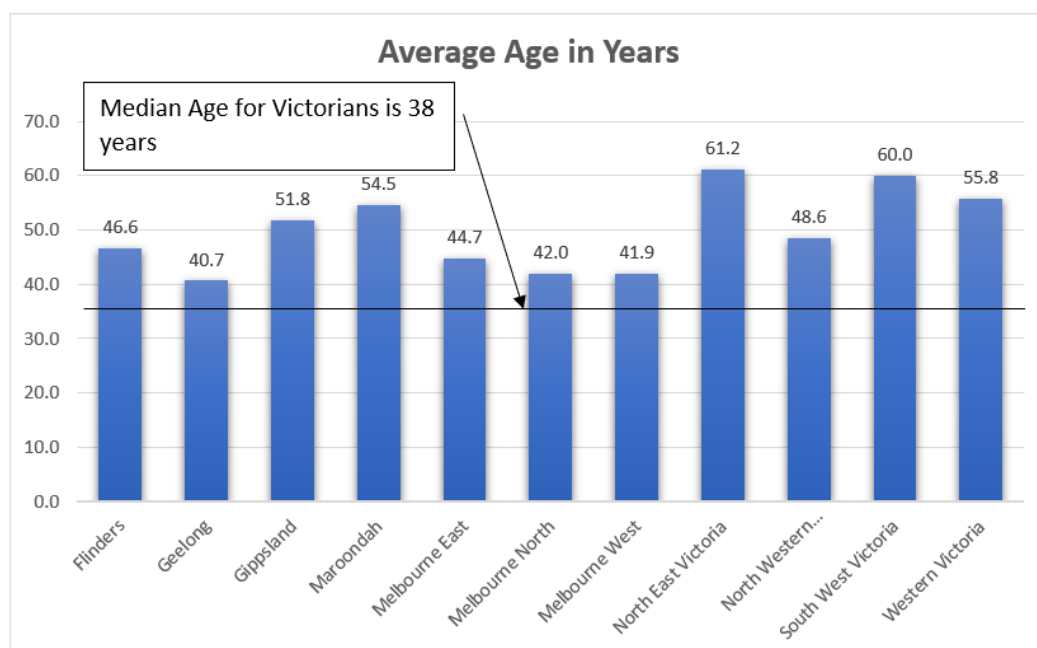
The committee highlights the eldership concern again (highlighted in yellow in the table). Observing what is happening is only the first step. Making prayerfully wise steps to develop what we do next in response is important. How will the PCV actively help local leaders disciple local men so that some will develop sufficient character and teaching ability that willingly serves in eldership?

Analysis by Presbytery

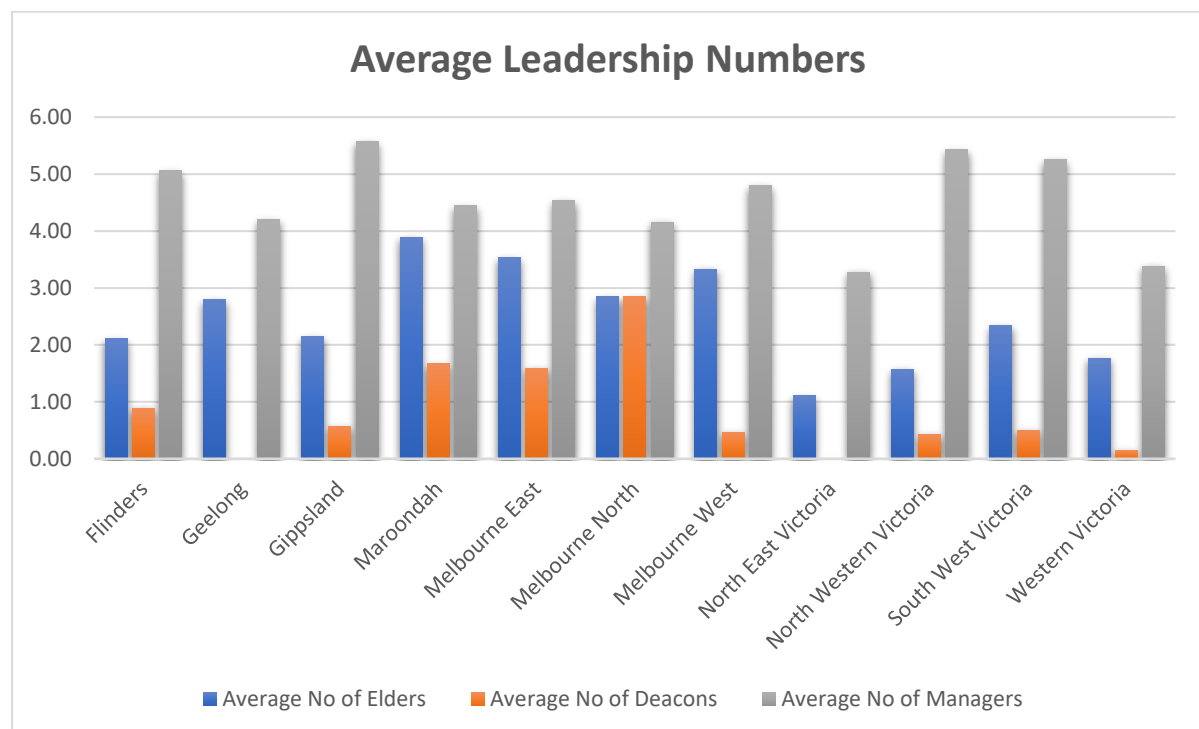
This information is provided to assist the Assembly to gain a picture of the health and issues facing our presbyteries. The following table provides details of the membership and attendance for each presbytery.

Presbytery	No of Cong	No of Comm	No of Adherents	Weekly Attend	Average Size of Cong	% change in attendance since 2001	No of Ministers excluding retired
Flinders	18	692	52	922	51.2	11.4%	15
Geelong	5	230	21	311	62.2	-17.9%	4
Gippsland	7	333	25	390	55.7	-7.6%	5
Maroondah	9	449	86	620	68.9	-7.3%	9
Melb-East	17	881	177	1160	68.2	-4.3%	14
Melb-North	13	757	349	953	73.3	69.2%	16
Melb-West	15	860	72	872	58.1	32.9%	15
NE-Victoria	19	296	52	356	18.7	-49.9%	5.6
NW-Victoria	6	167	15	215	35.8	-33.1%	5
SW-Victoria	12	374	70	323	26.9	-46.8%	4
Western-Vic	13	272	49	335	25.8	-0.9%	6

The following graph shows the average age of attendees.

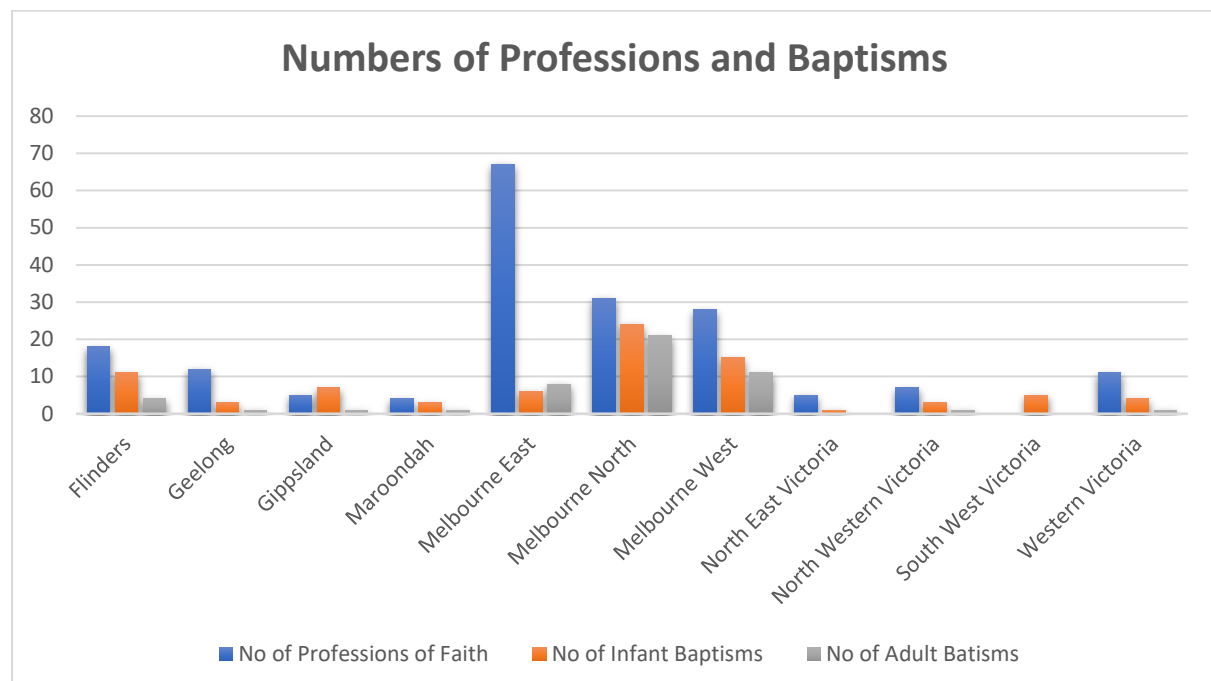


The following graph shows the average numbers of leadership positions for each congregation.

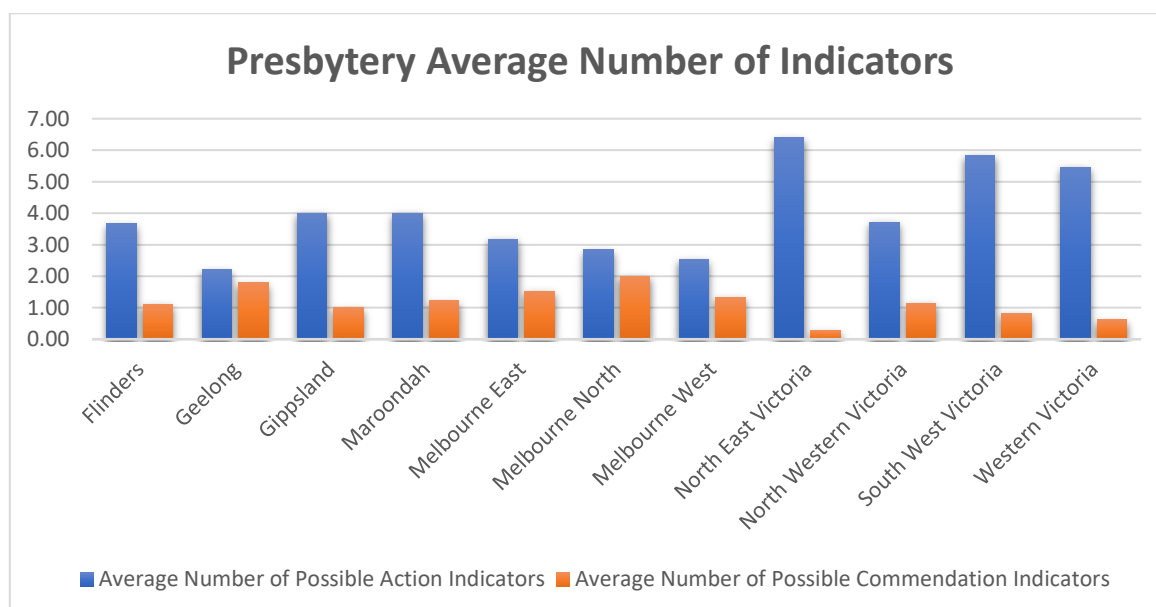


There are three presbyteries whose average number of elders for each congregation is less than two.

The following graph shows the numbers of professions of faith, infant baptisms and adult baptisms for each presbytery.



The following graph shows the average number of possible action indicators and the average number of possible commendation indicators for each presbytery.



The change in indicators over the last 12 months is shown in the following two tables.

Presbytery	2020 Average Number of Possible Action Indicators	2021 Average Number of Possible Action Indicators	Difference
Flinders	4.0	3.67	-0.33
Geelong	3.4	2.20	-1.20
Gippsland	4.8	4.00	-0.75
Maroondah	4.6	4.00	-0.56
Melbourne East	3.6	3.18	-0.41
Melbourne North	2.9	2.85	-0.05
Melbourne West	3.5	2.53	-1.00
North East Victoria	6.6	6.39	-0.22
North Western Victoria	4.6	3.71	-0.91
South West Victoria	5.8	5.83	0.00
Western Victoria	5.7	5.46	-0.25

Presbytery	2020 Average Number of Possible Commendation Indicators	2021 Average Number of Possible Commendation Indicators	Difference
Flinders	1.1	1.11	-0.01
Geelong	1.6	1.80	0.20
Gippsland	1.1	1.00	-0.13
Maroondah	1.2	1.22	0.00
Melbourne East	1.3	1.53	0.24
Melbourne North	1.7	2.00	0.30
Melbourne West	1.3	1.33	0.07
North East Victoria	0.4	0.28	-0.11
North Western Victoria	0.6	1.14	0.52
South West Victoria	0.5	0.83	0.33
Western Victoria	0.6	0.62	0.04

Green shading shows the most positive changes over the last 12 months.

5.11 Supplementary Question Online Services

The results of the question are as follows:

Type of Service Provided	1st Preference	2nd Preference	3rd Preference	Total
YouTube	30	8	2	40
PIM Congregation Connect/Kerusso	15	1	0	16
Zoom	12	21	7	40
Congregational Website	7	11	6	24
None	4	29	51	84
Facebook	4	1	5	10
Printed Transcripts	3	2	4	9
CD/DVD	2	5	2	9
Fluro	1	0	1	2
Local Radio	1	0	0	1
Vimeo		1	1	2

The purpose of the question was to see if there is any advantage to having a uniform platform e.g. cheaper purchasing, ability to run training events etc. However, further analysis may be required as there are some people switching to Microsoft Teams, which we have not collected any data on as yet.

5.12 2021 Statistical Returns by Presbytery

	communicants	adherents	attendance	professions of faith	serving	visitors	elders	assessor elders	deacons	managers	giving	capital	debt
Presbytery													
Flinders (18 Congregations)	689	53	919	19	354	799	37	18	16	92	\$1,409,562	\$9,301,202	\$859,861
Geelong (5 Congregations)	230	21	311	12	147	261	14	5	0	21	\$537,566	\$1,771,208	\$0
Gippsland (7 Congregations)	333	25	390	5	252	552	15	6	4	39	\$641,551	\$1,994,217	\$0
Maroondah (9 Congregations)	446	84	614	4	295	132	35	7	15	40	\$1,209,526	\$3,451,784	\$158
Melbourne East (17 Congregations)	881	177	1160	67	494	623	60	9	27	77	\$2,250,530	\$9,415,627	\$164,707
Melbourne North (13 Congregations)	757	349	953	30	520	213	35	7	37	54	\$1,807,360	\$2,494,585	\$330,428
Melbourne West (15 Congregations)	860	72	872	28	406	430	50	17	7	72	\$1,376,265	\$4,369,818	\$0
North East Victoria (18 Congregations)	240	50	298	5	143	250	20	15	0	59	\$527,875	\$2,735,959	\$0
North Western Vic (7 Congregations)	223	17	273	7	141	291	11	5	3	38	\$510,251	\$643,933	\$125,080
South West Victoria (12 Congregations)	373	72	323	0	147	172	28	2	6	63	\$559,344	\$5,706,060	\$0

	communicants	adherents	attendance	professions of faith	serving	visitors	elders	assessor elders	deacons	managers	giving	capital	debt
Presbytery													
Western Victoria (13 Congregations)	272	49	335	11	176	500	23	3	2	44	\$488,918	\$1,593,492	\$0
Country	1671	234	1930	40	1006	2026	111	36	15	264	\$3,265,504	\$14,444,868	\$125,080
City	3633	735	4518	148	2069	2197	217	58	102	335	\$8,053,243	\$29,033,016	\$1,355,154
Total for PCV	5304	969	6448	188	3075	4223	328	94	117	599	\$11,318,747	\$43,477,884	\$1,480,234

	baptisms infant	baptisms adult	lord's supper participants	bible study attendance	ages 0-9	ages 10-19	ages 20-29	ages 30-39	ages 40-49	ages 50-59	ages 60-69	ages_70_79	ages_80_plus
Presbytery													
Flinders (18 Congregations)	11	4	540	323	139	126	99	110	113	101	71	76	84
Geelong (5 Congregations)	3	1	226	147	75	32	21	57	37	21	18	24	26
Gippsland (7 Congregations)	7	1	337	154	53	39	41	39	31	42	47	63	35
Maroondah (9 Congregations)	3	1	559	310	63	58	56	81	90	60	97	62	47
Melbourne East (17 Congregations)	6	8	707	458	106	138	178	133	144	157	134	114	56
Melbourne North (13 Congregations)	24	21	627	593	111	191	109	173	135	82	64	62	26
Melbourne West (15 Congregations)	15	11	652	409	125	89	100	106	122	90	101	98	41
North East Victoria (18 Congregations)	1	0	220	67	18	26	12	16	23	35	43	58	68
North Western Vic (7 Congregations)	3	1	210	112	40	33	24	42	25	35	19	23	32
South West Victoria (12 Congregations)	5	0	288	134	40	21	30	26	17	34	48	56	51
Western Victoria (13 Congregations)	4	1	338	126	53	25	26	39	39	25	41	45	42
Country	23	4	1619	740	279	176	154	219	172	192	216	269	254
City	59	45	3085	2093	544	602	542	603	604	490	467	412	254
Total for PCV	82	49	4704	2833	823	778	696	822	776	682	683	681	508

Stuart Withers
CONVENER

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE JOINT REPORT (Min 69)

The MDC and CPC have been tasked with bringing a joint agreement concerning the distribution of trust monies received by the PCV from the SCPT for the purpose of 'Home Mission and Church Extension' (see BB 2019 (Comm) min 12.2 and BB 2020 min 48.10). The committees have found a path forward that not only seeks the Assembly to distribute finances according to committees' agreement but also adopt the principles used by the committees in coming to this agreement. The committees are bound to perform this process again in five years' time in keeping with BB 2019 (Comm) min 12.2 and would like the Assembly to note that both committees will continue to follow this direction until such time as a better mechanism can be developed and adopted by the Assembly.

Stuart Withers
CONVENER
MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Cameron Garrett
CONVENER
CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE

PAST MODERATOR'S REPORT (Min 25)

It is a great honour, privilege, and blessing to serve Christ and the Church as Moderator of the General Assembly, and I am more grateful than words can express to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity a second time, as a retired minister of the Church, with the benefit of many years of experience and without the pressure of being the minister of a charge. I am also more grateful than I can find words to express for the unwavering support, encouragement and help of my wife, Lorraine, in moderatorial ministry opportunities and responsibilities.

The Moderator moderates the General Assembly—and the 2021 General Assembly tested our Christian graces, for COVID-19 restrictions compelled us to conduct the Assembly by Zoom from our office desks. Then the Assembly took much longer than planned, for Zoom is slower and more exhausting than face-to-face, and the business had to be carefully considered so that wise and godly decisions could be made. After it was all done, a fellow minister emailed asking was my demeanour a cool mind under pressure, or was I more like a duck, apparently serene above water but frantically paddling underneath? I think the Assembly worked because of the common commitment of its members to Christ and his gospel and his Church and their patience and consideration for their Moderator, trying to appear cool under pressure, but often like the duck, frantically paddling underneath! So I thank God for his grace, and I thank you, the members of the 2021 General Assembly, for your forbearance and fellowship in his service.

A significant part of a Moderator's duties is his responsibility to visit congregations of the Church as rostered by the General Assembly. During the 2021–2022 year, it was my privilege to visit the congregations of the Presbytery of South West Victoria and also certain congregations of the Presbytery of Melbourne East and the Presbytery of Flinders. It seemed to me that after two years of COVID-19 disruptions, the urgent need was for encouragement—and so for every visitation, I preached from Hebrews 10, with a special focus upon the five words of encouragement in vv. 19–25 as the cure for discouragement, despair, and defeat in Christian faith and Christian duty.

I sought to encourage congregations—and they encouraged me by their love for the Lord Jesus and for the gospel of his grace and for each other. I also tried to encourage congregations by reminding them that a Moderator's visit says that the wider Church is interested in them and that, as Moderator, I would report to the General Assembly in general terms on their well-being. On the one hand, I found much for which to give thanks to God in the life of every congregation I visited, for God has been very gracious in restoring the authority of the Bible among us and in making us increasingly truly Reformed and evangelical. However, I also found that many congregations are anxious about the future, as they face issues such as declining numbers, loss of their children and young people from the area or from the faith, difficulty in finding a minister, struggling with buildings built for large congregations but which are now an insurance and maintenance liability, and a growing awareness that our society is becoming increasingly hostile to evangelical Christianity in the public square.

One of the many pleasant aspects of being the Moderator is being in a position to support and encourage the missionaries of the Church. As requested by the 2021 General Assembly, I gave the greetings of the Assembly to all the APWM (Vic) Committee's serving missionaries. We also began to make plans to visit some of them in the field in the coming year. After consulting with the Committee, which

recommended that we visit Lazlo and Eva Mihalyi in Hungary, we had begun to make plans to visit them. However, the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine made the visit impossible this year. Still, again at the suggestion of the Committee, Lorraine and I have been using Zoom from time to time to get to know and encourage and support the Deans working in Timor Leste and the Christians working in South Asia—and all without leaving home!

I was also privileged to be part of a remembrance of the past missionary activity of the PCV in Korea held in the Scots Church on 3 May 2022 for the presentation of medals by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Kang Jeong-sik to representatives of the families of past missionaries to Korea. Australian missionaries Margaret Davies, Belle Menzies, and Daisy Hocking, staff members of the Busanjin Ilsin Girls' School, who supported the nationwide 'March 1st Movement' of 1919 for Korean independence, were arrested, interrogated, and detained by the Japanese authorities. When, in 2021, the government of the Republic of Korea wished to recognise and honour these ladies for their support for Korean Independence, they invited the PWMU to hold a function at which the medals awarded in their honour would be presented to representatives of their families. I helped on the organising Committee and to chair the event, but the bulk of the work was done by other members of the Committee, especially Mrs Roslyn Brown, President of PWMU, Mrs Clair Kwon, and Rev John Wilson, Assembly Clerk.

For me, the highlight of the event was the evident appreciation of the Ambassador in his speech not simply for the missionaries as supporters of Korean independence but also for their work as Christians. He said:

Of course the primary focus of the missionaries was evangelistic. They brought the gospel to the lost and needy. But their work was not limited to that. They set up orphanages, opened schools for girls, and advocated equal rights for deprived and marginalised populations in a patriarchal Confucian society. They really helped people... Their sacrifice and labour were not in vain. The seeds they planted in the hearts of Koreans have blossomed tremendously... Christianity is flourishing in the Korea of today. In fact, the Republic of Korea now sends forth more missionaries overseas than any other country, except for the United States.

It was very encouraging to hear such appreciation for the work of our missionaries, especially from a government representative, and to be reminded again that the success of Christian ministry must not be judged on the short-term results; rather, the Day shall declare it (1 Cor 3:13).

As Moderator, I have also had the opportunity to represent the General Assembly at other events and functions in the wider Church and to be useful in Christian ministry in the wider community.

- My wife and I accepted an invitation from the Hon Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria and Mr Anthony Howard AM QC to represent the Church at a reception at Government House Victoria to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.
- It was good to be able to accept Mr Tom Batty's invitation to participate in the annual Scotch College Easter Service and to give an Easter message to an attentive congregation of staff and students in the Memorial Hall.

- Encouraged by Rev Bob Thomas and with the invaluable assistance of Siew Teng (ST) Yap, I put out an Easter 'Press Release' to a deafening silence—but we are not discouraged and will try again.
- I was also able to accept the invitation from the PLC Council to attend the inaugural College Community Forum held in the Performing Arts Centre and learn something about Council's and the Principal's strategic vision for the year ahead.
- It was a blessing to accept the invitation of the College Faculty to take part in the 2021 PTC Commencement and Graduation Ceremony to celebrate the academic achievements of the 2021 graduates and of the current students.
- I was also pleased that by the grace of God, I was able to fulfil what has been the most challenging invitation thus far, from PositiveMedia, to the Moderator to record an Easter message of 60 seconds in length to be played on air designed for a listener who may not ever have gone to a church but who is open to hearing something about Jesus!

Being Moderator of the General Assembly is both an honour and an opportunity—not simply to serve Christ and his Church, but also for personal development—to grow in usefulness and in the living experience of the presence of God and his enabling in situations when one is inadequate for the task at hand. I can affirm from my experience as Moderator that the God who calls is also the God who never leaves us or forsakes us, but who guides, provides and enables – and while the role may not be for everyone, if you are asked will you let your name go forward for the ballot for Moderator I urge you to give the matter careful, prayerful attention; it may just be that the Lord is calling you to serve in this capacity.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable and indispensable support given to me by many people across the Church, without whose support I would not have been able to fulfil my responsibilities as Moderator, but especially the support of the Assembly Clerk, Rev John Wilson, his Administrative Assistant, Siew Teng Yap, and the General Manager, Mr Michael Ellison.

Peter Phillips
PAST MODERATOR

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES COLLEGE

CHAIR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF PLC AT THE AGM (Min 34)

In accordance with Article 13 of the College's Constitution, the Chairman presents this report to the Members of PLC at its AGM. A copy of this report will also be forward to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as the Annual report on the Life and Work of the College for 2021 as per Article 41.

'Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever.' Psalm 136:1

The latter half of 2021 proved to be a continual challenge for Presbyterian Ladies' College, as like the rest of Melbourne, the College continued to operate under long periods of lockdown. Nevertheless, with Australia and Victoria reaching their vaccination targets, the first half of 2022 has seen the College return to some semblance of normality with face-to-face classes occurring throughout both Semester 1 and 2. Nevertheless, there are still challenges arising from staff and students continuing to be in isolation as the coronavirus moved from a pandemic to being endemic in the community. Despite these challenges, the College community remained resilient, and the important work of teaching and learning has continued under the providential hand of God.

Academic Achievements and College Celebrations

As occurred in 2020, the students at PLC maintained their diligence in academic learning, motivated by the dedication of PLC's excellent teaching staff and College leadership. As a result, the graduating class of 2021 distinguished themselves with excellent VCE and IB results. The median ATAR was 95.95, with 89% achieving an ATAR above 80. Our congratulations go to the 'Class of 2021' for their outstanding results and we wish them the very best as they enter the next phase of life after secondary school. May the values and character instilled in them during their time at PLC serve them well as they take their place as citizens and leaders of the society, and excel in all that they set their hearts and minds to.

Unfortunately, with the ongoing lockdowns in the latter half of 2021, the various College events have once more been severely curtailed. The annual highlight of the Gala Concert was again cancelled, while other events such as Junior School Speech Night and the Year 12 Leavers' Assembly were either pre-recorded, conducted over zoom or without the presence of parents on-site.

Thankfully, this has not so far been the case for the events in 2022. The College has been able to gradually welcome parents, Old Collegians and its wider community back onto the school grounds for community and fundraising events. Both the Junior School and Senior School Musicals are planned to go ahead as usual, with audiences permitted in person. Likewise, events organized by the Old Collegians Association (OCA), Hethersett Group, Friends of Music School, such as PLC Women and Music Roundabout have allowed for the important work of community building to occur and are much welcomed by parents, students, staff and Old Collegians. Likewise, the full return to sports competition and music performance have been welcomed by the girls. The College is again a hive of activity throughout the day as it has been in the past before the pandemic.

The College Council also organized its first Community Forum on 21 March 2022. The aim was to gather with all stakeholders in the College to hear of activities that have taken place as well as those that are planned during the year. The ability of stakeholders to interact among the various groups was welcomed, and feedback from attendees indicates that an ongoing forum each year would be well received.

Senior Appointments and Farewells in 2021

We were sad to see Dr Michelle Cafini leave the College as the Head of Junior School after only being appointed in 2020. Thankfully, the Deputy Head of Junior School agreed to step into the role of acting Head of Junior School at the start of 2022 to ensure stability and continuity for the staff and students of the Junior School.

The Council saw one retirement for the year, with Dr Emily Roberts stepping down from Council. She is replaced by Mrs Fiona Hare, as a Group A appointment, and Ms Andrea Sim also joined the Council as a Group C appointment (replacing Dr Greg Barton who resigned at the end of 2020). We welcome both Mrs Hare and Ms Sim and look forward to their contribution on Council in the coming years.

We are also sad to farewell the departure of our Company Secretary, and Business Manager of PLC, Mr Hamish Blair. Mr Blair has been PLC's Business Manager since February 2013 and during this time has been part of the leadership of the College. We thank Mr Blair for his faithful and committed service to the College and wish him the best in the next stage of his career.

Property and Finances

During the year, significant work has been undertaken by the Council to progress the Sports, Aquatic and Fitness Centre (SAFC). This addition to the facilities of the College is part of the long-term Master Plan and also a key deliverable in the current Strategic Plan. It will replace the current Aquatic Centre and sports facilities within the Hilda McKay centre which are near to or past their useful lives. The Council is hopeful that construction of this will be able to commence by the end of 2022, and for the facility to open in 2025.

The College's ability to undertake this significant project owes much to the financial stability and astute management of the College over many years. It has enabled a healthy operating surplus to be generated each year to allow for essential ongoing investment back into the College. The year end 31 December 2021 is no exception. Enrolments are healthy and ongoing operating costs are well controlled. Essential maintenance and upgrades are being performed on the assets of the College to ensure a safe and fit-for-purpose environment within which staff can work and students are able to learn. With the international borders reopening, there is also an increasingly positive outlook for enrolments in the Boarding House.

The Council commends to members the 2021 audited financial statements of the College, which has been approved by Council. The audit report is unqualified and following the acceptance of the financial statements by members at the AGM, it will be submitted to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, along with this report.

We express our gratitude again to Mr Blair, Business Manager, and his staff, for their work in managing the business and finances of the College.

150th Year Anniversary

Planning is also well underway for the 150th year celebrations in 2025. A range of special events are being held to commemorate this significant milestone in the history of the College. Research leading to the publication of the history of the College over the last 50 years has been commissioned and work on it is well underway.

Council

College Council consists of 17 volunteer directors, five of whom are appointed directly by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as Group A members, five as Group B members are nominated by a selection committee that represents the Old Collegians and the Parents' Association, and seven being the Group C members are nominated to the Church by the Council itself. They set the vision, principles, values and priorities that govern the College, in alignment with the Christian and academic aims that are enshrined in the College's constitution. All appointments are for one year, with no restriction on being re-nominated.

This is my second year as Chair of Council, and most of the office bearers from last year have continued in their roles. They include:

- Deputy Chair – Mr Wayne Rice
- Chair, Finance Risk and Audit Committee – Ms Mui Chun Chew (with Mr Rice as Deputy Chair)
- Chair, Property and Planning Committee – Mr Ben de Waard
- Chair, Group B Selection Committee – Mrs Kate Sampson
- Chair, Policy Review Working Group – Ms Sze Lin Foong

I retain the chairs of the Executive and Strategy Committee (new), Governance and Leadership Committee (new) and Remuneration Committee.

We have also appointed Mrs Priscilla Mellado to assist me in the Executive and Strategy Committee as Deputy Chair, and this role is particularly important given the work currently being done on the new Strategic Plan to begin in 1 January 2024.

A SAFC Steering Committee was also formed during the year to assist Council with the progress of the SAFC. I wish to thank Mr Daniel Gregor for chairing this Committee, and the excellent work that is done to provide oversight to Mrs Cheryl Penberthy and her team for the delivery of this project.

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 selected Council Members, nominated by Council. It is chaired by Mrs Christine Hopper.

The Council has also re-appointed Dr Andrew McDonald and appointed Mrs Hare as its representatives on the Board of the PLC Foundation. Dr McDonald continues to serve as its President.

Conclusion

The last year has been another challenging time for the College, but we are thankful to God for His continued providence and blessing for the College. We are blessed with the strong leadership of the College through our Principal Mrs Penberthy, and her leadership team and staff. It is inspiring to witness the endeavour and achievements of the students and the dedication of the wider community (be it parents or Old

Collegians) to the work of the College. The Christian heritage and culture of the College are gifts from God which enable the College and the students who come under its tutelage to thrive and prosper. It is with the aim of continuing to be faithful in the mission and purpose of the College that the Council continues to serve and act as good stewards, exercising care, discernment and judgement to steer and guide the strategic direction of the College and to support the Principal and her team in their work so that the name of Christ be honoured.

Rev Mark Chew
CHAIR OF COUNCIL
PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE
16 June 2022

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (Min 118)

Mission to Korea in focus

In May 2022, PWMU captured the attention of the wider PCV by collaborating to host an event where the Korean Ambassador presented medals on behalf of the Korean Government to relatives of three early PWMU missionaries. One of the three women, Miss Belle Menzies of Ballarat, was one of the very first missionaries sent out in 1891 by PWMU. The women were honoured for their sacrifice and devotion to the people of Korea at the time of the Korean Independence Movement in 1919. Within Melbourne Korean congregations, the celebratory occasion has engendered a closer understanding of the involvement of Victorian Presbyterians in the changing of their society, which evidences many Christian values.

The planning group for the event comprised PWMU President and Secretary, PCV Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, APWM-Vic Convenor, with two Korean 'experts', one of whom became a PWMU member during this time. Preparations were made in close consultation with the Korean Embassy. God was indeed glorified through this joyous evening at the Scots' Church Melbourne.

State meetings

Due to pandemic restrictions, two state meetings were held online – the Thanksgiving Event, 'PWMU – Reset!' and the AGM. Both were well attended. Two families who work with diaspora groups in Melbourne, the Paix and the Pearces, educated us in a refreshing way about how to reach out to those around us who are far from their homeland. Andrew Adams joined online from Japan. Several videos from workers were shown at the Thanksgiving Event.

The 131st Annual meeting was attended by 56 people. Our guest preacher was Rev Jordan Born from Donvale PC. Jared and Bethany Killey, new workers headed for Vanuatu, were introduced. Margaret Conradi was interviewed and honoured for her 40 years of service, representing PWMU, with the Presbyterian and Scots' Joint Mission at Flemington. Rosemary Zurrer retired from Council after serving PWMU for more than 50 years. After videos from other workers were viewed, attendees again prayed together in breakout groups.

There was much joy at the first face-to-face meeting, the Country Rally at Colac in May 2022. The 40 or so present fellowshiped with three cross-cultural workers – Rhys and Rhondda Hall, along with Mavis Price, learning about their current work, as well as their early work.

Newsletter

The monthly PWMU Newsletter continues to provide an excellent digest with photos and carefully summarised articles of current news from cross-cultural workers, all of whom fall under APWM's care. Several detailed praise and prayer points accompany each article.

Children's work

The second *Dayspring Day* hosted by Geelong West in June 2022 was themed as *Dayspring Tours*. It was a 'whirlwind tour to visit the places where our workers serve.' Children and their families living hours away found the effort to be there thoroughly worthwhile. The energetic day featured costumed 'welcomers to country', languages, games, music, souvenirs and crafts. The bookstall with mission and outreach books

was well-patronised. A brand-new Dayspring theme song was introduced, following on from last year's song, 'Jesus wants kids to know about him all throughout the world.' More youngsters now have a better idea about gospel work around the world. The children's magazine *Dayspring*, produced by Stephanie Hood three times a year, also engages the interest of children in mission.

Bursaries

Our bursary funds have been put to good use covering all expenses for eight South Sudanese men completing their theological education in two different colleges in Addis Ababa. These men from the Gambella camps in Ethiopia faced floods and hardship during the year. One man, Simon Koang, graduated in June 2022, and PWMU has agreed to pay the costs for him to pursue a two-year Master's programme. When this is complete, Simon hopes to join the academic staff of a new theological college for South Sudanese. What a privilege to support our partner church in this way!

PWMU Cookbook

Cookbook royalties contribute to the support of the bursary students. The Cookbook Facebook page, with 226 followers, really is worth visiting. The photo posts with helpful comments are both mouth-watering and inspirational. Sales by PWMU in 2021-22 amounted to \$1,400. Christine Closter has been honoured for her 20 years of service as PWMU Cookbook Committee Treasurer. Following her retirement from that position in mid-2022, John Angelico accepted a nomination as her successor.

History

The history of PWMU from 1990 to 2020, compiled by Alison Stanley, was released mid-year. Another important, beautiful book by M. D. Yang entitled, *The First Australian Woman Missionary in Korea – Isabella (Belle) Menzies*, was gifted to PWMU by the author and his team at Busanjin Presbyterian Church, South Korea.

Overview

Membership numbers have steadied, as some attendees from WMV conferences and the Korean night have 'caught the vision'. The Devotional Booklet, written by workers and members, provides monthly spiritual sustenance to groups and individuals. The production of the newsletter was disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, but most members continued to receive each edition by email. Our office worker Natalie Miller had a challenging year, often working from home, but succeeded in serving PWMU well. At the time of writing, a new PWMU website is being created.

Council

Rosalie Fleming had an extra busy year as treasurer. Alison Stanley as secretary continued to develop new skills in technology and logistics. Just three other members—Pam Vandenberg, Gaye McKenzie, and Sue White—shared the load on Council, whilst Elspeth Slater and Rosemary Zurrer continued in major roles off-council (Newsletter Editor and Bursary Liaison). In 2021–2022, PWMU distributed a total of \$94,694 to further the work of bringing the gospel message to people of other cultures, both near and far.

The work of the ages bearing fruit

PWMU is playing an integral role in bringing people from all tongues and nations into God's Kingdom, in collaboration with APWM-Vic, APWM National, PCV and its partner churches in Korea, South Sudan and Vanuatu. It is heartening to see the work of over 130 years coming to spiritual fruition, even helping to shape a nation's identity. We

rejoice to be able to serve the Lord by continuing the legacy of women who have gone before us in collaboration with modern-day cross-cultural workers. All honour and praise be to Christ Jesus.

Roslyn Brown
PRESIDENT

PRIVACY OFFICER (Min 93)

The work of the Privacy Officer continues as follows by providing:

1. relevant privacy legislative changes updates to the PCV via email communications to Presbyteries for distribution to Sessions (as and if such changes occur);
2. ongoing privacy training to new PCV employees and other PCV personnel, committees and organisations as requested;
3. responses to privacy enquiries and complaints.

There have been no data breach incidents notified to the PCV Privacy officer in the 2021–2022 period (to date). Thank you to the Assembly for its work to ensure privacy compliance is maintained in the PCV.

Please always contact the Privacy Officer in the case of a suspected privacy data breach, as (under the relevant legislation) the PCV must be prepared to conduct a quick assessment of a suspected data breach to determine whether it is likely to result in serious harm, and as a result require notification externally to the PCV. All data breaches must be addressed according to the relevant process and requirements of the legislation. The Privacy Officer will work to ensure this is undertaken accordingly.

For any concerns about data breaches within PCV Presbyteries, Sessions, and organisations, please contact the PCV Privacy Officer or visit www.safechurchpcv.org.au/privacy.

Please take the time to ensure that the data collection, storage, use and disclosure practices of your charge/court of the church/committee/organisation within the PCV is compliant with the privacy requirements as described at www.safechurchpcv.org.au/privacy. Any questions or requests for training or support in the area of privacy may be directed to the Privacy Officer.

Fiona Bligh
PCV PRIVACY OFFICER

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE (Min 91)

Committee Membership

The committee would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Mrs Amelia Thomas and Rev David Brown. Amelia has completed her service on the committee, and David is now retired from ministry and has stepped off the committee for a time. Both Amelia and David have made excellent contributions to the work of the committee, and the committee is very grateful for their commitment and dedication.

In 2021, Mrs Louise Griffiths joined the committee, and in 2022, Mrs Heather Thomas commenced. There are currently two vacancies on the Safe Church Committee, and the committee is working to fill these positions as soon as possible.

Safe Church Unit Staffing Change

Ian Atkinson has retired after six years of faithful and diligent service to the Church as the Safe Church Compliance and Administration Officer. The committee thanks and praises God for Ian's amazing work and contribution in his role. The committee wishes Ian every blessing upon his retirement.

The committee is very thankful to God for the provision of Mr Ashley Manly to take up the part-time Safe Church Compliance and Administration Officer role in the Safe Church Unit. Ashley has many years of service to the Lord in the Church and joins the Safe Church Unit with excellent skills, expertise, and experience, which will be a great asset for the work. He continues in his current part-time role elsewhere in the PCV.

National Redress Scheme Claims

The PCV has provided redress in one claim.

New Victorian Child Safe Standards

In line with the new Child Safe Standards (July 2022) and the decision of the Commission of Assembly in May 2022, a number of new resources and updates have been added to the PCV Safe Church website for use in the PCV. The committee encourages the Assembly to take the time to review the Resources page and the new Families page of the website, with a view to making use of these resources and information in PCV churches. The committee maintains its commitment to ensure that PCV compliance continues to uphold biblical standards and adhere to our Christian faith.

Risk Assessment - Child Abuse - Presbyterian Church of Victoria

In order to comply with Child Safe Standard 2—Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture—organisations must have strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse. The Safe Church Unit has completed a risk assessment for the risk of child abuse in the PCV. This risk assessment is reviewed and updated by the Safe Church Unit each year. The Safe Church PCV programme is the overarching risk prevention and management strategy for reducing and removing risks of child abuse in the PCV. The annual risk assessment completed by the Safe Church Unit details the management strategies used for the following categories:

- Leadership
- Reportable Conduct
- Recruitment

- Grooming
- Privacy
- Children's Ministry and Activities

To ensure compliance with Standard 2 (2.5 – Risk assessment strategies focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children and young people) across the PCV, a risk assessment tool for Sessions of PCV churches to undertake a child safety risk assessment within the local church children's ministries is provided via the PCV Safe Church website (<https://www.safechurchpcv.org.au/s/Local-PCV-church-Child-Safety-Risk-Assessment.xlsx>). This is a once-yearly activity to be completed by Sessions and minuted in Session records. This tool will also be sent to Sessions by the Safe Church Unit via email after Assembly. Should the Commission for Children and Young People audit a PCV church or the PCV as a denomination, this activity will demonstrate compliance. If Sessions, upon receiving the email and tool from the Safe Church Unit, have any queries or need assistance in the completion of this tool, they may contact the Safe Church Facilitator.

Safe Church enquiries and concerns

The committee is pleased to note that the Safe Church Unit continues to receive enquiries from across the PCV, including the seeking of information and advice relating to safe ministry best practice, and the raising of concerns related to Safe Church issues. The committee also wishes to remind the Assembly of the importance of contacting the Safe Church Unit in regards to any safe church matters. This is essential as part of our continued work and efforts to protect children and vulnerable people from abuse in the PCV. It is also essential, especially in the light of the extremely sad and distressing information the Assembly has received this year regarding historical child abuse. This must never happen again.

Safe Church Compliance and Training

Safe Church compliance continues to be high across the PCV, and the committee thanks the Safe Church Representatives and the Sessions of each church and PCV organisation for this. Fourteen Safe Church Training days have been offered across the PCV in 2022, and attendance levels have been excellent. In particular, the committee thanks presbyteries for their support and commitment in ensuring that training is completed as required across the PCV. This has been of great help to the work of the committee.

Appointments of Ministry Workers

The committee reminds the Assembly that the Safe Church process for the appointment of ministry workers does apply to everyone in any paid ministry role. This includes ministry assistants, exit students, and ministers seeking a call. Role Description templates have been approved by the committee and will be available on the website by the time the Assembly meets.

Rev Brian Harvey
CONVENER

SCOTCH COLLEGE (Min 36)

In conjunction with the objects set down in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Scotch College, the strategic intent of the School is to offer a distinctive brand of education built on the traditions of our past, our Christian belief and our confidence in embracing innovation and progress. We aim to deliver an education which, for each boy, improves opportunity to discover interests and talents; and, improves outcomes, both in those things which are measured and those for which school years are the formative years: his sense of self; interaction and dealings with others; engagement with family and with communities near and far. We seek to promote curiosity, individuality and independence of thought, while inculcating a strong sense of compassion, community, service and belonging, and so empower each boy to challenge those things which need challenging and support those which need supporting.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent actions of the State and Federal Governments, continued to have a significant impact on the School throughout Semester 2, 2021. The pandemic has seen boys undertake periods of remote learning, and has caused the cancellation or postponement of many of the programmes and events that would normally take place during the school year. Activities and events that have been affected by the pandemic include: the Debating Association of Victoria debating competition; the end of Term 3 camps; the APS Winter Sport season; the School's overseas exchange programmes; the annual visit of boys to, and from, Tiwi College; the Year 9 and 10 Service and Activities programme (including Cadets and the Pipe and Military bands); the Year 11 Immersion programme; the annual music concert programme including the Foundation Day concert; and, the Annual Family Day and House Athletics Carnival. Other events, including the Parent Information Evenings and Parent Teacher interviews have been held, but in different format.

Enrolments

Under the leadership of our Principal Tom Batty, there continues to be high demand for admission into the School at all entry points. At the start of 2022, there were 1462 boys enrolled in the Senior School, compared to the 1470 enrolments in 2021. Within the total enrolments, 165 (174 in 2021) are boarders, of whom 35 were new to the Hill community. Nine indigenous students are members of the 2021 Scotch community, six of whom reside on the Hill. The School Roll at the start of 2022 included 14 full-fee paying Overseas Students (24 in 2021), with new overseas students joining Scotch from Hong Kong, mainland China, and Malaysia. 73 new boys joined the Junior School and demand for both casual and regular entry places at Prep, Year 4, Year 7 and Year 9 remains very strong. Day places in the Senior School have again been keenly sought; however, the School's approach to enrolment will maintain a Senior School of approximately 1460 boys.

Chaplaincy

In both Senior and Junior Schools, the School Chaplains, Rev David Assender and Rev Doug Campbell continue to preach at their weekly Assemblies and Chapel services, teach Christian Education classes and help with special events. They continue to work with purpose and great effect amongst the boarding houses of the Hill and carry out pastoral care of boys and staff. This year's Easter Breakfast was well patronised. The guest speaker was Associate Professor Alan Gijsbers, who works at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Dr Gijsbers combines an active clinical practice with a

research programme that aims to reduce the burden of infections in Indigenous Australian populations. He is a member of St Thomas Anglican Church, Burwood.

The Reverend Assender continues to oversee the Christian Movement lunchtime group, where numbers remain positive with loyal boys reaching out to their friends and serving the Scotch community. The boys have run a lunchtime Table Top Games Club and other activities, providing opportunity to meet with their friends. The group maintain a shared vision of helping establish a school in Malawi.

Term 2 saw the Reverend Assender centrally involved with the running of Year 9 Retreats at Healesville. The Retreats are organised and run by the Christian Education Department under the leadership of Head of Department, Mr Cameron Cutchie. Amidst the glorious environment of the Healesville camp, the Retreats mark the transition, in a Christian setting, of boys into the Upper School and into their designated houses. The feedback from staff and boys was again very encouraging. The Christian Education department is investigating the possibility of introducing a retreat into the Year 11 programme, run along similar lines as the Year 9 Retreat.

Academic

All at Scotch are very much aware that an education is about much more than a final set of examination results. In particular, we are guided by our foundational teaching and learning principle (the inherent value of each individual) and foundational teaching and learning question (How did the world evolve to be as it is and how might it be made to evolve for the greater good?)

VCE performance may not be the best measure of the intellect of our boys, their growth and contribution to our school, or their potential to contribute to communities and future families, but it is the one we have and probably the one most used to determine immediate post-school opportunities, academic or otherwise. It is also a measure of our success, both internally and externally.

The 2021 VCE results were most encouraging. There is little doubt that the marketplace is, thankfully, tightening (some APS schools again didn't fare as well as might normally be expected), as schools from all sectors lift their game and make better use of data. We should also keep in mind that, whilst, scholarships aside, Scotch adopts a non-selective entry, some of our nearest and strongest competitors have admissions policies that incorporate elements of academic selection. Even with a large cohort of 253, spanning the full range of academic aptitudes, our results continued to be very strong when viewed through both the internal (value-adding) and external (comparison of published ATAR results) lenses. The School's median ATAR was 88.85, compared to 88.6 in 2020.

Seven boys achieved the maximum possible ATAR of 99.95, ensuring an exceptionally strong Scotch representation at the very 'top end' of the state-wide order of merit. Only 39 students (28 boys) across the state achieved the maximum ATAR score of 99.95 in 2021. Whilst it is worth noting the performance of our scholarship boys who continue to perform strongly (all boys who achieved the maximum possible ATAR were scholarship boys and ten scholarship boys were placed in the top 20 ATAR ranks), it is pleasing to note the high level performance of boys outside of the scholarship group, providing further evidence of our ability to challenge, engage and 'lift' boys at the top end of the ability spectrum.

Further, 12.8% of boys made the top 1% of the State; 31.6% the top 5%; 47% the top 10%; and 70.1% the top 20%. There were 19 highest possible subject scores of 50 (compared to 21 in 2020) across 16 boys, including a Year 7 boy; 10 subjects, and nine boys won VCE Premier's Awards. Based on Year 5 ability testing data, the mean value-added percentile for the Class of 2021 was 19.6%, which is the highest recorded since this data commenced being tracked in 2012. The results of the School's analysis of 'value add' align strongly with contemporary educational research, which underscores the powerful influence that teachers have on academic outcomes, and highlights the expertise of Scotch staff in influencing those factors that make a difference. Ongoing initiatives in academic care, relational learning, teacher action research, and programme and departmental reviews will further improve teacher capacity in this area and continue to support high-quality outcomes for future Year 12 cohorts.

The School has, in recent years, done quite a lot to ensure that our most able boys are challenged at a level beyond comfort, including the introduction and ongoing development of a broad suite of academic Challenge Programmes at Years 7 – 9, a rigorous 'reaccreditation' process for Year 9 and 10 electives, the introduction of Enhancement Mathematics classes ('top streams') at Year 8 (from 2017) and Year 9 (from 2018) and ongoing development of our University Extension course in Mathematics by Head of Mathematics. Benefits of the Challenge Programmes, introduced in the core subject areas in Year 8 in 2016, have also begun to flow through to VCE level. Of the 23 boys who achieved ATARs of 99 or more in 2021, who were enrolled at the School in Year 8, 22 of them participated in one or more Challenge Programmes during Year 8, with most of these boys participating in multiple Challenge Programmes.

Campus

The School's building programme continues apace. Construction of two House rooms around St Andrew's square has finished, as has the conversion of the ground floor of the Language and Culture Centre into four House rooms and offices for senior staff. This provides homes for all day Houses around St Andrew's square. Construction of new accommodation for boarders and boarding staff has commenced and is scheduled to be completed in time for the start of the 2023 academic year. A number of enabling projects including; infrastructure upgrades; road network alterations; repurposing of existing buildings; and, relocation of services have been undertaken as part of the works on the Hills.

Teaching And Learning

In addition to alterations to the physical landscape of the School, a number of teaching and learning initiatives continue to be developed, premised in the belief that knowing each boy, and challenging him just beyond his level of comfort, leads to the greatest gains in unearthing interests and improving learning outcomes. Such initiatives include discussion and planning to the four themes of: Personalisation (how might technology, including Artificial Intelligence, better improve learning relationships and outcomes in a Scotch context); Diversity (how might we better engage with, learn from and serve communities and agencies beyond our immediate bounds); Enterprise (how might we better prepare boys for the densely connected low hierarchical environment into which they will enter post school); and, Sustainability.

Work continues on developing an appropriately resourced, comprehensive, sequenced, encounter based age appropriate Prep – Year 12 programme targeting

the all-round growth and development of each boy, under the Growth of Scotch Boys themes: contact with a diverse range of people; reflection on moral position; community values; belief to a cause bigger than oneself; a sense of other; and, challenge; what excellence really looks like, what it takes to pursue it, and the vulnerability inherent in such pursuit. Key staff have been appointed, an initial audit has been completed, reporting structures have been established and the task of programme development has begun.

All staff undertook the School's Staff Experience and Engagement Survey, an instrument designed to gauge staff experience of, and engagement with, the Scotch workplace, and to provide measures of staff wellness. Results have helped the School, in consultation with staff groups, to identify key themes, aligned with our strategic intents, which can be tracked over time and used to inform future staff development programmes. These themes include: staff wellbeing; growth of Scotch boys; service to school and profession through contribution to a greater good; and, utilising and developing staff passions and interests.

At the end of 2021, the School achieved reaccreditation as a Safe School with the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) for a further three years and is, therefore, in its fourth year of accreditation as a Safe School by the ACF. As part of the process of reaccreditation, the ACF undertook an extensive audit and the resulting Audit Report outlining Strengths and Areas for Continuous Improvement. The School's response to the areas of continuous improvement formed the basis of discussion with the final panel interview for reaccreditation and our progress will be the basis of the ACF's annual reviews.

The first round of Teacher Action Research and Career Development Programme (TARCDP) projects, suspended for much of 2020 and 2021, were completed this year. Approximately 75 staff engaged in 23 action research projects across the Senior School. Staff developed new skills in action research methodology and produced excellent resources across a wide range of areas. Round 2 of TARCDP will commence at the beginning of Term 3, 2022, with projects expected to take two years to complete.

Co-Curricular

Sport continues to play an important role in the lives of our boys. The 2021 winter and spring APS seasons were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 summer season once again proved a successful hunting ground for Scotch sport, with the high levels of performance across all sports. The Head of the River win by the First VIII crew was an outstanding achievement and will be remembered for years to come. Our crew had experienced some ups and downs throughout the season but under the leadership of coach and captain, our boys found a way to perform when it counted most. They powered through the course to win by a comfortable margin ahead of Melbourne Grammar and St Kevin's. Our Year 9 Quads also dominated at the Head of the River with some excellent performances throughout the day, across all of the crews competing. The First VIII backed up the following week at the National Rowing Championships to finish second.

Volleyball has captured the interest of all at school with the positioning of a net on the boarders' lawn the catalyst for a premiership. While the premiership was shared with Carey, it will be a season well remembered for the boys stepping up and playing a great team brand. Nail biting wins against Xavier College and Wesley were key fixtures as our boys held their nerve to deliver important wins.

The Firsts Table Tennis team have enjoyed a recent resurgence with four wins and two losses to finish third overall, losing to the dominant Haileybury and Wesley teams. A key feature of our team this year is the many young members participating in the open team. The future is bright for this group as we look to close the gap with the top teams. The Badminton team have performed consistently this season with six wins and three losses. The Captain was a standout performer winning the majority of his matches.

Our Swimming team have looked to build on an impressive 2021 season and started with some impressive lead up meets and also a victory in the All Schools Relay Championships. It was the first time in over 15 years that Scotch defeated St Kevin's in a major meet. On APS finals night with a revamped programme, our boys were able to challenge top position but fell short to finish in an impressive second position. They broke several Scotch records at the All School Relay Championships and six APS records at the APS finals. In the Diving pool, our Captain won the APS finals Open Boys A final, with other members of the team finished fourth and third in their division. Our squad finished sixth overall.

The First XI Cricket team have had some significant highlights and finished the season strongly to finish with seven wins and three losses to finish third overall. The Captain was absolutely superb, raising the bat on four occasions with unbeaten innings of 109*, 146* and 131* and his last innings for the school 124 out. The First VIII Tennis performed extremely well winning five games and losing four, with our doubles combinations performing strongly each week.

The Touch Football team were highly competitive and despite going close on several occasions, were unable to win any games for the season. Our boys certainly tried hard but just lacked a bit of poise at critical times. The Firsts Red and Blue Squash teams enjoyed a positive season and worked hard on their games finishing third and fourth in the schools competition. We look to the future to help grow numbers back into the sport as they have declined across all schools in recent years.

Futsal won three games and lost four to finish in sixth position. Scotch fielded six teams in the APS Lawn Bowls competition with three teams reaching the quarter finals and one team making it through to the semi-finals. The Scotch D team lost in an extra end to finish fourth overall.

The Scotch Orienteering squad competed enthusiastically over the eight-week season finishing second in the schools section of the competition. Camberwell Grammar retained the Slade-Wilson Trophy, winning with 976 points to Scotch's 681. Outstanding individual performances for Scotch over the season included our Captain, finishing third overall in the A grade (10km) grade and a Year 9 boy finishing third in the C grade (6km) competition.

Our cyclists have performed well in the opening two rounds of Victorian Interschool Cycling Series. A Year 12 boy was third in the Senior Men's A Grade Division and a Year 11 boy finished third in B Grade. Our Golf squad have again made progress winning the majority of fixtures against Trinity and St. Kevin's.

The Old Scotch Athletics programme provided some encouraging results with the boys making some excellent progression. A Year 8 Multi class athlete was inspirational in

the Victorian Track and Field Championship with Gold medals and national qualifiers in the shot put, javelin, discus and 100 and 200 metres. A Year 8 boy won the State title in the Under 15 1500 metres and finished second in the 800 metres. A Year 9 boy jumped an impressive 1.74 metres in the Under 16 High Jump to finish fourth, qualifying for nationals.

The School is committed to providing a broad range of sporting opportunities beyond that offered within the APS competition. The breadth of the sporting programme allows boys to be involved in summer, winter and spring sport, and produces an extremely high level of participation. Individual boys have enjoyed success at both state and national level in a wide range of sports, including: athletics, cricket, cycling, diving, football, go-karting, golf, hockey, judo, para-Athletics, and swimming.

The Scotch Enterprise Programme, introduced in 2015, continues to attract Year 10 boys with a passion for designing and making things, and solving problems. Boys involved in the programme have designed a quick release safety mechanism for windows, a QR Code system that allows for an individual's medical records to be accessed in real time, and a system to maximise the life of a battery within a device.

The Clubs programme, which sees every boy in Year 7 enrolled in a Club run by Year 11 boys, has become a popular aspect of the Year 7 experience. The offerings range from Movie club to Model-making club, Economics club, Politics club, Cards club and Basketball club. Other boys have also initiated clubs at lunchtimes, sharing interests in Rubik's cubes and drawing, while senior boys have offered assistance to younger boys with organisation and homework. There is a Chess Club, a Table Top Games group and Christian Movement, all of which continue to support and stimulate boys' minds. The Environmental Group has led the way for boys and staff through the introduction of composting bins for food scraps in three House rooms.

The Year 8 and Year 11 Big Ideas Lecture series, delivered by members of staff, on topics such as *Artificial Intelligence*, *The Reformation*, *Slavery* and *The Holocaust*, have encouraged boys to think about how the world came to be as it is.

Boys have performed exceptionally well in national and international competitions.

A Year 9 boy was a member of the Australian team that won a silver medal in the International Junior Science Olympiad, a Year 11 boy participated in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking competition, gaining second place in the grand final for 'After Dinner Speaking', and three boys from Years 9 and 11 were invited to attend the Australian Informatics Olympiad Committee selection trials. Five boys were part of the 25 strong team to represent Australia in the Asia Pacific Mathematical Olympiad, a Year 11 boy participated in the National Schools' Constitutional convention, and a Year 8 boy was crowned champion in the Asia/Oceania region on-line Academic Bees competition. Having been Australian Schools Team Champions in Chess last year, our team again made it to the final round of competition, where they were narrowly defeated in a tie-break by Churchie (Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane). A team of eight Year 8 boys were state winners of the Da Vinci Decathlon competition, a Year 9 boy was selected in the Australian Junior Science Olympiad, and a Year 11 boy was awarded a High Distinction with Excellence in an International Chemistry Quiz, with a Year 10 boy receiving a perfect score in the same competition.

A Year 8 boy was the recipient of a Spirit of Ramanujan award, which recognises students of outstanding ability in Mathematics. Only 25 awards are made each year, and this is the first time the award has been won by an Australian student.

Six boys in Years 11 and 12 were part of a Scotch team that won second place in the final round of the Victorian Chinese Debating competition, which involved 27 teams from a number of schools. By invitation, the team proceeded to the International Chinese Debating Tournament, which saw 64 schools from around the world involved. A Year 11 boy was awarded 'Best Debater' in the final debate against one of the strongest teams from Malaysia.

Two boys from the class of 2021 were invited to audition for the VCE Top Class in Theatre Studies, and one member of the class of 2021 was accepted into the VCE Top Design in Product Design.

Performing Arts and Public Speaking

The excellent facilities of the James Forbes Academy provide opportunity for boys to involve themselves in the performing arts. Many boys participate in the drama programme, which this year saw boys in Year 8, in collaboration with girls from MLC, produce a highly entertaining performance of *10 Ways to Survive Life in Quarantine*. Boys in Years 9 and 10, in collaboration with girls from Lauriston and Korowa, produce a most enjoyable production of *Puff*, a retelling of the J K Rowlings Harry Potter series. The Music department, which delivers over 1000 music lessons each week, provides opportunity for the various ensembles and orchestras to perform at one of the many concerts and recitals held throughout the year. Opportunity is also provided for boys to work with professional musicians and conductors giving them a greater insight into the world of music, whilst challenging them to produce music of the highest quality. The Autumn concert series, and the Winter Concert allowed the various ensembles, choirs and orchestras to display their talents, and were well received by those in attendance. Both the A and B Scotch Pipes and Drums bands achieved success in the State Pipe Band championships, with the A Band finishing second in the Novice A competition, and the B Band winning the Novice B section. The Senior Band participated in the annual ANZAC day march, as did the School's Military Band.

Over 120 Scotch boys are involved in the Debating Association of Victoria (DAV) Debating competition, including three teams of Extension Studies Challenge boys in Year 8, who debate in an accelerated programme in our D grade (Year 9) squad. The Scotch contingent again constitutes the largest school squad in this state-wide competition, with 21 teams in total. Twelve outstanding coaches work alongside the boys, including five national-level speakers from beyond the Scotch community, who have come on board this year to share their expertise alongside seven ex-Scotch debaters.

Alongside the DAV competition, a myriad of competitions and training occurs throughout the year for boys at every level, including teams in the National Virtual Debating Competition, British Parliamentary debating, a substantial mooting programme with Bond, Monash and Latrobe universities, Model United Nations experiences, International online debating and UN Youth programmes.

Services Programme

The Services programme continues to be an integral aspect of the School's offerings, with Cadets and Scouts continuing to be core elements. The Cadet Unit comprises over 150 boys from Years 9 to 12. In addition to parading each Wednesday, the boys in Cadets attend two camps throughout the year. In addition to the Pipe Band and Military Band, a number of cadets were involved in this year's ANZAC Day parade. The annual Cadet Tattoo and Retreat Ceremony was held on a wintery evening in early June. The Year 9 boys in the recruit companies, the support company, the flag party, Military Band, Pipes and Drums, and Drum Lines all performed superbly making the evening a most memorable occasion. The unit was reviewed by Colonel Campbell Smith, Commander of the Victoria Australian Army Cadets Brigade. The Scout troop, made up of boys from Year 6 to Year 8, undertakes a range of activities both during its weekly meetings and at the camp that is held at the School's Healesville campsite. Boys in Year 11 undertake a week long service learning experience as part of the School's Immersion programme. This programme sees boys assisting at Specialist School in Ballarat, undertake work for the Les Twentyman Foundation, work alongside members of a regional indigenous community, undertake conservation work in Queensland, provide music at local aged care facilities, and, work with World Vision, raising monies to assist with literacy programmes to the community's primary schools, and spending time at the headquarters of World Vision assisting with packing birthing kits. The work with World Vision also supports both the community of Chipapa and other projects within Zambia.

Community

A number of fundraising activities have been held throughout the year. Monies have been raised for: the Indigenous Literacy Foundation; the *You Matter* charity, which supports women and families affected by domestic and family violence; and, the *Cystic Fibrosis Community Care*, which provides support and programmes for individuals diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. The School's commitment to the inherent value and dignity of each person has seen further conversation on consent and respectful relationships, highlighted by recognition of International Women's Day, Denim Day, and IDAHOBIT (sexual diversity) with strong Assembly presentations by prefects being further explored in Tutor and Form groups. The prefects organised a trivia evening with mixed teams combining with Methodist Ladies' College. Just prior to the long weekend in Term 1, 111 hikers, supported by 19 boys and 10 staff in various support roles, undertook the 24 hour hike, covering an average distance of 60.4 km, and raising just over \$50,000, monies that have been promised for the Dignity Freedom Network, an organisation committed to reducing the trafficking of young women in India. Unfortunately, the annual VCE Art tour to Sydney, Canberra and Bundanon with students from Hume Central and Auburn High had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 protocols.

Leadership

After 14 years of committed and exemplary leadership, the Scotch community farewelled Principal Tom Batty at a function on 17 June 2022, prior to his return to United Kingdom in early July with his wife Lee. The function, held in the Memorial Hall, provided a very fitting opportunity for many in the community closely associated with the Batty family to thank Tom and Lee personally for their devotion to the cause and their unwavering commitment to the welfare of the College.

No doubt the 'Batty era' has left its mark on Scotch and in particular there are two themes that define Tom's legacy. Firstly, using Tom's words, the focus on

‘conversations of learning’ (sometimes spoken of as relational learning) and secondly, his focus on pastoral care. The design of the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre for Science and the refurbishment of the Keon-Cohen Dining Hall strongly reflect the ‘conversations of learning’ theme. The increased opportunity for boys and their teachers to gather together informally and share an interchange cannot be underestimated in its impact. With respect to pastoral care, the move to a 12 House system early in Tom’s tenure, has allowed boys from Years 9-12 to remain under the nurturing guidance of a single Head of House. The near completion of the 12 House rooms surrounding St Andrew’s Square is another wonderful example of the integration of a critical theme, in this case pastoral care, into long term building design.

On Monday, 20 June 2022, School Council was delighted to be able to announce the appointment of Dr Scott Marsh as Scotch’s 10th Principal, who is taking up the role in January 2023. A copy of that announcement is attached to this report.

In the meantime, School Council has also been delighted to be able to announce that Rob McLaren has been appointed as Acting Principal, having served Scotch for the last 35 years and most recently nine years as Vice Principal, Rob has the experience and expertise to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

Governance

The School Council has faced a challenging first half of 2022 as its initial plans for the transition of leadership of the School required major overhaul. Council made the very difficult decision in January 2022 not to proceed with the appointment to the position of Principal previously announced in November 2021. In dealing with a matter of such sensitivity the Council has shared collective responsibility for decisions taken and remains confident that the right course of action has been taken for the future of the School.

Throughout this period the College Council has also provided positive and cohesive leadership. The members of Council demonstrate a deep love and regard for the School and its contribution to the future of its community and to a better world. I personally thank the Rev Dr John Wilson for his unfailing wisdom and support as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Council now looks forward with great optimism to the commencement of our 10th Principal in January 2023 and an opportunity to work with Dr Scott Marsh in defining and shaping the next era in Scotch’s history.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I can report, with confidence that the School is currently in a strong position within the marketplace, with high demand for places. The School remains committed to improving and refining its programmes and the opportunities and experiences it provides so that each boy is appropriately challenged, supported and is as prepared as he can be to take responsibility for his life and make a positive contribution to the world around him.

Mr Alex Sloan
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

20 June 2022

Dear Members of the Scotch College Community,

On behalf of the Scotch College Council I am pleased to announce that, following an extensive national and international search in partnership with Hutton Consulting Australia, Dr Scott Marsh has been appointed as the next Principal of Scotch College, from January 2023.

Dr Marsh is currently Headmaster of William Clarke College (WCC), a thriving, co-educational Prep to Year 12 Anglican School of over 1,900 students, in Sydney's north-west. Dr Marsh's passion for educating and developing young people spans 30 years. He is a respected and innovative leader, a contributor to national and international educational debate, and a highly regarded Principal among his students, staff and the wider school community.

Prior to taking up his current role in 2017, Dr Marsh was Deputy Headmaster at WCC. This followed earlier appointments as Director of Studies, Teaching and Learning at Sydney Church of England Co-Educational Grammar School in Cremorne (SCECGS Redlands); Director of Music and Assistant Boarding House Master at The King's School, Parramatta; and Faculty Head of Music at the Australian International School in Singapore.

Dr Marsh brings a deep understanding of school dynamics and a collaborative approach to organisational improvement. He has a vision for boys' education that encourages innovation, independent thought, excellence and a sense of service – along with inclusivity and respect for all members of the community. 'It will be a privilege to continue to build upon Scotch's outstanding reputation in the area of character education and to help produce young men who will serve and shape their communities, the nation and the world,' said Dr Marsh.

He speaks to respecting and honouring the past, and the School's traditions, whilst leading Scotch into the future. 'I look forward to working closely with the boys, families, the Old Scotch Collegians' Association, the Foundation and the whole Scotch community, to build on the School's great strengths; notably its Christian ethos, its commitment to excellence and service, and the wide and varied opportunities and challenges available to all students.'

'I will seek to follow Tom Batty's achievements by harnessing the Scotch Family's enormous store of creativity, goodwill, expertise and love for the School. Scotch has an outstanding record in many areas, including mathematics, languages, music and rowing. We can encourage and engage all the boys, whatever their passions or level of ability, to share in academic and co-curricular achievement.'

'I know the Scotch staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are a highly-talented and dedicated team. They will be instrumental in determining and driving Scotch's future for our students.'

Dr Marsh is married to Anna, a Pilates instructor and former school chaplain, and they have two teenage children, Stella and Denzel. The family will reside on the Hill at Hawthorn, and Denzel will attend Scotch from the beginning of 2023 in Year 10.

Dr Marsh's interests embrace the arts and sports, having performed as a professional musician with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and the Australian Opera and Australian Ballet Orchestra. He competed at senior levels in both Rugby Union and Rugby League. Dr Marsh looks forward to embracing Australian Rules Football when he arrives in Melbourne.

I again acknowledge and thank Tom Batty for his unswerving commitment over his 14 years at the helm and thank Rob McLaren for taking on the Acting Principal role in the interim period.

On behalf of the whole Scotch community, I congratulate Dr Marsh on his appointment as our 10th Principal, and look forward to welcoming the Marsh family to Scotch College next year.

Alex Sloan
Chairman

Further biographical information - Dr Scott Marsh

Dr Marsh has a Bachelor of Music Education (Sydney University - Sydney Conservatorium of Music), a Master's in Education - Curriculum and Administration Studies (Deakin University), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Macquarie University).

His work has been recognised internationally and published in leading educational journals. He is a reviewer for two international educational journals.

Dr Marsh also serves on the board of the Association of Independent Schools Research Council, an advisory body for advancing educational research. He is also a lecturer and author of a number of publications in school leadership and organisational improvement.

At WCC, Dr Marsh and his team have focused on driving excellence and a holistic approach to education, which has seen a significant and sustained improvement in academic performance, together with strong growth in student numbers, and student and staff satisfaction and engagement. In seeking to prepare students for success beyond school, the College has conducted a significant review of its curriculum.

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min 92)

The committee has continued to do its work behind the scenes. It endeavours to make decisions in a timely manner to enable other committees to engage in the work with which they have been charged. The committee has made progress on an online database that will help the Assembly to keep track of committee members, and it is hoped to make it available to conveners in the future.

The Selection Committee thanks all the other committees for submitting their annual reviews. The committee continues to update the review form to make it easier for committees to pass on information to us.

Committee member numbering system

Here is a reminder of how the numbering system works. Generally, each year a third of a committee's membership is required to retire (Code 5.25.3. The BIF operates on five-year terms), hence the rotation (RT) numbers. If a member is willing and eligible, he or she can be renominated and serve up to a total of nine years (Code 5.25.1. BIF members serve for ten years), hence the numbers in square brackets indicating the year they must have a break from the Committee. Conveners can usually serve for seven consecutive years (Code 5.24.1), which means they will sometimes have different square-bracketed numbers next to their name. As an example, someone with these numbers, RT 23: Rev A Minister [29], would be eligible for renomination at the 2023 General Assembly and must end his or her service on the committee at the 2029 General Assembly. It is also worth noting that when someone is appointed to fill a vacancy, they will be added to that vacancy's rotation year so that their first term on the committee may be shorter than three years.

GAV commissioners to the GAA

Given that the next General Assembly of Australia was postponed until 2023, the committee thought it prudent to remind the Assembly who was elected as Victorian commissioners at the October 2021 General Assembly of Victoria. Those listed below will be expected to attend the 2023 GAA. Rev Martin de Pyle and Rev Ben Nelson are no longer alternates since they have been appointed by their respective presbyteries as commissioners. Given that Rev Cameron Garrett became the Business Convener of the GAA on 1 August and is now an *ex officio* member of the Assembly, his position has been given to Rev Russ Grinter, who was an alternate. There remains a vacancy among the elders such that an extra elder could be nominated.

Ministers: Moderator, Moderator Designate, Assistant to the Clerks, Rev R Grinter, Rev P Hastie.

Minister Alternates: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Elders: Mr K Childs, Mr T Guilford, Mr S Harris, Dr N Johnston, vacancy.

Elder Alternates: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

It is also important to note that there is a Commission of the GAA that can be called upon to meet between Assemblies. It includes six Victorians. The three minister positions are currently reserved for the moderator, deputy clerk, and assistant to the clerks, noting that our current clerk, Rev John Wilson, is an *ex officio* member of the Commission. Given that the moderator and deputy clerk positions are both currently held by Rev Peter Phillips, the Selection Committee has nominated Rev Peter Hastie as an alternate who can fill the third position as needed.

GAA committee nominations

At the 2021 GAV, the committee was asked to bring nominations for GAA committees while also reporting on the current Victorian members of those committees (min 67.11). Due to the postponing of the GAA to 2023, the committee was given permission by the GAV to delay its report until now. The table below details those who are currently serving and if they are willing to keep serving (noting that some members we reported on at the Commission of Assembly in May have resigned or are otherwise ineligible to serve). Years of service are approximate.

Name	Committee	Years serving	Keep serving?
Rev Martin de Pyle	Defence Force Chaplaincy (Convener);	2	Yes
	Presbyterian Inland Mission	19	Yes
Rev Chris Duke	Relations with Other Churches	5	No
Rev Luke Isham	Public Worship and Aids to Devotion	1	Yes
Mr Andrew Letcher	Finance	9	Yes
Rev Richard O'Brien	Finance	8	Yes
Rev Peter Phillips	Code	15	Yes
Rev Barry Porter	Defence Force Chaplaincy	4	Yes
Rev Gerald Vanderwert	Reception of Ministers	3	Yes
Rev Chris Siriweera	Reception of Ministers;	9	Yes
	Relations with Other Churches	1	Yes
Mr Dennis Wright	Presbyterian Inland Mission	7	Yes

The committee has received the following nominations from presbyteries.

Name	Church	Committee	Nominating Presbytery
Rev Neil Chambers	Bundoora	Reception of Ministers	Melb. North
Rev Kyung Ee	Shepparton	Reception of Ministers	NE Victoria
Rev Brian Harvey	Heathmont	Reception of Ministers	NW Victoria
Rev Paul Lee	Swan Hill	Defence Force Chaplaincy	NW Victoria
Mr Philip Barton	Camberwell	Code	Melb. East

Given that the Assembly can nominate two people for each committee, it is recommended that the Assembly nominate all the names listed except for the positions on the Reception of Ministers Committee. While all ROMC nominees could be sent to the GAA, the committee believes it is wise to narrow down the nominations to two candidates via a ballot, noting that these simply represent the GAV nominations and that people can be nominated for committees through other means. There is no need for a ballot for the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee since Rev Martin de Pyle holds his position as convener by virtue of being the Presbyterian Member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (RACS), thus allowing the other two people to be the Victorian nominees. There are currently no elected Victorian members serving on the following GAA Christian Education Committee.

GAV committee nominations and membership

The committee reminds all members of the Assembly that it is possible to make additional nominations prior to noon on the Tuesday of Assembly. Any nomination needs to be in the hands of the Selection Committee convener in writing (an email is

considered to be sufficient). If this results in multiple nominations for a single position, a ballot will occur on the Wednesday of Assembly to determine the membership of committees. For more details, Assembly members may read Selection Committee Regulation 3a.

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

Appeals Commission

[Moderator, a past-moderator, presbytery clerks and parity members]

Ballarat: Rev M Oldfield (clerk), Mr S McKerrow (parity)

Flinders: Rev B Peatman (clerk), (nil for parity)

Geelong: Rev R White (clerk), Mr B Stasse (parity)

Gippsland: Rev C Garrett (clerk), Mr T Guilford (parity)

Maroondah: Mr A Letcher (alt), Rev M Tonkin (parity)

Melbourne East: Mr K Childs (clerk), Rev B Nelson (parity)

Melbourne North: Rev A Buchan (alt), Mr T Cunneen (parity)

Melbourne West: Rev J Ellis (clerk), (nil for parity)

North East Victoria: Rev B Cummins (clerk), Mr G Dunstan (parity)

North Western Victoria: Rev P Burns (clerk), Mr C Morrow (parity)

South West Victoria: Rev I Leach (clerk), Mr T Warburton (parity)

Past-Moderator: Vacancy.

Chairman: Moderator

Assessors Committee

[Membership *ex officio* – The Moderator, the Assembly Clerk, the convener of the Selection Committee and the convener of the Business Committee]

Convener: Moderator

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Victoria] Committee

[12 Members, 10 nominated by GAV, 2 nominated by PWMU, all appointed by the Assembly]

RT 23: Rev T Archer [24], Rev R Waterhouse [26], Rev K Bell [31]

RT 24: Mrs L Ellis [25], Mr M Campbell [31], Rev D Schulz [26]

RT 25: Rev J Mestry [28], Mrs W Moody [25], Miss M Price [31], Mrs D Brownley [31]

PWMU: Mrs S White [29], Mrs P Vandenberg [24]

Convener: Rev D Schulz [26]

Ballot Committee

[Appointed by each Assembly or Commission]

Board of Investment and Finance

[10 Members]

RT 23: Mr E de Zilwa [28], Mr D Graham [28]

RT 24: Mr J Walter [29], Rev B Oakes [24]

RT 25: Mr Matt Gibson [30], Mr D Wright [30]

RT 26: Vacancy, Mr J Bligh [26]

RT 27: Vacancy, Mr A Foster [27]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property Committee

[3 Members]

RT 23: Mr P Thomas [31]

RT 24: Mr R Kop [27]

RT 25: Mr D Wright [24]

Convener: Mr R Kop [26]

Business Committee

[4 Members of Assembly (who are not conveners of other reporting committees), *ex officio* the clerks of Assembly, Procurator, Law Agent, and during Assembly, the clerks of all presbyteries]

RT 23: Mr R Herweynen [31], Rev Dr J Hood [26]

RT 24: Rev B Cummins [30]

RT 25: Mr D Fraser [24]

Convener: Rev Dr J Hood [24]

Christian Education And Nurture Committee

[7 Members, at least 4 members of Assembly (including the convener)]

RT 23: Rev L Isham [30], Rev Bagoes Seta [30], Vacancy

RT 24: Rev C Griffiths [27], Mrs M Denness [31]

RT 25: Mrs R Walz [30], Rev P Huynh [30]

Convener: Rev L Isham [29]

Church And Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 23: Mr B Saunders [31], Mr P Stanton [29], Mr J Ballantyne [26]

RT 24: Rev J Walz [30], Vacancy, Vacancy, Mr I Waller [27]

RT 25: Rev M Jensen [30], Mrs J McHardy [27], Rev C Duke [25]

Convener: Rev C Duke [25]

Church Planting Committee

[7 Members]

RT 23: Mrs T Kelada [31], Rev L McSeveny [30], Vacancy

RT 24: Rev P Campbell [31], Rev A Boyd [24]

RT 25: Mrs A Grinter [31], Rev J Huynh [24]

Convener: Rev A Boyd [24]

Clerkship Committee

[4 Members (a convener who is a past Moderator and three clerks of presbyteries), plus *ex officio* the Moderator and the Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance (or his deputy)]

Clerks of presbyteries:

RT 23: Mr K Childs [28]

RT 24: Rev R White [28]

RT 25: Rev P Burns [28]

Convener: Mr C Morrow [25]

Code And General Administration Committee

[3 Members, plus *ex officio* the Clerks of Assembly, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, Chairman of Trusts Corporation (or a minister or elder in his place)]

RT 23: Mrs S de Pyle [30]

RT 24: Vacancy

RT 25: Mr R McIvor [30]

Convener: The Clerk of Assembly

Conciliation Committee

[6 Members: 3 Ministers and 3 Elders, from at least four presbyteries]

RT 23: Rev A Vines (Melbourne North) [27], Mr A Letcher (Maroondah) [29]

RT 24: Rev Dr K Hood (Gippsland) [29], Rev D Martin (Flinders) [29]

RT 25: Mr B Farquharson (Melbourne West) [29], Vacancy

Convener: Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, *ex officio* all ADF Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 23: Mr C Perry [30]

RT 24: Mr J Kapelles [30]

RT 25: Rev P Lee [31]

Convener: Rev M Fagan [24]

Exit Student Committee

[Membership *ex officio*]

Convener: MDC Convener

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Members]

RT 23: Mrs L Campbell [30], Mrs M Jones [27], Rev D Dixon [26]

RT 24: Mrs J Martin [28], Rev Dr K Hood [27], Dr J Neil [31], Vacancy

RT 25: Mrs R O'Brien [26], Mrs C Le Page [31], Vacancy

Convener: Rev D Dixon [26]

Maintenance Of The Ministry Committee

[4 Members]

RT 23: Rev C Garrett [29], Mr C Morrow [31]

RT 24: Mr A Putnins [31]

RT 25: Mr R Butcher [28]

Convener: Mr C Morrow [29]

METRO Committee

[8 Members]

RT 23: Vacancy, Mr A May [27], Rev L Brownley [26]

RT 24: Mrs J Arundell [30], Mr S Denness [30], Vacancy

RT 25: Rev C LePage [30], Mrs A Harris [26]

Convener: Rev C LePage [29]

Ministry Development Committee

[7 Members]

RT 23: Rev D Middleton [29], Mr R Kop [29], Rev G Stephens [30]

RT 24: Rev P Greiner [24], Rev R Grinter [31]

RT 25: Rev S Withers [25], Mr I Bramley [27]

Convener: Rev S Withers [25]

Overseas Visitors' Fund Committee

[Membership *ex officio* – The members of the Board of Investment and Finance and the conveners of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee, the Theological Education Committee, the Ministry Development Committee and the Church Planting Committee]

Convener: BIF Chairman

Panel of Discipline Assessors

[12 members, appointed by the Code and General Administration Committee; nominations permitted from presbyteries]

Revs M Crabb, R Waterhouse, K Brown, R White, C Garrett, G Stephens, P Court, P Orchard, T Fishwick, I Leach, Mr C Morrow, Vacancy

Safe Church Committee

[6 Members]

RT 23: Mrs H Thomas [31], Mrs L Griffiths [30]

RT 24: Mr G Hui [26], Rev B Harvey [26]

RT 25: Rev N Barbieri [31]

Convener: Rev B Harvey [24]

Selection Committee

[Nominated by the Code and General Administration Committee]

Social Services Committee

[7 Members]

RT 23: Mrs J Pilgrim [28], Mr T Cunneen [24], Vacancy

RT 24: Rev W McArdle [30], Rev S Wesley [31]

RT 25: Mr D Conradi [25], Mrs C Cunneen [31]

Convener: Mrs J Pilgrim [28]

State News Committee

[5 Members: At least 2 Ministers]

RT 23: Vacancy, Mr Rob Paix [31]

RT 24: Rev S McDonald [27]

RT 25: Mr P Betts [29], Vacancy

Convener: Rev S McDonald [26]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, *ex officio* the College Principal and another member of faculty]

RT 23: Rev J Born [30], Rev G Nicholson [25], Rev N Benfell [23]

RT 24: Mr D Wright [24], Rev K Maxwell [26], Vacancy, Rev M de Pyle [30]

RT 25: Rev R White [28], Mrs J McHardy [26], Rev S Jones [25]

Convener: Rev K Maxwell [26]

Women's Ministries Victoria Committee

[7 Members, at least two of whom are members of the Assembly]

RT 23: Rev B Johnson [29], Mrs ST Yap [29], Vacancy

RT 24: Mrs N Horman [31], Mrs A Weir [31]

RT 25: Mrs S McDonald [30], Rev R Grinter [29]

Convener: Rev B Johnson [27]

GAA APPOINTMENTS

GAV Commissioners for 2023 GAA

Ministers [5]: Moderator, Moderator Designate, Assistant to the Clerks, Rev R Grinter, Rev P Hastie.

Minister Alternates [5]: Rev G Nicholson, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Elders [5]: Mr K Childs, Mr T Guilford, Mr S Harris, Dr N Johnston, vacancy.

Elder Alternates [5]: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Moderator's Nominating Committee (GAV representatives for 2022)

Ministers [3]: Rev P Burns, Rev C Siriweera, Rev R White.

Elders [3]: Mr A Deeming, Mr S Harris, Mr B Palmer.

Commission of the General Assembly of Australia

[3 ministers and 3 elders, *ex officio* Officers of the GAA & former Moderators-General]

Ministers: Moderator, Deputy Clerk, Assistant to the Clerks

Ministers Alternate: Rev P Hastie

Elders: Mr P Betts, Mr A Letcher, Mr C Morrow

ex officio: Rev Dr A Harman, Rev Dr CR Thomas, Rev Dr JP Wilson

OTHER POSITIONS

Family Council of Victoria (BB 2007 Min 99.9)

Mr J Ballantyne

Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG) Representative (BB 2015 Min 123.2)

Rev C Duke

PWMU Cook Book Committee

[3 PCV, 1 PWMU + Convener (alternates between PCV & UCA Victoria/Tasmania)]

PWMU: Mrs R Brown

GAV: Mr J Angelico, Mrs D Cutler, Mrs G McKenzie

Convener: UCA appointee

St Andrew's Foundation (ABN 26 539 374 087)

Mrs M Conradi, Dr B Ellis, Mr I Bramley.

It has been a pleasure to serve as convener of this Committee and to draw upon the support and wisdom of the committee members.

Adam Humphries
CONVENER

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Min 57)

The past year has been one of transition for the Social Services Committee (SSC). This has enabled the SSC to focus all efforts on the application of the trust funds.

Currently the SSC administers four trusts:

1. **Thomas Hall Trust** – for the benefit of children living in residential services.
2. **Douglas Family Trust** – for the assistance of the poor and needy anywhere in Australia.
3. **Challenger Trust** – to provide assistance to the poor in the city of Melbourne and surrounding districts.
4. **Brocklesby 'Anna M White' Rest Home Trust** – for the benefit of protestant women in Victoria who are in genuine need.

There have been three applications to the Challenger Trust amounting to a total of \$6,000 with some payments yet to be finalised. Ebenezer Presbyterian Church requested \$2,000 for a camp. Darebin Presbyterian Church requested \$2,000 for a camp. Presbyterian Youth Victoria requested \$2,000 for winter camp.

There was one grant of \$5,000 requested by the Epping Presbyterian Church which drew \$2,500 from the Challenger Trust and \$2,500 from the Brocklesby Trust for assistance of a person in genuine financial needs.

There were two applications in respect of St Kilda-Balaclava and Dandenong churches for refugee persons with genuine financial needs for payment of car registration and car repair respectively.

In 2021, The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation (TC) notified the SSC of its intention to review the application of the trusts the SSC administers on behalf of the TC. This review has required the SSC to ensure the application of the trusts is in line with the individual trusts terms by encouraging those making applications to read, understand, and then apply conditions on the SSC Website. This means providing specific details in accordance with TC requests. It is hoped that by doing so there is a clear understanding of the application of the trusts by the SSC and applicants.

SSC reiterates that unless those making applications to SSC provide such specifications within that initial application it will delay the same until such details are provided.

The members of the committee are Jenny Pilgrim (Convener), Rev Surendra Wesley, Tom Cunneen, Denis Conradi, Christine Cunneen, and Rev Wayne McArdle (Secretary) with both Rev Luke Isham and Grant Lawry both having retired after serving faithfully on the SSC. The dedication of the members of the SSC is greatly appreciated and I would like to thank the members for their support.

Jenny Pilgrim
CONVENER

SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (Min 30)

The Special Judicial Committee is expected to report on petitions (rule 5.55(c)). The committee sees no barrier to the General Assembly considering the merits of the following petitions.

Petition 1

From: Presbytery of North Western Victoria; re: dissolution of the Pyramid Hill congregation

Prior to the final dissolution of a congregation, a presbytery requires the General Assembly's agreement (rule 4.69), and that is what the presbytery is seeking with regard to Pyramid Hill.

Petition 2

From: Presbytery of South Australia; re: change in allocation of proceeds of Nelson Property

The committee notes that while the General Assembly had already declared a purpose for the sale of the Nelson Presbyterian Church property in 2019 (GAV min 96), the Model Trust Deed for Church Site provides for a variation of purpose to be authorised (clause 5). The presbytery is entitled to approach the Assembly to consider such widening (variation) of purpose.

Petition 3

From: Ebenezer-St John's (Ballarat South) congregation; re: purchase of a second manse using Sites Reserve Funds

The committee notes that during 2019, under urgency provisions of BIF reg 16(a), the property in Eyre St Ballarat was sold and the proceeds were placed in Sites Reserve for Ballarat South. The congregation is entitled to approach the Assembly to consider approving the use of funds in this way under BIF reg 17(c)(i)(B).

The committee advises that the General Assembly has no part to play in either:

- a) authorising expenditure from a congregational trust account; or
- b) purchasing a second manse;

and suggests that it does not need to give relief to those parts of the petition.

Petition 4

From: Presbytery of Geelong; re: dissolution of Shelford congregation and sale of associated property

Prior to the final dissolution of a congregation, a presbytery requires the General Assembly's agreement (rule 4.69), and that is what the presbytery is seeking with regard to Shelford. Provided immediate effect is declared by applying the provision of rule 6.15, the presbytery may request the Assembly to direct the trustees to sell the property for a particular purpose under clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed for Church Site.

Petition 5

From: The Scots' Church Properties Trust Trustees; re: consent to a new Georges' Site lease

The General Assembly is called upon to consider giving consent to Scots' Church Properties Trust trustees entering into a new lease with regard to the Georges (Collins Street) property. The Assembly's consent is required under the provisions of the SCPT

Deed. The committee points out that the entity referred to in recital (c) should be: 'the PCV Trusts Corporation', not 'Trust Corporation'.

Petition 6

From: St Stephen's (Surrey Hills) Congregation; re: use of Sites Reserve Funds

The committee notes that some years ago, a surplus property was sold and the proceeds were placed in Sites Reserve Funds for Surrey Hills. The congregation is entitled to approach the Assembly to consider approving the use of funds in this way under BIF reg 17(c)(i)(B).

Petition 7

From: Ashburton Congregation; re: repurposing the use of Sites Reserve Interest to Include general ministry expenses

The committee notes that while the General Assembly had already declared a purpose for the sale of the Ashburton Presbyterian Church property in 2021 (GAV min 80), the Model Trust Deed for Church Site provides for a variation of purpose to be authorised (clause 5). So, the congregation is entitled to approach the Assembly to consider such widening (variation) of purpose.

The committee points out that the minute cited in recital (a) should read: '(GAV 2021 min 80)', not 2022.

Petition 8

From: Presbytery of Western Victoria; re: dissolution of Carisbrook congregation and sale of associated property

Prior to the final dissolution of a congregation, a presbytery requires the General Assembly's agreement (rule 4.69), and that is what the presbytery is seeking with regard to Carisbrook. Provided immediate effect is declared by applying the provision of rule 6.15, the presbytery may request the Assembly to direct the trustees to sell the property for a particular purpose under clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed for Church Site and Manse Site.

Petition 9

From: Presbytery of Western Victoria; re: sale of Scarsdale property

The congregation of Scarsdale was dissolved in 2019, and the Commission of Assembly authorised a sale of its property in 2020 under clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed for Church Site without authorising a purpose for the use of the proceeds of the sale. The property has not yet been sold at the time of this report. The presbytery may request the Assembly to authorise a purpose for the proceeds of the sale.

Petition 10

From: Clifton Hill Congregation; re: establishing a GAV Special Commission to approve necessary application of Sites Reserve Funds more efficiently

The General Assembly may appoint a Special Commission, and should it wish to it must fix its membership, powers, duties and quorum (rule 5.35).

John P Wilson
CONVENER

ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (Min 35)

As the Chairman of the Board of St Andrews, it is my pleasure and privilege to report on the progress of the College.

Last year I reported on the challenges the College has been facing in responding to two crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a challenge to everyone, and a specific child abuse case involving a teacher at the College.

This latter incident has been one of the most difficult challenges with which the College Board has had to contend. At the core of the incident is a tragedy involving real victims that has required an active and compassionate response. Surrounding that is the impact on the wider College community, where people adjacent to the incident have had to work through many emotions ranging from fear and anger to guilt and doubt. These emotions have also needed to be carefully responded to and supported by the College. On top of the immediate impacts of the incident, we have also had to deal with articles in the press and constant dealings with regulators seeking to understand the events surrounding the incident.

This attention is a reasonable response to an incident of this magnitude. It would be easy for me, as Board Chairman, to complain about the inaccuracies in reporting or the fact that the articles simply invoke more pain and suffering in the community. I am fully conscious, however, that cases of this nature do invoke justified outrage. I have felt this outrage myself. Also, considering the evidence from the Royal Commission that organisations of all types have failed to handle cases like this well, a more forensic social analysis is not only to be expected but is probably in the best interests of child welfare at large.

Our experience should be a warning to all organisations that deliver services to children, the Church included, that the need to prioritise child safety in policy and practice. For leaders, the need to handle any hint of impropriety with seriousness and diligence is of paramount importance. We know this intellectually, but we should match that with active practice.

Recently, however, the response in the media has shifted in a direction that is more concerning. In the last few months, St Andrews, along with other Christian schools, have been the subject of press attention due to our statements of faith or belief. The underlying assertion of these articles is that the mere fact that we believe in traditional sexual and gender norms creates an unsafe environment for children regardless of our belief in the love and care of all people, our policies or our past practice.

This is of serious concern to governance bodies of faith-based schools. As a Board, we seek to manage a school with competence and prudence but we are not theologians. We are not trained to respond to attacks on our core beliefs in a substantive and appropriate way. In the current context, therefore, I seek the aid of the Assembly. We need support in the development of the narratives and collateral to justify and contextualise our beliefs, which align fully with the PCV, to people of other Christian traditions but also to a wider society that is increasingly secular in nature.

Specifically, we ask the Assembly to consider devoting energy to developing a Statement of Belief and supporting explanatory material that could be used by

Christian Schools aligned to reformed theology, but that cater to people from many different backgrounds and faiths.

Current progress

Despite the challenges previously discussed, the College is performing very well on nearly all metrics. Financially, the College maintains a systemic surplus that allows for capital investment and expansion. The College remains highly focussed on being a Christ-aligned organisation and conveying this to our students. We also continue to develop our mission focus, to expand the scope and vision of our students.

This year, we are also saying farewell to our Principal, Mrs Catriona Wansbrough. Catriona has faithfully led the College for eleven years and has overseen continuous growth at the College. She is a prayerful and passionate servant of Christ and has served her master well in this role. We are immensely grateful for her leadership and will miss her greatly.

The Board has undertaken an extensive search process and has appointed a new Principal, Mr Nick Haines. Nick is one of our current Deputy Principals and was the standout candidate from a field of 16 qualified applicants for the role. Please pray for him and his leadership team as he adapts to his new position.

I thank the Assembly for the ongoing support of the College provided by the PCV and ask for your prayers for the continued health and growth of St Andrews Christian College.

James Bligh
CHAIRMAN
St Andrews Christian College
August 2022

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE (Min 40)

Over the past 12 months, the State News Committee has experienced significant turnover in its membership and several periods of significant pressure that have impacted its ability to inform and encourage the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The former convener, Luke Isham, has left to allow time for other committee responsibilities, and Jo Craig has had changing church commitments. The committee also farewells Tony Zirngast, who is retiring under the nine-year rule. The committee is grateful for the Selection Committee appointing Rob Paix from Dandenong Presbyterian Church to a casual vacancy on the committee.

Due to these changes, the committee has not been able to increase the frequency of publication from quarterly to bi-monthly. In fact, the committee has only published two editions. The committee is of the view that the balance of content and the overall workload of the committee will be better served by retaining the present quarterly deadlines. For that reason, the committee has approached the Code and General Administration Committee to suggest a minor change to clause 3 of its regulations.

Despite the challenges, circulation numbers continue to grow. Since the last report, an additional 26 digital subscriptions have been received, totalling 203 subscribers. The number of printed editions circulated to individuals and churches has also increased by 142 additional printed copies to a total of 669. The committee believes that this represents a strong and growing readership.

This is only possible with the support and input of the denomination. Your news items, book reviews, ministry moves, and suggestions for people to interview are what make *Fellow Workers* such a blessing to the wider church. The committee expresses its thanks for the partnership of many fellow workers who share in the work.

Stephen McDonald
CONVENER

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Min 114)

The Theological Education Committee (TEC) is pleased to report that the College community has had a positive return to educational life after the disruption of recent years. The committee gives thanks for the leadership of the Principal, along with the faculty and staff that have enabled this return to what might be reasonably called normal college life. The committee continues to be humbled by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in raising up young men and women, bringing them to the Presbyterian College in Melbourne and entrusting the committee and faculty with their care and training for service within the kingdom of heaven. The TEC would like to express its sincere thanks to our New Testament lecturer, Rev Ben Nelson, for taking on the position of acting principal for the second half of 2022. The committee thanks Ben for his leadership and hard work while Peter Hastie enjoys a six-month sabbatical.

Committee Membership

The last 12 months have seen committee membership remain stable. This stability builds both depth and experience that is increasingly important for overseeing the growing complexities of a tertiary education institution. The convener is grateful for the contribution and insight of each member of the committee and for the engagement of the Principal, faculty, staff and student body representatives. Dennis Wright continues as Treasurer, and in August 2021, the committee welcomed Mrs Janelle Born as Secretary. Janelle brings a range of secretarial and office management skills to both the College and the committee. The committee wishes to thank Mrs Annie Weir for her service to the College and the committee as office manager and TEC secretary, respectively. The Principal, Rev Peter Hastie and Academic Dean, Rev Jared Hood, ensure that the committee is fully aware of all operations of the College and the well-being of the student body. In December, a committee vacancy was filled by Rev Martin de Pyle. Martin brings a passion for theological education along with many years of pastoral experience in a variety of different situations, and the committee looks forward to his contribution.

Governance

With the recent hardships behind it, the TEC has been able to turn its focus from ensuring the College operated with as little disruption as possible to focusing on the medium to long-term needs and goals of the College. These challenges will be significant. Firstly, TEC must face the retirement of senior faculty members over the next one to two years and the development of a much-needed fifth lecturer position, and secondly, there is the pressing need to expand the capacity of the College library.

The need to ensure that the capacity of the library does not become a restriction to the growth and development of the College continues to weigh heavily on the TEC, as a well-resourced library makes a significant contribution to teaching, skills development and overall student experience. It can also affect the college's ability to offer accredited degrees. The committee remains thankful for the work of Dr Harman and his team on the Library Fund Raising Committee as they continue to raise funds for new facilities. However, this program needs to be significantly accelerated if we are to meet the growing demands of the College in the way currently planned. The committee, therefore, encourages sessions to consider how their congregations and individuals could contribute to the development of this denominational resource, particularly as contributions to the library fund can be tax-deductible. The TEC continues to examine how the quality of the existing library facilities can be maintained and delivered as we move towards building a new library

The committee continues to replace worn-out capital assets over time and expects to have new carpet installed throughout the college before the end of the year. The committee continues to express sincere thanks to the Principal, faculty, and staff for their hard work and wise management of the College's financial resources. This prudent management practice has produced a surplus of \$144,000 in FY21–22. These savings indicate that with continued careful budgeting, a fifth lecturer will be possible.

Over the last three years, the committee has reported that the Australian College of Theology (ACT), of which PTC is a part, has been working through a review of the structure of the consortium of theological colleges. This review, which commenced in 2019, has now been completed, and changes are being implemented. In May 2022, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia approved a new constitution for the ACT, which has the effect of transferring membership of, and responsibility for the ACT from the Anglican Church of Australia to the affiliated colleges themselves. Membership of the ACT has been granted to affiliated colleges and other people interested in the governance of the ACT through a variety of membership categories, and there are currently 113 members of the newly constituted ACT. Under the new constitution, the Principal of the PTC and the Convener of the TEC become members of the ACT *ex-officio*. The new constitution also grants denominational colleges such as ours the right to appoint one additional suitably qualified person to the membership of the ACT. The governance of the ACT continues to be performed by the ACT Board of Directors and executed by the CEO, but the responsibility of ensuring that the ACT remains faithful to its Christian foundations now rests with the consortium itself and not the Anglican Church of Australia. The full transition to the new structure is estimated to take 6-12 months, and the Anglican Church of Australia will provide custodial members to oversee the transition.

The TEC views this outcome as an answer to prayer and gives thanks to God for His providence as the new participatory structure of the ACT is a significant improvement with the potential to advance both biblical scholarship and the equipping of people for gospel ministry. The CEO of the ACT, Mr James Dalziel, has expressed the view that the consortium of colleges would be wise to progress towards obtaining the status of a 'University of Speciality' under the Tertiary Education Qualifications and Standards Agency of the Federal government. The committee is generally supportive of this direction.

Educational Delivery

The TEC, through the PTC, aims to prepare graduates to meet the challenges of gospel ministry, to be effective preachers, evangelists, and pastors. The emphasis at PTC remains on equipping graduates to think theologically, to preach biblically, and to pastor faithfully. This skill set provides the foundation for all ministry within the church of Christ. To this end, the College continues to be served by a dedicated team of full-time and adjunct lectures ably supported by the Office staff and Librarians. The TEC gives thanks to God for the dedication and diligence of each team member.

The Assembly should note that the College continues to perform above average in the ACT student engagement surveys. This represents a significant turnaround from five years ago and is indicative of the focus of the Principal and faculty on ensuring that each graduate is appropriately equipped for future ministry. It is also pleasing to report that the faculty consistently performs above average in the area of 'skill development'

and 'teaching quality'. The TEC would like to thank the Principal and the faculty for their hard work in pursuing excellence in instruction and skill development.

It is encouraging to report that, while general enrolments in theological education are declining across the ACT consortium, enrolments at PTC continue to grow. The committee thanks God for His grace in bringing students to the College and continue to be humbled by the responsibility to equip them for service in the kingdom of heaven. The committee is also pleased to see the increase in the number of women attending various courses at the PTC. It is wonderful to see the gifting, development, and equipping of these women for service in the church. Consequently, the TEC is encouraging churches and sessions to encourage women within their congregations to consider how they might benefit both practically and theologically by completing studies at the PTC.

The TEC and the College continue to support the Chinese reformed Christian community. Our Chinese language courses continue to attract good support, and the TEC remains committed to developing the Chinese language course and gaining ACT approval to offer higher-level Chinese language subjects and short courses. This commitment and development require ongoing investment in the college's capacity at both the faculty and resource levels, but it is believed that it is important and necessary. The TEC also continues to advance the aim of providing a complete pathway into ministry in the Australian reformed Chinese church and believes that a commitment to this investment can only bring blessing to our denomination. We pray that recent tensions between Australia and China will not significantly impact the unity of spirit between churches of different ethnic origins.

Student Body

There can be no doubt that a return to face-to-face lectures has had a significantly positive impact on the student body. The joy of Christian fellowship and the bonds of collegial endeavour are a great blessing and help ease the burden of wearying studies. This collegial spirit is evident in their enthusiasm for the building and grounds of the College, where the student body has made a significant contribution to maintenance and upkeep. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and express its appreciation for their dedication. The committee would also like to take the opportunity to express its thanks to ministers, churches, and families who, each in their own way, have contributed to the calibre and capability of the students at PTC. Equipping believers for ministry is the function of the body of Christ in which the PTC plays just one part. The committee gives thanks to God for each of those parts of the body that have contributed to the equipping development of those who are called into full-time service of God's people. Consequently, the TEC continues to encourage churches to support students in their congregation by whatever measure the Lord has enabled them.

Headwinds

Changes of government often produce a shift in focus and, at times, a major change in strategy in the tertiary education sector. At the time of writing, it is unclear if the recent change in government will have any significant impact in this area or on theological education in particular. The TEC can report that the Labor policy shifted closer to the approach of the Coalition during the election campaign so that both parties presented policies with a focus on set funding for places in high-demand courses. Labour has promised extra university places, more money and slightly changed criteria for distributing funding among universities. Labor is also promising to

establish an 'Australian Universities Accord' to drive lasting reform, though details are scant. Whatever happens, it is probably safe to assume that changes are not likely to be free of pressure to be more accommodating to the spirit of the age, particularly where student funding is concerned, and this will need to be resisted.

Although the operation and management of the theological remains challenging, the TEC gives thanks to our Lord for His faithfulness and sustaining power to all those who contribute to the ongoing operation of the College.

Kevin Maxwell
CONVENER

FACULTY REPORT

After two years of operational frustration and uncertainties for the staff, TEC and students during the pandemic, it was a relief when the PTC's academic program returned to normal in March 2022. The easing of mandates in Victoria and the abandonment of lockdown restrictions has made the work much easier.

The lockdowns have effectively isolated students for the best part of two years, often alone in their homes and frequently without the opportunity for close relationships, which are vital for pastoral training. Further, while students have been able to connect with staff and each other as members of the College, frequently, they have had to resort to means that are technological, remote by nature, and which permit disengagement from the learning process while giving the appearance of involvement. With the resumption of normal lectures early in 2022, these problems have eased.

TEC, Faculty, and Staff

In light of all the dislocation that the College has experienced since early 2020, the Principal wishes to thank every member of the TEC for their understanding—particularly Kevin Maxwell (Convener) and Dennis Wright (Treasurer)—who have willingly served at significant personal cost. They have brought a spirit of optimism to the College during trying times. Several TEC members live in regional Victoria and have a considerable distance to travel to attend our meetings. The College is privileged to have such committed members, and the faculty is grateful for their contribution.

The College is indebted to its hard-working faculty members, Rev Drs Jared Hood and Felix Chung and Rev Ben Nelson, and the adjunct lecturers and HDR supervisors, Drs Allan Harman, Douglas Milne, Michael Brautigam, Tony Bird, Peter Barnes, Karl Hood, Rowland Ward, Murray Adamthwaite, Bruce Riding, and Andrew Matthews. Other adjunct staff members who have played a crucial role in the last year have been the Revs Martin Pakula, Matt Cole, Stuart Bonnington, Chris Siriweera, David Cook, Ray Galea, and Andrew Vines.

The College is also indebted to Drs Douglas Milne and Allan Harman, previous principals of the College, for their ongoing interest and support. They both retain an active connection with the College and are always generous with their time, advice, and lecturing. Dr Harman serves as a Principal Research Supervisor for post-graduate and doctoral candidates. He will be making a presentation on the authority of Scripture at the next post-graduate seminar in October. Dr Milne continues to play

an invaluable role in New Testament studies at the College, and his lectures are always appreciated.

The faculty is also grateful for the friendly and efficient administrative staff, Dr Mei Chung (Academic Registrar), Mrs Janelle Born (Administration Officer), Ms Heather Fiedler (Librarian), Mrs Suzanne Zhang (Chinese Library Services) and Mrs Annie Weir (PTC Media and Marketing). The faculty also thanks the General Office for its help with College affairs, Michael Ellison (General Manager), Jason Zhang (Accountant), Sharee Barnett (Bookkeeper), Rev Dr John Wilson (Assembly Clerk) and Siew Yeng Tap (Assistant to the Clerk), as well as the assistance of the Board of Investment and Finance. The contribution of the General Office to the College is significant, and without its constant advice and help, the task of running the College would be much more difficult.

The faculty is also thankful for the generosity of Cameron Weir and his wife, Annie, for the help they have given the College throughout the entire year in improving the appearance and safety of the College buildings, facilities, and grounds. They have also played a key role in running many of the social activities of a College. Their assistance with property maintenance and the general administration of the College has been invaluable. Cameron is often assisted by Scott Thomas and Daniel Soong, who have also made significant contributions to the maintenance and appearance of the site.

The Academic and Ministry Training Program

The College works alongside its theological education provider, the Australian College of Theology (ACT). The ACT is a Sydney-based incorporated body that provides administrative and educational services to the members of its consortium, consisting of seventeen theological colleges.

The ACT provides PTC with a data profile service that is released biennially in June and is a national bench-marking exercise. It provides an information snapshot of the College that is first gathered by the Australian Government and then distributed to the ACT. In the most recent reporting period, the PTC has recorded some useful facts and figures.

1. It is ranked number one of 17 colleges in three essential areas: skills development, learner engagement, and teaching quality.
2. The enrolment trend at PTC over the last three years has been growing. The ACT has recently reported that the overall outlook in similar Australian institutions is not as positive.
3. PTC's gender profile of students in terms of total enrolments has shifted from 9 male/1 female (2018) to 2 male/1 female (2022).
4. Full-time students at PTC represent 43% of the student body, whereas part-time students continue to increase and now represent 57% of the student body in 2022. In terms of comparison, other colleges have full-time students at around 20% and part-time at 80%.
5. The educational emphasis at PTC focuses on face-to-face instruction as the optimal form of training. The GAA College Committee confirmed this position in May 2022. Presbyterian candidates for the ministry within Australia should

complete 85% of the required ACT units in face-to-face instruction. Only 15% of units may be taken in distance mode, although the recent lockdowns have created problems in this regard.

6. Students at the PTC in the 'ordination track' undertake either the BTh-BMin or the MDiv-GradDipDiv with a more significant proportion in the latter, although the overall numbers for MDiv-GradDipDiv and BTh-BMin are beginning to even out. The higher numbers in the ordination track for MDiv reflect the fact that more candidates are mature-age graduates from other universities or higher education providers.
7. At PTC, 82% of students enrol with either ordination or a full-time/part-time Christian ministry of some kind in mind. In other colleges, the ordination figure is 33%, cross-cultural mission 21%, and employment in Christian agencies 40%.
8. One important problem that PTC does face is the existing library. It is now too small, and its size may well inhibit prospective students when choosing a college for theological studies. Despite the excellent quality of the books located there, the collection does not match the size of other comparable theological libraries. The critical problem is the shortage of space and the need to warehouse a growing portion of current journals and books in different sites. The College desperately needs a new library building. Growing student numbers and increasing demand only exacerbates the problem.

Candidates for Ministry

The Presbyterian Theological College exists to provide the highest quality biblical, theological and pastoral training to equip people for gospel ministry who believe, affirm, and defend the gospel in order to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The faculty is encouraged that 82% of PTC's students have some form of church-based ministry in mind and that the number of provisional candidates for pastoral ministry within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria now stands at nine. PTC also has a number of female students who wish to engage in some form of teaching and pastoral care to women and children within the PCV.

The names of the ordination candidates (in alphabetical order), their presbyteries, and anticipated year of exit are as follows:

Mitchell Amoah	(Melbourne West)	2023
Ryan Brightwell	(Maroondah)	2024
Stephen Denness	(Flinders)	2024
Jordon O'Hara	(Melbourne North)	2025
Sam Semisi	(Melbourne North)	2025
Scott Thomas	(Melbourne North)	2024
Jason Wang	(Maroondah)	2024
Cameron Weir	(Melbourne East)	2023
Andrew Wort	(Melbourne North)	2024

The number of candidates from each of the presbyteries is Flinders (1), Melbourne East (1), Melbourne North (4), Melbourne West (1), and Maroondah (2). Total: 9. There are other students at College who are considering whether to candidate.

Projected Exit Dates for Candidates:

2023: Mitchell Amoah, Cameron Weir

2024: Ryan Brightwell, Stephen Denness, Scott Thomas, Jason Wang, Andrew Wort

2025: Jordan O'Hara, Samuel Semisi

The Need for Further Candidates

While the theological colleges of the Presbyterian Church in Australia have seen a growth in the number of their students over the last fifteen years, the trend in other theological institutions, particularly from 2017–2022, has seen an overall decline of 21% in student numbers. Whether this broad decline over the last five years portends some future spiritual crisis in the church is uncertain. However, it is certainly a matter of prayer for the whole Christian church. While the short supply of gospel ministers has been a perennial problem throughout the history of the church (Matt 9:37), it is nevertheless one that should call us to continual prayer (Matt 9:38).

College Commencement and Conferral of Degrees 2022

The 2022 academic year commenced on 25 March in the Werner Brodbeck Hall in the Assembly Hall building. The faculty has held the service there on nine occasions since 2012 because it is a central and historic location for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and makes the ceremony more accessible to the wider church. This year was particularly notable not only for the very large attendance, but it was also the first occasion since the Victorian pandemic restrictions had been relaxed. The guest speaker for the occasion was Professor Allan Harman, and he gave a stirring and memorable address on the importance of preaching. The faculty is also grateful for the attendance and support of Rev Peter Phillips, the Moderator of the Victorian Assembly, and a small musical ensemble from Donvale Presbyterian Church for the evening. Once again, the faculty thanks the Scots' Church Board of Management, the Rev Philip Campbell, their minister, and the helpful staff at Scots, especially for their generosity in allowing the College to use the Werner Brodbeck Hall and the upstairs Robert White Hall for the reception.

The Ministry Training Program

The Presbyterian churches of Melbourne and regional Victoria play an equal and important role in the training and education of PTC's theological students. The advantage of the program at PTC is that it affords students the opportunity to participate in a variety of different church settings with quite diverse demographics, cultures, and histories. Students need this experience to broaden their understanding and appreciation of the social breadth and features of the denomination. Working in settings that are sometimes quite unlike their home churches plays an essential role in their development.

The College supplements this practical training with a number of formal ACT subjects such as Introductory Preaching, Preaching for Life-Long Learning, Evangelism, Cross-Cultural Mission, Ministry Formation, Christian Worship, The Foundations of Pastoral Care, Pastoral Skills and Methods, Pastoral Care Field Education, and Congregational Field Education. Thus, students are being prepared throughout their academic course at PTC over four years so that they are developing both an academic appreciation of their ministry calling as well as a meaningful, practical experience before they take up

their formal appointments when they graduate. The faculty is grateful to both Dr Felix Chung and Rev Andrew Vines, who play an important role in maintaining the focus on Practical Ministry.

The results of the most recent national Student Experience Survey in 2021 indicate that these courses are crucial to the candidates' preparation and that PTC students are performing well when they begin their first appointments.

Candidates at PTC also have other opportunities to build their involvement in ministry in the local church through intensive involvement in the annual mission. Over the last two years, the College has been prevented from engaging in this activity due to lockdowns. However, in December 2022, faculty and students will be visiting Ballarat for ten days, mainly at St John's–Ebenezer, but it is hoped that it will be of help to the other congregations as well.

The College has also welcomed the cooperation of the Ministry Development Committee in the pastoral development of students. Rev Chris Siriweera is making regular visits to the College to become better acquainted with candidates for the ministry so that he can build contact and friendships with future exit students and provide them with mentoring in their early years of pastoral ministry. Having the MDC Officer involved in mentoring students from their early candidature creates a vital pastoral and denominational contact that is designed to provide long-term support and encouragement that will assist ministers through crucial transitions in their service to the church. This is one of the denominational distinctives of the PCV. The denomination offers help to students while they are still at College and then throughout their ministry in very personal ways. The faculty is indebted to the many local churches and their ministers who are currently involved with the College in the training of candidates and the ministers who give so generously of their time.

Religious Freedom

In October 2021, the Victorian Government introduced some important changes to the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) in some new legislation known as the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Act 2021* (Vic). This new legislation came into effect on 14 June 2022.

The significance of this new Act is that while it has a general application to churches, a number of new provisions for 'religious bodies' appear in sections 82 and 82A. These new provisions apply to persons, religious bodies, and governing entities that 'establish, direct, control and administer an educational institution' that is to be conducted in accordance with religious doctrines, beliefs, or principles (sections 83 and 83A). Thus, it appears to refer to an entity where the governing body is committed to acting on religious principles. The main impacts of these sections have the potential to create additional problems for theological colleges and church schools in the areas of staffing, the conduct of staff in the area of personal morality, and the sexual orientation of staff.

Obviously, all these are major issues. It should come as no surprise that evangelical theological colleges in other states with similar legislation have already run into major issues. It seems that the time has arrived for the PCV to re-visit a lot of issues in relation to staffing appointments, enrolment of students, and future vulnerabilities in this so-called 'equal opportunity' and 'anti-discrimination' environment in Victoria.

Student Enrolments 2021

The number of students (candidates and non-candidates) who have been studying at the College in 2022 is as follows:

1. *Semester 1, 2022* – Total 69 (30% FT; 70% PT) English Course
2. *Semester 2, 2022* – Total 81 (29% FT; 71% PT) English Course
3. *Semester 1, 2022* – Total 7 (3 ACT Diploma) Chinese Course
4. *Semester 2, 2022* – Total 7 (4 ACT Diploma) Chinese Course

The overall ratio between male and female students is 66% (male) and 34% (female). The rise in the number of enrolments in 2022 is due to the increasing take-up of online courses.

Higher Degree Research

The responsibility for this area resides with Dr Felix Chung. In the last four years, the College has seen significant development under his leadership, and there are now three persons working towards PhDs and another towards a Masters. The level of interest in HDR study at PTC is significant and, on a proportional basis, is generally above other colleges. The hope is that this program will be the means to provide ministers trained to a high level and also create a pool of potential lecturers for the PTC and other allied colleges.

The College has a number of very able supervisors for the HDR program: Prof Allan Harman, Drs Felix Chung, Rowland Ward, Jared Hood, Peter Barnes, and Michael Brautigam. The faculty is very grateful to God for such a capable and experienced team to help in the HDR program.

Staff Development, Sabbatical Leave and Contribution

1. Peter Hastie has taught four subjects in 2022: Biblical Theology, Reformed Worship, Christian Worship, and Grace and Eschatology. He is currently on sabbatical leave from July–December 2022. As part of his HDR studies, he is engaged in research related to his PhD studies on Adam, the fall, and original sin. His most recent paper in the last year presented to an HDR seminar was entitled, 'Paul, Adam, Hermeneutics and the Doctrine of Sin.' He also serves the PCV in his capacity as the moderator at the Kangaroo Ground congregation and as a member of the Commission for Church Institutions and the Exit Students Committee. He has promoted the College most recently in Tasmania, where he gave the Assembly Bible Studies in Hobart from 10–12 May and also met with the TEC in WA on 20 May to discuss ways in which the PTC may be able to further assist the WA church with theological education.

2. Jared Hood had study leave in Semester 2, 2021, and further researched the use of the title 'Lord of Hosts' in the Old Testament and its (alleged) wider ancient Near Eastern correlates, especially in Ugarit literature. One article has been published from this, and two are yet to be submitted: 'Yhwh Tsevaot before Samuel: Canonical Foundations for a Davidic Title', *RTR* 81, no. 1 (April 1, 2022), 1–32. Jared has led the redevelopment of the Reformed Theological Review so that the journal now has an international editorial board and seeks to be an international academic journal of Reformed theology (<https://rtrjournal.org/index.php/RTR/about/editorialTeam>). The first meeting of the board was in July 2022. *RTR* has several themed issues planned,

including the April 2023 issue on the *visio Dei*, with four international scholars committed to contributing, and the April 2026 issue planned to be on J. I. Packer. Jared continues to serve as the Academic Dean, facilitating curriculum revision, is a PhD Principal Supervisor accredited with the ACT, serves on the Theological Education Committee, the Business Committee, and the GAA College Committee, and is convening a College Committee subcommittee looking at eternal torments in the Westminster Confession. He teaches the Old Testament units as well as Westminster Confession and Continental Reformation. He also oversees IT at the college.

3. Felix Chung took six months of sabbatical (Feb–June 2022) and produced two English journal articles on mission history and missionary formation. The articles are in the process of being reviewed. He has prepared a paper, 'The challenges and model of multicultural ministry in the Chinese Australian churches in Australia', to present at Sydney's 'Contextualisation and Chinese Churches in Australia' conference in September 2022. ACT will publish the submitted papers as one of the ACT English monographs titled 'Chinese Church in Context: Voices from Downunder' in 2023.

Felix coordinates the HDR program at PTC and attends the ACT Postgraduate Committee as PTC's representative. He also connects with scholars who share similar theological positions in ACT-affiliated colleges to form the PTC HDR supervisor's team.

Felix also coordinates the PTC learning experience program for the candidates. That includes supervising the SFE co-ordinator (currently Andrew Vines), organising the arrangement of the lectures for the two fieldwork experiences, coordinating the college mission, and advising on the requirement of the learning experiences for all candidates.

Felix is the Chinese Dean of PTC and oversees the development of the PTC Chinese program, which was approved provisionally by ACT for two years in 2020. He is also a lecturer in the Chinese program at PTC. ACT will review the Chinese program by the end of 2022.

Felix is now a member of the Maroondah Presbytery. Since the ordination of Xien Yao by Donvale Presbyterian Church in 2022, Felix and Mei withdrew from the Donvale Chinese congregation ministry and continue helping Chinese churches in Melbourne to secure the support of the PTC Chinese program. Felix continues his role as the Chinese Moderator for the ACT consortium to moderate all the Chinese Ministry and Practice programs in Australia and overseas.

4. Ben Nelson teaches Study Skills, New Testament NT001 and NT002, NT exegesis units, and Church History CH001 and CH002. He is also the College representative on the ACT Coursework Committee. He is secretary of the faculty and leads a Pastoral Care Group. He continues his work on his PhD dissertation on 'J. Oecolampadius Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel'. He will be giving a presentation at the HDR Seminar in October 2022. He serves the denomination by chairing the Candidates' Committee of Melbourne East Presbytery, publishing the magazine Catechesis, leading Women's Ministry Victoria workshops, and speaking at Men of God workshops, the most recent of which had 120 attendees. He has also taken on the role of Acting Principal during Peter Hastie's sabbatical from July–December 2022. Ben also serves as an elder at South Yarra and has also been serving there as

pastoral assistant to the interim moderator since the retirement of the minister during the Covid lockdowns.

Promoting the College

This activity is the responsibility of the Administrative Officer in consultation with the Principal and Academic Dean. Over the last year, Janelle Born has been renewing the website and maintaining the College's social media. She has done an excellent job in the area of advertising, and the College has had significant interest in its activities, the most recent being the 'Men of God' Conference on 30 July, which over 120 people attended. Jared Hood has also made some important technical contributions to the IT network to help expand the College's presence on the web. Annie Weir plays an important role in promoting the College by maintaining PTC Media's bookshop. Through her initiative, the College has a very well-stocked bookshop with a broad range of appeal that has a ready supply of theological textbooks, Bible Study materials, children's books, and best-selling authors. Currently, PTC students are involved in College Sunday, where they are preaching in metropolitan and regional churches in Victoria from July–October to assist local congregations in ministry and inform the church about the role and opportunities provided to the church through the PTC.

Candidates' Wives

These meetings normally take place each month, and there are also occasional social get-togethers. The faculty thanks Annie Weir for her organization and promotion of the group. Some of the wives travel considerable distances to attend the meetings.

The group holds a planning session at the beginning of each year. The wives themselves play a direct role in the leadership of and programming for the group. The group is a very positive experience for the students' wives. Around 10–12 women regularly attend the monthly meetings.

Engagement with the Denomination

The faculty plays a significant role in the denomination. Apart from their work at the College, which is quite demanding, faculty members also maintain commitments in the wider church through various church committees, presbyteries, and the Assembly. Faculty members are also available to preach for congregations on Sundays and at occasional services on other days.

Peter Hastie
PRINCIPAL

TRUSTS CORPORATION (Min 37)

Duties

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 Act'). 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 1958* (Vic) and the Act. 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 Act, the Trusts Corporation may, at its discretion, invest funds either separately or in a Common Fund.

Membership of the Trusts Corporation

The members of the Board of Investment and Finance form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

Investment Committee

The investment strategy has continued to navigate the challenges of increasing inflation and rising interest rates.

While the trend in interest rate increases is set to bring increased income generation from the more defensive segments of the portfolios, market volatility has impacted the overall capital values. This volatility is overall consistent with what would be expected from the portfolio asset allocation in the current climate. The current portfolio allocation is still positioned to achieve the required long-term return outcomes. The Investment Committee continues to monitor the performance of all portfolios and the Investment Managers closely.

Explanation of 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 Act, 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 the various trusts at rates determined by the Trusts Corporation. Funds invested in the Common Fund are not entitled to share in capital gains (or losses).

Investment performance

The Common Fund Balance is comprised of the following amounts:

	\$ 2022	\$ 2021
Common Fund		
Balance of Trusts and Committee Funds	49,145,298	47,241,471
Income Suspense Account	4,119,077	3,454,037
Common Fund Reserve	35,632,923	43,457,936
Total Common Fund	88,897,298	94,153,444
 Separately Invested Funds	 36,361,405	 36,422,108
 Plus Payables	 253,364	 483,067
 Total Funds Invested	 125,512,066	 131,058,618

The Common Fund Investments have yielded income of \$4.1 million after operating costs (2021 \$3.2M) and have reduced in value by \$8.6 million as a result of capital losses (2021 gains of \$8.1M). This presents an overall return of negative 4.7% (2021 +14.1%).

The annual interest rates paid on amounts invested in the Common Fund for the year ended 30 June 2022 were:

Common Fund interest rates paid on funds	
General Assembly, Committees and Trusts	7.00%
Sites Reserve funds	3.50%
Congregational deposits in the Capital Fund	1.00%
Congregational general funds	1.00%

A total of \$2.7 million (2021 \$2.6M) was distributed to Church Committees, Groups and Congregations during the year.

The return on funds that have been invested outside the Common Fund in a diversified portfolio has varied between the different funds depending on various factors, including the cash drawdowns, size of funds and investment mix. The average return for funds invested separately was income of 5.0% and capital losses of 12.0% for a total return of negative 7.0% (2021 13.5%).

Movement in Balance of Funds held

The movement of the balance of funds held by the Trusts Corporation is explained as follows:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Common Fund Movements		
Income Suspense Account		
Investment Income	4,368,574	3,414,523
Distributions to Trusts and Committees	(2,703,534)	(2,627,727)
Transfer to Common Fund Reserve	(1,000,000)	-
	<u>665,040</u>	<u>786,796</u>
Common Fund Reserve		
Capital Gains/(Losses)	(8,579,496)	8,091,238
Expenses	(245,517)	(218,228)
Transfer from Income Suspense	1,000,000	-
	<u>(7,825,014)</u>	<u>7,873,010</u>
Common Fund Movements		
Deposits/(Withdrawals) of Trust Funds	<u>1,903,827</u>	<u>5,380,160</u>
Total change in Common Fund balance	(5,256,146)	14,039,966
Separately Invested Funds		
Investment Income	1,878,387	1,296,858
Capital Gains/(Losses)	(4,402,828)	4,069,643
Deposits/(Withdrawals) of Trust Funds	<u>2,469,738</u>	<u>(12,418,576)</u>
Change in Separately Invested Funds	<u>(60,703)</u>	<u>(7,052,074)</u>
Total change in Funds	(5,316,849)	6,987,892
Trade and Other Payables	253,364	483,067
Total Funds Invested	125,512,066	131,058,618

For more detailed information concerning the funds managed by the Trusts Corporation, please refer to the Annual Financial Report distributed with the Assembly papers.

Bequests

The following bequests have been received during the year:

Estate of	Beneficial Purpose	Amount
Donald Ian Gillies	Education & training of clergy	\$15,000
Donald Ian Gillies	Presbyterian Church of Victoria	\$49,239

National Redress Scheme

Since last reporting to the General Assembly, a claim under the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse against a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria was upheld by the regulator resulting in a redress payment which has been paid. The applicant also requested a Direct Personal

Response from the Church. In accordance with regulated procedures, the Church is waiting for the applicant to make contact with it to commence that process.

Hinneberg Matter

The court proceeding in respect of the claim from Simon Hinneberg was settled following mediation and prior to trial.

Barry Oakes
CHAIRMAN

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES VICTORIA COMMITTEE (Min 119)

The Women's Ministries Victoria Committee is in its second year, and it continues to exist to support and grow intentional gospel ministries by women, to and for women across our PCV churches. The committee's goal is that women of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria would grow towards maturity in Christ and reach out to the community with the gospel.

The committee's members have been Clare Dunstan, Mairi Girgis, Amy Isham, Sarah McDonald, Siew Teng Yap (secretary), Russ Grinter (treasurer), and Ben Johnson (convener). Through the course of the year, Clare Dunstan and Mairi Girgis resigned their positions. Natalie Horman and Annie Weir were co-opted to these vacancies and seek election at the 2022 GAV. Amy Isham has also resigned recently and at the time of writing, there has been no opportunity to co-opt another person to this position. The committee has met eight times until the time of this report submission on 11 August 2022.

The Women's Ministries Facilitator

The committee has been trying to raise funds for a Women's Ministries Facilitator to spearhead the work of WMV and grow the ministry. This has proven more difficult than was thought, given the financial constraints on the PCV at this time. The Assembly had approved a three-year position of up to 0.6 FTE. The committee is currently seeking a budget adjustment for a 12-month position of 0.4 FTE.

The committee praises God for eight churches that have committed to supporting the WMF over three years. Three churches have given a one-off gift, and two individuals are regular supporters of the ministry. The committee is looking for the equivalent of fifteen churches to commit \$1000 per year for three years in order to give security into the medium term for a PCV Women's Ministries Facilitator. Assembly members are asked if their church can partner with the committee for the good of PCV women and the glory of Jesus.

On the Road Conferences

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the second half of 2021 meant that metropolitan Melbourne was in lockdown from mid-July almost to the end of October, with the rest of Victoria for a little less than that. This resulted in the cancellation of the WMV conference that was to be held at Reservoir on 28 August. The committee decided to move the Shepparton conference, scheduled for 16 October 2021, to an online format, and it was also decided participants would not be charged to attend the conference. The committee's thanks go to the speaker Jan Martin and the workshop leaders, Roslyn Brown, Alyson Peatman, and Sarah Weber, who were all very supportive of the changed format.

Jan Martin pre-recorded her talks from 2 Peter 1 on the theme 'Sustained! All That You Need For Life' and she did a live Question and Answer segment on the day. Roslyn Brown ran a workshop on 'Connecting Cross Culturally', Alyson Peatman's workshop was on 'Parenting: Eyes on Eternity' and Sarah Weber's workshop was entitled 'Steady in the Storm'. A total of 130 ladies registered for the conference and represented more than 40 churches, including some from overseas. There was a strong representation of ladies in Benalla, Shepparton, and Warrnambool where they could gather and run 'watch parties'.

The shortened conference ran 1:15pm–4:30pm. It was very well received, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Special thanks go to Rev Stephen McDonald, who provided technical support and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to stitch the various components of the online conference together and to Sarah McDonald, who hosted the online conference.

In 2022, the theme has been ‘Women of the Word’. The committee was able to facilitate conferences in Ballarat, Benalla, and Warragul (3 September 2022, God willing). The keynote speaker, Joy Arundell, delivered two challenging, expository talks encouraging women to prioritise the Word of God in their often busy, distracted lives (Luke 10:38–42). Joy offered many practical solutions for ensuring ‘our serving does not get in the way of our listening’ as we can often slip into the trap of prioritising our duties to others over our duty to God. Conference attendees were helpfully reminded that ‘we need to be women of the word if we are to be women who serve’. The second talk came from 2 Timothy 1, 3 and focused on the discipling relationship that Lois and Eunice had with Timothy. Attendees were encouraged to pass the faith on to the next generation as they teach them the word.

The three workshops were;

- ‘How to Study the Bible with our Hearts and our Minds’ with Michelle Ullrich and Sarah McDonald. Sarah and Michelle taught the need to turn Bible reading into Bible study, with a God-centred, mind-renewing framework from Jen Wilkin’s book *Women of the Word*.
- ‘Discipleship One to One in community’ with Naomi Parkes. Naomi encouraged women to open God’s word one to one, to share Christ, to grow in faith, and to be equipped to serve the body of Christ.
- ‘Is the Bible Sufficient?’ with Ben Nelson (in partnership with PTC). Ben lead the women through the importance of the sufficiency of scripture. He was able to encourage the women to reflect on the relationship between the Bible and the other voices we listen to, and helped them to biblically consider if the Bible is all we need for Christian faith, life, and service.

Many of the women were encouraged by the rich scriptural teaching from Ben, Sarah, Michelle, and Naomi and were motivated to take it deep in their personal walk, discipleship and biblical engagement.

At each conference, the fellowship was precious. Each host team made a point of engaging with local caterers and florists to connect local events with local women as salt and light. Attendance of more than 70 in Ballarat and just shy of 60 in Benalla gave great encouragement as the committee partners with local churches to see women equipped to nurture, disciple, and serve.

The committee hopes to bring dates, the topic, and the keynote speaker of the 2023 conferences to the Assembly so that members can include the closest conference into their church’s yearly calendar.

Ben Johnson
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 1: BUCKINGHAM PALACE (Min 23)



14th December, 2021.

The Reverend Peter Phillips.

Dear Mr Phillips,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your letter of 25th October, which contained a message of loyalty on behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

*Yours sincerely,
Miranda Hansen Lise*

Miranda Hansen Lise
Loyal Greetings Officer

COMMUNICATION 2: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND WATER AND PLANNING (Min 137)



Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning

Land Use Victoria
GPO Box 527 Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: 03 9102 0401
DX 250639
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Geoff Cox
McCracken & McCracken Lawyers

By email: geoff@mccrackenlegal.com

MODEL TRUST DEEDS UNDER THE PRESBYTERIAN TRUSTS ACT 1890
YOUR REF: GCC:130680
OUR REF: LEG-2021-00271

Thank you for your email of 16 March 2022.

I confirm that the Model Trust Deeds enclosed under your cover letter dated 22 November 2022 has been enrolled into this office pursuant to section 17 of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890* (Vic) ('the Act').

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Melissa Harris
Registrar of

Titles Per:

Prepared by: Felicia Tan
Land Use Victoria Legal

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorized by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to foi.unit@delwp.vic.gov.au or FOI Unit, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002.



OFFICIAL-Sensitive

COMMUNICATION 3: KORUS CONNECT (Min 113)

KORUS CONNECT: PARTNERING FOR COMMUNITY

Introduction

Like many organisations, including churches, the challenge for Korus Connect during 2021 was to find creative ways to reconnect, rebuild and restore communities as they continued to see- saw in and out of lockdowns. We have been reminded that people matter more than things; that relationships need to be prioritised over possessions, experiences or programs. Relationship building and activities continued in person and online as necessary across chaplaincy, Special Religious Instruction (SRI) and through our community connector initiative. We also started exploring how we might serve churches better through training and equipping.

During 2021, our more than 450 paid and volunteer workers continued their commitment to serve individuals and local communities, helping to connect people with their purpose and full potential and to build communities that are connected, supported and whole. Of these workers, 18 identify as Presbyterian.

Special Religious Instruction (SRI)

SRI was predominately offered online, using the existing materials repurposed for online use, along with some of the videos created in the previous year by SRI instructors. We are thankful to God that some in-person SRI sessions were able to be offered early in the year as well as in the latter part of Term 4. This varied from school to school across the 13 schools registered for SRI. We are very grateful to the ongoing commitment of our SRI volunteers who provide these sessions before or after school or at lunchtimes.

Chaplaincy

During 2021, online and face-to-face support to parents and families was an important aspect of the chaplains' work as well as morale boosting for school communities. Chaplains provided pastoral care to many students and staff, as well as facilitated groups around friendships, grief and loss, community development, role modelling, mentoring and spiritual support to more than 16,000 students. Each week, nearly 5000 conversations were held with students. Formal conversations primarily focused on mental health and friendship / peer issues. As two chaplains commented,

Many students... have shared that they are more inclined to have angry outbursts and that they are fearful of the strength of their emotions and how readily they get out of control.

Good connection has been made with two students who are usually [reluctant] to talk. Using different strategies with each, these students have opened up and talked about significant family issues which they are struggling with.

Such students are part of the 60% of students who enjoy ongoing pastoral support from their chaplain; chaplaincy is relational and committed to the overall wellbeing of the individuals served.

Community Connectors

During 2021, our community connector initiative was offered in five Local Government Areas (LGAs): in an aged care centre, in two shopping centre precincts, in a local community service area and at Melbourne Airport. In each location, the role provided pastoral care, connection to local services and the building of relationships, reducing loneliness and social disconnection.

Summary

Thank you for your commitment and interest in the work of Korus Connect. We very much appreciate your support, your ongoing prayers for more workers and your interest in this wider Christian work.

Dawn Penney

Chief Executive Officer

Korus Connect



COMMUNICATION 4: QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (Min 116)



Queensland
Theological College

369 Boundary Street, Spring Hill QLD 4000

Phone: +61 7 3062 6939

Email: principal@qtc.edu.au

Web: www.qtc.edu.au

A cry for help to the General Assembly of Victoria

Brothers, as you will know, the Presbyterian Church of Queensland is currently in under the management of Receivers appointed by the Supreme Court of Queensland as a result of the catastrophic failure of its Aged Care ministry, PresCare. The matters before the Court may take some years to be resolved. However, one issue has come to the fore—the building which houses Queensland Theological College, which is fully owned by the denomination, is to be sold to meet some of the Receivers' costs before the end of the year. Should the building be sold, the College will need to relocate to temporary accommodation, and then almost certainly move to a suburban location, leading to an immediate loss of enrolments, and a downward spiral of reducing income, redundancies and staff lay-offs. There is a very real possibility that this may lead to the demise of the ministry as we know it. That is why we are writing to you for help. We are acutely aware of the challenges you face in Victoria, and want to assure you of our prayers for you, as we know many of you have been praying for us. However, our need is also acute and immediate, and if there is any way you can help us, we would be deeply grateful before God.

Our situation is relatively simple:

- We need to raise around \$8m capital *by mid-October* in order to lodge an expression of interest with the agents selling the building on behalf of the Receivers.
- At the time of writing, we have secured \$3m through our 'Securing the Future' campaign, which is held in a new foundation, 'A Future QTC Ltd'. We are currently in discussion with a range of individuals and organisations to procure the remaining funding, whether as loans or donations.
- On 25th July 2022, the State Assembly of Queensland approved a resolution asking our brothers in both Victoria and Queensland 'to partner with us in the work of the Gospel to secure the future of the Queensland Theological College, asking them to contribute \$1m in whatever form possible to the A Future QTC Limited Foundation.'

On behalf of QTC and the Presbyterian Church in Queensland, I am therefore humbly and prayerfully requesting that you consider providing us with \$1m (as a gift, an interest free loan or a combination of both) as soon as possible to enable us to meet our target and secure the future of our ministry. I have also attached a copy of a booklet which explains our situation in more detail.

In gospel partnership,

Rev. Dr. J. Gary Millar

*A teaching institution of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland
An affiliated college of the Australian College of the Theology
Institution Reference Number: 4P505 | CRICOS No. 02650E*

Communication 5: PWMU Cookbook Committee Afternoon Tea and Cookbook Sale (Min 33)



PWMU Cookbook Committee



PCV Assembly Meeting

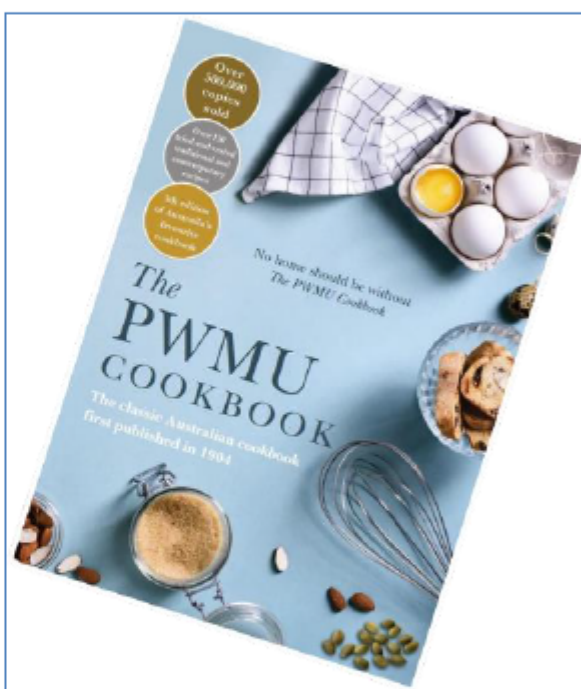
4 October 2022

The PWMU Cookbook Committee is delighted to be sponsoring afternoon tea on the first day of your Assembly Meeting.

We trust that you will enjoy the delicious baking that the members of the committee will be making for this occasion.

There will be an opportunity to purchase the cookbook at a special price of \$20 per copy – payment options: cash, EFTPOS, or cheque.

Members of the committee will be present and happy to chat with you about the cookbook and how it supports the mission and ministry of both the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches.



For more information contact Committee Secretary,

Pam Grant: pwmucookbook7@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION 6: PWMU COOKBOOK COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE (Min 33)



PWMU Cookbook Committee

Terms of Reference

COMMUNICATION 7: MODERATOR-GENERAL, PCA (Min 24)



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
AUSTRALIA**

Moderator-General: Rev Dr P E Barnes

Clerk: Rev L J F Hall

PO Box 510

SPRING HILL Q 4004

(Mobile) 0412 990 110

Email: GAAClerk@pcnsw.org.au

Rev. Dr John P. Wilson

Clerk of Assembly

0418 537 209

john.wilson@pcv.org.au

24 September 2022

Dear John,

Thank you for your kind invitation to join you at the opening worship service of the PCV's General Assembly on 3 October. As mentioned earlier, I had already committed to being in New Zealand for the Assembly of the Grace Presbyterian Church, where I will be speaking on Psalm 2.

If I could be allowed a comment or two, in the hope that it might be helpful to you all as you gather together, I have been struck yet again by the various attributes which cohere in the character of God. Hence we are to abhor what is evil (Rom.12:9) while loving one another with brotherly affection (Rom.12:10). From Psalm 2, we learn that God will speak to His enemies in wrath and terrify them in His fury, but He graciously calls on them to 'kiss the Son', meaning to embrace Him in His grace, that they would be reconciled to Him. Fallen human beings, even regenerate human beings, do not find it easy to reflect all of the character of God. We easily become lop-sided. In the cause of winsomeness, we can lose the awful holiness of God, and in the cause of righteousness, we can become hard and lacking in compassion.

In short, we are to be good, to be strong, to be kind to all, and to be rock solid. Seek to be clear; there is no true fellowship in ambiguity. All truth and all love at all times.

I write this as one who writes better than he practises.

Kind regards in Christ,

(Rev. Dr Peter Barnes, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia)

OVERTURE 1: PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH—TWO BRANCHES OF DEACONS (Min 59)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The Board of Management (BOM) having no clear biblical precedent, unlike Deacons, Elders, Sessions, Presbytery and Assembly (1 Tim 3, Acts 15).
- b) Some Board members being appointed more for their practical skills than their spiritual character—a compromise that can have a negative impact on church life.
- c) At times, unhelpful conflicts between Board and Session where Board members see themselves as more detached from the Session's involvement and guidance so that instead of working alongside the elders, they compete with them, or are not enthusiastic for their input.
- d) The fact that looking after the distribution of money generously given by the people of the local church and maintaining the premises are two important ways of caring for the congregations needs.
- e) Calvin's *Institutes* articulating 'two distinct grades' of deacons: those dealing with money and those caring for the poor and sick.¹⁷

Transforming the members of the BOM. into Property Deacons would help solve the issues raised:

- First it would use natural biblical categories to describe the work and nature of what was formerly called the BOM.
- Secondly it would naturally require people to possess the qualifications mentioned in 1 Tim 3:8–13.
- Thirdly, as Deacons, they would see it as their *raison d'être* to implement and support the work of the Session as modelled in Acts 6:1–7.

Other benefits:

This 'transformation' would be relatively easy to implement. The essential function of the BOM. would be unchanged and because it could be grandfathered, so that it would only apply to new members, it could be phased in over two years.

If members of the BOM were (property) deacons with all the biblical qualifications that goes with that then this would provide clearer guidance as to who is suitable and, if necessary, give stronger and clearer warrant to the congregation and Session to approve or reject someone for this role.

Through incorporating the BOM into the Diaconate there will be, as stated, clearer biblical standards for 'Property Deacons' and a real alignment with the Session. Elders would still be seen as being linked to the Diaconate and their input would be natural and expected.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Maroondah humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and ask the Code Committee to put together a proposal to be considered at the 2023 Assembly that would potentially see the formation

¹⁷ 'Two classes of deacons were employed in the church of Geneva: one for the distribution of charities, and the other for service to the sick.' *Institutes* 4:3:9 n. 11 (John T. McNeil edition)

of two branches of Deacons: Deacons for people (current deacons) and Deacons for property (the old BOM).

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

Signed: *Tony Archer* (Moderator of Presbytery)

To be stated by: Rev Tony Archer and Rev Cameron Griffiths

OVERTURE 2: MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE—CODE CHANGES ON CONGREGATIONS AND MISSION (RULES 2.1.1; 3.41; 4.64) (Min 78)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) Protestant theology having embraced three marks of a true church, namely, where the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed, sacraments faithfully administered, and discipline faithfully exercised.
- b) The three marks are each performed by either or both teaching and ruling elders.
- c) That in those definitions of a true church, there is no recognition of the responsibilities of the congregational members.
- d) That Calvin only emphasised two marks in his Institutes but included the responsibility of a congregation to hear the Word of God when he wrote, 'Whenever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to Christ's institution, there, it is not to be doubted, a church of God exists' (Institutes, 4.1.9).
- e) The Westminster Confession of Faith asserts that view when it declares that 'particular Churches, which are members thereof (catholic Church), are more or less pure, according as the doctrine of the Gospel, is taught and embraced, ordinances administered, and public worship performed more or less purely in them' (WCF 25.4).
- f) The Westminster Confession asserts that view when it declares that the visible Church is made up of those 'who profess the true religion; and their children' (WCF 25.2).
- g) The GAA Code has a 'Declaration on Spiritual Freedom of the Church' where the Church is described as a 'society of His believing people' (GAA 7.1b).
- h) That the supreme standard of the Presbyterian Church is the Word of God, and that the King and Head of the Church, Jesus the Christ, commissioned the Church to make disciples of all nations by baptising and teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded (Matt 28:18–20).
- i) That the teaching and ruling elders have a responsibility to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Eph 4:12) so that the assembled ones, when scattered, might be equipped to make disciples as they go (Matt 28:18–20).
- j) That the Code does not sufficiently express our confessional and biblical convictions with regards to the definitions of congregations and gospel ministry and mission.

Now, therefore, the Ministry Development Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that the rules read:

- a) At Code 2:1 **Congregation, charge, parish and mission field** change 2.1.1 so it reads:

2.1.1 A congregation is a body of people who profess the true religion, and, together with their children, they are formed and organised

by the presbytery as a people among whom the Word of God is taught and embraced, the sacraments faithfully administered in worship and all this for the edification, fellowship, and mission of the Church.

- b) Add a new rule 3.41 titled '**Ministry and Mission**' and renumber the remaining rules of chapter 3 accordingly:
 - 3.41.1 Session must prioritise its mission to make disciples as of first importance.
 - 3.41.2 Session must ensure that, through teaching, training, and modelling, the congregation is equipped for that mission so they may do the work of gospel ministry.
 - 3.41.3 Session must conduct annual reviews of each of its ministries and by that, together with any other means, assess the health of its gospel ministry and mission.
- c) Add a new rule 4.64 titled '**Ministry and Mission**' and renumber the remaining rules of ch 4 accordingly:
 - 4.64 A presbytery must:
 - a) prioritise the health and clarity of gospel ministry and mission in the congregations under its oversight;
 - b) ensure congregations are being equipped for gospel ministry and mission; and
 - c) conduct regular reviews to ensure the congregations' gospel ministry and mission are healthy.

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

To be stated by: Rev Stuart Withers and Rev Darren Middleton

OVERTURE 3: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—A COMMISSION APPOINTING A COMMISSION (RULE 6.50.3) (Min 42)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The general rules for church courts (ch. 6) places restrictions on what a commission of a court may be empowered to do in that it may not itself appoint a commission (see rule 6.50.3).
- b) The ordinary commission of the General Assembly is instructed to have its minutes, duly confirmed, presented to the next General Assembly (see rule 5.34.1(f)), but the rules do not explain how these minutes are to be confirmed.
- c) The committee believes it would be appropriate to allow an exception to rule 6.50.3 such that permits a commission to appoint a commission but only to confirm the minutes.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 6.50.3 reads (with the added words underlined for ease of understanding the proposed change):

6.50.3 Except for a special commission to scrutinise, correct and confirm its minutes, a commission cannot itself appoint a commission, but can, unless prohibited by the terms of its appointment, appoint any committee to perform specified duties. A commission is responsible for, and may set aside or vary, the actions of any committee it has appointed.

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



(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

**OVERTURE 4: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE—AMENDING REGULATIONS BY NOTICE OF MOTION
(RULE 5.45.1) (Min 43)**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

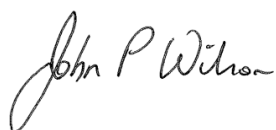
- a) In the exercise of its legislative function, the General Assembly restricts how changes to rules are made, specifying that enacting, amending or repealing rules may only be achieved upon submission of an overture and then following the Barrier Act procedure (see rule 5.44).
- b) The General Assembly also restricts regulation changes and specifies that enacting, amending or repealing regulations may be achieved upon either submission of an overture or by proposed deliverance in the Code Committee's report (see rule 5.45).
- c) Some members of the Assembly indicated that these restrictions for regulation changes may be overly restrictive and that it is necessary to add a third way so that when the General Assembly considers it to be urgent, a regulation change may also be achieved by use of a notice of motion.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 5.45 reads (with added words underlined for ease of understanding the proposed change):

5.45 Enactment of regulations

- 5.45.1 Regulations may only be enacted, amended or repealed pursuant to a proposal made in an overture or in the proposed deliverance of the Code Committee's report, provided that an urgent amendment to a regulation may be enacted pursuant to a proposal made by notice of motion.
- 5.45.2 A proposal may first be remitted by the General Assembly to presbyteries for consideration and report.

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



(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 5: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND BEING REINSTATED TO THE ROLL (RULE 3.32.2) (Min 44)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The church has lived with rule 3.32.2 for generations (e.g. it appears in the 1986 edition), namely 'If a person has been removed from a roll in the exercise of discipline, session may restore that person to that roll only by special resolution'.
- b) The rule is confusing on two grounds:
 - i) it is not clear what is meant by 'special resolution' and in what ways a special resolution of Session is different to a regular resolution of Session; and
 - ii) it fails to distinguish the case whereby a person censured under church discipline may have been excommunicated from the church by a higher court than Session.
- c) It appears that this lack of clarity is best addressed by removing the sentence from rule 3.32 and including an explanation in a note inserted at this point.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 3.32.2 is repealed, leaving rule 3.32 and the note to read:

3.32 Discipline

A session has the power of discipline over communicants and adherents of any congregation under its oversight in accordance with the law of the church (see PCA 'Code', chapter 8).

Note: Rule 10.04 of the Code of Discipline provides that 'the removal of a censure is effected only by the Court by which it is inflicted or, in cases where an appeal is taken against the finding in regard to the offence or against the consequent censure, by the Appellate Court and takes place only after satisfactory evidence of the repentance of the offender'.

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



(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 6: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—RECORD APART REFERENCED IN THE ORDINARY MINUTES OF THE COURT (RULE 6.19) (Min 45)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) A keen observer of the church pointed out that our current practice of using Record Apart was inconsistent within general practice of Presbyterianism in Scotland from where the concept originated, where, according to Andrew Herron, Record Apart has a single use within the process of church discipline whereby the church might avoid committing libel.
- b) Another observation was that our current practice may not be in accord with today's expectations in the light of recent institutional scandals whereby perpetrators of abuse have gained advantage by institutional silence or by the suppression of any record of findings of guilt.
- c) One further observation was that in the current rule 6.19 there is no distinction of procedure for the three different cases for which the rule might be exercised (see rule 6.19(a)) – they each engage the same prohibition of not allowing an entry of the matter in the ordinary record of the court.
- d) There is no need to resile from our current practice that whenever the Code of Discipline requires it, or when there is an allegation of a Safe Church Code of Conduct breach, the matter is recorded in Record Apart and there is no mention of the fact in the ordinary record of the court.
- e) Whenever there is a case – other than the two mentioned in (d) above – where it is nevertheless still considered desirable to keep the minutes in Record Apart, the resolution to proceed should also be minuted in the ordinary record of the court.
- f) There are circumstances, when a judicial process has concluded or when the case of an allegation of a Safe Church Code of Conduct breach has been resolved, where a general statement of the matter and decision of the case should also be made in the ordinary record of the court.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 6.19 reads:

6.19 Record apart

6.19.1 A court:

- a) must keep records in a separate record apart when:
 - i) required to do so by the Code of Discipline; or
 - ii) conduct in breach of the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct is alleged;
- b) may keep records in relation to matters other than those specified in rule 6.19.1(a) in a record apart.

6.19.2 When a court resolves to keep records in a record apart as provided for:

- a) by rule 6.19.1(a):
 - i) the resolution must be minuted in the record apart; and

- ii) no entry is made of the matter in the ordinary minutes of the court until the case is finally disposed of as provided for in rules 6.19.4 and 6.19.5 below;
 - b) by rule 6.19.1(b), the resolution must be minuted in the ordinary minutes of the court.
- 6.19.3** Minutes kept in a record apart must be:
- a) taken down on separate sheets consecutively numbered and secured within a separate folder;
 - b) kept apart in a private and secure place separately from the regular minute book and other records;
 - c) when confirmed, signed by the moderator and the clerk page by page.
- 6.19.4** In the case of proceedings under the Code of Discipline:
- a) where a matter does not proceed to judicial process no statement regarding it is inserted in the ordinary record of the court, but all minutes and other records held in connection with the matter must be retained for fifty years from the conclusion of the matter;
 - b) where a matter proceeds to judicial process, at the conclusion of the process a general statement of the terms or nature of the accusation and of the judgment arrived at must be inserted in the ordinary minutes of the court and the evidence taken together with all minutes and other relevant documents kept must be retained permanently.
- 6.19.5** In the case of an allegation of conduct in breach of the PCV Safe Church Code of Conduct, where the allegation is resolved without the matter proceeding under the Code of Discipline:
- a) a general statement of the matter and the decision of the court is included in the ordinary minutes of the court; and
 - b) all records in connection with such an allegation must be retained for fifty years from the conclusion of the matter.
- 6.19.6** In the case of a resolution to keep records in a record apart as provided for by rule 6.19.1(b), all records in connection with such a resolution must be retained permanently.
- 6.19.7** Where records kept in a record apart must be retained for fifty years (see 6.19.4(a) and 6.19.5):
- a) the minutes in the record apart must be formally inspected as provided for by rule 4.96 or rule 5.49.1;
 - b) two bound copies must be prepared, sealed up and endorsed externally with a note of the subject matter, the date, and the date when they are to be destroyed;
 - c) one copy must be placed in the PCV Archive and the other copy forwarded to Safe Church PCV; and
 - d) these facts (a, b, c, above) must be recorded in the ordinary minutes of the court.
- 6.19.8** Where records kept in a record apart must be retained permanently (see 6.19.4(b) and 6.19.6):
- a) the minutes in the record apart must be formally inspected as provided for by rule 4.96 or rule 5.49.1;
 - b) two bound copies must be prepared, sealed up and endorsed externally with a note of the subject matter and the date;

- c) one copy must be placed in the permanent records of the church in the PCV Archive, with the notation, 'To be opened only by the Session Clerk of Congregation', or 'the Clerk of the Presbytery of', or 'the Assembly Clerk' and the other copy forwarded to Safe Church PCV; and
- d) these facts (a, b, c, above) must be recorded in the ordinary minutes of the court.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'W'.

(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 7: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—RESPONSE TO GAA’S POSITION ON PAEDOCOMMUNION (RULES 3.24.2 & 3.24A) (Min 84)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) At the prompting of a member of the General Assembly, the Code Committee realised that our current rules are not in conformity with GAA 2019, Min 74(8), in that our current practice is that a person who has not made profession of faith ought not to be invited to take part in the Lord’s Supper.
- b) In order to achieve conformity, and choosing the path of least disruption to our rules, the Code Committee believes that it would be best to make minor alterations to rule 3.24.
- c) The General Assembly of Australia (Sept 2019) received a 22-page report on the subject of children taking part in the Lord’s Supper, and alongside that passed a number of resolutions in connection with the subject (see GAA 2019, Min. 74(3)-(11)).
- d) The General Assembly of Victoria (Oct 2020) received the report in its own records (see pages 430-451) together with the relevant resolutions by way of extract minute (see pages 428-9).
- e) The most relevant resolutions being Min. 74(8) and 74(11), namely: (8) ‘Instruct sessions which wish to provide for children to receive the Lord’s Supper to ensure that children are instructed in the faith and about the nature of the sacrament and that children have either made a public profession of faith, or that the Session has confirmed in consultation with their believing parent/s or guardians that they have made a credible profession of faith’ and (11) ‘Request the State Assemblies to ensure that their codes are structured in conformity to the decisions of the GAA.’

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 3.24 and the new rule 3.24A read: (with most of the added or altered words underlined for ease of understanding the proposed changes):

A. Proposed amendment to rule 3.24.2

3.24 Lord’s Supper

- 3.24.1 A session must appoint the time and place, and make suitable provision, for the public observance of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. It also may arrange, normally through the minister accompanied by at least one elder, for the sacrament to be administered privately, when necessary, for sick or aged communicants.
- 3.24.2 Public invitation to participate in the Lord’s Supper is ordinarily given by the minister, in a form approved by the session, to:
 - a) communicants of the congregation;

- b) adherents to whom the session has extended the privilege of participation in the Lord's Supper;
 - c) children who have been admitted to the Lord's Supper as provided for in rule 3.24A;
 - d) visiting communicants of other Presbyterian congregations;
 - e) visiting members of other branches of the Christian church.
- 3.24.3 The minister must encourage all present to examine themselves before the Lord in light of such Scripture as 1 Corinthians 11:27–29 and Matthew 5:23-24 whether they should accept the invitation to participate in the Lord's Supper.

B. Proposed new rule 3.24A

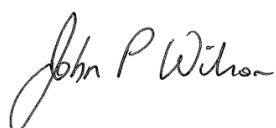
3.24A Admission of children to the Lord's Supper

3.24A.1 In this rule, a 'child' is a young person who has not been admitted to communicant membership by profession of faith or has not been extended the privilege of participation in the Lord's Supper by a session as an adherent.

3.24A.2 Before admitting a child to the Lord's Supper, the session must ensure that the child;

- a) has been baptised; and
- b) has been instructed in the Christian faith and the nature of the sacrament; and
- c) has made a public profession of faith or a credible profession of faith to the satisfaction of his or her believing parent/s or guardians; and
- d) has a life consistent with his or her profession.

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



(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

**OVERTURE 8: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE—CHANGING FROM MANDATORY ACRS TO SPECIFIC
USE MMRS (RULES 2.14; 2.15; 2.44; 2.45; 2.45A; 4.81; 4.82; 4.114)
(Min 97)**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee assessed the value of mandatory ACR forms in a report to the 2019 General Assembly entitled: ACRs: a help or a hindrance? (GAV 2019, p.310-311).
- b) In an overture to the same Assembly, the committee successfully argued their case that the mandatory ACR regime is a hindrance, saying, et al, that the ACR system does not work and has not worked for a long time (see GAV 2019, pages 434-4).
- c) The General Assembly directed the Code Committee to bring recommended changes to the PCV Code such that in removing ACRs, only a Maintenance of Ministry Report shall be required and only in certain circumstances such as at the dissolution of the pastoral tie, changes to the Terms of Settlement or when requesting a sustentation grant.
- d) The committee was also directed to bring recommended changes to the PCV Code such that there will still be the compulsory annual submission by congregations of financial statements, terms of settlement and budgets.
- e) The committee regrets that it has taken so long to return to the General Assembly on this matter, but it needed time to digest this complex request and consult along the way with all committees involved in this area of church operations.
- f) The committee presents in this overture the necessary complex raft of proposed rule changes – affecting the rewriting of eight rules, but does so mindful that there are corresponding and necessary regulation changes required for both committees: that of Maintenance of the Ministry and Ministry Development, and so it will be seeking interim authority to these rule changes which it believes essential so as to ensure consistency between rule and regulation at all times.
- g) Because the committee presents such a complex raft of proposed rule and regulation change, it requests permission, if it spots a corresponding word or phrase change somewhere else in the PCV Code where it was previously undetected, and provided it involves no substantial change, to make the necessary alteration outside of the usual process outlined in rule 5.44 – but only in these cases and only to avoid unhelpful incompatibility in the affected rules or regs. Any such changes will be reported to the next Assembly.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that the affected rules read as follows, and in order to maintain consistency between rule and regulation on this matter, to give the proposed changes interim authority under rule 5.47.1(b), and to allow the committee to make any other unforeseen consequential minor-order word changes, outside of the normal process of rule 5.44, in order to maintain consistency:

B. Proposed amended rule 2.14

2.14 Annual congregational meetings

- 2.14.1 A session must convene a meeting of each congregation of the charge within four months of its annual reporting period to:
- a) approve the annual report of its board;
 - b) adopt the annual audited financial statement of accounts submitted by its board;
 - c) approve (except in the case of linked congregations):
 - i) the proposed terms of settlement for the current year of any:
 - A. inducted or appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - B. licentiate; and/or
 - ii) the proposed terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
 - d) adopt an acceptable budget;
 - e) if a congregation (except for linked congregations) has an annual reporting period other than 1 July – 30 June, grant the board authority to vary the terms of settlement as declared by the Commission of Assembly, so that the board can make timely beginning of financial year (1 July) adjustments;
 - f) appoint congregational auditors for the coming year (see rule 2.16); and
 - g) determine the number of persons to be elected from and by the communicants and adherents of the congregation, termed 'managers', or in special circumstances determine for a limited time to delegate this right of determination to the session.
- 2.14.2 A written review by the session of the life and work of the congregation may be presented to this meeting. Reports of congregational organisations, with or without financial statements, may also be presented in whole or in part to this meeting as the session sees fit. But, unless the session has resolved to seek the mind of the congregation on any particular matter, no such review or report is received or adopted or formally dealt with by this meeting.
- 2.14.3 This meeting may resolve to refer to the session for consideration any complaints or recommendations concerning the report or financial statement of a congregational organisation.
- 2.14.4 A session of a linked charge must also convene an annual joint meeting of the congregations of the charge within four months of the federal board's annual reporting period to:
- a) approve the annual report of the federal board;

- b) adopt the annual audited financial statement of accounts submitted by the federal board;
- c) approve:
 - i) the proposed terms of settlement for the current year of any:
 - A. inducted or appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - B. licentiate; and/or
 - ii) the proposed terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
- d) adopt an acceptable budget;
- e) if the federal board has an annual reporting period other than 1 July – 30 June, grant the federal board authority to vary the terms of settlement as declared by the Commission of Assembly, so that the board can make timely beginning of financial year (1 July) adjustments;
- f) appoint federal board auditors for the coming year; and
- g) consider any other matter referred to it by the session.

Note: A board must report on the congregation's property and its activities during the preceding year (see rule 2.45).

B. Proposed amended Rule 2.15

2.15 Annual submission of financial documents to presbytery

Every charge must submit annually financial documents to presbytery. Every charge that has not submitted a Maintenance of Ministry Report as required by rule 4.81 must submit annually to the presbytery:

- a) its audited financial statements;
- b) i) the terms of settlement for the current year of any:
 - A. inducted minister; and/or
 - B. appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - C. licentiate; and/or
- ii) the terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - A. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - B. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - C. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; approved by the annual congregational meeting; and
- c) the budget or budgets adopted by the annual congregational meeting.

C. Proposed amended Rule 2.44

2.44 Financial records

- 2.44.1 A board must keep proper and adequate records of account and other necessary financial records.
- 2.44.2 The financial records of each congregation must be kept by the use of separate columns in a cash book or by posting to separate ledger accounts or electronic recording or otherwise, so that it shall be readily possible to ascertain the amounts of:
- a) collections by plate or by other systematic means for ordinary congregational purposes;
 - b) other regular sources of congregational revenue, such as rents of property, or interest on endowments;
 - c) special donations, sales, gifts and proceeds of special efforts;
 - d) the amount contributed by the congregation to the schemes of the church including the General Mission Program;
 - e) the amount contributed to charitable and other objects outside the church; and
 - f) every payment made from congregational funds.

D. Proposed amended Rule 2.45 and new rule 2.45A

2.46 Annual reporting by a congregational board

Every congregational board must annually prepare and approve:

- a) a report on the congregation's property and the board's activities during the preceding year;
- b) a financial statement of its accounts, which is audited; and
- c) except where there is a federal board:
 - i) the terms of settlement it proposes for the current year for any inducted or appointed minister or licentiate in the form approved by the General Assembly; and/or
 - ii) the terms and conditions for the current year for any appointed home missionary or assistant to the minister or any other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
 - iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
- d) a proposed budget; and
- e) submit these documents to the annual congregational meeting.

2.45A Annual reporting by a federal board

Every federal board must annually prepare and approve:

- a) a report on any congregational property used as a manse and the board's activities during the preceding year;
- b) a financial statement of its accounts, which is audited;
- c)
 - i) the terms of settlement it proposes for the current year for any inducted or appointed minister or licentiate in the form approved by the General Assembly; and/or
 - ii) the terms and conditions for the current year for any appointed home missionary or assistant to the minister or

- any other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; or
- iii) in the case of a vacancy in a pastoral charge, the proposed terms of settlement for the current year for the filling of the vacancy;
- d) a proposed budget; and
- e) submit these documents to the annual joint congregational meeting of the charge.

E. Proposed amended rule 4.81

4.81 Submission of financial documents to presbytery

- 4.81.1 A presbytery must ensure that any charge within its bounds which has not completed a Maintenance of Ministry Report as provided for by rule 4.81.2 submits annually to the presbytery,
- a) its audited financial statements;
 - b) i) the terms of settlement of any:
 - A. inducted or appointed minister (including a minister appointed as an assistant to the minister); and/or
 - B. licentiate; and/or
 - ii) the terms and conditions for the current year of any:
 - D. appointed home missionary; and/or
 - E. assistant to the minister where the assistant is not a minister; and/or
 - F. other church worker appointed to a remunerated pastoral and/or teaching role; approved by the annual congregational meeting; and
 - c) the budget or budgets adopted by the annual congregational meeting for the presbytery's consideration.
- 4.81.2 A presbytery in the following circumstances must ensure that a Maintenance of Ministry Report in the form approved by the General Assembly is completed by charges within its bounds:
- a) after the presbytery has dissolved the pastoral tie of a charge;
 - b) when, in the opinion of the presbytery, any change in circumstances requires a review of terms of settlement;
 - c) annually, by any charge that requires a grant or where the minister is appointed on a part-time basis (see rule 4.71 and MDC regulations 9 and 10); or
 - d) when satisfactory arrangements have been made for a part-time ministry within the charge as provided for by rule 4.82.2(b)(ii); and forwarded forthwith to the presbytery for its consideration. The presbytery, having approved the proposed terms of settlement, must forward them to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for its consideration and await the committee's declaration of the terms of settlement.

F. Proposed amended rule 4.82

4.82 Inability or failure to implement terms of settlement

- 4.82.1 If a presbytery receives:

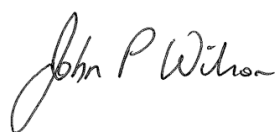
- a) a report from either a minister or the treasurer that the board is, or is likely soon to be, unable to pay the stipend or make available non-cash benefits at least monthly or to implement the terms of settlement as declared by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee and promised to its minister at his induction; or
 - b) a notice from Ministry Development Committee that it has decided to reduce or discontinue a grant to the congregation following which the presbytery believes that this is likely to seriously impair the congregation's ability to meet the terms of settlement in the near future; it must take expedient steps to rectify the situation, which may include:
 - i) encouraging the congregation to increase its financial support;
 - ii) with the concurrence of the minister, approving a reduction (but not to less than the minimums set by the General Assembly) to the approved terms of settlement;
 - iii) recommending and assisting in the removal of the minister to another sphere of labour; or
 - iv) with the concurrence of the minister, dissolving the pastoral tie.
- 4.82.2 If a presbytery is unable to ensure the speedy rectification of the matter by any of the steps suggested under [rule 4.82.1](#), and it is satisfied that the terms of settlement are not being fulfilled, then it must dissolve the pastoral tie within six months of it declaring itself so satisfied unless:
- a) it sees cause in the meantime to grant the prayer of a petition from the minister that he be allowed to retain his charge; or
 - b) it satisfies the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee that satisfactory arrangements have been made for a part-time ministry within the charge, in which case a Maintenance of Ministry Report with revised terms of settlement must be completed and approved (see [rule 4.81.1](#)).

G. Proposed amended rule 4.114

4.114 Payment of arrears and proposed terms of settlement

- 4.114.1 The congregation, at its first meeting in connection with filling the vacancy, must arrange to pay any arrears in:
- a) remuneration to the former minister or his personal representative; and
 - b) rates due to the General Assembly, the presbytery, and the superannuation fund.
- 4.114.2 Either at this meeting, or shortly afterwards, and thereafter each financial year during the vacancy, the congregation must decide on proposed terms of settlement which, without delay, must be submitted by the interim moderator to the presbytery or its appropriate committee.
- 4.114.3 The presbytery must consider the proposed terms of settlement in the light of all available information and either approve them and forward them to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for its consideration and action or return them to the congregation for reconsideration.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 9: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—MAINTAINING MINUTES OF MEETINGS IN A BOUND MINUTE BOOK (RULES 2.31; 2.40; 5.20; 6.16) (Min 130)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) It was brought to the committee's attention that not every congregational organisation, board, committee or church court exercises the same standard of keeping minutes.
- b) Upon checking the rules for minute keeping it was clear that there is a lack of consistency in the wording in each case; eg while for Boards there is specific reference to a 'minute book' (see rule 2.40) the same expression is not used for church courts (rule 6.16) or Assembly committees (rule 5.20).
- c) The committee believes strongly that the best way to record minutes so that they are incontrovertible and therefore reliable for immediate use, and also kept safe into the future, is with the use of a physical (print-form) bound minute book in each case.
- d) The committee is suggesting a minor-order insertion of words in the rules specified that would bring consistency of practice in this regard across the church.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rules 2.31, 2.40, 5.20 and 6.16 read: (with most of the added or altered words underlined for ease of understanding the proposed changes):

2.31 Meetings

When any business meeting of a congregational organisation occurs:

- a) minutes must be entered in the organisation's minute book and, when confirmed, signed and each page being initialled by the chairman;
- b) the minister must be duly notified of the meeting;
- c) unless the session has decided otherwise the minister has the right to preside but may appoint a deputy, failing which either the senior officer of the organisation present presides or the meeting appoints a communicant of the congregation as chairman.

2.40 Minutes

The minutes of every board meeting are entered in its minute book. At every meeting, the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, which must contain the names of those present, is ordinarily the first business after the opening. When confirmed, the minutes are signed and each page initialled by the chairman.

5.20 Appointment of committees

5.20.3 If a committee meets:

- a) three of its members constitute a quorum;
- b) motions need not be seconded;
- c) a member may speak more than once to the same question;
- d) the convener, without leaving the chair, may speak to a question and may move motions or amendments, and has both a deliberative and a casting vote;
- e) it may, however, at any time resolve to be guided strictly by Chapter 7 (Standing Orders);
- f) any member of the Assembly has a right to be present and may be associated with the committee;
- g) it must keep accurate minutes of its proceedings conforming to the requirements of rule 6.16.
- h) reports of its proceedings may not be published without its consent.

6.16 Form of minutes

6.16.1 A court must keep accurate minutes of its proceedings.

6.16.2 The minutes of every meeting of a court are entered in the court's minute book. When confirmed, the minutes are signed and each page initialled by the chairman.

6.16.3 Minutes must be a statement of fact only and must include:

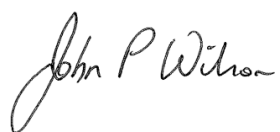
- a) the circumstances of the meeting, whether by appointment, following adjournment, urgent or special purpose, and the place, date, and time;
- b) except for the General Assembly, a list of those present;
- c) the names of members for whose absence apologies were received and sustained;
- d) all decisions of the court;
- e) the appointment of the next meeting if this needs to be made.

6.16.4 Minutes should not contain unnecessary corrections or alterations. Further:

- a) typographical errors require only initialling by the clerk;
- b) if words are struck out, the number of them (or of the lines) must be noted in the margin and signed by the clerk;
- c) if words are inserted, they must be written in the margin and signed by the clerk;
- d) no records may be deleted without the authority of the higher court;
- e) the minutes must not contain blank spaces giving opportunity for unauthorised insertions;
- f) headings of subjects must be made in the margin or in bold font above the minute;
- g) the keeping and recording of minutes must not be such as to permit a doubt as to the authenticity of the record.

Note: [rule 6.9](#) provides that the fact of opening and closing with prayer is also to be recorded in the minutes.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 10: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—PRESBYTERY OF OVERSIGHT AND TRIALS FOR LICENCE (RULES 4.35; 4.38; 4.48) (Min 99)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) It was brought to the committee's attention that there is lack of clarity regarding a presbytery's oversight of a candidate that may rightfully continue despite the fact of the candidate having moved residence during his training and even regularly attending a different church, one closer to his new residence and even outside his presbytery.
- b) This lack of clarity leads to confusion at times, especially when the candidate approaches the time to apply for licensing – to which presbytery does he apply: his original 'sending' presbytery that has continued to exercise oversight or the presbytery of the bounds in which he now resides?
- c) It is the committee's conviction that the rules should reflect more clearly that unless there has been a mutually agreeable transfer of oversight, the original sending presbytery must continue oversight of the candidate including taking him on board for trials for licence.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule changes to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rules 4.35, 4.38 and 4.48 read (with most of the added or altered words underlined for ease of understanding the proposed changes):

4.35 Trials for licence

A candidate who:

- a) is a communicant of the church;
- b) has notification from the Theological College Faculty that its requirements have been satisfied up to that time; and
- c) has entered the final year of his studies.
may make formal request to the presbytery having oversight over him for trials for licence.

The presbytery must then appoint trials for licence for him, with two or more of its members as examiners. The trials for licence cannot be regarded as completed, and no act of licensing can be undertaken, until an Exit Certificate has been issued by the College Committee of the General Assembly of Australia and until one year has elapsed from the date of his acceptance as a candidate.

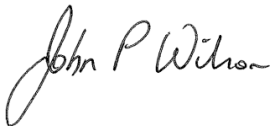
4.38 Removal of a candidate to another presbytery during trials

- 4.38.1 If at any stage of his trials a candidate wishes to transfer his trials for licence to another presbytery, the presbytery, if satisfied with the reasons for his move, must transfer his trials for licence to that presbytery.

4.48 Licentiates, ministerial members and ministers who are not members of a presbytery

- 4.48.1 A licentiate remains under the jurisdiction and oversight of the presbytery which licensed him until he is appointed to a charge outside its bounds or the presbytery transfers him to the jurisdiction of another presbytery.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John P. Wilson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 11: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR PRESBYTERY MEETINGS (RULE 4.22) (Min 100)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The General Assembly gave an instruction to presbyteries to include on every presbytery agenda a mandatory item regarding Safe Church Safety Agreements and Safe Church Training (see GAV 2019, Min. 75).
- b) The General Assembly also mandated that every meeting of the congregation, board, church court or Assembly committee must include at the beginning a declaration of any conflicts of interest (GAV 2021, Min. 92).
- c) The committee believes that, because rule 4.22 itemises what one normally expects to be on a presbytery agenda, it would be better to make amendments to the rule to satisfy these two requests.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 4.22.1 and 4.22.2 reads (with most of the added or altered words underlined for ease of understanding the proposed changes):

4.22 Order of business

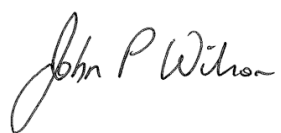
4.22.1 The order of business of a presbytery meeting is normally:

- a) constitution by prayer;
- b) recording of members present;
- c) sustaining of apologies for absence;
- d) sustaining of elders' commissions;
- e) adjustment of the roll;
- f) association of eligible persons, and welcomes;
- g) declaration of conflicts of interest;
- h) tabling of notices of motion for a future meeting;
- i) adoption of agenda;
- j) confirmation of minutes of previous meeting(s);
- k) attention to any reasons for dissent from decisions recorded in the minutes of the previous meeting;
- l) other business arising from the minutes;
- m) any other business;
- n) safety agreements and PCV Safe Church requirements;
- o) fixing the date of the next meeting (see rule 4.16.3);
- p) closure with prayer.

4.22.2 However, save for (a), (g), (n), (o) and (p) of the previous rule, a presbytery may vary the order of its business as it sees fit.

4.22.3 A notice of motion may also be handed in immediately before the close of the meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 12: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—PROCEDURAL STEPS FOR LINKING CONGREGATIONS (RULE 4.68B) (Min 101)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The committee was aware three years ago that while the rules allowed for presbyteries to effect a union, adjustment or dissolution of congregations, there was no clear pathway to guide presbyteries through any of those processes.
- b) The 2020 General Assembly established a pathway for the first of these processes (a union of congregations) by enacting rule 4.68A.
- c) The 2021 General Assembly sent down to presbyteries via the Barrier Act a way of navigating the third of these processes (dissolution of a congregation) by proposing the new rule 4.69.
- d) It was brought to the attention of the committee that we still have not established how to navigate the second of these processes (an adjustment of congregations).
- e) Recently, a presbytery asked the committee directly to guide it through the process of linking two congregations together into a linked charge, and the committee believes that the proposed new rule 4.68B will achieve this.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and remit the following rule change to presbyteries via the Barrier Act under rule 6.27.2(a)(i), for approval or disapproval only, with replies to the Clerk of Assembly by 31 May 2023, such that rule 4.68B may be enacted as follows:

4.68B Linking of congregations (a form of adjustment)

4.68B.1 Following the procedure described in rule 4.68.2, and having obtained the agreement of any inducted minister of any pastoral charge affected by the proposed linking, the presbytery must in consultation with the sessions and boards of the congregations prepare a proposed Basis of Linking as an instrument for linking the congregations.

4.68B.2 The proposed Basis of Linking must deal with:

- a) the choice of a name for the linked charge;
- b) the placing of the linked congregations under a session (rule 4.60.1);
- c) the bounds of the parish within which the linked congregations will be situated;
- d) the provision of a manse or a manse allowance for any minister or ministers of the linked congregations; and
- e) the provision of a minister or ministers for the linked congregations.

4.68B.3 The proposed Basis of Linking may deal with such other matters as the presbytery, in its discretion, considers necessary.

4.68B.4 After granting provisional approval of the proposed Basis of Linking the presbytery must submit the proposed Basis of Linking to the congregations for their approval.

However, the presbytery may:

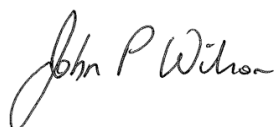
- c) proceed with the proposed linking notwithstanding the failure of one or more of the congregations to approve the Basis of Linking; or
- d) defer or abandon the proposed linking.

4.68B.5 If the presbytery resolves that the proposed linking is necessary for the good of the church it may:

- a) declare the linking of the congregation as proposed in the Basis of Linking;
- b) fix the date on which the linking will come into effect;
- c) declare the creation of a charge from the date of linking;
- d) declare the bounds of the parish in which the linked congregations will be situated;
- e) place the linked congregations under the oversight of the session;
- f) direct the session to declare the formation of a federal board and determine its membership (rule 2.32.1);
- g) arrange a service of Declaration of Linking and, as appropriate, of the Introduction of its minister(s); and
- h) notify the Moderator and Clerk of the General Assembly that linking has been effected.

Note: A service of Declaration of Linking and of Introduction of [name of the minister] is appropriate where the Basis of Linking provides that the linking is to be effected under the minister of one of the charges.

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



(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

OVERTURE 13: CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE—PCV GIFTS, BENEFITS, AND HOSPITALITY POLICY (Min 102)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

- a) The BIF reported to the committee that they had recently adopted a Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy for their members because, as trustees and members of the BIF, they are occasionally given gifts by outside agencies in recognition of their work. It was believed that the safest approach was to adopt such a policy.
- b) At the same time, the BIF asked the Code Committee to create a similar policy based on theirs but adapted to be more suitable for members of Assembly committees and especially their conveners.
- c) Once approved, it is expected that this will sit alongside the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy, adopted at the October 2021 General Assembly.

Now therefore the Code Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and adopt the PCV Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy, as follows:

PCV Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to guide General Assembly office bearers and committee members in receiving and giving gifts, benefits and hospitality in the performance of their duties.

2. Policy principles

- a) General Assembly office bearers and committee members must:
 - i) not solicit for themselves or others, gifts, benefits or hospitality;
 - ii) not accept gifts, benefits or hospitality:
 - that could be perceived as influencing them in performing their duties; or
 - from persons with whom they are likely to make business decisions;
 - iii) refuse all offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality which:
 - are money, items used in a similar way to money, or items easily converted to money;
 - may adversely affect their standing as a workplace participant or which may bring the PCV into disrepute; or
 - are non-token offers without a legitimate business benefit.
 - iv) refuse bribes or inducements and report inducements and bribery attempts to the Clerk of Assembly or his delegate (who must report any criminal or corrupt conduct to Victoria

- Police or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission);
- v) ensure that when they provide any gift, benefit or hospitality:
 - it is provided for a business purpose of and in connection with the PCV or otherwise promotes and supports the interests of the PCV; and
 - any costs are proportionate to the benefits obtained for PCV and would be considered reasonable in terms of community expectations.
- vi) ensure that when they provide hospitality, individuals demonstrate professionalism in their conduct, and uphold their obligation to extend a duty of care to other participants.
- b) conveners of General Assembly committees are accountable for:
 - i) overseeing management of committee members' acceptance or refusal of non-token gifts, benefits and hospitality, modelling good practice; and
 - ii) promoting awareness of this Policy among the members of their committees.

3. Definitions

In this Policy:

- a) **'business associate'** means an individual or body with whom the church organisation has, or plans to establish, some form of business relationship;
- b) **'benefit'** means any form of preferential treatment, privileged access favour, or other advantage offered to an individual (including but not limited to invitations to sporting, cultural or social events, access to discounts and loyalty programs or promises of a new job);
- c) **'gift'** means a free or discounted item or service and any item or service that would generally be seen by the public as a gift;
- d) **'hospitality'** means the friendly reception and entertainment of guests. This may range from light refreshments at a business meeting to expensive restaurant meals and sponsored travel and accommodation;
- e) **'legitimate business benefit'** means a gift, benefit or hospitality that may further the conduct of official business or other legitimate goals of the PCV;
- f) **'register'** means a record of all declarable gifts, benefits and hospitality;
- g) **'token offer'** means a gift, benefit or hospitality worth not more than \$50;
- h) **'non-token offer'** means a gift, benefit or hospitality worth more than \$50.

4. Management of offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality

This section sets out the process for accepting and declining offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality by General Assembly office bearers and committee members and recording the same. Any exceptions to this

process must have the prior written approval of the Clerk of Assembly or his delegate, or, where the Clerk is seeking an exception, the Deputy Clerk.

a) **Acceptance risks**

When deciding whether to accept an offer, individuals must first consider if the offer could be perceived as influencing them in performing their duties, or lead to reputational damage, taking into account that the more valuable the offer, the more likely that a risk exists.

Figure 1. GIFT test

G	Giver	Who is providing the gift, benefit or hospitality and what is their relationship to me? Could the person or organisation benefit from a decision I make?
I	Influence	Is he/she seeking to gain an advantage or influence my decisions or actions? Does its timing coincide with a decision I am about to make?
F	Favour	Is he/she seeking a favour in return for the gift, benefit or hospitality? Would accepting it create an obligation to return a favour?
T	Trust	Would accepting the gift, benefit or hospitality diminish public trust? What would my colleagues, family, friends or the general public think of this gift?

b) **Refusing offers**

Individuals must consider the GIFT test at Figure 1 and the requirements below to help decide whether to refuse an offer.

Individuals must refuse offers:

- i) likely to influence them, or be perceived to influence them, in the course of their duties;
- ii) which could bring them, their committee or the PCV into disrepute;
- iii) made by a person or organisation about which they will likely make or influence a decision, particularly offers made:
 - by a current or prospective supplier; or
 - during a procurement or tender process by someone involved in the process.
- iv) likely to be a bribe or inducement to make a decision or act in a particular way;
- v) that extend to their relatives or friends;
- vi) of money, or used in a similar way to money, or something easily converted to money;
- vii) where, in relation to hospitality and events, their committee or the PCV will already be sufficiently represented to meet its business needs;
- viii) where acceptance could be perceived as endorsement of a product or service, or acceptance would unfairly advantage the sponsor in future procurement decisions; or
- ix) made in secret.

If an individual considers he or she has been offered a bribe or inducement, the offer must be reported to the Clerk of Assembly who must report any criminal or corrupt conduct to Victoria Police or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission.

c) **Accepting offers**

- i) **Token offers**
Individuals may generally accept token offers without approval or declaring the offer on the General Assembly's register, as long as the offer does not influence them in performing their duties or is not likely to lead to reputational damage.
- ii) **Non-token offers**
Individuals may only accept non-token offers if they have a legitimate business benefit. All accepted non-token offers must be approved in writing by the committee convener or Clerk of Assembly, recorded in the gifts, benefits and hospitality register and be consistent with the following requirements:
 - it is not likely to influence them, or be perceived to influence them, in the course of their duties or have the potential to bring the individual, their committee or the PCV into disrepute; and
 - there is a legitimate business reason for acceptance, it is offered in the course of the individual's official duties, relates to the individual's responsibilities and has a benefit to their committee or the PCV.Individuals may be offered a non-token gift or hospitality where there is no opportunity to seek written approval from the convener of their committee or the Clerk of Assembly prior to accepting. For example, they may be offered a wrapped gift that they later identify as being a non-token gift. In these cases, the individual must seek approval within five business days. Where the gift could influence an individual, or be perceived to influence an individual, in the course of his or her duties, the committee convener or Clerk of Assembly (as the case may be) must either return the gift or transfer ownership to the PCV to mitigate this risk.
- iii) **Recording non-token offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality**
All non-token offers, whether accepted or declined, must be recorded in the General Assembly's gifts, benefits and hospitality register. The business reason for accepting the non-token offer must be recorded in the register with sufficient detail to link the acceptance to the individual's work functions and benefit to their committee or to the PCV. Individuals must consider the following examples of acceptable and unacceptable levels of detail to be included in the General Assembly's register when recording the business reason:
Unacceptable
 - 'Networking'
 - 'Maintaining stakeholder relationships'**Acceptable**
 - 'Individual is responsible for evaluating and reporting on the outcomes of the committee's sponsorship of

Event A. Individual attended Event A in an official capacity and reported back to the committee on the event.'

- 'Individual presented to a visiting international delegation. The delegation presented the individual with a cultural item worth an estimated \$200. Declining the gift would have caused offence. The gift was accepted on behalf of the PCV.'

Access to the register is restricted on a need to access basis under the supervision of the Clerk of Assembly.

d) **Reporting by the Clerk of Assembly**

The Clerk must report annually to the General Assembly on the administration and quality control of this Policy and the register. The report must include analysis of gifts, benefits and hospitality risks (including multiple offers from the same source and offers from business associates), risk mitigation measures and any proposed improvements.

e) **Ownership of gifts given to individuals**

- Non-token gifts with a legitimate business benefit accepted by an individual for his/her work or contribution may be retained by the individual where the gift is not likely to bring them or the PCV into disrepute, and where the Clerk of Assembly or their supervising committee has provided written approval.
- Official gifts or any gift of cultural significance or significant value must be transferred to the PCV.

f) **Repeat offers**

Given that repeat offers (token or non-token) from the same person or organisation can generate a stronger perception that the person or organisation could influence an individual, individuals must refuse repeat offers from the same source if they may lead to reputational damage.

5. Management of the provision of gifts, benefits and hospitality

This section sets out the requirements for the provision of gifts, benefits and hospitality by General Assembly office bearers and committee members.

Figure 2. HOST test

H	Hospitality	To whom is the gift or hospitality being provided? Will recipients be external business associates, or individuals within the PCV?
O	Objectives	For what purpose will hospitality be provided? Is the hospitality being provided to further the conduct of official business and likely to promote and support the PCV's objectives?
S	Spend	Will church funds be spent? What type of hospitality will be provided? Will the costs incurred be proportionate to the benefits obtained?
T	Trust	Will public trust be enhanced or diminished? Could the rationale for providing the gift or hospitality be publicly explained? Have records in relation to it been kept in accordance with reporting and recording procedures?

Requirements for providing gifts, benefits and hospitality

Gifts, benefits and hospitality may be provided when welcoming guests, to facilitate the development of business relationships, to further church business outcomes and to celebrate achievements. When deciding whether to provide gifts, benefits or hospitality or the type of gift, benefit or hospitality to provide, individuals must ensure that:

- a) any gift, benefit or hospitality provided furthers the conduct of official business or other legitimate church goals, or promotes and the interests of the PCV; and
- b) any costs are proportionate to the benefits obtained for the PCV, and would be considered reasonable in terms of community expectations.

It is expected that the instances where gifts, benefits and hospitality may be provided would rarely arise. It is advisable to seek the prior approval of the Clerk of Assembly as far as is it is practical.

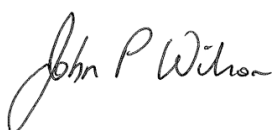
6. Reporting breaches of this Policy

Individuals who consider that gifts, benefits and hospitality by General Assembly office bearers or committee members may not have been declared or are not being appropriately managed must notify the Clerk of Assembly, or, where it involves the Clerk of Assembly, the Deputy Clerk. Individuals who believe they have observed corrupt conduct in their colleagues may also make a protected disclosure directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

7. Advice on the application of this Policy

Individuals unsure about accepting a gift benefit or hospitality or any other aspect of the application of this Policy should ask the Clerk of Assembly for advice.

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



(Convener, Code and General Administration Committee)
7 July 2022

To be stated by the convener

PETITION 1: PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA— DISSOLUTION OF THE PYRAMID HILL CONGREGATION (Min 72)

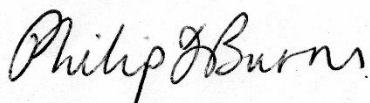
To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) A presbytery cannot declare that a congregation is finally dissolved until:
 - at least a year has elapsed since the last regularly authorised Presbyterian service of worship of the congregation was held by a minister or elder or home missionary of the church; and
 - its intention to dissolve the congregation has been reported to the General Assembly and agreed to by it (rule 4.69).
- b) The last regularly authorised service of worship of the Pyramid Hill congregation was held on 11 July 2021.
- c) The membership has fallen to a level where the congregation is no longer viable.
- d) The session (16 September 2021) resolved to request the Presbytery to take steps to dissolve the congregation.
- e) Presbytery, at its meeting held on 17 June 2022, resolved to report its intention to dissolve the congregation to the General Assembly in accord with rule 4.69.
- f) Should the General Assembly agree with the intention of the Presbytery to dissolve the Pyramid Hill congregation, it is the intention of the Presbytery to provide gospel ministry and pastoral support in the South East Mallee area by a patrol ministry.

Now, therefore, the Presbytery of North Western Victoria humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree with the intention of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria to dissolve the Pyramid Hill congregation or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Extracted from the minutes of the meeting of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria held on 17 June 2022 by me:



Rev Philip Burns
Clerk

The petition will be presented by Rev Peter Phillips and Rev Philip Burns.

PETITION 2: PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA—CHANGE IN ALLOCATION OF PROCEEDS OF NELSON PROPERTY (Min 31)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a) On Thursday, 10 October 2019, the General Assembly of the Presbytery Church of Victoria directed that the net proceeds of the sale of the property Nelson Presbyterian Church, 4 Meredith Street Nelson Victoria, Vol. 3357 Folio 671315 (consisting of the surplus Nelson Presbyterian Church building and land) be applied by the Assembly treasurer to presbytery-approved church extension and revitalisation work of the Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church.
- b) In August 2018, a former minister of the Mount Gambier Charge was sentenced due to criminal acts, which have resulted in the Mount Gambier Charge responding to a number of claims both from the National Redress Scheme and a civil claim for damages.
- c) Due to the incorporation structure of churches in South Australia, Mount Gambier Charge Inc. is responding to these claims as an individual entity.
- d) Due to the nature of the receivership of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, that denomination is not able to provide any financial support to Mount Gambier, though it is providing valuable administrative work in responding to claims through the National Redress Scheme.
- e) Due to the receivership of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, all financial reserves of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia are currently not available due to their deposit in the PCQ Capital Fund; and the separately incorporated bodies that together comprise the PCSA are not being claimed against.
- f) Mount Gambier has some funds which are also being retained in the PCQ Capital Fund due to receivership.
- g) Mount Gambier is carefully managing its other available resources in order to respond to further anticipated National Redress Scheme claims and one civil claim of uncertain status.

Now, therefore, the Presbytery of South Australia humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and grant its consent to expand its direction regarding the application of the net proceeds of the sale of the property Nelson Presbyterian Church, 4 Meredith Street Nelson Victoria, Vol. 3357 Folio 671315, (consisting of the surplus Nelson Presbyterian Church building and land) to include being used toward payments, or repayment of loans, incurred as responses to claims approved as a result of historic abuse.

Or to do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed: Gary Ware
CLERK OF PRESBYTERY

The petition will be presented on behalf of the Presbytery by Rev Gary Ware

PETITION 3: EBENEZER-ST JOHN'S, BALLARAT SOUTH CONGREGATION—PURCHASE OF A SECOND MANSE USING SITES RESERVE FUNDS (Min 76)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

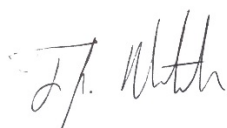
- a) Ballarat South church, by God's grace, has grown significantly in the past three years. This has included church membership, giving increasing significantly, and 74% of the average 140 Sunday attendance being under 40 years of age.
- b) In 2020, Ballarat South sold 7 Eyre St for \$425,000 to a local charity organisation as it was not suitable for a manse and did not meet the requirements of any church ministry, and there was no likelihood of it being utilised in the foreseeable future.
- c) The increased size of the church membership has increased the pastoral load on our minister and elders. We now have five elders, one of whom has been approved by our congregation to become a part-time minister assistant for a 2-year appointment commencing at the start of 2023.
- d) The congregation, at its AGM on 10 October 2021, moved the following motions unanimously (more than the two-thirds majority required, rule 2.20f):
 - Motion 21/10/13 That the BOM be authorised to purchase a manse for a price not more than \$500,000 subject to meeting the minimum manse standards required by the church. MSC.
 - Motion 21/10/14 That the congregation nominate Aaron Maskell and Yvonne Sullivan to act on behalf of the Trusts Corporation to act on behalf in the purchase. MSC.
 - Motion 21/10/15 That the congregation approve the balance of the funds held in Sites Reserve (\$370,000) be applied to the purchase of a manse in addition to \$100,000 in reserved funds held by the PCV Trust Corporation. MSC.
- e) At the last General Assembly in 2021, the rules were changed, and Presbyteries are no longer able to approve purchases up to \$500,000 (BIF reg 17(b)(i)). The Presbytery of Western Victoria, at its meeting in June 2022, supported Ballarat South's request with the following motion:
22.06.14:13 Resolved to support/give permission for Ballarat South to purchase a second manse using their Sites reserve and PCV Trust (V2-9009-22158) reserved funds with a petition to GAV.

Now therefore, the congregation of Ballarat South (Ebenezer-St Johns) humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

- 1) Approve the purchase of a second manse for a price no more than \$500,000, subject to meeting the minimum manse standards required by the church.
- 2) Nominate Aaron Maskell and Yvonne Sullivan to act on behalf of the Trusts Corporation to act on behalf of the purchase.
- 3) Under BIF regulation 17(c)(i)(B), apply the balance of the funds held in Sites Reserve (~\$370,000) for the purchase of a manse in addition to \$100,000 in PCV Trust (V2-9009-22158) reserved funds held by the PCV Trust Corporation, to purchase a second manse.

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

Signed:



Rev Toby McIntosh

Minister Ballarat South

Dated: 12 July 2022

The names of persons appointed to present the petition are Rev Toby McIntosh and Keith Mitchell.


PETITION 4: PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG—DISSOLUTION OF SHELFORD CONGREGATION AND SALE OF ASSOCIATED PROPERTY (Min 77)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The final dissolution of a congregation cannot be executively declared by the Presbytery but requires the agreement of the General Assembly (rule 4.69).
- b) Services at Shelford ceased on 11 June 2017, and so, by the time of the General Assembly, more than four years will have elapsed since a regular Presbyterian service of worship was held.
- c) Presbytery, at its meeting on 10 August 2021, agreed to dissolve the congregation in accord with rule 4.68.
- d) Given future growth corridor projections and the proximity to other congregations, it is highly unlikely that the Shelford site will provide viable church planting opportunities.
- e) Maintaining the property is a waste of considerable financial and physical resources.
- f) Presbytery, at its meeting held on 10 August 2021, resolved to seek the approval of the General Assembly to sell the Shelford property.
- g) A real estate sale estimate for the Shelford property is in the vicinity of \$425,000–\$450,000.
- h) The Leigh Charge is an established and growing congregation that, although starting from a low base in 2019 and despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, has achieved considerable growth in regular Sunday attendance, increased membership, the establishment of a Sunday School and a children's ministry outreach, and the resurgence of a mid-week Bible Study, and Presbytery has every confidence that, by God's grace this growth will continue.

Now, therefore, the Presbytery of Geelong humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree with the intention of the Presbytery of Geelong to:

1. Dissolve the Shelford congregation in accord with rule 4.69.
2. Approve the sale of the Shelford property (Vol 10530, Folio 998) for the purpose of allocating the proceeds of sale as follows:
 - i. 95% to The Leigh Presbyterian Charge bank account at Bendigo Bank 633 108, account no. 110 038 874 for ongoing ministerial maintenance and property development; 
 - ii. 2.5% for the purpose of church planting via the Property Development Fund; and

- iii. 2.5% for the purpose of supporting missions through the APWM(Vic) Committee.

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

Rev Robert White
Clerk of Presbytery

The petition will be presented by Rev Robert White and Rev Surendra Wesley.

PETITION 5: SCOTS' CHURCH PROPERTIES TRUST TRUSTEES— CONSENT TO A NEW GEORGES' SITE LEASE (Min 120)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Scots' Church Properties Trust (SCPT) trustees have received a two-fold request from the head tenant of the Georges building for
 - (i) an extension of his current lease (with approximately 18 years remaining) to a term of 50 years, and
 - (ii) a reduction in the current base rent going forward; and with all the other terms of the existing lease continuing.
- b) It is considered that the best way forward is to surrender the existing lease and enter into a new lease, hence the need for Assembly consent.
- c) In order to sweeten the deal, the head tenant is prepared to pay on the signing of the new lease a lease premium of \$7,550,000.00, which, of course, will find its way to the PCV Trust Corporation by way of Commission \$188,750 and to each of the two beneficiaries of the Trust, namely Scots Church Board of Management \$3,680,625 and the PCV Home Missions/Church Planting Committees \$3,680,625.
- d) The Trust Deed (amended by the Scots' Church Properties (Amendment) Act 2003) is as follows:
'As to all the said land and hereditaments described in the Schedule hereto other than the church site and the manse site it is hereby declared that it shall be lawful for the said trustees or trustee from time to time and at any time hereafter with the consent of the Assembly to demise the same or any part or parts thereof for any period and for any purpose and upon such terms and conditions as the said trustees or trustee with the like consent shall think fit and to accept surrenders of any now existing leases or any leases to be created under this present power and to grant renewals of leases provided always that no premium consideration or advantage shall be claimed or be receivable by the Assembly for giving any such consent'.

Now, therefore, the SCPT trustees humbly petition the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and give its consent to the trustees surrendering the current lease and entering into a new lease with the Georges head tenant as described in the recitals above,

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

Approved by the SCPT trustees meeting on this day: 18 August 2022

Petition to be stated by me:

Paul Kerss

SCPT Chair

PETITION 6: ST STEPHEN'S, SURREY HILLS CONGREGATION— USE OF SITES RESERVE FUNDS (Min 122)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The congregation of St Stephen's Presbyterian, Surrey Hills formed a Property Development Committee in December 2020 to consider how the church premises could be enhanced to serve our mission of *'making and maturing disciples of Jesus together'* and future growth.
- b) The church hall, church building and small hall were built in 1899, 1908 and 1920 respectively, and though the premises is functional, there are limitations in disability access, meeting rooms for Kids Church and the Youth Ministry, foyer space for fellowship, cry room, ministry staff offices and access to amenities.
- c) The congregation engaged Baumgart Clark Architects in December 2021, at a cost of \$42,000, to prepare a masterplan for our church. Heritage and Structural Engineering Reports were completed in May 2022. The final masterplan is nearing completion (a draft is attached), after which, the church anticipates proceeding to the design and development, then contract preparation stages. The next stage of a 'concept and schematic design', 'design development and town planning' and 'contract documentation' has been quoted as \$370,925, which includes both the architect's and other consultants' costs.
- d) The property development is yet to be finally costed, but the anticipated budget is in the realm of \$4 million.
- e) At a special congregational meeting on 7 August 2022, the congregation approved the following motion:
 - i. It was agreed to request the use of \$293,750.05 plus any accrued interest from St Stephen's Presbyterian Church Surrey Hills Sites Reserve account for the purpose of contributing to funding the anticipated property development project.
- f) At its meeting on 17 August 2022, the Presbytery of Melbourne East resolved to support the petition and forward it to the Assembly with the supporting documents.

Now therefore, we the undersigned, on behalf of the congregation and pursuant to BIF reg 17(c)(i)B, humbly petition the General Assembly to:

approve applying the entirety of the St Stephen's Presbyterian Church,
Surrey Hills Sites Reserve Fund to the property development project at
Surrey Hills Presbyterian

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

The Petition will be stated by Russell Walley and John Huynh.

Signed: 

Grace Wong (Session Clerk)

Signed: 

John Huynh (Senior Minister)

Dated: 12-08-2022

PETITION 7: ASHBURTON CONGREGATION—REPURPOSING THE USE OF SITES RESERVE INTEREST TO INCLUDE GENERAL MINISTRY EXPENSES (Min 131)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a) The 2021 General Assembly of Victoria (Minute 2022.80) resolved to:
 - 2. Authorise the sale of the Ashburton church manse, 21 Charles Street Glen Iris (Volume 5201, Folio 198), under Model Trust Deed clause 5, for the purposes of funding Ashburton Presbyterian Church's building redevelopment and minister's manse allowance.
 - 3. Direct that the net proceeds of sale be paid to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation to be held in a Sites Reserve Account associated with the Ashburton congregation for the above authorised purposes.
- b) Ashburton Presbyterian Church is currently engaged in a revitalisation programme with Revitalise Australia (a ministry of City to City Australia).
- c) In order to maintain a balanced budget the parish needs to access Sites Reserve interest to cover general ministry expenses in addition to permitted withdrawals for the manse allowance.
- d) The congregation approved the extended use of Sites Reserve interest at a congregational meeting on 14 August 2022 in the following terms: 'Petition the General Assembly of Victoria to approve the withdrawal of Sites Reserve interest for general ministry expenses in addition to manse allowances.' and this motion was supported by the Presbytery of Melbourne East at its meeting on 17 August 2022.

Now therefore, the congregation of Ashburton Presbyterian Church humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and authorise the withdrawal of Sites Reserve interest for general ministry expenses in addition to the manse allowance

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

Signed:



Rev Barry Oakes

Dated: 17 August 2022

PETITION 8: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA—DISSOLVING CARISBROOK CONGREGATION AND SALE OF CARISBROOK CHURCH BUILDING, CHURCH HALL AND MANSE (Min 124)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The land connected to the Carisbrook congregation is at 20 McNeil St, Carisbrook (also cited as McLachlan Street, Carisbrook) Volume 09418 Folio 581 and Volume 5115 Folio 1022843.
- b) There were three communicant members of the Carisbrook congregation and so the Session of Castlemaine-Carisbrook decided to cease worship services. The last service was held at Carisbrook on Sunday 28 February 2021.
- c) The session requested the Presbytery of Western Victoria to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to dissolve the congregation and sell the properties.
- d) The Presbytery of Western Victoria, therefore, indicating its intention to dissolve the congregation, resolved at its meeting on 9 August 2022 to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to agree to the dissolution of the Carisbrook congregation and to approve the sale of the property at Carisbrook as indicated in recital (a) above with the intention of directing the application of these funds: 50% contribution to the PCV 2022 Sinking Fund and 50% to the Castlemaine Charge for church ministry expenses and also to cover Castlemaine's expenses incurred with respect to Carisbrook.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Western Victoria humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree to the dissolution of the Carisbrook congregation and to give its approval for the sale of the Carisbrook properties (church, hall and manse) and to apply the proceeds of sale as follows:

- a) 50% to PCV 2022 sinking fund;
- b) 50% to the charge of Castlemaine for church ministry expenses and also to cover Castlemaine's expenses incurred with respect to Carisbrook,

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

Signed:

CLERK OF PRESBYTERY

Dated: 7 September 2022

Extracted from the minutes of the meeting of the Presbytery of Western Victoria on 6th September 2022 by me: Michael Oldfield, clerk.

The petition will be presented on behalf of the Presbytery by Rev Toby McIntosh and elder Keith Mitchell.

**PETITION 9: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA—
APPLICATION OF PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF SCARSDALE
CHURCH BUILDING (Min 125)**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The 2019 General Assembly agreed (GAV min 106.2) to the provision of funds to secure a clear title for the land at 10 Church Street, Scarsdale.
- b) The 2020 Commission of Assembly agreed (GAV min 11.3) to sell the property at 10 Church Street, Scarsdale once the titles were obtained.
- c) Clear title has been secured.
- d) The Ballarat South Board of Management proceeded to sell the property, however the proceeds of the sale were not purposed.
- e) The Presbytery of Western Victoria, therefore, resolved at its meeting on 28th September 2022 to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to direct the application of these funds: 80% as a contribution to the PCV 2022 Sinking Fund and 20% to the Ballarat South Charge for the purchase of a second manse and also as a refunding of the Ballarat South Charge for previous expenses incurred on the land.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Western Victoria humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and direct the proceeds of sale of the surplus property at Scarsdale as to 80% contribution to PCV 2022 sinking fund and the other 20% to Ebenezer-St John's Presbyterian Church (Ballarat South Charge) for the purchase of a second manse and also as a refunding of the Ballarat South Charge for previous expenses incurred on the land,

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

Signed:
CLERK OF PRESBYTERY

Dated: 28th September 2022

Extracted from the minutes of the meeting of the Presbytery of Western Victoria 28th September 2022 by me: Michael Oldfield, clerk.

The petition will be presented on behalf of the Presbytery by Rev Toby McIntosh and elder Keith Mitchell.

PETITION 10: CLIFTON HILL CONGREGATION—ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO APPROVE NECESSARY APPLICATION OF SITES RESERVE FUNDS MORE EFFICIENTLY (Min 126)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) In June 2020, the Clifton Hill Presbyterian Church petitioned the General Assembly to sell its previous manse which required considerable expenditure for maintenance. Income from renting out the previous manse was being spent with ongoing repairs and State revenue tax.
- b) The initial purpose for the sale of the previous manse in Rowe Street was to use its proceeds for the revitalisation of the congregation and much needed repairs to the Church building complex mostly the middle section which was used for the purpose of a kindergarten for many years.
- c) In June 2020, among other matters, the Commission of Assembly resolved:
 - 13.2 Consent to the sale of the Clifton Hill manse at 103 Rowe Street Fitzroy North (Volume 6485 Folio 937).*
 - 13.3 Declare that the net proceeds of sale shall be held in the Sites Reserve Account for the Clifton Hill Congregation.*
 - 13.4 Approve the application of the following amounts from the Sites Reserve Account for the Clifton Hill - Essendon Charge:*
 - a. Firstly, up to \$600,000 to cover the cost of upgrading the Clifton Hill Church buildings, subject to all necessary congregational and presbytery approvals; and*
 - b. Secondly, \$550,000 to be put towards second ministry costs for the revitalisation of the Clifton Hill - Essendon Charge, with any and all expenditure of such funds being subject to a ministry plan approved by the Presbytery of Melbourne West.*
- d) Since then, the Rowe Street manse was sold, Rev Bill Medley has been inducted into the linked pastoral Charge of Clifton Hill – Essendon, and revitalisation work commenced. Rev Bill Medley predominantly ministers at Clifton Hill PC but resides away from the Clifton Hill/Fitzroy area. Signs of revitalisation so far are very encouraging, thanks be to God, with regular average attendance at worship services tripling and offerings quadrupling.
- e) The congregation of Clifton Hill Presbyterian Church desires at a future time to purchase a property for the purpose of a manse. In this regard:
 - i) when the original petition was presented, it was always in the thinking of the congregation of Clifton Hill to re-purchase another property at a future time in as close proximity to the church that was possible;
 - ii) the purpose of owning a manse is so that ministry can better be carried out with the minister residing in the area where the church is located, allowing and promoting ministry in the form of home bible studies, fellowship, hospitality, and counselling.

- f) The Clifton Hill congregation seeks, in the providence of God, approval to use funds in addition to that approved in June 2020 (as outlined above in recital (c)) to purchase a manse in close proximity to the Clifton Hill church as funds available will allow, considering:
 - i) the recent property market has cooled making this more achievable;
 - ii) this will also reduce the very high expenditure of paying a manse allowance and further enhance the viability of long term ministry in this inner suburban area;
 - iii) property purchases can be complex but when one is pursuing a property, time is of the essence as Real Estate agents prefer to act with purchasers that can readily decide.

- g) As our procedures may require the calling of an Assembly, we ask for the formation of a Special Commission (as permitted under rule 5.35) namely: the Special Commission for Clifton Hill Property Purchase noting:
 - i) the congregation of Clifton Hill approved the desire of purchasing a manse at its congregational meeting held 18 July 2022 and to petition the GAV to apply its Sites Reserve Funds to this purchase, and
 - ii) ii) the Presbytery of Melbourne West approved Clifton Hill's desire to purchase a manse from its Sites Reserve Fund at its meeting held 18 August 2022;
 - iii) iii) that this would obviate the need to call another Urgent Meeting of the GAV, which is a time-consuming business that inconveniences 200 members of Assembly.

Now therefore the congregation of Clifton Hill Presbyterian Church humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and approve its desire to be able to use a portion of its Sites Reserve Account in the future to purchase a manse property by forming a Special Commission of the GAV (rule 5.35) for this purpose with powers to approve application of Clifton Hill's Sites Reserve Funds on behalf of the Assembly, or by whatever other the process the Assembly decides

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

Signed: Chris Duke

Dated: 12 Sept 2022

Rev Chris Duke and Rev Bill Medley to present the petition.

PETITION 11: PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA— DISSOLUTION OF COBRAM CONGREGATION AND THE PURPOSE OF ASSOCIATED FUNDS (Min 128)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The final dissolution of a congregation cannot be executively declared by the presbytery until after the agreement of the General Assembly (rule 4.69).
- b) Presbytery, at its meeting on 25/8/2022, agreed to ask Rev Stuart Withers and elder Ralph Kop to consult with the Cobram-Numurkah-Tallygaroopna Session and the communicant membership of the Cobram congregation regarding the dissolution of the Cobram congregation and report to Presbytery.
- c) Presbytery, at its urgent meeting on 2/9/2022, received a report that informed it that:
 - i. the Cobram-Numurkah-Tallygaroopna Session had agreed to the dissolution of the Cobram congregation,
 - ii. Presbyterian worship services in Cobram ceased in 2014 and in the intervening time the Cobram-Numurkah-Tallygaroopna Session have NOT tried to re-establish Presbyterian services of worship in Cobram,
 - iii. the communicant roll of the Cobram congregation is 1 person who has indicated his agreement with dissolution and his desire to transfer membership to the Numurkah congregation.
- d) Presbytery, at its meeting held 2/9/2022 resolved its intention to dissolve the Cobram congregation in accord with rule 4.69 noting:
 - i. there are NO buildings associated with the Cobram congregation that can be needlessly alienated from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by dissolution (rule 4.68.3),
 - ii. the agreement of the Session and communicant member,
- e) Presbytery, at its meeting held 2/9/2022 resolved to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to seek its approval for the dissolution of the Cobram congregation.
- f) Presbytery, at its meeting held on 2/9/2022 resolved that it would take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the procedure set out in BIF reg 15 (regarding the transfer of funds of a deceased congregation) are followed with the request that such funds may be made available for the PCV Sinking Fund.

Now therefore, the Presbytery of North-East Victoria humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree with the intention of the Presbytery to:

1. Dissolve the Cobram congregation in accord with rule 4.69,

2. Approve the BIF/TC taking all necessary steps to place monies held by or for the Cobram congregation in the PCV sinking fund

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

The Petition will be presented by Rev Stuart Withers and Rev Brett Cummins.

AD HOC LIBRARY APPEAL COMMITTEE (Min 115)

The need for a new library at the Presbyterian Theological College has come repeatedly before the General Assembly, especially since 2017. While a committee to direct the appeal for funds has been in existence for some time (since 2018, min. 96.9), the Covid pandemic has forced a pause in its activities. It would have been inappropriate to try to commence raising the funds without the ability to reach out in person to our congregations and presbyteries. In addition, other major appeals have had to be made to the church regarding urgent demands (National Redress Scheme and funds to meet court decisions re victims of abuse).

Now that the Covid pandemic appears to be under control, it would seem that an appeal for the College library will be appropriate during 2023. The events of the last few years have been unexpected and forced delay in this regard. However, the delay has shown that the need of a considerable expansion of space for the library is even greater now than when it was first proposed. The requirements of the Australian College of Theology for colleges like PTC, especially ones that are engaged in postgraduate research, make it imperative that the General Assembly press forward as quickly as possible with the new library.

The general concept plans are already in hand, having been prepared by the church's architect. These have to be refined in the light of further reflection on them, and the detailed drawings made. Once this is done, quantity surveyors can make accurate calculations of the total cost of the new building. At present the general figure for the cost is at least \$3.5M.

The convener will soon call a meeting of the committee to put into effect some of the plans that the committee has already discussed, in the expectation that the appeal can proceed next year.

All interested in donating to the appeal should be reminded that this fund is approved for tax deductible gifts.

Allan Harman
CONVENER

CLERK'S REPORT: INSTITUTIONAL REPORTING (Min 136)

I report that, either as required by their constitutions or voluntarily, the following organisations of the church have reported:

1. Belgrave Heights Christian School, chairman's report.
2. Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes, audited financial accounts year ended 30 June 2022.
3. Presbyterian Ladies College, both report and audited financial accounts year ended 31 Dec 2021.
4. Scotch College, both report and audited financial accounts year ended 31 Dec 2021.
5. Scots' Church Properties Trust, audited financial accounts – year ended 30 June 2022.
6. Scots' Church Properties Trust, Lease—Georges Building (proposed).
7. Scots' Church Properties Trust, Surrender of Lease—Georges Building (proposed).
8. St Andrews Christian College, both report and audited financial accounts—year ended 31 Dec 2021.

They are available to members upon request.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION 8: VICTORIA POLICE CHAPLAIN (Min 55)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



VICTORIA POLICE

30th September, 2022

Victoria Police Chaplaincy Level 33/311 Spencer Street, Docklands, 3008
Victoria, Australia
DX 210096
Telephone: 1300 090 995 Email: jim.jung@police.vic.gov.au
www.police.vic.gov.au

To The Moderator, Reverend Peter Phillips

Greetings to you and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Victoria Police Chaplaincy Unit has always appreciated the partnerships we are able to create through the generosity and shared ministry values of our combined faith communities in Victoria. We again thank the Presbyterian Assembly for releasing your ministers to enable their investment into the care and support toward our Victoria Police members, their families, and our police veteran community, as volunteer chaplains.

Reverend Chris SIRIWERE has been a part of our chaplaincy unit since his appointment in 1997 and has recently been nominated for our 25 year service clasp which will be awarded to him in the coming months.

Chris has faithfully served Victoria Police in a number of locations across the state including in areas of the western region of Victoria, Heidelberg, and currently in the Whitehorse area. It was in his role at the Nunawading Police Station that Chris was especially tasked with caring for the colleagues of some of our police members who were tragically killed in the Eastern Freeway accident in April 2020. His contribution of pastoral care to those members has been a credit to his dedication to serve our police family with his chaplaincy presence and ministry skills.

I congratulate Chris on his 25 years of service with Victoria Police Chaplaincy and look forward to continuing our partnership well into the future.

Kind regards

Reverend Jim JUNG V300314
Senior Victoria Police Chaplain (Team Leader)

Page 1 of 1

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

Treasurer's Financial Report For the year ended 30 June 2022



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA - BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

MEMBERS:

Rev B R Oakes B.Bus, M.Tax, B.Th. B.Min, MA(Min) - Chairman
Mr J Bligh B.Sc, B.Com
Mr E G de Zilwa B.Ec, LL.B, LL.M
Mr A Foster LLB(Hons), BA
Mr M Gibson B Surv(Hons), Grad Dip FP, CFP, SMSF SA
Mr D Graham B.E(Hons), B.Sc
Rev A J Venn Dip Int Des, Grad Dip OB, Dip Th, ICT (to October 2021)
Mr J Walter LL.B(Hons), MBA
Mr D Wright B.Bus, MIPA AFA

AUDITORS:

Saward Dawson

BANKERS:

National Australia Bank Limited

GENERAL MANAGER:

Mr M E Ellison, B.Sc, B.Com

SOLICITORS:

McCracken & McCracken

GENERAL OFFICE:

Assembly Hall
156 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 60 40 OF THE CHARITIES
AND NOT FOR PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND
FINANCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60 40 of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


SAWARD DAWSON



Peter Shields

Principal

20 Albert Street, Blackburn.

Dated: 29 August 2022

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

Opinion

We have audited the attached financial report being a special purpose financial report of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and its committees, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, and the statement of Income and expenditure and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Board of Investment and Finance Members' members' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria:

- a. gives a true and fair view of the organisation's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- b. complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of matter

a) Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 (page 10) to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to meet the requirements of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to prepare financial statements. As a result the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

Board of Investment and Finance Members' responsibility for the financial report

The Board of Investment and Finance Members' are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the requirements of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and are appropriate to meet the needs of the Board of Investment and Finance Members'. The Board of Investment and Finance Members' responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board of Investment and Finance Members', as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Presbyterian Church of Victoria internal control.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Investment and Finance Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Presbyterian Church of Victoria's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Presbyterian Church of Victoria to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for the purpose of fulfilling the accountability of the Board of Investment and Finance as Treasurer of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We communicate with the Board of Investment and Finance Members' regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


SAWARD DAWSON

Peter Shields
Principal

20 Albert Street, Blackburn

Dated: 29 August 2022

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE MEMBERS' STATEMENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

It is the opinion of the Board of Investment and Finance that:

- (a) the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements; and
- (b) this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 of the financial statements; and
- (c) the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria meets the definition of a Not for Profit Entity;
- (d) the financial statements, set out on pages 7 to 59 are drawn up so as to present fairly the financial position of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria at 30 June 2022 and the results of its operations for the year then ended and are in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 Page 11.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Investment and Finance dated at Melbourne this sixteenth day of August 2022.



B Oakes
Chairman



D Wright
Board of Investment and Finance member

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Capital			
Accumulated Funds		56,638,889	60,419,711
Reserves		35,575,684	30,682,865
Total Church Funds	2	92,214,573	91,102,577
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	5.1	4,309,980	5,695,746
Committee book stocks		7,747	6,481
Prepayments		17,723	5,676
Receivables	4	478,292	247,212
Investments	1.10		
Common Fund		38,098,911	36,243,491
Separately Invested Funds		28,383,196	26,642,540
Total Current Assets		71,295,849	68,841,144
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	20,617,200	21,440,948
Property held for Investment - Assembly Hall	1.18(iii), 7	10,175,000	10,175,000
Common Fund - Perpetual Trust Funds		7,157,893	7,081,897
Secured Loans		4,551,949	4,905,080
Separately Invested Funds - Perpetual		982,384	1,122,334
Total Non-Current Assets		43,484,426	44,725,259
Total Assets		114,780,275	113,566,403
Current Liabilities			
Employee Benefits		21,036	34,001
Trade and Other Payables		1,063,032	1,392,653
Kirkbrae Ingoings		17,753,814	17,006,148
Provisions for Annual, Long Service and Study Leave		1,720,954	1,644,115
Trust Funds and Deposits		39,392	60,142
Total Current Liabilities		20,598,228	20,137,059
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loan PCV Common Fund		1,687,825	2,040,956
Provisions for Long Service and Study Leave		279,649	285,811
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,967,474	2,326,768
Total Liabilities		22,565,702	22,463,827
Net Assets		92,214,573	91,102,577

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
Operating Revenue			
Assembly Rate		100,000	-
Bequests		64,239	60,000
Camp and Conference Income		4,624	11,198
Contributions, Donations and Levies		707,926	729,049
General Mission Programme		228,459	126,851
Grants and Subsidies Received		4,935,735	7,950,116
Interest and Investment Income		3,260,533	3,061,598
Kirkbrae Fees, Ingoings and Meals		2,752,665	2,330,024
Lease Finance Income		268,846	336,542
Management Fees		149,618	142,240
Rental Income		110,586	96,406
Scots' Church Properties Trust		765,584	1,080,673
Tuition Fees and Bookshop Profit		551,634	482,160
Total Operating Revenue		<u>13,900,449</u>	<u>16,406,856</u>
Expenses			
Agencies outside PCV		-	27,440
Bursaries, Prizes and Tuition Fees		23,670	73,071
Camp Expenses		8,327	14,343
Contract Accounting and Audit Fees		231,352	122,229
Depreciation		1,050,462	1,096,413
Distributions, Grants and Subsidies		1,378,057	2,049,768
Education, Training and Library		190,571	187,952
Fees Chaplaincy and Consulting		97,954	99,456
General Assembly Expenses		50,557	35,972
Impairment on Assets		-	185,000
Insurance Fire and General		148,260	132,217
Interest Paid		89,975	89,313
Kirkbrae Residents Expenses		604,853	702,192
Lease Finance Expense		268,846	336,542
Legal Fees and Settlements		1,479,484	83,004
Loss/(Profit) on sale of assets		49,102	408,577
Office Expenses		380,401	661,331
Personnel Related Costs		7,966,290	9,929,035
Property Expenses and Improvements		1,039,038	1,530,257
Total Expenses		<u>15,057,199</u>	<u>17,764,111</u>
Other Expenses			
Net Realised and Unrealised Loss/(Gain) on Investments	1.10	<u>2,348,752</u>	<u>(2,544,028)</u>
Total Other Expenses		<u>2,348,752</u>	<u>(2,544,028)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) before Sites Reserve		<u>(3,505,501)</u>	<u>1,186,774</u>

Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income is continued on the following page

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022 (continued)

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Sites Reserve			
Revenue			
Interest and Investment Income		1,007,876	656,203
Other Income		-	49,864
Proceeds of sale of property		8,046,100	1,467,219
Total Sites Reserve Revenue		9,053,976	2,173,287
Expenses			
Net Realised and Unrealised (Gain)/Loss on Investments	1.10	1,492,039	(1,017,697)
Ministry expenses incurred by congregations		1,297,805	764,924
Property improvements and expenses		1,646,635	1,041,587
Total Sites Reserve Expenses		4,436,479	788,815
Surplus/(Deficit) from Sites Reserve		4,617,497	1,384,472
Surplus from ordinary activities		1,111,996	2,571,246
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	5.2	1,111,996	2,571,246

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Sites Reserve \$	Other Reserves \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2020		58,049,769	18,142,900	12,338,662	88,531,331
(Deficit) attributable to beneficiaries		1,186,774	1,384,472	-	2,571,246
Transfers to/from Reserves		1,183,169	(2,021,142)	837,973	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	2	60,419,711	17,506,230	13,176,635	91,102,577
Surplus attributable to beneficiaries		(3,505,501)	4,617,497	-	1,111,996
Transfers to/(from) Reserves		(275,321)	-	275,321	-
Balance at 30 June 2022	2	56,638,889	22,123,727	13,451,956	92,214,573

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts from operations		19,785,364	16,405,789
Cash payments from operations		(16,993,836)	(18,117,151)
Net cash generated from / (used in) operating activities	5.2	2,791,528	(1,711,363)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest Received		1,370,280	1,765,757
Dividends Received		880,313	832,331
(Increase)/Decrease in Trust funds and deposits		(20,750)	1,219
Payments for investment securities and term deposits		(24,495,314)	(18,073,274)
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(257,795)	(390,448)
Proceeds from sale of investment securities and term deposits		17,423,445	20,708,405
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		19,230	-
Net cash provided /(used) by investing activities		(5,080,592)	4,843,990
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid		(89,975)	(89,313)
Net decrease in Capital Fund and Retirement Housing loans		(353,131)	(301,821)
Net increase/(decrease) in residents loans and ingoings		1,346,404	(5,450,406)
Net cash provided/(used) by financing activities		903,298	(5,841,540)
Net decrease in cash held		(1,385,766)	(2,708,912)
Cash at the beginning of the year		5,695,746	8,404,658
Cash at the end of the year	5.1	4,309,980	5,695,746

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant policies which have been adopted in the presentation of these financial statements are:

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is an unincorporated association and is domiciled in the state of Victoria.

In the opinion of the Board of Investment and Finance, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, set out on pages 7 to 59, have been drawn up as a Special Purpose Financial Report for use by the General Assembly.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention and on a going concern assumption. All figures are in Australian dollars. They do not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets except to the extent that the revaluation of land and buildings and investments (as noted in the financial statements) partially reflects such changes. Except where noted, the accounting policies have been consistently applied.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the members have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

1.2 Consolidation

The assets and liabilities, income and expenses of the General Assembly and its Committees form the Consolidated Statements of the "Presbyterian Church of Victoria" as set out on pages 7 to 19.

The Consolidated Financial Statements, together with these notes have been prepared from the audited books and records for the year ended 30 June 2022 of the following entities:

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria
Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes for Aged People (Refer to Note 1 Page 48)
Sites Reserve

All inter-entity balances and transactions have been eliminated.

1.3 Common Fund Investments - at Call are shown in three categories:

- (a) General Purposes - Those available for all purposes of the General Assembly and of each Committee.
- (b) Specific Purposes - Those available for specified purposes only, details of which appear in the notes attached to the accounts.
- (c) Perpetual - Capital sums which must be preserved and cannot be expended.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.4 Revenue

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Presbyterian Church of Victoria expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer.
2. Identify the performance obligations.
3. Determine the transaction price.
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations.
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred.

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Provision of services

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service.

Camp, Conference Income and Tuition fees are therefore only recognised where the participant attends the camp or conference or the tuition has been provided.

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably.

If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Contributions, Donation

Contributions, donations and levies are recognised as revenue when the Presbyterian Church of Victoria gains control of the assets, as there is no enforceable contract.

Grant and Subsidies Received

Revenue recognition relating to grant funding is recognised on the basis that the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration expected to be received in exchange for those goods or services. Each agreement is analysed to determine the revenue recognition in accordance with the five step model. Where performance obligations have not been met, it will result in unearned income at year end.

Interest and Investment Income

Interest and Investment Income is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets and the point in time the Presbyterian Church of Victoria gains control of the income.

Kirkbrae Fees, Ingoings and Meals

Daily Accommodation Payments (DAPs) are recognised as income where a resident has not paid the full balance of a refundable accommodation deposit from the date of entry into permanent care. DAPs may be drawn down from the refundable deposit or paid in cash.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.4 Revenue (continued)

Rental income

Rental income is recognised at the time of property occupancy as the customer receives the benefit over time of the occupancy.

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when control of the performance obligations are transferred.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Presbyterian Church of Victoria expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Revenue from the distribution of the surplus from Scots' Church Properties Trust for the purpose of home mission and church extension is recognised when it is received.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

1.5 Leases

At inception of a contract, the organisation assesses whether a lease exists - i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset - this may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right then there is no identified asset.
- The organisation has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- The organisation has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

Right-of-use asset

At the lease commencement, the organisation recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the organisation believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy.

Lease liability

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the organisation's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the organisation's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.5 Leases (continued)

Exceptions to lease accounting

The organisation has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The organisation recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straightline basis over the lease term.

Kirkbrae - Refundable Accommodation Deposits

Contracts with customers contain provisions for accommodation and use of common areas and facilities for provision of care and other services. The organisation has concluded that its contractual arrangements relating to the provision of residential aged care and retirement living accommodation are an operating lease pursuant to AASB 16, being the exclusive right to the use of a room/unit by a resident.

For residential aged care accommodation arrangements where the resident has elected to pay a Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD), the organisation receives a financing benefit, being non-cash consideration in the form of an interest free loan. On adoption of AASB 16 the fair value of this non-cash consideration is required to be recognised as income (to reflect the interest free loan financing benefit received on RADs) and correspondingly interest expense (to record the financial liability associated with RADs at fair value) with no net impact on profit or loss.

The application of AASB 16 for the year ended 30 June 2022 has been based on

- average RAD balance for the year, and
- interest rate equal to Maximum Permissible Interest Rate of 4.07% applicable at 30 June 2022 which is a Government set interest rate used to calculate the Daily Accommodation Payment (DAP) to applicable residents.

The organisation's Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income presents Income of \$268,846 and an additional Finance cost (i.e. interest expense) of \$268,846 with nil impact to net result for the year. The accounting treatment for residential aged care accommodating arrangements where residents have elected to pay a DAP has not changed upon adopting AASB 16.

1.6 Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are recorded at cost or deemed cost and are depreciated using the straight line method.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income.

1.7 Provision for Employee Entitlements

The provision for employee entitlements relates to amounts expected to be paid to or on behalf of employees for annual leave, long service and study leave and is based on legal and contractual entitlements.

Provision is made for the organisation's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements.

Contributions made by the organisation to an employee superannuation fund are charged as expenses when incurred.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.8 Income Tax

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is a non-profit entity registered as a religious charitable organisation with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and as such is exempt from Income Tax pursuant to Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Two trusts have Deductible Gift Recipient status. These are the Theological Education Committee Building Fund, and the Theological Education Committee Library Fund. The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Social Services Committee has been classified as a Public Benevolent Institution with Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

1.9 Inventories

Inventories are carried at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Cost is based on the first-in first-out principle and includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing condition and location.

1.10 Investments

Investments are carried in the financial statements at fair value and unrealised gains and losses are recognised in the Income Statement. Shares and units in investment trusts have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$2,348,752 (2021 gain of \$2,544,028), and a net loss in Sites Reserve of \$1,492,039 (2021 gain of \$1,017,697).

1.11 Comparative Figures

When changes are made as a result of changes to accounting standards or as a result of changes in accounting policies, comparative figures are adjusted to conform with the presentation in the current financial year.

1.12 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.13 Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the organisation assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another standard. Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the organisation estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

1.14 Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the organisation during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.15 Accommodation Bonds and Retentions

Accommodation Bonds and Refundable Accommodation Deposits for residents in aged care facilities are held in accordance with the Aged Care Act 1997. Residents have a choice of paying their accommodation cost as a refundable lump sum or as a daily payment. Daily payments are recognised as income.

Annual prudential compliance statements are lodged with the Department of Health within the required time frame. The accommodation bond liability is recognised when a resident moves into a facility. The net liability is refunded according to the requirements of the Act when a resident leaves. All of these liabilities have been classified as current as the organisation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months.

1.16 Incoming Contributions and Retentions

Ingoing contributions from cottage residents are held in accordance with the signed resident agreement. The non-refundable portion of the ingoing contribution is deducted in accordance with the signed resident agreement. The ingoing contribution liability is recognised when a resident moves into a facility. All of these liabilities have been classified as current as Kirkbrae does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months.

1.17 Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

1.18 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Board of Investment and Finance evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the organisation.

(i) Key estimates - Impairment

The organisation assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the organisation that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use or depreciated replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

(ii) Key judgements - Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their useful life and the depreciation rates are assessed when the assets are acquired or when there is significant change that affects the remaining useful life of the asset.

(iii) Value of the interest held in Assembly Hall

The Board of Investment and Finance has assessed the fair value of Assembly Hall to be \$27.5 million. This sum was based on a valuation obtained in October 2020. Based on that value the 37% interest now held by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for Home Mission and church extension is worth \$10,360,000.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
2. Accumulated Funds and Reserves		
Balance at beginning	91,102,577	88,531,331
Surplus from ordinary activities	1,111,996	2,571,246
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Consolidated Church Funds	92,214,573	91,102,577
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by:		
Committee and General Assembly Funds	56,638,889	60,419,711
Asset Revaluation Reserves		
Land and Buildings - Kirkbrae Properties	3,276,956	3,276,956
Church Extension and Home Mission Reserve	10,175,000	9,899,679
Sites Reserve	22,123,727	17,506,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Reserves	35,575,684	30,682,865
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Accumulated Funds and Reserves	92,214,573	91,102,577
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land and Buildings at cost	32,358,846	32,299,499
Accumulated Depreciation	(12,224,646)	(11,390,488)
Accumulated Impairment Loss	(176,770)	(176,770)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19,957,430	20,732,242
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Plant and Equipment at cost	1,499,373	1,450,419
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,373,747)	(1,313,449)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	125,626	136,970
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost	1,899,434	1,973,761
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,458,138)	(1,496,560)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	441,297	477,201
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Motor Vehicles at cost	272,477	301,906
Accumulated Depreciation	(179,630)	(207,372)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	92,847	94,534
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	20,617,200	21,440,948
	<hr/>	<hr/>
4. Receivables		
Franking Credits Receivable	211,594	84,030
Sundry Debtors and Kirkbrae Resident Receivables	266,698	163,182
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	478,292	247,212
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
5.1 Reconciliation of Cash		
For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank and on short term deposit. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	4,309,980	5,695,746
5.2 Reconciliation of operating result to net cash provided by operating activities		
Total Comprehensive Income	1,111,996	2,571,246
Add/(less) items classified as investing/financing activities		
Interest paid	89,975	89,313
Interest/dividends received	(2,383,181)	(2,426,654)
Add/(less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation of assets	1,050,462	1,096,413
Retentions claimed	(593,712)	(487,371)
Net losses on sale of property, plant and equipment and investments	11,852	168,964
Net unrealised losses/(gains) on revaluation of Investments	3,892,877	(3,561,709)
Net impairment on Assembly Hall investment	-	185,000
Net impairment on Kirkbrae Assets	-	203,613
Net cash (used in) operating activities before change in assets and liabilities	3,180,268	(2,161,185)
Change in assets and liabilities during the financial year		
Decrease/(increase) in sundry debtors	(115,564)	519,879
Decrease/(increase) in bookstore stock and Kirkbrae inventory	(1,266)	(19)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accruals	(342,586)	455,961
Increase/(decrease) in amounts set aside for provisions	70,676	(525,998)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	2,791,528	(1,711,363)

6. Related Party Information

The persons listed on page 1 of this report each held office as a member of the Board of Investment and Finance during the period ended 30 June 2022. The Board of Investment and Finance members receive no remuneration or other benefit for their services as trustees.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

7. Scots' Church Properties Trust

Arising from proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria between the Attorney-General of Victoria on the relation of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation and the Trustees of the Scots Church Properties Trust ("SCPT"), the Court found that there had been several breaches of trust by the Trustees of the SCPT. Specifically, the Court held that the sum of \$11,402,419.64 used to acquire, develop and improve Assembly Hall had been used or applied by the Trustees in breach of trust. The Court declared that Assembly Hall (156 Collins Street Melbourne) is held on trust:

- a) as to a 63% interest for Scots' Church Board of Management Limited [ACN 618 924 155] as nominee of the Board of Management of the congregation of the Scots' Church Melbourne which interest is to be held and applied for the charitable purposes stipulated in the sixthly provision of clause 7 of the Deed of Trust made 23 July 1891, as amended ("the Trust Deed"), for which payments under that clause are made to the board of management of the congregation of the Scots' Church Melbourne; and
- b) as to the remaining 37% interest for The Presbyterian Church of Victoria as nominee for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria which interest is to be held and applied for the charitable purposes stipulated in the sixthly provision of clause 7 of the Trust Deed, for which payments under that clause are made to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

By Order of the Court, Assembly Hall was subsequently transferred to Scots' Church Board of Management Limited and The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation. The title issued in June 2018. The interest in Assembly Hall arising from the proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria was awarded for nil consideration.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria holds its interest in the building for the purposes of home mission and church extension in Victoria.

8. Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes

On 16 June 2020 the Presbyterian Church of Victoria took the decision to incorporate a new entity Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd (PCVL) which will assume the oversight of Kirkbrae. All assets in connection with Kirkbrae will be transferred to PCVL once it is incorporated.

9. Contingent Liability

Legal Costs and Settlements includes an amount in the current year to settle a claim made in the Supreme Court of Victoria in relation to historical institutional sexual abuse. A further writ has been lodged with the Supreme Court which is yet to be determined.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Capital			
Accumulated Funds		25,067,184	26,833,365
Reserves		10,175,000	9,899,679
Total General Assembly Funds	1	35,242,184	36,733,044
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and on Hand		10,780	10,318
Franking Credits Receivable		84,153	17,739
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments		17,038	297
		111,970	28,355
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		4,347,359	4,300,594
Specific Purposes	3	7,311,091	8,570,588
Separately Invested Funds	4	7,747,639	8,383,699
Total Investments		19,406,089	21,254,881
Total Current Assets		19,518,059	21,283,236
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Loans to Assembly Committees		367,984	137,651
Secured Loans	5	4,635,949	4,989,080
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		2,439,653	2,439,653
Total Investments		7,443,586	7,566,385
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	22,261	16,081
Property held for Investment	6.1	10,175,000	10,175,000
Total Non-Current Assets		17,640,847	17,757,466
Total Assets		37,158,906	39,040,702
Current Liabilities			
Capital Fund Deposits by Congregations		36,557	59,407
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	7	82,716	102,538
Provision for Annual Leave		47,583	38,473
Provision for Long Service Leave		62,041	66,283
Total Current Liabilities		228,897	266,701
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loan from Common Fund		1,687,825	2,040,956
Total Non Current Liabilities		1,687,825	2,040,956
Total Liabilities		1,916,722	2,307,658
Net Assets		35,242,184	36,733,044

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 22 to 24.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	General \$	Specific \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Archive Fees		225	-	225	-
Assembly Rate		100,000	-	100,000	-
Bequests, Donations, Gifts & Levies		(1,244)	321,438	320,194	244,994
General Mission Programme		-	-	-	26,440
Government Grants	2	-	-	-	966,517
Interest and Investment Income		529,582	860,310	1,389,891	1,197,290
Jobkeeper allocation	2.1	-	-	-	68,729
Management Fees Received		149,618	-	149,618	142,240
Rental Income		21,534	7,159	28,693	26,774
Scots' Church Properties Trust	1.1	71,967	275,321	347,288	1,080,673
Sundry Income		4,500	-	4,500	3,000
Total Revenue		876,182	1,464,228	2,340,410	3,756,657
Expenses					
Accounting and Audit Fees		23,470	-	23,470	37,020
Depreciation		5,656	-	5,656	4,377
Distributions, Grants and Subsidies		3,600	464,411	468,011	326,587
Education and Training		3,071	-	3,071	1,330
General Assembly Expenses		37,680	12,877	50,557	35,972
General Mission Programme Distributions		-	-	-	26,440
Impairment on Assets		-	-	-	185,000
Insurance and Risk Management		9,204	18,630	27,834	30,567
Interest Paid		-	82,842	82,842	89,244
JobKeeper disbursements to committees and congregations	2.1	-	-	-	857,168
Legal Fees and Settlements	9	42,396	1,393,852	1,436,247	55,873
Office Expenses		27,830	-	27,830	13,571
Personnel Related Costs		648,517	1,125	649,642	671,082
Property Expenses and Improvements		83,885	-	83,885	81,827
Unrealised Loss/(Gain) on Investments	4	-	972,224	972,224	(799,580)
Total Expenses		885,309	2,945,961	3,831,270	1,616,478
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(9,127)	(1,481,733)	(1,490,860)	2,140,179
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		(9,127)	(1,481,733)	(1,490,860)	2,140,179

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 22 to 24.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. General Assembly Funds			
Balance at beginning		26,833,365	23,570,017
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(1,490,860)	2,325,179
Transfers from Sites Reserve	1.2	-	2,021,142
Less: transfer of Mickle bequest to Safe Church committee		-	(60,000)
Less: transfer to Reserves	6.1	(275,321)	(1,022,973)
Accumulated Funds		25,067,184	26,833,365
Home Mission and Church Extension Reserve			
Balance at beginning		9,899,679	9,061,706
Repayment of General Assembly funds advanced	1.1	275,321	1,022,973
Surplus/(Deficit) from Other Comprehensive Income		-	(185,000)
Total Home Mission and Church Extension Reserve		10,175,000	9,899,679
Total General Assembly Funds		35,242,184	36,733,044
1.1 Scots Church Properties Trust distributions			
Distributions from the Scots' Church Properties Trust have been applied towards a reduction of the amounts advanced by the General Assembly towards the legal costs relating to the charitable purposes of home mission and church extension. Those advances have now been fully recovered. An amount of \$275,321 (2021 \$1,022,973) was applied in the current year in this way.			
Income Distributions from the Scots' Church Properties Trust are accounted for on a cash basis.			
1.2 Transfers from Sites Reserve			
In May 2021 the General Assembly approved the transfer of amounts totalling \$2,021,142 from various Sites Reserve accounts to a fund for Designated Purposes. (See note 2.1 on page 59)			
1.3 Home Mission and Church Extension Reserve			
Balance at beginning		9,899,679	9,061,706
Impairment on Asset		-	(185,000)
Legal costs repaid to the General Assembly	1.1	275,321	1,022,973
Total Reserve		10,175,000	9,899,679
Represented by:			
Assembly Hall: at valuation October 2020	6.1	10,175,000	10,175,000
Legal costs due to the General Assembly		-	(275,321)
		10,175,000	9,899,679

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
2. Government Grants			
Cash Flow Boost		-	18,217
JobKeeper receipts	2.1	-	948,300
		<u>-</u>	<u>966,517</u>
2.1 JobKeeper Receipts and Disbursements			
The JobKeeper receipts represent the gross figure received by the Church excluding amounts paid to Kirkbrae. After meeting top-up wage payments, professional fees and administration costs amounts totalling \$857,168 were disbursed to congregations and committees in the prior year.			
3. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes			
Beneficiary Funds		242,642	282,827
Capital Fund		1,535,186	1,558,036
General Assembly of Australia		282,320	263,393
Insurance Fund		109,539	119,678
Moderator's and Visiting Missionary Expenses		273,422	267,322
Overseas Visitors		269,655	251,577
Balfour Memorial Trust		1,001,043	994,901
Simon Fraser Trust		955,142	931,410
Pres-AID Appeals		339	25,808
Designated Purposes		898,585	2,045,106
National Redress Scheme		1,743,219	1,830,531
		<u>7,311,091</u>	<u>8,570,588</u>
4. Separately Invested Funds			
Beneficiary Funds		2,503,012	2,729,272
Ministers Retirement Housing		5,244,628	5,654,427
		<u>7,747,639</u>	<u>8,383,699</u>
Investments have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$972,224 (2021 gains of \$799,580). These funds are designated for Specific Purposes.			
5. Secured Loans			
Ministers' Retirement Housing Fund		2,948,124	2,948,124
Capital Fund		1,687,825	2,040,956
		<u>4,635,949</u>	<u>4,989,080</u>
6. Property, Plant and Equipment			
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment		87,081	75,245
Accumulated Depreciation		(64,820)	(59,164)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment		<u>22,261</u>	<u>16,081</u>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
6.1 Property held for Investment - Assembly Hall		
Land and Buildings at Cost - Assembly Hall	10,175,000	10,175,000

Arising from proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria between the Attorney-General of Victoria on the relation of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation and the Trustees of the Scots Church Properties Trust ("SCPT"), the Court found that there had been several breaches of trust by the Trustees of the SCPT. Specifically, the Court held that the sum of \$11,402,419.64 used to acquire, develop and improve Assembly Hall had been used or applied by the Trustees in breach of trust. The Court declared that Assembly Hall (156 Collins Street Melbourne) is held on trust:

- a) as to a 63% interest for Scots' Church Board of Management Limited [ACN 618 924 155] as nominee of the Board of Management of the congregation of the Scots' Church Melbourne which interest is to be held and applied for the charitable purposes stipulated in the sixthly provision of clause 7 of the Deed of Trust made 23 July 1891, as amended ("the Trust Deed"), for which payments under that clause are made to the board of management of the congregation of the Scots' Church Melbourne; and
- b) as to the remaining 37% interest for The Presbyterian Church of Victoria as nominee for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria which interest is to be held and applied for the charitable purposes stipulated in the sixthly provision of clause 7 of the Trust Deed, for which payments under that clause are made to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

By Order of the Court, Assembly Hall was subsequently transferred to Scots' Church Board of Management Limited and The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation. The title issued in June 2018. The interest in Assembly Hall arising from the proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria was awarded for nil consideration.

In October 2020, the trustees obtained a sworn valuation of \$27.5 million for Assembly Hall. The valuation has been used by the trustees to determine the value of the 37% interest in Assembly Hall which is held by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria holds its interest in the building for the purposes of home mission and church extension in Victoria.

7. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

Accounting and Audit Fees	11,770	19,894
Employee Benefits	10,480	10,018
PAYG Tax and Fringe Benefits Tax	49,996	49,004
Trade and Other Payables	10,471	23,622
	<u>82,716</u>	<u>102,538</u>

8. Archives & Historic Records

Income

Archive Fees	225	-
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Expenses

Office Expenses and Rent	5,572	7,362
Personnel Related Costs	25,041	29,982
Storage and Retrieval Costs	8,865	10,295
	<u>39,477</u>	<u>47,639</u>
Total Expenses	<u>39,477</u>	<u>47,639</u>
(Deficit) from ordinary activities	<u>(39,252)</u>	<u>(47,639)</u>

9. Contingent Liability

Legal Costs and Settlements includes an amount in the current year to settle a claim made in the Supreme Court of Victoria in relation to historical institutional sexual abuse. A further writ has been lodged with the Supreme Court which is yet to be determined.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	872,511	852,868
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		259,454	256,756
Specific Purposes	2	198,820	200,047
Total Current Assets		458,275	456,804
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		374,122	374,122
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	40,114	21,942
Total Non-Current Assets		414,236	396,064
Total Assets		872,511	852,868
Net Assets		872,511	852,868

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	General \$	Specific \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Donations and Appeals		-	28,677	28,677	41,339
General Mission Programme		57,234	-	57,234	34,948
Interest and Investment Income		42,003	18,623	60,626	58,888
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset		10,341	-	10,341	-
Total Revenue		109,578	47,300	156,879	135,175
Expenses					
Depreciation		6,828	-	6,828	6,828
Distributions, Grants and Subsidies		61,700	43,455	105,155	98,236
Motor Vehicle Expenses		9,738	-	9,738	11,517
Office Expenses		339	-	339	169
Personnel Related Costs		15,176	-	15,176	15,119
Total Expenses		93,781	43,455	137,236	131,870
Surplus from ordinary activities		15,798	3,845	19,643	3,306
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		15,798	3,845	19,643	3,306

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 26.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) COMMITTEE

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	852,868	849,562
Surplus from ordinary activities	19,643	3,306
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Committee Funds	872,511	852,868
	<hr/>	<hr/>
2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes		
Dayspring (Transport in Vanuatu)	4,094	3,565
Dehra Dun Presbyterian Theological College	3,752	1,824
Overseas Missionary work	78,605	80,245
Overseas Missionary work within Australia	112,369	114,413
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	198,820	200,047
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Motor Vehicles	70,523	90,233
Accumulated Depreciation	(30,409)	(68,291)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	40,114	21,942
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	<u>1,463,978</u>	<u>1,439,651</u>
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		503,653	487,934
Specific Purposes	2	<u>664,054</u>	<u>654,411</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>1,167,707</u>	<u>1,142,345</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		296,102	296,102
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	<u>169</u>	<u>1,204</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>296,271</u>	<u>297,306</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,463,978</u>	<u>1,439,651</u>
Net Assets		<u>1,463,978</u>	<u>1,439,651</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 28.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	General \$	Specific \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Donations and Gifts		50	-	50	-
Interest and Investment Income		53,134	47,831	100,965	100,978
Women's Ministry Income		-	-	-	3,425
Other Income		64		64	
Total Revenue		53,248	47,831	101,079	104,403
Expenses					
Bursaries and Prizes		-	2,125	2,125	5,135
Depreciation		542	-	542	681
Education, Training and Seminars		-	-	-	4,186
Grants and Subsidies		36,662	34,584	71,246	103,450
Insurance		666	-	666	450
Office Expenses		694	91	785	1,990
Personnel Related Costs		-	1,388	1,388	12,290
Total Expenses		38,564	38,188	76,753	128,183
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		14,684	9,643	24,327	(23,779)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		14,684	9,643	24,327	(23,779)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	1,439,651	1,463,431
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	24,327	(23,779)
Committee Funds	1,463,978	1,439,651
2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes		
Sunday School work and scholarships in the terms of the Allan Bequest	664,054	654,411
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost	4,450	6,267
Accumulated Depreciation	(4,281)	(5,063)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	169	1,204

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	352,111	356,922
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		355,718	359,866
Total Current Assets		355,718	359,866
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	-	610
Total Non-Current Assets		-	610
Total Assets		355,718	360,476
Current Liabilities			
Annual Leave Provision		3,607	3,554
Net Assets		352,111	356,922

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		
Donations	-	1,000
Government Grants	-	8,287
Interest and Investment Income	25,117	24,894
Profit on Sale of Publications	-	31
Total Revenue	25,117	34,213
Expenses		
Depreciation	610	666
Personnel Related Costs	28,702	28,036
Other Expenses	616	1,300
Total Expenses	29,928	30,002
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(4,811)	4,211
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	(4,811)	4,211

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 30.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	356,922	352,710
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(4,811)	4,211
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Committee Funds	352,111	356,922
	<hr/>	<hr/>
2. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost	3,549	3,549
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,549)	(2,938)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	-	610
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Accumulated Funds	1	693,097	529,464
Represented by:			
Current Assets:			
Cash at Bank and on Hand		34	858
Deposits and prepayments		900	900
		934	1,758
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
Specific Purposes - Property Development		835,971	626,113
Total Investments		835,971	626,113
Total Current Assets		836,906	627,871
Total Assets		836,906	627,871
Current Liabilities			
Annual Leave Provision		10,954	9,921
Employee Benefits		34	858
Total Liabilities		10,988	10,779
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loan from General Assembly		132,821	87,628
Total Liabilities		143,809	98,407
Net Assets		693,097	529,464

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 32.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	General \$	Property Development Fund \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Donations		-	163,766	163,766	25,045
Grants		-	-	-	67,711
Interest and Investment Income		-	46,092	46,092	39,016
Rental Income		20,208	-	20,208	16,350
Scots Church Property Trust		125,489	-	125,489	-
Total Revenue		145,697	209,858	355,555	148,122
Expenses					
Consultancy expenses		-	-	-	1,800
Donations to outside organisations		-	-	-	1,000
Education and Training		300	-	300	-
Grants	2	83,400	-	83,400	99,398
Interest		6,964	-	6,964	1,004
Personnel Related Costs		101,258	-	101,258	100,964
Total Expenses		191,922	-	191,922	204,167
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(46,225)	209,858	163,633	(56,044)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		(46,225)	209,858	163,633	(56,044)

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Accumulated Funds			
Balance at beginning		529,464	585,508
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		163,633	(56,044)
Committee Funds		693,097	529,464
2. Grants			
Operating grant re Officer congregation		14,400	39,198
Start-up grant re Donnybrook congregation		-	16,200
Operating grant re Donnybrook congregation		69,000	44,000
		83,400	99,398

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	<u>2,966,842</u>	<u>3,052,051</u>
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and on Hand		-	372
Franking Credits Receivable		15,072	3,317
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		1,114,983	1,092,833
Specific Purposes	2	687,579	655,292
Separately Invested Funds			
Specific Purposes	2	<u>191,296</u>	<u>207,146</u>
Total Investments		<u>1,993,859</u>	<u>1,955,271</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>2,008,931</u>	<u>1,958,961</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Separately Invested Funds - Perpetual Funds	2	982,384	1,122,334
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	<u>398</u>	<u>848</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>982,783</u>	<u>1,123,182</u>
Total Assets		<u>2,991,713</u>	<u>3,082,143</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		200	-
Accrued Annual Leave		17,143	23,571
Accrued Long Service Leave		7,529	6,149
Employee Benefits		<u>-</u>	<u>372</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>24,872</u>	<u>30,093</u>
Net Assets		<u>2,966,842</u>	<u>3,052,051</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 35.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	General \$	Specific \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Donations and Levies		23,189	11,160	34,349	49,459
Grants and Subsidies Received		-	26,753	26,753	68,432
Interest and Investment Income		76,672	134,424	211,096	168,542
Total Revenue		99,861	172,337	272,198	286,433
Expenses					
Chaplaincy & Pastoral Support		46,476	1,325	47,801	54,425
Depreciation		450	-	450	767
Education and Training		228	-	228	697
Insurance Professional Indemnity		666	-	666	1,125
Office Expenses		3,465	484	3,949	3,725
Personnel Related Costs		21,827	119,555	141,382	166,832
Unrealised Loss/(Gain) on Investments	2	-	162,930	162,930	(137,268)
Total Expenses		73,112	284,295	357,406	90,303
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		26,749	(111,958)	(85,209)	196,129
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		26,749	(111,958)	(85,209)	196,129

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 35.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	3,052,051	2,855,921
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(85,209)	196,129
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Committee Funds	2,966,842	3,052,051
	<hr/>	<hr/>
2. Investments - Specific Purposes		
Specific Purposes		
Common Fund at Call		
Children or Other Social Service	587,229	600,679
Children's Hospital Chaplaincy	100,350	54,613
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	687,579	655,292
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Separately Invested Funds		
Children's Hospital Chaplaincy	191,296	207,146
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	878,875	862,438
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Perpetual Funds		
Separately Invested Funds		
Children's Hospital Chaplaincy	982,384	1,122,334
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Separately Invested Funds	1,861,260	1,984,772
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Separately Invested Funds have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$162,930 (2021 gain of \$137,268). These funds are designated for Specific Purposes.		
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment	4,302	4,302
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,904)	(3,454)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	398	848
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	1,488,107	1,454,456
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		943,002	902,573
Long Service Leave Funds		1,507,252	1,491,244
Total Investments		2,450,254	2,393,817
Total Current Assets		2,450,254	2,393,817
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		42,466	42,466
Total Non-Current Assets		42,466	42,466
Total Assets		2,492,720	2,436,282
Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave Benefits		869,590	848,674
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave Benefits		135,022	133,152
Total Liabilities		1,004,612	981,826
Net Assets		1,488,107	1,454,456

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 37.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	General	Long Service	2022	2021
	\$	Leave	\$	\$
		\$		
Revenue				
Interest and Investment Income	73,057	105,378	178,435	169,894
Long Service Leave Levy	-	51,032	51,032	42,000
Total Revenue	73,057	156,411	229,467	211,894
Expenses				
Grants	37,416	156,090	193,506	217,503
Interest Subsidy on Ministers' Car Loans	2,310	-	2,310	2,445
Total Expenses	39,726	156,090	195,816	219,948
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	33,331	320	33,651	(8,054)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	33,331	320	33,651	(8,054)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	1,454,456	1,462,510
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	33,651	(8,054)
Committee Funds	1,488,107	1,454,456

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
METRO COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Accumulated Funds	1	709,820	729,849

Represented by:

Current Assets

Investments

Common Fund at Call

General Purposes

709,820	729,849
---------	---------

Net Assets

709,820	729,849
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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		
Donations	1,000	4,000
Interest and Investment Income	49,885	52,013
Youth Metro Income	750	1,000
Total Revenue	51,635	57,013
Expenses		
Grants paid	59,150	95,377
Office Expenses	3,008	46
Personnel Related Expenses	9,506	3,148
Total Expenses	71,664	98,571
(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(20,029)	(41,558)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	(20,029)	(41,558)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Accumulated Funds			
Balance at beginning		729,849	771,407
(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(20,029)	(41,558)
Committee Funds		709,820	729,849

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Accumulated Funds	1	<u>1,543,292</u>	<u>1,775,478</u>
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and on Hand		663	372
Prepaid Expenses		2,500	2,500
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
Specific Purposes	2	<u>1,592,554</u>	<u>1,631,288</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>1,595,717</u>	<u>1,634,160</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		198,818	198,818
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	<u>18,459</u>	<u>26,377</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>217,277</u>	<u>225,195</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,812,994</u>	<u>1,859,355</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		703	-
Employee Benefits		663	372
Provisions	4	<u>33,174</u>	<u>33,482</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>34,539</u>	<u>33,854</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loan from General Assembly		<u>235,163</u>	<u>50,023</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>269,702</u>	<u>83,877</u>
Net Assets		<u>1,543,292</u>	<u>1,775,478</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 41.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	General \$	Specific \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Interest and Investment Income		242	126,699	126,941	146,153
Donations		-	480	480	40
Government Grants		-	-	-	27,224
Rental Income		47,148	-	47,148	49,050
Scots Church Property Trust		292,807	-	292,807	-
Total Revenue		340,198	127,179	467,377	222,467
Expenses					
Depreciation		7,918	-	7,918	8,057
Distributions, Grants and Subsidies		319,368	111,309	430,677	481,668
Education and Training		1,340	425	1,765	703
Grants - Property		-	750	750	103,833
Interest		7,132	-	7,132	69
Office Expenses		8,712	-	8,712	7,596
Personnel Related Costs		186,680	53,429	240,109	257,594
Property Expenses and Improvements		2,500	-	2,500	2,500
Total Expenses		533,650	165,913	699,563	862,020
(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(193,452)	(38,734)	(232,186)	(639,553)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		(193,452)	(38,734)	(232,186)	(639,553)

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 41.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Accumulated Funds			
Balance at beginning		1,775,478	2,415,031
(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(232,186)	(639,553)
Committee Funds		1,543,292	1,775,478
2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes			
Church extension in Victoria		8,135	6,485
Evangelism		1,329,103	1,343,593
Home Missionaries Beneficiary Fund		217,282	242,923
Home Missionary Workers		38,034	38,287
		1,592,554	1,631,288
3. Property, Plant and Equipment			
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment		12,864	15,244
Accumulated Depreciation		(10,380)	(10,839)
		2,484	4,405
Motor Vehicle		39,981	39,981
Accumulated Depreciation		(24,005)	(18,008)
		15,976	21,973
Total Property, Plant and Equipment		18,459	26,377
4. Provisions			
Provision for Annual Leave		7,895	9,850
Provision for Long Service Leave		25,279	23,632
		33,174	33,482

5. Scots' Church Properties Trust

Income Distributions from the Scots' Church Properties Trust are accounted for on a cash basis.

The distribution for the current year was applied towards a reduction of the amount advanced by the General Assembly to fund the legal costs associated with protecting the interests of the charitable purpose arising from the Scots Church Properties Trust, namely: home mission and church extension.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH IN VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	509,105	529,058
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and on Hand		-	10,459
Common Fund at Call - General Purposes		241,738	239,073
Prepaid Deposits		2,892	2,000
Total Current Assets		244,629	251,532
Non-Current Assets			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	20,894	28,167
Total Non-Current Assets		289,143	296,416
Total Assets		533,773	547,948
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenses		21,539	-
Employee Benefits		-	10,459
Annual Leave Provision		3,128	8,431
Total Liabilities		24,667	18,890
Net Assets		509,105	529,058

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 43.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH IN VICTORIA

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
Camp Fees and Sale of Merchandise	3	514	11,653
Donations		2,250	5,614
Grants and Subsidies		70,128	125,462
Interest and Investment Income		34,296	34,071
Total Revenue		107,188	176,799
Expenses			
Depreciation		7,273	7,352
Expenditure re Camps and Cost of Merchandise	3	2,919	14,343
Insurance Public Liability		5,200	2,570
Office Expenses		6,467	9,090
Personnel Related Expenses		105,281	123,875
Total Expenses		127,141	157,230
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(19,953)	19,570
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		(19,953)	19,570

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	529,058	509,488
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(19,953)	19,570
Committee Funds	509,105	529,058
2. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture Fittings and Equipment at Cost	55,244	55,244
Accumulated Depreciation	(34,350)	(27,077)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	20,894	28,167
3. Camp Activities		
Income from Camp Fees and Merchandise Sales	514	11,653
Expenses from Camp Fees and Merchandise Sales	(2,919)	(14,343)
Loss on Camp Activities	(2,406)	(2,691)

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	<u>124,972</u>	<u>135,715</u>
Represented by:			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		<u>153,466</u>	<u>151,351</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>153,466</u>	<u>151,351</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	<u>2,097</u>	<u>2,890</u>
Total Assets		<u>155,563</u>	<u>154,241</u>
Current Liabilities			
Provision for Annual Leave		19,170	11,600
Provision for Long Service Leave		<u>11,421</u>	<u>6,926</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>30,591</u>	<u>18,526</u>
Net Assets		<u>124,972</u>	<u>135,715</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 45.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Levy	-	83,184
General Mission Program	93,504	-
Government Grants	-	20,411
Interest and Investment Income	11,639	8,729
Total Revenue	105,143	112,325
Expenses		
Depreciation	1,338	1,000
Consultants Fees - Investigations	18,771	-
Legal Fees	-	4,000
Personnel related expenses	87,170	82,222
Office expenses	8,606	8,399
Total Expenses	115,886	95,621
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(10,743)	16,704
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	(10,743)	16,704

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	135,715	59,011
Transfer of Mickle Bequest	-	60,000
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(10,743)	16,704
Committee Funds	124,972	135,715
2. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture Fittings and Equipment at Cost	5,904	7,325
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,807)	(4,434)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	2,097	2,890

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds			
Committee Funds	2	11,237,180	13,495,080
Reserves	3	3,276,956	3,276,956
Total Committee Funds		14,514,137	16,772,036
Represented by			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets		1,374,522	1,381,750
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4	252,480	201,562
Investments			
Common Fund at Call - Specific Purposes	5	527,482	505,281
Separately Invested Funds	6	12,668,325	13,762,827
Total Investments		13,195,807	14,268,108
Total Current Assets		14,822,809	15,851,420
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		89,150	89,150
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	19,049,365	19,823,728
Total Non-Current Assets		19,138,515	19,912,878
Total Assets		33,961,324	35,764,298
Current Liabilities			
Kirkbrae Ingoings	8	17,837,814	17,090,148
Provision for Annual and Long Service Leave		534,350	481,963
Trade and Other Payables	9	956,335	1,285,814
Total Current Liabilities		19,328,499	18,857,925
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave		118,688	134,337
Total Non-Current Liabilities		118,688	134,337
Total Liabilities		19,447,187	18,992,262
Net Assets		14,514,137	16,772,036

Notes to and forming part of these accounts are set out on pages 48 to 51.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	Kirkbrae \$	Other \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Donations		39,678	-	39,678	105,510
Grants and Subsidies Received		4,870,226	-	4,870,226	6,827,778
Interest and Investment Income		346,030	41,353	387,383	538,649
Lease Finance re Residential Accommodation Deposits	10	268,846	-	268,846	336,542
Kirkbrae Fees, Ingoings and Meals		2,752,665		2,752,665	2,330,024
Sundry Income		1,306		1,306	4,139
Total Revenue		8,278,752	41,353	8,320,105	10,142,642
Expenses					
Accounting and Audit Fees		201,462	-	201,462	79,209
Depreciation		950,266	-	950,266	996,085
Distributions, Grants & Subsidies		-	276	276	13,770
Education and Training		10,657	-	10,657	25,324
Fees, Chaplaincy and Consulting		50,152	-	50,152	43,231
Insurances		97,460	-	97,460	85,531
Kirkbrae Residents Expenses		604,853	-	604,853	702,192
Legal Fees		43,237	-	43,237	23,131
Lease Finance re Residential Accommodation Deposits	10	268,846	-	268,846	336,542
Net Loss/(Profit) on Sale of Assets		59,443	-	59,443	408,577
Net Realised and Unrealised Loss/(Gain) on Investments	6	1,213,598	-	1,213,598	(1,607,181)
Office Expenses		278,589	-	278,589	584,204
Personnel Related Costs		5,825,987	-	5,825,987	7,811,223
Property Expenses and Improvements		973,180	-	973,180	1,472,705
Total Expenses		10,577,728	276	10,578,004	10,974,543
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities		(2,298,977)	41,077	(2,257,900)	(831,901)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		(2,298,977)	41,077	(2,257,900)	(831,901)

Notes to and forming part of these accounts are set out on pages 48 to 51.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Consolidation of Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes

The ad hoc Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd Committee (AHEPCVL) administers the Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes, and as Kirkbrae is a major activity of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, its activities have been included in the financial statements of the Social Services Committee.

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes for the Aged prepares General Purpose Accounts which are audited annually.

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
2. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	13,495,080	14,326,981
(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(2,257,900)	(831,901)
Committee Funds	<u>11,237,180</u>	<u>13,495,080</u>
3. Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	<u>3,276,956</u>	<u>3,276,956</u>
4. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments		
Franking Tax Credits on Dividends	-	38,402
Sundry Debtors and Resident Receivables	<u>252,480</u>	<u>163,160</u>
	<u>252,480</u>	<u>201,562</u>
5. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes		
Brocklesby Trust - Protestant Women in Need	5,055	2,092
Douglas Family Trust - Poor & needy in Australia	16,059	12,792
Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes	-	18,876
Poor of Melbourne	59,749	55,743
Residential Care for Children	<u>446,619</u>	<u>415,778</u>
	<u>527,482</u>	<u>505,281</u>
6. Separately Invested Funds		
Investments and Shares	10,987,736	12,150,557
Term Deposits and Short Term Cash	<u>1,680,589</u>	<u>1,612,270</u>
	<u>12,668,325</u>	<u>13,762,827</u>

Investments have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$1,213,598 (2021 gains of \$1,607,181).

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
7. Property, Plant and Equipment			
Land and Buildings at Cost	7.1	30,084,430	30,026,573
Accumulated Depreciation		(11,379,063)	(10,605,895)
Impairment on Land & Buildings		(176,770)	(176,770)
		<u>18,528,597</u>	<u>19,243,909</u>
Plant and Equipment at Cost		1,407,783	1,358,829
Accumulated Depreciation		(1,284,052)	(1,225,757)
		<u>123,731</u>	<u>133,072</u>
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at Cost		1,438,010	1,457,700
Accumulated Depreciation		(1,077,730)	(1,061,573)
		<u>360,279</u>	<u>396,127</u>
Motor Vehicles at Cost		132,662	142,381
Accumulated Depreciation		(95,904)	(91,761)
		<u>36,757</u>	<u>50,620</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment		<u>19,049,365</u>	<u>19,823,728</u>
7.1	In accordance with the requirements of the Retirement Village Act a caveat is recorded over part of the land.		
8. Ingoings and Bonds - Hostel, Nursing Home and Independent Living Units		<u>17,837,814</u>	<u>17,090,148</u>
Residents are assessed on their ability to pay an incoming fee for admission into Kirkbrae. This fee is refundable when a resident leaves Kirkbrae less certain retentions and charges depending upon the period of occupancy. The ingoings are repayable when a resident leaves and therefore are all classified as a current liability. Kirkbrae has sufficient funds to meet the projected cashflows associated with refunds.			
9. Trade and Other Payables			
Creditors and Accruals		<u>956,335</u>	<u>1,285,814</u>

10. Leases

At inception of a contract, the organisation assesses whether a lease exists - i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset - this may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right then there is no identified asset.
- The organisation has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- The organisation has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

10. Leases (continued)

Right-of-use asset

At the lease commencement, the organisation recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the organisation believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy.

Lease liability

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the organisation's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the organisation's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Exceptions to lease accounting

The organisation has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The organisation recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straightline basis over the lease term.

Kirkbrae - Refundable Accommodation Deposits

Contracts with customers contain provisions for accommodation and use of common areas and facilities for provision of care and other services. The organisation has concluded that its contractual arrangements relating to the provision of residential aged care and retirement living accommodation are an operating lease pursuant to AASB 16, being the exclusive right to the use of a room/unit by a resident.

For residential aged care accommodation arrangements where the resident has elected to pay a Refundable Accommodation Deposit (RAD), the organisation receives a financing benefit, being non-cash consideration in the form of an interest free loan. On adoption of AASB 16 the fair value of this non-cash consideration is required to be recognised as income (to reflect the interest free loan financing benefit received on RADs) and correspondingly interest expense (to record the financial liability associated with RADs at fair value) with no net impact on profit or loss.

The application of AASB 16 for the year ended 30 June 2022 has been based on

- average RAD balance for the year, and
- interest rate equal to Maximum Permissible Interest Rate of 4.07% applicable at 30 June 2022 which is a Government set interest rate used to calculate the Daily Accommodation Payment (DAP) to applicable residents.

The organisation's Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income presents Income of \$268,864 and an additional Finance cost (i.e. interest expense) of \$268,864 with nil impact to net result for the year. The accounting treatment for residential aged care accommodating arrangements where residents have elected to pay a DAP has not changed upon adopting AASB 16.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

11. Going Concern

- a) Current Ratio - The ad hoc Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd Committee (AHEPCVL) oversees the aged care ministry undertaken by Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes. As at 30 June 2022, Kirkbrae's current liabilities are greater than its current assets by \$4,505,690. AHEPCVL's financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis as the majority of the current liabilities related to refundable accommodation bonds, refundable accommodation deposits and refundable ILU entry contribution from residents. AHEPCVL has determined that the current assets are sufficient to meet projected resident payments for the next 12 months and that Kirkbrae Presbyterians Homes is required to maintain sufficient liquidity and credential standards to enable payment of refundable accommodation bonds and deposits.
- b) Financial performance – Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes made a deficit of \$2,257,902 for the year. The operating result before depreciation and unrealised losses on investments was a deficit of \$94,036.
- c) On 16 June 2020 the Presbyterian Church of Victoria took the decision to incorporate a new entity Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd (PCVL) which will assume the oversight of Kirkbrae. All assets in connection with Kirkbrae will be transferred to PCVL once it is incorporated.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
STATE NEWS COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	70,561	60,423
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		70,561	60,423
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	2	-	-
Total Assets		70,561	60,423

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		
Advertising Income	-	45
Contributions from PIM and APWM	1,500	200
General Mission Programme	13,976	-
Interest and Investment Income	4,581	4,468
Total Revenue	20,057	4,714
Expenses		
Printing and Postage	9,919	9,395
Total Expenses	9,919	9,395
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	10,138	(4,681)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	10,138	(4,681)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	60,423	65,104
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	10,138	(4,681)
Committee Funds	70,561	60,423
2. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture Fittings and Equipment at Cost	1,772	1,772
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,772)	(1,772)
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	-	-

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	<u>9,517,956</u>	<u>9,175,332</u>
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and on Hand		10,554	16,593
Common Fund at Call - General Purposes		2,733,608	2,573,125
Common Fund at Call - Specific Purposes	2	1,996,576	1,837,082
Debtors		8,612	-
PTC Media Stock		<u>7,747</u>	<u>6,481</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>4,757,097</u>	<u>4,433,281</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund - Perpetual Funds		3,449,333	3,373,337
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	<u>1,463,443</u>	<u>1,519,100</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>4,912,776</u>	<u>4,892,437</u>
Total Assets		<u>9,669,873</u>	<u>9,325,718</u>
Current Liabilities	4	125,979	132,064
Non Current Liabilities	5	<u>25,938</u>	<u>18,322</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>151,917</u>	<u>150,386</u>
Net Assets		<u>9,517,956</u>	<u>9,175,332</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 55 to 56.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	General \$	Specific \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue					
Bequests		15,000	-	15,000	-
Bookshop Sales	6	5,332	-	5,332	5,136
Donations and Levies		12,455	93,418	105,873	190,014
General Mission Program		-	53,823	53,823	65,463
Grants		1,743	-	1,743	116,332
Interest and Investment Income		286,873	355,074	641,947	521,460
Ministers' Conference		9,915	-	9,915	5,442
Tuition Fees	7	661,106	-	661,106	606,742
Rental Income		81,893	-	81,893	69,632
Total Revenue		1,074,317	502,315	1,576,632	1,580,222
Expenses					
Audit Fees		6,420	-	6,420	6,000
Bookshop Cost of Sales	6	2,759	-	2,759	4,921
Bursaries, Grants and Prizes	7.1	-	151,100	151,100	210,016
Depreciation		69,007	574	69,581	70,600
Education, Training and Library, Fees		174,551	-	174,551	155,711
Insurances		9,963	6,471	16,434	11,524
Office Expenses		31,281	-	31,281	22,296
Personnel Related Costs		607,848	127,206	735,054	648,283
Property Expenses and Improvements		42,060	4,769	46,829	38,625
Total Expenses		943,888	290,120	1,234,008	1,167,976
Surplus from ordinary activities		130,429	212,195	342,623	412,246
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		130,429	212,195	342,623	412,246

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 55 to 56.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	9,175,332	8,763,086
Surplus from ordinary activities	342,623	412,246
	<u>9,517,956</u>	<u>9,175,332</u>
Committee Funds		
2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes		
Fernside Trust - Manse Allowance	105,610	167,592
Bursaries & Scholarships	604,789	512,090
Diaconal Funds	226,421	233,013
Memorial Lecture	38,945	36,574
Needy Students	251,148	232,568
Overseas Students	66,438	60,403
Prizes	150,527	146,968
Theological College Building Fund	192,640	190,507
Theological College Building Fund - Library Appeal	360,059	257,368
	<u>1,996,576</u>	<u>1,837,082</u>
Total Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes		
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land and Buildings at cost	2,274,416	2,272,926
Accumulated Depreciation	(845,583)	(784,593)
	<u>1,428,833</u>	<u>1,488,333</u>
Plant and Equipment at Cost	91,590	91,590
Accumulated Depreciation	(89,695)	(87,692)
	<u>1,895</u>	<u>3,898</u>
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at Cost	286,261	347,115
Accumulated Depreciation	(253,546)	(320,246)
	<u>32,715</u>	<u>26,869</u>
Motor Vehicle at Cost	29,312	29,312
Accumulated Depreciation	(29,312)	(29,312)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>1,463,443</u>	<u>1,519,100</u>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
4. Current Liabilities			
Accrued Audit Fees		3,750	6,022
Bonds Received		4,208	5,418
Prepaid Tuition Fees		2,836	735
Employee Benefits		9,859	11,922
Provision for Annual Leave		20,925	16,247
Provision for Long Service Leave		20,777	19,297
Provision for Study Leave		59,564	69,543
Tuition Fees received in advance		4,060	2,880
		<u>125,979</u>	<u>132,064</u>
5. Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave		8,623	-
Provision for Study Leave		17,316	18,322
		<u>25,938</u>	<u>18,322</u>
6. Bookshop Trading Result			
Sales		5,332	5,136
Cost of Sales		(2,759)	(4,921)
		<u>2,573</u>	<u>215</u>
7. Tuition Fees			
Tuition Fees received in cash		531,551	464,662
Tuition Fees funded from specific trusts	7.1	129,555	142,080
		<u>661,106</u>	<u>606,742</u>
7.1	Bursaries, Grants and Prizes includes an amount of \$129,555 (2021 \$142,080) which is an internal allocation of funds from specific trusts for scholarships.		

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
WOMEN'S MINISTRY VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Committee Funds	1	22,173	-
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call			
General Purposes		22,173	-
Total Assets		22,173	-

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		
Conference Income	4,309	-
Donations	13,015	-
General Mission Programme	9,921	-
Interest and Investment Income	910	-
Total Revenue	28,155	-
Expenses		
Advertising	300	-
Bookstore purchases	250	-
Conference Expenses	5,158	-
Personnel related expenses	275	-
Total Expenses	5,983	-
Surplus from ordinary activities	22,173	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	22,173	-

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
1. Committee Funds		
Balance at beginning	-	-
Surplus from ordinary activities	22,173	-
Committee Funds	22,173	-
2.		
In October 2020 and May 2021 the General Assembly established this new committee to promote and focus more specifically on Women's ministries within the church throughout Victoria. This work was previously promoted within the Christian Education and Nurture Committee.		

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SITES RESERVE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Church Funds	2	<u>22,123,727</u>	<u>17,506,230</u>
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Investments			
Common Fund at Call		11,321,996	8,917,767
Separately Invested Funds	3	10,689,363	8,563,891
Sundry Debtors: Franking Credits		<u>112,369</u>	<u>24,572</u>
Total Assets		<u>22,123,727</u>	<u>17,506,230</u>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

		2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
Interest and Investment Income		1,007,876	656,203
Other Income		-	49,864
Proceeds from sale of property	4	<u>8,046,100</u>	<u>1,467,219</u>
Total Revenue		<u>9,053,976</u>	<u>2,173,287</u>
Expenses			
Ministry expenses incurred by congregations		1,297,805	764,924
Net Realised and Unrealised (Gain)/Loss on Investments		1,492,039	(1,017,697)
Property improvements and expenses		<u>1,646,635</u>	<u>1,041,587</u>
Total Expenses		<u>4,436,479</u>	<u>788,815</u>
Surplus from ordinary activities		<u>4,617,497</u>	<u>1,384,472</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Comprehensive Income		<u>4,617,497</u>	<u>1,384,472</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 59.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SITES RESERVE

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Sites Reserve Funds

Properties are held by the Church under the terms of the Model Trusts Deeds. Sites Reserve funds arise from the proceeds of the sale of property held by the Church. The General Assembly may approve the charitable purposes for which such funds may be applied.

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
2. Church Funds			
Balance at beginning		17,506,230	18,142,900
Less: Transfers to General Assembly	2.1	-	(2,021,142)
Surplus from ordinary activities		4,617,497	1,384,472
		<u>22,123,727</u>	<u>17,506,230</u>
Committee Funds			
		<u>22,123,727</u>	<u>17,506,230</u>

2.1 Transfers to General Assembly

In May 2021 the General Assembly approved the transfer of a total of \$2,021,142 from various Sites Reserve accounts for Designated Purposes.

3. Separately Invested Funds

Cash Assets	596,135	1,316,864
Investments and Securities	10,093,228	7,247,027
	<u>10,689,363</u>	<u>8,563,891</u>
Total Separately Invested Funds		
	<u>10,689,363</u>	<u>8,563,891</u>

4. Proceeds from Sale of Property

Ashburton	1,865,000	-
Anakie	680,000	-
Batesford	95,600	-
Belgrave Heights	-	747,447
Bendigo	812,000	-
Cardinia	840,000	-
Castlemaine	230,000	-
Clifton Hill	3,523,500	391,500
Dergholm	-	33,118
Moe	-	295,154
	<u>8,046,100</u>	<u>1,467,219</u>
Total Proceeds from Sale of Property		
	<u>8,046,100</u>	<u>1,467,219</u>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION

**Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2022**



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION

MEMBERS:

Rev B R Oakes B.Bus, M.Tax, B.Th. B.Min, MA(Min) - Chairman
Mr J Bligh B.Sc, B.Com
Mr E G de Zilwa B.Ec, LL.B, LL.M
Mr A Foster LLB(Hons), BA
Mr M Gibson B Surv(Hons), Grad Dip FP, CFP, SMSF SA
Mr D Graham B.E(Hons), B.Sc
Rev A J Venn Dip Int Des, Grad Dip OB, Dip Th, ICT (to October 2021)
Mr J Walter LL.B(Hons), MBA
Mr D Wright B.Bus, MIPA AFA

AUDITORS:

Saward Dawson

BANKERS:

National Australia Bank Limited

GENERAL MANAGER:

Mr M E Ellison, B.Sc, B.Com

INVESTMENT ADVISORS:

JBWere

SOLICITORS:

McCracken & McCracken

GENERAL OFFICE:

Assembly Hall
156 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 60 40 OF THE CHARITIES
AND NOT FOR PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2022, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60 40 of the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


SAWARD DAWSON



Peter Shields

Principal

20 Albert Street, Blackburn.

Dated: 29 August 2022

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

Opinion

We have audited the attached financial report being a special purpose financial report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, and the statement of Income and expenditure and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Trusts Corporation members' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation, is in accordance with the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the trustee's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and complying with the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 as amended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation to meet the requirements of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 to prepare financial statements. As a result the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Trusts Corporation Members' responsibility for the financial report

The Trusts Corporation Members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the Trusts Corporation Members. The Trusts Corporation Members' responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Trusts Corporation Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trusts Corporation.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trusts Corporation Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022
ABN 89276382053**

The financial statements have been prepared for distribution to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation for the purpose of fulfilling the Trusts Corporation Members' accountability requirements under the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial statements to which it relates to any person other than the Trusts Corporation Members or members of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We communicate with the Trusts Corporation Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


SAWARD DAWSON

Peter Shields
Principal

20 Albert Street, Blackburn

Dated: 29 August 2022

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION MEMBERS' STATEMENT

It is the opinion of the members of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation that:

- (a) The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements; and
- (b) this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 of the financial statements; and
- (c) The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation meets the definition of a Not for Profit Entity; and
- (d) the financial statements, set out on pages 7 to 27 are drawn up so as to present fairly the financial position of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation at 30 June 2022 and the results of its operations for the year then ended and are in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 Page 10 and comply with the provisions of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 as amended*.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation dated at Melbourne this sixteenth day of August 2022.



Rev B R Oakes B.Bus, M.Tax, B.Th. B.Min, MA(Min)
Chairman



Mr D Wright B.Bus, MIPA AFA
Trusts Corporation Member

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Trust Funds and Reserves			
Income Suspense Account		4,119,077	3,454,037
Common Fund Reserve		35,632,923	43,457,936
Total Church Funds	2	39,752,000	46,911,973
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	5(i)	7,371,122	10,893,935
Receivables	4	2,143,520	1,356,521
Investments	1		
Cash on Term Deposit		1,850,000	2,600,000
Investments and Securities		112,368,081	114,031,870
Total Current Assets		123,732,723	128,882,326
Non-Current Assets			
Investments	1		
Advances to Ministers		46,682	87,477
Mortgages and Loans		1,732,661	2,088,816
Total Investments		1,779,343	2,176,293
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		1,779,343	2,176,293
Total Assets		125,512,066	131,058,618
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		253,364	483,067
Trust Funds and Deposits		76,490,022	74,552,395
Total Current Liabilities		76,743,386	75,035,461
Non-Current Liabilities			
Trust Funds and Deposits - Perpetual		9,016,680	9,111,183
Total Non-Current Liabilities		9,016,680	9,111,183
Total Liabilities		85,760,066	84,146,645
Net Assets		39,752,000	46,911,973

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 10 to 14.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
Revenue			
Bequests		64,239	220,000
Commissions		71,967	57,700
Interest and Investment Income		6,246,961	4,711,382
Total Revenue		6,383,167	4,989,082
Other Income			
Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	1	(12,988,325)	12,160,881
Total Revenue and Other Income		(6,605,157)	17,149,963
Expenses			
Audit and Review Fees		42,658	32,400
Grants		71,967	57,700
Insurance Fire and General		8,634	9,290
Income Credited to Beneficial Trusts		237,332	8,214,229
Legal Fees and Costs		7,500	8,000
Management Fees		171,152	162,664
Office Expenses		12,639	2,321
Personnel Related Costs		2,934	3,553
Total Expenses		554,816	8,490,157
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	5(ii)	(7,159,973)	8,659,806
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		(7,159,973)	8,659,806

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 10 to 14.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	Income Suspense Account	Common Fund Reserve \$	Separately Invested Funds \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2020		2,667,241	35,584,927	-	38,252,167
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to beneficial trusts		3,414,523	(218,228)	1,296,858	4,493,154
Realised and Unrealised gains/(losses)		-	8,091,238	4,069,643	12,160,881
Surplus credited to beneficial trusts		(2,627,727)	-	(5,366,502)	(7,994,229)
Deficit from ordinary activities	2	786,796	7,873,010	-	8,659,806
Balance at 30 June 2021	2	3,454,037	43,457,936	-	46,911,973
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to beneficial trusts		4,368,574	(245,517)	1,878,387	6,001,444
Realised and Unrealised gains/(losses)		-	(8,579,496)	(4,408,828)	(12,988,325)
(Surplus)/Deficit credited to beneficial trusts		(2,703,534)	-	2,530,441	(173,093)
Transfers		(1,000,000)	1,000,000		
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	2	665,040	(7,825,014)	-	(7,159,973)
Balance at 30 June 2022	2	4,119,077	35,632,923	-	39,752,000

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts from operations		137,761	273,515
Cash payments from operations		(547,187)	14,006
Net cash (used in) operating activities	5(ii)	(409,426)	287,521
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest and Investment Income Received		5,458,407	4,355,075
Decrease in Trust funds and deposits		1,843,124	(1,926,333)
Payments for investment securities and term deposits		(14,192,829)	(16,813,437)
Proceeds from sale of investment securities and term deposits		3,974,448	14,402,336
Decrease in advances to Ministers		40,795	4,868
Net cash provided by investing activities		(2,876,056)	22,510
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid and investment distributions		(237,332)	(8,214,229)
Net cash provided by financing activities		(237,332)	(8,214,229)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(3,522,813)	(7,904,198)
Cash at the beginning of the year		10,893,935	18,798,133
Cash at the end of the year	5(i)	7,371,122	10,893,935

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 10 to 14.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant policies which have been adopted in the presentation of these financial statements are:

Basis of Preparation

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation is incorporated under the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 of the State of Victoria ("the Act") as a corporate body of trustees to hold property in trust for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. It is domiciled in the state of Victoria.

In the opinion of the Trustees, The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation, set out on pages 7 to 27, have been drawn up as a Special Purpose Financial Report for use by the Trustees and to fulfil the requirements of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890*, and of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to prepare financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention and on a going concern assumption. All figures are in Australian dollars. They do not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets except to the extent that the revaluation of land and buildings and investments (as noted in the financial statements) partially reflects such changes. Except where noted, the accounting policies have been consistently applied.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

Consolidation

The assets and liabilities, income and expenses of the Common Fund, and Separately Invested Funds held on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria form the Consolidated Statements of "The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation" as set out on pages 7 to 9.

The Consolidated Financial Statements, together with these notes have been prepared from the audited books and records for the year ended 30 June 2022 of the following activities:

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation - Common Fund
The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation - Separately Invested Funds

Properties which are used for the purposes of the Church or for any congregation are not included in these accounts.

All inter-activity balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Common Fund Investments are shown in three categories:

- (a) General Purposes - Those available for all purposes of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- (b) Specific Purposes - Those available for specified purposes only, details of which appear in the notes attached to the accounts.
- (c) Perpetual - Capital sums which must be preserved and cannot be expended.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services.

Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer.
2. Identify the performance obligations.
3. Determine the transaction price.
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations.
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred.

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues and dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are recorded at cost or deemed cost and are depreciated using the straight line method. Properties held by the Trusts Corporation for church purposes including for congregational purposes are not included in the accounts.

The assets' residual value and useful life are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income.

Income Tax

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is a non-profit entity registered as a religious charitable organisation with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and as such is exempt from Income Tax pursuant to Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Investments

Investments are carried in the financial statements at fair value and unrealised gains and losses are recognised in the Income Statement. Share and units in investment trusts have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$12,988,325 (2021 gain of 12,160,881).

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the organisation assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another standard. Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the organisation estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Comparative Figures

When changes are made as a result of changes to accounting standards or as a result of changes in accounting policies, comparative figures are adjusted to conform with the presentation in the current financial year.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the organisation during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Trusts Corporation evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the organisation.

Key estimates - Impairment

The organisation assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the organisation that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use or depreciated replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
2. Accumulated Funds and Reserves		
Balance at beginning	46,911,973	38,252,167
Surplus from ordinary activities	5,828,351	8,659,806
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Consolidated Funds	52,740,325	46,911,973
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Represented by:		
Income Suspense Account	4,119,077	3,454,037
Common Fund Reserve	35,632,923	43,457,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39,752,000	46,911,973
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost	10,327	10,327
Accumulated Depreciation	(10,327)	(10,327)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
4. Receivables		
Interest Receivable	293	335
Dividends Receivable	649,439	908,218
Franking Credits Receivable	1,444,432	397,057
Sundry Debtors	49,356	50,911
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,143,520	1,356,521
	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
5(i) Reconciliation of Cash		
For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank and on short term deposit. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	3,096,471	4,826,520
Cash on Short Term Deposit	4,274,651	6,067,415
	<u>7,371,122</u>	<u>10,893,935</u>
5(ii) Reconciliation of operating result to net cash provided by operating activities		
Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities	(7,159,973)	8,659,806
Add/(less) items classified as investing/financing activities		
Interest paid	237,332	8,214,229
Interest/dividends received	(6,246,961)	(4,711,382)
Add/(less) non-cash items:		
Net Realised and Unrealised (Gains)/Losses on Investments	12,988,325	(12,160,881)
Net cash (used in) operating activities before change in assets and liabilities	(181,278)	1,772
Change in assets and liabilities during the financial year		
Decrease in sundry debtors	1,555	(4,185)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accruals	(229,703)	289,934
Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities	<u>(409,426)</u>	<u>287,521</u>
6. Related Party Information		

The persons listed on page 1 of this report each held office as a member of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation during the period ended 30 June 2022. The Trusts Corporation members receive no remuneration or other benefit for their services as trustees.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Trust Funds and Reserves			
Accumulated funds	2	-	-
Represented by:			
Net Assets			
		-	-

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
Bequests	3	64,239	220,000
Commission from Scots Church Properties Trust	1	71,967	57,700
Total Revenue		136,206	277,700
Expenses			
Grant to General Assembly		71,967	57,700
Income credited to trusts for beneficial purposes		64,239	220,000
Payments made for beneficial purposes		-	-
Total Expenses		136,206	277,700
Surplus from ordinary activities		-	-
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income		-	-

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 16.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1. Commission from Scots Church Properties Trust

The Scots Church Trust Deed stipulates that the trustees of that trust shall pay a yearly sum to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation calculated at the rate of 2.5% of the rents received by the Scots Church Properties Trust from the commercial properties after deducting the cost not exceeding 5% of collection.

This represents the only income attributable to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation in its own right. All other income of the Trusts Corporation is earned on behalf of the trusts managed by the Trusts Corporation.

The Trusts Corporation has resolved to pass this income to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
2. Accumulated Funds		
Balance at beginning	-	-
Surplus from ordinary activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Funds	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3. Bequests		
Ian Malcolm Warner for Batesford Presbyterian Church	-	10,000
David Walter Mickle for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria	-	60,000
Marion Isabel Jennings for Hawthorn Presbyterian Church	-	150,000
Donald Ian Gillies for education and training of clergy	15,000	-
Donald Ian Gillies for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria	49,239	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	64,239	220,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Trust Funds and Reserves			
Income Suspense Account	2	4,119,077	3,454,037
Common Fund Reserve	2	35,632,923	43,457,936
Total Trust Funds		39,752,000	46,911,973
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets		4,302,084	6,093,742
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	3	1,789,870	1,286,650
Investments and Securities			
Cash held on Term Deposit	4	1,850,000	2,600,000
Investments and Securities	5	79,429,365	82,520,078
Total Investments		81,279,365	85,120,078
Total Current Assets		87,371,319	92,500,470
Non-Current Assets			
Investments and Securities			
Mortgages and Loans	6	1,732,661	2,088,816
Ministers' Car Loans	7	46,682	87,477
Total Investments		1,779,343	2,176,293
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		1,779,343	2,176,293
Total Assets		89,150,662	94,676,762
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	9	253,364	523,318
Trust Funds General and Specific	10	41,374,843	39,547,012
Total Current Liabilities		41,628,207	40,070,331
Non-Current Liabilities			
Trust Funds Perpetual	10	7,770,454	7,694,458
Total Non-Current Liabilities		7,770,454	7,694,458
Total Liabilities		49,398,662	47,764,789
Net Assets		39,752,000	46,911,973

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 19 to 23.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
INCOME SUSPENSE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
Interest and Investment Income		4,368,574	3,414,523
Total Revenue		<u>4,368,574</u>	<u>3,414,523</u>
Income Suspense carried forward from prior year	2	3,454,037	2,667,241
Distribution to Beneficiaries	10	(2,703,534)	(2,627,727)
Transfer to Common Fund Reserve	2	<u>(1,000,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Income Suspense	2	<u>4,119,077</u>	<u>3,454,037</u>

The rate of interest applied to the average monthly fund balances for distribution purposes were:

	%	%
Perpetual, Specific and General Trust Funds	7.00	7.00
"At Call" Account amounts up to \$600,000	3.50	3.50
Excess "At Call" amounts above \$600,000	3.50	3.50

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN COMMON FUND RESERVE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

Expenses

Accounting and Audit Fees		42,658	32,400
Insurance - Management Liability & Fidelity		8,634	9,290
Legal Fees and Costs		7,500	8,000
Management Fees Paid	11	171,152	162,664
Office Expenses		12,639	2,321
Training and Seminars		2,394	2,660
Travel and meeting costs		<u>540</u>	<u>893</u>
Total Expenses		<u>245,517</u>	<u>218,228</u>
Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	1	(8,579,496)	8,091,238
Transfer from Income Suspense Account		1,000,000	-
Accumulated Funds at beginning of the year		<u>43,457,936</u>	<u>35,584,927</u>
Common Fund Reserve		<u>35,632,923</u>	<u>43,457,936</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 19 to 23.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant policies which have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are:

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements, together with these notes have been prepared from the books and records for the year ended 30 June 2022 for the following entities:

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation - Common Fund

Basis of Accounting

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Common Fund is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements of this entity have been drawn up as a Special Purpose Financial Report for use by the Trustees and to fulfil the requirements of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890* for the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and on a going concern assumption. Property, Plant and Equipment assets have been valued under the historical cost convention but investments have been revalued to their market value at 30 June 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

Investments

Investments are carried in the financial statements at fair value. Shares, and units in investment trusts and managed funds have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$8,579,496 (2021 gain of \$8,091,238). Except where noted, the accounting policies have been consistently applied.

Trust Funds on Deposit

Trust Funds are either invested on separate account or are placed on deposit with the Common Fund. All deposits are at call with the exception of Perpetual Funds. The General and Specific Funds on deposit are recorded as current liabilities and the Perpetual Funds on deposit are recorded as non-current liabilities.

Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues and dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are recorded at cost or deemed cost and are depreciated using the straight line method.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the statement of comprehensive income.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Comparative Figures

When changes are made as a result of changes to accounting standards or as a result of changes in accounting policies, comparative figures are adjusted to conform with the presentation in the current financial year.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the organisation assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another standard. Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the organisation estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the organisation during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Trusts Corporation evaluates estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the organisation.

Key estimates - Impairment

The organisation assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the organisation that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use or depreciated replacement cost calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

2. Income Suspense Account

Common Fund distributable income in excess of the amounts distributed, as determined by the Trusts Corporation are carried forward to the credit of the Income Suspense Account.

Common Fund Reserve

In accordance with the provisions of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890* capital gains or losses within the Common Fund are charged to the credit or debit of the Common Fund Reserve and are not available for distribution to the beneficiaries.

Monies standing to the credit of the Common Fund Reserve are applied to the payment of costs and expenses to the extent allowed under the provisions of the Act as authorised by the Trusts Corporation.

		2022	2021
		\$	\$
Common Fund Reserve and Income Suspense Account			
Common Fund Reserve at beginning		43,457,936	35,584,927
Net Realised and Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments		(8,579,496)	8,091,238
Less Expenses		(245,517)	(218,228)
Plus transfer from Income Suspense Account	2.1	1,000,000	-
Common Fund Reserve		<u>35,632,923</u>	<u>43,457,936</u>
Income Suspense Account at beginning		3,454,037	2,667,241
Distributed during year		(2,703,534)	(2,627,727)
Interest and Investment Income		4,368,574	3,414,523
Transfer to Common Fund Reserve	2.1	(1,000,000)	-
Income Suspense Account		<u>4,119,077</u>	<u>3,454,037</u>
2.1 Transfer to Common Fund Reserve			
In accordance with S14B(4) of <i>The Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890</i>			
3. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments			
Dividends due from Public Companies and Unit Trusts		649,439	908,218
Fixed rate income accrued on term deposits		293	335
Franking credits on dividends		1,090,781	327,187
Goods and Services Tax refund		49,356	50,911
		<u>1,789,870</u>	<u>1,286,650</u>
4. Cash held on Term Deposit			
Current			
NAB		100,000	100,000
ANZ		-	1,250,000
NAB		<u>1,750,000</u>	<u>1,250,000</u>
		<u>1,850,000</u>	<u>2,600,000</u>

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
5. Investments and Securities		
Government Bonds	1,016,463	4,191,579
Credit	27,766,130	29,159,528
Real Assets	7,846,837	4,130,733
Australian Equities	21,891,825	29,205,571
International Equities	17,185,533	15,832,667
Uncorrelated Strategies	3,722,577	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	79,429,365	82,520,078
	<hr/>	<hr/>
6. Mortgages and Loans		
Loan to Presbyterian Church of Victoria Capital Fund	1,687,825	2,040,956
Other secured loans	44,836	47,859
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,732,661	2,088,816
	<hr/>	<hr/>
These funds are advanced under the authority of s14A(4) of the <i>Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890</i> and are a charge on the assets of the Church. The loans are secured by mortgages over residential property.		
7. Ministers' Car Loans		
Opening Balance	87,477	92,345
Add New Advances - Ministers	-	53,500
Interest and Administration Charges	2,675	3,478
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	90,151	149,323
Less Interest subsidy - Maintenance of the Ministry	(2,310)	(2,445)
Less Repayments - Ministers	(41,160)	(59,401)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing Balance	46,682	87,477
	<hr/>	<hr/>
These funds are advanced under the authority of s14A(4) of the <i>Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890</i> and are a charge on the assets of the Church.		
8. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost	10,327	10,327
Accumulated Depreciation	(10,327)	(10,327)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
9. Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Creditors and Accruals	253,364	173,318
Unsettled Investment transactions	-	350,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	253,364	523,318
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
10. Trust Funds		
General Assembly	14,123,103	15,310,836
Assembly Committees		
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic)	832,397	830,926
Christian Education and Nurture	1,463,808	1,438,447
Church and Nation	355,718	359,866
Church Planting	835,971	626,113
Health and Community Chaplaincy	1,802,562	1,748,125
Ministry Development	1,791,372	1,830,106
Maintenance of the Ministry	2,492,720	2,436,282
Metro	709,820	729,849
Presbyterian Youth in Victoria	509,988	507,323
Safe Church	153,466	151,351
Social Services	616,632	594,431
State News	70,561	60,423
Theological Education	8,179,517	7,783,544
Women's Ministry Victoria	22,173	-
Total Assembly Committees	19,836,706	19,096,785
Other		
Congregations	3,184,939	3,158,420
Sites Reserve	11,321,996	8,917,767
Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union	678,554	757,663
Total Trust Funds	49,145,298	47,241,471
Statement of Movement in Trust Fund Balances for the year ended 30 June 2022		
Trust funds at beginning	47,241,471	41,861,311
Deposits received	12,413,481	(2,627,727)
Income credited to trusts for beneficial purposes	2,703,534	2,627,727
Payments made for beneficial purposes	(13,213,188)	5,380,160
Total Trust Funds	49,145,298	47,241,471
Consisting of:		
Trust Funds General and Specific	41,374,843	39,547,012
Trust Funds Perpetual	7,770,454	7,694,458
Total Trust Funds	49,145,298	47,241,471
11. Management Fees Paid		
Common Fund Reserve	171,152	162,664
The method of charging management fees is based on services provided by the General Assembly office.		

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
SEPARATELY INVESTED FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Accumulated Funds and Reserves	2	-	-
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Cash Assets		3,069,038	4,800,194
Franking Credits Receivable		353,650	110,122
Investments and Securities			
Government Bonds		840,601	600,576
Credit		8,914,612	6,464,098
Real Assets		3,561,953	2,220,100
Australian Equities		9,273,912	11,737,057
International Equities		7,811,039	9,168,099
Uncorrelated Strategies		2,536,600	1,321,862
Total Investments		32,938,717	31,511,792
Total Current Assets		36,361,405	36,422,108
Total Assets		36,361,405	36,422,108
Current Liabilities			
Trust Funds General and Specific	3	34,761,529	34,895,261
Undistributed Income		353,650	110,122
Total Current Liabilities		35,115,179	35,005,382
Non-Current Liabilities			
Trust Funds Perpetual	3	1,246,226	1,416,725
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,246,226	1,416,725
Total Liabilities		36,361,405	36,422,108
Net Assets		-	-

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 26 to 27.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
SEPARATELY INVESTED FUNDS
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue			
Interest and Investment Income		1,878,387	1,296,858
Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	1	(4,408,828)	4,069,643
Total Revenue		<u>(2,530,441)</u>	<u>5,366,502</u>
Expenses			
Income/(Loss) Credited to Beneficiaries		<u>(2,530,441)</u>	<u>5,366,502</u>
Total Expenses		<u>(2,530,441)</u>	<u>5,366,502</u>
Surplus from ordinary activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Comprehensive Income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 26 to 27.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
SEPARATELY INVESTED FUNDS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant policies which have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are:

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements, together with these notes have been prepared from the books and records for the year ended 30 June 2022 for the following entities:

Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation
Separately Invested Funds

Basis of Accounting

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Separately Invested Funds is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements of this entity have been drawn up as Special Purpose Financial Reports for use by the Trustees and to fulfil the requirements of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890* for the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and on a going concern assumption.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

Investments

Investments are carried in the financial statements at fair value. Shares, convertible preference shares and units in investment trusts have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2022 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$4,408,828 (2021 gain of \$4,069,643). Except where noted the accounting policies have been consistently applied.

Trust Funds on Deposit

Trust Funds are invested on separate account for each trust.
All deposits are at call with the exception of Perpetual Funds. The General and Specific Funds on deposit are recorded as current liabilities and the Perpetual Funds on deposit are recorded as non-current liabilities.

Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues and dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.
All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
SEPARATELY INVESTED FUNDS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
2. Accumulated Funds		
Balance at beginning	-	-
Surplus from ordinary activities	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated Funds	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
3. Trust Funds		
Congregations	3,728,747	4,272,088
General Assembly		
Sites Reserve	10,689,363	8,563,891
Donaldson Trust	2,503,012	2,729,272
Ministers Retirement Housing	5,244,628	5,654,427
Health and Community Chaplaincy	1,173,680	1,329,480
Social Services	12,668,325	13,762,827
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Trust Funds	36,007,755	36,311,986
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Statement of Movement in Trust Fund Balances for the year ended 30 June 2022		
Trust funds at beginning	36,311,986	43,474,181
Deposits received	4,925,000	8,677,659
Income earned	(2,530,441)	5,366,502
Less Franking Credits Receivable	(353,650)	(110,122)
Payments to or on behalf of beneficiaries	(2,345,140)	(21,096,235)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Trust Funds	36,007,755	36,311,986
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Consisting of:		
Trust Funds General and Specific	34,761,529	34,895,261
Trust Funds Perpetual	1,246,226	1,416,725
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Trust Funds	36,007,755	36,311,986
	<hr/>	<hr/>

ASSEMBLY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2022 - 2023

Assessors Committee

[Membership *ex officio* – The Moderator, the Assembly Clerk, the convener of the Selection Committee and the convener of the Business Committee]

Convener: Moderator

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Victoria] Committee

[12 Members, 10 nominated by GAV, 2 nominated by PWMU, all appointed by the Assembly]

RT 23: Rev T Archer [24], Rev R Waterhouse [26], Rev K Bell [31]

RT 24: Mrs L Ellis [25], Mr M Campbell [31], Rev D Schulz [26]

RT 25: Rev J Mestry [28], Mrs W Moody [25], Miss M Price [31], Mrs D Brownley [31]

PWMU: Mrs S White [29], Mrs P Vandenberg [24]

Convener: Rev D Schulz [26]

Ballot Committee

[Appointed by each Assembly or Commission]

Board of Investment and Finance

[10 Members]

RT 23: Mr E de Zilwa [28], Mr D Graham [28]

RT 24: Mr J Walter [29], Rev B Oakes [24]

RT 25: Mr Matt Gibson [30], Mr D Wright [30]

RT 26: Vacancy, Mr J Bligh [26]

RT 27: Vacancy, Mr A Foster [27]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property Committee

[3 Members]

RT 23: Mr P Thomas [31]

RT 24: Mr R Kop [27]

RT 25: Mr D Wright [24]

Convener: Mr R Kop [26]

Business Committee

[4 Members of Assembly (who are not conveners of other reporting committees), *ex officio* the clerks of Assembly, Procurator, Law Agent, and during Assembly, the clerks of all presbyteries]

RT 23: Mr R Herweynen [31], Rev Dr J Hood [26]

RT 24: Rev B Cummins [30]

RT 25: Mr D Fraser [24]

Convener: Rev Dr J Hood [24]

Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee (GAV2022 min 123.11)

Moderator (Convener), the Immediate Past Moderator, the Assembly Clerk, the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee and two other members appointed by the Assembly.

Church And Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 23: Mr B Saunders [31], Mr P Stanton [29], Mr J Ballantyne [26]

RT 24: Rev J Walz [30], Vacancy, Vacancy, Mr I Waller [27]

RT 25: Rev M Jensen [30], Mrs J McHardy [27], Rev C Duke [25]

Convener: Rev C Duke [25]

Church Planting Committee

[7 Members]

RT 23: Mrs T Kelada [31], Rev L McSeveny [30], Vacancy

RT 24: Rev P Campbell [31], Rev A Boyd [24]

RT 25: Mrs A Grinter [31], Rev J Huynh [24]

Convener: Rev A Boyd [24]

Clerkship Committee

[4 Members (a convener who is a past Moderator and three clerks of presbyteries), plus *ex officio* the Moderator and the Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance (or his deputy)]

Clerks of presbyteries:

RT 23: Mr K Childs [28]

RT 24: Rev R White [28]

RT 25: Rev P Burns [28]

Convener: Mr C Morrow [25]

Code And General Administration Committee

[3 Members, plus *ex officio* the Clerks of Assembly, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, Chairman of Trusts Corporation (or a minister or elder in his place)]

RT 23: Mrs S de Pyle [30]

RT 24: Vacancy

RT 25: Mr R McIvor [30]

Convener: The Clerk of Assembly

Conciliation Committee

[6 Members: 3 Ministers and 3 Elders, from at least four presbyteries]

RT 23: Rev A Vines (Melbourne North) [27], Mr A Letcher (Maroondah) [29]

RT 24: Rev Dr K Hood (Gippsland) [29], Rev D Martin (Flinders) [29]

RT 25: Mr B Farquharson (Melbourne West) [29], Vacancy

Convener: Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, *ex officio* all ADF Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 23: Mr C Perry [30]

RT 24: Mr J Kapelles [30]

RT 25: Rev P Lee [31]

Convener: Rev M Fagan [24]

Exit Student Committee

[Membership *ex officio*]

Convener: MDC Convener

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Members]

RT 23: Mrs L Campbell [30], Mrs M Jones [27], Rev D Dixon [26]

RT 24: Mrs J Martin [28], Rev Dr K Hood [27], Dr J Neil [31], Vacancy

RT 25: Mrs R O'Brien [26], Mrs C Le Page [31], Vacancy

Convener: Rev D Dixon [26]

Maintenance Of The Ministry Committee

[4 Members]

RT 23: Rev C Garrett [29], Mr C Morrow [31]

RT 24: Mr A Putnins [31]

RT 25: Mr R Butcher [28]

Convener: Mr C Morrow [29]

METRO Committee

[8 Members]

RT 23: Vacancy, Mr A May [27], Rev L Brownley [26]

RT 24: Mrs J Arundell [30], Mr S Denness [30], Vacancy

RT 25: Rev C LePage [30], Mrs A Harris [26]

Convener: Rev C LePage [29]

Ministry Development Committee

[7 Members]

RT 23: Rev D Middleton [29], Mr R Kop [29], Rev G Stephens [30]

RT 24: Rev P Greiner [24], Rev R Grinter [31]

RT 25: Rev S Withers [25], Mr I Bramley [27]

Convener: Rev S Withers [25]

Overseas Visitors' Fund Committee

[Membership *ex officio* – The members of the Board of Investment and Finance and the conveners of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee, the Theological Education Committee, the Ministry Development Committee and the Church Planting Committee]

Convener: BIF Chairman

Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee (GAV 2022 min 123.17)

[7 Members, at least 4 members of Assembly (including the convener)]

RT 23: Rev L Isham [30], Rev Bagoes Seta [30], Vacancy

RT 24: Rev C Griffiths [27], Mrs M Denness [31]

RT 25: Mrs R Walz [30], Rev P Huynh [30]

Convener: Rev L Isham [29]

Safe Church Committee

[6 Members]

RT 23: Mrs H Thomas [31], Mrs L Griffiths [30]

RT 24: Mr G Hui [26], Rev B Harvey [26]

RT 25: Rev N Barbieri [31]

Convener: Rev B Harvey [24]

Selection Committee

[Nominated by the Code and General Administration Committee]

Social Services Committee

[7 Members]

RT 23: Mrs J Pilgrim [28], Mr T Cunneen [24], Vacancy

RT 24: Rev W McArdle [30], Rev S Wesley [31]

RT 25: Mr D Conradi [25], Mrs C Cunneen [31]

Convener: Mrs J Pilgrim [28]

State News Committee

[5 Members: At least 2 Ministers]

RT 23: Vacancy, Mr Rob Paix [31]

RT 24: Rev S McDonald [27]

RT 25: Mr P Betts [29], Vacancy

Convener: Rev S McDonald [26]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, *ex officio* the College Principal and another member of faculty]

RT 23: Rev J Born [30], Rev G Nicholson [25], Rev N Benfell [23]

RT 24: Mr D Wright [24], Rev K Maxwell [26], Vacancy, Rev M de Pyle [30]

RT 25: Rev R White [28], Mrs J McHardy [26], Rev S Jones [25]

Convener: Rev K Maxwell [26]

Women's Ministries Victoria Committee

[7 Members, at least two of whom are members of the Assembly]

RT 23: Rev B Johnson [29], Mrs ST Yap [29], Vacancy

RT 24: Mrs N Horman [31], Mrs A Weir [31]

RT 25: Mrs S McDonald [30], Rev R Grinter [29]

Convener: Rev B Johnson [27]

AD HOC COMMITTEES

ad hoc committee Deacons (GAV2022 min 132)

Douglas Milne (Convener), Darren Middleton, Jared Hood, Adam Humphries, Jordan Born, Stephen McDonald

ad hoc committee Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd (GAV June 2020 min 17)

Iain Bramley (Convener), James Bligh, Grant Lawry, Colin Morrow, and Toni Orchard

ad hoc committee PTC Library Fund (GAV2018 min 96.9)

Rev Dr Allan Harman (convener), Chris Siriweera, Grant Lawry, David Brown, Neil Benfell, Robert White, Mr Matthew Duke, Russell Walley, David Selman.

ad hoc committee Minority Options Negotiation of Sale of Assembly Hall

Three members of the Trusts Corporation (with the Chairman of the Trusts Corporation as Convener), the Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, conveners of the Ministry Development Committee and Church Planting Committee or their nominees.

ad hoc committee New Entity (GAV2022 min 32.4,5)

Moderator (Convener), Clerk, Law Agent, BIF Convener, three members appointed by BIF, plus three members of Assembly

ad hoc committee PCV Archives (GAV2022 min 28)

John Wilson (Convener), Dean Carroll, Ben Nelson, Cameron Garrett, Fiona Bligh, Cameron Weir, Annie Weir, Chris Palmer, Archivist

Special Commission for Clifton Hill Property purchase (GAV 2022 min 126)

Moderator (Chairman), Clerks of Assembly, Chairman TC, Secretary TC, inducted ministers Clifton Hill-Essendon charge, two members of Assembly

GAV COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Appeals Commission

[Moderator, a past-moderator, presbytery clerks and parity members]

Flinders: Rev B Peatman (clerk), (nil for parity)

Geelong: Rev R White (clerk), Mr B Stasse (parity)

Gippsland: Rev C Garrett (clerk), Mr T Guilford (parity)

Maroondah: Vacancy, Rev M Tonkin (parity)

Melbourne East: Mr K Childs (clerk), Rev B Nelson (parity)

Melbourne North: Vacancy, Mr T Cunneen (parity)

Melbourne West: Rev J Ellis (clerk), (nil for parity)

North East Victoria: Rev B Cummins (clerk), Mr G Dunstan (parity)

North Western Victoria: Rev P Burns (clerk), Mr C Morrow (parity)

South West Victoria: Rev I Leach (clerk), Mr T Warburton (parity)

Western Victoria: Mr M Oldfield (clerk), Mr S McKerrow (parity)

Past-Moderator: Vacancy.

Chairman: Moderator

Commission for Church Institutions

Moderator (chairman), Clerks of Assembly, John Cho, Trevor Cox, Peter Hastie, Philip Mercer, Graham Nicholson, John Stasse, Graeme Weber, elders Tom Guilford, Dr Jim Hare, Dennis Wright and Tony Zirngast, with five members to form a quorum

GAV PANEL

Panel of Discipline Assessors

[12 members, appointed by the Code and General Administration Committee; nominations permitted from presbyteries]

Revs M Crabb, R Waterhouse, K Brown, R White, C Garrett, G Stephens, P Court, P Orchard, T Fishwick, I Leach, Mr C Morrow, Vacancy

GAA APPOINTMENTS

GAV Commissioners for 2023 GAA

Ministers [5]: Moderator, Moderator Designate, Assistant to the Clerks, Rev R Grinter, Rev P Hastie.

Minister Alternates [5]: Rev G Nicholson, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Elders [5]: Mr K Childs, Mr T Guilford, Mr S Harris, Dr N Johnston, vacancy.

Elder Alternates [5]: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Moderator's Nominating Committee (GAV representatives for 2022)

Ministers [3]: Rev P Burns, Rev C Siriweera, Rev R White.

Elders [3]: Mr A Deeming, Mr S Harris, Mr B Palmer.

Commission of the General Assembly of Australia

[3 ministers and 3 elders, *ex officio* Officers of the GAA & former Moderators-General]

Ministers: Moderator, Deputy Clerk, Assistant to the Clerks

Ministers Alternate: Rev P Hastie

Elders: Mr P Betts, Mr A Letcher, Mr C Morrow

ex officio: Rev Dr A Harman, Rev Dr CR Thomas, Rev Dr JP Wilson

OTHER POSITIONS

Family Council of Victoria (BB 2007 Min 99.9)

Mr J Ballantyne

Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG) Representative (BB 2015 Min 123.2)

Rev C Duke

PWMU Cook Book Committee

[3 PCV, 1 PWMU + Convener (alternates between PCV & UCA Victoria/Tasmania)]

PWMU: Mrs R Brown

GAV: Mr J Angelico, Mrs D Cutler, Mrs G McKenzie

Convener: UCA appointee

St Andrew's Foundation (ABN 26 539 374 087)

Mrs M Conradi, Dr B Ellis, Mr I Bramley.

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4. Church Architect	150	53.3
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Ministry Development Ministry Grants (listed)	373	
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