

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA



PROCEEDINGS OF THE

**COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
MAY 2023**

AND OF THE

**URGENT MEETING GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 2023**

AND OF THE

**URGENT MEETING GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AUGUST 2023**

AND OF THE

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 2023**

AND OF THE

**URGENT MEETING GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOVEMBER 2023**

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

2022-23

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 Philip Burns, BAppSc, BTh |
| Acting Assistant to the Clerks: | Rev Cameron Garrett, BSc, GradDipEd, MDiv |
| Business Convener: | Rev Dr Jared C Hood, DipTh, BTh(Hons), GradCertTh, GradDipIS, MA(Th), MTh, ThM(1st hon), PhD |
| Business Convener(pro tem): | Rev Robert White |
| Law Agent: | Mr Geoff Cox, BA, LLB McCracken and McCracken Level 9 – 501 La Trobe Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 |

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAY 2023**

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 16 May 2023 at 10:30am.

1. Constitution and Devotion

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met in accord with Min. 139.7 GAV 2022, the Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips, having determined that the meeting would be held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 at 10:30am. Following the singing of a hymn, the Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Ben Nelson, read from Galatians 3:1-6, gave a brief message on the text and constituted the Commission of 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 2022, and who remain qualified to be members of the Assembly.

3. Clerk's declaration

The Moderator invited Rev Cameron Garrett, Acting Assistant to the Clerks, to make the declaration of faithful duty (Rule 6.6). Rev C Garrett made this declaration.

4. Apologies

The following apologies were received and sustained:

Ministers: John Angelico, Peter Barclay, Keith Bell, Neil Benfell, Robert Boan, Graham Bradbeer, Andrew Bray, David Brown, Matt Cole, John Cromarty, Don Elliott, Theo Fishwick, Brian Harvey, Neil Harvey, Karl Hood, Brett Peatman, Peter Roberts, Nathan Runham, David Schulz, Andrew Slater, John Sutherland, Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel, Willem Vandenberg, Jesse Walz, Surendra Wesley, Michael Wharton, Andrew Wong
Elders: Jack Adlawan, Geoff Cross, Elizabeth Cutler, Keith Ferres, Sabyan Hadjo, Graham Hammond, Robert Herweynen, Andrew Kerr, Ralph Kop, Jeremy Peet, Bert Stasse, Stephen Weir, Anton Zirngast

5. Associations

Nil

6. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev J 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 A Humphries (Convener), L Brownley, B Cummins
Elders D Fraser, D Wright
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. Appoint the Moderator (chairman) and the Clerks of Assembly a Special Commission to scrutinise the minutes of this Commission with the power to make any necessary corrections and to confirm them, and that a copy thereof be sent to all members, unless a later determination be made by this Commission.
10. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

7. 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.

The Convener of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, Elder C Morrow, declared a conflict of interest with clause 7 of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee's deliverance.

The Convener of the Board of Investment and Finance, Rev B Oakes, declared a conflict of interest with clause 12 of the Board of Investment and Finance deliverance.

The Clerk moved;

That the Commission of Assembly;

1. Permit Home Missionaries to remain in the court during the debate on clause 7 of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee's deliverance, but request him to refrain from participating in the debate and voting on the matter.
2. Permit the Convener of the Board of Investment and Finance to remain in the court during the debate on clause 12 of the Board of Investment and Finance's

deliverance, but request him to refrain from participating in the debate and voting on the matter.

The motion was seconded and approved.

8. Election of Moderator-Designate

The Clerk's report was received.

The Clerk moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Receive the nomination of Rev Ian Hutton (retired minister).
2. Elect Rev Ian Hutton, retired minister, as the Moderator-Designate for the 2023 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Ian Hutton addressed the Commission of Assembly.

The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

9. Ad Hoc Committee on Archives

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Archives was received.

The Convener, Rev J Wilson, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of the Assembly:

1. Authorise the PCV Trusts Corporation to enter into a lease of 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North on the terms and conditions of the proposed lease as submitted in the Assembly papers (White Book) subject to any and all amendments which the PCV Trusts Corporation considers appropriate and on the approval of the PCV Law Agent.
2. Instruct the ad hoc PCV Archives Committee to oversee maintenance, security, repairs, cleaning, outgoings, other budgetary issues and all overheads incurred by leasing 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North.
3. Commit to funding 40% of the rent and outgoings associated with the lease from the Archives budget funded from General Assembly funds over the term of the lease i.e. the next 6 years.
4. Commit to funding 20% of the rent and outgoings associated with the lease from the TEC budget over the term of the lease i.e. the next 6 years.
5. Indemnify the PCV Trusts Corporation against any and all demands, claims, suits, actions, damages, liabilities, losses, costs and expenses incurred in respect of, or arising from, being the authorised signatory on the lease of 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North.
6. Instruct the ad hoc PCV Archives Committee to explore, with advice from the Trusts Corporation and BIF, how the Presbyterian Church of Victoria may purchase 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North.
7. Authorise the ad hoc PCV Archives Committee, if funds cannot be found within PCV reserves, to launch a church-wide appeal on behalf of the PCV for the necessary funds to purchase the property at 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North.

The motion was seconded and approved.

A show of hands was called for.

The Moderator declared the motion approved.

Rev T McIntosh requested that his dissent be recorded.

10. Board of Investment and Finance

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

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-7 were approved.
 Clauses 8-10 were approved.
 Clause 11 was approved.
 Clause 12 was approved.
 Clause 13 was approved.

The Convener, Rev B Oakes, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:
 That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the General Mission Program for the financial year 2023/24 as follows:

| | 2023/24 \$ |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES: | |
| Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.) | 53,000 |
| Safe Church Committee | 170,000 |
| State News Committee | 7,500 |
| Theological Education – Bursary Fund | 30,000 |
| Women’s Ministries Victoria | 5,000 |
| Total General Mission Program | 265,500 |

2. Resolve that the total GMP be apportioned according to the attendance figures in the respective presbyteries as reported to the Ministry Development Committee by 16 March 2023 then applying an equalisation factor of 0.6 for presbyteries in country areas to take account of the different situation faced in those areas.
3. Approve the allocation of the total GMP for the financial year 2023/24 as follows:

| PRESBYTERY | Percentage of total | 2023/24 \$ |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Flinders | 14.93% | 39,650 |
| Geelong | 3.93% | 10,432 |
| Gippsland | 4.58% | 12,171 |
| Maroondah | 12.02% | 31,923 |
| Melbourne East | 20.88% | 55,427 |
| Melbourne North | 14.47% | 38,408 |
| Melbourne West | 15.97% | 42,410 |
| North East Victoria | 2.65% | 7,038 |
| North Western Victoria | 2.68% | 7,120 |
| South West Victoria | 4.46% | 11,840 |
| Western Victoria | 3.42% | 9,080 |
| TOTAL | 100.00% | 265,500 |

4. 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.
5. Request presbyteries to ask charges to pay their General Mission Program allocations in full early in the financial year 2023/24, or where this is not possible, to pay the amounts by monthly or quarterly instalments.
6. Approve the PCV contribution to the GAA annual operating costs for 2023/24 and beyond be met from the funds set aside to assist the GAA; at the discretion of the BIF subject to first meeting any other calls on the funds relating to GAA needs.
7. Set the General Assembly Rate at \$130,000 for 2023/24 (in addition to the component of \$12,000 to fund unforeseen employment liabilities); to be

- allocated to each congregation in proportion to the attendance figures collated by the Ministry Development Committee as at 16 March 2023.
8. Approve a budget of \$15,000 for sustentation in 2023/24 to be funded from the income on funds held by the General Assembly which were returned from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, with the grants to be administered and approved by the Ministry Development Committee.
 9. 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 2024 for the future use of the funds returned from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee which first meets the foreseeable need for sustentation support and then any other appropriate needs within the church.
 10. Transfer the balance of the General Funds of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee at 30 June 2023 to the General Assembly for the time being, to be added to the balance of funds previously returned last year.
 11. Request the Trusts Corporation to report to General Assembly on the appropriate application of the C M Wilson trust which is to fund grants to ministers (perpetual balance of \$42,465).
 12. Approve a payment from General Assembly funds to the charge of the Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance and the Trusts Corporation, as long as he is engaged in full time ministry in a charge, such payment to be 20% of the cost of stipend, NCB, housing and superannuation.
 13. Approve the committee budgets (excluding the Maintenance of Ministry Committee general budget which is provided for within the General Assembly operations) for 2023/24 as presented.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Clerkship Committee

The report of the Clerkship Committee was received.

The Convener, Elder C Morrow, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Commission of the Assembly:

1. Note the appointments of Rev Cameron Garrett as Acting Assistant to the Clerks and Rev Philip Burns as Acting Deputy Clerk until the October Assembly.
2. Pray for the clerks.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

12. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

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

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-6 were approved.

Clause 7 was approved unanimously.

Clauses 8-10 were approved.

Clause 11 was approved.

The Convener, Elder C Morrow, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

That the Commission of the Assembly:

1. Approve the Maintenance of Ministry Committee issuing new forms on the ARMS system as appropriate to fulfil its obligations under the terms of its regulations.
2. Notwithstanding Maintenance of Ministry Committee regulation 5(e), determine the Minimum rate of Employer Superannuation Contribution effective from 1 July 2023 to be equal to the Government's Super Guarantee percentage plus 5%, which percentage is to be calculated on the actual ministerial remuneration, with the actual dollar figure rounded up to the nearest multiple of 12.
3. Note the new rates that apply from 1 July 2023 as per the schedule below:

| All amounts are \$s unless marked otherwise | | 2023/2024 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Remuneration | | |
| 61% | Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MinMR) | 60,144 |
| | Stipend | 39,096 |
| 85% | Stipend (Home Missionary Minimum) | 33,232 |
| 35% | Non-Cash Benefits (NCB) | 21,048 |
| 16% | Superannuation | 9,624 |
| | <i>MinMR + Superannuation</i> | 69,768 |
| Honorarium | | |
| 2% | Business Convener | 1,203 |
| 3% | Assistant to the Clerks | 1,804 |
| 6% | Deputy Clerk | 3,609 |
| 10% | State Moderator | 6,014 |
| Levies | | |
| 1.4% | Long Service Leave Levy | 840 |
| Other Figures | | |
| 50% | Sustentation Qualifying Stipend (SQS) | 30,072 |
| Supply Rates | | |
| 0.25% | One Service | 150 |
| 0.30% | Two Services (same sermon) | 180 |
| 0.35% | Three Services (same sermon) | 211 |
| 0.45% | Two or More (different sermons) | 271 |
| Travel Rate | | |
| 75% | per km | 0.59 |

4. Remind charges and employing committees that employ Ministry Workers that the LSL levy is charged based on the number of eligible Ministry Workers employed (whether part-time or full-time) as at 1 July each year.
5. Remind presbyteries and charges of their obligations under rule 4.71 and 4.82 relating to monitoring and managing part-time ministries annually.
6. Strongly urge and encourage charges, in the light of increasing compliance complexity to make use of the centralised payroll system run through the church office to minimise risk.
7. Request the Ministry Development Committee in consultation with the Code Committee to bring a recommendation revising Ministry Development Committee Regulation 13d(ii), to increase the base stipend for Home Missionaries from 85% of stipend to 100% of stipend.
8. Instruct the MMC to:

- a. Advise all charges/committees of the reporting requirements relating to STP2.
 - b. Update ARMS with the new Terms of Settlement form as soon as possible, before 30 June, to enable users to clearly identify what is required to be reported for STP2 reporting requirements.
 - c. Advise all charges on the centralized payroll that amended Terms of Settlement forms should be declared before 30th June and provided to Church Office to ensure they have sufficient time to update individual payroll details.
9. Request the BIF to:
- a. Inform all congregations 12 months prior to expiry of the MDIS coverage of the need for the congregations to secure ongoing cover to start on the 65th birthday of religious practitioners.
 - b. Inform congregations and ministers of the risks associated with lacking cover.
 - c. Establish a centralized mechanism (including, if possible, a centralized Workcover policy) to minimize the risk faced by religious practitioners who have turned 65 and are on the centralized payroll system, and so will be without coverage in place in the event of a serious workplace injury.
 - d. Communicate with those charges who are not on the centralized payroll system advising them of the need to put in place risk mitigation strategies.
10. Note, that where the church office has not been advised of religious practitioners, who are under 65 years of age, being engaged by a charge or committee, that they are likely to be uninsured under MDIS nor covered by Workcover.
11. Request the BIF to:
- a. Consult with an expert in the field of interpreting the application of Tax Ruling 2019/3 to obtain a report providing comprehensive guidelines to assist the Assembly in acting as the final Arbiter in deciding who may be treated as a religious practitioner for payroll purposes (and thereby entitled to Exempt Benefits under s57 of the FBT Act). Such advice is to be paid for from the General Assembly General Operating budget.
 - b. Provide that report to the October 2023 Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was received.

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

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Replace the nomination of Rev Chris Siriweera with Rev Kyung Ee to the General Assembly of Australia for a position on the Reception of Ministers Committee.
2. Approve the following to serve as General Assembly of Victoria commissioners for the 2023 General Assembly of Australia:
 Ministers [5]: Moderator, Moderator Designate, Rev R Grinter, Rev P Hastie, Rev G Nicholson.
 Minister Alternates [5]: Rev J Huynh, Rev B Johnson, Rev P Campbell, Rev L Brownley, vacancy
 Elders [5]: Mr K Childs, Mr S Harris, Dr N Johnston, Mr J Hare, Mr D Wright.

Elder Alternates [5]: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.
The motion was seconded and approved

14. Theological Education Committee

The Convener, Rev K Maxwell, provided an explanation to the Commission of Assembly as to why the report of the TEC had been withdrawn.
The Moderator led the Commission of Assembly in prayer.

15. Special Judicial Committee

The report of the Special Judicial Committee was received.

16. Petition 1 - Presbytery of Western Victoria – Sale of Scotsburn property

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.
The petition was taken as read and received.
The petition was stated by Rev T McIntosh.
Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the sale of the Scotsburn property (Lot 1 on Plan 19774W).
2. Direct that the net proceeds of the sale of the Scotsburn property are paid:
 - a) firstly, sufficient to reimburse the Presbytery of Western Victoria for the last five years' Scotsburn property expenses incurred;
 - b) as to 10% of the remaining proceeds, a contribution to the Scotsburn Primary School and the Scotsburn community hall fund in a proportion decided by the Presbytery; and
 - c) as to 90% of the remaining proceeds, to the Presbytery of Western Victoria for church planting or future church property purchases within the Presbytery.

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev B Oakes moved an amendment to clause 2c) so that it would read;

- c) as to 90% of the remaining proceeds, to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for church planting or church property development.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clauses 1-2 were 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 the sale of the Scotsburn property (Lot 1 on Plan 19774W).
3. Direct that the net proceeds of the sale of the Scotsburn property are paid:
 - a) firstly, sufficient to reimburse the Presbytery of Western Victoria for the last five years' Scotsburn property expenses incurred;
 - b) as to 10% of the remaining proceeds, a contribution to the Scotsburn Primary School and the Scotsburn community hall fund in a proportion decided by the Presbytery; and

- c) as to 90% of the remaining proceeds, to the Presbytery of Western Victoria for church planting or future church property purchases within the Presbytery.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

17. Petition 2 – Presbytery of South West Victoria – Sale of Woodford property

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev I Leach.

Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Agree with the Presbytery of South West Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Woodford congregation.
2. Declare resolution 1 (above) immediately effective under rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.
3. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification that the congregation has finally been dissolved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

4. Authorise the sale of the Woodford property – five titles (Vol 9604, Fol 356; Vol 10554, Fol 025; Vol 627, Fol 266; Vol 11151, Fol 904; Vol 2994, Fol 609) and direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - a) \$300,000 to the Property Development Fund;
 - b) \$100,000 to the Koroit/Port Fairy Charge to be used to further ministry in the Charge;
 - c) as to the balance, for the use of the Presbytery of South West Victoria at the presbytery's discretion.

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. Agree with the Presbytery of South West Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Woodford congregation.
3. Declare resolution 1 (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 finally been dissolved.
5. Authorise the sale of the Woodford property – five titles (Vol 9604, Fol 356; Vol 10554, Fol 025; Vol 627, Fol 266; Vol 11151, Fol 904; Vol 2994, Fol 609) and direct that the net proceeds are paid:
 - a) \$300,000 to the Property Development Fund;

- b) \$100,000 to the Koroit/Port Fairy Charge to be used to further ministry in the Charge;
- c) as to the balance, for the use of the Presbytery of South West Victoria at the presbytery's discretion.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

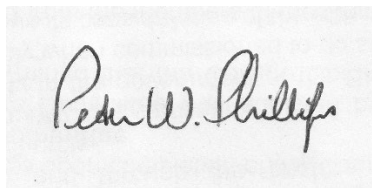
18. Dissolution

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

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P J Burns
C Garrett

Certificate

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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter W. Phillips".

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 (AC) | | Abraham Chol |
| Clayton | Michael Jensen Lam Paul Gak (Associate) | Arnis Putnins |
| Cranbourne | Peter Roberts | |
| Dandenong | | Robert Paix |
| Dromana-Mornington | Matt Cole | |
| Embrace Melbourne (AC) | Paul Jang | |
| Frankston | Jared Keath | |
| Mordialloc (AC) | Paul Huynh | |
| New Life, Officer | David Martin | Sabyan Hardjo |
| Somerville | | |
| Sorrento-Rye | Hui Lim | |
| South East Samoan | Kainano Opetaiia | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Peter Barclay | |
| | Ivan Barker | |
| | David Brown | |
| | Ken Brown | |
| | Frank Savage | |
| | Wally Zurrer | |

Presbytery of Geelong (V2)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bannockburn | Matthew Deroon | G (Bert) Stasse |
| Bellarine (AC) | Brett Cummins | |
| 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 McIvor |
| 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 | |
| Doncaster (HMC) | | Colin Flynn |
| Donvale | Gerald Vanderwert Joel Mestry (Assistant) Jordan Born (Assistant) Xien Yao (Assistant) | Iain Bramley |
| Heathmont | Brian Harvey | Doug Fraser |
| Kirkbrae | Paul K B Lee | |
| Mt Evelyn (AC) | Miles Fagan | Bruce Timmins |
| Warburton (HMC) | | |
| Woori Yallock | Tony Archer | Andre Dahmen |
| | | |
| PTC Lecturer | Jared Hood | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Tony Bird | |
| | Felix Chung | |
| | Trevor Cox | |
| | Wally Gear | |
| | Grant Lawry | |
| | Peter Orchard | |
| | Andrew Slater | |
| | Willem Vandenberg | |
| | 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 (HMC) | Tony Salisbury | |
| Gardenvale East (AC) | | |
| 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 (CPC) | Ben Kelada | |
| Eltham | Don Elliott | Ian Courts |
| Epping | Nello Barbieri Brian Luong (Associate) | Neil Furlong |
| Heidelberg (AC) | Bagoes Seta | Tom Cunneen |
| Hume (AC) | Luke Brownley | Tony Ruggeri |
| Kangaroo Ground (HMC) | | |
| Reservoir | Andrew Vines | Reg Butcher |
| Samoan | | |
| Valley (CPC) | 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) | | 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 | | |
| Sunshine-Melbourne West Korean (AC) | Samuel Son | Charles Okwo |
| West Footscray (HMC) | Martin de Pyle | |
| Williamstown | Daniel Dixon | |
| Wyndham | Peter Greiner | Harold Carpenter |
| 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 (AC) | | George Elliott |
| Seymour-Nagambie-Yea (HMC) | | Bill Day |
| Shepparton-Stanhope-Kyabram | Kyung Ee | Philip Betts |
| Tatura-Rushworth | | Gary Dunstan |
| Wangaratta-Myrtleford-Yarrawonga | | Malcolm Browning |
| Wodonga (AC) | Stuart Withers | |
| | | |
| TEC Convener | Kevin Maxwell | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Neil Harvey | Parity: Ralph Kop |
| | Ian Touzel | |

Presbytery of North Western Victoria (V9)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Bendigo | Philip Burns | Andrew Kerr |
| Bendigo East (Reforming) | Russ Grinter | Ryan Smith |
| Eaglehawk (AC) | Jesse Walz | |
| Kerang/Swan Hill (AC) | | 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 |
| Koroit-Port Fairy | | |
| Portland | Rod Waterhouse | |
| Warrnambool | Ben Johnson Shady Mehanni (Associate) | Robert Prout |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Neil Benfell | Parity: David Selman |
| | Ian Leach | |

Presbytery of Western Victoria (V11)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ararat-Skipton-Lismore (AC) | | Stewart McKerrow |
| Ballarat North (AC) | John Brennan | Graham Hammond |
| Ballarat South (Ebenezer St John's) | Toby McIntosh | Keith Mitchell |
| Ballarat West | Robert Duncanson | Jeremy Peet |
| Carisbrook-Castlemaine (HMC) | | Richard McArdle |
| Daylesford | | |
| Horsham | Greg Matthews | |
| Kaniva-Nhill (HMC) | | Bruce Meyer |
| | | |

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 6)

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, p15 (del p15, 10 clauses)
6. Nominations for Moderator-Designate, p75
7. Board of Investment and Finance, p22 (del p29, 13 clauses)
8. Ad hoc PCV Archives Committee, p17 (del p21, 7 clauses)
9. Clerkship Committee, p65 (del p65, 2 clauses)
10. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, p66 (del p73, 7 clauses)
11. Selection Committee, p76 (del p76, 2 clauses)
12. Communication 1 from TEC, p78
13. Theological Education Committee, p79 (del p79, 2 clauses)
14. Petition 1: Western Presbytery—sale of Scotsburn, p83
15. Petition 2: South West Presbytery —sale of Woodford, p87
16. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: PCV ARCHIVES (Min 9)

Background

The property next door to the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), namely 690 Elgar Road, has been vacant for some years, and, despite many attempts to sell it, the owners have not found a successful buyer. Originally when it appeared on the market, there was a reserve price of ~\$10M. Upon recent inquiries, the asking price appears to have been reduced to something less than \$6M. It remains vacant to this day.

The Archivist and the Clerk, starting in October 2022, have been engaged in an exhaustive search for a permanent home, inspecting several church premises, but without success. Currently, this precious resource of the church is held in three different locations, and there is a strong desire (and many good reasons) to bring them together.

Three matters drew the committee's attention to the property:

1. The committee's mandate to secure a permanent home for the PCV Archives (see GAV Oct 2022, Min 28(b)), but such search being unsuccessful to date.
2. The knowledge that the property next to the PTC has remained unsold for some years.
3. Our observations (from the vantage of the PTC) that the property's external appearance had deteriorated, making it both a security risk and a fire risk.

The committee's vision was captured by this idea, and it's view is that it might have found premises—a large footprint of prime Eastern suburbs land—that can provide a centre for all the church's administrative and ministry workers, which will be a Presbyterian Ministry Centre that will serve the church for decades.

The committee's vision is that 'the two shall become one'. This is a somewhat romanticised view, bearing in mind that the two properties (now: 684 and 690 Elgar Road) were all one property—a wonderful Christian Mission for children with serious disabilities (the Christian Service Centre) under the faithful leadership of Dawn Martin, among others.

Approach to the owners

At the urging of the ad hoc PCV Archives Committee:

1. The Clerk approached the owners (Bolton Clarke) with a view to ascertaining whether they would entertain the idea of a lease to the PCV. The Clerk's approach was that in view of the property's deteriorating appearance and the fact that they have not found a buyer, would they entertain an offer of a less-than-commercial rental to the PCV as a registered Basic Religious Charity.
2. At the same time, the Clerk inquired of two other PCV-connected organisations, namely Karl Hood's counselling service (MECCC—Melbourne East Christian Counselling Centre, essentially Presbyterian counsellors currently based at Donvale Presbyterian Church) and the PTC Library as to whether there is interest in sharing the rental with the PCV Archives. Each organisation is seriously in need of space.

Results so far

1. Nick Rudd, property manager Bolton Clarke, reported to the Clerk that they are very keen for such a lease, especially given the fact that if they lease it to a registered charity like PCV they will find relief from Property Tax. The other factor that persuades them to engage is that they have received complaints from the local Council regarding the poor condition of the grass and surrounds.
2. Subsequently, upon further negotiations, Bolton Clarke agreed to a rental of \$25,000 p.a., CPI adjusted, plus all the usual outgoings, on a 6-year lease, with PCV having the first option to buy. It is a very generous offer.
3. Bolton Clarke insisted that, though it is a six-year lease, there needs to be a six-month (either party) termination clause in the unlikely situation that they plan to develop the site for their own purposes or if they plan to sell to an outside purchaser following our refusal to buy.
4. A brief exploration of the budgets of the three organisations indicates the ability of each to bear a portion of the costs:
 - 40% PCV Archive
 - 40% Karl Hood's Presbyterian Counselling group (MECCC)
 - 20% PTC Library (passive use of one or two store rooms)

Budget

Overall, taking base-line rent together with the usual outgoings and then adding cleaning and maintenance and any unforeseen contingencies, we need to raise a budget of \$40,000 p.a. for this venture to be successful.

Upon investigation, it is clear that the PCV Archives can already meet the provision of \$15,000, and so can MECCC, and that there is already a PTC Library budget provision for \$10,000 for this purpose.

Where to now?

Upon receipt of their final offer by Bolton Clarke (7 Feb 2023), the offer was accepted by the ad hoc PCV Archives Committee, which has asked the owners to draw up a lease for our scrutiny.

The bigger picture is that the PCV should not be satisfied with a lease but would embrace the committee's vision of owning the entire property from 682–690 Elgar Road and make this a Presbyterian hub of gospel ministry. The lease will have a clause saying that the PCV has the first right of refusal to purchase, but satisfaction should not be found in that. Let us find the \$5–\$7 million required now, because if a developer decides to buy it, we will have lost this opportunity forever. Let us not miss this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

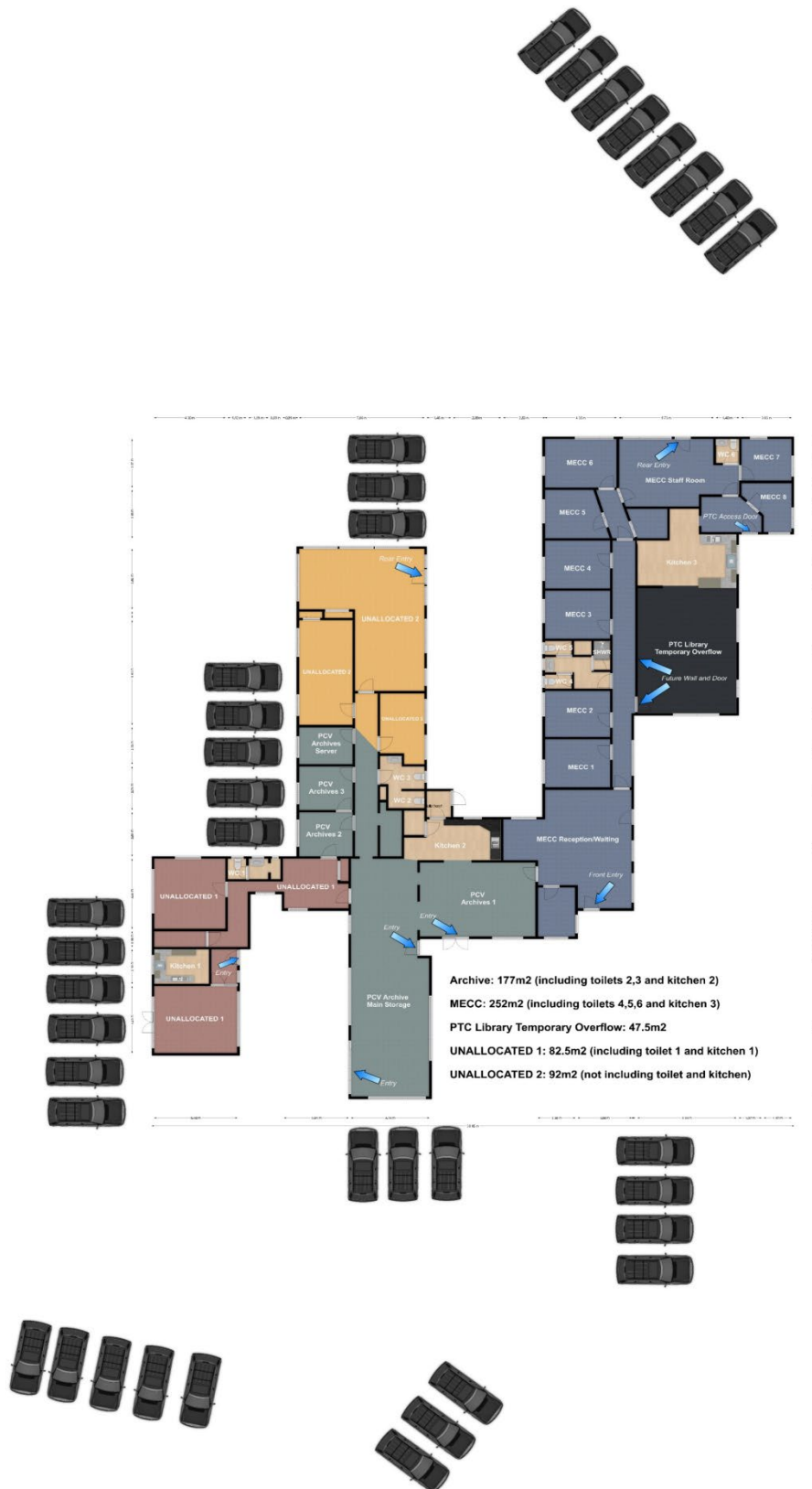
The committee brings this to the attention of the Commission of Assembly and for its decisions. The whole matter has emerged since the last meeting of the General Assembly (October 2022) and is urgent and in need of executive action. If the matter is delayed, the committee believes that Bolton Clarke will walk away from this deal, withdrawing their offer, and thus the opportunity to move forward would be lost.

APPENDICES

(1) Exterior view



(2) Possible interior allocation



John P Wilson
CONVENER

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min 10)

General Mission Program

TEC Bursary funding

The Commission of Assembly in May 2022 approved:

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. (BB 2022 Commission min 8.1)

The TEC and BIF have accordingly reduced the GMP allocation to \$30,000 for the coming year.

Safe Church funding

The Safe Church Committee has requested an increase in the hours of the Compliance and Administration Officer from 2 days per week to 3 days per week. This has resulted in an increase in the GMP by \$20,000.

GMP recommendation

The requests from other committees are shown in the table below. The resulting net total of the GMP for 2023/24 is \$265,500. This represents a small decrease compared to the prior year.

The proposed GMP funding for 2023/24 is shown below with the 2022/23 amounts shown for comparison:

| | Approved 2022/2023 | Recommendation 2023/2024 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES | \$ | \$ |
| APWM (Vic) | 58,150 | 53,000 |
| Safe Church Committee | 150,000 | 170,000 |
| State News | 13,600 | 7,500 |
| Theological Education (Bursary) | 40,000 | 30,000 |
| Women's Ministries Victoria | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| TOTAL GMP | <u>266,750</u> | <u>265,500</u> |

The 2022 Commission of Assembly approved the formula for the allocation to presbyteries of 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. (BB 2022 Commission min 8.3)

Based on this method the recommended allocations to presbyteries for 2023/24 are as follows:

| PRESBYTERY | Percentage of LY total | Percentage of total | 2023/24 \$ |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Flinders | 13.71% | 14.93% | 39,650 |
| Geelong | 3.08% | 3.93% | 10,432 |
| Gippsland | 4.55% | 4.58% | 12,171 |
| Maroondah | 10.30% | 12.02% | 31,923 |
| Melbourne East | 22.24% | 20.88% | 55,427 |
| Melbourne North | 18.93% | 14.47% | 38,408 |
| Melbourne West | 15.26% | 15.97% | 42,410 |
| North East Victoria | 3.01% | 2.65% | 7,038 |
| North Western Victoria | 1.98% | 2.68% | 7,120 |
| South West Victoria | 3.40% | 4.46% | 11,840 |
| Western Victoria | 3.54% | 3.42% | 9,080 |
| TOTAL | 100.00% | 100.00% | 265,500 |

The percentage allocations for 2022/23 are shown for comparison purposes. There have been significant movements in the statistics reported over the prior year which have a large impact on allocations to some presbyteries.

GAA Funds

The Commission of Assembly in May 2022 agreed to fund the PCV contribution of the GAA operating costs from those funds set aside to assist the GAA. Some projects which had been approved for funding by previous General Assemblies had failed to materialise.

Based on information received from the Clerk following the 2022 Commission of Assembly, it appears unlikely that funds previously approved will be called upon and there are no new projects anticipated. The BIF recommends that the GAA fund continue to be used to meet the PCV contribution to the annual costs of the GAA at the discretion of the BIF provided there are no other calls on the funds relating to GAA needs.

General Assembly Rate

In accordance with BIF regulation 10, the BIF recommends a General Assembly Rate of \$130,000 to be allocated to each congregation in proportion to the attendance figures collated by the Ministry Development Committee at March 2023, which is the same basis as was applied last year.

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).

Sustentation grants funding

The May 2022 Commission of Assembly resolved to:

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. (BB 2022 Commission min 8.12)

The Ministry Development Committee has reported that while it does not consider it appropriate that additional funds are transferred to the committee for sustentation, it does consider there is need for additional funds to cover the potential cost of sustentation grants in 2023/24 and beyond. It intends to reconsider the need next year in preparation of the 2024/25 budget.

The BIF recommends:

- that sustentation continue to be funded from the income on the funds returned to the General Assembly last year
- no allocation of returned funds be made for the time being
- that the BIF in consultation with the Ministry Development Committee report to the Commission of Assembly in May 2024 on the future use of the funds returned to the Assembly from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.

Budget presentation - Specific Trusts

Under the authority of Section 14 of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890, any trust funds which are not subject to any express trust are to be “dealt with in such a manner as the General Assembly may from time to time direct”. This includes the general funds which are assigned to the various committees of the Assembly. Property which is subject to any express trust, is to be “managed and dealt with by [The Trusts Corporation] in conformity with such expressed trust”. We refer to such funds as Specific Trusts.

While both types of trusts are included in the presentation of committee budgets to the Commission of Assembly for approval, the consequences of such approval has a different meaning in respect of the trusts which the Trusts Corporation has authority to manage.

For specific trusts, the Trusts Corporation does not require the approval or consent of the Commission or Assembly in order to expend funds in its administration of trusts. Conversely, the approval of the budget for any specific trust does not limit the authority of the Trusts Corporation to approve or otherwise any expenditure from such trusts. Nevertheless it remains helpful for the Commission to have the opportunity to see and approve the proposed expenditure from specific trusts which in some cases is broad and extensive such as the MDC and CPC funds which flow from the Scots Church Properties Trust.

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 where appropriate.

Presbyterian Youth and Children’s Committee

The committee has proposed expenditure from the Allan trust to support the remuneration of the Youth and Children’s worker. In view of the previous advice from the Trusts Corporation to the committee that funding of the youth worker from the Allan trust should not be relied upon until such time as the purposes of the trust have been clarified, the BIF has removed the proposed expenditure as well as the proposed expenditure on consultancy. In this instance the inclusion of such expenditure in a budget is likely to lead to confusion and misunderstandings while the compliance of the proposed expenditure with the terms of the trust is uncertain.

As a matter of some urgency the Trusts Corporation is proceeding to seek clarification of the terms of the trust from the court. The intention is that this will enable the fund to be used more appropriately in the future than has been the case in the past. Once the terms have been addressed, appropriate expenditures can proceed. The lack of budgetary approval by the Commission does not prevent the Trusts Corporation from proceeding to apply the funds in conjunction with the committee once the terms are clear.

Maintenance of Ministry funds.

Last year the responsibility for sustentation was transferred from the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to the Ministry Development Committee. As a consequence the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee returned \$850,000 of its general funds to the General Assembly.

Following that change, the regulations of the committee no longer provide for any form of expenditure on grants. The committee has been funding the subsidy on ministers' car loans but has proposed that this be funded from the General Assembly funds as the Trusts Corporation/BIF is responsible for approving the car loans. The BIF is not opposed to this provided there is an appropriate source of funding.

Consequently the budget for the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee consists entirely of expenses related to the committee. Those expenses are temporarily inflated on the expectation that the committee may require professional advice in relation to various legislative matters relating to employment.

In view of these matters, it does not seem necessary for the committee to retain its own general funds. Instead the committee expenses could be funded within the budget for the General Assembly as is the case for the Building and Architecture Committee.

Women's Ministries Victoria

With the approval of the Assembly, the Committee has been seeking to fund the position of the Women's Ministries Facilitator through donations from presbyteries and congregations. It was anticipated that this position would be 0.6 FTE. The committee has found that funding on this basis has been insufficient to support the position at that level. However, in August 2022, the BIF approved a 12 month appointment at 13 hours per week.

The committee has expressed the view that such an appointment should not be funded from donations which take a lot of effort to raise, and that model is not a sufficiently stable and secure basis for making a commitment to ongoing employment. The BIF shares this view.

The committee has indicated that it intends to seek the approval of the Assembly in October to fund the 0.6 FTE position from GMP for the 2024/25 year and ongoing. The budget presentation reflects the current funding constraints without making any assumptions beyond June 2024.

Archives budget

The Archives budget is funded within the General Assembly General operations budget. In recent years there has been little to no income to the archives so the operating expenses have been funded almost exclusively from the income of the General Assembly.

The budget presented shows an increase in operating expenses from \$60,000 to \$70,000 and capital expenditure of \$20,000 in the 2023/24 year. These increases are largely in response to the proposed housing of the archive in rented accommodation at 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North. We understand that the Assembly Clerk will report on this proposal to the Commission.

The expenses for 2023/24 are expected to be offset by a once off donation from Scots Church of \$10,000 as a contribution to the integration of its archive database within that of the PCV archive.

General Assembly budget

The BIF brought a recommendation to the October 2022 Assembly seeking approval for financial assistance for the charge of the Chairman of the BIF and Trusts Corporation in the case where he was a full-time minister. While it appeared that the Assembly was in sympathy with the request, it did not however approve the recommendation. Consequently the incumbent and his charge continue to carry the burden on behalf of the Assembly without any relief.

The BIF is well served by its present Chairman who brings a wealth of business and church experience to the position and makes an invaluable contribution on many associated ad hoc and standing committees. It would be difficult to replace him on the committee let alone as Chairman. We are aware that without some relief to assist his charge to manage the additional demands which take the Chairman away from his parish responsibilities, we may lose a most valuable member. That will only compound the difficulties currently faced by the denomination in identifying suitably qualified persons who are willing to serve on this demanding and important committee of the Assembly. We believe this problem will confront any full-time minister who is trying to faithfully discharge the duties of his calling in a charge, and serve the wider church as Chairman of the BIF at the same time. This problem needs to be addressed.

Much of the debate at the October Assembly surrounded the proposition that the Chairman should not be a PCV minister as it is too demanding. Whilst committee leadership places additional workload on ministers (to varying degrees), as a denomination we intuitively recognise that there are benefits to ministers chairing or convening committees as this is the case with virtually every committee. Ministers bring to the role not only certain skills and experience but also a fundamental understanding of 'grass roots' ministry. The consequence of barring PCV ministers from this role is that it must be filled by another volunteer member. Most members of the BIF are engaged in full time employment in senior roles which carry significant responsibility. Most are already involved in various ad hoc sub-committees and delegations of the BIF/TC which require significant addition time commitments and are not easy to fit into their schedules. The most common reason for non-minister retiring from the BIF before the expiry of their term is that the demands are too great. We believe the more appropriate and effective remedy is to support the minister in his parish work than to place additional burdens on the laypeople on the BIF.

We respectfully encourage the Commission to reconsider this matter and urge that the relief proposed be granted.

While this report appears above the name of the Chairman, he was refrained from any vote on this issue and was not substantively involved in drafting this part of the report and the associated deliverance. The process was conducted throughout under the oversight of the vice-chairmen. Persons other than the Chairman have been delegated to speak to the Commission on this issue and move the deliverance.

The budget includes provision for consultants fees of \$40,000 in anticipation of possible expenditure in relation to the ad hoc New Entity committee. Legal fees have also been increased in relation to this matter as well as advice relating to various employment related issues.

Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation.

In October 2022 the General Assembly resolved to:

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. (BB 2022 min 129.5)

As a first step the BIF has made inquiries of the church's insurer to ascertain the extent if any of our insurance policies may respond to any prospective claims. The insurer requested and was supplied with copies of:

- A. PCV Code of Conduct for members of the church in the context of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act)¹, and
- B. 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

which were approved at the same General Assembly. At the time of drafting this report, the BIF has not heard further from the insurer.

It is difficult for the BIF to quantify the level of financial support which may be required to meet the expressed needs. We can only assume that it could be considerable.

The BIF provides the following general framework for consideration by the Assembly:

There are limited funds available to meet such needs. Other important needs within the church remain substantially unfunded. For example:

- the critical work of the Safe Church Committee is being funded largely from GMP contributions
- the General Assembly is reliant on the Assembly Levy in order to balance its budget with the prospect of significant increase in staff costs to meet the ever expanding compliance issues the church is faced with
- other ministries including Women's Ministries Victoria do not have an adequate capital base to fund its work
- the Property Development Fund has no regular source of funds and is generally unable to meet the demands for property acquisitions
- there is no funding set aside to respond to any unforeseen liabilities which may arise (apart from the recently established fund to respond to emergency employment issues)

The reality is that unless the overall position is changed to provide funds for such contingencies then the Sinking Fund is the obvious mechanism to meet the need.

At the time funds are required, an assessment of the capacity of the Sinking Fund to meet that need in addition to the current matters will be required. If there are insufficient funds to meet both needs then further funds will need to be raised by a similar process to what was agreed at the recent Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2022.

The totality of the Sinking Fund balance is committed to current needs which are real, whereas this need is for the time being is a contingent need. Funds would only be released from the Sinking Fund for other purposes after the Trusts Corporation has a high degree of confidence that the present real needs have been fully funded and there is very low likelihood of further claims on the funds.

The BIF considers it would be prudent for the Assembly to prioritise future proceeds of property sales to meet such contingencies, especially where the congregation no longer exists. At a practical level, the process around the Assembly decision to approve the purposes of the proceeds of sale of property, particularly in relation to a deceased congregation, requires a view of the church as a whole, which is understandably beyond the ambit of any presbytery bringing a petition under our current processes.

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 Nagambie Church Hall for no less than \$200 per week for a period up to 3 years (228/22)
- lease of the manse at 40 Radiata Street, Frankston North for up to 3 years (279/22)
- lease of the manse at 12 Erwin Drive, Seaford for up to 3 years (279/22)
- lease of the manse at 30 Radiata Street Frankston North for up to 2 years (279/22)
- lease of 945 Yan Yean Road for a further 12 months to 31 December 2023 (316/22)
- lease of vacant land in Anzac Street Koroit for a further term of 3 years at not less than \$3,000 (321/22)
- lease of 12 London Road Wodonga (Volume 8999 Folio 152) for a period of 12 months for not less than \$1,400 per month (020/23)
- lease of the manse at 9 Mortoo Street, Swan Hill for no less than \$380 per week for up to 2 years (032/23).

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 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Women’s Ministries Victoria | Additional \$5,240 (total \$19,840) | Wages and on-costs |

Barry Oakes
CHAIRMAN

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| | | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|------|--|
| Account No | Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 8 Months to Feb-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1020 | Assembly Rate | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 130,000 | 130,000 | 130,000 | | | |
| | Assembly Rate: Employment Liabilities | | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | | | | |
| 1160 | Donations | (1,244) | 3,996 | 113 | 3,996 | | | | | | |
| 1340 | Grants | - | - | 1,625 | 1,625 | | | | | | |
| 1350 | Interest Common Fund General and Assembly Hall | 493,915 | 448,994 | 357,177 | 527,000 | 535,000 | 534,000 | 529,000 | | | |
| | Interest Transfer ex Fraser Trust | | 23,750 | (12,959) | - | - | 31,730 | 32,370 | | | |
| | C&N funds / Pensioners Reserve - Interest Transfer | | 32,444 | 21,812 | 33,139 | 33,139 | 33,139 | 33,139 | | | |
| | Interest Transfer - MoM funds | | | | - | 63,476 | 3,500 | 3,500 | | | |
| 1440 | Other investment income (Porter) | 35,666 | 28,000 | 33,288 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 | | | |
| 1530 | Management Fees | 171,152 | 187,440 | 109,268 | 163,902 | 171,892 | 179,406 | 185,239 | | | |
| 1620 | Trusts Corporation donation (SCPT) | 71,967 | 75,000 | 83,902 | 83,902 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | | | |
| 1650 | Sundry Income | 4,500 | - | 4,773 | 4,773 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | | | |
| | Archives Income | | | | | 10,500 | 500 | 500 | | | |
| Total Income | | 875,957 | 911,624 | 710,999 | 958,337 | 1,068,007 | 1,036,276 | 1,025,749 | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2290 | Grants PWMU Rent | 3,600 | 3,600 | 2,490 | 3,750 | 3,780 | 3,893 | 4,010 | | | |
| 2290 | Subsidy - Ministers Car loans | | | | | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 | | | |
| Staff Related Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2910 | Salaries & Wages | 442,995 | 452,784 | 288,334 | 442,554 | 507,262 | 531,762 | 550,925 | | | |
| 2940 | Superannuation | 46,789 | 50,388 | 34,722 | 53,345 | 60,619 | 65,370 | 69,727 | | | |
| 2920 | Fringe Benefits (Employee) | 51,675 | 47,700 | 31,800 | 47,700 | 47,700 | 47,700 | 47,700 | | | |
| 2925 | Fringe Benefits Tax | 24,287 | 22,416 | 14,946 | 22,419 | 22,419 | 22,419 | 22,419 | | | |
| 2980 | Temporary Staff | - | 4,000 | 7,463 | 7,463 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | | | |
| 2950 | WorkCover Levy | 4,365 | 4,370 | 5,624 | 5,624 | 5,710 | 6,430 | 6,723 | | | |
| 2960 | Long Service Leave accrual | 9,377 | 8,748 | 7,760 | 10,443 | 5,776 | (7,798) | 11,336 | | | |
| 2990 | Other Personnel Costs | 18,675 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | - | | | |
| Total Staff Related Expenses | | 598,162 | 602,406 | 402,649 | 601,547 | 665,487 | 681,882 | 712,829 | | | |

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| | | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------|--|------|--|
| Account No | Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 8 Months to Feb-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | | | | |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2010 | Accounting & Audit Fees | 23,470 | 22,380 | 17,696 | 22,380 | 22,382 | 23,501 | 24,676 | | | | |
| 2060 | Bank Charges | - | 1,296 | 101 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | | | | |
| 2110 | Cleaning & Rubbish Removal | 3,003 | 3,096 | 1,476 | 3,003 | 3,093 | 3,153 | 3,311 | | | | |
| 2120 | Committee Expenses - Travel | - | 212 | 1,471 | 200 | 600 | 600 | 600 | | | | |
| 2120 | Church Architect | 7,618 | 2,500 | 5,577 | 8,000 | 8,400 | 8,610 | 8,825 | | | | |
| 2120 | MOMC Committee expenses | | | | | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | | | | |
| 2120 | BIF Chairman's parish | | | | | 20,400 | 21,216 | 21,852 | | | | |
| 2130 | Computer & Software Costs | 22,558 | 15,000 | 12,260 | 15,000 | 16,000 | 16,480 | 16,974 | | | | |
| 2150 | Consultancy | 25,000 | 49,500 | 11,790 | 20,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 | 10,000 | | | | |
| 2180 | Depreciation - Furniture & Equipment | 4,801 | 8,004 | 4,081 | 6,000 | 8,250 | 8,480 | 9,300 | | | | |
| 2220 | Education & Training | 3,071 | 3,996 | 718 | 3,996 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | | | | |
| 2230 | General Assembly week - Expenses | 743 | 8,000 | 7,225 | 9,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,250 | | | | |
| 2230 | Ministers Wives Dinner | | 1,500 | 1,363 | 1,363 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | | | | |
| 2235 | General Assembly Australia Expenses | 17,440 | - | - | - | - | - | - | | | | |
| 2250 | General Expenses | 227 | 504 | 260 | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 | | | | |
| 2340 | Honoraria | 4,589 | 6,434 | 5,465 | 5,465 | 6,014 | 6,255 | 6,442 | | | | |
| 2390 | Insurance | 9,204 | 8,519 | 8,325 | 8,325 | 8,741 | 9,178 | 9,637 | | | | |
| 2500 | Legal Expenses | 42,396 | 50,000 | 50,134 | 75,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | 80,000 | | | | |
| 2660 | Postage Printing & Stationery | 4,661 | 6,300 | 2,675 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | | | | |
| 2700 | Property Maintenance | 1,122 | - | 65 | 65 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | | | | |
| 2720 | Office Rent General Assembly | 67,356 | 69,384 | 46,256 | 69,384 | 71,466 | 73,609 | 75,818 | | | | |
| 2730 | Repairs & Maintenance - Equipment | - | 204 | - | 204 | 200 | 200 | 200 | | | | |
| 2770 | Staff Amenities | 217 | 996 | 659 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | | | | |
| 2810 | Telephone & Internet | 1,097 | 1,404 | 1,196 | 2,300 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | | | | |
| 2820 | Travel & Accommodation | 1,254 | 2,508 | 1,601 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | | | | |
| 2830 | Utilities | 1,311 | 2,004 | 1,005 | 2,004 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | | | | |
| 2840 | Website-Maintenance & Support | 2,932 | 3,504 | 3,116 | 3,504 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,200 | | | | |
| Total Assembly Related Expenses | | 244,070 | 267,245 | 184,517 | 261,897 | 325,946 | 331,683 | 303,486 | | | | |
| Total Archive Related Expenses | | 39,477 | 59,195 | 35,278 | 50,857 | 72,398 | 73,778 | 75,899 | | | | |
| Total Expenses | | 885,309 | 932,446 | 624,933 | 918,052 | 1,071,110 | 1,094,737 | 1,099,724 | | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | | (9,352) | (20,822) | 86,066 | 40,285 | (3,103) | (58,461) | (73,976) | | | | |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Server/lws replacement / Computer equipment | | 3,000 | | 3,000 | 9,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | | | | |
| | Office Furn & Equip | 11,835 | 1,000 | | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | | | | |
| | Assembly Sound equipment | | | | | 3,000 | | | | | | |
| | Archives Capital Items | | | | | 21,700 | 0 | 0 | | | | |

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 8 Months to Feb-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Balance Sheet Items | | | | | | | | |
| | Increase/(Decrease) in Assets | | | 380,614 | (10,056) | | | |
| | Flood Appeal | | | (70,524) | (50,000) | | | |
| | (Increase)/Decrease in Current Liabilities | | | (20,000) | (367,982) | | | |
| | Increase/(Decrease) in Loans to MDC and CPC | | | (367,982) | 0 | | | |
| | Recoupment of SCPT legal fees | | | | | | | |
| | Total Capital Expenditure & BS items | 11,835 | 4,000 | (77,892) | (424,038) | 34,700 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| General Funds | | | | | | | | |
| | | 3,920,941 | 4,231,761 | 4,097,513 | 4,402,593 | 4,382,609 | 4,324,651 | 4,271,156 |
| | 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 2023/24**

| | | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Account No | Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 8 Months to Feb-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | |
| ARCHIVES | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| 1160 | Donations | | | | - | 10,000 | - | - | |
| 1650 | Archival Fees ex Private Researchers | 225 | 500 | 490 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| | Total Archival Income | 225 | 500 | 490 | 500 | 10,500 | 500 | 500 | |
| Staff expenses | | | | | | | | | |
| 2910 | Salaries | 22,082 | 33,415 | 22,063 | 33,743 | 34,755 | 36,145 | 37,230 | |
| 2940 | Superannuation | 2,050 | 3,342 | 2,317 | 3,543 | 3,823 | 4,157 | 4,468 | |
| 2950 | WorkCover Levy | 298 | 161 | 374 | 374 | 373 | 386 | 403 | |
| 2960 | Long Service Leave | 610 | 613 | 400 | 613 | 643 | 672 | 695 | |
| | Total Staff expenses | 25,041 | 37,531 | 25,153 | 38,273 | 39,594 | 41,359 | 42,795 | |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | | |
| 2110 | Cleaning & Preservation Costs | 55 | 60 | - | 60 | 1,920 | 1,978 | 2,037 | |
| 2130 | Computer & Software Costs | 983 | 4,220 | 3,011 | 4,220 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | |
| 2180 | Depreciation | 855 | 404 | 373 | 273 | 3,150 | 3,150 | 3,150 | |
| 2220 | Education & Training | | | | | 500 | 500 | 500 | |
| 2250 | General Expenses | 317 | 350 | 144 | 350 | 700 | 700 | 700 | |
| 2390 | Insurance | | | | | 1,080 | 1,112 | 1,146 | |
| 2660 | Postage, Printing & Stationery | 299 | 650 | - | 250 | 1,300 | 250 | 250 | |
| 2700 | Property Maintenance | | | | | 1,664 | 1,714 | 1,765 | |
| 2720 | Rent | 2,500 | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | 17,500 | 18,025 | 18,566 | |
| 2790 | Storage & Retrieval | 8,865 | 10,000 | 6,225 | 1,200 | - | - | - | |
| 2800 | Subscriptions & Reference Books | 140 | 120 | 372 | 372 | 410 | 410 | 410 | |
| 2810 | Telephone & Internet | 422 | 860 | - | 860 | 380 | 380 | 380 | |
| 2820 | Travel | | | | | 400 | 400 | 400 | |
| | Total Other Expenses | 14,436 | 21,664 | 10,124 | 12,585 | 32,804 | 32,419 | 33,104 | |
| | Total Archive Related Expenses | 39,477 | 59,195 | 35,278 | 50,857 | 72,398 | 73,778 | 75,899 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Archival Operations | (39,252) | (58,695) | (34,788) | (50,357) | (61,898) | (73,278) | (75,399) | |
| Capital Items: Archives | | | | | | | | | |
| | Shelving | | | | | 8,000 | | | |
| | Office Furn & Equip | | | | | 3,000 | | | |
| | IT Equipment | | | | | 6,000 | | | |
| | Airconditioner / Dehumidifier | | | | | 2,000 | | | |
| | Freezer | | | | | 1,500 | | | |
| | Printer | | | | | 1,200 | | | |
| | Total Capital Items | | | | | 21,700 | 0 | 0 | |

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Description | 8.0% | | | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | |
| Deakin (Moderators) Trust | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| 1351 | Interest Common Fund Specific | 18,978 | 18,804 | 12,844 | 20,120 | 22,200 | 22,500 | 22,900 | |
| Payments | | | | | | | | | |
| 2590 | Honorarium | 0 | 0 | 5,906 | 5,906 | 6,014 | 6,194 | 6,380 | |
| 2590 | Moderators Expenses | 12,877 | 18,000 | 7,613 | 10,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | |
| | Total Expenditure | 12,877 | 18,000 | 13,519 | 15,906 | 18,014 | 18,194 | 18,380 | |
| | Surplus | 6,100 | 804 | (675) | 4,214 | 4,186 | 4,306 | 4,520 | |
| | Balance of Specific Funds | 273,422 | 268,992 | 272,747 | 277,636 | 281,822 | 286,128 | 290,647 | |
| Fraser Trust | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| 1353 | Interest Common Fund Specific | 66,133 | 66,504 | 44,993 | 71,890 | 80,300 | 85,100 | 86,800 | |
| Payments | | | | | | | | | |
| 2791 | Rent Paid Missionaries on Home Assignment | 8,209 | 23,748 | 4,250 | 9,761 | 20,000 | 31,912 | 32,550 | |
| 2400 | Interest transfer to General | 21,206 | 23,748 | (12,959) | 0 | 0 | 31,912 | 32,550 | |
| 2870 | Superannuation Missionaries | 12,986 | 0 | 0 | 13,987 | - | - | - | |
| | Total Expenditure | 42,402 | 47,496 | (8,709) | 23,748 | 20,000 | 63,824 | 65,100 | |
| | Surplus (Indexation of Capital) | 23,732 | 19,008 | 53,702 | 48,142 | 60,300 | 21,276 | 21,700 | |
| | Balance of Funds | 955,142 | 969,040 | 1,008,844 | 1,003,284 | 1,063,584 | 1,084,860 | 1,106,560 | |
| Insurance | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| 1354 | Interest Common Fund Specific | 8,491 | 7,296 | 5,145 | 8,200 | 7,500 | 6,000 | 4,400 | |
| Payments | | | | | | | | | |
| 2385 | Insurance Claims & Risk Management | 18,630 | 24,575 | 0 | 24,575 | 25,558 | 25,558 | 25,558 | |
| | Surplus | (10,139) | (17,279) | 5,145 | (16,375) | (18,058) | (19,558) | (21,158) | |
| | Balance of Funds | 109,539 | 87,323 | 114,685 | 93,164 | 75,106 | 55,548 | 34,390 | |
| Balfour Memorial Trust | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| 1356 | Interest Common Fund Specific | 70,108 | 69,600 | 47,111 | 60,950 | 42,500 | 42,400 | 42,300 | |
| 1600 | Rentals Received Ministers Holiday Homes | 7,159 | 10,000 | 3,608 | 3,608 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | |
| | Total Income | 77,267 | 79,600 | 50,719 | 64,558 | 56,500 | 56,400 | 56,300 | |
| Payments | | | | | | | | | |
| 2790 | Rent Paid Ministers' Holiday Home | 70,000 | 75,000 | 20,011 | 20,011 | 56,000 | 56,000 | 56,000 | |
| 2403 | Transfer to Sinking Fund | 0 | 0 | 512,236 | 512,236 | - | - | - | |
| 2810 | Wages - Ministers Holiday Homes | 1,125 | 1,873 | 579 | 1,873 | 1,929 | 2,006 | 2,067 | |
| | Total Expenditure | 71,125 | 76,873 | 532,826 | 534,119 | 57,929 | 58,006 | 58,067 | |
| | Surplus | 6,142 | 2,727 | (482,107) | (469,561) | (1,429) | (1,606) | (1,767) | |
| | Balance of Funds | 1,001,043 | 997,627 | 518,936 | 531,481 | 530,052 | 528,446 | 526,679 | |

**General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Capital Fund Reserve | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1340 | Interest on Loans to Congregations | 51,488 | 87,504 | 43,119 | 65,150 | 165,000 | 180,000 | 180,000 |
| 1355 | Interest Common Fund Specific | 109,656 | 109,104 | 66,563 | 82,300 | 122,800 | 123,800 | 124,800 |
| 1440 | (Other Investment Income | 0 | 396 | 0 | 367 | 367 | 367 | 367 |
| | Total Income | 161,144 | 197,004 | 109,682 | 147,817 | 288,167 | 304,167 | 305,167 |
| Payments | | | | | | | | |
| 2295 | Grant to Property Development Fund | 78,302 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| 2401 | Interest on Loans from TC @ 5% | 82,659 | 140,217 | 72,028 | 135,726 | 275,000 | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| 2402 | Interest paid to Depositors | 183 | 183 | 183 | 367 | 367 | 367 | 367 |
| | Total Expenditure | 161,144 | 140,400 | 72,211 | 136,093 | 275,367 | 300,367 | 300,367 |
| | Surplus | 0 | 56,604 | 37,471 | 11,724 | 12,800 | 3,800 | 4,800 |
| | Balance of Funds | 1,535,186 | 1,670,834 | 1,572,657 | 1,546,910 | 1,559,710 | 1,563,510 | 1,568,310 |
| | Deposits from Congregations, PWMU etc | 36,557 | 39,618 | 36,686 | 36,686 | 36,686 | 36,686 | 36,686 |
| | Loans | 1,687,825 | 4,500,000 | 2,643,735 | 5,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000 |
| | Break Even Loan Balance: ie maximum loans available | 7,164,200 | 7,533,092 | 7,339,067 | 8,250,187 | 4,950,112 | 6,238,840 | 6,254,040 |
| GAA Funds | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1357 | Common Fund Interest | 18,927 | 19,500 | 13,306 | 16,000 | 21,500 | 17,600 | 16,600 |
| | Total Income | 18,927 | 19,500 | 13,306 | 16,000 | 21,500 | 17,600 | 16,600 |
| Payments | | | | | | | | |
| 2270 | General Assembly Australia Expenses | 0 | 30,000 | 22,001 | 30,000 | 70,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | Total Expenditure | 0 | 30,000 | 22,001 | 30,000 | 70,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | Surplus | 18,927 | (10,500) | (8,695) | (14,000) | (48,500) | (12,400) | (13,400) |
| | Balance of Funds | 282,320 | 2,697,993 | 273,625 | 268,320 | 219,820 | 207,420 | 194,020 |

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% 8.0% 8.0%

**Budget
for
Approval
8.0%**

| Account No - Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1161 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | - | - | 60 | 60 | - | - | - |
| 1163 - Donations: Coins for Mission | 23,572 | 25,000 | 17,194 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| 1164 - Donations: Malawi | 5,105 | - | 6,700 | 6,700 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 1320 - General Missions Program | 57,234 | 58,150 | 44,154 | 58,150 | 53,000 | 53,000 | 53,000 |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 41,937 | 40,000 | 27,727 | 48,000 | 46,500 | 47,100 | 47,800 |
| 1440 - Investment Income | 66 | - | 166 | 166 | - | - | - |
| 1650 - Sundry Income | - | 2,000 | 1,597 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 1900 - Profit/Loss on Sale of Asset | 10,341 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Income | 138,255 | 125,150 | 97,598 | 140,076 | 131,500 | 132,100 | 132,800 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Grants | | | | | | | |
| 2300 - Grants: General | 28,000 | 29,000 | 14,000 | 29,000 | 29,000 | 28,000 | 28,000 |
| 2301 - Grants: Missions | 6,000 | 6,000 | 2,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2303 - Grants: Christmas | 8,000 | 8,000 | 7,988 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| 2304 - Grants: Re-entry | 1,200 | 2,000 | - | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2305 - Grants: PIM | - | 7,000 | 3,500 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 2306 - Grants: Ellis Chair | 18,500 | 11,150 | 5,575 | 11,150 | 11,150 | 11,150 | 11,150 |
| 2308 - Grants: Coins for Mission | 19,000 | 25,000 | 7,690 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| 2315 - Grants: Malawi | 4,605 | - | - | 6,700 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 14,964 | 15,000 | - | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Total Grant Payments | 100,269 | 103,150 | 40,753 | 109,850 | 108,150 | 107,150 | 107,150 |
| Committee | | | | | | | |
| 2130 - Computer Software and Supplies | - | 200 | - | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 2182 - Depreciation-Motor Vehicle | 6,828 | 6,850 | 6,231 | 10,682 | 7,277 | 6,609 | 5,650 |
| 2250 - General Expenses | - | 2,100 | 1,855 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| 2600 - Motor Vehicle Expense | 9,738 | 13,000 | 8,042 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | 339 | 50 | 19 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | - | 150 | - | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 212 | 200 | 153 | 153 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 2965 - LSL Levy | - | 350 | - | 350 | 350 | 350 | 350 |
| Total Committee Expenses | 17,117 | 22,900 | 16,299 | 26,684 | 23,327 | 22,659 | 21,700 |
| Total Expenses | 117,386 | 126,050 | 57,052 | 136,534 | 131,477 | 129,809 | 128,850 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 20,870 | (900) | 40,546 | 3,542 | 23 | 2,291 | 3,950 |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | |
| Motor Vehicle | | | | | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| General Funds | 259,454 | 265,404 | 301,853 | 273,678 | 280,978 | 289,878 | 299,478 |
| Perpetual Funds | 307,671 | 307,671 | 307,671 | 307,671 | 307,671 | 307,671 | 307,671 |

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | 8.0% | 8.0% |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Vanuatu Trusts | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350--Interest from Common Fund | 813 | 8,700 | 5,785 | 9,900 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,100 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 0 | 9,300 | 4,650 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |
| Total Expenditure | 0 | 9,300 | 4,650 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 | 9,300 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 813 | (600) | 1,135 | 600 | 700 | 700 | 800 |
| Specific Funds | 82,699 | 82,099 | 83,034 | 83,299 | 83,999 | 84,699 | 85,499 |
| Perpetual Funds | 41,451 | 41,451 | 41,451 | 41,451 | 41,451 | 41,451 | 41,451 |
| Beatty Trust | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 7,956 | 7,900 | 5,256 | 9,000 | 8,900 | 8,800 | 8,700 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 10,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (2,044) | 7,900 | 256 | (1,000) | (1,100) | (1,200) | (1,300) |
| Specific Funds | 112,369 | 120,269 | 111,876 | 111,369 | 110,269 | 109,069 | 107,769 |
| Dehra Dun | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 1,928 | 1,900 | 1,347 | 2,300 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,500 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 0 | 1,500 | 750 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 1,928 | 400 | 597 | 800 | 900 | 900 | 1,000 |
| Specific Funds | 3,752 | 4,152 | 4,158 | 4,552 | 5,452 | 6,352 | 7,352 |
| Perpetual Funds | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 20,870 | (900) | 40,546 | 3,542 | 173 | 2,441 | 4,100 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts | 697 | 7,700 | 1,988 | 400 | 500 | 400 | 500 |
| Total Surplus/(Deficit) | 21,567 | 6,800 | 42,534 | 3,942 | 673 | 2,841 | 4,600 |
| TOTAL Specific Funds | 198,820 | 206,520 | 199,068 | 199,220 | 199,720 | 200,120 | 200,620 |
| 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 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1110 - Conferences & Events - Colloquium | - | - | 7,800 | 7,800 | - | 15,000 | - | - | - | - |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 25,117 | 24,804 | 16,583 | 28,400 | 29,800 | 30,300 | 30,300 | 30,300 | 30,300 | 30,300 |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Income | 25,117 | 24,804 | 24,383 | 36,200 | 29,800 | 45,300 | 45,300 | 30,300 | 30,300 | 30,300 |
| Committee Staff | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 25,894 | 26,352 | 9,725 | 9,725 | 14,997 | 23,395 | 24,097 | 24,097 | 24,097 | 24,097 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 2,584 | 2,640 | 1,236 | 1,021 | 1,650 | 2,690 | 2,892 | 2,892 | 2,892 | 2,892 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 223 | 227 | 295 | 295 | 304 | 316 | 325 | 325 | 325 | 325 |
| Total Committee Staff | 28,702 | 29,219 | 11,256 | 11,041 | 16,950 | 26,401 | 27,314 | 26,401 | 27,314 | 27,314 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2130 - Computer Software and Supplies | (450) | 396 | - | 396 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| 2140 - Conferences & Events | 610 | - | - | - | 1,500 | 15,000 | 1,500 | 15,000 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 2180 - Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 400 | 204 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2220 - Education & Training | - | 204 | - | 204 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2250 - General Expenses | 666 | 699 | 725 | 725 | 204 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 2390 - Insurance | - | - | 7,091 | 7,091 | 761 | 799 | 839 | 799 | 839 | 839 |
| 2670 - Production, Design & Publication | - | - | - | 96 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2800 - Subscriptions | - | 96 | - | 96 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | - | 96 | - | 100 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Total Other Expenses | 1,226 | 1,695 | 7,816 | 8,612 | 5,965 | 19,499 | 6,039 | 19,499 | 6,039 | 6,039 |
| Total Committee Expenditure | 29,928 | 30,914 | 19,072 | 19,653 | 22,916 | 45,901 | 33,353 | 45,901 | 33,353 | 33,353 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | (4,811) | (6,110) | 5,311 | 16,547 | 6,884 | (601) | (3,053) | (601) | (3,053) | (3,053) |
| General Funds | 355,718 | 349,608 | 354,382 | 372,265 | 379,150 | 378,549 | 375,496 | 378,549 | 375,496 | 375,496 |
| Capital Items / Prepayments | | | | | | | | | | |
| Computer | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Church Planting Committee
Specific - Scots Church Properties Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | - | - | 1,568 | 3,700 | 12,500 | 35,400 | 67,400 |
| 1600 - Rent Received | 20,208 | 20,208 | 12,142 | 20,208 | 20,208 | 26,947 | 34,694 |
| 1620 - SCPT Distribution | 125,489 | 240,000 | 304,011 | 304,011 | 300,000 | 440,000 | 550,000 |
| Total Income | 145,697 | 260,208 | 317,722 | 327,919 | 332,708 | 466,947 | 584,694 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Committee Grants | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 83,400 | 69,640 | 31,400 | 69,640 | 51,120 | 33,520 | 56,920 |
| Total Committee Grants | 83,400 | 69,640 | 31,400 | 69,640 | 51,120 | 33,520 | 56,920 |
| Church Planter Evangelist | | | | | | | |
| 2911 - Salaries & Wages: Assembly Officers | 34,156 | 38,292 | 20,800 | 28,800 | 19,551 | 20,333 | 20,943 |
| 2930 - Non-Cash Benefits | 19,916 | 20,220 | 11,259 | 15,498 | 10,521 | 10,942 | 11,270 |
| 2935 - Manse Allowance | 25,480 | 25,476 | 13,802 | 19,110 | 9,555 | 9,555 | 9,555 |
| 2941 - Superannuation: Assembly Officers | 8,604 | 8,772 | 4,799 | 6,645 | 4,511 | 4,691 | 4,832 |
| 2833 - Utilities: Manses | 4,166 | 5,004 | 3,840 | 3,753 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| 2955 - Disability Insurance | 2,449 | 2,523 | 738 | 2,523 | 1,299 | 1,338 | 1,378 |
| 2965 - LSL Levy | 410 | 350 | 410 | 410 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| Total Church Planter Evangelist | 95,182 | 100,637 | 55,648 | 76,739 | 48,738 | 50,160 | 51,279 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2140 - Conferences & Events | | | | | 5,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2220 - Education & Training | 300 | 3,000 | - | 1,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| 2250 - General Expenses | | | | | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2400 - Interest paid /transferred | 6,964 | 7,800 | 4,007 | 4,007 | - | - | - |
| 2720 - Rents & Property Hire | - | 540 | - | - | 540 | 540 | 540 |
| 2810 - Telephone & Internet | 1,092 | 1,452 | 456 | 1,089 | 725 | 725 | 725 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | - | 3,000 | - | 1,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2840 - Website-Maintenance & Support | 4,985 | 6,000 | - | 500 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Total Other Expenses | 13,340 | 21,792 | 4,463 | 7,596 | 40,265 | 39,265 | 39,265 |
| TOTAL Expenses | 191,922 | 192,069 | 91,511 | 153,975 | 140,123 | 122,945 | 147,464 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | (46,225) | 68,139 | 226,211 | 173,944 | 192,585 | 344,002 | 437,230 |
| Balance of General Funds | (132,821) | (64,882) | 93,701 | 41,124 | 233,709 | 577,711 | 1,014,941 |
| Overdraft prior to receipt of distribution | (151,040) | (261,199) | (169,177) | (169,177) | (28,938) | 172,236 | 503,979 |
| MAXIMUM approved overdraft: prior to distrib | (270,000) | (340,000) | (340,000) | (340,000) | (190,000) | (15,000) | - |
| Average Balance of Funds for Interest calculation | | | | | 156,166 | 442,377 | 842,159 |

**Church Planting Committee
Specific - Property Development Fund
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 8.0% | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 163,766 | 27,504 | 106,456 | 106,456 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 27,500 | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 46,092 | 13,500 | 21,551 | 26,100 | 9,600 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 12,500 | | | | | |
| 1620 - SCPT Distribution | | | | | - | - | - | - | | | | | |
| Total Income | 209,858 | 41,004 | 128,006 | 132,556 | 37,100 | 38,500 | 40,000 | | | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2150 - Consultancy Fees | - | 20,004 | - | 20,004 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | - | - | 828,000 | 828,000 | - | - | - | - | | | | | |
| Total Expenses | 0 | 20,004 | 828,000 | 848,004 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | | | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 209,858 | 21,000 | (699,994) | (715,448) | 17,100 | 18,500 | 20,000 | 20,000 | | | | | |
| Property Development Fund | 835,971 | 856,971 | 135,128 | 120,523 | 137,623 | 156,123 | 176,123 | | | | | | |

**Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
General Operations**

Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/2024

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Other Income | | | | | | | |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 23,189 | 18,750 | 1,418 | 18,750 | 18,750 | 18,750 | 18,750 |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 76,672 | 77,300 | 51,997 | 89,300 | 90,800 | 91,600 | 93,200 |
| Total Other Income | 99,861 | 96,050 | 53,415 | 108,050 | 109,550 | 110,350 | 111,950 |
| Ministry Family Camp | | | | | | | |
| 1100 - Camp Fees and Income | - | 39,000 | 731 | 39,000 | 29,000 | 39,000 | 39,000 |
| 2090 - Camp Expenses | 0 | (35,000) | 0 | (35,000) | (35,000) | (35,000) | (35,000) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Ministry Family Camp | 0 | 4,000 | 731 | 4,000 | (6,000) | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Total Income | 99,861 | 100,050 | 54,146 | 112,050 | 103,550 | 114,350 | 115,950 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Grants | | | | | | | |
| 2310 - Grants: Tertiary Chaplains(AFES Workers) | 20,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 2311 - Grants: Community Chaplaincy(Deaf) | 20,000 | 20,004 | 11,667 | 20,004 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Total Grants | 40,000 | 40,004 | 21,667 | 40,004 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Chaplaincy Support Worker | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 19,618 | 19,734 | 9,792 | 20,280 | 21,840 | 22,714 | 23,395 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 1,898 | 1,976 | 1,229 | 2,129 | 2,402 | 2,612 | 2,807 |
| 2980 - Temporary / Adjunct Staff | - | 3,999 | - | 3,999 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 311 | 323 | 323 | 323 | 332 | 346 | 356 |
| Total Chaplaincy Support Worker | 21,827 | 26,032 | 11,343 | 26,731 | 28,575 | 29,671 | 30,558 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2030 - Advertising | - | 750 | - | 750 | 750 | 750 | 750 |
| 2100 - Chaplaincy Fees | 2,200 | 6,350 | 975 | 6,350 | 6,350 | 6,350 | 6,350 |
| 2130 - Computer & Software | | | | 210 | 210 | 216 | 223 |
| 2180 - Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 450 | 264 | 232 | 264 | 264 | 75 | 75 |
| 2220 - Education & Training | 228 | 2,004 | - | 2,004 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2250 - General Expenses | 708 | 504 | 170 | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2280 - GMP Distributions | 1,290 | 1,296 | 1,000 | 1,296 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 |
| 2390 - Insurance | 666 | 699 | 725 | 725 | 761 | 776 | 815 |
| 2590 - Ministers & Families Support | 2,508 | 9,004 | 1,436 | 9,004 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | 191 | 396 | 90 | 396 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| 2720 - Rents & Property Hire | 2,160 | 2,880 | 1,680 | 2,880 | 2,880 | 3,024 | 3,175 |
| 2740 - Resources | 479 | 504 | 185 | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2810 - Telephone & Internet | 175 | 360 | - | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | 231 | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Other Expenses | 11,285 | 25,215 | 6,492 | 25,247 | 25,275 | 25,252 | 25,448 |
| Total Expenses | 73,112 | 91,251 | 39,502 | 91,982 | 93,850 | 94,923 | 96,007 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 26,749 | 8,799 | 14,643 | 20,068 | 9,700 | 19,427 | 19,943 |
| General Funds | 1,114,983 | 1,124,047 | 1,119,522 | 1,135,316 | 1,145,280 | 1,164,781 | 1,184,800 |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | |
| Accrued Leave | | | (1,128) | | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 0 | (1,128) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts**

Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/2024

P Burnett Trust

| Account No - Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | Budget for Approval | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 41,222 | 41,100 | 27,152 | 46,500 | 46,300 | 45,400 | 44,300 |
| Total Income | 41,222 | 41,100 | 27,152 | 46,500 | 46,300 | 45,400 | 44,300 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Ministry Wives Chaplain | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 40,978 | 38,688 | 22,913 | 39,279 | 41,837 | 43,510 | 44,816 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 3,917 | 3,872 | 2,461 | 4,124 | 4,602 | 5,004 | 5,378 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 845 | 900 | 484 | 484 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Total Ministry Wives Chaplain | 45,740 | 43,460 | 25,857 | 43,887 | 46,939 | 49,014 | 50,693 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2100 - Chaplaincy Fees | 1,325 | 4,000 | 750 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | - | - | 57 | 57 | - | - | - |
| 2680 - Professional Development | 95 | 504 | 118 | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2690 - Professional Supervision | - | 756 | 473 | 756 | 750 | 750 | 750 |
| 2810 - Telephone & Internet | 484 | 480 | 82 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 480 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | 7,227 | 7,798 | 2,998 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Total Other Expenses | 9,131 | 13,538 | 4,477 | 10,797 | 10,730 | 10,730 | 10,730 |
| Total Expenses | 54,872 | 56,998 | 30,334 | 54,684 | 57,669 | 59,744 | 61,423 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (13,650) | (15,898) | (3,183) | (8,184) | (11,369) | (14,344) | (17,123) |
| Specific Funds - Burnett | 587,229 | 571,331 | 579,385 | 579,045 | 567,676 | 553,332 | 536,209 |

**Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/2024**

Harold Hughes Trust

| Account No - Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 11,160 | 22,500 | - | 22,500 | - | - | - |
| 1298 - Franking Credits | 14,656 | - | 2,975 | 2,975 | - | - | - |
| 1340 - Grants Received | 26,753 | - | 11,184 | 22,368 | 20,000 | - | - |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 4,958 | 600 | 4,822 | 8,800 | 4,800 | 800 | 800 |
| 1440 - Investment Income | 73,589 | 46,084 | 12,634 | 41,100 | 44,600 | 46,400 | 45,600 |
| 1440 - Portfolio Fee - Separate Investments | - | - | (1,952) | (4,100) | (3,820) | (3,975) | (3,905) |
| Total Income | 131,115 | 69,184 | 29,663 | 93,643 | 65,580 | 43,225 | 42,495 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Committee Staff | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 58,019 | 56,902 | 33,826 | 52,473 | 54,047 | 56,209 | 57,896 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 5,584 | 5,694 | 3,720 | 5,510 | 5,945 | 6,464 | 6,947 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 445 | 438 | 637 | 637 | 669 | 702 | 737 |
| 2960 - Long Service Leave Accrual | 1,379 | 4,728 | 3,450 | 2,610 | 1,304 | 1,502 | 1,577 |
| Total Committee Staff Expense | 65,427 | 67,762 | 41,633 | 61,230 | 61,965 | 64,878 | 67,158 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2680 - Professional Development | 296 | 900 | 203 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 1,800 |
| 2690 - Professional Supervision | 770 | 900 | 380 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 1,800 |
| Total Other Expenses | 1,066 | 1,800 | 583 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 3,600 |
| Total Expenses | 66,492 | 69,562 | 42,216 | 63,030 | 63,765 | 66,678 | 70,758 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 64,622 | (378) | (12,554) | 30,613 | 1,815 | (23,453) | (28,262) |
| Common Fund - Hughes | 100,350 | 10,000 | 120,047 | 60,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Separately Invested Specific Funds - Hughes | 191,586 | 281,558 | 167,890 | 262,548 | 314,363 | 290,910 | 262,648 |
| 1996 - Gain/Loss on Investments | (162,930) | - | 28,465 | 28,465 | - | - | - |
| Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested) - Hughes | 982,230 | 1,028,457 | 1,006,009 | 1,010,695 | 1,010,695 | 1,010,695 | 1,010,695 |
| Total Hughes Funds | 1,274,166 | 1,320,015 | 1,293,947 | 1,333,244 | 1,335,059 | 1,311,606 | 1,283,343 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 26,749 | 8,799 | 14,643 | 20,068 | 9,700 | 19,427 | 19,943 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts | 50,973 | (16,276) | (15,736) | 22,429 | (9,554) | (37,797) | (45,386) |
| Total Surplus/(Deficit) | (85,209) | (7,477) | 27,372 | 70,962 | 146 | (18,370) | (25,443) |

**METRO Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Other Income | | | | | | | |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 1,000 | - | 1,200 | 1,200 | - | - | - |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 49,885 | 46,400 | 33,065 | 56,400 | 55,600 | 53,800 | 52,200 |
| 1650 - Sundry Income | 750 | 2,500 | 1,001 | 2,500 | 3,000 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Total Other Income | 51,635 | 48,900 | 35,266 | 60,100 | 58,600 | 56,300 | 54,700 |
| Conference and Event | | | | | | | |
| 1110 - Conference and Event Income | - | 600 | - | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| 2140 - Conferences & Events Expenses | (3,236) | (22,500) | (7,845) | (22,500) | (10,000) | (10,000) | (11,000) |
| Total Conference and Event Surplus(Deficit) | (3,236) | (21,900) | (7,845) | (21,900) | (9,400) | (9,400) | (10,400) |
| Total Income | 48,399 | 27,000 | 27,421 | 38,200 | 49,200 | 46,900 | 44,300 |
| Grants | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 59,150 | 36,500 | 25,867 | 42,250 | 56,050 | 53,100 | 50,600 |
| Total Grants | 59,150 | 36,500 | 25,867 | 42,250 | 56,050 | 53,100 | 50,600 |
| Committee Staff | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 5,658 | 6,300 | 4,570 | 7,835 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 566 | 630 | 480 | 823 | 770 | 805 | 840 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 47 | 50 | 71 | 71 | 78 | 78 | 78 |
| Total Committee Staff | 6,270 | 6,980 | 5,121 | 8,728 | 7,848 | 7,883 | 7,918 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2030 - Advertising | 359 | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 500 | 500 |
| 2250 - General Expenses | 2,500 | - | 60 | 60 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | 149 | 350 | - | 350 | 350 | 350 | 350 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | - | 500 | - | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Total Other Expenses | 3,008 | 1,850 | 60 | 1,910 | 7,350 | 6,850 | 6,850 |
| Total Committee Expenditure | 68,428 | 45,330 | 31,048 | 52,888 | 71,248 | 67,833 | 65,368 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | (20,029) | (18,330) | (3,627) | (14,688) | (22,048) | (20,933) | (21,068) |
| General Funds | 709,820 | 691,490 | 701,153 | 695,132 | 673,084 | 652,151 | 631,083 |
| 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 2023/24**

**Budget as submitted by Committee
Expenses absorbed into General Assembly**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------|--|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 67,456 | 9,504 | 12,239 | 16,437 | 11,600 | 10,500 | 11,700 | | |
| 1440 - Investment Income | 5,601 | - | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| Total Income | 73,057 | 9,504 | 12,239 | 16,437 | 11,600 | 10,500 | 11,700 | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | | |
| 2130 - Computer Software and Supplies | - | 96 | - | 110 | 825 | 230 | 250 | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 37,416 | - | - | - | - | - | - | | |
| 2800 - Subscriptions (CMA) | - | - | - | 0 | 450 | 470 | 490 | | |
| 2150 - Consultancy Fee | - | - | - | 4000 | 20000 | 5000 | 5000 | | |
| Total Expenses | 39,726 | 4,008 | 985 | 7,206 | 24,619 | 9,311 | 9,640 | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 33,331 | 5,496 | 11,254 | 9,231 | (13,019) | 1,189 | 2,060 | | |
| General Funds | 943,002 | 948,498 | 36,256 | 102,233 | 89,214 | 103,422 | 105,482 | | |
| 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 | 850,000 | 850,000 | | | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 850,000 | 850,000 | 850,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

**Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Long Service Leave Funds
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Proposed | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 105,378 | 98,400 | 126,930 | 100,000 | 80,100 | 77,900 | 76,300 |
| 1510 - Levies | 42,230 | 45,100 | 43,870 | 43,870 | 92,400 | 110,000 | 121,000 |
| 1690 - Transfers In | 8,802 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Income | 156,411 | 143,500 | 170,800 | 143,870 | 172,500 | 187,900 | 197,300 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2960 - Long Service Leave Accrual | 156,090 | 164,700 | 58,404 | 164,700 | 164,052 | 187,393 | 197,746 |
| 2890 - Transfers Out | - | - | 500,000 | 500,000 | - | - | - |
| Total Expenses | 156,090 | 164,700 | 558,404 | 664,700 | 164,052 | 187,393 | 197,746 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 320 | (21,200) | (387,603) | (520,830) | 8,448 | 507 | (446) |
| Long Service Taken - cash | 145,791 | 192,000 | 82,589 | 150,000 | 200,000 | 208,000 | 216,320 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | 1,004,612 | 180,000 | 1,001,260 | 1,019,312 | 983,364 | 962,757 | 944,184 |
| General Funds | 1,507,252 | 1,458,752 | 1,105,267 | 1,001,122 | 973,622 | 953,522 | 934,502 |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | |
| Tsfr to Sinking Fund | | | | 500,000 | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Ministry Development Committee
Specific - Scots Church Properties Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | 8.0% | 8.0% |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Other Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 242 | - | 4,265 | - | 18,800 | 30,700 | 41,700 |
| Sustentation Funding | | | | | 15,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 1600 - Rent Received | 47,148 | 46,512 | 28,332 | 46,512 | 46,511 | 47,906 | 49,344 |
| 1620 - SCPT Distribution | 292,807 | 560,000 | 709,360 | 709,360 | 700,000 | 660,000 | 550,000 |
| 1650 - Sundry Income | - | - | 0 | 0 | - | - | - |
| Total Other Income | 340,198 | 606,512 | 741,956 | 755,872 | 780,311 | 748,606 | 651,044 |
| Conference and Event | | | | | | | |
| 1110 - Conference and Event Income | - | 1,750 | - | 1,196 | 2,000 | 2,500 | 2,750 |
| 2140 - Conferences & Events | - | (10,000) | - | 4,500 | (5,000) | (5,500) | (6,000) |
| Total Conference and Event | - | (8,250) | - | (3,304) | (3,000) | (3,000) | (3,250) |
| Total Income | 340,198 | 598,262 | 741,956 | 752,568 | 777,311 | 745,606 | 647,794 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 1. Grants | | | | | | | |
| 2291 - Grants: Subsidies to Congregations | 230,418 | 230,004 | 108,923 | 200,000 | 250,000 | 240,000 | 240,000 |
| 2293 - Grants: Second Ministry Workers | 41,250 | 22,500 | 3,750 | 8,438 | 26,250 | 24,000 | 22,500 |
| 2294 - Grants: Cross Cultural | 47,700 | 42,000 | 23,917 | 41,000 | 42,000 | 40,000 | 38,000 |
| Grants: Sustentation | | | | | 15,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Total Grants | 319,368 | 294,504 | 136,589 | 249,438 | 333,250 | 314,000 | 310,500 |
| 2. Ministry Development Officer | | | | | | | |
| 2911 - Salaries & Wages: Assembly Officers | 43,665 | 45,948 | 24,753 | 46,080 | 46,915 | 48,792 | 50,256 |
| 2930 - Non-Cash Benefits | 23,789 | 24,264 | 14,465 | 24,797 | 25,258 | 26,268 | 27,056 |
| 2935 - Manse Allowance | 30,000 | 30,000 | 17,500 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 2941 - Superannuation: Assembly Officers | 10,325 | 10,536 | 6,202 | 10,632 | 11,548 | 12,385 | 13,143 |
| 2833 - Utilities: Manses | 2,500 | 2,604 | 1,458 | 2,604 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,600 |
| 2811 - Telephone & Internet: Assembly Officers | 2,400 | 2,400 | 1,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| 2955 - Disability Insurance | 2,125 | 2,210 | - | 2,210 | 2,298 | 2,390 | 2,486 |
| 2965 - LSL Levy | 410 | 350 | 410 | 410 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| 2821 - Travel & Accommodation: Assembly Offi | 3,913 | 6,300 | 3,008 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,400 | 6,400 |
| Total Ministry Development Officer Expenses | 119,126 | 124,612 | 69,196 | 125,432 | 128,119 | 132,035 | 135,140 |
| 3. Committee Staff | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 56,869 | 57,480 | 29,331 | 57,480 | 58,532 | 60,873 | 62,699 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 5,878 | 5,748 | 3,220 | 5,748 | 6,439 | 7,000 | 7,524 |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 1,226 | 1,259 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,609 | 1,667 | 1,712 |
| 2960 - Long Service Leave Accrual | 1,647 | 1,452 | 1,600 | 1,452 | 1,488 | 1,554 | 1,608 |
| Total Committee Staff | 65,619 | 65,939 | 35,751 | 66,280 | 68,068 | 71,094 | 73,543 |
| 4. Office | | | | | | | |
| 2030 - Advertising | - | 504 | - | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2130 - Computer Software and Supplies | 1,352 | 1,500 | 1,735 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 2180 - Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 1,921 | 1,380 | 882 | 1,384 | 845 | 176 | 1,345 |
| 2182 - Depreciation-Motor Vehicle | 5,997 | 6,048 | 3,533 | 6,048 | 6,048 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 2190 - Discretionary Expenditure | 1,132 | 2,004 | 998 | 2,004 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2220 - Education & Training | 1,340 | 4,500 | 915 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 4,500 |
| 2250 - General Expenses | 246 | 996 | 279 | 996 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2400 - Interest paid /transferred | 7,132 | 15,000 | 7,654 | 16,400 | 1,800 | - | - |
| 2500 - Legal Fees | - | 996 | - | 996 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2600 - Motor Vehicle Expense | 6,834 | 7,500 | 5,204 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | 1,646 | 2,496 | 563 | 2,496 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,300 |
| 2690 - Professional Supervision | - | 600 | - | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| 2770 - Staff Amenities | 368 | 804 | 533 | 804 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| 2800 - Subscriptions | 34 | 200 | 201 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 2810 - Telephone & Internet | 1,000 | 1,404 | 594 | 1,404 | 1,404 | 1,404 | 1,404 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | 534 | 804 | 41 | 804 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| Total Office Expenses | 29,536 | 46,736 | 23,132 | 48,140 | 32,097 | 25,180 | 26,349 |
| Total Expenses | 533,650 | 531,791 | 264,669 | 489,289 | 561,534 | 542,309 | 545,533 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Operations | (193,452) | 66,471 | 477,288 | 263,279 | 215,777 | 203,297 | 102,261 |
| Balance of General Funds / (overdraft) | (235,163) | (159,812) | 217,272 | 37,000 | 226,158 | 428,686 | 535,399 |
| Overdraft prior to receipt of distribution | (211,048) | - | (340,464) | (340,464) | (196,973) | 196 | 201,380 |
| MAXIMUM approved overdraft: prior to distribut | (600,000) | (600,000) | (600,000) | (600,000) | (410,000) | (180,000) | - |
| Capital/Balance Sheet Items | | | | | | | |
| 3920--Furniture & Equipment | (2,380) | - | - | - | - | 4,000 | - |
| Increase in leave provisions | (309) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Motor Vehicle for MDO | | | | | 50,000 | - | - |
| Trade in value of motor vehicle | | | | | (25,000) | - | - |
| Write off WDV for current vehicle | | | | | (10,000) | - | - |
| Total Capital Expenditure | (2,688) | - | - | - | 35,000 | 4,000 | - |

**Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

**Budget
for
Approval**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% 8.0% 8.0%

| Account No - Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Projected | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Church Extension - Victoria | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 2,400 | 2,496 | 1,646 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,300 | 3,500 |
| Total Income | 2,400 | 2,496 | 1,646 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,300 | 3,500 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 750 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenses | 750 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 1,650 | 2,496 | 1,646 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,300 | 3,500 |
| Specific Funds | 8,135 | 10,631 | 9,551 | 11,035 | 14,035 | 17,335 | 20,835 |
| Perpetual Funds | 26,913 | 26,913 | 26,913 | 26,913 | 26,913 | 26,913 | 26,913 |
| Church Extension - Other States | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 484 | 504 | 277 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Total Income | 484 | 504 | 277 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 484 | 504 | 277 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Total Expenses | 484 | 504 | 277 | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Specific Funds | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 |
| Perpetual Funds | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 | 6,913 |
| Thompson Evangelism | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 96,335 | 92,100 | 63,809 | 109,400 | 107,600 | 103,800 | 99,700 |
| Total Income | 96,335 | 92,100 | 63,809 | 109,400 | 107,600 | 103,800 | 99,700 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2293 - Grants: Second Ministry Workers | 10,000 | 7,500 | 1,250 | 2,813 | 8,750 | 8,000 | 7,500 |
| 2295 - Grants: Evangelism | 23,325 | 59,996 | 31,850 | 59,996 | 65,000 | 65,000 | 65,000 |
| 2296 - Grants: Evangelism Workers(See table below) | 47,500 | 40,500 | 13,125 | 40,500 | 46,500 | 46,500 | 46,500 |
| 2298 - Grants: AFES Workers | 30,000 | 30,000 | 15,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 2140 - Conferences & Events | - | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | 5,500 | 6,000 |
| Total Expenses | 110,825 | 142,996 | 61,225 | 133,309 | 155,250 | 155,000 | 155,000 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (14,490) | (50,896) | 2,584 | (23,909) | (47,650) | (51,200) | (55,300) |
| Specific Funds | 1,329,103 | 1,278,207 | 1,322,687 | 1,305,195 | 1,257,545 | 1,206,345 | 1,151,045 |
| Perpetual Funds | 39,992 | 39,992 | 39,992 | 39,992 | 39,992 | 39,992 | 39,992 |
| Noble Trust | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 480 | - | 280 | 400 | - | - | - |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 24,733 | 21,900 | 15,600 | 27,000 | 25,100 | #REF! | #REF! |
| Total Income | 25,213 | 21,900 | 15,880 | 27,400 | 25,100 | #REF! | #REF! |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2140 - Conferences & Events | 425 | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 11,564 | 2,004 | - | 2,004 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2930 - Non-Cash Benefits | 9,912 | 19,824 | 13,104 | 19,824 | 20,815 | 24,000 | 26,000 |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 28,453 | 30,720 | 17,125 | 30,720 | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | - | 276 | - | - | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| 2250 - General Expenses | - | 996 | 800 | 996 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | 500 | 996 | - | 996 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Total Expenses | 50,854 | 55,816 | 31,029 | 55,540 | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (25,641) | (33,916) | (15,149) | (28,140) | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| Specific Funds | 217,282 | 183,366 | 199,933 | 189,142 | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| Perpetual Funds | 125,000 | 125,000 | 125,000 | 125,000 | 125,000 | 125,000 | 125,000 |
| HMWA | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 2,747 | 2,700 | 1,787 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 |
| Total Income | 2,747 | 2,700 | 1,787 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,100 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Total Expenses | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (253) | (300) | 1,787 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Specific Funds | 38,034 | 37,734 | 39,571 | 38,134 | 38,234 | 38,334 | 38,434 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts | (38,734) | (82,616) | (9,132) | (49,049) | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | (193,452) | 66,471 | 477,288 | 263,279 | 215,777 | 203,297 | 102,261 |
| Total Surplus/(Deficit) | (232,186) | (16,145) | 468,155 | 214,230 | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| Total Specific Trusts | 1,592,554 | 1,509,938 | 1,571,742 | 1,543,506 | #REF! | #REF! | #REF! |
| Total Perpetual Funds | 198,818 | 198,818 | 198,818 | 198,818 | 198,818 | 198,818 | 198,818 |

**Youth & Children's Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | 8.0% | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2024/2025 Projected | | 2025/2026 Projected | |
| 130005 | Summer Camp (Jan 2024) | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Income | - | 61,200 | 50,077 | 61,200 | 61,200 | 63,648 | 65,557 | |
| 2090 | Expenses | - | 61,200 | 62,649 | 62,649 | 61,200 | 63,648 | 65,557 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Summer Camp (Jan 2024) | 0 | 0 | (12,572) | (1,449) | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 130007 | Winter Camp (July 2023) | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Income | - | 25,000 | 23,691 | 25,000 | 35,000 | 36,400 | 37,492 | |
| 2090 | Expenses | - | 25,000 | 29,183 | 29,183 | 35,000 | 36,400 | 37,492 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Winter Camp (July 2023) | 0 | 0 | (5,492) | (4,183) | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 130020 | North State Event | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Income | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 | |
| 2090 | Expenses | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on North State Event | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 130015 | East State Event | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Income | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 | |
| 2090 | Expenses | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on East State Event | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 130010 | West State Event | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Income | - | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 | |
| 2090 | Expenses | - | 1,000 | 480 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on West State Event | 0 | 0 | (480) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 130025 | Other Camp Income & Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| 1060 | Bookstall/Tuckshop Income | 4,000 | 100 | 200 | 200 | 800 | 800 | 800 | |
| 2160 | Bookstall/Tuckshop costs | 1,000 | 500 | 400 | 500 | 800 | 800 | 800 | |
| 1060 | Merchandising Income | (3,877) | 2,930 | 2,043 | 2,930 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | |
| 2160 | Merchandising costs | 1,237 | 2,032 | 941 | 2,032 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,800 | |
| 2090 | Other camp exepnses e.g. first aid | 39 | 255 | - | 255 | - | - | - | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Other Camp Income & Expenses | 2,724 | (2,187) | (741) | (2,087) | 200 | (2,000) | (2,000) | |
| | Net Surplus/(Deficit) on all Camps & Events | 2,724 | (2,187) | (19,285) | (7,719) | 200 | (2,000) | (2,000) | |
| | Other Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1160 | Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 2,250 | 5,000 | 800 | 5,000 | 3,000 | 3,120 | 3,245 | |
| 1340 | Grants Received | 70,128 | - | - | - | 100,500 | 100,000 | 99,300 | |
| 1350 | Interest from Common Fund | 34,296 | 87,600 | 45,593 | 89,500 | 100,500 | 100,000 | 99,300 | |
| 1650 | Sundry Income | 391 | - | - | - | 103,500 | 103,120 | 102,545 | |
| | Total Other Income | 107,065 | 92,600 | 46,393 | 94,500 | 103,500 | 103,120 | 102,545 | |
| | Camps | | | | | | | | |
| 1100 | Camp Fees and Income | - | 89,200 | 73,767 | 89,200 | 99,200 | 103,168 | 106,263 | |
| 2090 | Camp Expenses | (39) | (89,455) | (92,312) | (95,087) | (99,200) | (103,168) | (106,263) | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Camps | (39) | (255) | (18,544) | (5,887) | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Conference and Event | | | | | | | | |
| 1110 | Conferences & Events Income | - | - | 535 | 535 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Conference and Event | 0 | 0 | 535 | 535 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Book & Merchandising | | | | | | | | |
| 1060 | Book & Merchandising Sales | 123 | 3,030 | 2,243 | 3,130 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | |
| 2160 | Cost of Sales | (2,237) | (2,532) | (1,341) | (2,532) | (3,600) | (3,600) | (3,600) | |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Book & Merchandising | (2,114) | 498 | 902 | 598 | 200 | 200 | 200 | |
| | Total Other Income | 104,911 | 92,843 | 29,287 | 89,747 | 103,700 | 103,320 | 102,745 | |

**Youth & Children's Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | 8.0% | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Grants | | | | | | | | |
| 2290 | Grants & Subsidies | - | 6,000 | - | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| | Total Grants | 0 | 6,000 | 0 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Assembly Officers | | | | | | | | |
| 2911 | Salaries & Wages: Assembly Officers | 80,311 | 20,020 | - | 20,020 | 31,350 | 32,604 | 33,582 |
| 2941 | Superannuation: Assembly Officers | 6,620 | 4,400 | - | 4,400 | 6,270 | 6,817 | 7,327 |
| | Total Assembly Officers | 86,931 | 24,420 | 0 | 24,420 | 37,620 | 39,421 | 40,909 |
| Committee Staff | | | | | | | | |
| 2910 | Salaries & Wages | 15,004 | 26,988 | 18,226 | 30,328 | 34,320 | 35,693 | 36,764 |
| 2940 | Superannuation | 2,659 | 2,702 | 2,061 | 2,702 | 3,775 | 4,105 | 4,412 |
| 2950 | Workers Compensation | 687 | 406 | 728 | 728 | 757 | 792 | 821 |
| | Total Committee Staff | 18,350 | 30,096 | 21,015 | 33,758 | 38,852 | 40,590 | 41,996 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| 2060 | Bank Charges & Fees | 431 | - | 623 | 623 | 542 | 542 | 542 |
| 2130 | Computer Software and Supplies | 1,547 | 3,500 | 1,527 | 1,527 | 1,547 | 1,547 | 1,547 |
| 2150 | Consultancy Fees | - | - | 100 | 100 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2180 | Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 7,273 | 7,702 | 4,424 | 7,983 | 2,797 | 2,833 | 1,000 |
| 2220 | Education, Training & Seminars | 643 | 500 | 202 | 500 | 643 | 643 | 643 |
| 2250 | General Expenses | 300 | 800 | 213 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 |
| 2390 | Insurance | 5,200 | 6,200 | 6,425 | 6,425 | 6,618 | 6,882 | 7,089 |
| 2660 | Postage, Printing & Stationery | 337 | 3,255 | 136 | 337 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2720 | Rents & Property Hire | 3,060 | 4,080 | 2,740 | 4,080 | 6,240 | 6,240 | 6,240 |
| 2740 | Resources | 112 | - | - | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 |
| 2800 | Subscriptions | 531 | 612 | 544 | 612 | 630 | 656 | 675 |
| 2810 | Telephone & Internet | 150 | 1,350 | - | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 2820 | Travel & Accommodation | - | 1,000 | - | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2840 | Website-Maintenance & Support | - | - | 750 | 750 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1,071 |
| | Total Other Expenses | 19,583 | 28,999 | 17,685 | 24,213 | 23,629 | 23,995 | 22,419 |
| | Total Expenses | 124,864 | 89,515 | 38,700 | 90,391 | 108,101 | 112,006 | 113,325 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | (19,953) | 3,328 | (9,414) | (644) | (4,401) | (8,666) | (10,580) |
| | General Funds | 745,391 | 748,719 | 780,893 | 720,034 | 713,633 | 704,946 | 694,367 |
| | Perpetual Funds | 536,500 | 536,500 | 536,500 | 536,500 | 536,500 | 536,500 | 536,500 |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | | |
| | Computer for Youth Ministries Director | | | | | 2,000 | - | 0 |
| | Enter Details Here | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | Enter Details Here | | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | Total Capital Expenditure | | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |

**Youth and Children's Committee
Specific Trusts - Allan Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Actual | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 47,831 | 47,196 | 23,350 | 47,300 | 58,700 | 62,900 | 67,400 |
| Total Income | 47,831 | 47,196 | 23,350 | 47,300 | 58,700 | 62,900 | 67,400 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2070 - Bursaries & Prizes | 2,125 | 6,000 | 145 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2150 - Consultancy Fees | 1,388 | 10,000 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2250 - General Expenses | 91 | 350 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2915 - Salaries & Wages: Youth Worker | 34,584 | 24,346 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenses | 38,188 | 40,696 | 145 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts | 9,643 | 6,500 | 23,205 | 41,300 | 52,700 | 56,900 | 61,400 |
| Specific Funds | 664,054 | 670,554 | 691,859 | 705,354 | 758,054 | 814,954 | 876,354 |
| Perpetual Funds | 27,852 | 27,852 | 27,852 | 27,852 | 27,852 | 27,852 | 27,852 |

**Safe Church Unit
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | 8.0% | | | | 8.0% | | 8.0% | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1320 - General Missions Program | 93,504 | 150,000 | 113,896 | 150,000 | 170,000 | 170,000 | 170,000 | |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 11,639 | 8,504 | 8,043 | 14,000 | 11,688 | 10,798 | 9,470 | |
| Total Income | 105,143 | 158,504 | 121,939 | 164,000 | 181,688 | 180,798 | 179,470 | |
| Grants | | | | | | | | |
| 2290 - Grants & Subsidies | - | 1,200 | - | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | |
| Total Grants | 0 | 1,200 | 0 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | |
| Committee Staff | | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 71,058 | 90,390 | 48,796 | 91,286 | 109,195 | 113,562 | 116,969 | |
| 2940 - Superannuation | 6,349 | 9,036 | 5,673 | 9,585 | 12,011 | 13,060 | 14,036 | |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 548 | 895 | 1,012 | 1,012 | 1,212 | 1,242 | 1,273 | |
| 2960 - Long Service Leave Accrual | 4,495 | 1,692 | 1,525 | 1,692 | 1,777 | 1,865 | 1,959 | |
| Total Committee Staff | 82,449 | 102,013 | 57,006 | 103,575 | 124,195 | 129,730 | 134,238 | |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| 2150 - Consultancy Fees | 19,501 | 47,268 | 5,597 | 47,268 | 47,268 | 47,268 | 47,268 | |
| 2180 - Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 1,338 | 732 | 609 | 1,160 | 526 | 188 | 82 | |
| 2220 - Education & Training | 559 | 1,920 | 360 | 1,920 | 1,920 | 1,968 | 2,017 | |
| 2390 - Insurance | 666 | 699 | 725 | 725 | 725 | 761 | 799 | |
| 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | 4,220 | 4,548 | 2,030 | 4,028 | 4,028 | 4,129 | 4,232 | |
| 2720 - Rents & Property Hire | 3,060 | 4,080 | 2,540 | 4,640 | 5,040 | 5,141 | 5,346 | |
| 2770 - Staff Amenities | 46 | 204 | 36 | 204 | 204 | 214 | 214 | |
| 2800 - Subscriptions | 50 | 888 | 443 | 888 | 900 | 923 | 946 | |
| 2810 - Telephone & Internet | 1,276 | 1,320 | 1,093 | 1,320 | 1,320 | 1,386 | 1,455 | |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | 2,720 | 4,464 | 1,189 | 4,464 | 4,464 | 4,687 | 4,922 | |
| Total Other Expenses | 33,437 | 66,123 | 14,621 | 66,617 | 66,395 | 66,665 | 67,281 | |
| Total Expenses | 115,886 | 169,336 | 71,627 | 171,392 | 191,790 | 197,595 | 202,719 | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (10,743) | (10,832) | 50,311 | (7,392) | (10,102) | (16,796) | (23,250) | |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | | |
| Office Furniture & Equipment | 0 | 1,140 | | 1,140 | 1,540 | | | |
| | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | 0 | 1,140 | 0 | 1,140 | 1,540 | 0 | 0 | |
| Balance of funds carried forward | 153,466 | 142,226 | 189,160 | 146,094 | 134,978 | 118,370 | 95,202 | |

**State News Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval 8.0% | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| 1320 - General Missions Program | 13,976 | 13,600 | 10,327 | 13,328 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 4,581 | 4,296 | 3,453 | 6,000 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 5,900 |
| 1650 - Sundry Income | 1,500 | 1,200 | 300 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Total Income | 20,057 | 19,096 | 14,079 | 20,528 | 14,500 | 14,500 | 14,600 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| 2670 - Production, Design & Publication | 9,919 | 19,000 | 7,276 | 18,500 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| 2740 - Resources | - | 100 | - | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Total Expenses | 0 | 19,100 | 7,276 | 18,600 | 14,100 | 14,100 | 14,100 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 20,057 | (4) | 6,804 | 1,928 | 400 | 400 | 500 |
| General Funds | 70,561 | 70,557 | 76,686 | 72,489 | 72,889 | 73,289 | 73,789 |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | |
| Computer | | | | | | | |
| Enter Details Here | | | | | | | |
| Enter Details Here | | | | | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| | Income | | | | | | | |
| | Tuition Fees | | | | | | | |
| 180010 | Fee paying | 390,778 | 400,000 | 235,447 | 475,447 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| 180015 | Candidates | 161,030 | 160,000 | 63,780 | 160,005 | 190,017 | 185,766 | 186,974 |
| 180020 | Other Scholarships | 70,488 | 59,482 | 16,608 | 36,672 | 35,064 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 180022 | Diaconal | - | - | 2,580 | 15,600 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 180025 | Chinese | 33,720 | 40,000 | 14,970 | 29,370 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| 180028 | Short Course | 3,440 | - | 5,850 | 5,850 | - | - | - |
| | Other unallocated (should be zero) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | TOTAL Tuition Fees | 659,456 | 659,482 | 339,235 | 722,944 | 685,081 | 675,766 | 676,974 |
| | Other Income | | | | | | | |
| 1050 | Bequests | 15,000 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1060 | Book & Merchandising Sales | 5,332 | 6,000 | 5,826 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 1110 | Conference and Event Income | 9,915 | 6,000 | 11,850 | 11,850 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 1160 | Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 11,314 | - | 6,973 | 6,973 | - | - | - |
| 1340 | Grants Received | 1,743 | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 1350 | Interest from Common Fund | 252,491 | 258,000 | 173,070 | 295,000 | 308,000 | 333,000 | 358,000 |
| 1440 | Investment Income | 34,382 | 26,806 | 21,203 | 28,271 | 28,271 | 28,271 | 28,271 |
| 1600 | Rent Received | 81,893 | 87,432 | 50,428 | 87,432 | 87,760 | 89,890 | 92,084 |
| 1650 | Sundry Income | 2,791 | 1,800 | 130 | 1,800 | - | - | - |
| | Total Income | 1,074,317 | 1,055,520 | 608,714 | 1,170,269 | 1,131,111 | 1,148,926 | 1,177,328 |
| | Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| | Faculty Staff Costs | | | | | | | |
| 2911 | Salary & Wages | 124,995 | 167,700 | 58,937 | 104,256 | 152,473 | 158,572 | 185,572 |
| 2930 | Non-Cash Benefits | 66,351 | 88,560 | 50,988 | 88,560 | 82,050 | 85,331 | 99,861 |
| | Superannuation: Assembly Officers | 28,702 | 38,445 | 21,861 | 38,445 | 35,178 | 36,586 | 42,815 |
| 2833 | Utilities: Manses | 11,163 | 11,004 | 7,085 | 11,004 | 13,750 | 13,750 | 13,750 |
| 2955 | Disability Insurance | 5,949 | 6,068 | - | 9,000 | 12,857 | 13,371 | 13,773 |
| 2965 | LSL Levy | - | 1,640 | 1,640 | 1,640 | 4,100 | 4,100 | 4,100 |
| | Manse Allowance not funded from Fernside | - | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 19,986 |
| | Total Faculty Staff Cost | 237,160 | 313,417 | 140,511 | 252,905 | 300,408 | 311,710 | 359,871 |
| | Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2010 | Accounting & Audit Fees | 6,420 | 6,000 | 3,640 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2030 | Advertising | 700 | 1,000 | - | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2040 | Affiliation & Admin Fees | 86,579 | 88,040 | 41,998 | 88,040 | 91,630 | 90,384 | 90,545 |

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| 2060 | Bank Charges & Fees | 1,789 | 1,728 | 1,249 | 1,728 | 1,797 | 1,869 | 1,944 |
| 2110 | Cleaning & Rubbish Removal | 14,055 | 15,000 | 7,457 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| 2130 | Computer Software and Supplies | 21,007 | 2,004 | 994 | 2,004 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2140 | Conferences & Events | 9,522 | 11,000 | 10,525 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| 2160 | Cost of Sales | 4,024 | 5,700 | 6,964 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 |
| 2180 | Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 6,014 | 7,764 | 4,353 | 5,100 | 8,467 | 7,667 | 9,667 |
| 2184 | Depreciation-Plant & Equipment | 2,003 | 504 | 296 | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2186 | Depreciation-Buildings | 60,990 | 61,260 | 35,769 | 61,260 | 61,260 | 61,260 | 61,260 |
| 2220 | Education & Training | 69 | 6,000 | - | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2250 | General Expenses | 1,880 | 2,004 | 1,236 | 2,004 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| 2350 | Hospitality | 1,952 | 3,000 | 2,461 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 2390 | Insurance | 9,963 | 10,461 | 9,506 | 9,506 | 9,981 | 10,480 | 11,004 |
| 2520 | Library Expenses | 95,503 | 139,692 | 61,442 | 103,525 | 142,057 | 149,224 | 150,955 |
| 2550 | Marketing | 2,194 | 6,000 | 861 | 2,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2600 | Motor Vehicle Expense | 6,519 | 6,504 | 4,380 | 6,500 | 6,500 | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| 2660 | Postage, Printing & Stationery | 2,360 | 4,404 | 2,274 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| 2680 | Professional Development | - | 3,000 | - | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 2700 | Property Maintenance | 10,258 | 9,504 | 2,141 | 9,504 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 9,500 |
| 2710 | Property Rates & Taxes | 15,514 | 14,356 | 7,129 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| 2730 | Repairs & Maintenance | 302 | 504 | - | 504 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 2760 | Security Costs | 1,386 | 1,500 | 618 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| 2770 | Staff Amenities | 14 | 204 | 52 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 2775 | Student's Expenses | 435 | 996 | 292 | 996 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2800 | Stocktake Variance | (1,266) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2800 | Subscriptions | 2,039 | 1,848 | 566 | 1,848 | 1,850 | 1,850 | 1,850 |
| 2810 | Telephone & Internet | 4,722 | 3,996 | 2,298 | 3,996 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2813 | Telephone & Internet: Lecturers | 4,989 | 6,000 | 2,452 | 6,000 | 7,200 | 7,200 | 7,200 |
| 2820 | Travel & Accommodation | 2,761 | 15,996 | 11,044 | 15,996 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| 2830 | Utilities | 9,429 | 10,812 | 7,578 | 10,812 | 11,244 | 11,694 | 12,162 |
| 2910 | Salaries & Wages | 111,935 | 113,952 | 68,596 | 131,029 | 136,276 | 141,527 | 145,622 |
| 2940 | Superannuation | 21,301 | 23,361 | 12,542 | 23,361 | 28,850 | 30,766 | 32,595 |
| 2950 | Workers Compensation | 4,924 | 5,072 | 6,679 | 6,679 | 6,880 | 7,086 | 7,299 |
| 2960 | Long Service Leave Accrual | 3,120 | 1,368 | 2,800 | 1,368 | 1,436 | 1,508 | 1,584 |
| 2970 | Study Leave Accrual | 58,277 | 56,364 | 26,250 | 56,364 | 51,543 | 47,795 | 56,020 |
| 2980 | Temporary / Adjunct Staff | 100,164 | 110,004 | 45,415 | 110,000 | 110,000 | 110,000 | 110,000 |
| 2981 | Temporary / Adjunct Staff: Exam Marking | 14,260 | 16,000 | 5,917 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 | 16,000 |

**Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | | | |
| | Total Other Expenses | 698,106 | 772,902 | 397,775 | 745,024 | 810,870 | 820,710 | 840,106 |
| | PTC Media Income | | | | | | | |
| 1060 | Book & Merchandising Sales | 5,332 | 6,000 | 5,826 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2160 | 2160 - Cost of Sales | (4,024) | (5,700) | (6,964) | (5,700) | (5,700) | (5,700) | (5,700) |
| 2780 | 2780 - Stocktake Variance | 1,266 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | PTC Media Surplus(Deficit) | 2,573 | 300 | (1,137) | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| | PTC Media Expenses | | | | | | | |
| | Total Expenses | 935,266 | 1,086,319 | 538,286 | 997,929 | 1,111,278 | 1,132,420 | 1,219,964 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 139,051 | (30,799) | 70,429 | 172,340 | 19,833 | 16,506 | (42,636) |
| | Total Staff Related CASH Expenses | 3,598 | 33,219 | 70,981 | 63,160 | 32,958 | 33,736 | (4) |
| | Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments | | | | | | | |
| | Library Shelving and Logos Software | | | | | | | |
| | Library Trolley | | | 1,000 | | | | |
| | Office furniture | | | 41,318 | | | | |
| | Carpet replacement | | 100,000 | | | | | |
| | College airconditioners | | 50,000 | | | | | |
| | Computer Equipment & IT | | 6,000 | 4,322 | 7,622 | 11,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| | Dishwashers - units | | 3,000 | 654 | | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| | Units - replacement of carpets, fixtures | | 3,000 | | | | 0 | - |
| | Proceeds of sale of St Georges Geelong | | | | | | (400,000) | |
| | Increase (decrease) in debtors | | | | | | | |
| | Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 162,000 | 47,294 | 48,940 | 14,000 | (391,000) | 9,000 |
| | Non-Cash Items | | | | | | | |
| | Depreciation | 69,007 | 69,528 | 40,418 | 66,864 | 70,227 | 69,427 | 71,427 |
| | Long Service Leave Accrual | 3,120 | 1,368 | 2,800 | 1,368 | 1,436 | 1,508 | 1,584 |
| | Study Leave Accrual | (10,985) | 56,364 | 26,250 | 56,364 | 51,543 | 47,795 | 56,020 |
| | Total Non-Cash Items | 61,142 | 127,260 | 69,468 | 124,596 | 123,206 | 118,730 | 129,031 |
| | Cash Movement | 200,194 | (65,539) | 92,603 | 247,996 | 129,039 | 526,237 | 77,395 |
| | General Funds | 2,573,125 | 2,507,586 | 2,665,728 | 2,821,121 | 2,950,160 | 3,476,396 | 3,553,791 |
| | Perpetual Funds | 965,159 | 965,159 | 965,159 | 965,159 | 965,159 | 965,159 | 965,159 |

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24

| Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | | | Budget for Approval | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Account No | Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Building Fund - DGR | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1160 | 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 1,000 | - | 5,060 | - | - | - | - |
| 1165 | 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships - Library appeal | 66,565 | 1,000,000 | 7,215 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| 1350 | 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 13,140 | 36,100 | 7,595 | 13,600 | 14,100 | 10,400 | 6,100 |
| 1362 | 1350 - Interest from Common Fund- Library appeal | 20,108 | - | 14,662 | 58,648 | - | - | - |
| | Total Income | 100,812 | 1,036,100 | 34,532 | 122,248 | 64,100 | 60,400 | 56,100 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Bank Charges Building Fund | | | | | | | | |
| 2390 | 2390 - Insurance | 6,471 | 270 | 9,373 | 9,373 | 9,842 | 10,334 | 10,851 |
| 2550 | Library appeal - fundraising | - | 6,794 | - | - | 5,000 | 5,000 | - |
| | Library Upgrade - Capital Costs | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3,000,000 |
| 2710 | 2700 - Property Maintenance | 4,769 | 51,051 | 15,405 | 20,000 | 51,051 | 53,604 | 56,284 |
| | Total Expenses | 11,239 | 63,115 | 24,778 | 29,373 | 65,893 | 68,938 | 3,067,135 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Building Fund | 89,573 | 972,985 | 9,754 | 92,875 | (1,793) | (8,538) | (3,011,035) |
| Movement in bank account | | | | | | | | |
| | Specific Funds - Library Appeal | 360,059 | 1,355,059 | 381,936 | 468,707 | 513,707 | 558,707 | (2,391,293) |
| | Specific Funds - Building | 192,640 | 170,625 | 180,368 | 176,867 | 130,074 | 76,536 | 15,502 |
| Library Fund | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1160 | 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 6,354 | 8,000 | 3,320 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 1350 | 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 15,564 | 15,600 | 8,894 | 20,400 | 22,700 | 17,800 | 17,800 |
| 1650 | 1650 - Sundry Income | 141 | - | 91 | 91 | - | - | - |
| | Total Income | 22,069 | 23,600 | 12,305 | 23,400 | 25,700 | 20,800 | 20,800 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| 2060 | 2060 - Bank Charges & Fees | 353 | 240 | 118 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 |
| 2130 | 2130 - Computer Software and Supplies | - | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2180 | 2180 - Depreciation-Furniture & Equipment | 574 | 4,323 | 197 | 389 | 389 | 387 | 348 |
| 2520 | Library Books | 26,480 | 30,000 | 14,485 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 2520 | Higher Degree by Research books | 1,305 | 4,400 | 305 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,400 |
| 2520 | Mags & Journals | 23,474 | 20,000 | 9,967 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 2520 | Chinese Books | 8,020 | 10,000 | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2520 | 2520 - Library Expenses | (0) | - | (1,089) | 64,400 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 2660 | 2660 - Postage, Printing & Stationery | 2,068 | 6,000 | 2,866 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| 2720 | Rent | - | - | - | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 2814 | 2910 - Salaries & Wages | 57,774 | 67,362 | 34,173 | 41,724 | 51,571 | 53,634 | 55,243 |
| 2940 | 2940 - Superannuation | 5,567 | 4,172 | 3,806 | 4,172 | 5,157 | 5,363 | 5,524 |
| 2960 | 2960 - Long Service Leave Accrual | 8,623 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total Expenses | 134,237 | 156,497 | 64,829 | 126,925 | 167,757 | 170,024 | 171,755 |
| 2001 | 2001 - Expenses Funded By General Trust | 95,503 | 132,897 | 54,026 | 103,525 | 142,057 | 149,224 | 150,955 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Library Fund | (16,666) | 0 | 1,502 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Specific Funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| | Perpetual Funds | 222,340 | 222,340 | 222,340 | 222,340 | 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 | 101,845 | 100,000 | 58,410 | 107,600 | 120,000 | 121,000 | 122,000 |
| | Total Income | 101,845 | 100,000 | 58,410 | 107,600 | 120,000 | 121,000 | 122,000 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| 2793 | Manse Allowance-Specific | 97,240 | 97,236 | 48,620 | 97,236 | 112,320 | 112,320 | 112,320 |
| | Total Expenses | 97,240 | 97,236 | 48,620 | 97,236 | 112,320 | 112,320 | 112,320 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Fernside Trust | 4,605 | 2,764 | 9,790 | 10,364 | 7,680 | 8,680 | 9,680 |
| | Expenses funded from General budget | | | | | 0 | 0 | 19,986 |
| | Specific Funds | 105,610 | 68,374 | 65,993 | 55,974 | 20,654 | 334 | 0 |
| | Indexation of Capital | 66,588 | 40,000 | 49,407 | 60,000 | 43,000 | 29,000 | 30,000 |
| | Perpetual Funds | 1,360,326 | 1,400,326 | 1,409,733 | 1,420,326 | 1,463,326 | 1,492,326 | 1,522,326 |

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No | Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Bursary Trusts | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1160 | Donations-Bursary | 13,848 | 10,000 | 1,100 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| 1160 | Donations-Harman Scholarship | 5,500 | - | 10,000 | 10,000 | - | - | - |
| 1160 | Distributions from GAA - Whyte | 50,876 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1320 | GMP Funding - Bursaries | 53,823 | 40,000 | 29,450 | 38,800 | 30,000 | 15,000 | - |
| 1350 | Interest Common Fund - Bursaries | 83,940 | 83,800 | 48,318 | 88,900 | 96,800 | 97,400 | 97,300 |
| 1350 | Interest Whyte Scholarship Fund | 9,287 | 8,200 | 6,817 | 11,900 | 12,400 | 11,000 | 10,300 |
| 1350 | Interest - Oliver Trust | 18,580 | 19,600 | 11,197 | 22,400 | 25,800 | 25,800 | 25,900 |
| 1350 | Interest - Harman | 3,908 | - | 2,535 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| | Total Income | 239,763 | 161,600 | 109,415 | 187,000 | 180,000 | 164,200 | 148,500 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| 2070 | Bursaries - Specific - Kent | 12,500 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2070 | Bursaries (Oliver) | - | 25,000 | - | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| 2070 | Bursaries (Whyte) | - | 30,000 | 26,040 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| 2750 | Scholarships - Candidates | 75,480 | 80,000 | 35,400 | 80,003 | 95,009 | 92,883 | 93,487 |
| 2750 | Scholarships - Other (Categories 2 to 6) | 31,095 | 25,861 | 15,460 | 36,672 | 35,064 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | Total Expenses | 119,075 | 160,861 | 76,900 | 171,675 | 185,073 | 167,883 | 168,487 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Bursaries | 120,688 | 739 | 32,515 | 15,326 | (5,073) | (3,683) | (19,987) |
| | Specific Funds - Bursary Fund | 431,757 | 459,696 | 459,764 | 452,782 | 459,510 | 459,027 | 442,840 |
| | Specific Funds - Whyte Scholarship Fund | 173,032 | 151,232 | 153,809 | 154,932 | 137,332 | 128,332 | 118,632 |
| | Specific Funds - Oliver Trust | 251,148 | 245,748 | 262,345 | 248,548 | 249,348 | 250,148 | 251,048 |
| | Total Specific Funds for Bursary | 855,937 | 856,676 | 875,918 | 856,263 | 846,190 | 837,507 | 812,520 |
| | 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 | 61,085 | 61,085 | 73,619 | 73,619 | 73,619 | 73,619 | 73,619 |
| | Total Perpetual Funds for Bursary | 844,767 | 844,767 | 857,301 | 857,301 | 857,301 | 857,301 | 857,301 |
| Prizes Trusts | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1350 | Interest Common Fund - Prizes | 12,605 | 12,500 | 7,314 | 13,600 | 14,600 | 14,800 | 15,000 |
| | Total Income | 12,605 | 12,500 | 7,314 | 13,600 | 14,600 | 14,800 | 15,000 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| 2070 | Prizes Specific | 9,045 | 12,000 | - | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| | Total Expenses | 9,045 | 12,000 | 0 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Prizes | 3,559 | 500 | 7,314 | 1,600 | 2,600 | 2,800 | 3,000 |
| | Specific Funds | 150,527 | 151,027 | 157,841 | 152,127 | 154,727 | 157,527 | 160,527 |
| | Perpetual Funds | 30,515 | 30,515 | 30,515 | 30,515 | 30,515 | 30,515 | 30,515 |

**Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| | | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | | Budget for Approval | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Account No | Description | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Diaconal Fund | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1350 | Interest Common Fund - Diaconal | 16,388 | 15,900 | 9,130 | 16,900 | 18,700 | 18,600 | 18,400 |
| Total Income | | 16,388 | 15,900 | 9,130 | 16,900 | 18,700 | 18,600 | 18,400 |
| 2750 | Scholarships - Diaconals Funds | 22,980 | 24,129 | 2,580 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Total Expenses | | 22,980 | 24,129 | 2,580 | 10,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Diaconal Fund | (6,592) | (8,229) | 6,550 | 6,900 | (1,300) | (1,400) | (1,600) |
| | Specific Funds | 226,421 | 218,192 | 232,971 | 233,321 | 232,021 | 230,621 | 229,021 |
| Miscellaneous Trusts - Hopkins, Overseas Students | | | | | | | | |
| Income | | | | | | | | |
| 1350 | Interest C Fund - Hopkins | 2,799 | 2,749 | 1,681 | 3,000 | 3,356 | 3,624 | 3,914 |
| 1350 | Interest O/S Student Fund | 6,034 | 4,578 | 3,619 | 5,900 | 5,787 | 6,250 | 6,750 |
| Total Income | | 8,833 | 7,327 | 5,299 | 8,900 | 9,143 | 9,874 | 10,664 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| 2750 | Scholarships (Overseas Students) | - | - | 2,640 | - | - | - | - |
| 2910 | Salaries - Preaching Lecturer (Hopkins) | - | 6,972 | - | 3,486 | 6,972 | 6,972 | 6,972 |
| 2820 | Travel and Accommodation (Hopkins) | 428 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenses | | 428 | 6,972 | 2,640 | 3,486 | 6,972 | 6,972 | 6,972 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Miscellaneous | 8,405 | 355 | 2,659 | 5,414 | 2,170 | 2,902 | 3,692 |
| | Specific Funds | 105,382 | 105,737 | 108,042 | 110,796 | 112,967 | 115,868 | 119,560 |
| | Perpetual Funds | 26,225 | 26,225 | 26,225 | 26,225 | 26,225 | 26,225 | 26,225 |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 139,051 | (30,799) | 139,051 | 172,340 | 19,833 | 16,506 | (42,636) |
| | Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts | 203,572 | 969,114 | 70,085 | 132,478 | 4,285 | 761 | (3,016,250) |
| | Total Surplus/(Deficit) | 342,623 | 938,315 | 209,137 | 304,818 | 24,118 | 17,267 | (3,058,885) |
| | Total Specific Funds | 1,996,576 | 2,925,690 | 2,003,069 | 2,054,055 | 2,010,339 | 1,977,101 | (1,054,163) |
| | Total Perpetual Funds | 2,607,550 | 2,647,550 | 2,669,492 | 2,680,085 | 2,599,708 | 2,628,708 | 2,658,708 |

**Women's Ministries Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

| Account No - Description | Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 8.0% | | | | Budget for Approval | 8.0% | 8.0% |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 2021/2022 Actual | 2022/2023 Budget | 7 Months to Jan-23 | 2022/2023 Projected | 2023/2024 Proposed | 2024/2025 Projected | 2025/2026 Projected |
| Other Income | | | | | | | |
| 1160 - Donations, Gifts and Sponsorships | 13,015 | 12,000 | 4,260 | 10,830 | 11,500 | - | - |
| 1320 - General Missions Program | 9,921 | 5,000 | 3,796 | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | - |
| 1350 - Interest from Common Fund | 910 | 1,596 | 1,014 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,298 | 1,435 |
| Total Other Income | 23,847 | 18,596 | 9,071 | 17,730 | 18,200 | 1,298 | 1,435 |
| Conference and Event | | | | | | | |
| 1110 - Conference and Event Income | 4,309 | 6,996 | 1,900 | 6,996 | 7,150 | 9,000 | 9,000 |
| 2140 - Total Conferences & Events Expenses | (5,158) | (6,996) | (978) | (6,996) | (6,310) | (6,568) | (6,775) |
| Catering | | | | | (3,300) | (3,465) | (3,638) |
| Travel costs | | | | | (560) | (620) | (620) |
| Speaker fees | | | | | (1,800) | (1,800) | (1,800) |
| Misc items/conference bags | | | | | (650) | (683) | (717) |
| Total Conferences and Events | (849) | 0 | 922 | 0 | 840 | 2,433 | 2,225 |
| Books & Merchandising | | | | | | | |
| 1060 - Book & Merchandising Sales | - | 996 | - | 996 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2160 - Cost of Sales(Bookstall Costs) | (250) | (996) | - | (996) | (1,000) | (1,000) | (1,000) |
| Total Books & Merchandising | (250) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | 22,747 | 18,596 | 9,992 | 17,730 | 19,040 | 3,730 | 3,660 |
| Committee Staff | | | | | | | |
| 2910 - Salaries & Wages | - | 19,840 | 5,533 | 13,486 | 18,521 | - | - |
| 2940 - Superannuation | - | - | 581 | 1,416 | 2,037 | - | - |
| 2950 - Workers Compensation | 275 | - | 242 | 242 | 206 | - | - |
| Total Committee Staff | 275 | 19,840 | 6,356 | 15,144 | 20,764 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Expenses | | | | | | | |
| 2030 - Advertising | 300 | 504 | - | 504 | 360 | 400 | 400 |
| 2180 - Depreciation | - | - | 33 | 192 | 383 | 383 | 192 |
| 2220 - Education & Training | - | 696 | - | 696 | 700 | - | - |
| 2810 - Telephone, Internet & Software | - | 384 | - | 384 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 2820 - Travel & Accommodation | - | - | 18 | 18 | 100 | 615 | 615 |
| Total Other Expenses | 300 | 1,584 | 51 | 1,794 | 2,543 | 2,398 | 2,207 |
| Total Expenses | 575 | 21,424 | 6,407 | 16,938 | 23,307 | 2,398 | 2,207 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations | 22,173 | (2,828) | 3,585 | 792 | (4,267) | 1,332 | 1,453 |
| General Funds | 22,173 | 18,445 | 25,791 | 21,106 | 16,222 | 17,937 | 19,583 |
| Capital Items | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | 900 | | 900 | 1,000 | | |
| Donated Dell Laptop | | | | 1,150 | | | |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 0 | 900 | 0 | 2,050 | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE (Min 11)

Following the resignation of Mr Dean Carroll from the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and his resignation from the role of Assistant to the Clerks, for the good governance of the church the Committee met on 30 March 2023 to consider what actions to take.

Rule 5.11 states that only 'The General Assembly may appoint...one of more clerks who are usually but not necessarily members of the court'. However, regulation 4(g) of the Clerkship Committee's regulation states that one of the purposes of the Committee is to 'appoint an acting clerk whenever the clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office.' The term 'clerk' is defined by Regulation 3 for the purposes of the Committee to include both the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.

The Committee took advice from the Clerk of the Assembly and consequently resolved the following: 'Appoint Rev Cam Garrett as 'Acting Assistant to the Clerks' and Rev Philip Burns as 'Acting Deputy Clerk' until the October Assembly.'

Other normal operational business decided at the meeting of the 30 March will be reported on to the General Assembly in October, Lord willing.

Colin R Morrow
CONVENER

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min 12)

1. Impact of Code changes approved at October 2022 General Assembly

With the changes to the Code approved in October 2022, the Committee reminds presbyteries that the emphasis for monitoring and managing charge financial affairs is now clearly theirs. The role of the Maintenance of Ministry Committee is basically a review function and to declare Terms of Settlement.

2. Annual Charge Report and Terms of Settlement Report (TSR)

Following a review of the TSR report presented by the Committee to the Assembly and approved by the Assembly, the Committee, prior to releasing it, identified that, in some areas, it was deficient and therefore did not publish it to the PCV website. Further information with regard to Single Touch Payroll 2 (STP2) has come to light and added complexity to the matter. The Committee intends to bring a supplementary report to the Commission should the matter be resolved in time for the meeting of the Commission.

3. Impact of Tax Ruling TR2019/3

The convener circulated a note on the impact of this ruling to all ministers, home missionaries, and Session Clerks in November 2022. Appendix 1 is a copy of both the note and the Test Form circulated. It is important that the PCV complies with the Tax Ruling as it is effectively delegated legislation and indicates the way the Tax Office will apply s.57 of the Fringe Benefits Tax Act.

For the information of commissioners, the actual section of the act is reproduced below.

FRINGE BENEFITS TAX ASSESSMENT ACT 1986 - SECT 57

Exempt benefits--employees of religious institutions

Where:

- (a) the [employer](#) of an [employee](#) is a [registered religious institution](#); and
- (b) the [employee](#) is a [religious practitioner](#); and
- (c) a [benefit](#) is [provided](#) to, or to a [spouse](#) or a [child](#) of, the [employee](#); and
- (d) the [benefit](#) is not [provided](#) principally [in respect of](#) duties of the [employee](#) other than:
 - (i) any pastoral duties; or
 - (ii) any other duties or activities that are directly related to the practice, study, teaching or propagation of religious beliefs;

the [benefit](#) is an exempt [benefit](#).

The Committee wishes to remind all parties not to go and get separate tax rulings for individual charges, as any ruling received will be applied by the Tax Office to that congregation over and above TR2019/3.

4. Employer Superannuation Rate

The employer superannuation rate of 15% was set by the Assembly when the government set the employer superannuation guaranteed rate at 9% (2008 May Minute 11.6c). As the government's employer superannuation guarantee rate has increased over the years, the PCV Employer Superannuation rate has not likewise been increased.

Since the government rate is now 10.5% and will increase to 11% on 1 July 2023 and thence 12% by 1 July 2025, the Committee recommends that the minimum PCV Employer Superannuation contribution rate be changed from the current rate of 15% to the Super Guarantee plus 5% beginning 1 July 2023. This will result in an increase of 1% and will ensure that the superannuation of ministry workers is not further eroded. In making this recommendation, the Committee notes that PCNSW currently has a 16.5% superannuation rate and will have its rate set at 17% on 1 July 2023.

5. Rates (per MMC Regulation 5)

Below is a table showing:

- Current Stipend, Honorarium, Levies, Supply, and Travel rates; and
- New Stipend, Honorarium, Levies, Supply, and Travel rates

These are calculated in accordance with MMC Regulation 5, previous resolutions of the Assembly, and the Committee's recommended adjustment to Superannuation %.

This table will also appear on the PCV website as is.

| All amounts are \$s unless marked otherwise | | 2023/2024 | 2022/2023 | Change | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|
| Remuneration | | | | | |
| 61% | Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MinMR) | 60,144 | 59,064 | +1080 | 1.83% |
| | Stipend | 39,096 | 38,400 | +696 | 1.81% |
| 85% | Stipend (Home Missionary Minimum) | 33,232 | 32,640 | +592 | 1.81% |
| 35% | Non-Cash Benefits (NCB) | 21,048 | 20,664 | +384 | 1.86% |
| 16% | Superannuation | 9,624 | 8,868 | +756 | 8.53% |
| | <i>MinMR + Superannuation</i> | 69,768 | 67,932 | +1836 | 2.70% |
| Honorarium | | | | | |
| 2% | Business Convener | 1,203 | 1,181 | +22 | 1.85% |
| 3% | Assistant to the Clerks | 1,804 | 1,772 | +32 | 1.82% |
| 6% | Deputy Clerk | 3,609 | 3,544 | +65 | 1.82% |
| 10% | State Moderator | 6,014 | 5,906 | +108 | 1.84% |
| Levies | | | | | |
| 1.4% | Long Service Leave Levy | 840 | 410 | +430 | 104.88% |
| Other Figures | | | | | |
| 50% | Sustentation Qualifying Stipend (SQS) | 30,072 | 29,532 | +540 | 1.83% |
| Supply Rates | | | | | |
| 0.25% | One Service | 150 | 148 | +2 | 1.35% |
| 0.30% | Two Services (same sermon) | 180 | 177 | +3 | 1.94% |
| 0.35% | Three Services (same sermon) | 211 | 207 | +4 | 1.69% |
| 0.45% | Two or More (different sermons) | 271 | 266 | +5 | 1.75% |
| Travel Rate | | | | | |
| 75% | per km | 0.59 | 0.54 | +0.05 | 9.26% |

6. Long Service Leave (LSL) Levy

The Committee reminds commissioners that the LSL levy is designed to provide a subsidy to charges or employing committees who participate in the LSL Fund. The subsidy only covers the Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (minimum stipend and NCB) component of LSL payable to a Ministry Worker. The payment from the fund is not paid to the Ministry Worker directly. It is paid as a reimbursement to the charge or employing Committee once approved by the MMC after having been advised that the charge Session or employing Committee (the responsible body) has approved the LSL.

The Committee reminds commissioners that the LSL levy is charged in accordance with Regulation 21 of the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave and LSL Fund Regulations (copy below).

21. Payment of the Levy

The Levy shall be paid annually by every responsible body for every person for whom it is obliged to provide long service leave as at 1 July.

This means that if a charge or an employing committee has, on the 1 July, two or more Ministry Workers (whether part-time or full-time) who are covered by the fund, then the charge or employing Committee will be levied with two or more levies even if one or a number of those Ministry Workers leaves a charge after 1 July. Conversely, if a Ministry Worker joins a charge or employing Committee after that date, for that financial year only, no levy is payable for that worker.

7. Report on LSL paid from the LSL Fund (per MMC Reg 3(a)(iv))

As required under its regulations (MMC Regulation 3(a)(iv)), the Committee reports that the following people have had LSL paid from the LSL Fund in the 12 months to 28 February, following approval by the Committee:

| Date | Name |
|------------|------------|
| 31/03/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 31/03/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 31/03/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 31/05/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 31/05/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 31/05/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 30/06/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 30/06/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 30/06/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 30/06/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 30/06/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 29/09/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 29/09/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 29/09/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 29/09/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 03/10/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 03/10/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 24/11/2022 | [REDACTED] |
| 01/02/2023 | [REDACTED] |

The Committee reports that, at the time of writing, records indicate the following personnel have more than 13 weeks LSL owing without the approval of the responsible body or the Committee.

| Presbytery | Name | Leave Liability (weeks) |
|---------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Maroondah | | 19.8 |
| Maroondah | | 19.7 |
| Maroondah | | 26.4 |
| Maroondah | | 14.9 |
| Maroondah | | 16.2 |
| Melbourne East | | 15.7 |
| Melbourne East | | 19.5 |
| Melbourne East | | 18.0 |
| Melbourne East | | 16.0 |
| Melbourne North | | 26.1 |
| Melbourne North | | 19.7 |
| Melbourne North | | 28.1 |
| Melbourne West | | 22.9 |
| North East Victoria | | 24.3 |

8. LSL Generally

The Committee has received advice that the actual LSL liability to a ministry worker in receipt of Exempt Benefits (including Non-Cash Benefits) includes those benefits. That is, they form part of the LSL liability that Ministry Workers are entitled to receive. Allowances are not included in the liability as allowances are only paid for actual work done.

So, if a ministry worker takes LSL during their working life or before retiring or resigning, they are entitled to receive the Exempt Benefits (including Non-Cash Benefits) in the form that they have been receiving them—not cash. Exempt benefits, including Non-Cash Benefits, should be made available or processed as they normally are.

However, should a ministry worker retire or demit or their contract is concluded and/or they ask to have LSL paid out as cash (including the value of their Exempt Benefits), since the benefits would be paid in cash, they are no longer Exempt Benefits and the amounts paid are assessable income in the hands of the worker. The paying body should tax the payments in accordance with the unused leave entitlements taxation provisions, as they would any other cash components of LSL due.

The Committee is aware this clarification will result in a significant change in what has previously been understood to be the position relating to Ministry Workers LSL liability.

9. Part-time ministries

The Committee reminds the Assembly of rule 4.71 relating to part-time ministries.

Below is a copy of the rule:

4.71 Part-time ministry

4.71.1 *With the concurrence of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee a presbytery may approve part-time ministry to a charge on a year by year basis provided it is satisfied that:*

- a) *the objects of the ministry and the welfare of the charge will be properly served; and*
- b) *the minister will not suffer hardship.*

- 4.71.2 *In approving the terms of settlement for such an appointment, presbytery must:*
- a) *express the working time of the minister as a number of days out of five or as a percentage of full-time; and*
 - b) *include adequate time for the minister's preparations.*
- 4.71.3 *Such arrangements may only be approved for one year and must be reviewed and approved annually by presbytery and the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.*

This rule is also captured under MMC Regulation 11 and should also be read in the light of rule 4.82 with specific reference as far as MMC is concerned at 4.82.2(b).

The committee has become aware that not all 'part-time' ministries are being approved annually by presbyteries and Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.

Below is a table of all presbytery-approved part-time ministries reported to and approved by the Committee in the 12 months to 28 February 2023.

| Charge | Name |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Warragul | Ray Patchett |
| Bundoora | Neil Chambers |
| Daylesford | Mark Crabb (now moved to NSW) |
| Somerville | Ken Brown (now retired) |

The Committee recommends that part-time ministries be recorded and reported through the ARMS (Administrative Reporting Made Simple) system. The Committee will develop an appropriate module to enable capturing and managing the reporting of part-time ministries to facilitate presbyteries and the Committee fulfilling their obligations under the rules each year.

10. ARMS and the TSR Form

The Committee has included \$600 for the cost of developing ARMS for the inclusion of the proposed TSR form, noting that the Committee is getting advice as to the final format of this form to ensure legal compliance. The goal is to significantly expedite the 'Declaration' procedure for both presbyteries and the Committee.

This supplementary report covers two areas:

1. The impact of federal legislation, now in force, known as 'Single Touch Payroll 2' (STP2).
2. The status on Minister's Disability Insurance or Workcover protection for religious practitioners once they turn 65 years of age.

1. Impact of Federal Legislation now in force: STP2

As from 1 January 2022, federal legislation affects all religious institutions across Australia (including the entire Presbyterian Church of Australia) and their religious practitioners, who are in receipt of exempt benefits under s57 of the Fringe Benefits Tax Act. All employers, including deemed employers, are required to provide to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) the components of remuneration as each payroll is processed. For religious institutions, this includes exempt benefits provided by

religious institutions for religious practitioners where the benefit is part of the agreed remuneration.

Religious practitioners' taxable incomes do not change under this arrangement. Exempt benefits remain exempt from taxation but not exempt from reporting.

The information required to be supplied is information which, if religious practitioners are receiving Centrelink benefits, they are already required to report to Centrelink anyway. However, the information passed on by the ATO may impact certain, as yet undefined, Centrelink benefits.

The legislation has been the subject of much debate about what is to be reported to the ATO. The committee has been in contact with the General Manager of the Presbyterian Church of NSW, who is also a member of the PCA Finance Committee, and a loose-knit national working group has been established in an attempt to ensure a national approach is taken to what is to be reported to the ATO.

Advice has been sought from professional consultants and other Christian denominations, and some totally divergent approaches have been put forward. After an extensive review, the loose-knit national working group in Victoria and NSW has agreed that the advice and recommended approach by Murray Nichols of Saward Dawson is correct. The others are still considering the advice provided by Saward Dawson. The application of the advice will, however, vary at the margin, state-by-state, depending on how the state's relevant ministerial remuneration rules and regulations are established. Then depending on how these rules and regulations are stated, that may in turn, mean the application of these laws may vary on a charge-by-charge basis, as well.

The key appears to be: are certain exempt benefits effectively salary sacrifice or not? That is, if the religious practitioner says they want the benefit as cash, does the charge have the right simply to say, 'No, it's on a take it or leave it basis only'? If that is the case, it is not a salary sacrifice and, based on advice received, is not required to be reported for STP2 purposes.

For Victorian charges, the following exempt benefits, as a minimum, will need to be reported because of committee regulations and will be regarded as salary sacrifice arrangements:

- The non-cash benefit portion of the Ministerial Remuneration.
- The manse, whether provided, rented, or a manse allowance is paid.

The reason is that the regulations relating to Ministerial Remuneration state the following:

4. Definitions

- a) **'Ministerial remuneration'** is comprised of stipend and non-cash benefits.

Non-cash benefits are defined as:

5. Rates

- 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;

and the provision of a manse or the equivalent rental value of a manse is compulsory for ministers. See MMC regulation 6 below:

6. Minimum terms of settlement

Minimum terms of settlement must include the promise by a charge of:

- 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;

Any other exempt benefit provided by a charge or committee is not compulsory and is paid at the discretion of the charge or committee. Under committee regulations, even the travel benefit is not compulsory. The only part of the travel benefit that is compulsory, according to MMC regulations, is if the charge or committee elects to pay it, it is only compulsory to pay it at or above the minimum rate per kilometre approved by the Commission or Assembly.

However, should a charge or committee elect to offer in their proposed Terms of Settlement other exempt benefits (including a travel benefit), which the religious practitioner has the discretion to ask for them to be grossed up or cashed out, then they are salary sacrifice arrangements and should be reported through STP2. In other words, in order for the benefit to be excluded from the reporting regime, the charge must have the discretion to stop the benefit without compensating the worker with some other form of payment.

How will this work in practice? With the revised Terms of Settlement form (soon to be released on ARMS), charges and committees will be able to identify what exempt benefits are not salary sacrifice arrangements. These will not be required to be reported under STP2 rules.

For those on the centralised payroll system, the Church Office will action and report based on the information provided annually before 30 June or whenever Terms of Settlement are being changed and approved by a presbytery and the MMC approves the changes as per the advice given on the Terms of Settlement form. This is considered to be the most expeditious way to gather information required for compliance purposes.

Those not on the centralised payroll system will be responsible for complying with the law and should update their systems to ensure compliance with STP2 reporting requirements.

2. Status of Minister's Disability Insurance or Workcover protection for religious practitioners once they turn 65 years of age

The Church office has advised that currently, there are 97 religious practitioners registered in the LSL Fund. Of these, 18 (roughly 20%) have already turned 65. The committee has recently become aware that once a religious practitioner turns 65, they are no longer covered by the Ministers' Disability Insurance Scheme (MDIS), and if they are receiving benefits under the policy, those benefits cease at that time as well.

While this has been true since the inception of the current policy, congregations and ministers have not been alerted as to what are the requirements, if any, to ensure all religious practitioners (whether subject to a call or under a contract of employment) are both compliant with any Worksafe Victoria's requirements and adequately insured should they suffer a debilitating injury in the course of their work as religious practitioners.

For transparency and risk management reasons, the committee strongly recommends that the Board of Investment and Finance (BIF):

- 1) Inform all congregations 12 months prior to the MDIS coverage expiry of the need for the congregation to secure ongoing cover to start on the 65th birthday of Religious Practitioners.
- 2) Ensure congregations and ministers are made aware of the risks associated with lacking cover.
- 3) Establish a centralised mechanism to minimise the risk that religious practitioners who have turned 65 and are on the centralised payroll system have appropriate coverage in place in the event of a serious workplace injury.
- 4) Communicate with those charges that are not on the centralised payroll system advising of both the risk and risk mitigation strategies they can employ.

Colin Morrow
CONVENER

MMC Committee Appendix 1

An Important notice relating to 'Exempt Fringe Benefits' (or Non-Cash Benefits) payable to 'Religious Practitioners'

In 2019 the Australian Tax Office (ATO) issued a tax ruling, '*TR 2019/3 – Fringe benefits tax: benefits provided to religious practitioners*'. It is a clarifying statement issued by the ATO which states how it will apply tax law relating to Fringe Benefits, or Non-Cash Benefits, paid by 'registered religious institutions' to 'religious practitioners'. Both these terms are defined terms.

What is a 'registered religious institution'?

To be a 'registered religious institution, you must be registered with the ACNC, and you must have selected the sub-type of Advancing Religion. Advancing religion does not have to be the only sub-type, but it is essential that the Advancing Religion sub-type is selected by you, as a charge (not PCV as a denomination), to be classified as a 'registered religious institution'. If you are not registered correctly, you **must not** pay Exempt Fringe Benefits. If you do so, you could become liable for tax penalties!

Who are 'religious practitioners'?

In the ruling, from paragraph 12, there are a number of boxes that must be ticked. I will not list them in this note but ask that you read the ruling yourselves. Although the ruling does make provision for some 'rare cases' (i.e., that not all boxes be ticked and the person can still be regarded as a 'religious practitioner'), we are not aware of any such 'rare case' being accepted by the ATO.

So, basically, if all boxes are not ticked, then the payee will be determined not to be a 'religious practitioner', and the ATO may take action against the employing 'religious institution' (the charge) if they are illegally paying 'exempt fringe benefits'!

Action you should take now!

The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee advises and urges all Sessions to review their registration with the ACNC and review all people who are paid by their charges to determine whether the payees are 'religious practitioners' under the ruling.

You may find some people who you thought were 'religious practitioners' are not!

What do you do if you find you have been paying 'exempt fringe benefits' to a person you thought was a 'religious practitioner', but now, based on the tax ruling, you find they are not?

Initially, contact the person and make them aware of this issue and negotiate and implement a revised method of payment (i.e., a wage or full cash stipend).

Do you need help to decide?

Please contact the Office General manager in the first instance.

May God bless you at this time,



Colin Morrow
Convener – Maintenance of Ministry Committee

MMC Committee Appendix 1 – cont'd

| Test to establish if you are a registered religious institution: | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Are you registered with ACNC with a subtype "advancing religion"? (circle applicable YES or NO) | Yes | No |
| If the answer is NO, then you cannot consider providing Exempt Fringe Benefits for anyone! You are NOT a registered religious institution! If the answer is YES then proceed to the table below: | | |
| Tests to establish if the person is a religious practitioner: (Again circle applicable response) | | |
| Are they a member of a religious institution? | Yes | No |
| Are they recognised by ordination or other admission or commissioning , or has authority from the religious institution to carry out the duties based on theological training or other relevant experience? | Yes | No |
| Are they officially recognised as having authority on doctrine or religious practice? | Yes | No |
| Are they distinct from ordinary adherents of the religion? | Yes | No |
| Are they an acknowledged leader in spiritual affairs of the religious institution? | Yes | No |
| Are they authorised to act as a minister or spiritual leader, including the conduct of religious worship and other religious ceremonies? | Yes | No |
| If you selected NO for any of the above, then they are NOT a religious practitioner and thereby they are not entitled to Exempt Fringe Benefits (NCB)! If ALL are YES then proceed to the table below: | | |
| Tests to establish if a benefit or benefits provided to a religious practitioner are exempt: | | |
| It is possible for a person to be classified as a religious practitioner and yet not be entitled to Exempt Fringe Benefits. | | |
| For a fringe benefit to be exempt the benefit must be provided principally in respect of the following employee duties: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pastoral duties, or | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other duties or activities that are directly related to the practice, study, teaching or propagation of religious beliefs (directly related religious activities (1)) | |
| A benefit that is provided only in respect of duties which are solely or predominantly pastoral, or which are directly related religious activities (1) , will satisfy the test. | | |
| In contrast, a benefit provided in respect of duties which are not solely or predominantly pastoral, or directly related religious activities (1) , will fail the test! Additionally, you must test each benefit separately. An arrangement which once provided benefits in respect of pastoral duties or directly related religious activities (1) may lose that connection as circumstances change. | | |
| Some examples of what the ATO considers are pastoral duties: | | |
| Pastoral duties are duties associated with the spiritual care of people. Examples of pastoral duties undertaken by religious practitioners are (include): | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | communication of religious beliefs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | teaching and counselling adherents and members of the community | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | providing adherents and members of the community with spiritual guidance and support | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | conducting an in-service seminar of a spiritual nature | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | meeting or visiting adherents, the sick, the poor, and others who need emotional and spiritual support | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | providing pastoral supervision to those engaged in pastoral duties | |
| (1) Directly related religious activities are those activities in their essential nature, promote the practice, study, teaching and propagation of religious beliefs. | | |

NOMINATIONS FOR MODERATOR-DESIGNATE (Min 8)

The following nomination for the position of Moderator-Designate 2023 has been received:

Rev Ian Hutton (retired minister): presbyteries of Geelong, Gippsland, Melbourne North, North East Victoria, and North Western Victoria.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min 13)

Since the 2022 General Assembly of Victoria (GAV), the committee has been working to fill vacancies in relation to the General Assembly of Australia (GAA). These have arisen through changes in appointments or individuals moving away from Victoria.

With regards to the GAA Reception of Ministers Committee, Rev Chris Siriweera has been nominated as convener. If this is approved, it will create an additional spot for a Victorian. We approached those people whose names we brought for nomination via ballot to the GAV and Rev Kyung Ee has agreed to be nominated.

The GAV commissioners for the GAA are as follows:

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 S Harris, Dr N Johnston, vacancy, vacancy.

Elder Alternates [5]: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Mr Andrew Letcher and Mr Tom Guilford will no longer serve as GAV commissioned elders to the GAA. This means we only have three elders. It is also worth noting that we have no minister alternates for GAV commissioners. This is particularly relevant given that Rev Cameron Garrett now serves as the Assistant to the Clerks but already has a seat at the GAA due to his position as the GAA Business Convener.

The committee has contacted presbyteries for nominations but have not received any. However, thanks to the Assembly Clerk, Rev Dr John Wilson, the committee is able to nominate the following: Rev John Huynh, Rev Ben Johnson, Rev Phil Campbell, Rev Luke Brownley, Mr David Selman, and Mr Dennis Wright. The updated list of commissioners is as follows.

Ministers [5]: Moderator, Moderator Designate, Assistant to the Clerks, Rev R Grinter, Rev P Hastie.

Minister Alternates [5]: Rev G Nicholson, Rev P Campbell, Rev B Johnson, Rev J Huynh, Rev L Brownley.

Elders [5]: Mr K Childs, Mr S Harris, Dr N Johnston, Dr W J Hare, Mr D Wright.

Elder Alternates [5]: vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy, vacancy.

Adam Humphries
CONVENER

SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (Min 15)

Some members of the Assembly may wonder what the role of the Special Judicial Committee is. The following is provided to help answer such a question and, more particularly, to assist newer members of the Assembly.

In general:

A general statement of the role is described in rule 5.42, which outlines two distinct roles:

1. advise the General Assembly on procedure in matters of a judicial character;
2. place before it (i.e. the General Assembly) a suggested course of action for each case.

Specific duties:

Specific guidance in performing these roles is found in the list of duties provided in rule 5.55, namely:

- a) put petitions, references and appeals lodged with the Assembly Clerk in order if necessary;
- b) may send a copy of them to the party or parties named;
- c) report their nature, but not necessarily their contents, to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly;
- d) recommend how they may be dealt with;
- e) place before the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly a suggested course of action in each case;
- f) in the case of appeals, draw the attention of appellants and respondents to the provisions of rules 6.46.1(b)(ii) and (iii) regarding their speeches.

Duties (a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) pertain to the former role (advice on procedure).
Duty (e) pertains to the latter role (suggested course of action).

How it works out:

When it comes to 'a suggested course of action in each case', your committee will provide a suggestion that is:

- consistent with advice given esp in (d) where the SJC has the responsibility to outline on what basis, or upon what rule(s), this case may be dealt with (i.e. 'the how'); as well as
- generally consistent with the relief sought by the petitioners (provided what they ask for is within their rights to ask).

Finally, this is a reminder that the SJC's advice is just that: advice. It is then up to the General Assembly to decide what relief, if any, it is to provide, as per the petitioners' final wish: 'or do otherwise as in their (i.e. the General Assembly's) wisdom they may consider appropriate'.

PETITION 1: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA – SALE OF SCOTSBURN (UNION CHURCH) PROPERTY

At least since Union (1977), there has never been a recognised PCV congregation meeting at Scotsburn. Since April 2022, there have been no meetings of any kind held on the property, and presbytery has declared it has no use for it.

The Commission of Assembly may authorise a sale of this property under clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed for Church Site (MTD), which says:

in the case of any land and hereditaments and the buildings and erections thereon not held for the use of any Congregation, the Assembly shall be at liberty to direct the Trustees or Trustee to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange, or otherwise deal with or dispose of the said land and hereditaments, and the buildings and erections thereon, or any part thereof, in any manner and upon such conditions as to disposition of the proceeds or otherwise (if any) as the Assembly may from time to time direct.

As for authorising a purpose for the proceeds of sale, again, our advice is that the Assembly may, according to Clause 14 of the MTD make its determination:

upon such conditions as to disposition of the proceeds or otherwise (if any) as the Assembly may from time to time direct

PETITION 2: PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH WEST VICTORIA – SALE OF WOODFORD PROPERTY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Prior to the final dissolution of a congregation, a presbytery requires the General Assembly's agreement (rule 4.69) and that is what presbytery is seeking with regard to Woodford.

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 (MTD), as per:

in the case of any land and hereditaments and the buildings and erections thereon not held for the use of any Congregation, the Assembly shall be at liberty to direct the Trustees or Trustee to sell, mortgage, lease, exchange, or otherwise deal with or dispose of the said land and hereditaments, and the buildings and erections thereon, or any part thereof, in any manner and upon such conditions as to disposition of the proceeds or otherwise (if any) as the Assembly may from time to time direct.

As for authorising a purpose for the proceeds of sale, again, our advice is that the Assembly may, according to Clause 14 of the MTD make its determination:

upon such conditions as to disposition of the proceeds or otherwise (if any) as the Assembly may from time to time direct.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

PETITION 1: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA—SALE OF SCOTSBURN (UNION CHURCH) PROPERTY (Min 16)

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

This petition shows that:

Property and Building History

- a) There is a property at 6848 Midland Highway, Scotsburn, Vic 3352, a site area of 4,108m², with a freestanding single-level circa 1884 church building of approximately 108m². There are no facilities such as mains water, sewerage connection or septic sewerage on the property. The property description is Lot 1 on Plan 19774W, located in Moorabool Shire Council.
- b) Prior to 22 June 1977, the said land was held for the purpose of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria or a congregation thereof.
- c) On 27 February 1981, under the provisions of Section 23 of the Uniting Church in Australia Act 1977, interest in the land was conveyed from Robert Scott, James Allison, and John Forrest to the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust.
- d) It was subsequently recognised that the land was omitted in error from the land described in Schedule 1 of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1979, and it was the desire of the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Victoria) to correct such error.
- e) On 19 August 1987, the error described in clause d) was rectified with the conveyance of the interest in the land to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation.

Congregational Affiliation and Jurisdiction Matters

- f) Two separate congregations met on alternate Sundays (Anglican and Presbyterian) in the early to middle stages of the church's history. At a later stage, the congregation met monthly due to lower numbers attending.
- g) Neither congregation had paid ministry workers (either full or part time). Lay or supply preachers provided pulpit supply for the entire history of the church.
- h) It is noted that the congregation has never come under the formal jurisdiction of a Presbyterian Session or Presbytery. From time to time, there may have been informal supervision by an elder from a nearby or local Presbyterian church. Therefore, the process of dissolving a congregation as required under the code is not applicable in this instance.

Congregational Closure and Vacating the Property

- i) On 21 April 2022, the Union church congregation notified the PCV that due to COVID-19 restrictions, financial matters, and decreasing numbers, they would no longer operate and consequently would not be using the building. The keys were returned to the Presbytery of Western Victoria.

Presbytery of Western Victoria Resolutions June 2022 Meeting

- j) It was resolved to sell the property at a fair market value.
- k) It was resolved to give a portion of the sale proceeds to the community of Scotsburn once that community has been identified.

Presbytery of Western Victoria resolution February 2023 meeting.

- l) Resolved to accept and adopt the petition presented, and the property be sold as is, save for an amendment, the reasons being a situation of adverse possession exists. The dam behind the church property was excavated further in a southerly direction and now encroaches on the northeast corner of the church property. This took place after the church property boundaries were fixed but before the current owner purchased the property. Further, a power cable for the dam pump was illegally laid on the church property. The other reasons Presbytery resolved to sell as is (a) very poor condition of building, and (b) the front fence is on the road reserve, not on the boundary.
- m) The Presbytery of Western Victoria resolved at its meeting on 14th February 2023 to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to direct the application of these funds: 10% as a donation to the Scotsburn Primary School and the Scotsburn community hall funds and 90% to the Presbytery of Western Victoria for church planting or future church property purchases in the Presbytery of Western Victoria and to reimburse the Presbytery for the past five years Scotsburn property expenses incurred by the Presbytery.

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 property at Scotsburn, namely Lot 1 on Plan 19774W, to firstly reimburse the Presbytery for the past five years Scotsburn property expenses incurred by the Presbytery, then as to the remaining net proceeds of sale, 10% a contribution to the Scotsburn Primary School and the Scotsburn community hall funds and the remaining 90% to the Presbytery of Western Victoria for church planting or future church property purchases in the Presbytery of Western Victoria,
or to do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed:
CLERK OF PRESBYTERY

Dated: 15 February 2023

Extracted from the minutes of the meeting of the Presbytery of Western Victoria 14 February 2023 by me:

Michael Oldfield
Clerk

The petition will be presented on behalf of the Presbytery by Rev Toby McIntosh and Rev Robert Duncanson.

APPENDIX 1



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA

22 February 2023

The Clerk of Assembly
Rev John P Wilson

Attached you will find a petition drawn up by Presbytery for permission to sell the Scotsburn property for a particular and stated purpose. Presbytery considers the matter firstly to have emerged since the last General Assembly met and secondly is in need of urgent and executive action. Therefore, we ask that it might be included in the business of the Commission of Assembly, May 2023. In support of this, please consider:

1. There has been a long story regarding questions of ownership, title of the property and the right of the local residents & congregation to, firstly use the building and secondly to play a part in deciding who will buy the property. It has been only being since October 2022 that the people at Scotsburn have now recognised and agreed that the Presbyterian Church of Victoria have sole right in how and to whom the property will be sold.
2. The urgency of the situation relates to the most likely and best prospect of a buyer who considers that there will be significant deterioration in the west facing wall over the coming winter without restoration work commencing as soon as possible. Therefore the presbytery considers that waiting for an October/November sale might see a diminishing of the sale price.

Michael Oldfield
Clerk of Presbytery

Clerk: M
Oldfield
PO Box
459
Maryborough Vic. 3465
email <moldfield5@bigpond.com>



APPENDIX 2



- NOTES
1. ALL PROVIDED DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.
 2. FENCE LOCATION ARE ESTIMATED THROUGH NEARMAP IMAGERY.
 3. TITLE BOUNDARY SOURCES FROM VIC CADASTRAL MAP.

FENCE ENCLOSING EXISTING
STRUCTURE ON LOT 6848

TITLE BOUNDARY FROM VIC
CADASTRAL MAP

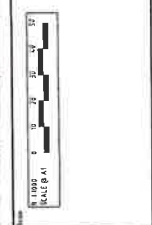
6848 MIDLAND HIGHWAY
SCOTTSBURN
LAYOUT PLANS
FOR LOT 6848
PORTER PELCHER PROPERTIES PTY LTD
PRELIMINARY CR200
A

Designed
S SALLHAN
Authorised
A WILKIE

Checked
A WILKIE
Date
27/09/2022

15 BUNNICK STREET, BUNNICK
VICTORIA 3200, AUSTRALIA P 3 5448 2000
spire.com.au AML 55 950 075 825

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| No. | Description | Date |
|-----|-------------------|------------|
| A. | PRELIMINARY ISSUE | 27/09/2022 |

PETITION 2: PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH WEST VICTORIA—SALE OF WOODFORD PROPERTY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS (Min 17)

To the Commission of Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a) The Presbytery informs the Assembly that it intends to dissolve the congregation of Woodford, which made up the third congregation of the Koroit/Port Fairy/Woodford Charge. The final dissolution of a congregation cannot be executively declared by Presbytery until it has the agreement of the General Assembly (rule 4.69.5).
- b) Regularly authorised Presbyterian services of worship at Woodford ceased on 19 December 2021.
- c) Given the proximity to other congregations, it is highly unlikely that the Woodford site will provide viable church planting opportunities.
- d) Maintaining the property and seeing that it is preserved from needless deterioration and misuse (rule 4.80) is a waste of considerable financial and physical resources.
- e) A real estate sale estimate for the Woodford property is in the vicinity of \$600,000–\$800,000.
- f) The Koroit/Port Fairy Charge is a long-established and growing congregation that, despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, has achieved considerable growth in regular Sunday attendance and well-attended mid-week Bible Study, and Presbytery has every confidence that by God's grace, this growth will continue.

Now, therefore, the Presbytery of South West Victoria humbly petitions the Commission of Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree with the intention of the Presbytery of South West Victoria to:

1. Dissolve the Woodford congregation in accord with rule 4.69.5
2. Approve the sale of the Woodford property, which includes five titles (Vol 9604, Folio 356; Vol 10554, Folio 025; Vol 627, Folio 266; Vol 11151, Folio 904; Vol 2994, Folio 609).
3. Appoint persons to investigate the possibility of consolidation of titles and subdividing the property into more attractive lots to maximise the sale price.
4. Allocate the proceeds of sale as follows:
 - \$300,000 to the Property Development Fund (for church planting).
 - \$100,000 to the Koroit/Port Fairy Charge to be used to further ministry in the Charge.
 - The balance for the use of the Presbytery of South West Victoria at the Presbytery's discretion.

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

Rev Ian Leach

Clerk of Presbytery

Dated 30 March 2023

The petition will be presented by Rev Ian Leach and Rev Rod Waterhouse.

APPENDIX 1

BRIDGE ROAD

MILL STREET

WILLIAM STREET

2124m²

1282m²

6300m²

356m²

1265m²



APPENDIX 2



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
URGENT MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
JUNE 2023**

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall,
on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 10:30am.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by order of the Moderator. Following the singing of a hymn, Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Jesse Walz, read Psalm 1 and brought a devotion and constituted the Assembly in 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 the June 2023 Urgent Meeting of the 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 June 2023 Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Appointment of Acting Deputy Clerk

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev Cameron Garrett Acting Deputy Clerk for this June 2023 Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Cameron Garrett abstained.

5. Apologies

The Acting Deputy Clerk intimated that the following apologies had been received:

Ministers: Peter Barclay, Keith Bell, Jordan Born, Andrew Bray, Luke Brownley, Philip Burns, Neil Chambers, Philip Court, Brett Cummins, Daniel Dixon, Rob Duncanson, Heath Easton, Kyung Ee, Alan Every, Miles Fagan, Cameron Griffiths, Russ Grinter, David Hann, Allan Harman, Peter Hastie, Karl Hood, Adam Humphries, Ben Johnson, Steve Jones, Clinton Le Page, Ian Leach, Greg Matthews, Stephen McDonald, Luke McSeveny, Damian Meeuwissen, Philip Mercer, Peter Orchard, Kainano Opetaiia, Ray Patchett, Nathan Runham, Ignatius Seta, Chris Siriweera, Andrew Slater, Samuel Son, Ian Touzel, Michael Wharton, Richard Wilson.

Elders: John Angelico, Iain Bramley, Drew Chittenden, Ian Courts, Geoff Cross, David Cutler, Elizabeth Cutler, Ken Fuhrmeister, Colin Flynn, Tom Guilford, Jim Hare, Graeme Harris, Robert Herweynen, Ralph Kop, Andrew May, Roger McIvor, Colin Morrow, Ben Palmer, Jeremy Peet, Graeme Presser, John Singleton, Ryan Smith, Colin Spackman, Bert Stasse, Stephen Weir, Richard Worth, Alan York, Anton Zirngast.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies that have been submitted to the Acting Deputy Clerk.

The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Jared Hood, sought leave to move clause 3 of the proposed deliverance in an amended form.

Leave was granted.

Rev Jared Hood moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30pm to the finish of business, with breaks as determined by the Moderator.
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
 - Question time (including 20 minutes for total deliverance questions)
 - 5 minutes for:
 - Movers of substantive motions and amendments
 - All other speakers.
3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
 - Rev Stuart Withers (Convener), Andrew Vines, Elders Kevin Childs, Doug Fraserand determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at the dissolution of this Assembly.
4. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to answer any financial management questions.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

7. 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 Assembly.

Rev John Huynh raised a potential conflict of interest.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly, while noting the declaration of a possible conflict of interest by Rev John Huynh due to familial ties, declare that there is no conflict in this instance as neither John nor his brother Paul stand to gain financially or in any other personal way by the decisions being made, and therefore invite Mr J Huynh to remain and take full part in the debate, including voting.

The motion was seconded and approved.

8. Special Judicial Committee

The report of the Special Judicial Committee was received.

9. Petition 1 – Presbytery of Flinders – Proposed Union of the Cheltenham and Mordialloc Congregations.

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev David Martin and Rev Paul Huynh.

The Moderator invited Commissioners to ask questions of the petitioners.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve, as suggested in the Proposed Basis of Union point 3, the choice of the Cheltenham church and the Mordialloc church as places of worship in connection with the proposed united congregation Bay Church Presbyterian (as provided for in rule 4.68A.2(c)).
2. Allocate, as provided for in the Proposed Basis of Union point 6, the Cheltenham church buildings and its manse site, together with the Mordialloc church buildings and its manse along with the adjacent accommodation units, to the proposed united congregation upon union: Bay Church Presbyterian (as provided for in rule 4.68A.2(f)) to be held on the same trusts as are constituted by the provisions of clauses 1 to 15 (both inclusive) of the applicable Model Trust Deed (as provided for in clause 15(b) of the Model Trust Deeds).
3. Approve, as provided for in the Proposed Basis of Union point 4 and subject to any trusts with which the funds of the uniting congregations may be impressed, the transfer of the balance of all bank accounts held by each congregation into a new bank account in the name of the united congregation Bay Church Presbyterian (as provided for in rule 4.68A.2(d)).
4. Approve, as provided for in the Proposed Basis of Union point 5, that the Sites Reserve Fund currently associated with the Cheltenham Presbyterian Church be reassigned, still as unallocated funds, but so that it is associated with the united congregation Bay Church Presbyterian (as provided for in rule 4.68A.2(e)).

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

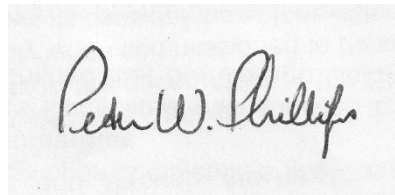
The petitioners were informed of the decision and removed from the bar.

10. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator closed the meeting with the singing of a hymn and prayer.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
C B Garrett

I certify that the minutes of this Urgent Meeting of the GAV, held 27 June 2023, having been carefully scrutinised are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 6.8 thereof.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Peter W. Phillips".

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 (AC) | | Abraham Chol |
| Clayton | Michael Jensen Lam Paul Gak (Associate) | Arnis Putnins |
| Cranbourne | Peter Roberts | |
| Dandenong | | Robert Paix |
| Dromana-Mornington | Matt Cole | |
| Embrace Melbourne (AC) | Paul Jang | |
| Frankston | Jared Keath | |
| Mordialloc (AC) | Paul Huynh | |
| New Life, Officer | David Martin | Sabyan Hardjo |
| Somerville | | |
| Sorrento-Rye | Hui Lim | |
| South East Samoan | Kainano Opetaiia | |
| Retired Ministers: | Peter Barclay | |
| | Ivan Barker | |
| | David Brown | |
| | Ken Brown | |
| | Frank Savage | |
| | Wally Zurrer | |

Presbytery of Geelong (V2)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bannockburn | Matthew Deroon | G (Bert) Stasse |
| Bellarine (AC) | Brett Cummins | |
| 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 McIvor |
| 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 | |
| Doncaster (HMC) | | Colin Flynn |
| Donvale | Gerald Vanderwert Joel Mestry (Assistant) Jordan Born (Assistant) Xien Yao (Assistant) | Iain Bramley |
| Heathmont | Brian Harvey | Doug Fraser |
| Kirkbrae | Paul K B Lee | |
| Mt Evelyn (AC) | Miles Fagan | Bruce Timmins |
| Warburton (HMC) | | |
| Woori Yallock | Tony Archer | Andre Dahmen |
| | | |
| PTC Lecturer | Jared Hood | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Tony Bird | |
| | Graham Bradbeer | |
| | Felix Chung | |
| | Trevor Cox | |
| | Wally Gear | |
| | Grant Lawry | |
| | Peter Orchard | |
| | Andrew Slater | |
| | Willem Vandenberg | |
| | 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 (HMC) | Tony Salisbury | |
| Gardenvale East (AC) | | |
| 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: | | 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 (CPC) | Ben Kelada | |
| Eltham | Don Elliott | Ian Courts |
| Epping | Nello Barbieri Brian Luong (Associate) | Neil Furlong |
| Heidelberg (AC) | Bagoes Seta | Tom Cunneen |
| Hume (AC) | Luke Brownley | Tony Ruggeri |
| Kangaroo Ground (HMC) | | |
| Reservoir | Andrew Vines | Reg Butcher |
| Samoan | | |
| Valley (CPC) | 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) | | 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 | | |
| Sunshine-Melbourne West Korean (AC) | Samuel Son | Charles Okwo |
| West Footscray (HMC) | Martin de Pyle | |
| Williamstown | Daniel Dixon | |
| Wyndham | Peter Greiner | Harold Carpenter |
| 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-Tallygaropna (AC) | | George Elliott |
| Seymour-Nagambie-Yea (HMC) | | Bill Day |
| Shepparton-Stanhope- Kyabram | Kyung Ee | Philip Betts |
| Tatura-Rushworth | | Gary Dunstan |
| Wangaratta-Myrtleford- Yarrawonga | | Malcolm Browning |
| Wodonga (AC) | Stuart Withers | |
| TEC Convener | Kevin Maxwell | |
| Retired Ministers: | Neil Harvey | Parity: Ralph Kop |
| | Ian Touzel | |

Presbytery of North Western Victoria (V9)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Bendigo | Philip Burns | Andrew Kerr |
| Bendigo East (Reforming) | Russ Grinter | Ryan Smith |
| Eaglehawk (AC) | Jesse Walz | |
| Kerang/Swan Hill (AC) | | 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 |
| Koroit-Port Fairy | | |
| Portland | Rod Waterhouse | |
| 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 (AC) | | Stewart McKerrow |
| Ballarat North (AC) | John Brennan | Graham Hammond |
| Ballarat South (Ebenezer St John's) | Toby McIntosh | Keith Mitchell |
| Ballarat West | Robert Duncanson | Jeremy Peet |
| Carisbrook-Castlemaine (HMC) | | Richard McArdle |
| Daylesford | | |
| Horsham | Greg Matthews | |
| Kaniva-Nhill (HMC) | | Bruce Meyer |
| Retired Minister: | | |

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 6)

The Business Committee has received all papers currently proposed to be submitted to the 27 June 2023 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 9:45am on the morning of the Assembly in the first-floor committee 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 p36)
3. Approval of Moderator's convening (code 5.38.c), NOM A2 (WB p36)
4. Appointment of Acting Deputy Clerk NOM A3 (WB p36)
5. Apologies, NOM A4 (WB p36)
6. Associations
7. Business Committee, WB p18 (del p19, 9 clauses)
8. Conflict of Interest Declarations
9. Special Judicial Committee Report, WB p35 (no del)
10. Petition 1: Presbytery of Flinders—Cheltenham Mordialloc union, WB p20
11. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
(rule 5.55(c) & (d)) (Min 8)**

PETITION 1

from: THE PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS

re: Union of Mordialloc and Cheltenham congregations

This petition arises from the new rule (4.68A) that guides a presbytery through the process of uniting two or more of its congregations to form a United Charge.

By agreeing to the Moderator's action in calling an Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly, the Assembly would have agreed with the requisitionists that the matter is deemed urgent.

The General Assembly may then consider the petitioners' plea and make its decision on what relief to grant on the basis of the provision of Rule 4.68A.5(b).

The General Assembly, in giving approval or not, must give particular attention to:

- the choice of a building as the place of worship, Rule 4.68A.2(c);
- the proposed allocation of the property of each congregation, especially the future use or disposal of any remaining property that's not needed, Rule 4.68A.2(f);
- the proposed allocation of any funds held in trust in sites reserve accounts for the uniting congregations, Rule 4.68A.2(e).

JOHN P WILSON
Clerk of Assembly



PETITION 1

Presbytery of Flinders

Clerk: Rev. B. Peatman

66 Station Street

Aspendale VIC 3195

Phone 0414743092

flindersclerk@gmail.com

DATE: 6 / 6 / 2023

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) Following a period of consultation with the minister, sessions and congregations the Presbytery of Flinders proposed the union of its Cheltenham and Mordialloc Charges on the 28th of February 2023 (Presbytery Minute 2023.02.28.17.3.2a; PCV rule 4.68A.1a).
- b) The Presbytery obtained the agreement of the appointed minister of Mordialloc to the proposal and consulted both sessions and boards of management of each congregation (PCV rule 4.68A.1b).
- c) The Presbytery of Flinders completed its consultation with the Board of investment and finance with the BIF registering no reasons to object to this proposed Basis of union on the 19th of May 2023 (PCV rule 4.68A.1b).
- d) The Presbytery of Flinders formed a steering committee from the members of both congregations (Minute 2023.02.28.17.3.2v, PCV rule 4.68A.5a).
- e) The proposed Basis of Union, together with an explanation of Presbytery's vision in wanting to fuse these congregations into one are submitted to the General Assembly for approval (PCV rule 4.68A.5b). An appendix outlining the new church's Ministry Plan and Strategic plan (for property) has been attached for your information.
- f) The proposed name of the united congregation is BayChurch Presbyterian.
- g) Due diligence has been undertaken by Presbytery and it is determined that for the benefit of the united congregation no property or funds currently in the name of either congregation is considered redundant or in excess, but all have a designated use.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Flinders humbly petition(s) the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and approve the provisional basis of union for the union of Pioneers Presbyterian Church Cheltenham and Mordialloc Presbyterian Church or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Provisional Basis of Union

1. Name – BayChurch Presbyterian.
2. Membership Rolls – The Communicant and Adherent rolls of Cheltenham PC and Mordialloc PC be fused into one new roll of BayChurch Presbyterian with communicant and adherent status being maintained.



Presbytery of Flinders

Clerk: Rev. B. Peatman

66 Station Street

Aspendale VIC 3195

Phone 0414743092

flindersclerk@gmail.com

3. Place of worship – 10am morning service to be held in the old Cheltenham Presbyterian Church, 8 Park Rd, Cheltenham. Evening services to be held in the previously known Mordialloc Presbyterian Church at 12 McDonald St, Mordialloc..
4. Bank accounts – accounts of both churches to be closed, a new bank account or accounts be opened under the name of BayChurch Presbyterian and all monies transferred into this account(s).
5. Sites Reserve money – Cheltenham SR to be renamed to BayChurch Presbyterian.
6. Property - Cheltenham church building and manse site, Mordialloc church building and manse together with adjacent accommodation units all to be transferred to the new Bayside Presbyterian Church or other such name and held in trust. No property is proposed to be disposed of as part of the union process.
7. Union of the sessions – One session shall be established made up of the members of the Sessions from Cheltenham and Mordialloc.
8. Determination of boundaries – this shall be the combined area of both parishes as they are currently adjoining parishes.
9. Provision of a manse – the board shall supply an appropriate manse allowance.
10. Provision of a minister – the Presbytery shall declare the pastoral charge of BayChurch Presbyterian vacant. Note: the new church shall follow the normal procedures for filling a vacancy.
11. Other matters for consideration (PCV rule 4.68A.3) – to be determined by the Steering Committee.

Freedom to adjust (PCV rule 4.68A.4) – While these terms and conditions shall form a basis of union for the Cheltenham and Mordialloc congregations now uniting, the united congregation shall be free to adjust its arrangements and manage its affairs as need may arise under authority of the presbytery.

The Presbytery of Flinders humbly submits this petition for the Assembly's consideration and asks that you approve this basis of union or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

This Petition will be stated on behalf of the Presbytery of Flinders by Rev. Paul Huynh and Rev. David Martin.

Signed:

Rev Brett Peatman
Clerk

Report for PCV Assembly

Proposed Union of St. Andrew's Mordialloc & Pioneers Cheltenham

Table of Contents

- 1. Preamble**
- 2. Presbytery Steps**
- 3. Rationale**
- 4. Proposed Basis of Union**
- 5. BayChurch Presbyterian Ministry Plan**
- 6. Strategic Plan for property/asset use after possible union**

1. Preamble

In following PCV CODE 4.68A, the Visitation & Extension Committee of the Presbytery of Flinders have investigated the possible union of St. Andrew's Mordialloc & Pioneers Cheltenham and have concluded that a union is strategic for the witness of the gospel in this area. There are three major reasons for this that will be further detailed in the rationale.

1. Proximity between the two churches and the pooling of resources

The proximity of both congregations is only a 7 minute drive. Meeting together has revealed that a more permanent union of resources would enable greater gospel impact to reach the area. A greater critical mass enables the church to more effectively reach out in the community and foster effective discipleship between the generations. Running courses like Christianity Explored/Hope Explored would allow us to have greater reach, along with more members to train and run such courses.

2. Support for Pioneers Cheltenham

The congregation at Cheltenham has been in decline in recent decades and is also ageing with 6 out of 19 over 90 years old, including two female elders in their 90s. The Mordialloc congregation has been able to support a congregation who do not have the energy to call their own minister and long to see gospel outreach take place in their area.

3. Space for future gospel growth

The heritage listed building at Mordialloc is quite small and will reach a capacity of ~60 people (space required for prams, walkers etc). Reaching the area will require adequate space for various evangelistic ministries in our area, kid's church and youth group. A union of the two congregations would solve the space problem and enable future growth in the various ministries.

2. Presbytery Steps

Rev. David Brown retired on the 9th September 2022 and Rev Paul Huynh, minister at Mordialloc was appointed as interim moderator designate of Cheltenham from the 31st June 2022.

A separate Presbytery Visitation of the Cheltenham charge took place on the 21st August 2023, with committee members Rev. David Martin (convenor), Rev. Jared Keath and Rev. Matt Cole.

Rev. Paul Huynh conducted separate services at Cheltenham Presbyterian on the 26th June 2022, 3rd July 2022 and the 10th July 2022. He met with the Mordialloc Session to discuss the idea of combining services with the Cheltenham congregation for a short season during this interim period given the proximity to Cheltenham (7 minute drive from Mordialloc) and the times of worship (Cheltenham at 9:30am and Mordialloc at 10:30am).

The elders at Mordialloc agreed that having a combined service at Cheltenham would encourage the older saints at Cheltenham in this time of transition and provide opportunities to partner in the gospel for mutual encouragement. Rev. Paul Huynh brought this idea to the Cheltenham elders who were all very positive and pleased with this idea. The plans were reported to Presbytery.

Rev. Paul Huynh lead a combined service of both the Mordialloc and Cheltenham Presbyterian Church from 17th July to the end of August 2022, which was a great joy. It did reveal to him that perhaps a more permanent union of resources might be a good idea for a greater gospel impact to reach the area.

Following the report of its visitation committee the Presbytery resolved at a meeting on Tuesday 30th August:

(Minute 22.08.30 5.5) Presbytery begin the process of considering whether the uniting of the Cheltenham and Mordialloc charges is necessary for the good of the church (Code 4.68.1) by granting the visitation committee the responsibility of initially seeking the mind of the ministers, sessions and congregations about a proposed union of churches and obtaining the agreement of any inducted ministers (4.68.2) and then, subsequently, following the expanded procedure outlined in 4.68A.

(Minute 22.08.30 5.4) “Presbytery thank the Interim Moderator, Rev Paul Huynh, for the initiative of combining services and for the sensitive pastoral care of members of the Cheltenham charge.” Sec. App.

(Minute 22.08.30 5.7) “A further clause was added and moved: In light of the decision to investigate combining the congregations, it was moved that Presbytery direct the Interim Moderator to cease his work of searching for a minister.” Sec. App.

Sunday 20th November, 2022 – Visitation committee conducted initial consultations (Stage One) with minister, and both churches including meetings with sessions, boards and congregations.

Tuesday 22nd and 29th November, 2022 – The Visitation Committee tabled their Interim report at Presbytery and it was received (Minute 22.11.22-29 13a.4).

Sunday 18th December, 2022 – Congregational Meeting of Cheltenham Presbyterian Church regarding options for filling the vacancy. Options available were presented with records taken directly from Congregational minutes.

- Option A - We are not in a position to make an immediate call. (all agreed)

- Option B - No-one was able to suggest a particular person to invite to lead the congregation in public worship and preach.

- Option C - All agreed we don't have enough manpower to get a selection panel together to send out each Sunday to find a minister

- Option D - All comments put forward were positive for option four-
to continue exploring the union of churches.

Motion: That we continue with option D - 'to continue to explore the
potential union between the Cheltenham and Mordialloc congregations'
Approved Unanimously - all in favour of proceeding with the union of
churches.

(Minute 2023.02.28.17.3.2a) The Presbytery proposed the union of its
Cheltenham and Mordialloc Charges on the 28th of February 2023, (PCV
Code 4.68A.1a) and approved the proposed basis of union.

(Minute 2023.02.28.17.3.2v) The Presbytery of Flinders formed a steering
committee from the members of both congregations. (PCV Code
4.68A.5a)

(Minute 2023.05.23.15.12) The Presbytery completed its consultation with
the Board of investment and finance with the BIF registering no reasons
to object to this proposed Basis of union on the 19th of May 2023 and
resolved to forward the proposed basis of union to the Assembly for
approval. (PCV Code 4.68A.1b, 4.68A.5b)

3. Rationale

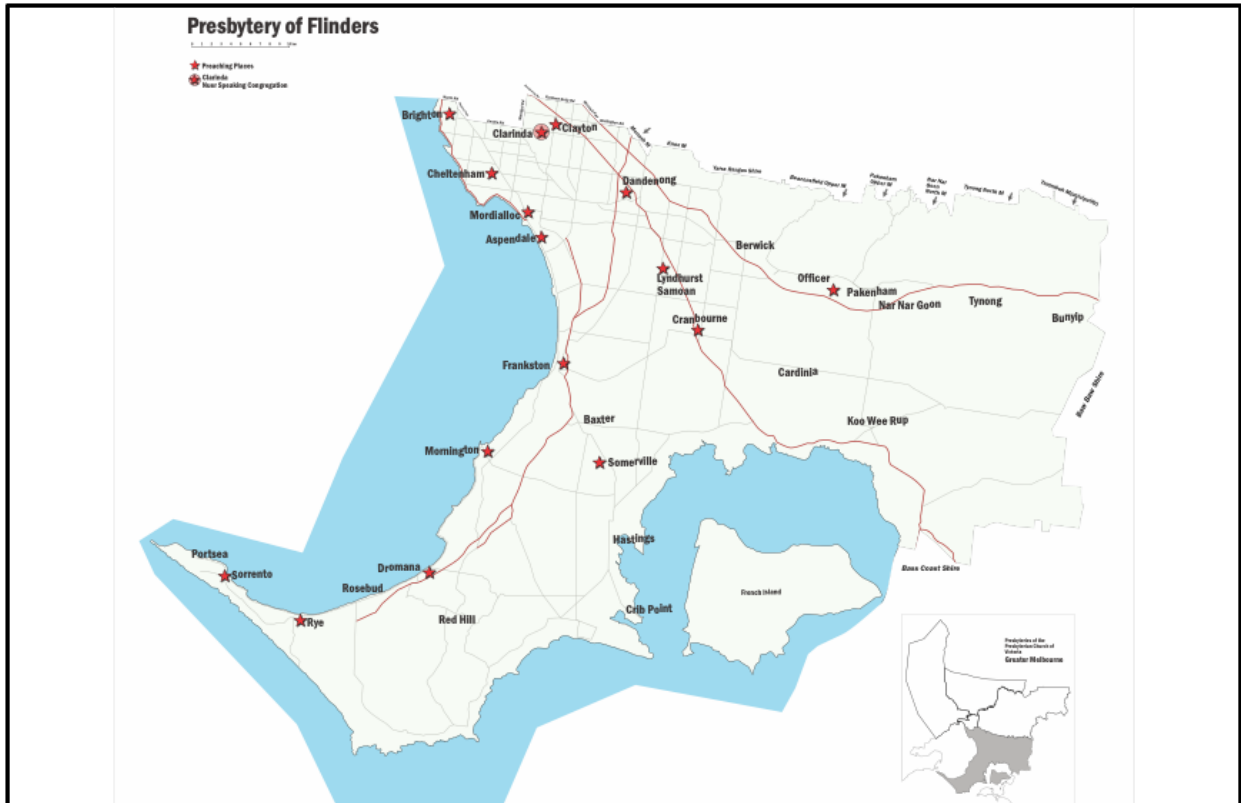
a. History - facing the past reality

- The Cheltenham congregation has been in decline for over a decade. It has proved difficult to revitalise partly because of lack of numbers (20 in attendance), old age (most over 80) and deteriorating health. The resultant lack of energy levels in elders and other members and shortage of willing workers makes it difficult to maintain ministries let alone creatively connect with today's younger generation. A union with the neighbouring Mordialloc church provides a means of supporting this aging congregation.
- Rev. Paul Huynh has demonstrated ability, under God, to lead change in a healthy direction. The Mordialloc congregation was in decline for over a decade, not dissimilar to Cheltenham, but now has shown positive signs of revitalisation by the grace of God and under Paul's leadership, preaching and pastoral oversight.
- Flinders Presbytery have several vacant parishes already and there are many more across the state. Despite much effort, Brighton PC has been unable to attract a full time ordained minister for a decade. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. It is not easy to fill vacant parishes. It is also very difficult to revitalise parishes, with no guarantee for success.

b. Geography - looking at the bigger picture

- The map of the distribution of Presbyterian Churches spread across the Flinders Presbytery shows a concentration of churches in the central bayside suburbs. Cheltenham and Mordialloc are only seven minutes drive from each other. As a denomination, we have limited financial, material and human resources. These have to be distributed

around the mission field which include the people living across the breadth of the Flinders Presbytery. A union is strategic and financially wise for the Presbytery as we have hopes under God to plant in other areas of our Presbytery (Clyde).



c. Alternatives - considering other options

- The Presbytery has considered other options, but believe the union is the best option for Cheltenham, given that God has already begun a revitalisation at Cheltenham under the leadership of Rev. Paul Huynh.

d. Benefits - assessing the trial services

- Members are supportive of, thankful for and enthused by Paul's leadership, preaching and pastoral care. This is very important and we

should praise God for this. Sessions and other members are united in their desire to reach the community with the gospel of the Lord Jesus. Everyone is overwhelmingly in favour of the union with only a few with minor concerns and no one with major concerns or against the union.

- A pooling of people resources for a combined Sunday service has created a greater critical mass of people. This, in turn, has enabled a more vibrant Christian witness to the community and a greater gospel impact to reach the area for Christ. The combined services have inspired faith, increased joy and enthused service in the saints.
- The combined services have given the elderly saints at Cheltenham an opportunity to rest somewhat from the burden of running church all by themselves. This is very necessary into the future. The younger congregation from Mordialloc have helped facilitate a more relevant connection to the younger generation and the 21st century world. Combining together has provided cross-generational support and encouragement for both congregations. The younger families at Mordialloc have enjoyed the encouragement from older saints at Cheltenham, who are great examples of faithful trust in the Lord.
- The Cheltenham church location is a bigger and better venue with its seating capacity of 200 thus providing much needed space for future gospel growth in the area. Under God's grace, the Mordialloc congregation has grown to include young families, young married couples and children and requires adequate space for future gospel growth. The Mordialloc church building is heritage listed with a limited capacity of 60 people. Solving this problem would mean undertaking a development which would be very costly. Additionally, the congregation at Mordialloc do not have these funds.
- The union of churches has reduced the duplication of regular Sunday serving roles such as opening the building, cleaning, morning tea etc. These efficiencies will continue. But a full union will also eliminate the duplication of administration with such matters as finances and

record keeping on Boards of Management and Sessions outside of the Sunday gathering as well.

e. Conclusion

- It is the Visitation Committee's conviction that a union of Cheltenham and Mordialloc is mutually beneficial to both churches for the faithful and effective witness of the gospel in today's world. Rev. Paul Huynh is very much in favour of this. Combined services from 17th July 2022 have provided an ideal trial for the union. Moreover, this union is a strategy that the sessions, boards and congregation are overwhelmingly in support.

4. Proposed Basis of Union

- **Name** – BayChurch Presbyterian
- **Membership Rolls** – The Communicant and Adherent rolls of Cheltenham PC and Mordialloc PC be fused into one new roll of BayChurch Presbyterian with communicant and adherent status being maintained.
- **Place of worship** – 10am morning service to be held in the old Cheltenham Presbyterian Church, 8 Park Rd, Cheltenham. Evening to be held in the previously known Mordialloc Presbyterian Church at 12 McDonald St, Mordialloc.
- **Bank accounts** – accounts of both churches to be closed, a new bank account or accounts be opened under the name of BayChurch Presbyterian and all monies transferred into this account(s).
- **Sites Reserve money** – Cheltenham SR to be renamed to BayChurch Presbyterian.
- **Property** - Cheltenham church building and manse site, Mordialloc church building and manse together with adjacent accommodation units all to be transferred to the new BayChurch Presbyterian and held in trust. No property is proposed to be disposed of as part of the union process.
- **Union of the sessions** – One session shall be established made up of the members of the Sessions from Cheltenham and Mordialloc.
- **Determination of boundaries** – this shall be the combined area of both parishes as they are currently adjoining parishes.
- **Provision of a manse** – the board shall supply an appropriate manse allowance.
- **Provision of a minister** – the Presbytery shall declare the pastoral charge of BayChurch Presbyterian vacant. Note: the new church shall follow the normal procedures for filling a vacancy.
- **Other matters for consideration (4.68A.3)** – to be determined by the Steering Committee.

- **Freedom to adjust (4.68A.4)** – While these terms and conditions shall form a basis of union for the Cheltenham and Mordialloc congregations now uniting, the united congregation shall be free to adjust its arrangements and manage its affairs as need may arise under authority of the presbytery.

5. BayChurch Presbyterian Ministry Plan

Our short term vision has been to bring unity to the two congregations, thereby establishing a solid base to grow from. This has been encouraging to see happen so organically under God's hand. It has been encouraging to see visitors at church on a regular basis and new people joining the church.

Historically, the Cheltenham church has had many traditional elements in their service. Reaching out to families and unbelievers has also meant bringing slow and gradual change to the service style at Cheltenham. Having younger families at Mordialloc has enabled better connection and engagement to the families in the community. As people join the church, they are also encouraged by the older saints and are able to experience the joys of being a part of a multigenerational church.

The long term vision of the new church BayChurch Presbyterian will be to see a vibrant gospel centred church in the heart of the Bayside area, where many churches do not hold to the word of God as Presbyterians do. The building space (~150-200 seating capacity) at Cheltenham enables gospel growth for generations to come.

Under a new session, there would be a new vision, mission, values and goals drafted to lead the congregation in this new exciting opportunity as a new church.

The Buildings at both Cheltenham and Mordialloc

Rev. Paul Huynh currently employs a student minister at the Reformed Theological College (who currently resides in the Mordialloc manse) and is God willing, intending to employ an assistant to the minister from 2025 to assist in the ministry. Rev. Paul Huynh lives in his own place in Mordialloc.

Cheltenham do not currently have a manse, but own a vacant block of

land next to the church which will be required for future developments of the property to foster ministry growth. Mordialloc owns a manse which would be housed by a future student minister or assistant to the minister.

The building at Mordialloc is currently used throughout the week for bible studies, a night service on Sundays and will continue to be used for outreach events/ministries (Christianity explored courses, a playgroup, mainly music etc).

6. Strategic Plan for property/asset use after possible union

| Item | Intended Use | Timeframe/ Commencement |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Church building at Cheltenham | Main service, financially sustain ministry | Ongoing, immediately |
| Vacant lot at Cheltenham | Children's facilities (playground, sheltered activity area), overflow parking | 1-3 years |
| Church building at Mordialloc | Evening service to reach the Mordialloc constituent of our boundary | Ongoing, immediately |
| Units at Mordialloc | Financially support ministry at Mordialloc, potentially house local/international university students. The Board has already begun to set aside funds for this future prospect. | Ongoing, immediately and future mission |
| Manse at Mordialloc | House assistant minister | 2025 onwards |
| Sites Reserves Funds | Redevelop and renovate facilities at Cheltenham and Mordialloc properties | Late 2023 |
| | Renovate units to make suitable for new residents | Late 2028 onwards |

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
URGENT MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
AUGUST 2023**

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall,
on Friday 11 August 2023 at 10:30am.

1. Constitution and Devotion

The Immediate Past Moderator, Rev Philip D Mercer, led the Assembly in a brief devotion based on 1 Peter 2:9-10 and constituted the Assembly with prayer, followed by the singing of a hymn.

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 the August 2023 Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly.

3. Approval of Moderator's actions

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

In accordance with Code 5.38(c), approve the Moderator's action in convening this August 2023 Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Apologies

The following apologies were received and sustained:

Ministers: Keith Bell, Neil Benfell, Andrew Bray, David Brown, Luke Brownley, Phillip Chang, John Cho, Trevor Cox, Martin de Pyle, Stephen Deroon, Daniel Dixon, Kyung Ee, Alan Every, Miles Fagan, Jared Hood, Karl Hood, Michael Jensen, Ben Johnson, Grant Lawry, Ian Leach, Paul Lee, Hui Lim, Shady Mehanni, Graham Nicholson, Barry Oakes, Kainano Opetaiia, Peter Orchard, Raymond Patchett, Len Pearce, Peter Phillips, Peter Roberts, Nathan Runham, Bagoes Seta, Chris Siriweera, Andrew Slater, John Sutherland, Bob Thomas, Andrew Venn, Rod Waterhouse, Surendra Wesley, Michael Wharton, Andrew Wong.

Elders: John Angelico, Ross Barnett, Malcolm Browning, Reg Butcher, Drew Chittenden, Ian Courts, Elizabeth Cutler, Keith Ferres, Colin Flynn, Ken Fuhrmeister, Sabyan Hardjo, Jim Hare, Robert Herweynen, Andrew Kerr, Ralph Kop, Richard McArdle, Andrew May, Colin Morrow, Ben Palmer, Jeremy Peet, Graeme Presser, Tony Ruggeri, John Singleton, Stephen Weir, Alan York, Tony Zirngast.

5. Associations

Nil

6. 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 Assembly. None were received.

7. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

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

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30am to the finish of business, with breaks as determined by the Moderator.
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)
 Question time (including 20 mins for total deliverance questions)
5 minutes for:
 Movers of substantive motions and amendments
 All other speakers.
3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
 Rev Adam Humphries (Convener), Brett Cummins, Luke McSeveny, Stuart Withers, and Elder Doug Fraser,
and determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at the dissolution of this Assembly.
4. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to answer any financial management questions.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

8. Theological Education Committee

The report of the Theological Education Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded.

Rev N Chambers moved his notice of motion, the addition of words "in the fields of study within the relevant ACT departments, that is in either the Department of Christian Thought and History or the Department of Ministry and Practice" after the words, "Qualified at Research Masters level or above", to point 4 of the Position Description for the lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology, so that point 4 would become, "Qualified at Research Masters level or above in the fields of study within the relevant ACT departments, that is in either the Department of Christian Thought and History or the Department of Ministry and Practice".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 1 was approved.

The Assembly sat in private.

Clause 2 was moved and seconded.

Clause 2 was disapproved.

Rev P Court moved his notice of motion;

That the Assembly:

Request the Theological Education Committee to advertise the faculty position of Church History and Practical Theology more widely within Australia and internationally, and seek to bring the nomination of a suitably qualified candidate to a future Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Convener, Rev Kevin Maxwell, moved the deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the job description for the lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology, as follows:

Position Description - Church History and Practical Theology

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) is the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) and is a reformed and evangelical institution that has a vital role in developing, disseminating, and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria and beyond. The Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology is appointed to the PTC by the General Assembly of the PCV, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Assembly.

The Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology is a faithful Christian, academically able in the discipline of historical studies and practical theology 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 also has a role in leading the PCV as it engages with theological and ministry issues.

Through the TEC, the Assembly sets the lecturer apart for this ministry and teaching appointment by a public act of commissioning.

2. Responsibilities

The lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology is responsible, under the Principal of the PTC, for delivering ACT lectures in Church History, Practical Theology, and other Christian studies as assigned by the faculty.

The 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 PCV.

- Undertake administrative tasks delegated by the principal.
- Stay abreast of educational developments and innovate in the delivery of his courses and their assessment.

These tasks involve attendance at faculty meetings, participation in Australian College of Theology meetings, and being available to advise Assembly Committees as requested and appropriate.

3. **Attributes**

- Meets the qualifications of a ministry leader as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- The capacity to communicate clearly.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

4. **Qualifications** **Essential**

- Qualified at Research Masters level or above.
- Preferably already possessing or working toward a doctorate and be interested in writing journal articles or books
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or willing to satisfy the requirements 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.
- Possesses or can obtain a Working with Children's Check and is 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 lead the College mission evangelism week.
- Availability to teach evening classes.
- Availability to preach on Sundays and represent the College.
- 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 by the Assembly.
 - b) manse provided or benefit as set by the TEC.
 - c) telephone rent plus all calls.
 - d) superannuation at the ministerial rate.
 - e) six months of paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of employment or twelve months of paid study leave during each seventh year of employment.
 - 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 by 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.
2. Request the Theological Education Committee to advertise the faculty position of Church History and Practical Theology more widely within Australia and internationally, and seek to bring the nomination of a suitably qualified candidate to a future Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

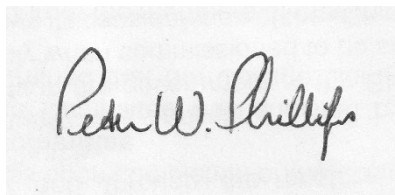
The Assembly resumed in open court.

9. Dissolution

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

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P J Burns
C B Garrett

I certify that the minutes of this Urgent Meeting of the GAV, held 11 August 2023, having been carefully scrutinised are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 7.8 thereof.



Rev Peter W Phillips
Moderator

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

Presbytery of Flinders (V1)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
| Aspendale | Brett Peatman | |
| Brighton (HMC) | | Elizabeth Cutler |
| Bay Church | Paul Huynh | |
| Clarinda (HMC) | | |
| Clarinda Nuer (HMC)) | | Abraham Chol |
| Clayton | Michael Jensen Lam Paul Gak (Associate) | Arnis Putnins |
| Cranbourne | Peter Roberts | |
| Dandenong | Andrew Wong | Robert Paix |
| Dromana-Mornington | Matt Cole | |
| Embrace Melbourne (AC) | Paul Jang | |
| Frankston | Jared Keath | |
| New Life, Officer | David Martin | Sabyan Hardjo |
| Somerville (HMC) | | |
| Sorrento-Rye | Hui Lim | |
| South East Samoan | Kainano Opetaiia | |
| Retired Ministers: | Peter Barclay | |
| | Ivan Barker | |
| | David Brown | |
| | Ken Brown | |
| | Frank Savage | |
| | Wally Zurrer | |

Presbytery of Geelong (V2)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bannockburn | Matthew Deroon | G (Bert) Stasse |
| Bellarine (AC) | Brett Cummins | |
| 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 McIvor |
| 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 | |
| Doncaster (HMC) | | Colin Flynn |
| Donvale | Gerald Vanderwert Joel Mestry (Assistant) Jordan Born (Assistant) Xien Yao (Assistant) | Iain Bramley |
| Heathmont | Brian Harvey | Doug Fraser |
| Kirkbrae | Paul K B Lee | |
| Mt Evelyn (AC) | Miles Fagan | Bruce Timmins |
| Warburton (HMC) | | |
| Woori Yallock | Tony Archer | Andre Dahmen |
| PTC Lecturer | Jared Hood | |
| Retired Ministers: | Tony Bird | |
| | Graham Bradbeer | |
| | Felix Chung | |
| | Trevor Cox | |
| | Wally Gear | |
| | Grant Lawry | |
| | Peter Orchard | |
| | Andrew Slater | |
| | Willem Vandenberg | |
| | 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 (HMC) | Tony Salisbury | |
| Gardenvale East (AC) | | |
| 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: | | 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 (on leave) | Andrew May |
| Donnybrook, Fresh Start (CPC) | Ben Kelada | |
| Eltham | Don Elliott | Ian Courts |
| Epping | Nello Barbieri Brian Luong (Associate) | Neil Furlong |
| Heidelberg (AC) | Bagoes Seta | Tom Cunneen |
| Hume (AC) | Luke Brownley | Tony Ruggeri |
| Kangaroo Ground (HMC) | | |
| Reservoir | Andrew Vines | Reg Butcher |
| Samoan | | |
| Valley (AC) | 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) | Daniel Dixon | 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) | Graeme Harris |
| Melton | | Dennis Wright |
| Point Cook | | |
| Sunshine-Melbourne West Korean (AC) | Samuel Son | Charles Okwo |
| West Footscray (HMC) | Martin de Pyle | |
| Williamstown | | |
| Wyndham | Peter Greiner | Harold Carpenter |
| Retired Ministers: | John Cho | |
| | 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 (AC) | | George Elliott |
| Seymour-Nagambie-Yea (HMC) | | Bill Day |
| Shepparton-Stanhope- Kyabram | Kyung Ee | Philip Betts |
| Tatura-Rushworth | | Gary Dunstan |
| Wangaratta-Myrtleford- Yarrawonga | | Malcolm Browning |
| Wodonga (AC) | 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 (AC) | Jesse Walz | |
| Kerang/Swan Hill (AC) | | 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 |
| Koroit-Port Fairy | | |
| Portland | Rod Waterhouse | |
| 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 (AC) | | Stewart McKerrow |
| Ballarat North (AC) | John Brennan | Graham Hammond |
| Ballarat South (Ebenezer St John's) | Toby McIntosh | Keith Mitchell |
| Ballarat West | Robert Duncanson | Jeremy Peet |
| Carisbrook-Castlemaine (HMC) | | Richard McArdle |
| Daylesford | | |
| Horsham | Greg Matthews | |
| Kaniva-Nhill (HMC) | | Bruce Meyer |

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 7)

The Business Committee has received all papers currently proposed to be submitted to the 11 August 2023 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 9:45am on the morning of the Assembly in the first-floor committee 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 p5, NOM A1 (WB p29)
3. Approval of Moderator's convening (code 5.38.c), NOM A2 (WB p29)
4. Apologies, NOM A3 (WB p29)
5. Associations
6. Conflict of Interest Declarations
7. Business Committee, WB p14 (Del p15, 9 clauses)
8. Theological Education Committee WB p16 (Del p26, 2 clauses)
9. Dissolution

Robert White
CONVENER (Pro Tem)

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Min 8)

Appointment in Church History and Practical Theology

With the retirement of the Rev Dr Felix Chung from the faculty of the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) the Theological Education Committee (TEC) has been seeking a suitable replacement. The committee has also been seeking to appoint a fifth lecturer to the faculty of PTC.

At the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria held in October 2022, the committee proposed two job descriptions to meet the ongoing lecturing needs of the college. The position descriptions of lecturer in Church History and Public Theology and Christian Studies and Asian Program Coordinator were approved. (BB 2022, p190, Min114.2.11 and 12) The committee proceeded to advertise these positions widely across the Presbyterian Church of Australia and internationally via the Westminster Theological Seminary website.

Applications Received

The Committee received several suitably qualified enquiries for the position of Church History and Public Theology, however only one application worthy of consideration was received. On the 17 January 2023 members of the TEC and PTC faculty interviewed and resolved to recommend the applicant's appointment at the PCV Commission of Assembly. Due to an unforeseen change in the applicant's circumstances the applicant withdrew from the process. The committee received no applications for the position of Christian Studies and Asian Program Coordinator.

Review of the Situation

The withdrawal of the TEC's preferred applicant was a significant setback to the committee's strategy. The TEC and faculty reviewed the process and ongoing lecturer requirements of the college. During the period of review the committee was informed by the Australian College of Theology (ACT) that it had withdrawn approval for the college to offer qualifications in the Chinese language. (All students currently enrolled in Chinese language qualifications will complete their qualification, however no new students will be enrolled.) The committee accepts the ACT's decision as a reasonable course of action given the circumstances facing the college. The review led to a revision of the lecturers' job descriptions. The committee has decided not to make an appointment to either of the lecturing positions approved by the General Assembly in October 2022 and to seek approval for a new job description that better reflects the change in circumstances. Due to the need for the new lecturer to commence in the second semester 2023 the committee approached a suitably qualified individual, who had successfully delivered a Masters level intensive course at PTC and a minister in good standing in the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Employment Interview

At the regular meeting of the TEC on 30 June 2023 the TEC and faculty interviewed the Rev Dr Andrew Matthews. Following the interview, the committee unanimously resolved to recommend to the PCV the appointment of Rev Dr Andrew Matthews to the position of the Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology, at PTC, for a period of up to 3 years. (TEC Min 36.06.23). The Committee resolved to revise the job description to better reflect the change in circumstances (TEC Min 37.06.23) and request an Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly of PCV to approve the revised job description and appoint the Rev Dr Andrew Matthews.

Position Description - Church History and Practical Theology

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) is the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) and is a reformed and evangelical institution that has a vital role in developing, disseminating, and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria and beyond. The Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology is appointed to the PTC by the General Assembly of the PCV, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Assembly.

The Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology is a faithful Christian, academically able in the discipline of historical studies and practical theology 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 also has a role in leading the PCV as it engages with theological and ministry issues.

Through the TEC, the Assembly sets the lecturer apart for this ministry and teaching appointment by a public act of commissioning.

2. Responsibilities

The lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology is responsible, under the Principal of the PTC, for delivering ACT lectures in Church History, Practical Theology, and other Christian studies as assigned by the faculty.

The 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 PCV.
- Undertake administrative tasks delegated by the principal.
- Stay abreast of educational developments and innovate in the delivery of his courses and their assessment.

These tasks involve attendance at faculty meetings, participation in Australian College of Theology meetings, and being available to advise Assembly Committees as requested and appropriate.

3. Attributes

- Meets the qualifications of a ministry leader as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- The capacity to communicate clearly.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

4. Qualifications

Essential

- Qualified at Research Masters level or above.
- Preferably already possessing or working toward a doctorate and be interested in writing journal articles or books.
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia, or willing to satisfy the requirements 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.
- Possesses or can obtain a Working with Children's Check and is 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 lead the College mission evangelism week.
- Availability to teach evening classes.
- Availability to preach on Sundays and represent the College.
- 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 by 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 of paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of employment or twelve months of paid study leave during each seventh year of employment.
- 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 by 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.

Rev Dr Andrew Matthews

Personal Information and Ministerial Call

Rev Kevin Maxwell
CONVENER

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
OCTOBER 2023

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
1st Sitting: Monday 2 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, Monday 2 October 2023 at 7:30pm.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the last Assembly (BB 2022 min 140).

Moderator Rev Peter Phillips 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: Theo Fishwick, Daryl Jackson, Michael Jensen, Richard O'Brien, Peter Orchard.

For all sittings: Tony Bird, Graham Bradbeer, Phillip Chang, Trevor Cox, John Cromarty, Daniel Dixon, Neil Harvey, Jared Hood, Scott Kroeger, Bruce Riding, Andrew Slater, John Stasse, Andrew Venn, Graeme Weber, Walter Zurrer.

Elders:

For this sitting: Graham Hammond, Colin Morrow, Colin Spackman.

For all sittings: John Angelico, Reg Butcher, Geoff Cross, Keith Ferres, Ken Fuhrmeister, Graeme Harris, Andrew Kerr, Ralph Kop, Neil Mansfield, Jonathan Starks, Tony Zirngast.

4. Appointment of Moderator

The Clerk intimated that Rev Ian Colin Hutton, retired minister, had been elected as Moderator Designate of this General Assembly by the May 2023 Commission of Assembly. (min 8)

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev Ian Colin Hutton, retired minister, as Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

5. Induction of Moderator

Moderator Rev Peter Phillips put the moderatorial questions to Mr Hutton and inducted him into the office of Moderator with prayer.

6. Signing of Assembly Bible

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, and then the former moderators, gave him the right hand of fellowship.

7. Moderator's Reflections

The Moderator addressed the Assembly.

8. Worship resumed

The Moderator, Rev Ian Hutton, conducted public worship, and preached the occasional sermon, 'Living in Exile', based on selected passages from 1 Peter.

9. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9:30am on Tuesday 3 October 2023 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
C B Garrett

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
2nd Sitting: Tuesday 3 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, and afterwards in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 3 October 2023 at 9:30am.

10. Communion Service and Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rev Ian Hutton, constituted the Assembly with prayer and led the Assembly in worship. The Assembly Expositor, Rev David Burke, led the Assembly in the first of his Assembly expositions, 'Loved to the End', based on John 13:1-20.

11. 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 2023 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. Apologies

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the following apologies:

Ministers: Luke Brownley, Michael Jensen, Andrew Wong.

Elders: Malcolm Browning, Tom Cunneen, Daniel Chung, Rob Herweynen, Jeremy Peet.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Associations

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Associate the following for all sittings of the General Assembly:

1. Rev David A Burke, member of the General Assembly of the PCA in NSW;
2. Rev Kevin D Murray, member of the General Assembly of the PCA in NSW;
3. Rev Lesleigh J F Hall, member of the General Assembly of the PCQ.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator welcomed the associated members to the Assembly.

14. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-12 were approved.

Clause 13 was approved.

Clause 14 was approved.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

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 proposed 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 proposed 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: Stuart Withers (Convener), Andrew Vines, Luke McSeveny, Dennis Wright, and Doug Fraser; and 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 proposed 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 consent agenda.
14. Approve the Order of Business for the second sitting, Tuesday, 3 October 2023.

The motion was seconded and approved.

15. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Clerk informed the Assembly that:

- Rev Cameron Garrett has declared conflict of interest in relation to Clerkship Committee proposed deliverance clause 3 and that he will voluntarily leave the Assembly.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Take no action in respect of this declaration.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk informed the Assembly that:

- Elder Ian Courts has declared a conflict of interest in respect of Petition 4.
- Elder Rob Herweynen has declared a conflict of interest in respect of Petition 4.
- Rev Don Elliott declared a conflict of interest in relation to Petition 4.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Permit these members to be present and take part in the consideration of Petition 4 and vote on the matter.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk informed the Assembly that:

- Rev Philip Mercer had declared a conflict of interest in respect of Petition 10.
- Rev Len Pearce had declared a conflict of interest in respect of Petition 10.
- Rev Russ Grinter had declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.
- Rev Stephen McDonald had declared an appearance of a conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.
- Rev Kalpan Vasa had declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.
- Rev Stuart Withers had declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.
- Rev Phil Court had declared a conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.
- Rev Barry Porter had declared a conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.
- Rev Bill Medley had declared a conflict of interest in relation to Petition 10.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note that conflicts of interest have been declared in relation to Petition 10 under the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy by the following persons: Len Pearce, Phil Mercer, Russ Grinter, Stephen McDonald, Kalpan Vasa, Stuart Withers, Barry Porter, Phil Court and Bill Medley.
2. Determine that all other members of this Assembly who are members of the Presbytery of North East Victoria or have been since May 2016, including assessor members, are conflicted persons in relation to Petition 10 under the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy.
3. Permit all persons described in clauses (1) and (2) above to be present during and participate in any debate and be present during the voting, but not to vote on the matter.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate. (min 42)

16. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 1st sitting.

17. Minutes of the June 2023 Urgent Meeting of Assembly

The confirmed minutes of the June 2023 Urgent Meeting of the Assembly were received.

18. Minutes of the May 2023 Commission of Assembly

The confirmed minutes of the May 2023 Commission of Assembly were received.

19. Minutes of the August 2023 Commission of Assembly

The confirmed minutes of the August 2023 Commission of Assembly were received.

20. New Members

New members of the Assembly introduced themselves to the Assembly.

The Moderator welcomed the new members to the Assembly.

21. Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Recognise Bruce Meyer's 50 years serving as an elder of the church, having been ordained into the eldership in the Kaniva Presbyterian Church in April 1973 by Rev Harry V. Quick, and for serving as Session Clerk and for preaching and pastoral care within Kaniva - Nhill for all of that time.

The motion was seconded and approved with applause.

22. Ministerial and Elders' Deaths

The Clerk reported that Rev Cor Vanderhorn, Rev Keith D W Allen, Rev K Graham Hamill, Rev Dr Robert (Bob) L Carner and Rev Dr Dallas Clarnette had died since the last meeting of Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note the passing of Rev Cor Vanderhorn (1942 – 2023) and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

While sad for his absence from us, we rejoice that our dear brother, Rev Cor Vanderhorn has passed into glory on 30 October 2022.

Cor served both the CRCA and the Presbyterian Church with distinction as this brief summary shows:

- After Reformed Theological College graduation in 1977, Cor began 15 years of full-time ministry as a Reformed Church minister (1978-1993).
- His first position was Toowong, Brisbane, for a 6-month vicariate role.
- He was appointed to Seacombe Gardens, Adelaide (1978-1983).
- To Mt Evelyn as Youth Pastor in 1983 as well as Church Planter in Coldstream.
- After being received by the PCA, Cor was appointed to Sunshine Presbyterian Church.

- Following retirement in 2008, Cor and his wife Joan moved back to Mt Evelyn.

Cor's dedication to the Lord was very apparent with the number of years of service between his ordination and retirement in both denominations: CRCA and PCA. His love for his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was a testimony to his faith.

2. Note the passing of Rev Keith D W Allen (1929 – 2022) and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

While sad for his absence from us, we rejoice that our dear brother and former moderator of this General Assembly, Rev Keith D W Allen stepped into the nearer presence of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ on 23rd November 2022.

Keith served the Presbyterian Church with distinction as this brief summary shows:

- As a student home missionary at North Lidcombe and Caringbah.
- To Warialda (between Moree and Inverell), where he was ordained and inducted in 1958.
- For most of the 1960s Keith served in the New Hebrides where his role was primarily that of a teacher, but also with roles within the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides.
- Woolwich-Hunter's Hill, 1971.
- Earlwood, 1975.
- Hamilton, 1981.
- Scots', Ballarat North in 1985.
- Moderator of the PCV General Assembly in 1996.

Following retirement, Keith gave himself, with the faithful and cheerful assistance of his wife Winifred, to assisting the Presbytery of Ballarat by taking on the clerkship together with several interim-moderatorships as well as Assembly committee work.

Keith was blessed with sharpness of mind until the end, but was increasingly looking forward to going to his eternal home.

3. Note the passing of Rev K Graham Hamill on 19 August 2023 and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute, noting his service to the church in multiple places, as follows, firstly as a home missionary from 1953, and then as an ordained minister:

- Gundagai
- Portland
- Natimuk
- Stanley / Queenstown
- Dunnolly
- Meredith
- Riverstone
- Padstowe
- Lockhart
- Numurkah
- Port Macquarie

- Scots', Geelong West

We remember Rev K Graham Hamill (1933 – 2023).

4. Note the passing of Rev Dr Robert (Bob) L Carner (1951 – 2023) and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

Following a short retirement in Queensland, and after enduring a severe illness, Bob Carner passed into the Lord's presence on 22nd August 2023.

Bob served the Presbyterian Church with distinction as this brief summary shows:

- Converted to Christ and drawn into the pastoral ministry through the ministry of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- Recruited to Australia by the PCV Home Missions Committee.
- Appointed to Melton.
- Appointed to Arundel, Qld.
- Served with strength, zeal and passion as the PCV's Home Missions Director from 2001 – 2017.

Bob, ably assisted by his wife Coral, was hospitable to many, loving towards all, a mentor of fellow pastors and a man of energy and initiative.

Bob Carner was a cheerful and valiant soldier in God's army, a servant of King Jesus.

5. Note the passing of Rev Dr Dallas Clarnette (1934 – 2023) and insert into the Assembly record this memorial minute of the General Assembly's sincere gratitude for his faithful gospel service to the church:

After a lifetime of faithful service within Methodist, Congregational, Wesleyan Methodist, Presbyterian and Independent churches, Dallas Clarnette passed into the Lord's presence on 30th August 2023.

Though a notable preacher of God's Word from the age of 16, Dallas was a late adherent to the reformed faith and was only with the PCA since 1994. While starting with Presbyterian churches in Ipswich, Goondiwindi, his main appointment was at Benalla where he served the Lord with distinction from 1997 – 2004 and from where he retired at the age of 70. His powerful Word-based ministry was complemented by his energetic pastoral visits and he was always ably and faithfully supported by his wife Beverley.

Dallas Clarnette – a man of resolute faith in Christ, scholarship and zeal for the gospel.

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

23. Royal and Loyal addresses

The Assembly resolved to:

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, 3 October 2023, respectfully renew our expression of loyalty to the throne and to your majesty's person.

We pray that you will be guided by Almighty God in the faithful discharge of all your manifold duties. May Christ who guided your mother through the many years of her long reign be your Lord and guide as well.'

2. Send greetings to the Victorian Premier, the Hon Jacinta Allan, 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.

24. Recognition of and prayer for first nations people

Rev Don Elliott moved:

That the Assembly:

Pray for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and First Nations people in this way:

'Our Lord and loving Heavenly Father,

We acknowledge that as the creator you are Lord of all creation and of all the peoples you have placed on this earth. We acknowledge the Kulin nations as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet. We pray for God's blessing on all first nations' peoples and for a future of mutual understanding which transcends the history of pain and injustice that came with European settlement. May God unite us all in the knowledge of his Son through whom and for whom all things were made.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.'

The motion was seconded.

The previous question was moved, seconded and approved.

25. Immediate Past Moderator's Report

The Immediate Past Moderator, Rev Peter Phillips, addressed the Assembly.

The report of the Immediate Past Moderator was received with acclamation.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the Immediate 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 approved with acclamation.

The Assembly resumed after the lunch break with singing of a hymn and prayer by Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny.

26. Clerk's Report: Moderator's Duties

The Clerk's report: Moderator's Duties was received.

The Clerk moved Notice of Motion A10.

The motion was seconded.

Clauses 1-4 were approved.

Clause 5 was moved.

Elder Colin Morrow moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 5 of NOM A10 by deleting the words “an inducted minister serving as Moderator,” and replacing them with the words “a Moderator who is serving in parish ministry that”, such that the clause would read:

‘Confirm the practice that in the case of a Moderator who is serving in parish ministry, each Sunday he is absent from his charge for specific moderatorial duties, the pulpit supply shall be reimbursed from Assembly funds, namely the Deakin Trust, to his Board of Management.’

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 5 as amended was approved.

Clause 6 was approved.

NOM A10 as amended was approved as followed:

That the Assembly:

1. Adopt the following schedule of visits for the years 2023 - 2030

| year | regional charges | no. | metro charges | no. | total |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 2023/24 | Bendigo (St Johns), Eaglehawk, Kerang-Swan Hill, Bendigo East (Reforming), Rochester, Sunraysia | 6 | Bundoora, Eltham, Epping, Donnybrook (Fresh Start), Heidelberg, Hume, Kangaroo Ground, Reservoir | 8 | 14 |
| 2024/25 | Ararat-Skipton, Ballarat North (Scots’)-Smeaton-Mt Prospect, Ballarat South (Ebenezer), Ballarat West (Grace), Castlemaine, Horsham, Nhill-Kaniva | 7 | Coolaroo (Samoan), Valley, Whittlesea-Mernda, Belgrave Heights, Blackburn, Croydon, Donvale | 7 | 14 |
| 2025/26 | Broadford, Benalla-Balmattum, Seymour-Nagambie-Yea, Shepparton-Stanhope-Kyabram, Tatura-Rushworth, Wangaratta-Yarrawonga-Myrtleford, Wodonga | 7 | Heathmont, Kilsyth (Kirkbrae), Mt Evelyn, Warburton, Woori Yallock, Arabic (Sth Yarra), Ashburton, Doncaster | 8 | 15 |
| 2026/27 | Bellarine, Geelong North, Bannockburn | 3 | Auburn (Chalmers), Burwood, Camberwell (Trinity), Canterbury, Caulfield-Elwood, Gardenvale East, Hawthorn, North Balwyn (Korean), Malvern, South Yarra, St Kilda-Balaclava | 11 | 14 |
| 2027/28 | Geelong West, The Leigh, Bairnsdale, Drouin, Leongatha, | 9 | Surrey Hills, Brimbank, Clifton Hill-Essendon, Darebin, Gisborne | 5 | 14 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| | Moe-Yarram, Morwell, Sale, Warragul | | | | |
| 2028/29 | Camperdown-Noorat- Terang, Colac, Hamilton, Portland, Koroit-Port Fairy, Warrnambool-Sth Warrnambool | 6 | Scots' (Melbourne)- Flemington Melton, Point Cook, Sunshine- West Melb Korean, Wyndham, West Footscray, Williamstown, Aspendale | 8 | 14 |
| 2029/30 | Sorrento-Rye, Somerville, Dromana- Mornington | 3 | Brighton, BayChurch, Clarinda, Clayton, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Embrace (Korean), Frankston, New Life (Officer), Nuer (Clarinda), SE Samoan | 11 | 14 |

2. Request the Moderator of each year, 2023/24 – 2029/30, if possible, to offer a moderatorial visit to congregations as listed in the table above for the congregation's edification and encouragement.
3. As it lies within their capabilities, and after consultation with the APWM (Vic) Committee, request the Moderator of each year 2023/24 – 2029/30, together with his wife if appropriate, to consider a visit to one or more mission field(s) where our Victorian APWM missionaries are serving as an act of encouragement and pastoral care for them (the visit to be the Moderator's choice, at his timing, and entirely at PCV's expense, namely: the Deakin Trust).
4. Request conveners of Assembly committees to invite the Moderator of the day to visit one meeting during his year of office for the purpose of encouragement and strengthening the work of the committee.
5. Confirm the practice that in the case of a Moderator who is serving in parish ministry that, each Sunday he is absent from his charge for specific moderatorial duties, the pulpit supply shall be reimbursed from Assembly funds, namely the Deakin Trust, to his Board of Management.
6. Confirm the practice that in the case of a Moderator who is serving in parish ministry, each Sunday he is absent from his Charge for specific moderatorial duties, the pulpit supply shall be reimbursed from Assembly funds, namely the Deakin Trust, to his Board of Management.
7. Confirm the practice that, aside from reimbursing all costs associated with his moderatorial duties, the Moderator of the day shall be awarded 10% of the stated Minimum Ministers Remuneration for the year he takes up office, from Assembly funds namely: the Deakin Trust.

27. Women's Ministries Victoria Committee

The report of the Women's Ministries Victoria Committee was received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Kathryn Gatt, Women's Ministries Facilitator, to the Assembly and invited her to address the Assembly, which she did.

The Moderator expressed appreciation of Mrs Gatt's address.

The Convener, Rev Ben Johnson, moved the proposed deliverance.

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the women in the church 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 of our congregations to attend the closest *On the Road* conference on *'Discipleship'* in 2024 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. Encourage sessions to identify women in their congregations who could lead a local church women's ministry and encourage and support them to attend the WMV training day in October 2024 *'Women's Ministry: Why it Matters, Where to Get Started, and How to Persevere'*.
4. Encourage sessions to identify suitably gifted women to consider the WMV *Women's Ministry Short Course* together with METRO Equip to begin a training pathway towards possible part-time employment in a local church team ministry.
5. Note that the committee is seeking an increase in GMP funding for the committee to provide security of funding for the position of 0.6FTE Women's Ministries Facilitator, subject to the GMP approval process in BIF regulation 12.
6. Thank Kathryn Gatt for a faithful, productive and fruitful first year as our Women's Ministries Facilitator and pray for her continued service to our local churches and the women of the PCV.

The motion was second and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

28. Board of Investment and Finance

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

The Chairman, Rev Barry Oakes, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend those charges and presbyteries which have fully subscribed their allocations for the 2022/23 General Mission Program.
2. Request the BIF to report to the Commission of Assembly in May 2024 concerning the matters raised in minute 12.11 of the Commission of Assembly in May 2023.
3. Authorise the BIF to recover the costs for valuation of properties occupied by congregations and relevant associated risk management surveys and inspections through an equitable allocation across the congregations within the Ansvar insurance program.

The motion was seconded.

Debate was adjourned to take up the FOD. (min 31)

29. Safe Church Committee

The report of the Safe Church Committee was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Remind all presbyteries of the importance of using the Safe Church Appointment Process before any appointment is made.
2. Give thanks to God for the continued work of Fiona Bligh as Safe Church Facilitator and pray for God's protection over her in her role.
3. Give thanks to God for the continued work of Ashley Manly as Safe Church Compliance and Administration Officer and pray for God's help for him in his important compliance role.

4. Thank all charges, sessions, presbyteries and Safe Church Representatives for their hard work and dedication in continuing to make timely submissions of audit and compliance schedules.
5. Ask sessions and presbyteries to make use of the online course 'Understanding Childhood Development for the sake of the Gospel'.
6. Thank all charges, sessions, presbyteries and Safe Church Representatives for their hard work and dedication in continuing to make timely submissions of audit and compliance schedules.

The Safe Church Facilitator, Mrs Fiona Bligh, launched the one day online intensive course, 'Understanding childhood development for the sake of the gospel'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny led the Assembly in prayer.

30. Privacy Officer's Report

The Privacy Officer's report was received.

31. Board of Investment and Finance (min 28)

Debate was resumed.

The motion to approve the proposed deliverance was approved.

32. Trusts Corporation

The Trusts Corporation's report was received.

The Chairman, Rev Barry Oakes, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

- Approve that income from the C M Wilson trust (perpetual balance of \$42,465) which is to fund grants to ministers be applied at the discretion of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation with a priority towards subsidising interest on ministers' car loans.

The motion was seconded and approved.

33. Church and Nation Committee

The report of the Church and Nation Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-3 were approved.

Clause 4 was approved.

Clauses 5-6 were approved.

Clauses 7-8 were approved.

Clause 9 was approved.

Clause 10 was approved.

Clause 11 was approved.

Clauses 12-14 were approved.

Clause 15 was approved.

Clause 16 was approved.

Leave was granted for the Convener to fall from clause 18.

Clauses 17-21 were approved.

The Convener, Rev Chris 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 its Church and Nation 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. Give thanks to God for the hard-working and dedicated committee members and the former researcher, Mrs Moira Deeming.
4. Approve a variation to the Job Description for the Church and Nation Committee Researcher (GAV 2017, Min 94.15), to vary from 15 hours per week, to up to 15 hours per week at the discretion of the committee.
5. Encourage all ministers, elders and congregations to make good use of the Church and Nation website, Facebook page, video library, updates, and other articles.
6. Give thanks and pray for Rev Surendra Wesley in his role as the PCV representative on Victoria's Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG).
7. Pray for the Australian Law Reform Commission's forthcoming report into the application of anti-discrimination laws to religious educational institutions, that religious freedom would be upheld, especially that Christian schools may retain the right to employ staff whose doctrine and lives are consistent with Christian teaching.
8. Pray that the PCV, its schools, and other Christian churches and schools would courageously stand firm for biblical truth, clearly articulating that truth, especially in areas of pressure in our society such as sexuality and gender.
9. Encourage the church to continue studying the issue of transgenderism and identity in order to bring God's truth in love to those who are hurting from the world's lies.
10. Encourage members of the Assembly to sign the open letter from the Human Rights Law Alliance (HRLA) entitled, 'Open Letter calling for Religious Freedom First'.
11. Pray for Australian Christians in the face of potential increased persecution that they would not give way to fear but would have courage and wisdom from Christ's Spirit as we imitate him.
12. Pray for the passing of the *Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2022*, and the saving of many lives.
13. Encourage support for the 2023 *March for the Babies* by members of the General Assembly, Sessions, and congregations of the PCV through advertising, participation and prayer.
14. Request the Moderator to write to the Victorian Premier, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, lobbying for legal protection of the unborn from abortion, the elderly and sick from assisted suicide, and children from radical gender theory.
15. Pray for the planning of the 2024 Religion in the Public Square Colloquium 12-13 July 2024, the guest speakers, and encouraging attendance, that God's people would be equipped for the days ahead.
16. Encourage, at the discretion of sessions, distribution amongst PCV congregations of the Church and Nation discussion paper on the 'Indigenous Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament'.
17. Adopt the following as the revised version 'Sex, Gender and Marriage Statement'.

Sex, Gender and Marriage Statement

1. Preamble

The Presbyterian Church of Australia seeks to be faithful to God by holding to the teaching of Scripture in faith and life. Our Subordinate

Standard affirms the biblical teaching that God created us male and female (WCF 4.2) and that marriage is to be between one man and one woman (WCF 24.1). This statement presents the Church's understanding of humanity in relation to sex, marriage and gender, based on the teaching of Scripture.

This statement uses the terms 'sex' and 'gender' as is common in contemporary discussion. Sex is the binary differentiation of humans as male or female by chromosomes, hormones and the reproductive organs which makes possible reproduction. Gender refers to a person's self-understanding, social identity and social presentation. The position of this statement is that a person's gender should be determined by their sex.

In this statement the Church:

- expresses its joy in God our Creator and his good order of creation;
- expresses its grief over the effects of our Fall into sin in distorting God's good order;
- expresses its faith in the Lord Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Saviour;
- expresses its hope in God's promise of a new creation in which righteousness dwells; and
- reaffirms its commitment to serving Christ, his church and his world in the area of sex, gender and marriage.

2. We rejoice in God our Creator and his good order of creation

- 2.1. All people are made in God's image (Gen 1:26-27; Declaratory Statement §4) and have a common dignity and worth. No one should be mocked, hated, or bullied.
- 2.2. God established a good order in his creation (WCF 5.1) in which humans were either male or female (Gen 1:27; 5:2; WCF 5.2), sharing a common humanity (Gen 2:23), but distinguished biologically through their capacity to conceive children together through sexual intercourse (Gen 2:24; 4:1). These differences should be recognised and celebrated. Men and women are equally created in God's image and are to express their gender in complementary relationships, especially in a loving marriage (Gen 2:18; Deut 22:5; 1Co 11:14-15; Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18-21; 1 Tim 2:12-14) and also within leadership in the household of God (1 Cor 14:29-35; 1 Tim 2:11-3:7; Titus 1:6-9).
- 2.3. In God's good order, human beings have been created with a biological sex (male or female) with different genetic, chromosomal and anatomical characteristics (Gen 1:27; 2:24; 4:1; WCF 5.2) which determines gender identity (self-recognition of being either a man or a woman) and gendered roles in relationships (for example being either a husband or a wife, Gen 2:24-25). While the Bible does not closely prescribe expression of gender (for example tastes, clothing, personality traits etc), Christians should express themselves in godly ways which do not mislead others in their culture as to their sex and gender (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 11: 2-16).
- 2.4. Marriage is a union of a husband and a wife, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life (WCF 24.1), which for the

good order of society is established by a public commitment. It is a sign of the love that exists between Christ and his church (Eph. 5:24–33). The purpose of marriage is lifelong love, intimacy and companionship, to provide the most favourable and stable environment to reproduce and nurture children, and to promote the health and stability of society (Gen 2:18; Ecc 4:9-11; Deut 6:1-7; Eph 6:1-4; Prov14:1; Pss 127 & 128; WCF 24.2). In the unity and partnership of marriage the husband is the head of the wife. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and a wife is to submit to her husband (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:21–30). Marriage is the only proper setting for sexual activity. It is the divinely ordained environment for the raising and nurturing of children.

- 2.5. Married couples are commanded by God to be faithful. All sexual activity outside of marriage is prohibited (Ex 20:14; 22:19; Lev 19:29; Deut 5:18; 22:13-21; 1Co 6:9-10; Heb 13:4; Rev 21:8; 22:15), as is abuse and violence within marriage (1 Pet 3:7). Divorce is prohibited, except on proper grounds (Mal 2:15; Mt 19:4-8; Mk 10:6-9; 1Co 7:10-14; WCF 24.5-6).

3. We mourn the effects of the Fall and our own sin as they distort God's good order

- 3.1. The fall of Adam rendered all humanity guilty and subject to God's eternal punishment (Rom 5:12-19). It corrupted us and the created order. 'Our first parents ... fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body', and 'the same death in sin and corrupted nature' was 'conveyed to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation' (WCF 6.1-3). As a consequence, all humans turn away from God, refuse to obey him, and worship created things instead (Rom 1:25) — including marriage and sexual experiences — and seek to establish sexual and gender identities apart from God and his order (Rom 1:26-27). All humans face struggle, distress and distortion in our experiences of gender and sexuality and marriage.
- 3.2. From the Fall, human sin and God's curse have disordered and frustrated God's good creation pattern (Gen 3:14-19; Rom 8:19-21). Humans have sought to make sense of their world and establish their identities apart from God (Prov 1:7; 12:23; Rom 1:21-29; 7:5,14-18; Eph 4:22). Relationships between husband and wife are spoiled (Gen 3:7,12,16; 4:19,23), spouses are abusive and unfaithful in marriage and marriages end in divorce (Dt 21:13-14; Mal 2:10-16; Mt 19:4-8; 1Co 7:10 -14). Women are oppressed (Ge 34:7-31; Deut 22:28–29; Jdg 19:22-20:7; 2Sa 13:1-32; Zec 14:2; 1 Pet 3:7). Polygamy and polyandry are both corruptions of God's good pattern of marriage (Gen 4:19; 29:30; 30:1; Dt 21:15-17; 17:17; 1 Ki 16:31; 1Co 7:2; 1Ti 3:2). Men and women are tempted to, and participate in, sexual immorality (Ge 39:6-12; 2Sa 11:2-5; Mt 5:27-28; 1 Pe 4:3; 2 Pe 2:14-18) including, adultery (Ex 20:14; Lev 18:20; Dt 5:18; Pr 22:14; 30:20; Mt 19:18; Jas 2:11), pre-marital sex (Dt 22:13-21, 23; Matt 1:19;), polyamory, homosexual sex (Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:9-10), incest (Lev 18:6-18; 20:17,19; Dt 22:30; 27:20,22-23; Eze 22:11), and rape (Ge 19:4-9; Dt 22:25-29; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Jdg 19:22-28; 20:4-5; 2

Sa 13:14-20). A further effect of sin is that men and women transgress the boundaries of their sex (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Cor 11:4-5, 13-15).

- 3.3. One consequence of the Fall is that some people are born with conditions in which their sex organs are not easily characterised as either male or female, or their sex organs are not consistent with their sex chromosomes (sometimes called intersex conditions or disorders of sex development). These are often physically uncomfortable and emotionally distressing conditions.
- 3.4. A further consequence of the Fall is that some people experience their gender to be different to their sex (sometimes called gender incongruence, gender identity disorder or gender dysphoria). This is often a very distressing and confusing experience.
- 3.5. People who suffer from these conditions and experiences are equally made in God's image and share in the common dignity and worth of all human beings. However, these conditions do not constitute a third sex or gender, nor do they contradict the truth that in his originally good creation, God has established a binary sexual order for human beings. Binary biological sex remains the basis on which we understand these experiences.
- 3.6. All forms of sexual immorality are sin, as is marital unfaithfulness through violence, or desertion. Jesus condemns all sexual immorality, teaching that sin begins prior to any such act, in the corruption of heart and eye (2 Sam 11) with a lustful, covetous look, a redirecting of desires, emotions and fantasies (Matt 5:27-28; Prov 6:23-29; Jer 5:8).
- 3.7. People are tempted to turn from God's good order and break his commands in all aspects of sexual life and gender, as is the case in all other areas of human life after the Fall. Temptations to sin can arise externally to ourselves, as Jesus experienced (Matt 4:1-11). For all fallen human beings, temptations also arise from their sinful nature and external temptations appeal to their corrupted desires. The corrupted nature and all the covetous desires that proceed from it, including involuntary or pre-conscious attractions towards ends contrary to God's law, are truly and properly sin and we are culpable for them (2 Peter 3:3; 1_Jn 2:16-17; WCF 6:4-6). We are all prone to living out these sinful desires in thought, word and deed (Jam 1:13-15). All sexual temptations are to be resisted and are desires which should be mortified (Gal 5:24). There is a pastorally significant moral difference between experiencing sinful desires and seeking to mortify them, as opposed to cultivating desires into actions (James 1:14-15).
- 3.8. Christians who do not struggle with gender incongruence or same-sex attraction can possess unwarranted self-righteousness ignoring their own sinful desires, their need to repent and their need for mercy in Christ. Everyone's expression of sexuality and gender has sinful aspects, and all desire for sexual activity outside the boundaries of marriage is illicit.
- 3.9. Modern Western culture has developed in a framework in which God is not relevant to understanding the world or shaping ethics. This has promoted a culture which views each person as free to determine their own identity and moral framework; and assumes

that diversity, including gender and sexual diversity, is a good in itself; and that pleasure and comfort are primary. This culture does not acknowledge the existence of God's good creational order and often celebrates changes which transgress that order. It also presents temptations through sexualised advertising, pornography and social pressures in friendships and in employment and educational contexts.

3.10. The church, in seeking to teach and apply the biblical view of sex, gender and marriage has often failed to acknowledge our own sin and has caused undue hurt. We have failed to adequately understand the struggles of others; and, in doing so, have prevented the gospel being heard by those who, like us, are in desperate need of salvation and secure identity in Christ. As a church we are accountable to the Lord Jesus for our treatment of others, especially those who are young in the faith (Matt 18:6; 1 Pet 4:17).

4. We look to Christ for redemption, proclaim him as Lord and Saviour and seek to live for him in ways consistent with God's good order

4.1. In his incarnation, God the Son took on human nature to redeem people from sin, to heal them from corruption and reconcile them to God, and to restore God's good order to creation. He achieved this by his life, death, resurrection and ascension (Jn 3:16-21; Eph 1:3-10; 1 Pet 1:1-9; WCF 8).

4.2. The gospel, which proclaims Christ as the Saviour for all who trust him, is offered to all people (Isa 57:19; Acts 2:39; Rom 1:5; 3:24; 1 Tim 2:4). Everyone who comes to Christ is welcomed by him and included in his salvation (John 6:37). In Christ, his people find their true humanity and a new identity, irrespective of their gender, sexuality, marital status, family background, social status or ethnicity. They are restored to the image of God in Christ and united with each other in him (Rom 10:12; 1Co 12:13; Gal 2:20; Eph 2:10, 15; 4:22-24; Col 3:10-11). Christ is the answer to the underlying problems for all people — including those facing sexual temptation, the consequences of sexual sin, broken and difficult marriages, loneliness, shame, and gender confusion.

4.3. Christ calls all people, though lost in sin, to come to him to be reconciled to God and discover their true humanity in his service. By his Spirit working through his Word and prayer, God draws sinners to him, transforming our rebellion into love and reordering our desires and deeds to conform to Christ. By his Spirit, he enables us to grieve and hate our sinful nature and to recognise and repent of particular sins, particularly (Lk 3:10-14; Rom 8:3-9; WCF 10.1, 13.1, 15.5). Truthfully and humbly naming sin and calling people to repentance are not harmful because of God's gracious mercy and the sanctifying power and promised fullness of life in Christ (John 10:10; Acts 2:38, 2 Cor 7:10).

4.4. By his Spirit, all believers must struggle against sin and constantly turn to Christ, putting to death the sinful nature with its particular sins (Rom 6:11-14; WCF 13, 15:5). The Spirit helps us to humbly speak the truth in love and encourage one another to grow in Christ (Eph 4:15-16). We should exercise wisdom in choosing language

that articulates the truth about ourselves, naming our sins but not being named by them (1 Cor. 6:9–11). Christians should flee sin (Gen 39:6b-12; Matt 5:27-30; 1 Cor 6:18; Rom 6:11-12; 1 Pet 1:14; 2:11), and hence be careful to avoid legitimising sin by using descriptions that either downplay or even celebrate temptation.

- 4.5. God does not promise to heal all broken bodies or human relationships, nor to end temptation, nor remove homosexual attraction, gender confusion or other burdens in this life. Neither does he say that sinful desires are fixed and can never be changed. He promises that, because we are his chosen, redeemed and sanctified children, his grace will be sufficient in all our trials (2 Cor. 12:9) and his Spirit will bear rich fruit in every aspect of our lives (Gal 5:13-25). He also promises that on the return of Christ all his people will receive resurrected and restored bodies and enjoy full communion with him in a world of righteousness freed from curse and frustration (Rom 8:20-24; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1-5).
- 4.6. An unmarried person who is a follower of Jesus Christ is called to live faithfully for him in chastity. Singleness is a proper and honourable Christian calling, since it was the calling of the Lord Jesus himself (Matt 19:12; 1 Cor. 7:32–35; 1 Tim 5:5).
- 4.7. Married couples who follow Jesus Christ are called to live together faithfully as husband and wife, loving and serving one another. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and wives are to submit to their husbands (Col. 3:18–19; Eph. 5:22–33; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1-7). Parents are to love their children and raise them in the training and instruction of the Lord (Gen 18:19; Deut 6:7; Col 3:21; Eph 6:4). Children are to honour and obey their parents (Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16; Pr 6:20; Col 3:20; Eph 6:1-2).
- 4.8. An intersex person who is a follower of Jesus Christ should embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known. Surgical treatment to enable this may be appropriate, though it is not morally necessary.
- 4.9. A person who experiences gender incongruence and who is a follower of Jesus Christ should accept their body as inherent to their personhood, given to them by God, and seek to reconcile their understanding and presentation of their gender according to this fundamental truth. Learning to live consistently with this may be an on-going and difficult process, yet, as with all Christians, their union with Christ through his Spirit will lead them to grow in grace.
- 4.10. Both the desire for, and the act of, sexual relations with a person of the same sex are sinful (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-11). Such desires should be rejected and mortified, as a Christian seeks “to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph 4:24). The good news for those who experience same-sex attraction (as indeed for all sexual sinners) is that in Christ they can be known and identified not according to their sexual impulses but as beloved children of God, forgiven and justified, freed from guilt and shame, set apart for growth in Christlikeness and good works, secure in resurrection life, and precious brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 4.11. Faithful proclamation of the gospel requires the church to give a clear public witness in word and action to the righteousness of God,

the nature and consequences of human sin, including its impact on the curse and frustration of the fallen creation, and God's free offer of grace in the Lord Jesus (Jn 16:8; Acts 2:23, 17:16-17, 30-31; Rom 1:18-3:20). The church presents God's good order and his moral law to the wider society, in part for the sake of the common good which is promoted by a recognition of the moral law. The church is not called to provide moral discipline for society (1 Cor 5:9–10), nor to seek moral reformation of society apart from gospel ministry. The priority of its mission is to proclaim Christ and to call people to salvation in him.

5. We live in eager expectation of God's new creation

- 5.1. The Lord has promised at his return a new creation where righteousness will dwell, and his people will enjoy glorious freedom in his presence, and he will wipe away all their tears (Rom 8:21; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1-5; WCF 33.2). So, we live in hope, longing for and praying for the day when we shall be fully conformed to Christ and the created order will be gloriously transformed, healed of all disorder and corruption. In the presence of the Triune God, God's people will be given the fullness of their new identity in Christ (1 Cor 13:12; 1 John 3:2; Rev 22:4-5).
- 5.2. In the new creation, marriage and sexuality will reach their fulfillment in the marriage of Christ the lamb to his people (Rev 19:7; 21:2). Jesus declares there will be no marriage at the resurrection, which means that marriage is temporal, and not an 'ultimate' relationship for humanity, but one that points to this ultimate fulfillment (Matt 22:30). We do not know the details of how bodies will be transformed and how that will reflect sex or intersex conditions. The bodies of God's people will be glorified and made to be like Christ (1 Cor. 15:35–53; Phil 3:20-21; 1 Jn 3:2).
- 5.3. Only then will God's people be freed from temptation and able to love him perfectly and freely (WCF 9.5).

6. We commit ourselves to serving Christ, his church and his world in the area of sex, marriage and gender

- 6.1. As the Church addresses issues of sex, gender and marriage in its teaching and pastoral ministry it should teach and act in consistency with the understanding set out in this statement in prayerful dependence upon the Holy Spirit.
- 6.2. It is important to differentiate between cultural trends and movements, and the situation of individuals. The Church should identify for its members, and for the society, false views about marriage, sex and gender. It should do so in a way that is gracious, compassionate and engaging, and which offers life lived for Christ as a genuine alternative. It should treat those who are influenced by these movements as victims in need of compassion and, like all people, sinners in need of repentance. The Church should remain sensitive to congregation members who may struggle with gender or sexuality issues.
- 6.3. The deeply personal nature of sex, gender and marriage makes teaching about these areas, and the provision of pastoral care, particularly complex. We should seek to be informed as well as possible, to welcome advice from those with relevant personal and

- professional experience and constantly to seek wisdom from the Lord.
- 6.4. Good pastoral care will involve determining with those concerned, in light of the teaching of Scripture, how they can live faithfully in Christ. It will involve supporting them in this and, in love, holding them accountable for their actions. It may involve helping them access the services of appropriate professionals who should share a view of sex, gender and marriage consistent with this statement.
 - 6.5. We should seek to build churches in which people of all ages grow together in the gospel, and which share the gospel of God's love in Christ. Our churches should aim to reinforce, enrich and model identity in Christ in contrast to the idolatrous identities of the world. Churches should seek to model faithfulness in marriage and singleness, and to support single people, couples moving toward marriage and married couples to live godly lives and to serve Christ together. The Church should be a community in which people can be honest about their temptations and pain and receive compassionate support from fellow believers as they seek to live faithfully.
 - 6.6. The Church teaches that a marriage can only end in divorce when the marriage covenant is broken (Matt. 19:3–9, WCF 14.4-5). It should seek to support marriages and encourage reconciliation where possible (1 Cor 7:10-11).
 - 6.7. The Church teaches that God opposes abuse and violence in marriage and in the family. He particularly warns husbands to be considerate to their wives and treat them with respect (Eph 5:28–30; 1 Pet 3:7). Acts of domestic violence and abuse are heinous sins. In providing pastoral care, church leaders should be alert for signs of domestic and family violence, and teaching in churches should address these issues. Domestic violence may be a valid ground for divorce, along with adultery and desertion (WCF 24:6).
 - 6.8. No office bearer of the Church shall solemnise or bless a union between two people other than that between a man and a woman who have no legal impediment to marriage.
 - 6.9. Biological or natal sex is the relevant basis on which the church makes decisions about qualifications for marriage, church membership and church office.
 - 6.10. The Church will not ordain any person who is involved in a sexual relationship outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. No church officer nor anyone in a position of leadership or responsibility within the Church should be involved in such a relationship.
 - 6.11. All schools, training colleges, aged care facilities, charitable organisations, and other ministries and institutions operated by, in connection with, or under the authority or control of the Church are to operate in a manner, and for purposes, consistent with the understanding of sex, gender and marriage set out in this statement. Church property is only to be used in a manner and for purposes consistent with that understanding.
18. Empower the Clerk, to update the version where it is currently published or posted on the PCV website.
 19. Request the clerk to communicate the updated version to Sessions and ministers.

20. Request the clerk to communicate the updated version to Boards/Councils of Presbyterian Schools in Victoria.
21. Empower the clerk to communicate the updated version to any committee/organisation deemed necessary or appropriate.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny led the Assembly in prayer.

34. Church Planting Committee

The report of the Church Planting Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Aaron Boyd, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Praise God for the faithful service of all members of the Church Planting Committee.
2. Give thanks to God for the faithful and fruitful ministry of Rev Richard Wilson, the Church Planting Officer.
3. Pray for continued growth in the work of the gospel at Fresh Start Presbyterian Church - Donnybrook.
4. Pray for the millions of lost people across Victoria, and ask the Lord Jesus to fill us with his heart of compassion towards them.
5. Endorse the intention of the Church Planting Committee to adopt various strategies that might help more churches in the PCV to become church planting churches.
6. Praise God for the generous initiative of the Geelong Presbytery in bringing petitions to the Assembly that allocated proceeds of sale from the Batesford and Anakie Presbyterian properties to the Property Development Fund.
7. Urge all Presbyteries to consider petitioning the Assembly to allocate a significant percentage of the proceeds of sale of any properties to the Property Development Fund.
8. Encourage Presbyteries to identify people who may be suited to attend the training courses designed to equip assessor elders to serve effectively on church-plant sessions.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

35. METRO Committee

The report of METRO Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Clinton Le Page, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for all who've graduated from their METRO and YouthMETRO traineeships, and for how God has grown the convictions, character and competencies of those individuals, and blessed others through them.
2. Thank God for Maddy O'Brien's help and service to God through the METRO Committee's Admin Assistant role.
3. Pray for those undergoing training in gospel ministry at the moment, and for wisdom and faithfulness, grace and godliness for those training them.
4. Pray for more pastors, teachers, small group leaders, pastoral carers, evangelists, missionaries, and church planters to be raised up for the PCV and beyond.
5. Pray for more people (and churches) to apply to do METRO, YouthMETRO and EquipMETRO traineeships in the future for the cause of the gospel, and the growth of the church in number and maturity.

The motion was seconded and approved.

36. 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. Give thanks to God for the work of the State News Committee to inform and encourage the wider church.
2. Acknowledge the many contributors from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and beyond who serve us 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.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vandervert led the Assembly in prayer for matters in both the METRO Committee and State News Committee deliverances.

37. Code and General Administration Committee

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

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-4 were approved.

Clause 5 was approved.

Dissent:

Rev Stephen McDonald

Clause 6 was approved.

Clause 7 was approved.

Clauses 8-11 were approved.

Clause 12 was approved.

Clauses 13-16 were approved.

The Convener, Rev John Wilson, moved the proposed deliverance as whole:

That the Assembly:

1. Amend rule 6.50.3 as follows:
 - 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.
2. Amend rule 5.45 as follows:
 - 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.
3. Amend rule 3.32 such that it shall 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'.

4. Amend rule 6.19 such that it shall read:

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.

5. Amend rules 3.24 and 3.24A so that they shall read:

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.

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 has a life consistent with his or her profession.

6. Amend rules 2.14, 2.15, 2.44, 2.45, 2.45A, 4.81, 4.82 and 4.114 such that they shall read:

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).

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;
- c) the budget or budgets adopted by the annual congregational meeting.

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.

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.

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; 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.

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).

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.

7. Amend the following rules 2.31, 2.40, 5.20 and 6.16 such that they shall 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.

- 8. Amend rules 4.35, 4.38 and 4.48 such that they shall 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.

9. Amend rule 4.22 such that it shall 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.

10. Amend rule 4.68B such that it would read 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.

11. Amend regulation 13(a) of the Ministry Development Committee regulations, such that it will read, with insertion of words in red text and with deleted words crossed out:
 13. **Home Missionaries and Home Mission Appointments**
 - a) **Definition**
A home missionary is a suitably qualified and accredited man who is not a minister, licentiate or candidate for the ministry who may be 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).

12. Repeal regulation 7 of the regulations of the Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee, namely:
 7. **Allan Bequest**
The committee shall administer the Allan Bequest.

13. Enact new regulations to the Clerkship Committee regulations, as follows:
 6. **Nomination procedure for Clerk of Assembly**
When the need arises to appoint a new Clerk of Assembly, the committee shall:
 - a) in consultation with the Code and General Administration Committee, draft a proposed job description and proposed terms of settlement for submission to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly, and then:
 - b) unless otherwise directed by the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly, inform all presbyteries of the pending vacancy and announce it in any official publication of the church at least three months before a subsequent meeting of the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly at which the appointment is to be made;
 - c) receive:
 - i) any presbytery nomination or nominations with the consent of the nominee to fill the vacancy; or
 - ii) any application from any eligible person to fill the vacancy; or
 - iii) any nomination by the committee itself with the consent of the nominee to fill the vacancy;
 noting that only these persons are eligible for appointment (rule 5.19.3(b));
 - d) interview the nominees;
 - e) report to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly the names and qualifications of the persons referred to in (c) and the proposed terms of appointment; and
 - f) bring to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly a nomination for appointment as Clerk of Assembly.

 7. **Nomination procedure for Deputy Clerk of Assembly or Assistant to the Clerks**
When the need arises to appoint a Deputy Clerk of Assembly or an Assistant to the Clerks, the committee shall:
 - a) in consultation with the Code and General Administration Committee, draft a proposed job description for submission

to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly, and then:

- b) inform all presbyteries of the pending vacancy and announce it in any official publication of the church at least three months before a subsequent meeting of the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly at which the appointment is to be made;
- c) receive:
 - i) any presbytery nomination or nominations with the consent of the nominee to fill the vacancy; or
 - ii) any application from any eligible person to fill the vacancy; or
 - iii) any nomination by the committee itself with the consent of the nominee to fill the vacancy;
 - iv) any nomination by the Clerk with the consent of the nominee to fill the vacancy;noting that only these persons are eligible for appointment (rule 5.19.3(b));
- d) interview together with the Clerk of Assembly the nominees;
- e) report to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly the names and qualifications of the persons referred to in (c); and
- f) taking into account any preference the Clerk of Assembly may have in the matter, bring to the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly a nomination for appointment as Deputy Clerk of Assembly or Assistant to the Clerks as the case might be.

14. Amend regulation 2 of the Change or Suppression Committee regulations, such that it will read:

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of:

- a) four members of the General Assembly, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly;
- b) the Moderator, the Assembly Clerk and the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee.

15. Thank and discharge the ad hoc PCV Archives Committee and establish a new committee entitled Archives Committee, and enact the following regulations for it:

Archives Committee

1. Title

There shall be a committee of the General Assembly entitled the Archives Committee (the committee).

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of the Clerk of Assembly, the PCV Archivist, and five other members appointed by the General Assembly, with the clerk as Convener.

3. Purpose

The purpose of the committee is to support, protect, preserve and grow the collection of material called the PCV Archives so as to glorify God's name and strengthen the whole church.

4. Duties

In fulfilling its purpose the committee shall:

- a) support and encourage the PCV Archivist in his/her work;
- b) place before the General Assembly, and the wider church where appropriate, the financial necessities for managing the PCV Archives;
- c) actively encourage the church to provide a permanent home for the PCV Archives;
- d) promote the value of preserving the record of the church's story in an archival form that is secure, accessible and researchable;
- e) promote the value of researching the PCV Archives, in order to trace the hand of God in his work in the church;
- f) have oversight of the archival management process (including all relevant policies and protocols); and
- g) encourage congregations, boards, sessions, presbyteries and other church organisations to deposit relevant records with the PCV Archives immediately following the seven-year mark.

16. Appoint the Selection Committee as follows:

Metro: Peter Orchard (26) retire [29]; John Angelico (24) retire [24]; Adam Humphries (25) retire [28]; Ben Palmer (25) retire [28]; *vacancy*

Non-metro: Jesse Walz (24) retire [29]; Kyung Ee (26) retire [32]

Convener: Adam Humphries (26)

The motion was seconded and approved.

38. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday 3 October 2023, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
P W Phillips
C Garrett

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 3 October 2023 at 7:00pm.

39. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Assembly was constituted by the singing of a hymn, a devotion by Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny based on Acts 4:1-22 and prayer.

40. Apologies

The following apologies were sustained:

Ministers: Luke Brownley, Daryl Jackson, Michael Jensen, Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel, Andrew Wong.

Elders: Malcolm Browning, Daniel Chung, Tom Cunneen, Rob Herweynen, Jeremy Peet.

41. Business Committee

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the proposed agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

42. Conflict of Interest Declarations (min 15)

Debate was resumed.

The Clerk and the Law agent advised the Assembly on the matter.

The motion was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

1. Note that conflicts of interest have been declared in relation to Petition 10 under the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy by the following persons: Len Pearce, Phil Mercer, Russ Grinter, Stephen McDonald, Kalpan Vasa, Stuart Withers, Barry Porter, Phil Court and Bill Medley.
2. Determine that all other members of this Assembly who are members of the Presbytery of North East Victoria or have been since May 2016, including assessor members, are conflicted persons in relation to Petition 10 under the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy.
3. Permit all persons described in clauses (1) and (2) above to be present during and participate in any debate and be present during the voting, but not to vote on the matter.

The Moderator invited further declarations by members of the Assembly of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business on the agenda.

No declarations were forthcoming.

43. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

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

44. Building and Property Committee

The report of the Building and Property Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the church architect, Andrew Wilson, for his service to the committee and to the congregations of the PCV.
2. Commend the use of the 'Seeking the Advice of the Church Architect Guidelines' to congregations undertaking building projects.
3. Commend the use of the 'Pre-purchase Condition Inspection Guidelines' to congregations wishing to purchase properties containing existing buildings.

45. Clerkship Committee

The report of the Clerkship Committee was received.

Rev Cameron Garrett left the Assembly.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-2 were approved.

Clause 3 was seconded and approved without dissent.

Rev Cameron Garrett was recalled to the Assembly.

The Moderator informed Mr Garrett of the Assembly's decision to appoint him as Assistant to the Clerks by a unanimous decision, thanked him for his diligent work thus far and wished him well for the future. The Assembly responded with acclamation.

Clauses 4-5 were approved.

Elder Colin Morrow moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

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, Deputy Clerk and Assistant to the Clerks including those in "acting" capacities and the Office Assistant, Siew Teng Yap.
2. Expressly thank Rev Philip Burns for his faithful service as he served as Acting Deputy Clerk.
3. Appoint Rev Cameron Garrett as Assistant to the Clerks, to take immediate effect.
4. Approve that the Rev Dr John Wilson is not required to complete the following duties for the remainder of his tenure:
 - The Church's 2nd representative to Victorian Church Leaders meeting.
 - Undertake periodic training, as required, in regard to the Church's relations with the Media and other outside bodies and arrange for such training to be made available for the Moderator and convener of Church and Nation Committee (CNC).
 - The second representative to the Victorian Heads of Churches.
 - Along with the Convener of CNC, consult with one another and the Moderator on business of Heads of Churches, including adding new business to the Agenda.
 - From time to time the Moderator, the Clerk and the Convener (CNC) will individually represent the church in communication with government, the media etc.
 - The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Convener of the CNC are requested to undertake periodic training in regard to the Church's relations with the Media and other outside bodies.
5. Pray for the Committee to have God given wisdom as it initiates the process of finding a new Clerk of Assembly and that even now that Almighty God has set a person aside for this task.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSevery led the Assembly in prayer.

46. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

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

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Clauses 4-6 were approved.

Clause 7 was moved and seconded.

Rev Neil Chambers sought leave to move an amendment arising out of the debate.

The Moderator ruled that the proposed amendment arose out of the debate and did not alter the substance of the motion.

(1) Rev Neil Chambers moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend Clause 7 by removing the words 'take the excess leave, and/or', so that the clause would read:

7. Instruct those covered under the LSL Fund who have LSL in excess of 13 weeks accrued with no plan approved by the MMC, to submit for approval a plan to reduce their balance to 13 weeks as soon as possible.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 7 as amended was approved.

(2) The Convener, Elder Colin Morrow, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. With respect to the committee's ongoing existence:
 - a) Note the committee's plan to discontinue the committee as at 30 June 2025, with only a final report required at the October 2025 Assembly.
 - b) Request the Code and General Administration Committee in consultation with the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee and other committees, as appropriate, to report on the committee's plan to the May 2024 Commission of the General Assembly, with a recommendation that considers church-wide issues.
2. Declare the maximum NCB rate of 40% of Ministerial Remuneration to take effect from 1 January 2024 and change necessary regulations and Supplementary Policies and General Assembly decisions to reflect that change.
3. Declare that church related travel in excess of 5,000 km be reimbursed at the Assembly approved rate from 1 January 2024.
4. Note that the Terms of Settlement Report (TSR) is now live in ARMS and is the only means by which automation is possible, and urge all charges to submit TOS via ARMS for approval by presbyteries and MMC, with the church office being automatically advised of any changes to centralised pay details.
5. Request the committee to further investigate the consolidation of databases in consultation with the BIF, requesting the committee to report to the October 2024 Assembly.
6. Thank and gratefully acknowledge Elder Reg Butcher and Rev Cameron Garrett for their distinguished service and commitment to the work of the committee.
7. Instruct those covered under the LSL Fund who have LSL in excess of 13 weeks accrued with no plan approved by the MMC, to submit for approval a plan to reduce their balance to 13 weeks as soon as possible.

The motion was seconded and approved.

47. Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee

The report of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. a) Note that because the preparation of training material has taken longer than expected, the presbyteries have not been able to fulfil the Assembly's instruction (BB 2022 min 129(13).2), to run a presbytery 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training day within the next twelve months.'
- b) Request the committee to continue its work with a view to bringing the proposed training program into effect at the earliest possible time.
- c) Direct the presbyteries to co-operate with the committee to run a 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training day in each presbytery as soon as practicable.
2. Regarding a PCV internet Presence and Social Media Policies:
 - a) note, in response to the instruction of BB 2022 min 129(13).3 that this committee's opinion is that the church would be better served by a wider Social Media Policy than this committee is capable of producing, given its narrow focus on the Act;
 - b) establish an ad hoc committee of the General Assembly entitled the 'Ad hoc PCV Internet Presence Committee' to:
 - i) revise the 2016 GAV policy entitled "PCV Internet Presence and Email Use - Policy, Guideline and Protocols", such revision to be shorter than the current policy and be principle-driven; and
 - ii) develop a comprehensive PCV Social Media Policy, either as part of the PCV Internet Presence and Email Use' document or as a separate policy at the committee's discretion;for consideration by the 2024 General Assembly; and
 - c) direct the Selection Committee to consider appointing persons with knowledge and experience in such matters to this committee.
3. Repeal the 'PCV Code of Conduct for members of the church in the context of *the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act)*' approved by the 2022 General Assembly (BB 2022 min 129(13)).
4. 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)

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:

- 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** is where a person considers that their biological sex and/or associated physical characteristics do not align with their psychological construct of gender identity. This is often called gender incongruence and includes the condition of gender dysphoria.
- d) **gender dysphoria** is a psychological condition where a person experiences persistent distress regarding their biological sex and/or associated physical characteristics, whether or not clinically diagnosed. It should not be confused with the occasional gender experimentation or gender questioning experienced by some children and adolescents during their maturation and development.

- e) **gender identity** is a theoretical concept that involves a person's subjective conception of self-identity that a person manifests in self-description, appearance, behaviour and mannerisms that may or may not correspond to the person's biological 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 or biological sex** means the immutable biological identity of each person of either being male or female which is determined by a person's chromosomes (XX for female and XY for males) and reproductive function and is identified at birth by a person's anatomy and is normatively expressed in secondary sex characteristics – like body shape, voice pitch, hair distribution – except in a small percentage of people (<0.02% of the population¹) born with physical and/or genetic differences/disorders of sexual differentiation development (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 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.’

¹ Leonard Sax, 'How common is intersex? a response to Anne Fausto-Sterling', *Journal of Sex Research*, August 2002, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12476264/>

- 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:
- 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, whether 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 gender confused persons 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 change or suppression practice as defined 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 desires² or sexual activity are only some of the many temptations individual believers may face;
 - ii) the teaching of the Westminster Confession of Faith on Sanctification³; 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 unmarried;
- 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

² James 1:12-15

³ Presbyterian Church of Australia - Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 13 - Of Sanctification

- 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 offences⁴ 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.
 - 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 for whom gender identity or sexual orientation is known to be a relevant issue:
 - A. remember that as they plainly teach the scriptures, they admonish, rebuke, correct and seek to persuade, but in doing so they must rely on the inner transformative work of the Holy Spirit to bring about change and so they

⁴ 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

- reject the use of violence, coercion or secret shameful ways;
 - B. 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;
 - C. 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;
 - D. make clear that change in sexual behaviour or gender expression is not the focus of Christian witness; rather our goal is to lead people to trust and obey the Lord Jesus Christ in all areas of life;
 - E. seek at all times to bring the gospel with another member as a witness;
 - F. document those steps in the form set out in Appendix A; and
 - G. 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.

Appendix A

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SEXUALITY OR GENDER CONVERSATION RECORD

MEMBER

1:

DATE:

MEMBER

2

DATE:

PERSON:

TIME:

1. Please give details of the sexuality and/or gender issue that arose with the above person.

2. Did you advise the person that you cannot provide medical advice, therapy or counselling about sexual orientation or gender identity? Did you advise that you are not trying to change or suppress the person's sexual orientation or gender identity? Give details.

Yes No

3. Did you pray with the person about the gender and/or sexuality issue? Please give details.

Yes No

4. Write down any other observations or concerns

Signed by:

Signed by:

Member 1

Member 2

Date:

Date:

Appendix B

Practices that the VEOHRC has advised would be considered illegal under the Act include:⁵

IMPORTANT NOTE: The PCV does not accept that these practices are in fact prohibited by the Act. However, the VEOHRC is the government body that oversees and enforces the Act and has prepared this list as guidance as to their interpretation of conduct that is prohibited under the Act. It is reasonable to expect that VEOHRC would use its powers (investigation, education, compulsion and sanction) against a person who they consider has engaged in this conduct.

- a religious leader meeting one-on-one and pressuring a member of their congregation to suppress and ignore their feelings of same-sex attraction by practising celibacy
- running a peer-to-peer support group designed to coach a person who is exploring their gender identity to accept the sex they were assigned at birth
- a psychiatrist stating to their adult patient that their gender identity is a mental illness and proposing a long-term treatment plan to maintain the sex they were assigned at birth, while withholding information about other services that will affirm the patient's gender identity
- a parent refusing to support their child's request for medical treatment that will enable them to prevent physical changes from puberty that do not align with the child's gender identity and denying their child access to any health care services that would affirm their child's gender identity
- an adult child repeatedly denigrating an elderly parent's sexual orientation, including by telling them it is wrong to be same-sex attracted and that they must change, or the adult child will no longer support them
- a person repeatedly leaving pamphlets in the mailbox of their trans neighbour that state that it is wrong to transition their gender and that everyone's gender expression should match the sex they were assigned at birth. The pamphlet includes contact details of programs and professionals who claim to be able to change a person's gender identity to the sex they were assigned at birth.
- a religious leader tells a member of their congregation that they will be excommunicated if they continue their same-sex relationship and prohibited from returning as long as that relationship continues
- a teacher telling a student that God does not accept them unless they keep the sex they were assigned at birth and dress accordingly, and offering to meet with the child weekly to counsel them on how to be acceptable to God
- a parent sending their child away from Victoria to a conversion therapy camp that makes a false claim that they can 'cure' the child of being gay.

The motion was seconded and approved.

⁵ [Have you experienced a change or suppression practice? | Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission](#)

48. Communication 1 – from the GAA

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Receive communication 1 from the GAA re: Extract Minute – Overture (ii) anent response to current legislation re: prohibition of Change or Suppression Practices.

The motion was seconded and approved.

49. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

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

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clauses 3-5 were approved.

In the absence of the Convener, Rev Daniel Dixon, the Clerk moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for the faithful and dedicated service of Mrs Gita Dickinson as a PCV paediatric chaplain at the Royal Children's Hospital and wish her every blessing in the years ahead.
2. Thank Rev Tony Salisbury for his many years of service in deaf chaplaincy and wish him every blessing in the years ahead.
3. Thank the congregations, boards of management, and individuals who generously contributed to the 2023 Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee Good Friday Appeal.
4. Thank the committee's volunteer chaplains in hospitals, police stations, and prisons for their commitment and efforts to show the love of Christ in those settings.
5. Encourage sessions to consider the opportunities for ministry presented through the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee for suitable and willing members of their congregations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

50. Social Services Committee

The report of the Social Services Committee was received.

In the absence of the Convener, Mrs Jenny Pilgrim, Rev Surendra Wesley moved the proposed deliverance.

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the Trusts Corporation and the 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 for their ongoing dedication to ensure the social service of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria continues to support those in need.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny led the Assembly in prayer.

51. Ad Hoc Committee: Deacons

The report of the ad hoc Committee: Deacons was received.

The Convener, Rev Darren Middleton, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Affirm the following principles outlined in the report:

- a) deacon is an office that is biblical, perpetual, spiritual, and practical;
 - b) deacons serve on behalf of the congregation and are primarily concerned with ministering to the physical and material needs of the congregation;
 - c) the office of deacon is not one of teaching or governance but has the necessary authority appropriate to the nature of the office;
 - d) the office of deacon is open to suitably qualified men and women.
2. Request the committee to report to the 2024 General Assembly of Victoria addressing all outstanding matters.

The motion was seconded and approved.

52. Communication 3 – from the GAA

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

- Receive communication 3 from the GAA, re: Extract Minute – Overture (iv) – Deacon’s Vows.

The motion was seconded and approved.

53. Ad Hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd

The report of the ad hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd was received.

The Convener, 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. Pray and give thanks for Duncan McGregor’s leadership and contribution to the work of the committee and to Kirkbrae, and may the Lord continue to bless him and use him to help in the work of growing his kingdom here on earth.
3. Express its thanks and appreciation to, in particular, Kirkbrae’s CEO/FM Ms Angelica Oyarzun and to all of Kirkbrae’s staff for the contribution they make to the life and work of Kirkbrae and to the well-being of our residents.
4. Request all members 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.
5. Recognise and give thanks to God for the work and life of Dr Elizabeth Lewis and the contribution she has made to Kirkbrae over a number of years.
6. Note the 2022-23 audited financial results for Kirkbrae and that further work is still required to improve the operational results and strengthen the balance sheet.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator’s chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

54. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9:30am on Wednesday 4 October 2023, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with the benediction.

CLERKS
 J P Wilson
 P W Phillips
 C B Garrett

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 9:30am.

55. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Assembly was constituted with the singing of a hymn and prayer by Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert.

56. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev David Burke, led the Assembly in the second of his Assembly expositions, 'Words of Reassurance and Comfort' based on John 14:1-6.

57. Apologies

The following apologies for this sitting were sustained:

Ministers: Luke Brownley. Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel.

Elders: Malcolm Browning, Daniel Chung, Tom Cunneen.

58. Business Committee

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the proposed agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

59. Conflict of Interest declarations

The Moderator invited declarations by members of the Assembly of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business on the agenda.

No declarations were forthcoming.

60. Minutes of Previous Sitting

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

61. Ministry Development Committee

The report of the Ministry Development Committee was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Commend the work of Rev Chris Siriweera as Ministry Development Officer and ask the Assembly to 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. Note the contribution of Mr Ben Palmer to the work of the Ministry Development Committee over 21 years as Administrator and wish him well in his future endeavours.
3. Thank God for the provision of the Thompson Trust and its support of evangelism in the past year and request prayer for the Lord to draw all his people savingly to himself (John 6:44).

4. Thank Rev Cameron Garrett for his work in operating the online collections system ARMS and Elder Ralph Kop for preparing and analysing the data collected in the 2022 Statistical Returns.
5. Approve the adjustment of the Statistical Return questions for 2023 so that the question on Professions of Faith is split into two questions namely: How many new members were added by transfer, and how many new members were added by profession of faith?
6. Encourage the Ministry Development Committee to finalise plans for the development of ministry coach training and the ministry development track for church revitalisation.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

62. Exit Students Committee

The Exit Students Committee report was received.

The Convener, Rev Gary Stephens, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the Lord for his continuing provision of candidates for ministry in PCV churches and pray that he will continue to raise up suitable labourers for the shepherding of his people.
2. Pray for the exiting candidates as they complete their studies, engage in final assessments, go through trials for licensing, relocate, set about establishing relationships in new church families, love God's people and discern how to best carry out the ministry the Lord wants done in the respective congregations.
3. Pray that the churches will receive the candidates and their families well and look forward to striving side by side together in the gospel.
4. Pray that by God's grace the exit appointments will be fruitful and that the candidates and their families will be able to persevere for many years in ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

63. Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

The report of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee was received.

The Convener, Rev Miles Fagan, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for ADF chaplains as they engage in all facets of life with the men and women of the ADF, and that they may they be the presence of Christ in their midst.
2. Pray for chaplains as they engage with members affected by Moral Injury with wisdom and compassion through Pastoral Narrative Disclosure.
3. Encourage and urge presbyteries and congregations to put forward candidates for chaplaincy in the ADF.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny led the Assembly in prayer.

64. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee

The Convener, Rev David Schulz, introduced the following missionaries to the Moderator:

- Rev Kevin Murray (National Director, APWM)
- Miss Lauren Raiter (CMS)

Mrs Rhonda Hall (ACROSS)

Miss Joy Hill (Pioneers)

Mr Paul and Mrs Anthea Pearce (Pioneers)

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for PCV missionaries.

The report of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee was received. Rev Kevin Murray addressed the Assembly with special focus on missionaries from Victoria.

The Convener moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Urge all churches to pray for the man of God's choosing to replace Rev Kevin Murray as the APWM National Director when he retires from his position at the end of 2025.
2. Praise God for the wonderful missionary team that he has raised up within our denomination with the necessary gifting and passion to work cross-culturally both in Australia and overseas.
3. Encourage all congregations to pray to the Lord of the harvest to thrust forth fresh labourers into the harvest fields of the world.
4. Encourage both presbyteries and congregations to invite Rev Keith Bell to come and share about the work of APWM.
5. Encourage presbyteries to consider including an APWM/PIM Report on their business agenda for each meeting and appoint someone on presbytery to be responsible to bring this report to each meeting.
6. Encourage our ministers and sessions to consider appointing a missions coordinator or committee in their congregations to further the on-going awareness and prayer needs of our missionaries and world mission in general.
7. Commend the regular APWM Vic Prayer Update and the APWM National publications to the churches for their informed prayers.
8. Request the Moderator to give the greetings of the Assembly to all our serving missionaries and to consider visiting one of our mission fields in the coming year.
9. Commend the 'Coins for Mission' program to all our congregations, including the promotion of other electronic ways of giving to missions as outlined in the report.
10. Encourage all church members to avail themselves of the missionary poster to inspire greater awareness and prayer for the world-wide mission of God.
11. Encourage our congregations to take an active interest in our diaspora missionaries working in Australia through prayer, giving, and personal contact.
12. Encourage those congregations who do not yet include world mission as part of their annual budget to consider adopting a missionary or missionary family in the coming financial year.
13. Encourage congregations to personally invite missionaries on home assignment or in diaspora ministries to come and share in their regular worship services.
14. Acknowledge God's goodness in the generosity of God's people in giving to the special appeals for Matt and Kate Vinicombe and the solar panels for Talua, Vanuatu.
15. Commend the 'Dayspring' events organised by the PWMU to the families of our church as an excellent way of promoting mission awareness among the children of our church.
16. Encourage PYV to consider inviting an available missionary to come and share at their annual camps.

The motion was seconded.
It was agreed to adjourn the debate (min 68)

65. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was received.

The Convener, 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 2022/2023 assembly year.
2. Thank all committee members and conveners who have served in the past year.
3. Thank John Angelico for his work on the online committee database.
4. Confirm the appointment of those members appointed by the Selection Committee to fill casual vacancies on committees since the 2022 Assembly.
5. Appoint all those Nominated to committees, boards, councils and other bodies and positions as presented in the Selection Committee's Report.
6. Encourage members of Assembly to consider serving as a trustee on the St Andrew's Foundation or whether they could provide the name of a PCV member who may be.
7. Approve the Nominations and changes presented in the Selection Committee's first supplementary report.
8. Approve the nominations to the Safe Church Committee and the Board of Investment and Finances as presented in the Selection Committee's second supplementary report.
9. Approve the nominations to the Theological Education Committee as determined by ballot.

The motion was seconded and approved.

66. Ballot

A ballot was held for two vacant positions on the Theological Education Committee.

The Moderator was asked to rule on what would constitute a valid vote.

The Moderator ruled that valid votes would comply with the instructions on the ballot paper.

The Moderator's ruling was challenged and upheld.

The business was resumed after the lunch break with the singing of a hymn and prayer by the Moderator.

67. Ballot Committee

The Convener, Rev Stuart Withers, reported that the result of the ballot was uncertain.

The report of the Ballot Committee was received.

Rev Stuart Withers moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Declare the first ballot null and void.
2. Authorise the destruction of the first ballot papers by the committee.
3. Reissue the ballot for the two Theological Education Committee vacancies with members of assembly permitted to vote for up to two nominees.
4. Vary the Orders of the Day to insert a Fixed Order of the Day at 5:15pm to conduct the ballot in clause 3 above.

The motion was seconded and approved.

68. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee (min 64)

It was agreed to resume the debate.

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

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

69. Korus Connect

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Dawn Penney, CEO, Korus Connect, to the Assembly, and invited her to address the Assembly, which she did.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Penney and led the Assembly in prayer.

70. Scotch College

The report of Scotch College was received.

The Clerk introduced the recently inducted principal of Scotch College, Dr Scott Marsh, to the Moderator, who welcomed him to the Assembly and invited him to address the Assembly, which he did.

The Moderator thanked Dr Marsh and led the Assembly in prayer.

71. Belgrave Heights Christian School

The report of Belgrave Heights Christian School was received.

72. St Andrews Christian College

The report of St Andrews Christian College was received.

73. Commission for Church Institutions

The report of the Commission for Church Institutions was received.

The Convener, Rev John Wilson, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint the Moderator (chairman), Clerks of Assembly, John Cho, Peter Hastie, Philip Mercer, Graham Nicholson, John Stasse and 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.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSevery led the Assembly in prayer.

74. Special Judicial Committee—Petitions

The report of the Special Judicial Committee was received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Permit the Presbytery of Melbourne North to present Petition 12 despite not fulfilling the requirement to give 30 days' notice.

The motion was seconded and approved.

75. Petition 1: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—MDC funding Eaglehawk

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Philip Burns and Rev Jesse Walz.

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:

1. Assess the application for continued Ministry Development Committee funding of the Eaglehawk Appointment Charge as valid.
2. Permit the Presbytery of North Western Victoria to consider the application for funding notwithstanding the restriction stated in Rule 4.83.2.
3. Should the Presbytery approve, permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider the application to continue funding of the Eaglehawk Charge and, if the application is approved, to fix the number of years of continued funding at its discretion.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Assess the application for continued Ministry Development Committee funding of the Eaglehawk Charge as valid.
3. Permit the Presbytery of North Western Victoria to consider the application for funding notwithstanding the restriction stated in Rule 4.83.2.
4. Should the Presbytery approve, permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider the application to continue funding of the Eaglehawk Charge and, if the application is approved, to fix the number of years of continued funding at its discretion.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

76. Petition 2: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Dissolution of Lexton congregation and sale of Lexton church building and vacant manse block and dissolution of Daylesford congregation and Sale of Daylesford church building

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Rob Duncanson and Rev Greg Matthews.

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:

1. Agree with the Presbytery of Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Lexton congregation.
2. Declare resolution (1) above immediately effective under Rule 6.15, and thereby deem that Presbytery has in effect finally dissolved the congregation.
3. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification that the congregation has been finally dissolved.
4. Authorise the sale of the Lexton properties at 2 Williamson Street, Lexton, Vol. 11799 Fol. 998 and Cemetery Road, Lexton, Vol. 10496, Folio nos. 555, 556, 557, 558), as permitted under the Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

5. Effective from 19 December 2023, agree with the Presbytery of Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Daylesford congregation.
6. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification when the congregation has been finally dissolved.
7. Effective from 19 December 2023, authorise the sale of the Daylesford property at 19 Vincent Street, Daylesford, Vol. 10355, Fol. 319, as permitted under the Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly

8. Direct that the net proceeds of sale of the properties at Lexton (clause 4) and Daylesford (clause 7) to be applied towards:
 - a) reimbursing Ballarat West (Grace) for any authorised expenses incurred by that charge in connection with its oversight of the Lexton and Daylesford properties since services ceased in 2019 and 2022 respectively;
 - b) funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows:
 - i) a new Horsham toilet block;
 - ii) urgent church spire repairs at Ballarat North (Scots');
 - iii) construction of a cry-room at Ballarat South (Ebenezer);
 - iv) purchase of a Ballarat West (Grace) manse; and
 - v) the costs of establishing a Ballarat church plant;on the proviso that should the proposed church plant in Ballarat not have commenced regular worship services by 1 January 2027, the balance of such net proceeds of sale after taking into account the application of the reimbursement and expenditure as approved by clauses (a) and (b)(i)-(iv) above, shall be paid to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund.

The motion was seconded.

(5) Rev Darren Middleton moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion to replace '2027' with '2029'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

(6) Rev David Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by adding the words 'not necessarily in this order' after the words 'funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows' so that it would read 'funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows but not necessarily in this order'.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

(7) Elder Andrew Chittenden moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the proposed motion by the addition of the words 'and 50% of the proceeds of the sale of the property at' after '(clause 4)', and then the addition of a clause 9 'The remaining proceeds from the sale of the property at Daylesford to be applied to the Assembly sinking fund' at the end of the motion, so that it would read:

8. Direct that the net proceeds of sale of the properties at Lexton (clause 4) and 50% of the proceeds of the sale of the property at and Daylesford (clause 7) to be applied towards:
 - a) reimbursing Ballarat West (Grace) for any authorised expenses incurred by that charge in connection with its oversight of the Lexton and Daylesford properties since services ceased in 2019 and 2022 respectively;
 - b) funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows but not necessarily in this order:
 - i) a new Horsham toilet block;
 - ii) urgent church spire repairs at Ballarat North (Scots');
 - iii) construction of a cry-room at Ballarat South (Ebenezer);
 - iv) purchase of a Ballarat West (Grace) manse; and
 - v) the costs of establishing a Ballarat church plant;on the proviso that should the proposed church plant in Ballarat not have commenced regular worship services by 1 January 2027, the balance of such net proceeds of sale after taking into account the application of the reimbursement and expenditure as approved by clauses (a) and (b)(i)-(iv) above, shall be paid to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund.
9. Direct that the balance of the proceeds from the sale of the property at Daylesford to be applied to the Assembly sinking fund.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion as amended was approved as follows:

8. Direct that the net proceeds of sale of the properties at Lexton (clause 4) and Daylesford (clause 7) to be applied towards:
 - a) reimbursing Ballarat West (Grace) for any authorised expenses incurred by that charge in connection with its oversight of the Lexton and Daylesford properties since services ceased in 2019 and 2022 respectively;
 - b) funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows but not necessarily in this order:
 - i) a new Horsham toilet block;
 - ii) urgent church spire repairs at Ballarat North (Scots');
 - iii) construction of a cry-room at Ballarat South (Ebenezer);
 - iv) purchase of a Ballarat West (Grace) manse; and
 - v) the costs of establishing a Ballarat church plant;on the proviso that should the proposed church plant in Ballarat not have commenced regular worship services by 1 January 2029, the balance of such net proceeds of sale after taking into account the application of the reimbursement and expenditure as approved by clauses (a) and (b)(i)-(iv) above, shall be paid to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator informed the petitioners 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 Lexton 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 Lexton properties at 2 Williamson Street, Lexton, Vol. 11799 Fol. 998 and Cemetery Road, Lexton, Vol. 10496, Folio nos. 555, 556, 557, 558), as permitted under the Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14.
6. Effective from 19 December 2023, agree with the Presbytery of Western Victoria regarding its intention to dissolve the Daylesford congregation.
7. Request the Presbytery to submit to the Trusts Corporation certification when the congregation has been finally dissolved.
8. Effective from 19 December 2023, authorise the sale of the Daylesford property at 19 Vincent Street, Daylesford, Vol. 10355, Fol. 319, as permitted under the Model Trust Deed for Church Site clause 14.
9. Direct that the net proceeds of sale of the properties at Lexton (clause 5) and Daylesford (clause 8) to be applied towards:
 - a) reimbursing Ballarat West (Grace) for any authorised expenses incurred by that charge in connection with its oversight of the Lexton and Daylesford properties since services ceased in 2019 and 2022 respectively;
 - b) funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows but not necessarily in this order:
 - i) a new Horsham toilet block;
 - ii) urgent church spire repairs at Ballarat North (Scots');
 - iii) construction of a cry-room at Ballarat South (Ebenezer);
 - iv) purchase of a Ballarat West (Grace) manse; and
 - v) the costs of establishing a Ballarat church plant;on the proviso that should the proposed church plant in Ballarat not have commenced regular worship services by 1 January 2029, the balance of such net proceeds of sale after taking into account the application of the reimbursement and expenditure as approved by clauses (a) and (b)(i)-(iv) above, shall be paid to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

77. Ballot

A ballot was held for two vacant positions on the Theological Education Committee.

78. Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee

The report of the Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for a successful 2023 Summer Camp and three successful 2023 Big Days Out.
2. Ask God to bless the upcoming 2024 Summer Camp and upcoming Big Days Out in 2024.

3. Give thanks to God for all the volunteers who serve on the various committees and subcommittees and who serve as leaders at the camps and Big Days Out.
4. Ask God to give wisdom to the committee members in their search for a Youth and Children's Worker and Administrator and for God to guide suitable people to the committee.
5. Request the Selection Committee to seek out a highly motivated and appropriately skilled convener from among the Assembly members or congregations of the PCV.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led the Assembly in prayer.

79. Ballot Committee

The Convener, Rev Stuart Withers, reported that the successful candidates for the two vacant positions on the Theological Education Committee were Rev David Martin and Rev David Hann.

The report was received.

80. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7:00pm on Wednesday 4 October 2023, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
P W Phillips
C B Garrett

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

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 7:00pm.

81. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Assembly was constituted with the singing of a hymn, and the reading of Acts 5:17-42 and prayer by Moderator's chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert.

82. Apologies

The following apologies for this sitting were sustained:

Ministers: Luke Brownley, Daryl Jackson, Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel.

Elders: Malcolm Browning, Daniel Chung, Tom Cunneen.

83. Business Committee

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the proposed agenda.

The motion was seconded and approved.

84. Convener of Ballot Committee pro tem

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev Adam Humphries convener of the Ballot Committee pro tem for this sitting.

The motion was seconded and approved.

85. Conflict of Interest declarations

The Assembly's resolutions in respect of members declared to be conflicted in relation to this matter were noted (min 15(3)).

The Moderator invited further declarations by members of the Assembly of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business on the agenda.

No further declarations were forthcoming.

86. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 4th Sitting.

87. Sit in private

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Sit in private, allowing the petitioner to remain in the Assembly until after he has stated his petition and been questioned.

The motion was seconded and approved.

88.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



89. Resume in open court

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Resume in open court.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

90. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9:30am on Thursday 5 October 2023, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sitting with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips
C B Garrett

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
6th Sitting: Thursday 5 October**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Thursday 5 October 2023 at 9:30am.

91. Constitution:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny constituted the Assembly with prayer.

92. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rev David Burke, led the Assembly in the third of his Assembly Expositions, 'Pruning for removal, pruning for fruitfulness', based on John 15:1-7.

93. Moderator General

The Moderator invited the Moderator General, Rev David Burke, to address the Assembly, which he did, bring greetings from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Moderator thanked Rev David Burke for his presence and his ministry among us during this General Assembly, presented him with a small gift, and led the Assembly in prayer.

94. Apologies

The following apologies for this sitting were sustained:

Ministers: Luke Brownley, Heath Easton, Miles Fagan, Michael Jensen, Shady Mehanni, Bob Thomas, Ian Touzel.

Elders: Malcolm Browning.

95. Business Committee

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the proposed agenda.

The motion was seconded.

96. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Moderator invited declarations by members of the Assembly of any Conflict of Interest as defined by the PCV Conflict of Interest Policy in relation to the business on the agenda.

No further declarations were forthcoming.

97. Theological Education Committee

The report of the Theological Education Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-4 were approved.

Clause 5 was moved and seconded.

Rev Peter Hastie left the Assembly.

Clause 5 was approved.

The vote was unanimous.

The Moderator recalled Mr Hastie and informed him of the Assembly's decision to extend his appointment, which was acknowledged with acclamation.

The Moderator extended the Assembly's thanks to Mrs Sue Hastie for support of her husband as Principal of PTC.

Clauses 6-11 were approved.

The Convener, Rev Kevin Maxwell, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

That the Assembly:

1. Praise God for the leadership of Rev Peter Hastie and the dedication and faithfulness of the faculty and staff.
2. Thank God for the service of Martin de Pyle on the Theological Education Committee.
3. Thank God for the faithful service of Janelle Born and Heather Feidler. Pray that God will bless their future endeavours.
4. Thank God for the provision of Rosemary Chandra, Ben Palmer and Michael Smith, and pray that they will know God's blessing on their work at the College.
5. Give thanks to God for the Principal, Rev. Peter Hastie and extend his current appointment until a new principal is appointed or until the end of 2024.
6. Praise God for the provision of a gifted team of adjunct lectures who ably support the college, its staff and students.
7. Praise God for the calibre and quality of the students and candidates preparing for gospel ministry at PTC. Pray that they will continue to grow in their love for God and giftedness for His service as they study.
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 they seek to meet the challenging circumstances that lie ahead.
10. Pray that our Lord will again provide all our needs, particularly suitable qualified lecturers to equip His church.
11. Pray that the College will be able to quickly meet the requirements of the ACT Affiliated College Risk and Compliance Reporting Framework.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny led the Assembly in prayer.

98. Clerks Report: Records

The Clerk's report: records was received.

There was no proposed deliverance.

99. Conciliation Committee

The report of the Conciliation Committee was received.

There was no proposed deliverance.

100. Ad Hoc Committee: New Entity

The report of the ad hoc Committee: New Entity was received.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Notwithstanding the target date specified in BB 2022 min 32(7)4(a), request the ad hoc 'New Entity' Committee to continue its work with a view to bringing a proposal in terms of BB 2022 min 32(7)4(a)-(e) to the 2024 General Assembly.
2. Alter the composition of the ad hoc committee (BB 2022 min 32(7)5), by deleting the words 'Moderator (convener)' and inserting in their place the words: 'Immediate Past Moderator (convener)'.

The motion was seconded and approved.

101. 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.

The Convener, Rev Barry Oakes, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

Request the Committee to report on progress to the 2024 Commission of Assembly.
The motion was seconded and approved.

102. Ad Hoc Committee: PCV Archives

The report of the ad hoc Committee: PCV Archives was received.

The Convener, Rev John Wilson, moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank God for leading the committee to see the possibilities of the vacant premises of 690 Elgar Road, Box Hill North, and for his providential guidance that led to moving-in day on 1 July this year.
2. Pray for the extra finances that are required to deal with unseen hurdles and difficulties faced with moving such a heavy load into the new premises, and keeping our PCV Archives secure.
3. Thank Michael Smith for his cheerful and diligent work and for what he has achieved during his first year as the PCV Archivist.
4. Thank ministry candidate Cameron Weir, who, along with his wife Annie has given significant energy, time, ingenuity and expertise to the building and grounds at 690 Elgar Road, praying especially for them as they relocate to their new role at Colac Presbyterian Church.
5. Thank the Archive volunteers Bruce Garrett, Val Kentler, Sean Ji and Samson Ho who each do an amazing work for the PCV Archive and who, together with the expertise of Michael Smith, are the reason why we are enjoying better access and more efficient use of our archival material.
6. Thank the Malvern PC for their gracious accommodation of 200 archival boxes and the PTC for their accommodation of the Archives office and staff – both of these supports enabling the Archive to function since the fire at South Yarra.
7. Note that the ad hoc Committee needs to be re-appointed as a regular standing committee of the General Assembly.
8. Encourage attendance at the Opening and Dedication Service for the 690 Elgar Road property as soon as it is announced.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Moderator's chaplain Rev Luke McSeveny led the Assembly in prayer.

103. Petition 3: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Horsham MDC funding extension

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Greg Matthews and Rev Toby McIntosh.

The matter was adjourned to take up fixed orders of the day.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar. (min 106)

104. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU)

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Roslyn Brown, President, PWMU and Mrs Alison Stanley, PWMU Secretary, to the Assembly, and invited Mrs Brown to address the Assembly on the work of the PWMU, which she did.

The Moderator acknowledged the work of PWMU, thanked the ladies for their presentation and commented on the recent Dayspring Day.

The report of the PWMU was received with acclamation.
The Moderator led in prayer for the work of PWMU.

105. Barnabas Aid

The Moderator welcomed Mr Ashley Saunders, Head of Operations Barnabas Fund (Australia) Ltd, to the Assembly and invited him to speak on the work of Barnabas Aid, which he did.

The Moderator thanked Mr Saunders and led the Assembly in prayer.

The Assembly resumed after the lunch break with the singing of a hymn.

106. Petition 3: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Horsham MDC funding extension (min 103)

The business was resumed.

In the absence of the Moderator Immediate Past Moderator Rev Peter Phillips assumed the chair.

The petitioners were recalled to the Bar.

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:

1. Assess the application for continued Ministry Development Committee funding of the Horsham Appointment Charge as valid.
2. Permit the Presbytery of Western Victoria to consider the application for funding notwithstanding the restriction stated in Rule 4.83.2.
3. Should the Presbytery approve, permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider the application to continue funding of the Horsham Appointment Charge and, if the application is approved, to fix the number of years of continued funding at its discretion.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Assess the application for continued Ministry Development Committee funding of the Horsham Appointment Charge as valid.
3. Permit the Presbytery of Western Victoria to consider the application for funding notwithstanding the restriction stated in Rule 4.83.2.
4. Should the Presbytery approve, permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider the application to continue funding of the Horsham Appointment Charge and, if the application is approved, to fix the number of years of continued funding at its discretion.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

107. Petition 4: Maintenance of the Ministry Committee—Long Service Leave

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Cameron Garrett.

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:

Not permit the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to approve payment of a Long Service Leave grant to the [REDACTED] in respect of payments made by the [REDACTED] to the benefit of [REDACTED] for the period of service following his ordination.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(3) Rev Stuart Withers moved:

That the Assembly:

Permit the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to approve payment of a Long Service Leave grant to the [REDACTED] in respect of payments made by the Eltham Presbyterian congregation to the benefit of [REDACTED] for the period of service following his ordination.

The motion was seconded.

(4) Rev David Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by adding the words 'Notwithstanding the regulations of the LSL Fund' so that the motion would read as follows:

'Notwithstanding the regulations of the LSL Fund permit the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to approve payment of a Long Service Leave grant to the [REDACTED] in respect of payments made by the [REDACTED] to the benefit of [REDACTED] for the period of service following his ordination.'

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

(5) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Request to the Code Committee to consider a review of the Long Service Leave regulations in the manner indicated by Petition 1 within the scope of the review leading to the New Entity.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Notwithstanding the regulations of the LSL Fund permit the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to approve payment of a Long Service Leave grant to the [REDACTED] in respect of payments made by the [REDACTED] to the benefit of [REDACTED] for the period of service following his ordination.
3. Request to the Code Committee to consider a review of the Long Service Leave regulations in the manner indicated by Petition 1 within the scope of the review leading to the New Entity.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

108. Petition 5: Presbytery of Geelong—Renaming of the Batesford Sites Reserve Fund to Bannockburn Sites Reserve Fund and its future allocated purpose

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Darren Middleton and Rev Matthew Deroon.

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:

Declare that exceptional circumstances have not been demonstrated sufficient to meet the exception clause to the moratorium (see GAV Record Apart, May 2021, Min. 8).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Decline the request to rename and authorise a purpose for the Batesford Sites Reserve Fund.

The motion was seconded.

(4) Rev Stephen McDonald moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the proposed motion by the addition of words, so that the clause would read:

‘Approve the request to rename and authorise a purpose for the Batesford Sites Reserve Fund prior to end of the moratorium in May 2026.’

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion (3 above) was approved.

(5) Rev David Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

3. Permit the Presbytery of Geelong be authorised to bring a petition to the Commission of Assembly 2024.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Assembly’s decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Declare that exceptional circumstances have not been demonstrated sufficient to meet the exception clause to the moratorium (see GAV Record Apart, May 2021, Min. 8).
3. Decline the request to rename and authorise a purpose for the Batesford Sites Reserve Fund.
4. Permit the Presbytery of Geelong be authorised to bring a petition to the Commission of Assembly 2024.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

Moderator Rev Ian Hutton resumed the chair.

109. Minutes of the Previous Sitting

The Deputy Clerk tabled the minutes of the 5th sitting.

110. Petition 7: Presbyteries of North Western Victoria and Western Victoria—presbytery boundaries and Castlemaine

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Philip Burns and Rev Toby McIntosh.

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:

Alter the boundary between the Presbytery of North Western Victoria and the Presbytery of Western Victoria so that it follows the road from Laanecoorie to Newstead, and then from Newstead by a direct line eastward to Taradale, thus incorporating the Charge of Castlemaine within the bounds of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Alter the boundary between the Presbytery of North Western Victoria and the Presbytery of Western Victoria so that it follows the road from Laanecoorie to Newstead, and then from Newstead by a direct line eastward to Taradale, thus incorporating the Charge of Castlemaine within the bounds of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

111. Petition 8: Presbytery of Melbourne East—St Kilda and Balaclava unification

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Luke Isham and Rev Ben Nelson.

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:

1. Approve the allocation of both the St Kilda Church and Balaclava Church properties, together with the two manses at Point Cook and Balaclava, along with the Alma Road apartment, to the proposed united congregation upon union namely: St Kilda Presbyterian Church (as provided for in Rule 4.68A.2(f)) to be held on the same trusts as are constituted by the provisions of clauses 1 to 15 of the applicable Model Trust Deed.
2. Approve, subject to any trusts with which the funds of the uniting congregations may be impressed, the transfer of the balance of all bank

accounts held by each congregation into a new bank account in the name of the united congregation namely: St Kilda Presbyterian Church.

3. Approve that the Sites Reserve Funds currently associated with each of the uniting congregations be reassigned, still as unallocated funds, but so that they are associated with the united congregation namely: St Kilda Presbyterian Church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Approve the allocation of both the St Kilda Church and Balaclava Church properties, together with the two manses at Point Cook and Balaclava, along with the Alma Road apartment, to the proposed united congregation upon union namely: St Kilda Presbyterian Church (as provided for in Rule 4.68A.2(f)) to be held on the same trusts as are constituted by the provisions of clauses 1 to 15 of the applicable Model Trust Deed.
3. Approve, subject to any trusts with which the funds of the uniting congregations may be impressed, the transfer of the balance of all bank accounts held by each congregation into a new bank account in the name of the united congregation namely: St Kilda Presbyterian Church.
4. Approve that the Sites Reserve Funds currently associated with each of the uniting congregations be reassigned, still as unallocated funds, but so that they are associated with the united congregation namely: St Kilda Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

112. Petition 9: Presbytery of Flinders—MDC funding Cranbourne

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Brett Peatman and Rev Peter Roberts.

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:

1. Assess the application for continued Ministry Development Committee funding of the Cranbourne Appointment Charge as valid.
2. Permit the Presbytery of Flinders to consider the application for funding notwithstanding the restriction stated in Rule 4.83.2.
3. Should the Presbytery approve, permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider the application to continue funding of the Cranbourne Appointment Charge and, if the application is approved, to fix the number of years of continued funding at its discretion.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.

2. Assess the application for continued Ministry Development Committee funding of the Cranbourne Appointment Charge as valid.
3. Permit the Presbytery of Flinders to consider the application for funding notwithstanding the restriction stated in Rule 4.83.2.
4. Should the Presbytery approve, permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider the application to continue funding of the Cranbourne Appointment Charge and, if the application is approved, to fix the number of years of continued funding at its discretion.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

113. Petition 11: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Sale of Scots' Ballarat North Manse

Immediate Past Moderator Rev Peter Phillips assumed the chair.

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev John Brennan.

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:

Authorise the sale of the Ballarat North (Scots') manse at 506 Neill Street, Ballarat, Vol. 2835, Fol. 566885, pursuant to the Model Trust Deed for Manse Site, clause 5, for the purpose of purchasing of a new manse for Ballarat North with any surplus funds to be paid to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund.

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by the addition of words, so that it would read:

'Authorise the sale of the Ballarat North (Scots') manse at 506 Neill Street, Ballarat, Vol. 2835, Fol. 566885, pursuant to the Model Trust Deed for Manse Site, clause 5, for the purpose of purchasing of a new manse for Ballarat North then to the repairs to the Spire of Ballarat North (Scots') with remaining funds to be paid to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund.'

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was disapproved.

(3) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Permit the Presbytery of Western Victoria to bring a petition to the May 2024 Commission of Assembly regarding the properties associated with the congregation of Ballarat North (Scots').

The motion was seconded.

Rev Jesse Walz moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by the addition of words so that it would read:

'Permit the Presbytery of Western Victoria to bring a petition to the May 2024 Commission of Assembly regarding the properties associated with the congregations of Ballarat North (Scots'), Mt. Prospect and Smeaton.'

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion was approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Permit the Presbytery of Western Victoria to bring a petition to the May 2024 Commission of Assembly regarding the properties associated with the congregation of Ballarat North (Scots').

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

Moderator Rev Ian Hutton resumed the chair.

114. Petition 12: Presbytery of Melbourne North—Lease of 945 Yan Yean Road, Doreen for Valley Presbyterian Church

The petitioners were brought to the Bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petition was stated by Rev Richard Wilson.

Questions were asked.

The Assembly heard from the Special Judicial Committee.

(1) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant Valley Presbyterian Congregation permission to enter into a new lease of the property at 945 Yan Yean Road, Vol. 08306, Fol. 727, on the following terms: \$625 per week, until 31 December 2026, provided it has the Law Agent's approval.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

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

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Grant Valley Presbyterian Congregation permission to enter into a new lease of the property at 945 Yan Yean Road, Vol. 08306, Fol. 727, on the following terms: \$625 per week, until 31 December 2026, provided it has the Law Agent's approval.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the Bar.

115. Communication 2 – from the GAA

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Receive communication 2 from the GAA re: Extract Minute – Communication (iii): Resignation of the Law Agent.

The motion was seconded and approved.

116. Moderator commendation

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express best wishes to its Moderator, Rev Ian Hutton, and his wife Ann, for God's blessings and empowerment on them both for the coming year.

The motion was seconded and approved with acclamation.

The Moderator responded.

117. Appointment of Commission of Assembly

The Assembly resolved to:

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 7 May 2024, at 10:30am, or at such other times and places as the Moderator of the Assembly shall determine.

118. Appointment of Next General Assembly

The Assembly resolved to:

Appoint the next General Assembly to convene within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday 7 October 2024, at 7:30pm for the opening sitting, and on Tuesday 8 October 2024, 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.

119. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator intimated that the next General Assembly would meet within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday 7 October 2024, at 7:30pm for the opening sitting, and on Tuesday 8 October 2024, at 9.30am for a Communion Service within The Scots' Church, Melbourne and thereafter for business in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

The Moderator dissolved the Assembly with the singing of the doxology and prayer.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips
C B Garrett

I certify that the minutes of 2, 3, 4 and 5 October 2023, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 14(11) thereof.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian C Hutton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and 'H'.

Rev Ian Hutton
Moderator

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

Presbytery of Flinders (V1)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
| Aspendale | Brett Peatman | |
| Brighton (HMC) | | |
| BayChurch | Paul Huynh | Ross McKinnon |
| Clarinda (HMC) | | Michael Lee |
| Clarinda Nuer (HMC) | | |
| Clayton | Michael Jensen Lam Paul Gak (Associate) | Arnis Putnins |
| Cranbourne | Peter Roberts | |
| Dandenong | Andrew Wong | Robert Paix |
| Dromana-Mornington | Matt Cole | |
| Embrace Melbourne (AC) | Paul Jang | |
| Frankston | Jared Keath | |
| New Life, Officer | David Martin | Sabyan Hardjo |
| Somerville (HMC) | | |
| Sorrento-Rye | Hui Lim | |
| South East Samoan | Kainano Opeteia | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Peter Barclay | |
| | Ivan Barker | |
| | David Brown | |
| | Ken Brown | |
| | Frank Savage | |
| | Wally Zurrer | |

Presbytery of Geelong (V2)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bannockburn | Matthew Deroon | G (Bert) Stasse |
| Bellarine (AC) | Brett Cummins | Neil Mansfield |
| Geelong West | Luke McSeveny | Drew Chittenden |
| North Geelong | Darren Middleton | Richard Worth |
| The Leigh | Surendra Wesley | Jim Venters |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Andrew Bray | |
| | John Cromarty | |
| | Allan Harman | |
| | Ian Hutton | |
| | Scott Kroeger | |
| | John Stasse | |
| | Robert White | |

Presbytery of Gippsland (V3)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Bairnsdale | Gary Stephens | Roger McIvor |
| 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 |
| | | |
| 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 | Roni Tobing |
| Doncaster (HMC) | | Colin Flynn |
| Donvale | Gerald Vanderwert Joel Mestry (Assistant) Jordan Born (Assistant) Xien Yao (Assistant) | Iain Bramley |
| Heathmont | Brian Harvey | Doug Fraser |
| Kirkbrae | Paul K B Lee | |
| Mt Evelyn (AC) | Miles Fagan | Bruce Timmins |
| Warburton (HMC) | | |
| Woori Yallock | Tony Archer | Andre Dahmen |
| | | |
| PTC Lecturer | Jared Hood | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Tony Bird | |
| | Graham Bradbeer | |
| | Felix Chung | |
| | Trevor Cox | |
| | Wally Gear | |
| | Grant Lawry | |
| | Peter Orchard | |
| | Andrew Slater | |
| | Willem Vandenberg | |
| | 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 Billy Kurniawan (Assistant) | Paul Lee |
| Camberwell | Philip Mercer | Philip Barton |
| Canterbury | David Hann Dong Choi (Assistant) | Kevin Childs |
| Caulfield-Elwood | Phillip Chang | Haddon Chang |
| Deaf (HMC) | Tony Salisbury | |
| Gardenvale East (AC) | | |
| Hawthorn | Graham Nicholson | John Singleton |
| Korean | Jae Kook Kim | Daniel Chung |
| Malvern | Marcus Campbell | |
| South Yarra | | Ben Palmer |
| 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: | Alan Every | Parity: |
| | Douglas Milne | Ken McClimont |
| | Richard O'Brien | Jim Hare |
| | Bob Thomas | |
| | | |

Presbytery of Melbourne North (V6)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Bundoora | Neil Chambers Clinton Le Page (Associate) Chris Shaw (on leave) | Andrew May |
| Donnybrook, Fresh Start (CPC) | Ben Kelada | |
| Eltham | Don Elliott | Ian Courts |
| Epping | Nello Barbieri Brian Luong (Associate) | Neil Furlong |
| Heidelberg (AC) | Bagoes Seta | Tom Cunneen |
| Hume (AC) | Luke Brownley | Tony Ruggeri |
| Kangaroo Ground (HMC) | | |
| Reservoir | Andrew Vines | Reg Butcher |
| Samoan | | |
| Valley (AC) | 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) | Daniel Dixon | 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) | Graeme Harris |
| Melton | Dinesh Taunk | Dennis Wright |
| Point Cook | | |
| Sunshine-Melbourne West Korean (AC) | Samuel Son | Charles Okwo |
| West Footscray (HMC) | Martin de Pyle | |
| Williamstown | | |
| Wyndham | Peter Greiner | Harold Carpenter |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | John Cho | |
| | 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 (AC) | | George Elliott |
| Seymour-Nagambie-Yea (HMC) | | Bill Day |
| Shepparton-Stanhope-Kyabram | Kyung Ee | Philip Betts |
| Tatura-Rushworth | Kalpan Vasa | Gary Dunstan |
| Wangaratta-Myrtleford-Yarrowonga | | Malcolm Browning |
| Wodonga (AC) | Stuart Withers | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Neil Harvey | Parity: Ralph Kop |
| | Kevin Maxwell | |
| | Neil McDonald | |
| | Ian Touzel | |

Presbytery of North Western Victoria (V9)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Bendigo | Philip Burns | Andrew Kerr |
| Bendigo East (Reforming) | Russ Grinter | Ryan Smith |
| Eaglehawk (AC) | Jesse Walz | |
| Kerang/Swan Hill (AC) | | Ken Pinchen |
| Rochester | Michael Riske | |
| 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 | Tom Fleming |
| Colac | | Geoff Cross |
| Hamilton | David Schulz Robert Koh (Associate) | Graeme Presser |
| Koroit-Port Fairy | | |
| Portland | Rod Waterhouse | |
| Warrnambool | Ben Johnson Shady Mehanni (Associate) | Robert Prout |
| | | |
| Retired Minister: | Neil Benfell | Parity: David Hayward |
| | Ian Leach | |

Presbytery of Western Victoria (V11)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ararat-Skipton-Lismore (AC) | | Stewart McKerrow |
| Ballarat North (AC) | John Brennan | Graham Hammond |
| Ballarat South (Ebenezer St John's) | Toby McIntosh | Keith Mitchell |
| Ballarat West | Robert Duncanson | Jeremy Peet |
| Carisbrook-Castlemaine (HMC) | Daryl Jackson | Richard McArdle |
| Daylesford | | |
| Horsham | Greg Matthews | Jonathan Starks |
| Kaniva-Nhill (HMC) | | Bruce Meyer |
| | | |
| Retired Minister: | | |

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min 14)

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 David Burke, Moderator of the General Assembly of Australia, has agreed to be the Assembly Expositor for 2023. 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 and invited guests will be held in the Robert White Hall on the 1st floor from 12:30pm to 2:00pm. 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 on the 1st floor as follows:

Monday afternoon: 4:30pm

Tuesday—Thursday mornings: 8:30am to 9:15am

Thanks

The Business Committee takes this opportunity to thank:

- 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.
- the Assembly Office staff members for their work in assisting in the smooth running of the Assembly.
- APWM for organising the Mission Lunch and the speakers at the lunch.
- Brett Cummins, and others assisting with data projection.
- David Assender and others assisting with the audio system; and
- David Schulz and others assisting with music.

Commission and next Assembly

The Business Committee recommends that:

- the ordinary Commission of Assembly meet on Tuesday, 7 May 2024, at 10:30am in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall; and
- the 2024 General Assembly convene in the Scots' Church, Melbourne, at 7:30pm on Monday, 7 October, for worship and the induction of the Moderator, then at 9.30am on Tuesday, 8 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.

Consent Agenda

The 2022 General Assembly approved a motion to use a consent agenda at this year's Assembly. Accordingly, the Business Committee has attached a Proposed Consent Agenda to the Proposed Agenda. For those not familiar with the concept, the consent agenda contains a list of those agenda items the Business Committee considers to be noncontroversial, routine, or not requiring discussion or debate and of which members have been adequately informed in the materials sent to members of the Assembly in advance of the meeting. The approval of the consent agenda means that the Assembly has approved without discussion all the items included on the consent agenda and those items will be minuted as such in the official minutes.

Any members wishing to have an item removed from the consent agenda so that it can be discussed/debated by the Assembly can make such request to the Business Convener at any time prior to the Assembly, or from the floor of Assembly before the Moderator moves that the motion to adopt the consent agenda be put. Once the consent agenda has been approved, no item listed thereon will be revisited at any time during 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. However the outline cannot be relied upon as definitive of when an item will be taken up. Items marked with an asterisk appear on the attached consent agenda.

FIRST SITTING

Monday, 2 October 2023, at 7:30pm in the Scots' Church, Melbourne
Service of worship and the induction of the Moderator

SECOND SITTING

Tuesday, 3 October 2022, 9:30am–5:30pm

Assembly Communion Service (constitution)

11:00am

*Roll of Assembly

*Apologies

*Associations

Welcomes

Business Committee

Conflict of Interest declarations

*Minutes of previous sitting

*Minutes of June 2023 Urgent Meeting of Assembly

*Minutes of the 2023 Commission of Assembly

*Minutes of August Urgent Meeting of Assembly

New members

Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees

Ministerial and Elders' deaths—Prayer

*Royal address and Loyal addresses

Past Moderator's Report

Board of Investment and Finance

Trusts Corporation

[12:30pm—2:00pm Lunch]

FOD 2:15 Women's Ministries Victoria Committee

- Mrs Kathryn Gatt, Women's Ministry Facilitator (10mins)

Church and Nation Committee

Church Planting Committee

FOD 3:00pm Safe Church Committee

- Mrs Fiona Bligh, Safe Church Facilitator (10mins)
Launch of one day intensive course: ***'Understanding childhood development for the sake of the gospel'***

*Privacy Officer Report

[3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]

- Provided by PWMU Cookbook Committee

METRO Committee

*State News Committee

Code and General Administration Committee

Petitions

Business Committee

THIRD SITTING

Tuesday, 3 October 2022, 7:00pm–9:00pm

Constitution

*Apologies

Business Committee

Conflict of Interest declarations

*Minutes of previous sitting

*Building and Property Committee

Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021)
Committee

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

Social Services Committee

Ad Hoc Committee: Deacons

Ad Hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd

Ad Hoc Committee: New Entity

Ad Hoc Committee: Options for Minority Interest in Assembly Hall

Ad Hoc Committee: PCV Archives

Selection Committee

Conciliation Committee

Clerkship Committee

Unfinished business from previous sitting

Business Committee

FOURTH SITTING

Wednesday, 4 October 2022, 9:30am–5:30pm

Constitution

Assembly expositor

*Apologies

Business Committee

Conflict of Interest declarations

*Minutes of previous sitting

Ministry Development Committee

Exit Students Committee

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

FOD 11:30am

- Introduction of missionaries to the Moderator
- Rev Kevin Murray (National Director, APWM) (10mins)

Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic)

FOD 12:15pm – Ballot (if required)

[12:30pm—2:00pm Mission Lunch

- Rev Dr Wei-Han Kuan (CMS)

FOD 2:30pm – Mrs Dawn Penney, CEO, Korus Connect (10mins)

FOD 2:45pm – Scotch College

- Dr Scott Marsh, Principal Scotch College (15mins)

Belgrave Heights Christian School

*Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee

Special Judicial Committee — Petitions

Petition 1: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—MDC funding Eaglehawk

Petition 2: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Lexton and Daylesford
dissolution

[3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]

Petition 3: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Horsham MDC funding extension

Petition 4: Maintenance of the Ministry Committee—Long Service Leave

Unfinished business from previous sittings

Business Committee

FIFTH SITTING

Wednesday, 4 October 2022, 7:00pm–9:00pm

Constitution

*Apologies

Business Committee

Conflict of Interest declarations

*Minutes of previous sitting

Petition 10: [REDACTED]

Unfinished business from previous sittings

Business Committee

SIXTH SITTING

Thursday, 5 October 2022, 9:30am to the finish of business

Constitution

Assembly expositor

*Apologies

Business Committee

Conflict of Interest declarations

*Minutes of previous sitting

Theological Education Committee

FOD 12:00pm Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

- President, Mrs Roslyn Brown (10mins)

FOD 12:20pm Mr Ashley Saunders, Barnabas Aid (10mins)

[12:30pm—2:00pm Lunch]

Petition 5: Presbytery of Geelong— Renaming of the Batesford Sites
Reserve Fund to Bannockburn Sites Reserve Fund and its future
allocated purpose.

Petition 6: Presbytery of Geelong— Renaming of the Shelford Sites Reserve
No. 1 Account and the Future Allocated purposes for No. 1
Account.

Petition 7: Presbyteries of North Western Victoria and Western Victoria—
presbytery boundaries and Castlemaine

[3:30pm—3:50pm Refreshments]

Petition 8: Presbytery of Melbourne East—St Kilda and Balaclava
unification

Petition 9: Presbytery of Flinders—MDC funding Cranborne

Unfinished business

Closing formalities

Commendation

*Appointment of Commission of Assembly

*Appointment of next Assembly

Dissolution

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Roll of Assembly

Apologies – all sittings

Associations – all sittings

Previous Minutes – all sittings

Building and Property Committee

Conciliation Committee

Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee

State News Committee

Belgrave Heights Christian School

Presbyterian Ladies College Report

Privacy Officer Report

St Andrews Christian College Report

Appointment of Commission of Assembly

Appointment of next Assembly

Robert White
CONVENER (pro tem)

AD HOC COMMITTEE: DEACONS (Min 51)

The GAV 2022 established 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.’ (BB 2022 min 132)

The committee has chosen to limit this report to the first part of the remit, namely, the biblical definition and function of deacons, and ask the GAV for permission to present the second and third parts, addressing the more practical aspects, to the GAV 2024.

This report is in five (5) main parts covering the nature, role, authority, suitable candidates, and distinctives of the office of deacon.

1. Nature: Deacon is an office that is biblical, perpetual, spiritual, and practical

Deacon is an office that is biblical, perpetual, spiritual and practical. It is (i) biblical because it is found in the Bible. We see in Philippians 1:1 that Paul greets three groups in Philippi, namely God’s people in general, the overseers⁶ and the deacons. From this we understand that deacon is a biblical office. So, Paul includes it together with elders, as the two staple ministries in a Christian church (1 Tim 3:8-13).

It is (ii) perpetual because it is to continue throughout the church age. Offices such as apostle and prophet have formally ceased, given that the church has now been established on their teachings (Eph 2:19-20). Paul places deacons immediately after elders in his church-order book of 1 Timothy that upholds a binary view of church offices (ch 3). Where there is a biblically based church, we should expect to find both elders and deacons.

Thirdly, the office of deacons is (iii) spiritual because it requires that those who fill it be themselves filled with the Spirit (Acts 6:3; 1 Tim 3:8-9). This does not mean that deacons are focused on meeting the spiritual needs of others but rather that the deacons themselves are to exhibit spiritual qualities as a sign of their spiritual giftedness to serve in this position. The office of deacon is given by God to the church so that specific believers may serve the church.

Lastly, the office of deacon is (iv) practical because it is assigned the ongoing task of serving and arranging to meet practical and material needs within the congregation of believers. Deacons have been called the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ in the context of the local church, recognising real material needs and opportunities for attempting to meet those needs in Jesus’ name.

The reason why someone would need to be appointed to the office of deacon is that they require the necessary recognition and authorisation from the church. As will be seen below, deacons will typically have access to church funds in helping to distribute them, in managing the material side of the local church, and in having access to sensitive information about the people the deacons serve.

⁶ The Greek word comes from *episkopos* (ἐπίσκοπος) which is where we get the old English word ‘bishop’ but when we examine Acts 20:17-35 where Paul addresses the Ephesian elders, we find he refers to them as overseers (verse 28), showing that elder and overseer are interchangeable.

2. Role: Deacons serve on behalf of the congregation and are primarily concerned with ministering to the physical and material needs of the congregation

What should deacons actually do? This can be hard to answer because the Bible does not go into great detail about this. The classic passage in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 is the only place that goes into any depth about deacons and it is focused on the qualifications of a deacon rather than their role. Due to this lack of detail, many churches over the years have felt free to define the role in various ways. Thankfully, the Bible does give us some guidance as to the role of deacon. There is an early NT example, a linguistic argument, and an old covenant parallel.

(i) A New Testament Example: Acts 6:1-7

The apostles appointed seven men who would serve in some sense as forerunners of the later office of deacons. We see in the book of Acts that the apostles led the church through teaching and prayer, but they also seem to have a role of administration. In 4:34 - 5:2 we see that people would sell land or houses and then give the proceeds to the apostles for distribution to the needy. It is possible that the money was distributed by others but at the very least the apostles are overseeing the process. But once we get to Acts 6 the task of caring for the needy has grown so much that the apostles are not able properly to oversee the distribution of food to the widows in the church (Acts 6:2-4).

While some argue that this was not the establishment of deacons *per se* in the church, it is hard to overlook the language of serving ('wait on tables', 'ministry of the word') and the ceremony of setting apart seven gifted men for the ministry of managing the equal distribution of food and other resources to the church's widows (6:5-6). The fact that Philip is later referred to as 'one of the Seven' (Acts 21:8) suggests something significant took place here. Indeed, this is the first division of office in the early church and the role was essentially spiritual in nature given that the chosen men should be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Yet we must not assume that all of the activities of the seven men define diaconal ministry since they clearly took on apologetic (Acts 7) and evangelistic (Acts 9) roles as well.

In this early example we see men serving in the sort of role that would later be known as diaconal. In its fully developed form, the role is not a teaching one but one of offering practical help to those in need.

While the apostles were certainly not beneath waiting on tables, they saw that their primary role was ministry of the word and prayer so that if other matters took them away from that, they needed to appoint people to help the church by being commissioned to serve in practical ways. Deacons have therefore an important role in the church but one that is distinct from roles that involve teaching (Acts 6:2), and one that is loosely described as 'waiting on tables.'⁷

⁷ Calvin believed in more than one type of deacon, one devoted to distributions to the poor, the other showing mercy to the sick. He believed we could find both types in Romans 12:7-8 (where he also found support for pastors, teachers and elders). Whether we agree with Calvin's interpretation there or not, the point about having different kinds of deacons is well enough made.

(ii) A Linguistic Argument: The verb diakoneo

When Paul lists the qualifications of deacons in 1 Timothy 3, he uses the Greek noun *diakonos* (διακονος), which is used elsewhere to mean servant (Matt 20:26; John 2:5; Rom 13:4; Eph 6:21).⁸ In verse 10 he writes 'They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.' The phrase 'let them serve as deacons' comes from the verb *diakoneo* (διακονεω) which shows that the role of a deacon (servant) is to serve!⁹ This verb appears in 32 verses across the New Testament and it is almost always about meeting people's practical needs.¹⁰

Perhaps most significant of all, Jesus uses this same verb when likening his role as the Servant-King who humbles himself to meet the needs of his disciples and of us (Luke 22:26-27). This bestows on the diaconal ministry a measure of Christlikeness when approached and practised conscientiously.

Further study could be done into the noun *diakonia* (διακονια), which is often used to speak of service or ministry and can have a greater emphasis on meeting spiritual needs, but it is clear enough from the above that the emphasis for deacons is on meeting material, practical needs.

(iii) An Old Covenant Parallel: NT Deacons have precedents in the OT

Finally, we can see an old covenant parallel when we investigate how God structured Israel's society. The people of God were given laws that ensured the needy were cared for. The needy included the materially poor, the powerless, the afflicted and the oppressed. There is often a focus on widows and orphans. If the laws were properly followed, then all who lived in Israel (even foreigners) would be cared for (Deut 15:4-5).

The foundation of these commands was that God had rescued Israel out of slavery in Egypt to be his special chosen people who would serve him (Ex 19:3-5). Throughout Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy, God's commands often have the aim of maintaining for individuals the redemption he secured for them. The extended family was the first place where needs were to be met, seen especially in the kinsman redeemer (Lev 25). The second way the poor were helped was through society in general, whether by laws about gleanings (Lev 19:9-10) or about borrowings (Deut 24:10-13).

This structure was possible given that God's people were organised as a nation state under the old covenant. With the coming of the new covenant, God's people are organised as a church that stretches across the world without regard to national or

⁸ This shows that there was a general use of the word (all Christians are servants) and then a narrow, technical use of the word (the office of servant/deacon). This is similar to the word 'apostle' which literally means 'sent one'. All Christians are sent by Jesus to minister in the world but only some held the office of apostle being those specifically sent by Jesus to be his authorised witnesses.

⁹ There are other Greek verbs translated as service, such as *latreuo* (λατρευω) which tends to mean acts of religious/worship service (cf. Heb 8:5) and *douleuo* (δουλευω) which tends to mean acts of obedience to commands such as by slaves (cf. Matt 6:24). It is significant that these are not used when describing deacons.

¹⁰ Meeting practical needs in general - Matt 4:11, 25:44, 27:55, Luke 8:3, Acts 19:22, Rom 15:25, 2 Cor 8:19-20, 1 Tim 3:10, 13, 2 Tim 1:18, Philemon 13, Heb 6:10; serving as hospitality - Matt 8:15, Luke 10:40, 12:37, 17:8, 22:26-27, John 12:2, Acts 6:2; serving as general Christian ministry for spiritual and material needs - Matt 20:28, John 12:26, 2 Cor 3:3, 1 Pet 1:12, 4:10-11.

political borders. While we may live in a country that offers government support to the poor, we see that the family and church can still play a role in meeting the material needs of believers as seen by the following verses – 2 Cor 8:13-15, Gal 6:10, 1 Tim 5:4, 8. This is especially needed in a time of rising costs of living, increased health concerns, loss of job security, and discrimination against faithful Christians in the workplace.

This parallel also reveals how deeds of mercy and practical support are expected of all believers and so deacons are not to replace the ordinary service offered by Christians but they hold a unique office of service. They serve on behalf of the congregation, which includes taking on unique roles or specialised tasks. An outworking of their role is that they model serving and mobilise their local congregation to join in serving in appropriate ways.

In summing up the role of deacons, it can be seen that there are no clear, explicit instructions on what a deacon does but there is sufficient evidence in the Bible to demonstrate that it is a servant role that involves serving the material, physical or practical needs of Christians and perhaps even those beyond the church. Within this framework, churches may come up with different approaches to deacons.

3. Authority: The office of deacon is not one of teaching or governance but has the necessary authority appropriate to the nature of the office

In light of the fact that deacon is a biblical, spiritual, perpetual and practical office, with a focus on helping others with their more material needs, it can be concluded that it is not an office of teaching or governance but has the necessary authority appropriate to the nature of the office.¹¹ This helps us to see how the deacons fit within the structure of the church and clarifies who can hold that office. Even though it is a God-given office, the deacons come under the spiritual authority of elders.

The elders are the ones tasked with overseeing the church (1 Tim 5:17; Tit 1:7) and their role is distinguished from that of deacon. Elders are required to have the gift of teaching (1 Tim 3:2) while deacons are not. Both elders and deacons must manage their households well (1 Tim 3:4, 11), but it is only for elders that this is linked to their taking care of God's church (1 Tim 3:5). Elders are to give an account before God as to how they have led the church (Heb 13:17), while deacons are not. This means that those who fill the office of deacon do not have a teaching or governance role. This also shows why it is possible for women to be deacons in churches that hold to male eldership, without violating 1 Timothy 2:12.

However, they do have the authority relevant to their office.¹² A church sets apart deacons to serve on their behalf and they will need to help manage finances, address practical and material needs, and deal with sensitive information and organise people as needed.

¹¹ It is worth noting that "The Form of Presbyterian Church Government" a document framed during the Westminster Assembly and dated 1645, has this to say: "The scripture doth hold out deacons as distinct officers in the church. Whose office is perpetual. To whose office it belongs not to preach the word, or administer the sacraments, but to take special care in distributing to the necessities of the poor."

¹² It may help to consider how power/authority can be legislative (establish rules and guiding principles), judicial (oversight and discipline) and executive (action rules and principles). The state or national church assembly has all three, the local session has judicial and executive, the diaconate has executive.

'While Paul doesn't spell out the precise realm of service, deacons most likely are to render all kinds of practical and administrative help required to run a church, including benevolence, finances, physical maintenance, and a wide variety of other services.'¹³

4. Suitable Candidates: The office of deacon is open to suitably qualified men and women

The office of deacon is a spiritual one which means those who fill it must display the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They must also have the character and gifts required for their role. The character is spelled out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, which has a suggested structure as follows:

- General qualifications for all deacons (3:8-10)
- Specific qualifications for female deacons (3:11)
- Specific qualifications for male deacons (3:12)
- Summary for all deacons (3:13)

The general qualifications are: being dignified, not double tongued; not addicted to much wine; not greedy for dishonest gain; hold to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. The specific qualities for female deacons are: not slanderers; sober-minded; faithful in everything. The specific qualities for male deacons are: the husband of one wife; managing their children and households well.

The office of deacon is open to both men and women.¹⁴ The topic of women serving as deacons has sometimes proved controversial but this is almost certainly due to the frequent misunderstanding of the role of deacons. If deacons are not assistants to the elders or a second tier of governance, then most of the arguments for preventing women filling this office fall away. There are two useful verses to study.

(i) 1 Timothy 3:11 speaks of female deacons not the wives of deacons

The word for *women* is γυναίκα and can refer to women or wives. The argument goes that Paul interrupts his description of the qualifications of deacons (3:8-13) with this verse, to refer to the wives of deacons. It is thought important since a deacon would need to visit people's homes and having his wife accompany him would be prudent. However, there are a number of arguments against this.

First, surely elders will need godly wives to accompany them on pastoral, home visits yet they are not mentioned.

Second, it seems odd to add a requirement that deacons must have a certain quality of wife to be themselves qualified. Again, this is not required of elders.

Third, the use of the word γυναίκα does not demand 'wives' as a translation as is evident from 1 Timothy 2:9 where the word refers to 'women'.

Fourth, some translations, like the ESV, employ the possessive pronoun 'their' but this word is absent from the Greek: Paul simply says 'women likewise.'

¹³ Andreas Köstenberger, *Commentary on 1-2 Timothy and Titus*. Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation, (Holman, 2017), p. 132.

¹⁴ This is already recognised in the GAV Code under 3.40 (Section 8).

Finally, the verse begins almost identically to verse 8 so that the contrast in both is back to elders, not to the deacon husbands of women. As others have noted, the structure of the text appears to support the idea of female deacons.

Vs. 2 “An overseer must be...”

Vs. 8 “Deacons likewise must be...”

Vs. 11 “Women likewise must be...”

It is worth reflecting further on why Paul structures the verses the way he does. Some suggest he is referring to a subclass of deacons or a class of deacon assistants. There may be merit to this but given they must share similar qualities to male deacons, it is unclear how their role would actually differ. It seems then that Paul is picturing men in his mind as he speaks about deacons but is also allowing for women to fill that role by specifically addressing them too.

We might find precursors of female deacons in the many women who ministered to Jesus and his disciples out of their own resources (Luke 8:2-3) or in Dorcas (Acts 9:36-30) who was full of good works and was habitually performing acts of charity. It also appears that the example of Phoebe illustrates the compatibility of women for the ministry of serving.

(ii) Romans 16:1 refers to Phoebe as a deacon

There has been much debate about how to translate *diakonos* in verse 1, because it could mean either Phoebe is a servant (NIV 1984, ESV) or she is a deacon (NIV 2011). The context itself favours Phoebe being a deacon.

First of all, she is referred to as a *diakonos* of the church in Cenchreae. Others are called servants of Christ but her role is tied to her church. If she is such a wonderful benefactor who has served Paul and others, why say she only *serves* that one church? It is better to say she holds the office of deacon in that church, while also serving other Christians, such as Paul.

Second, she is described as doing the practical duties of a deacon. For example, she may have been the carrier of Paul’s letter to the church at Rome, hence the reference to her. She is serving the church financially as a patron and doing administrative tasks so that Paul and others can do the work of preaching and leading. This is the role outlined in the Bible.

5. Distinctives: A Summary of Key Distinctives of the Office of Deacon

- Deacons are an office in the church and individuals are appointed and inducted into that office. They form a diaconate but it is not a court of the church.
- Deacons have an authority necessary for their office but it is not one of governance or spiritual oversight.
- Deacons hold an office in the church and are expected to be of exemplary character and spiritual maturity.
- The office of deacon is open to men and women.
- Deacons serve on behalf of the congregation and are primarily concerned with ministering to the physical and material needs of the congregation.

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Darren R Middleton
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: ENACTMENT OF PRESBYTERIAN CARE VICTORIA LTD (Min 53)

Incorporation and registration of Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited

The Ad Hoc Committee: Enactment of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd ('the committee') was formed for the setting up Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited (PCVL), which was registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) in October 2020. The committee subsequently moved to seek 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 ASIC and the ACNC, the committee prepared the necessary documentation for the Australian Government's Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) to be registered as an 'approved provider of aged care.' This process took longer than initially anticipated and has resulted in the ACQSC requesting further information on two occasions. On each occasion the ACQSC has given the committee 28 days in which to respond and on receipt of the response has added a further 90 days for the delegate to notify the committee of a decision. As such, the ACQSC has stated that unless further information is required, the new due date for the delegate's decision is 17 October 2023.

In the meantime, discussions have continued with the Trusts Corporation over the assets and liabilities that will be transferred to PCVL should formal registration as an approved aged care provider be granted.

Residential Aged Care

While we are making every effort to maintain occupancy rates (as at 30 June 2023, occupancy was 94.2 per cent), the residential aged care facility (RACF) continues to face ongoing challenges through the continuing effects of COVID-19. While the impacts are not as severe or significant as in previous years, residents continue to catch the virus and need to be isolated. We give praise and thanks to our God that the symptoms have been mild, and the affected residents (and staff), in most cases, recover well. Our staff and our Clinical Governance Committee are paying frequent and particular attention to our COVID readiness. Lock downs are, regrettably, now almost routine; although they are implemented smoothly and usually only last for a week at a time.

Independent Living Units (ILU)

Kirkbrae has 78 ILUs of which at the end of June 2023, 91 per cent were occupied. 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 in our report last year, 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. Following a review carried out in 2022, we have commissioned work on the community hall that is in need of considerable, urgent repair. This work will result in the replacement of the existing roof to prevent further water damage and a re-design of the spaces within the hall. The planning work has involved our CEO/FM working with an external architect and the ILU residents' committee. However, we now have a concept plan that has been agreed

and our architect is finalising the necessary plans so that we can begin work on the renovation in 2023-24.

During the past six months we have also taken steps to improve the outlook for the ILU residents with the demolition of the unused and unmarketable vacant units in and around Hanna Court. This will improve the outlook for the village and create a better impression for those persons entering through Gate 2.

Personnel

Like any service industry, we are dependent on our staff. Although wages across the industry are relatively low 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.

Over the past twelve months there have been a number of changes in the senior management team. Due to changes in her personal life, we were sorry to see that our Quality and Risk Manager, Ms Alison Loran, had to resign her position at Kirkbrae. Further, after many years of service to Kirkbrae and its residents, Ms Sandy Ward also decided that the time was right for her to retire and leave her position as Retirement Living Manager. We give thanks to God for the work and service of these two staff members over the time they worked at Kirkbrae and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Through God's providence we were able to fill the two vacant positions with competent and well-qualified persons. We welcomed Mr Craig Bannister as our new Quality and Risk Manager and Ms Melanie Tielen as our Retirement Living Manager and look forward to working with both over the coming years.

However, we specifically want 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

Following the retirement of Rev Matt James and Mrs Janine Motyer, we are grateful for the continued support provided under the coordination of the Mount Evelyn Session. This support extended to 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 we undertook a review of our requirements.

Following the review of our pastoral care needs, the CEO/FM, with the support of the committee, revised the position description and sought applications for the role of Chaplain. Last year, we reported that we had hoped to fill the position soon. However, there was a need to re-advertise the position and seek further applicants and so our process took longer than anticipated. However, we are pleased to inform the Assembly that with the agreement of the Presbytery of Maroondah, we have appointed the Rev Kyu B (Paul) Lee as our Chaplain.

Mr Lee started work at Kirkbrae in early 2023 and has settled into the role very well. He conducts services both during the week in the RACF and on Sunday for the Kirkbrae congregation and a number of Bible studies during the week as well as undertaking pastoral visitation of both the RACF and ILU residents.

2022-23 audited financial results

The consolidated audited financial results at the time of drafting this report are not yet available. However, they will be presented to the Assembly separate to the White Book and will be available for review by Assembly members. In addition, we plan to submit a supplementary report covering the financial results once the audit of the 2022-23 financial year is complete.

The Committee

The members of the committee are Messrs James Bligh, Iain Bramley (Convener), Joseph Daoud, Brad Georges, Colin Morrow, Rev Grant Lawry, Mrs Toni Orchard, and Mr Mark Catchpoole who has been seconded to the committee. 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 four of whose members are not members of the committee, Dr Elizabeth Lewis (acts as Chair of the sub-committee), Mrs Deborah Court, Mrs Jenny Pilgrim and Mrs Jill Barnett. The committee is indebted to the work of these four women, three of whom have a long association with Kirkbrae. Their care and devotion continues. Clinical governance is not just pivotal to Kirkbrae, it is crucial. If we fail on Clinical Governance, we fail on everything in terms of providing aged care. We are truly grateful for the continuing service of these three servants of the Lord.

Since last year, Mr Duncan McGregor due to personal issues and other matters felt it necessary to resign as convener of the committee and as a Director of Presbyterian Care Victoria Ltd. We were disappointed that circumstances had required Duncan to resign as we truly appreciated and were encouraged by his leadership over the two years, he was convener. In receiving Duncan's resignation letter, the committee was unanimous in recognising the courageous leadership he had given in setting the direction and priorities for Kirkbrae that have led to the continued high-quality service and now improving financial results. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless Duncan and use him to help in the work of growing his kingdom here on earth.

Following Duncan's resignation, we sought the Selection Committee to appoint Mr Joseph Daoud, member of the St Stephens congregation in Surrey Hills, to fill the casual vacancy. We are pleased that that committee did so, and Joseph has made a valuable contribution to the work of the committee. Mr Daoud is a pharmacist and has also joined our Clinical Governance Committee. In addition, we have seconded Mr Mark Catchpoole to the committee to assist with our work. Mark has a legal background and so provides another set of skills that adds to the committee's skill set.

While the committee is now eight members against a desired complement of nine, the majority of our members are no longer young, so renewal and succession planning are essential.

Apart from new and younger blood, the committee is still seeking at least one more member with the relevant skills; in particular, geriatric or healthcare skills as well as some commercial, accounting, or legal skills. In doing so, we would wish to also seek to have our ninth member to be appointed to be a woman. We again ask readers of this report to prayerfully consider approaching someone they may know or pass their details to myself as convener so that I 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.

While we did say this last year, we are looking forward to 2024, by which time we believe 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.

Dr Elizabeth Lewis AM FRACS, FRCS (Eng), FRCS (Glas)

Since submitting our report to General Assembly Dr Elizabeth Lewis a member of our Clinical Governance Committee and a longstanding supporter of Kirkbrae passed into the Lord's hands. Dr Lewis died on 24 August 2023 and will be sorely missed by members of the committee and the Clinical Governance Sub-committee.

Dr Lewis was a member of Scots' Church and a long-standing member of the PCV's Social Service Committee before taking on the lead role in the Clinical Governance Sub-committee following the Assembly passing operational control of Kirkbrae to the committee. Elizabeth was a driving force in ensuring that the clinical standards and level of care provided to our residents was of utmost importance. This drive and need to maintain care standards has been passed onto the other members of our Clinical Governance Sub-committee and supported by all members of the committee and will remain an ongoing focus of our work at Kirkbrae.

The committee gives thanks to our God for the work and life of Dr Elizabeth Lewis and for the contribution she has made over many years to the work of Kirkbrae and the level of care provided to its residents.

Mr Joseph Daoud

In our report we mentioned that Mr Daoud had been appointed to the committee to fill the casual vacancy created by Mr Duncan McGregor's resignation from the committee. Unfortunately, having worked with the committee for a number of months Joseph has had to regrettably submit his resignation due to work and family pressures. We wish to thank Joseph for his contribution and wish him well in his future endeavours and in the work that the Lord has planned for him.

Unfortunately, with this resignation the committee is now down to only seven members (including the secondment of Mr Mark Catchpoole) and so we are now seeking two new members to reach our desired complement of nine members.

2022-23 audited financial results

The consolidated audited financial results at the time of writing our report were not yet available. However, as the audit is now completed and the financial results have been submitted to the Assembly, we wish to summarise the results and provide some commentary.

| Summary of Results | 2021-22 (\$'000s) | 2022-23 (\$'000s) |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income | 8,594 | 10,812 |
| Expenses | 8,729 | 10,089 |
| Operating earnings before depreciation | (135) | 722 |
| Depreciation expense | (950) | (934) |
| Surplus/(deficit) from operating earnings | (1,085) | (212) |
| Unrealised gain/(loss) on revaluation of Investments | (1,103) | 610 |
| Realised gain/(loss) on sale of Investments | (111) | 15 |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year | (2,299) | 413 |

The 2022-23 Statement of Income and Expenditure shows that Kirkbrae finished the financial year with an overall surplus of \$0.4 million that is a marked improvement on the 2021-22 result which was an overall deficit of \$2.3 million for the year. While this is a significant improvement in the overall result both financial years have been impacted by returns on investments. In 2021-22, the overall return on investments was a loss of \$1.2 million compared with a return of \$0.6 million for this financial year. As such a better indication of performance is to look at the result from operating activities.

In 2021-22, we reported a deficit of \$1.1 million from operating activities compared with the result of 2022-23 of a smaller deficit of \$0.2 million from operating activities. While this is a significant improvement, it is mainly driven by an increase in Government funding following the full implementation of the changed funding arrangements for aged care. Looking at the financial results we can report that total revenue increased by \$2.2 million between the two financial years while expenses only increased by \$1.3 million over the same period.

While the committee believes it has placed Kirkbrae in a better financial position, it still does not generate enough revenue to fully cover the annual depreciation expense at the operating level. Although, while the result from operations can be seen as a positive, it was still a deficit for the year and so further work is required to improve the financial situation. This work will be more difficult as the potential for further income or decreases in expenditure has become more difficult.

In addition, there is a need to strengthen our balance sheet as at this time Kirkbrae's current liabilities exceed its current assets. While this is not an issue in the short-term, nor does it impact Kirkbrae's ability to continue to trade due to the nature of the liabilities, it does limit our ability to re-invest in Kirkbrae and therefore improve our aged care facility and retirement village units to be better able to compete with other newer facilities in the area.

Iain Bramley
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: NEW ENTITY (Min 100)

The 2022 General Assembly resolved (BB 2022 min 32(7)) to:

Establish an ad hoc 'New Entity' Committee to develop:

4.
 - 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.

The three members appointed by the BIF are James Bligh, Matt Gibson and John Walter.

The three members of the Assembly appointed by the Selection Committee are Iain Bramley, Philip Court and Russell Walley.

At its first meeting the committee agreed to co-opt Michael Ellison, PCV General Manager, to its membership as provided for by Code rule 5.26.

The committee has worked diligently at the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly, meeting monthly to plan its way forward and to consider reports by its members on assigned topics. However, it is not yet able to present a proposal to the Assembly in terms of 4(a)-(e) above.

While some work has been done on the other aspects of the task assigned to it by the Assembly, the committee has focussed its attention in the main on what it sees as the most important aspect of this task: the preparatory work for '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.'

The committee is acutely aware of the danger of beginning an important organisational initiative such as this without clear agreement on decision authority. If the proposed New Entity is to achieve its purpose of assisting the church in the better management of its temporal affairs then these roles and responsibilities and the relationship of the New Entity to the church must be carefully defined and codified, and this is proving more complex and time consuming than expected.

The committee requests the approval of the Assembly to its continuing its work with a view to bringing a proposal in terms of 4(a)-(e) above to the 2024 General Assembly.

The committee also requests that the terms of its appointment be varied to allow continuity of the convener, so that after the 2023 General Assembly the Immediate Past Moderator be a member of the committee and its convener.

Peter W Phillips
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: OPTIONS FOR MINORITY INTEREST IN ASSEMBLY HALL (Min 101)

The Committee's report to the 2022 General Assembly made the following preliminary findings:

1. Scots' Church is unlikely to be able to fund the purchase of the PCV's 37% beneficial interest in Assembly Hall.
2. Sale of the minority interest to a third party would not be in the overall interests of the denomination.
3. The prospect of some redevelopment to make the holding of the 37% interest commercially viable needs to be further investigated with the assistance of Lovell Chen, who are multi-disciplinary consultants specialising in heritage buildings.

The Assembly resolved to:

- Request the committee to further investigate the possibility of:
 - a purchase of the PCV's interest by The Scots' Church or The Scots' Church Properties Trust; and
 - 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.
- Approve a budget of \$75,000 for consultancy fees.
- 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). 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. (BB2022 Min 94.3,4,5)

There have been a series of delays which have held up progress. We did not receive an engagement letter from Lovell Chen until 21 December 2022. The committee met on 17 February 2023 and resolved to proceed with the appointment, holding a further onsite meeting for the benefit of the Assembly Hall Joint Management Committee.

This meeting was held on 15 March 2023. The writer, the Assembly Clerk, Rev Dr John Wilson, the minister of Scots' Church, Rev Phil Campbell, and Mr Craig McIntosh, Chairman of the Assembly Hall Joint Management Committee, met with Mr Peter Lovell and a colleague. The options and prospects for development to enhance the commercial return on the property were discussed, along with the objectives of the various parties.

Following Peter Lovell's return from overseas, discussion was held in relation to staging the consultancy and a redrafted engagement letter was received on 9 June 2023 and provided to the Joint Management Committee.

The agreement of the Joint Management Committee to funding the consultancy was confirmed on 10 July 2023 and the agreement signed by them (as responsible for the funding) on 17 July 2023. At the time of writing, we are awaiting confirmation of the scheduling of the work by Lovell Chen.

The Assembly should note the following considerations, which have become clearer since the 2022 General Assembly:

1. The main concern expressed by the Chairman of the Joint Management Committee is that the Assembly Hall is available to Scots' Church for its use. The Assembly Hall houses the Scots' Church offices and in particular is the main facility used by its Indonesian congregation. He indicated that Scots' Church does not seek a return on investment beyond covering the Assembly Hall operating costs.
2. The Trusts Corporation has received legal advice that the 37% interest it holds as trustee is properly characterised as an investment. This change will be reflected in the 2022-23 financial accounts of the PCV. As an investment, the asset must provide an adequate return and the trustees have obligations under trust law in relation to its management.
3. The cost of restorative stonework to the façade (estimated at \$5 million) will not be the end of costly maintenance works. It has been mentioned that the re-slating of the roof will be required at some point. This has obvious ramifications in relation to a long-term return on investment.

The committee anticipates reporting to the 2024 Commission of Assembly with the outcome of the consultancy.

Barry Oakes
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE: PCV ARCHIVES (Min 102)

This year past has seen the beginning of a momentous change in direction to the physical holdings of our precious asset, and the beginning of a journey towards better access, more secure oversight and wider use of our archival collection.

Background

The property next door to the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), namely 690 Elgar Road, had been vacant for some years and, despite many attempts to sell it, the owners had not found a successful buyer. Originally when it appeared on the market, there was a reserve price of ~\$10M. Upon more recent inquiries, the asking price appeared to have reduced to something closer to \$5M.

Acting on the instruction of the October 2022 GAV (Min 28), the Archivist and the Clerk had engaged in an exhaustive search for a permanent home, inspecting several church premises along the way, but without success. Currently, this precious resource of the church is held in four different locations and there is a strong desire (and many good reasons) to bring them together.

Three matters drew the committee's attention to the property next door to the PTC in Elgar Road, Box Hill North:

1. The committee's mandate to secure a permanent home for the PCV Archives (see GAV OCT 2022, Min 28(b)), but such search being unsuccessful to date.
2. The knowledge that the property next to the PTC had remained unsold for several years.
3. Our observations (from the vantage of the PTC) that the property's external appearance had deteriorated.

Vision

The committee's vision was captured by the idea of occupying space within 690 Elgar Road as a home for the entire archival collection. Our view is that we have found a large footprint of prime Eastern suburbs real estate that can provide for more than that – possibly even for a centre of all the church's administrative and ministry workers – a Presbyterian Ministry Hub (PMH) that could serve the church for decades.

In the meantime, the committee actively sought out two other Christian organisations to come in on the deal as co-tenants, thus sharing the cost: the PTC Library in order to extend their library stacks beyond that which can fit into 684 Elgar Road, and MECCC – a Christian counselling group led by Rev Karl Hood who had no permanent place to call home. The team of MECCC counsellors are mostly members of Presbyterian churches.

To further the vision of a "Presbyterian Ministry Hub", it should be noted that there remains two smaller but self-contained wings of 690 Elgar Road un-tenanted. The committee wants to see first how the premises will work with occupancy by the three tenants already assigned space, but the convener is open to inquiries from other organisations of the church with expressions of interest in one of the other two spaces.

The committee's vision is that "the two shall become one" – a somewhat romanticised view bearing in mind that the two properties (now: 684 and 690 Elgar Road) were all the one property – a wonderful Christian Mission for children with serious disabilities

(the Christian Service Centre) under the faithful leadership of Dawn Martin.

Setbacks

Upon receiving the keys to 690 Elgar Road, some significant setbacks were observed – not severe enough to re-consider, but more to do with “hidden surprises”, such as:

- the amount of rubbish, derelict office furniture and near-to-useless equipment left by the previous tenants of some years ago;
- the accumulation of in-ground dirt and grime because of the vacated premises had been left unoccupied for years;
- the difficulty of removing the carpet squares and the underlying adhesive;
- whether the floor of the room ear-marked for the Archive collection has sufficient load-bearing capacity.

On top of these difficulties, extra expenses are a concern to the committee. For example, we had no way of knowing for sure the financial charges made by Grace Commercial Storage simply to retrieve our records and exit their premises. These charges have far exceeded our budget.

Significant progress has been made towards cleaning and fitting out, but there’s a lot more to go. Until we can verify the load-bearing capacity of the floor, we’ve had to delay the retrieval of the archive held at Grace Storage. As a result, we cannot, at the time of writing this report, be sure of a date for the Opening and Dedication event. But when the date is announced, please come and inspect this wonderful provision God has led us to.

Delights

Joys outweigh trials, more than we can number, such as:

- the encouraging formation and teamwork of the PMC - Property Management Committee (composed of representatives from MECCC/PTC/Archives in a 1:1:2 proportion);
- the day following the teamwork of removing the carpet tiles, we found a beautiful hardwood floor which has now been professionally sanded and polished;
- internal walls that have now been fitted allowing the archive collection to be enclosed in a completely climate controlled environment;
- internal walls having also been fitted to the MECCC wing, enabling them to have an enclosed staffroom and additional office;
- due to the work of volunteers, the Archive section is nearing completion of all painting and preparation work, ready for shelving to be installed;
- how we give thanks for the efficient and speedy improvements to the space in less than two months of occupancy from such tireless efforts in cleaning, rubbish removal, painting, floor changes, internal walls, complete overhaul of external gardens and grounds, roof and gutter clean up;
- our gratitude that the government has supplied and installed LED replacement light fixtures and fittings for no charge.

Volunteers

Meanwhile, the essential work of the archives continues under the expert and efficient eye of our Archivist Michael Smith and his wonderful and cheerful volunteers:

- Bruce Garrett who looks after the digitisation of records (image scanning, OCR text, indexing for search).

- Val Kentler who manages the Access database and spends most weeks on data entry and records description.
- Sean Ji who has maintained the new ArchivesSpace database on Amazon Cloud.
- Samson Ho who is managing the setup of a new server for 690 Elgar Rd and the migration of data from the Access database to ArchivesSpace.

Over the summer break a shelving bay of records stored at the PTC was damaged by a leaking AC unit resulting in 6 boxes of wet and severely mould infested records. Fortunately, our insurance covered the cost of having these records salvaged and restored by professional conservators. This process is now complete, and the records have been returned to us in amazing condition.

We have continued to receive new deposits and donations of records from across the PCV community and from the public. There is surely a growing awareness of the importance of the Archives, and it has been encouraging to see so many churches willing to pass on their records and memorabilia for safe, long-term management (preservation, cataloguing, arrangement, and description).

The prize deposit this year was a leather-bound (silk inlaid) certificate presented to “His Excellency the Right Honourable the Lord Denman” by the PCA on his appointment as Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia following King George V’s coronation and dated 1911. It is a beautiful piece.

The current project we are working through is the digitisation of historic, handwritten Presbytery records. This began following an exchange of records with the Uniting Church Archives that included key Presbytery Minute books that had remained gaps in our collection since Union. The UCA took possession of our remaining social institutions’ records, and these were generously scanned and returned to us as image data. We’ve forged relationships with many other GLAM sector institutions this year and the highlight has been member access to the preservation and conservation departments of the State Library of Victoria.

Earlier in the year we completed the digitisation of PCA Yearbooks (1901 to present day), and nearly the entire collection of *Presbyterian Life*, *Australian Presbyterian Living (APL)* and *AP* magazine. This means that we now have a searchable index and digital image of essential Presbyterian periodicals spanning 1886 to 2017.

The last two months has seen the Archivist’s focus shift to the establishment of the new facility. This marks the launch of an exciting new era for the Archives and for the first time in 25 years, the entire collection of 1800 boxes of historical records will be housed in one location, under better environmental conditions, and fully and immediately accessible.

Looking ahead, the time has come for the committee to become a regular standing committee of the Assembly. There’s nothing interim or ‘ad hoc’ about this important work of the church.

Finally, two more big thank-you statements. The committee expresses gratitude to the Malvern congregation for their gracious accommodation of 200 archival boxes containing some of our most accessed and most precious records. We also thank the PTC for their accommodation of the Archives office and staff (a dedicated office/work

space for the Archivist and the volunteers). Both of these supports have been critical and enabled us to function quite effectively since the fire at South Yarra PC forced all this change upon us.



John P Wilson
CONVENER

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) (Min 68)

And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is not far from each one of us, 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.'
Acts 17:26-28a.

Introduction

The Apostle Paul, in his address to the 'men of Athens', reveals to us God's plan of love for the nations. He has created and ordained all the peoples and nations of the earth that they might know Him and live by faith in Him. There are no separate races, unequally differing in origin, or species. There is only one human race, and only one family of man. Thus, God has ordained from the beginning that all the nations, with their differing languages, cultures and customs, find their unity in Him.

Although no man in sin now seeks after God, yet God's loving plan, fulfilled in Christ is not thwarted. For, 'All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your Name.' (Psalm 86:9). Ultimately, in the fullness of time, all the nations, redeemed in Christ, will be one in Him. (Ephesians 1:9,10). Now, in this present time, our Lord and Saviour has given to us to participate in His mission of love and grace to all the nations; 'commanding them to repent, as He has fixed a day in which He will judge the whole world in righteousness by the man whom He has appointed, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.' And even now, He is not far from any one of us, and whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.

It is our privilege as your 'World Mission' Committee to play our part in this great world-wide enterprise of God.

Committee

As of the rising of the last Assembly in October 2022, a number of our long serving members retired, according to the nine-year rule. We were very thankful for the faithful work of Dr Noel Johnston as our convener, and Rev Philip Burns as our incredibly efficient secretary during their time of office. Our committee now consists of both new and past members. I am now convener, and Rev Rod Waterhouse has taken over the role of secretary. We have also welcomed onto our committee Ms Mavis Price, Mrs Diane Brownley, Rev Marcus Campbell and Rev Keith Bell, all with passion and varied missionary experience. Continuing members are Rev Joel Mestry, and Rev Tony Archer, Ms Wendy Moody, and Ms Lynette Ellis.

Since the last Assembly, the committee has met eight times, twice in person and the rest via Zoom. As of our committee meeting in May, Rev Keith Bell, who is now an advocate for Wycliffe Bible Translators, has offered to represent APWM Vic across our State denomination. He hopes to visit presbyteries and parishes, when invited, to share not only about Wycliffe but also about the wider work of our committee. We hope that all presbyteries will welcome him, and that he will have many opportunities to promote the work of world-mission in our churches.

Missionary Movements

Much has happened since last October regarding the on-going welfare and ministry of our missionaries. Uppermost in our minds has been the ongoing care and support for

Matt and Kate Vinicombe and their three children: Bethany, Chloe, and Amos since their horrific accident on Christmas Day last year near Keith in South Australia. These events remind us all of how fragile and uncertain life is in this world. We are very thankful that all survived the crash, and that the children are all doing well. Our biggest concern has been for Kate, who was very seriously injured. We have followed, with much prayer, her journey of recovery since that time. CMS has provided great support as their missionary agency, and so has their home church Bundoora. The Lord seems to have brought CMS and us closer together through this tragedy, and we rejoice to be able to work together in providing support for the Vinicombe family. As of the writing of this report, over one million dollars has been raised by CMS, APWM National, many individual churches, and family and friends.

Praise God for the generosity of God's people. We also praise God that Kate is now able to move about with the aid of an electric wheelchair. We keep praying that, in time, she will gain more movement in her shoulder and arms.

Although they will no longer be able to serve with CMS on Groote Eylandt, we know, for certain, that their labour there, has not been in vain. We pray that the Lord will raise up others to disciple God's people on Groote Eylandt.

We have also been much in prayer for Motor Isaac Yat, his wife Julia, and son Mark. We had been hoping that Motor would be able to come on home assignment with his family, but this turned out to be impossible because of the legal impediments due to Julia and Mark not being Australian citizens. After a lot of correspondence back and forth, it was finally agreed by the national committee that Motor come home alone, in order to sort out his immigration needs for his family here in Australia.

We were able to interview Motor with Kevin Murray present at our meeting in March. Since that time, with the help of our national committee and Clayton Church, Motor was able to employ an immigration lawyer who, in turn, was able to progress his case with the appropriate authorities. After a long drawn - out process, we are thankful to report that Motor has been able to return to Kenya with his son Mark's Australian Citizenship papers, with the prospect of returning next year for home assignment with his wife Julia and son. We were also able to contribute money from Coins for Mission so that Motor could return to Africa with a new computer.

We had hoped to see Laszlo and Eva Mihalyi back for home assignment from Hungary, but they have decided to stay on till November this year, due to the on-going war in Ukraine. They are heavily involved in helping out with Ukrainian refugees pouring into Hungary from Ukraine.

We have also been able to interview Rosie T, now left for her field of service in Canada; David and Lisa Pearce, now serving with MAF in Cairns, and Hannah Davies, now left for her teaching work in Yeosu, South Korea. We have also enjoyed catching up with our semi-retired, veteran missionaries, Rhys and Rhonda Hall, now living in Castlemaine and working from home, remotely serving the Sudanese Church. They are an inspiration to us all.

In June, we interviewed D and C who are home with their family for a brief visit. We were privileged to provide financial assistance in their recent medevac rescue and we praise God that all are now safe and well.

We also rejoice to welcome Ms Lauren Raiter, our newest missionary, as a member of APWM, hoping to go to Spain with CMS early in the new year. She is a member of Scots in Melbourne, and we are hoping that other Presbyterian Churches will also join in supporting her.

Since welcoming Jared and Bethany as APWM members working with Wycliffe in Vanuatu, we rejoice with them in the birth of baby number two: Matthias Alan, a brother to Nathaniel. They returned to Australia for the birth of their baby and will all be in Vanuatu when plans are finalised for their work there.

Calvin and Ruth Mathys, working with Wycliffe in PNG, have also had their ups and downs. Ruth broke her ankle back in 2022 and had to be flown to Cairns for surgery and treatment. Having returned to PNG, they came home in June briefly for medical appointments.

We rejoice to oversee in a pastoral and supporting capacity 24 missionary 'units', comprising 41 missionaries and 27 children, both at home and abroad. They are all dedicated to fulfilling their calling as labourers in God's harvest field. They are all worthy of our on-going financial and prayerful support.

APWM National has formalised the role of returned missionaries who are now working with their particular people group residing here in Australia. This 'Diaspora Ministry' is a growing phenomenon in the world of cross-cultural mission.

Missionaries who once worked with a particular people group overseas, but who can do so no-longer, are finding opportunities and openness to the Gospel among the same people group now living in Australia. Their language skills and cultural experience from overseas is now being used to reach their target group right here in their home country. We believe that this will be a growing trend in years to come as missionary work overseas becomes more and more restrictive.

We praise God for those who have worked overseas but are now involved in this new 'Diaspora Ministry' here in Victoria. Sadly, however, we had to bid farewell to Ian and Rachel as members of APWM. They had come home from working with migrants overseas and were hoping for openings back here in Australia. This has not worked out for them at this stage, and they are looking to the Lord for His guidance as they adjust back to working life here.

Prayer

'Pray for us' was the plea of the Apostle Paul for himself and all his fellow workers in the Gospel. It is the same plea that goes out to all of us from our Gospel workers around the globe. Apart from personal and individual prayer letters received, APWM Vic produces a bi-monthly prayer update for all our missionaries. The National Office also produces an Australia-wide prayer update that you can obtain through the National office in Sydney. We hope that all our church members avail themselves of these resources for their own personal and family prayers.

Missionary Poster

One of our newest ordained ministers, Rev Marcus Campbell has taken on the role of overseeing the next production of our 'Missionary Poster'. Security concerns are making it harder each year to produce a meaningful poster with photo and names of all our current serving missionaries. This does present us with an ongoing challenge.

Last year's uptake of the digital format was somewhat disappointing, and we hope that in the future we can see a greater use of this missionary resource among our churches.

Coins for Mission

Rev Joel Mestry looks after this program for us, and we continue to rejoice in the amount of money that comes in each year for the emergent needs of our missionaries. Currently we have approximately 30 Victorian churches giving in total approximately \$25,000 per year. Gifts this past year include computer, helicopter rescue, top ups for those on low support levels, and car maintenance.

We would love to see this program (focussed on urgent, unplanned expenditure), expanded to more of our congregations. We have become conscious in recent years that more and more congregations are doing their giving online, and as a consequence, we have decided to trial a new program called 'Tap for Mission' using the latest electronic device and app to donate using a bank/credit card or mobile phone to make periodic donations to missions. This trial is not envisioned to replace the 'Coins for Mission' boxes, but to supplement them, particularly for our younger members, who no longer carry coins with them.

None of these programs are meant to take away from our churches budgeted annual mission giving. This program is simply to supplement what we are already giving.

Cars for Missionaries on Home Assignment

Although Dr Noel Johnston has retired from our committee, he has been willing to continue in the role of overseeing the maintenance and distribution of our motor vehicles for those needing them on home assignment. As Noel has been doing this for some years, we are thankful for his experience and willingness to continue in this capacity.

At the moment, we have a 7 seater Toyota Kluger, a Holden Commodore, and a Kia Wagon available for use by our returning missionaries. These motor vehicles are kept at Noel's place in Kyneton, when not in use, and are serviced regularly as required.

Holiday Home for Missionaries' R & R

We now have the opportunity to offer to our returning missionaries and diaspora members a holiday house at Portarlinton for a time of rest and refreshment. We are very thankful to the Miller family for this kind and gracious provision.

Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

We are very thankful for the two ladies from PWMU who serve on our committee: Mrs Pam Vandenberg and Ms. Robyn Crocker, Robyn returning to the Committee after Mrs Sue White's service. We always receive a report from the PWMU at our meetings and appreciate the input that these two ladies bring to our meetings.

We are very grateful for the missionary giving of the PWMU, which extends beyond the immediate missionary members of APWM. This includes significant bursaries for those studying for ministry. They also produce a very informative missionary newsletter for PWMU Members that can be used along with our bi-monthly prayer news to pray for all our missionaries. They also run the 'Dayspring' days to raise awareness of world mission among the children of our Church, plus a 'Dayspring' pamphlet for children periodically through the year.

Finances

We are ever thankful for the funds that are made available each year from the GMP and specific Trusts for the care and maintenance of our missionary families. The Church Office gives us regular updates as to our financial status and the funds available to spend on various projects. We are especially appreciative of Sharee Barnett and Jason Zhang, who work in the Church Office managing and dispersing our finances for the well-being of our missionaries.

We continue to give Christmas gifts to our missionary families at the end of the year, as well as providing superannuation contributions to all our workers at the end of each financial year.

Our Trust Funds continue to provide for our Vanuatu Partner Church missionaries plus scholarship assistance for students at the Talua Ministry Training Centre (Vanuatu) and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Dehradun in India. These funds also provide ongoing financial assistance for our first nations peoples through the ministries of Rev Rick and Kayleen Manton (APWM NSW), and Alvin and Narelle Chai (PIM, Mount Magnet, WA).

Above all, we are very conscious, as a committee, that the support of our missionaries, both on the field and on home assignment, is dependent upon the sacrificial giving of the missionary's home church and other supporting churches and individual members. This will always be the fundamental base from which our missionaries will be supported, and we give thanks to God always for the generosity of God's people.

Mission Lunch

This year Diane Brownley has taken on the role of organising our Assembly Mission Lunch. We hope that many of the commissioners of Assembly will join us on Wednesday for lunch and hear inspiring stories of what the Lord is doing through His missionary servants today. Our guest speaker this year will be the Director of 'The Church Missionary Society,' Rev Dr Wei-Han Kuan. In view of the fact that an increasing number of our missionary members are working with CMS, it will be good to hear from our brother at this year's Assembly. Those missionaries on home assignment and from our diaspora ministries will also be joining us.

Partner Churches.

In this past year, under the APWM National Committee, we in Victoria have been able to strengthen our ties with PTS in India and our Partner Churches in Zambia and Vanuatu.

Rev John Wilson, Rev David Palmer with his wife Chris, and Rev John Ellis with his wife Lynette visited Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehra Dun earlier this year. David Palmer gave the annual 'Strom Lecture' on his recent book on one of his pioneering missionary ancestors, Julius Friedrich Ullmann, who laboured in that part of India for some 57 years. (David will have some copies of his book available for purchase at our Assembly Mission Lunch). Rev John Wilson gave the address at the annual Graduation Ceremony.

Also, Rev Graham Nicholson and Rev Steven Jones visited Zambia for a month's teaching mission with the CCAP. This was a self-funded short - term mission, and our APWM Committee were able to assist with expenses.

We rejoice greatly in the grace of God manifest in the generous giving towards the PresAID appeal for solar panels at the Talua Bible College. The appeal was over-subscribed, and now the wish list for the College can become a 'to do list'. It is expected that the solar panels will be installed by the end of this year with expert help of volunteers from our Queensland Church.

APWM National

We have two members (myself as convener and Mrs Lynette Ellis) who are on the APWM National Committee, which meets annually in Sydney for the AGM and for another additional three meetings throughout the year. The AGM this year was face to face, and the other meetings are held via Zoom. At the last AGM in February this year, Rev Kevin Murray indicated his desire to retire at the end of 2025. A National sub-committee has been formed to search for his replacement. We pray for the right man to succeed Kevin in this important role.

This year, in September, the GAA welcomed Dr Abhishek Barla, Principal of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Dehradun, along with Pastor Solomon and Rev Hiralal Solanki, Pastoral Coordinator for IRFA, as guests of the Assembly. Through the Theological Seminary and IRFA, we continue to strengthen our ties with the Presbyterian Church of North India and beyond.

David Schulz
CONVENER

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Min 71)

We continue to be in challenging times for our school and, as always, are reliant on our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain us. Nonetheless, we are glad to report another year which shows God at work in our school community.

We have been through a period of transition over the past year, and we thank our Lord for sustaining us and Belgrave Heights Christian School through it. We enjoyed the blessing of a year without COVID-19 significantly impacting in-person attendance at school though of course its continued existence in the community did place pressures on staff and students when people had it at various times.

It has been a great delight to see Peter Cliffe settle into the school in his first year as Principal, working with the council, leadership team, teachers, administrative staff, students, and families. I have also had the privilege of serving for my first year as Chair. 2022 and into 2023 has seen significant change in staff where about 40% of staff have started since 1 January 2022! In addition to a new Principal, the change from 2022 to 2023 saw changes in the Educational Leadership team with a new Business Manager, Deputy Principal, Head of Senior School, Finance Manager and Office Manager.

At a board level, October 2022 saw the retirement of Warwick Davidson after 37 years of service including 26 as Chairman from 1990-2016. When he started in 1985, the school was 2 years old with 30-40 primary students and a handful of staff. When he left at the end of 2022, the school had grown to over 800 students from Kinder to Year 12 and over 100 staff. He was there during the difficult time in the mid-1990s when enrolments dropped to 5 and the school was in danger of closure and saw God provide two classes of students on loan from a fellow Christian school for two years to get us through. He was there from the early 1990s when we started building our architecturally designed buildings with assistance from the Block Grant Authority which has continued to today to provide outstanding facilities for staff and students. He also oversaw several purchases of land from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to support expansion of the school. His impact went beyond the outward facilities of the school to the influence of his character. He embodied our school motto to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. He always attended important school functions. As Chairman he brought a quiet, calm and steady hand to leadership of the School Council. He showed care for every member whether making great efforts to on-board new members and make them feel welcome, or in showing great diplomacy and stakeholder management skills facing complex issues. He demonstrated Jesus's teaching 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' It was great to celebrate his contribution at Celebration Night last year and announce the annual award in his name.

We also bade farewell to Trent Young as he and family moved to NSW having been on the council since Nov 2016. We welcomed Caroline Chudasko in as a new parent-nominated council member in November 2022 and Dave Martin in March 2023. Thanks to the PCV Commission for Church Institutions in helping to find Dave to serve with us.

For the student body, we had 782 students at 2023 Census Day in Prep-Year 12 as well as 52 children in kinder. Our 2022 Year 12 results were most encouraging and point to the hard work of the students and our staff – 70% of students received their first preference for tertiary studies, our school achieved a median study score of 30.5 and our school dux achieved at ATAR of 96.75.

For our building projects there has been progress on the new Junior School complex, which is now open for classes, though a combination of factors saw the cost and schedule increase (e.g., more stringent building surveyor requirements, increased costs of key materials across the industry). Refurbishment of the old Junior School is underway. We have progressed in the planning stage for our new Senior Learning Centre/Performance Arts Centre though approvals are taking longer than hoped. We are making improvements to the grounds with new covered play areas, a redeveloped school oval and construction of a wild space play area to capture the beauty of our natural environment in an engaging way for students.

School leadership, with oversight from the Council, have been hard at work on a new vision statement and strategic plan. We announced our new vision statement, 'Knowing Christ, Inspiring Learners, Transforming Lives' to the school at Celebration Night in Dec 2022 and now have a new Strategic Plan for 2023-2026.

2023 is the 40th anniversary of the school. We can certainly thank our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for his care for the school during this time. We are thankful for the hard work of the original founders, for the many people who have served on the council over the years, to the principals, wonderful staff and the large body of students who have also been part of our school. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria through all these years. We look forward to the celebration activities being planned for this.

Council sub-committees have been hard at work, and we acknowledge the effort of the members of the Finance, Building, Governance and Risk sub-committees. Active participation in the work of our sub-committees is increasingly important with an increase in governance and compliance requirements, as well as to make our council meetings more efficient. Other council members have also been engaged with arranging events and supporting school parents and families which has been a great way to cultivate the school community.

We underwent a VRQA review in 2022, to which management and council members applied themselves with great diligence. It is very pleasing to have passed this review. We had the opportunity, as well, to build links with other boards and organised a shared board training day with St Andrews Christian College.

In late August we look forward to a visit from Rev Peter Phillips, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

The local Belgrave Heights Presbyterian Church continues to meet in our school building.

We also face external challenges from our society. Great wisdom is required to know how to show Jesus's love and also act in a way which does not compromise the faith we hold dear. As James 1:5 encourages us '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.' We thank the PCV for their assistance in discussing some doctrinal matters. We are grateful for, and continue to ask for support for:

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.

In conclusion, we praise and thank God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ for his ongoing work in BHCS by the Holy Spirit. 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. 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 addressing our shared challenges.

Chris White
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min 31)

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 Russell Walley | Investment Committee | From June 2023 |
| Mr John Walter | Vice-Chairman, Investment Committee | |
| Mr Dennis Wright | Secretary, Audit Committee | |

Church Office

The BIF is grateful for the dedicated support of the team in the church office who faithfully serve the Assembly, congregations, committees and other denominational bodies. Our thanks go to the General Manager, Mr Michael Ellison, Mrs Sharee Barnett and Mr Jason Zhang. We also recognise that with increasing compliance obligations and workload they are often under significant pressure, and the BIF believes that this will need to be addressed through the addition of a part-time position in the near term. We particularly wish to express our appreciation to Michael for his expertise, advice and significant input across a broad range of matters that impact upon the denomination and sit outside day-to-day operations.

Law Agent's Retainer

In accordance with the Code 5.16c the Trusts Corporation and BIF has fixed the Law Agent's retainer for the 2023/24 year at \$45,675

General Mission Program receipts – 2022/23

A report showing all charges and their annual contributions to GMP during the preceding year is attached in accordance with BIF regulation 12(d).

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 5.0% 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:

| | 2022/23 | 2021/22 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Receipts | | |
| Interest on loans to congregations | 85,907 | 51,488 |
| Interest from Common Fund | 119,872 | 109,656 |
| Other Investment Income | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | 205,779 | 161,144 |
| Payments | | |
| Interest paid on loans from Common Fund | 157,604 | 82,385 |
| Interest paid on deposits | 366 | 457 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Legal Fees | 397 | 0 |
| Grant to Property Development Fund | 0 | 78,302 |
| Total Expenditure | <u>158,367</u> | <u>161,144</u> |
| Surplus | <u>47,412</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | | |
| Balance of Capital Fund Reserve | 1,582,857 | 1,535,186 |
| Deposits held for congregations, | 36,816 | 36,557 |
| Loans to Congregations and Schools | 4,266,090 | 1,687,825 |

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 53 Potter Street Dandenong for a period of up to 3 years for no less than \$2,000 per month. (BIF 115/23).

Lease of church properties

The church regulations and Model Trust Deed require various approvals in the instance where property is leased to a third party. This is because the primary purposes under the Model Trust Deed is for the use by the congregation either as a place of worship or to house the minister. The regulations are there to ensure that future ministry needs of the congregation will not be frustrated because the property is otherwise occupied and alienated from the church.

In instances where the regulations have not been complied with in the terms of the regulations and Model Trust Deed any lease is not lawful. Persons who have entered into such leases put themselves at risk personally and do not have some of the protections and indemnities that would otherwise apply in the event that there is any claim in relation to the lease. In most cases congregations and presbyteries are aware of the regulations and compliance is generally good. That is not always the case and there is at least one long standing lease of congregational property which apparently has never been approved within the terms of the regulations.

All leases should be in the name of the legal title holder which is always the trustees whether they be local trustees or the Trusts Corporation. Individuals including board members are not authorised to sign leases or enter into agreements with agents unless they have been specifically authorised in writing by the Trusts Corporation to do so.

However, when it comes time to renew the lease it is common for a new lease to be signed where the original approvals have expired. Approvals to lease property necessarily have a specified limit on the time the property is let out. This is to ensure that the congregation regularly reviews its circumstances to ensure that the property is not required by the congregation for a further period of time. It provides a safeguard to the congregation that it can access church properties for the religious purposes they are intended.

14 of the current 31 leases which the BIF is aware of, have been extended beyond the period for which approval has been given. This means that they are not lawful or legally binding. It also suggests that persons who have no authority have entered into these leases. In addition to those 14 there is the one mentioned above which never had any approval. Among other things where the lease is unlawful, we cannot enforce it.

Without a lawful lease, it can be extremely difficult to force an unwilling tenant to vacate a property.

We remind boards and presbyteries to be diligent in meeting the church’s requirements in relation to lease of property and importantly the need to refresh the authorities when they expire in order to protect the interests of the congregation and the church, act lawfully to create binding agreements, and to protect our volunteer board members and others from exposing themselves to personal liability.

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 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Maintenance of the Ministry | \$2,400 | works required on developing the TSR form in the ARMS application(112/23) |
| Theological Education | \$7,000 | for IT Capital expenses for a new microphone system (145/23) |
| Theological Education | \$16,000 | for travel and accommodation for overseas lecturers for 2023/24 budget (145/23) |
| Ministry Development | \$2,000 | replacement laptop computer for the MDO (147/23) |
| Church Planting | \$3,183 | correction to manse allowance paid to Church Planter |
| Safe Church | \$3,000 | replacement Apple Macbook computer |
| Archives | \$35,000 | 690 Elgar Road Box Hill North, fit-out expenses |

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.

Specific Trusts are designated for the particular purposes defined within the trust instrument. They are allocated to the committee which most appropriately matches the terms of the trust to assist in the disbursement of funds. They do not form part of the general funds of the committee and cannot be applied by the committee or Assembly to any purposes outside the terms of the trust. While these trusts are assigned to various committees, expenditure from them is ultimately under the sole authority of the Trusts Corporation as articulated in S14 of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890*.

| | June 2022 | Balance as at 30 June 2023 | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | Total Invested | Common Fund | Separate Investments | Total Funds Invested | % of Total |
| Sites Reserve | 22,011,359 | 13,898,366 | 9,477,489 | 23,375,855 | 25% |
| GA - Beneficiary & Special | 674,868 | 11,117,946 | 8,503,357 | 19,621,303 | 21% |
| Social Services | 3,284,957 | 633,299 | 16,940,838 | 17,574,138 | 19% |
| General Assembly Operations | 6,170,874 | 12,222,042 | - | 12,222,042 | 13% |
| Theological Education | 8,179,517 | 8,641,901 | 985,224 | 9,627,125 | 10% |
| Health & Community Chaplaincy | 2,976,243 | 1,764,669 | 1,347,691 | 3,112,360 | 3% |
| Presbyterian Youth & Children | 1,973,796 | 2,055,054 | - | 2,055,054 | 2% |
| Ministry Development | 1,791,372 | 1,843,423 | - | 1,843,423 | 2% |
| Maintenance of the Ministry | 2,492,720 | 1,068,488 | - | 1,068,488 | 1% |
| APWM (Victoria) | 832,397 | 867,556 | - | 867,556 | 1% |
| METRO | 709,820 | 710,359 | - | 710,359 | 1% |
| Church & Nation | 355,718 | 368,699 | - | 368,699 | 0% |
| Safe Church | 153,466 | 180,413 | - | 180,413 | 0% |
| Property Development Fund | 835,971 | 169,357 | - | 169,357 | 0% |
| State News | 70,561 | 79,106 | - | 79,106 | 0% |
| Church Planting | - | 58,745 | - | 58,745 | 0% |
| Women's Ministry Victoria | 22,173 | 39,041 | - | 39,041 | 0% |
| Total Church funds | 77,535,812 | 55,718,466 | 37,254,599 | 92,973,065 | 100% |

Arising from the May Commission of Assembly, the General Funds of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee were returned to the General Assembly for future determination.

The Social Services funds include \$16,940,838 for Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes which is anticipated to be transferred for Presbyterian Care Victoria Limited within the next 12 months.

Bequests

The BIF, as Assembly treasurer, is in receipt of a significantly generous amount of money bequeathed in the will of Marion Jennings, a loyal member of the church. There are many denomination-wide projects on the horizon, some of which have already been intimated, others are still to emerge into the public eye. Either way, there are massive and visionary needs appearing for the PCV and it seems prudent to wait until the full picture of this bequest along with some other expected provisions are clarified before making decisions as to application of funds.

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:

| | 2023/24 | 2022/23 |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Balance at 1 July | 22,123,727 | 17,506,230 |
| Plus | | |
| Receipts from Sale of Property | 4,387,150 | 8,046,100 |
| Interest & Other Income | 843,287 | 1,007,876 |
| Capital gain/(loss) on Investments | 738,880 | (1,492,039) |
| Less | | |
| Payments – ministry support | (778,566) | (1,108,425) |
| Property improvements and expenses | (1,362,731) | (1,836,015) |
| Funding for PCV purposes | (2,457,818) | - |
| Allocation to Property Development Fund | (84,846) | |
| Balance at 30 June | 23,409,084 | 22,123,727 |

Workplace injury

The May 2023 Commission of Assembly requested the BIF to:

- c. Establish a centralised mechanism (including, if possible, a centralised Workcover policy) to minimize the risk faced by religious practitioners who have turned 65 and are on the centralized payroll system, and so will be without coverage in place in the event of a serious workplace injury.

Minute 12.9

Under the church rules, the responsibility for employment rests with congregations and presbyteries. The BIF has no role apart from providing templates for employment agreements. Congregations are responsible for taking out WorkCover when appropriate. This responsibility cannot be readily transferred to the BIF. While the BIF may assume the responsibilities of becoming the deemed employer for PAYG purposes, WorkCover obligations do not flow from that. The process to be recognised as a deemed employer for WorkCover requires an application to the authority. While the BIF has no authority for employment within the PCV polity and is not a legal entity, it is not in a position to make such application.

In most situations ministers are not eligible for WorkCover. This has been the case in relation to inducted ministers for many years. Inquiries are being made as to whether this more accurately applies to other ministry appointments which the church currently treats as employment arrangements. If that is the case, then it is a small minority of workers who are eligible for cover under WorkCover. These more fundamental questions need to be determined before the consequential matters including WorkCover eligibility can be addressed.

The issue is not that ministers on turning 65 lose the benefit of previous cover for workplace injury. The Ministers Disability Insurance policy does not respond to claims for workplace injury. It is a salary continuance policy which meets 75% of the remuneration where the minister is unable to work for any reason with a qualifying period of 90 consecutive days. The benefit is paid to the charge, not the minister. After turning 65 a minister is no worse off than before except indirectly in that the charge

has a higher risk of being unable to meet the terms of settlement in the event of an extended absence.

There is no quick fix that the BIF can apply within the current structure. There can be no centralised WorkCover arrangement without a centralised employment body which is empowered with authority to act.

The proposals under consideration by the ad hoc New Entity committee encompass a strategy to deal with this issue. Without pre-empting the report of that committee, a pathway to resolution is:

1. The proposed new legal entity will be vested with authority by the General Assembly for the administration of all employment arrangements within the PCV.
2. The new entity would become the legal employer in instances where there is a legitimate employment arrangement. These instances would be the minority of cases for the for appointments to provide pastoral support.
3. The new entity would become the deemed employer for PAYG purposes where the appointment is not a common law employment arrangement. This would be for the majority of cases for appointments to provide pastoral support.
4. The new entity as legal employer (point 2) would become responsible for WorkCover obligations in relation to those employees.
5. The new entity could apply under Section 13 Schedule 1 of *the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013 (Vic)* for a declaration that the ministers not under a common law employment arrangement (point 3) are considered to be deemed workers and the new entity the deemed employer for the purposes of that Act.

Then all workers whether common law employees or not could be insured under the WorkCover scheme.

Fringe Benefits Guidelines

The May 2023 Commission of Assembly requested the BIF to:

- a. Consult with an expert in the field of interpreting the application of Tax Ruling 2019/3 to obtain a report providing comprehensive guidelines to assist the Assembly in acting as the final Arbiter in deciding who may be treated as a religious practitioner for payroll purposes (and thereby entitled to Exempt Benefits under s57 of the FBT Act). Such advice is to be paid for from the General Assembly General Operating budget.
- c. Provide that report to the October 2023 Assembly.

Minute 12.11

The BIF has received initial advice on this issue which led to more questions and issues requiring further consideration. The matter is not without complexity and will have significant implications for ministry. It is important that the report and recommendations are given full and careful consideration.

The BIF seeks the approval of the Assembly to bring a report and recommendations to the Commission of Assembly in May 2024.

Insurance – Congregational property

Over recent years it has become increasingly challenging to obtain insurance for church properties on favourable terms. This is principally a result of changes within the insurance market in response to the high claims related to natural disasters, and also more particularly a result of our own claims history which is not good. Insurers have become far more cautious about taking on risk and are imposing more stringent terms and conditions than we have seen previously. This includes, higher deductibles (excess), higher premiums, withdrawing from certain sections of the market, and increased demands on the insured party to follow sound risk management strategies.

Most of the congregations within the PCV insure the congregational properties under an umbrella policy provided by Ansvar through our broker AJ Gallagher under a group policy which is negotiated by the Board of Investment and Finance / Trusts Corporation on behalf of the PCV.

The balance of this report deals with specific challenges relating to the renewal of those policies for the current year. Those who are insured elsewhere are most likely experiencing the same challenges.

A few years ago, insurers were keen to offer terms for cover of our properties in order to get access to the large portfolio and associated premiums. That is no longer the case. Insurers are now very cautious and are either not willing to offer terms or will only insure part of the risk and with a much higher deductible. The following table summarises the responses from insurers who were requested to quote on the renewal this year:

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CGU | Can only provide 20% cover (or less). Premium would be double the rate quoted by Ansvar. |
| Chubb | Not prepared to offer lead terms but could provide supporting capacity. Standard deductible would be \$10K with \$100K for storm and water ingress |
| Zurich | Outside their appetite particularly with our claims history which sits outside their tolerance and guidelines. |
| Vero | Claims history and severity are outside their tolerance, and they would need to see a minimum deductible of \$25K for all losses with \$199K for storm / weather deductible. Pricing would also be considerably higher than the pricing provided by Ansvar. |

While Ansvar was prepared to offer renewal terms they came with very strict conditions. In particular Ansvar were not willing to provide any terms for renewal of the 125 or so congregations insured with them without a commitment in writing to completing specific risk improvement activities over the next 12 months in respect of 16 identified locations as representative of the whole portfolio. The activities are:

- Risk Engineering Surveys to be completed at all 16 locations, noting that some have already been completed – **remainder to be actioned prior to Dec 2023**
- Risk Recommendations from the Risk Engineering Survey reports to be actioned – **all to be completed by March 2024**
- Thermographic scanning, and commitment to completing any electrical rectification work evident from the scan results (reports to be provided to Ansvar) - **to be completed by September 2023**
- Quarterly roof & gutter inspections by qualified contractor, with any blockages cleared and repairs to be carried out (evidence of quarterly inspections will be

required by Ansvar) – **ongoing each quarter** (i.e. Sept 2023, Dec 2023, March 2024 & June 2024)

- Ansvar’s own Risk Engineer will also attend 5 locations during the 2023/24 policy period to undertake their own review – **to be scheduled during 2023/24**

These conditions were not made know to the BIF until 20 June, just 10 days prior to the expiry of our previous cover. In the circumstances the BIF felt there was no choice but to provide the undertaking to commit to the required plan on behalf of the PCV and more particularly the boards of the 16 affected congregations. Unfortunately it was necessary to do so without the opportunity to notify the relevant boards in advance. The BIF has subsequently communicated with those congregations and is working with them to ensure that the program is implemented. Failure to do so will result in Ansvar withdrawing their cover for the next renewal period.

At this stage it is unclear whether the above requirements will be extended beyond the 16 nominated congregations in the future.

Another factor which is impacting the PCV is that insurers require property valuations to be undertaken every three years in order to obtain terms. Until recently Ansvar were meeting this requirement as part of their service to us at no cost. That service was withdrawn last year. We now face the additional cost of having commercial valuations performed across the whole portfolio every three years. BIF had been seeking clarification from Ansvar on the transition from the previous model to the new requirement since last year. Unfortunately we were not provided any information until the renewal commenced when we were advised that we must have a selected number of properties valued before they would offer terms.

The BIF has been able to negotiate a favourable contract with BJ Valuations to provide valuations for the 135 congregations insured with Ansvar over a 3-year cycle. Congregations who have their insurance elsewhere are not included in this program and will need to source their own valuations. The total cost over 3-years is \$300,000. The time pressure which the BIF found itself under in order to maintain cover did not afford the BIF to consult or notify congregations in advance. It had to act in a short space of time to affect the renewal.

In addition to the premium increases, these costs will also need to be met. The extent of the costs relating to the risk management actions is not yet clear. It does not seem equitable that the 16 congregations who are required to undertake surveys and thermographic scans to enable all 135 congregations to be covered should bear that cost entirely themselves. It seems reasonable to apportion that part of the cost among all insured congregations, along with the cost of the property valuations. While the valuations occur once within the 3-year cycle, it is sensible to spread the cost evenly over the three years to make it more manageable. Once the costs are more clearly identified the BIF intends to apportion these across the insured congregations by raising an invoice to each. It is expected that the cost will be between \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year for properties valued up to \$7 million. For those with higher valuations the cost will be more likely in the range between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

The renewal for 2023/24 includes the following deductibles on claims:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Standard | \$5,000 |
| Storm | \$10,000 |
| Flood | \$20,000 |
| Cyclone | \$10,000 |

There are 15 properties which we are unable to insure against flood.

Despite the fact that many terms and conditions are less favourable than those we have enjoyed in the past, and premiums are increasing, Ansvar remain the most competitive insurer at the moment.

The above trends are unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. It is likely to become more challenging each year. The costs and risks associated with holding property is likely to increase placing greater financial pressure on congregations. Congregations and Presbyteries are encouraged to carefully consider the property needs and become proactive in moving to more cost-effective buildings.

The BIF intends to consider alternative ways to manage the financial risks and costs over the coming months including an assessment of some level of self-insurance. This is no easy task or panacea.

Barry Oakes
CHAIRMAN

| | Allocation FY23 | Outstanding | Total Received |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 9,455 | | |
| Ararat/Skipton/Lismore | 1,051 | Paid | 1,051 |
| Ballarat North | 1,051 | Paid | 1,051 |
| Ballarat South | 1,559 | Paid | 1,559 |
| Ballarat West | 2,237 | Paid | 2,237 |
| Carisbrook/Castlemaine | 1,084 | Paid | 1,084 |
| Daylesford | 407 | Paid | 407 |
| Horsham | 915 | Paid | 915 |
| Kaniva/Nhill | 1,151 | 1,151 | |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 9,455 | 1,151 | 8,304 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | 12.2% | |
| PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 36,566 | | |
| Aspendale | 1,621 | Paid | 1,621 |
| Brighton | 2,694 | Paid | 2,694 |
| Cheltenham | 1,927 | Paid | 1,927 |
| Clarinda | 1,114 | Paid | 1,114 |
| Clarinda Nuer | 316 | Paid | 316 |
| Clayton | 4,293 | Paid | 4,293 |
| Cranbourne | 2,157 | Paid | 2,157 |
| Dandenong | 1,591 | Paid | 1,591 |
| Dromana/Mornington | 3,029 | Paid | 3,029 |
| Frankston | 4,926 | Paid | 4,926 |
| Mordialloc | 2,251 | Paid | 2,251 |
| New Life Officer | 2,777 | Paid | 2,777 |
| Somerville | 1,496 | Paid | 1,496 |
| Sorrento/Rye | 5,240 | Paid | 5,240 |
| South East Samoan | 1,134 | Paid | 1,134 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 36,566 | | 36,566 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | | |
| PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 8,227 | | |
| Bannockburn | 1,201 | Paid | 1,201 |
| Bellarine | 1,201 | Paid | 1,201 |
| Geelong North | 3,085 | Paid | 3,085 |
| Geelong West | 2,114 | Paid | 2,114 |
| The Leigh | 626 | Paid | 626 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 8,227 | | 8,227 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | | |
| PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 12,145 | | |
| Bairnsdale | 2,273 | Paid | 2,273 |
| Drouin | 4,048 | Paid | 4,048 |
| Leongatha | 436 | Paid | 436 |
| Moe/Yarram | 1,557 | Paid | 1,557 |
| Morwell | 1,713 | Paid | 1,713 |
| Sale | | Paid | |
| Warragul | 2,118 | Paid | 2,118 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 12,145 | | 12,145 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | | |

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM

2022/23

| | Allocation FY23 | Outstanding | Total Received |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 27,458 | | |
| Belgrave Heights | 820 | Paid | 820 |
| Blackburn | 1,002 | Paid | 1,002 |
| Croydon Hills | 4,954 | Paid | 4,954 |
| Donvale | 13,660 | Paid | 13,660 |
| Heathmont | 2,049 | Paid | 2,049 |
| Kirkbrae | 100 | Paid | 100 |
| Mt Evelyn | 1,913 | Paid | 1,913 |
| Warburton | 729 | Paid | 729 |
| Woori Yallock | 2,231 | Paid | 2,231 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 27,458 | | 27,458 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 59,333 | | |
| Arabic | 4,984 | 4,484 | 500 |
| Ashburton | 2,207 | Paid | 2,207 |
| Auburn | 1,133 | Paid | 1,133 |
| Burwood Community | 5,945 | Paid | 5,945 |
| Camberwell | 11,155 | Paid | 11,155 |
| Canterbury | 6,509 | Paid | 6,509 |
| Caulfield/Elwood | 1,133 | Paid | 1,133 |
| Gardenvale East | 908 | Paid | 908 |
| Hawthorn | 1,584 | Paid | 1,584 |
| Korean Balwyn | 5,833 | Paid | 5,833 |
| Malvern | 2,717 | Paid | 2,717 |
| South Yarra | 3,056 | Paid | 3,056 |
| St Kilda/Balaclava | 9,511 | Paid | 9,511 |
| Surrey Hills | 2,658 | Paid | 2,658 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 59,333 | 4,484 | 54,849 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | 7.6% | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|------|---------------|
| PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 50,496 | | |
| Bundoora | 9,074 | Paid | 9,074 |
| Donnybrook | | Paid | |
| Eltham | 6,323 | Paid | 6,323 |
| Epping | 3,694 | Paid | 3,694 |
| Heidelberg | 2,311 | Paid | 2,311 |
| Hume | 650 | Paid | 650 |
| Kangaroo Ground | 4,079 | Paid | 4,079 |
| Reservoir | 6,744 | Paid | 6,744 |
| Samoan | 7,102 | Paid | 7,102 |
| Valley | 3,273 | Paid | 3,273 |
| Westminster Community(Templestowe) | 2,455 | Paid | 2,455 |
| Whittlesea/Mernda | 4,791 | Paid | 4,791 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 50,496 | | 50,496 |
| Presbytery allocation not received | | | |

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM

2022/23

| | Allocation FY23 | Outstanding | Total Received |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 40,702 | | |
| Brimbank | 1,349 | Paid | 1,349 |
| Clifton Hill | 631 | Paid | 631 |
| Darebin | 2,339 | Paid | 2,339 |
| Essendon | 1,157 | Paid | 1,157 |
| Flemington | 2,224 | Paid | 2,224 |
| Gisborne | 1,889 | Paid | 1,889 |
| Indonesian (Scots Church) | 3,767 | Paid | 3,767 |
| Melton | 1,481 | Paid | 1,481 |
| Melbourne West Korean | 2,862 | Paid | 2,862 |
| Point Cook | 1,820 | Paid | 1,820 |
| Scots Melbourne | 14,960 | Paid | 14,960 |
| Sunshine | 1,703 | Paid | 1,703 |
| West Footscray | 762 | Paid | 762 |
| Williamstown | 1,872 | Paid | 1,872 |
| Wyndham | 1,886 | Paid | 1,886 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 40,702 | | 40,702 |

Presbytery allocation not received

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST VICTORIA

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 8,018 | | |
| Benalla | 2,040.36 | Paid | 2,040 |
| Broadford | 218.61 | Paid | 219 |
| Numurkah | 607.25 | Paid | 607 |
| Seymour/Nagambie/Yea | 510.09 | Paid | 510 |
| Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram | 1,337.10 | Paid | 1,337 |
| Tatura | 1,337.10 | Paid | 1,337 |
| Wangaratta/Yarrawonga | 1,408.82 | Paid | 1,409 |
| Wodonga Grace | 558.67 | Paid | 559 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 8,018 | | 8,018 |

Presbytery allocation not received

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------|--------------|
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 5,276 | | |
| Bendigo | 1,152.33 | Paid | 1,152 |
| Eaglehawk | 655.74 | Paid | 656 |
| SE Bendigo(Reforming) | 1,354.81 | Paid | 1,355 |
| Kerang/Swan Hill | 679.07 | Paid | 679 |
| Pyramid Hill | - | Paid | |
| Rochester | 861.06 | Paid | 861 |
| Sunraysia | 572.99 | Paid | 573 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 5,276.00 | - | 5,276 |

Presbytery allocation not received

PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH WEST VICTORIA

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------|--------------|
| Total Allocated to Presbytery | 9,063 | | |
| Camperdown/Noorat/Terang | 1,253 | Paid | 1,253 |
| Colac | 626 | Paid | 626 |
| Hamilton | 2,223 | Paid | 2,223 |
| Heywood/Portland | 705 | Paid | 705 |
| Koroit/Port Fairy/Woodford | 992 | Paid | 992 |
| Warrnambool | 3,265 | Paid | 3,265 |
| PRESBYTERY TOTAL | 9,064 | | 9,064 |

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM

2022/23

| | Allocation FY23 | Outstanding | Total Received |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| SUMMARY | | | |
| Total Allocated to Presbyteries | 266,740 | | |
| WESTERN VICTORIA | 9,455 | 1,151 | 8,304 |
| FLINDERS | 36,566 | | 36,566 |
| GEELONG | 8,227 | | 8,227 |
| GIPPSLAND | 12,145 | | 12,145 |
| MAROONDAH | 27,458 | | 27,458 |
| MELBOURNE EAST | 59,333 | 4,484 | 54,849 |
| MELBOURNE NORTH | 50,496 | | 50,496 |
| MELBOURNE WEST | 40,702 | | 40,702 |
| NORTH EAST VICTORIA | 8,018 | | 8,018 |
| NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA | 5,276 | | 5,276 |
| SOUTH WEST VICTORIA | 9,064 | | 9,064 |
| TOTALS | 266,740 | 5,635 | 261,105 |
| | | 2.1% | 97.9% |

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (Min 44)

The committee has been working to ensure that congregations who are undertaking to build, alter or purchase buildings are provided with the necessary information to assist them with their project. We have also tried to simplify requirements in relation to manses. The committee is aware that many congregations do not have the necessary information or expertise to manage such a project and so over the last two to three years we have:

- Introduced a two-step approval process.
 - Step 1: Concept approval.
 - Step 2: Approval of final plans and specifications.

We cannot emphasise enough the advantages for a congregation to seek the committee's approval at the concept stage of the project. This is where the Church Architect can use his expertise to assist congregations think through the objectives of the project and ensure that they have all the information they need when formulating the concept for their project.

- Replaced the manse standards with the Manse Design Manual
- Prepared Procurement Guidelines for Capital Building Works
- Prepared Pre-purchase Condition Inspection Guidelines
- Prepared Seeking Advice from Church Architect Guidelines.

The committee

The committee consists of Dennis Wright, Philip Thomas and Ralph Kop convener.

The committee thanks the church architect Andrew Wilson for the advice and experience he provides to the committee and the PCV as a whole.

Andrew is always looking for ways for improving the various projects that he asked to comment upon as well as looking at ways to simplify and clarify the regulations that congregations are to adhere to in relation to building projects.

We are on the lookout for a new member for the committee, with the retirement of one of our members in 2024. So if you have an interest and preferably have some experience in building design, construction or maintenance and would like to be on the committee please contact the convener.

Applications received for approval.

During 2022-23 the committee received the following application for approval:

| Applicant | Date of application | Description of Application | Date of Approval |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Belgrave Heights Presbyterian Church | 12/11/2022 | Seeking approval of plans to convert an existing building into a worship centre | Providing various comments and requested further information to be provided before approval could be given |

The committee and the church architect received a number of requests for advice which was provided.

Church architect's report

During the period since the last report to the PCV I have provided advice to numerous congregations in a range of matters e.g. concept advice on the refurbishment of a manse, upgrading of toilets and kitchens, modification to a stage and how to deal with water damage.

In addition to this I have been engaged to prepare concepts plans and plans and specifications for various churches.

At the time of writing, there has been considerable turmoil in the Australian economy, particularly within the construction sector, which no doubt presents both challenges, and opportunities, to ministries and congregations. In the midst of this, the property committee has seen many enquiries from congregations stepping out to conduct capital works projects.

The challenge for these congregations is to ensure that their projects are well planned and managed because time delays and lack of expertise can result in large increases to the cost of the project.

To avoid disappointment and wasting resources, my advice to congregations thinking of doing capital works is to invest in suitably qualified consultants and, on projects of any significant scale, this should include a registered quantity surveyor under the AIQS.

Congregations should be aware that time delays occurring during the project can be very costly. My observation has been that capital works projects are most successful when Boards of Management appoint a project sub-committee to manage the capital works on behalf of the Board. The sub-committee should consist of three to four people representing a good cross-section of the congregation. The sub-committee is of most benefit when it is provided with power to act and make decisions when a particular matter is required, enabling prompt decision making and without the need to wait for a Board meeting to be held. This applies during the design phase as well the construction phase.

Seeking Advice from Church Architect and Associated Fees

Congregations should be aware that seeking advice from the church architect is not a free service provided by the church. This also applies to congregations seeking approval for plans and specifications for building projects. The cost of the church architect reviewing the plans and specifications and providing comments to the committee will be charged to the congregation.

For this reason, the committee has prepared the 'Seeking Advice from Church Architect Guidelines' so that congregations are aware of the types of information that the church architect can provide and noting that the cost of providing that advice will vary from project to project.

A copy of the Guidelines is available on the committee's webpage.

The current rate is \$280 per hour.

Pre-purchase Condition Inspection Guidelines

The issue of pre-purchase condition inspections has been an issue of concern to the committee and some congregations wishing to purchase a property for use as a church or manse.

There is an expectation that this is the duty of the church architect, however due to the issues of obtaining professional indemnity insurance this is a not a service provided by the church architect. There are a number of qualified people who can undertake this work and the church architect can provide comments on the reports that they prepare.

Due to the complexity associated with pre-purchase condition and the need for people undertaking such inspections to protect themselves from potential legal action should they fail to properly identify every possible fault and accurately cost remedial works the committee has prepared the 'Pre-purchase Condition Inspection Guidelines'.

The guidelines discuss the issues that a congregation should be aware of before engaging a person or company to undertake a pre-purchase condition assessment of a building.

A copy of the Guidelines is available on the committee's webpage.

Ralph Kop
CONVENER

CHANGE OR SUPPRESSION (CONVERSION) PRACTICES PROHIBITION ACT (2021) COMMITTEE (Min 47)

The committee has met from time to time during the year as necessary in accordance with its regulations.

Committee membership

The committee resolved (November 2022) to co-opt Rev Luke Isham and Rev Andrew Vines to its membership.

The committee received with regret (June 2023) the resignations of Rev Neil Chambers (member) and Rev Luke Isham (co-opted member) and resolved to thank them for their valued contributions to the work of the committee.

The committee welcomed Rev Wayne McArdle to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev Neil Chambers and co-opted Rev Jordan Born to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev Luke Isham.

Given that the committee is now a standing committee, in order to maintain continuity of convenership, the committee resolved to refer the following proposed alteration to its regulations to the Code Committee for advancement to the 2023 General Assembly for approval:

2. Membership

The committee shall consist of:

- a) four members of the General Assembly, including a convener, appointed by the General Assembly;
- b) the Moderator, the Assembly Clerk and the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee.

Training

The 2022 General Assembly resolved (BB 2022 min 129(13)(2)(a)) to direct presbyteries to run a presbytery 'Sex, Gender, and Christian Witness' training day within the next twelve months'. This training would be provided by this committee in accordance with its regulation 3(c) 'provide training to the members of the PCV regarding bearing Christian witness in the context of the Act.'

The training material prepared by the committee is at the time of the preparation of this report (mid-July 2023) with our expert legal firm Human Rights Law Alliance (HRLA). This process has been more protracted than the committee had hoped, partly due to busyness exacerbated by COVID. However, HRLA has promised to complete the revision of the material by the end of July, after which the committee hopes to roll out the training without unnecessary delay.

Social Media Guidelines

The 2022 General Assembly resolved (BB 2022 min 129(13)(3)) to '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.

The committee, having carefully considered the need for social media guidelines in the PCV, resolved in its proposed deliverance to the 2023 GAV, to 'request the Assembly to:

- (1) Note, in response to the instruction of GAV 2022 Min 129(13).3, that this committee's opinion is that the church would be better served by a wider Social Media Policy than this committee is capable of, given its narrow focus on the Act.
- (2) Appoint an 'ad hoc PCV Internet Presence Committee' for the purpose of revising the 2016 GAV policy entitled "PCV Internet Presence and Email Use - Policy, Guideline and Protocols", such revision to:
 - a) be shorter than the current one;
 - b) be principle-driven;
 - c) propose a comprehensive PCV Social Media Policy.
- (3) Direct the Selection Committee in appointing persons to this committee to ensure that it is populated with some younger persons of the church.

Law Agent's report

The Law Agent has provided a report regarding the implementation and operation of the Act as requested by the 2022 General Assembly which is included as Appendix A to this report.

Review of the PCV Change or Suppression Code of Conduct

Since the first section of this report was drafted, the committee has now (mid-August 2023) received advice from HRLA in connection with their revision of the committee's proposed training material, which the committee plans to act on as quickly as possible so that the roll out of this training can proceed without unnecessary delay.

However, in giving this advice HRLA has recommended some minor revisions of the Change or Suppression Code of Conduct. The committee had not planned any such revision at this time, but after the matter was raised by HRLA the committee sought the advice of HRLA regarding some other minor changes for clarification.

Having carefully considered the advice of its legal advisors in connection with these matters the committee now commends to the Assembly the following amended Code, with deletion of words indicated by strikethrough and additional words in red.

PCV Code of Conduct for members of the church in the context of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021 (the Act)

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:
 - i) respect, courtesy, compassion and thoughtful love as befits people made in the image of God; and

- iii) 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:
 - iii) the PCV Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage, including the Addendum; and
 - iv) 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** ~~is 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~~ **psychological construct of gender identity. This is often called gender incongruence and includes the condition of gender dysphoria.**
- d) **gender dysphoria** ~~is a form of gender confusion that is a clinically diagnosed psychological condition accompanied by~~ **a psychological condition where a person experiences persistent distress regarding their biological sex and/or associated physical characteristics, whether or not clinically diagnosed. It should not be confused with the occasional gender experimentation or gender questioning experienced by some children and adolescents during their maturation and development.**
- e) **gender identity** ~~describes~~ **is a theoretical concept that involves** a person's subjective conception of self-identity that ~~is~~ **manifests manifested** in self-description, appearance, behaviour and mannerisms that may **or may** not correspond to the person's **biological** 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 or biological sex** means the immutable biological identity of each person ~~which is binary~~ **of either being** male or female ~~sex which~~ is determined by a person's ~~genotype~~ (chromosomes (XX for female and XY for males) and reproductive function. ~~Sex is discernible from conception and,~~ **and is identifiable identified** at birth by ~~phenotype~~ (a person's anatomy and **is** normatively expressed in secondary sex characteristics – like body shape, voice pitch, hair distribution – except in a small percentage of people (0.015% **<0.02%** of the population¹⁵) born with physical and/or genetic differences/disorders of sexual **differentiation development** (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:

- b) ~~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;
- c) 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;
- d) in regard to persons who are same-sex attracted:

¹⁵ Leonard Sax, 'How common is intersex? a response to Anne Fausto-Sterling', *Journal of Sex Research*, August 2002, <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, **whether** 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.
- e) in regard to persons experiencing gender confusion:
- i) treat the gender confused **persons** 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~~ **change or suppression practice as defined 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 desires¹⁶ or sexual activity are only some of the many temptations ~~a believer~~ **individual believers** may face;
 - ii) the teaching of the Westminster Confession of Faith on Sanctification¹⁷; 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~~ **unmarried**;
- 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 offences¹⁸ 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.
 - 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

¹⁶ James 1:12-15

¹⁷ Presbyterian Church of Australia - Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 13 - Of Sanctification

¹⁸ 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

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~~ **for whom gender identity or sexual orientation is known to be a relevant issue:**
 - A. **remember that as they plainly teach the scriptures, they admonish, rebuke, correct and seek to persuade, but in doing so they must rely on the inner transformative work of the Holy Spirit to bring about change and. And so they reject the use of violence, coercion or secret shameful ways**
 - B. 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;
 - C. 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;
 - D. make clear that ~~they are not seeking to change or suppress the person's sexual orientation or gender identity~~ **change in sexual behaviour or gender expression is not the focus of Christian witness; rather our goal is to lead people to trust and obey the Lord Jesus Christ in all areas of life;**
 - E. seek at all times to bring the gospel ~~on sexual attraction and gender identity~~ with another member as a witness;
 - F. document those steps in the form set out in Appendix A and retain that documentation as a confidential, secure and permanent record; and
 - G. 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.

Appendix A

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SEXUALITY OR GENDER CONVERSATION RECORD

MEMBER

1:

DATE:

MEMBER

2

DATE:

PERSON:

TIME:

1. Please give details of the sexuality and/or gender issue that arose with the above person.

2. Did you advise the person that you cannot provide medical advice, therapy or counselling about sexual orientation or gender identity? Did you advise that you are not trying to change or suppress the person's sexual orientation or gender identity? Give details.

Yes No

3. Did you pray with the person about the gender and/or sexuality issue? Please give details.

Yes No

4. Write down any other observations or concerns

Signed by:

Signed by:

Member 1

Member 2

Date:

Date:

Appendix B

Practices that the VEOHRC has advised would be considered illegal under the Act include:¹⁹

IMPORTANT NOTE: The PCV does not accept that these practices are in fact prohibited by the Act. However, the VEOHRC is the government body that oversees and enforces the Act and has prepared this list as guidance as to their interpretation of conduct that is prohibited under the Act. It is reasonable to expect that VEOHRC would use its powers (investigation, education, compulsion and sanction) against a person who they consider has engaged in this conduct.

- a religious leader meeting one-on-one and pressuring a member of their congregation to suppress and ignore their feelings of same-sex attraction by practising celibacy
- running a peer-to-peer support group designed to coach a person who is exploring their gender identity to accept the sex they were assigned at birth
- a psychiatrist stating to their adult patient that their gender identity is a mental illness and proposing a long-term treatment plan to maintain the sex they were assigned at birth, while withholding information about other services that will affirm the patient's gender identity
- a parent refusing to support their child's request for medical treatment that will enable them to prevent physical changes from puberty that do not align with the child's gender identity and denying their child access to any health care services that would affirm their child's gender identity
- an adult child repeatedly denigrating an elderly parent's sexual orientation, including by telling them it is wrong to be same-sex attracted and that they must change, or the adult child will no longer support them
- a person repeatedly leaving pamphlets in the mailbox of their trans neighbour that state that it is wrong to transition their gender and that everyone's gender expression should match the sex they were assigned at birth. The pamphlet includes contact details of programs and professionals who claim to be able to change a person's gender identity to the sex they were assigned at birth.
- a religious leader tells a member of their congregation that they will be excommunicated if they continue their same-sex relationship and prohibited from returning as long as that relationship continues
- a teacher telling a student that God does not accept them unless they keep the sex they were assigned at birth and dress accordingly, and offering to meet with the child weekly to counsel them on how to be acceptable to God
- a parent sending their child away from Victoria to a conversion therapy camp that makes a false claim that they can 'cure' the child of being gay.

It may be that members of the Assembly may wish to propose other amendments. If so, the committee asks that rather than submit such proposed changes by way of notice of motion that members submit them to the committee so that the committee can seek legal advice regarding any proposed changes to inform their decisions and shape their recommendations to a future General Assembly.

¹⁹ [Have you experienced a change or suppression practice? | Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission](#)

Law Agent's report

I note that the 2022 General Assembly resolved as follows in connection with the Ad Hoc Committee: Denominational Response to the Change or Suppression Prohibition Legislation (Blue Book, Min 129.7):

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.

I understand that the matter is now within the remit of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act (2021) Committee as provided for by regulation 3(d) of its regulations: the Committee shall ... monitor the implementation and operation of the Act.'

For the purpose of fulfilling the above request, I have looked into what developments have occurred in the implementation and operation of the Act since the October 2022 General Assembly. At the time of writing I have been unable to find anything of significance. The Act was already in force at the time of the 2022 Assembly and by its own publicity throughout 2022 the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission had been developing its procedures and education material.

Certainly there appears to have been little in the way of any public reporting since that time whether in relation to proceedings concerning the criminal offence provisions or the operation of the civil response scheme (or the Act generally).

The PCV should be prepared to refine its protocols, policies and procedures in connection with the Act, where needed. There would seem to be no warrant to do so at this early stage.

I am aware that the Commission is conducting online briefings in late-August and mid-November. While these appear to be of a very general, introductory nature, some further information about the operation of the Act may come to light in that context.

Geoff Cox
Law Agent

Peter W Phillips
CONVENER

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (Min 33)

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1. Committee membership

The current members since GAV October 2022 are as follows: Rev. Chris Duke (convener), Mr Ian Waller (secretary), Rev Michael Jensen, Rev Jesse Walz, Mr John Ballantyne, Mrs Jeanette McHardy, Mr Peter Stanton, and Dr Ben Saunders.

2. Researcher

Our former researcher, Mrs Moira Deeming, on being elected to the Victorian state parliament's upper house, the Legislative Council, resigned her position from late November 2022. The Church and Nation Committee is very thankful for Moira's invaluable service to both the committee and the PCV during her almost four years in the role. We wish her well in her new public career, which has been tumultuous thus far. Moira seems to have a high grassroots support in the Western Metropolitan area, which she represents.

The committee has been without a researcher since December 2022, and it is our intention to commence seeking for a new researcher following the GAV 2023. We wish to make a change in the current approved job description, (BB2017, min 94.15) for the Church and Nation Committee researcher. The area of change is in hours per week of employment. We desire to have the flexibility of being able to offer up to 15 hours of work per week.

3. Website

The website for the Church and Nation Committee is: www.churchandnationvic.org/
This website can also be accessed via the PCV website under Church and Nation Committee.

The video library project *Christian Basics*, which contains 70 short teaching videos, can be accessed via the committee website and is also in the process of being loaded to the PCV website.

We encourage you to visit and publicise the website and to register to receive updates on the committee's work — and share relevant links with your congregations.

4. Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG)

The convener of this committee has resigned his position on the Victorian Multifaith Advisory Group. Rev Surendra Wesley is taking up the role as the PCV representative on this group.

5. Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) inquiry into religious educational institutions and anti-discrimination laws

In January 2023 the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) commenced a consultation on the application of anti-discrimination laws to religious educational institutions. One of the ALRC's key proposals was that:

'Religious educational institutions should not be allowed to discriminate against any staff (current or prospective) on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital or relationship status, or pregnancy.' (Proposition B.1).

The PCV Moderator and Church and Nation Convener made a submission to that inquiry, arguing that Christian schools should retain the right to employ staff whose lives are consistent with Christian teaching.²⁰

The Commonwealth Attorney-General has extended the reporting deadline for the inquiry until 31 December 2023 (the initial deadline was 21 April 2023), which suggests that a clear decision is not yet forthcoming. The ALRC itself requested an extension in February after it received:

- 428 formal submissions in response to its Consultation Paper; and
- over 41,000 responses to an online survey about experiences of religious educational institutions and discrimination.

The extension of time provides the PCV with an opportunity to articulate its concerns with the ALRC's proposals to federal MPs and senators. There is a strong push to remove religious exemptions in federal and state anti-discrimination laws.²¹ If we want to see properly balanced protections for religious freedom, and protections against discrimination for people of faith, we need to keep making MPs and senators aware of our concerns.

²⁰ PCV Moderator Rev. Peter Philips and Church and Nation Committee Convenor Rev. Christopher Duke, "Submission to the ALRC's religious educational institutions and anti-discrimination laws review": Consultation Paper (2023): Submission no. 195 (six pages). URL: <https://www.alrc.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/195.-The-Presbyterian-Church-of-Victoria-ADL-submission.pdf>

²¹ Patrick Parkinson AM, "Adolescent gender identity and the Sex Discrimination Act: the case for religious exemptions", *Australian Journal of Law and Religion*, Vol. 1, 2022, pp. 76–93. URL: <https://ausjlr.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Volume-1-Parkinson.pdf>

Neil Foster, "Removing fences: the ALRC consultation paper on religious educational institutions and discrimination laws", *Law and Religion Australia blog* (Newcastle, NSW), 29 January 2023. URL: <https://lawandreligionaustralia.blog/2023/01/29/removing-fences-the-alrc-consultation-paper-on-religious-educational-institutions-and-discrimination-laws/>

6. Controversy surrounding the PCA Church and Nation Committee's submission to the ALRC's inquiry

The PCA's federal Church and Nation Committee's submission to the ALRC²² generated considerable controversy in the media.²³ The controversy centred around a short section of the PCA committee's submission which discussed the need of Christian schools to retain the ability to determine their ethos by appointing appropriate students to leadership positions.

The statement that was deemed offensive was a sentence in the submission which noted that students who are in an active same-sex relationship 'would not be able to give appropriate Christian leadership in a Christian school which requires modelling Christian living', and therefore should not hold leadership positions in a Christian school.²⁴

The controversy surrounding this submission provides yet another illustration that the message of the Christian gospel, and especially its teaching regarding sexuality, is offensive to modern sensibilities. It should be noted that representatives of Christian schools, through their respective associations, Christian Schools Australia (CSA) and the Australian Association of Christian Schools (AACCS), have defended the right of their schools to be able to appoint Christian staff, and in a similar way to choose student leaders who adhere to the same ethos.

We wish to encourage the church in the following ways and particularly to pray for the following:

1. First, there is a great need for clarity on the truths of the Scriptures. As pressure increases on the church to dilute the sharp edges of scriptural teaching, we need to stand firm for *biblical truth*.
2. Secondly, there is a need for courage. As hostility to the truths of God's Word grows, members and leaders within the Presbyterian church will need courage to *stand firm* for biblical truth, especially where there is a cost in doing so.

²² PCA federal Church and Nation Committee Convener Rev. Dr John McClean, "Submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission on the religious educational institutions and anti-discrimination laws": Consultation Paper (2023): Submission no. 186 (seven pages). URL: <https://www.alrc.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/186.-Presbyterian-Church-of-Australia-ADL-submission.pdf>

²³ Daniel Cash, "I'm Melbourne Grammar's school captain and I'm gay. The Presbyterian Church would have me sacked", *The Age* (Melbourne), 19 April 2023. [Cash's opinion piece was also published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*]. URL: <https://www.theage.com.au/national/i-m-melbourne-grammar-school-captain-and-i-m-gay-the-presbyterian-church-would-have-me-sacked-20230418-p5d1b8.html>

²⁴ Rev. Dr John McClean, "Submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission", *op. cit.*

7. Transgenderism, human identity and the Christian

'What makes the current moral and sexual revolution so different from previous moral revolutions,' wrote American evangelical theologian Dr Albert Mohler nine years ago, 'is that it is taking place at an utterly unprecedented velocity. Previous generations experienced moral revolutions over decades, even centuries. This current revolution is happening at warp speed.'²⁵ The cultural crisis described by Mohler has recently been chronicled by the English-born Presbyterian theologian and minister, the Rev Dr Carl Trueman, in his two latest books.²⁶

Sex is and always has been an observable reality, not an optional extra 'assigned at birth'. Biological sex determines identity for life: boys grow up to be men, and girls grow up to be women. The Bible states this clearly and unequivocally:

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

In the past two decades, however, prominent secular academics and commentators have derided the traditional biological categories of male and female as oppressive 'hetero-normativity' and 'binary reductionism', and called upon society to embrace the notion of 'gender fluidity'. Newly-invented categories of gender have proliferated (e.g., non-binary, transgender, intersex, genderqueer, gender-fluid, neutrois, two-spirit, etc.). In 2014, Facebook allowed its users to identify from among 58 gender options.²⁷

Language itself has been changed to accommodate these myriad expressions of gender identity. In Spain, the terms mother and father have been replaced on birth certificates with Progenitor A and Progenitor B.²⁸ In 2016, the British Medical Association forbade doctors from referring to pregnant women as 'expectant mothers', because this might alienate transgender people. Instead, according to official guidelines issued by the BMA to its 160,000 members, mothers-to-be should be referred to as 'pregnant people'.²⁹

Confusion has been created and out of this a false 'reality' is being engineered. Church members need to understand why this has happened, and perhaps more importantly how this is bound to affect their families. 'Transgender' ideology, in particular, is not just a weird fad that will pass; it is being enshrined in legislation with punitive power.

²⁵ Albert Mohler, "Biblical theology and the sexuality crisis", *AlbertMohler.com* (Louisville, Kentucky), 16 September 2014.

URL: <https://albertmohler.com/2014/09/16/biblical-theology-and-the-sexuality-crisis>

²⁶ Carl R. Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020).

— *Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022).

²⁷ Russell Goldman, "Here's a list of 58 gender options for Facebook users", *ABC News* (American Broadcasting Company), 13 February 2014.

URL: <https://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/02/heres-a-list-of-58-gender-options-for-facebook-users/>

²⁸ John Smeaton, "Same-sex marriage is 'policy by magic', hear parliamentarians", *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) blog*, UK, 14 May 2013.

URL: <https://spuc-director.blogspot.com/2013/05/same-sex-marriage-is-policy-by-magic.html>

²⁹ Stephen Adams and Sanchez Manning, "Don't call pregnant patients 'mothers': Doctors are banned from using the word over fears it will upset those who are transgender", *Daily Mail* (UK), 29 January 2017.

URL: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4167632/Don-t-call-pregnant-patients-mothers.html>

Doctors, social workers, school teachers and even parents are increasingly being compelled by law to comply with a false view of humanity and deny biological reality.³⁰ This is a defining moment in the history of humanity. Will the church meekly abandon God's Word and ways and fall into step with fashionable agendas?

The transgender cult has grown into a powerful social force that undermines womanhood and motherhood. It also undermines social stability, fairness and equality. It relies on pernicious ideologies which have corrupted the medical profession, and it undermines parental rights. It is coercive and seeks to abrogate long-standing conscience and religious rights, and to terminate the livelihoods of those who question the reigning orthodoxy. It undermines public safety, and it ignores the plight of the people it damages the most — those who come to regret having undergone so-called 'gender re-assignment' and who seek to 'detransition'.³¹

If our governments, the medical profession, academia and the mainstream media can no longer be relied upon to tell the truth, it is the responsibility of God's people to do so. Christian people need to appreciate the threat that transgender ideology poses to human identity. We must not be captured by slogans and sound bites, and we need to be equipped to counter the arguments of radical ideologues. Truth is essential to liberate people in bondage to any lie. Ephesians 4:15 reminds us, *'Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.'* The Church and Nation Committee urges the wider church to respond to this challenge by understanding what's at stake and equipping itself to offer sound biblical guidance to young Christians and pastoral support for their sometimes perplexed parents. We owe it to our children. We owe it to the wider society. And we will answer to God if we are silent.

For PCV members who wish to gain more insights into this critical topic, the committee here provides a small selection of the excellent resources available:

- Andrew Walker, *God and the Transgender Debate: What Does the Bible Actually Say About Gender Identity?* (Epsom, Surrey, UK: The Good Book Company, 2017).
- Ryan T. Anderson, *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment* (New York: Encounter Books, 2018).
- *Responding to the Transgender Issue: Parent Resource Guide* (Minneapolis: Minnesota Family Council, 2019), a widely acclaimed 66-page PDF booklet available online at: <https://GenderResourceGuide.com/>

³⁰ Steve Bird, "Government drops doctor who says gender given at birth", *The Sunday Telegraph* (UK), 8 July 2018. URL: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/08/government-drops-doctor-says-gender-given-birth/>

Laurence Barber, "Prominent No campaigner David van Gend under investigation by medical board", *Star Observer* (Sydney), 6 August 2018. URL: <https://www.starobserver.com.au/news/national-news/queensland-news/no-campaigner-david-van-gend-investigation-medical-board/170928>

Christopher F. Rufo, "Thrown to the wolves: A physician reveals the nightmare of transgender ideology in a major children's hospital", *City Journal* (New York), 21 June 2023. URL: <https://www.city-journal.org/article/transgender-ideology-and-the-corruption-of-medicine>

Carl R. Trueman, "Toe the government line or lose your kids", *First Things* (New York), 22 June 2023. URL: <https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2023/06/toe-the-government-line-or-lose-your-kids>

³¹ Walt Heyer, "Regret isn't rare: the dangerous lie of sex-change surgery's success", *Public Discourse* (Princeton, NJ), 17 June 2016. URL: <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2016/06/17166/>

Ben Johnson, "Transgender surgery leaves people lonelier, depressed: Study by transgender surgery dept chair", *The Washington Stand* (Family Research Council, Washington, DC), 2 June 2023. URL: <https://washingtonstand.com/news/transgender-surgery-leaves-people-lonelier-depressed-study-by-transgender-surgery-dept-chair>

- Miriam Grossman, *Lost in Trans Nation: A Child Psychiatrist's Guide Out of the Madness* (New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2023). Foreword by Jordan Peterson.
- Michelle A. Cretella, 'I'm a pediatrician. How transgender ideology has infiltrated my field and produced large-scale child abuse', *The Daily Signal* (Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC), July 3, 2017. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2017/07/03/im-pediatrician-transgender-ideology-infiltrated-field-produced-large-scale-child-abuse/>
- Walt Heyer, 'Four trans people beg for help with their gender identity crises', *The Federalist* (USA), July 8, 2019. <https://thefederalist.com/2019/07/08/4-trans-people-beg-help-gender-identity-crisis/>
- Dr John Whitehall, 'Request for a parliamentary inquiry into the social and medical transitioning of children with gender dysphoria', *Coalition Against Unsafe Sexual Education (CAUSE)*, Australia, January 2, 2020 <https://stopsafeschools.com/request-for-parliamentary-enquiry-into-transgenderism-prof-john-whitehall-2/>
- Dr John Whitehall, 'A litany of ABC transgender myths', *Quadrant* (Australia), Vol. 65, Nos 7–8, July–August 2021. <https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2021/07-08/a-litany-of-abc-transgender-myths/>

8. Religious freedom

Although freedom of religion is a fundamental right recognised by the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and core to the identity of many people, there remains weak protection for religious freedom in Australia. Although there is in theory no hierarchy in the importance of human rights, in practice other human rights often seem to be accorded higher priority.

The former Scott Morrison-led federal Coalition government attempted, but failed, to enact a religious anti-discrimination bill. The current federal Labor government has promised to introduce its own legislation ostensibly to prevent discrimination against people of faith, but also to include 'anti-vilification' protections. One of Labor's key principles for such a law is that there must be no discrimination against staff or students on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status.

This is another important point both for prayer and for Christians to take up with their federal MPs and senators. The Human Rights Law Alliance (HRLA) — a body associated with the Australian Christian Lobby — has prepared an 'Open Letter calling for Religious Freedom First': URL: https://www.hrla.org.au/2307_charter

You may wish to consider signing that letter.

9. Increasing persecution of Christians in Australia

a) Signs of trouble ahead

Various indicators suggest that increasing persecution lies ahead for faithful Australian Christians and faithful Christian churches. In the last decade, a spate of State and Commonwealth legislative changes have entrenched worldview assumptions incompatible with biblical teaching. Christian ideas about sex and gender, marriage, sexuality and the sanctity of life are now increasingly marginalised. Certain forms of faithful Christian ministry have become precarious or illegal.

In this context, leading politicians, public servants and media personalities have made a series of public comments that undermine, denigrate and vilify these same ideas,

Christian theology more generally, and those who live by them. Australians who pursue godliness in submission to Christ and his Word are viewed with growing hostility by many who hold positions of authority in our nation.

The broadly accepted sacking of Israel Folau by Rugby Australia and forced resignation of the Essendon Football Club's newly installed CEO Andrew Thorburn suggest growing corporate and community intolerance of those who publicly express Christian views in the public square.

Such intolerance also pervades various public institutions, as demonstrated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's investigation and suspension of Melbourne Christian GP Jereth Kok for expressing opposition to abortion, same-sex marriage and gender reassignment surgery on social media.

Most recently, the ACT government's 2023 forced acquisition of a Roman Catholic hospital in Canberra — presumably in part because of Calvary Public Hospital's unwillingness to perform abortions and administer doctor-assisted suicide — is an ominous indicator of the kind of action that governments may take in order to impose their will on organisations disinclined to acquiesce.

These signs of growing hostility to Christians and their beliefs are sobering. They should drive us all to a greater dependence upon our God and to prayerful vigilance. They can also easily lead to fear. We need, therefore, to revisit the testimony of those who have experienced God's blessing through times of trial, both in the scriptures and in church history. In so doing we will find there are good reasons not to be afraid.

b) Why Christians should not fear the future

When the worst things happen to faithful Christians and faithful churches — harassment, insult, court cases, false accusations, loss of employment, loss of assets or property, physical injury, imprisonments, even death — the testimony of the Bible and church history is that great blessings accompany these same events.

Jesus even suggests that the worst things that can happen to us may at the same time be the best things:

'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.' (Matthew 5:11-12)

We need a change of mindset — one that embraces suffering for the sake of Christ as part of the normal Christian life. (John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:12); one that embraces persecution as a sign that glory lies ahead. (Luke 6:22-23; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

We also need to face afresh the real terms of Christian discipleship — Jesus' terms: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.' (Matthew 16:24-27)

But we have not been left to walk this path on our own or through our own resources:

- God knows us and is with us. (Matthew 10:29-31; 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)
- In his Son, our saviour, the Lord Jesus, we have the perfect example of patient suffering to meditate on and imitate. (Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Peter 2:18-23)
- And God has given us resources — even the Holy Spirit and prayer — through which we can glorify him by faithful witness and patient endurance of suffering in imitation of the Lord. (Matthew 10:16-20; John 14:15-27; Luke 18:1-6)

c) The need of the hour — Christian courage and pastoral wisdom

Knowing that we should not fear persecution is one thing. Actually being unafraid in the midst of persecution is another altogether. Genuine Christian courage is not something that braver types can drum up. No, it is a spiritual grace. It is something that God must give. For only the Spirit can make spiritual realities truly real to us.

Let us therefore give ourselves to prayer, asking that we might be filled with the Spirit, and that, through the Spirit, God's love might be shed abroad in our hearts. Then, when we are afraid, God's perfect love will drive fear out. And that same love of God will enable us to care compassionately and wisely for those among us most susceptible to fear.

10. Born alive but left to die?

Supporters of the *Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2022*, which is currently before the Senate, are aiming to outlaw the medical malpractice of allowing babies born alive during a failed abortion procedure to die.

The bill was introduced into the federal upper-house late last year by Senators Matthew Canavan (LNP, Queensland), Alex Antic (Liberal, SA) and Ralph Babet (UAP, Victoria). It followed the defeat in April last year, in the House of Representatives, of a similar bill drafted by the then LNP MP for Dawson in Queensland, George Christensen.

The *Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2022*, if passed, would make it an offence should a doctor, nurse or midwife fail to provide medical care or treatment to a child born alive after a failed abortion. Such an infant should be entitled to the same medical care (active treatment and/or palliative care) as any other child born alive in the usual way.

The bill would also make doctors, nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals responsible for reporting births of children born alive as a result of terminations, to correct the problem of insufficient data. Joanna Howe, a law professor at the University of Adelaide, wrote in February this year: 'The abortion industry and pro-abortion media outlets assert that babies born alive and left to die following an abortion is a "myth", "nonsensical", and "medically unnecessary".'³²

However, as she discovered from her own research, the publicly available statistics tell another story. Babies born alive after failed abortions and left to die are conservatively estimated to number hundreds annually across Australia.³³

³² Dr Joanna Howe, "Babies born alive and left to die following a failed abortion", *Fact Sheet* (Adelaide, South Australia), 27 February 2023, p. 3. URL: <https://canberradeclaration.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Dr-Joanna-Howe-Fact-Sheet-Babies-Born-Alive-FINAL.pdf>

³³ Howe, *ibid.*, pp. 1–2.

11. March for the Babies, Saturday, 7 October 2023

Melbourne's annual March for the Babies, a peaceful pro-life public demonstration, is scheduled this year for Saturday, 7 October, from 1 to 3pm in Melbourne's CBD.

The event commemorates the passing of Victoria's *Abortion Law Reform Act 2008*, which did away with any restrictions on abortion.

Few church-going Christians in Victoria are aware of two of the Act's most controversial provisions:

1. Victoria allows unborn babies to be terminated right up to the time of birth.
2. A conscientious doctor who opposes abortion is compelled by Victoria's laws to refer a patient seeking an abortion to another doctor who is willing to grant one.

The March for the Babies is a peaceful demonstration with police presence and security. The Church and Nation Committee strongly urges PCV congregations to participate.

Participants will assemble in the Treasury Gardens on Saturday, 7 October, from 12:30 pm and commence their march through the streets of Melbourne at 1pm.

Miss Anna Peet, a member of Grace Ballarat Presbyterian Church, is the secretary of the March for the Babies organising committee.

<https://www.MarchForTheBabies.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MarchForTheBabies/>

12. Religion in the Public Square: PCV Colloquium, 12–13 July 2024: 'Living as if truth matters'

The committee is organising a two-day Religion in the Public Square colloquium to be held on Friday and Saturday, 12–13 July 2024. Its theme will be 'Living as if truth matters'. It is intended to help Christians understand the challenges of living in a hostile world, and to be equipped to contend for the truth and live out their faith with integrity, for the sake of future generations and for the kingdom of God.

These colloquiums have been held every two to three years since 2010. At these well-attended events, Christian guest speakers, some of them from overseas, have addressed a variety of topics of concern to the contemporary church. Subjects discussed have included:

- **Religion in the public square:** the role of the Church and individual Christians in public life.
- **The Christian understanding of marriage and parenthood.**
- **Bioethics**, including abortion, eugenics, euthanasia, artificial reproductive technology and surrogacy.
- **Human sexuality**, including:
 - b) the rise of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)
 - c) childhood gender dysphoria and surgical abuse
 - d) contemporary culture's contribution to the sexualisation of childhood
- **Threats to religious liberty**, including:
 - a) the secular threat to faith-based schools
 - b) the increasing restrictions on the conscience rights of doctors, nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals
- **The impact on society of secular philosophies and worldviews**, such as Marxism, postmodernism, deconstructionism, moral relativism, libertarianism / radical autonomy, and the 'New Atheism'.
- **Anti-discrimination laws:** their impact on free speech and conscience rights.
- **Islam:** its beliefs, practices and conflicts with Christianity.
- **The worldwide persecution of Christians.**
- **Business ethics.**

Speakers at the forthcoming 2024 Colloquium will address the critical areas of:

- a) Family, church, raising children and education and how these are inextricably linked and interdependent.
- b) Issues of gender, sexuality, life and death relating to human personhood and the image of God.
- c) Freedom of speech, religion, conscience and association.

This is an opportunity for ministers, parents, students, teachers, grandparents and concerned Christians of all ages to learn about what is happening in our culture and why, and how to respond to these trends in a God-honouring way.

13. An indigenous Voice to the Commonwealth parliament: a discussion paper

A discussion paper by the Church and Nation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Introduction

Members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria will be aware that there is a proposal to amend the Constitution to establish an indigenous Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament (**Voice**). This paper aims to give resources to help think through this issue.

This paper has been prepared by the Church and Nation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, which exists to advise the church on contemporary trends and controversial issues in public life. The committee's role falls within the broader remit of the institutional church, which is to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe everything that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:16–20). The

Voice is not something directly implicated by biblical teaching and, in the committee's opinion, is not something on which the institutional church ought to take a position either for or against.

Nevertheless, it is a prominent and divisive issue in Australian public life which Christians are likely to have to vote on in the upcoming referendum. Christians should prayerfully exercise their vote in an informed way. As such, the committee considers that it would be helpful to provide guidance to the church.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* states as follows:

Synods and councils are to handle, or conclude nothing, but that which is ecclesiastical: and are not to intermeddle with civil affairs which concern the commonwealth, unless by way of humble petition in cases extraordinary; or, by way of advice, for satisfaction of conscience, if they be thereunto required by the civil magistrate (31.5).

The committee has prepared this document in order to assist the church to think through an important question of public policy. The committee considers that in so doing it is not intermeddling with civil affairs but providing advice to Christians and the church, consistent with the proper role of the institutional church.

Approaching the issue

When approaching an issue such as this, it is important to draw a clear distinction between matters that are clearly taught by Scripture or can be deduced by good and necessary consequence from biblical teaching (see WCF 1.6) and matters that are not.

While the Bible contains principles that are relevant in general terms to the proposed Voice, given that it is concerned for love for neighbour, justice and reconciliation, it does not prescribe one particular manner of implementing love or justice. God has not spoken clearly and authoritatively as to the appropriateness or otherwise of the Voice. In the committee's opinion, this means that this is very much a wisdom decision, and there is not one single position that is compatible with biblical teaching.

Approaching the issue as a matter of wisdom does not mean the issue is unimportant, but it does mean that Christians should not treat the issue as a matter of orthodoxy or biblical faithfulness. There is room for legitimate disagreement, and Christians should

approach the matter in the spirit of Romans 14: “Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:10–12).

Christians should carefully and prayerfully weigh the arguments for and against, with humility, recognising the fallibility of human wisdom.

In this paper the Committee aims to engage in a balanced discussion of the key arguments both for³⁴ and against the Voice,³⁵ without seeking to dictate to any person how they should vote or purporting to represent the official position of the Presbyterian Church. Much has been written about the Voice and the committee does not intend to discuss the issues exhaustively.

Outline of the proposal for a Voice

It is proposed that a Voice be established in order to provide advice to the Australian Parliament and government about matters affecting indigenous people.

To implement the Voice it is proposed that the Constitution will be amended to include high level principles relating to the Voice, and that this would empower the Commonwealth Parliament to enact legislation setting out such things as the composition and powers of the body.

The Australian people will be asked to vote as to whether they approve an alteration which would insert the following new chapter into the Constitution:

Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- (i) there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- (ii) the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- (iii) the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

³⁴ Key sources include Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy, “Indigenous Voice: Practical and Symbolic Reasons for Change”, *The Australian*, 18 February 2023; Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020); Megan Davis and George Williams, *Everything you need to know about the referendum to recognise indigenous Australians* (NewSouth Publishing, 2015); Michael Jensen, ‘The Voice: A Christian Consideration’, *The Gospel Coalition Australia*, 16 June 2023 <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-voice-a-christian-consideration>.

³⁵ Key sources include Keith Windschuttle, “The Yes and No Cases for Constitutional Change”, *Quadrant*, 6 June 2022 <<https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/aborigines/2022/06/the-yes-and-no-cases-for-constitutional-change>>; Mark Powell, “‘No’ means no: the sensible case against the Voice”, *Spectator Australia*, 8 February 2023 <<https://www.spectator.com.au/2023/02/no-means-no-the-sensible-case-against-the-voice>>; James Allan, “What Does ‘The Voice’ Mean?”, FamilyVoice seminar, 23 February 2023; Stephen Chavura, ‘Michael Jensen’s Christian defence of the Voice to Parliament: A Christian critique’, *ABC Religion and Ethics*, 26 June 2023 <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/stephen-chavura-christian-critique-of-voice-to-Parliament/102523242>.

Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

The proposed changes to the Constitution are deliberately non-prescriptive because amendments are rarely made to the Constitution, and, if made, are almost certain to be permanent. Legislation that sets out the detail of the Voice, by contrast, can be amended or repealed by Parliament. The proposed changes are intended to enable flexibility with the legislative detail.

The heart of the issue

Indigenous constitutional recognition is sometimes advocated for symbolic reasons, in order to recognise indigenous peoples as the First Nations of Australia. In the committee's view, the argument that a Voice should be inserted into the Constitution for symbolic reasons is not sufficient justification. This is because symbolic recognition of indigenous people could be inserted into the preamble of the Constitution without the need to create a body to make representations to Parliament. To justify a Voice it is necessary to demonstrate that in addition to its symbolic value a Voice is likely to lead to better outcomes as a whole when considering various interests, one example being practical benefits and better outcomes for indigenous people.

Indigenous people already have opportunities to participate in decision-making and law-making processes that affect them. Other minority and disadvantaged groups have no special representation in the policy-making process.

Therefore, in the committee's opinion, whether the Voice is desirable comes down to the following questions:

- Do indigenous people warrant unique mechanisms for representation and input into policy development?
- Are the current mechanisms for indigenous representation and input into the policy-making process adequate?
- Will the Voice lead to better practical and policy outcomes for indigenous people?
- Is the Voice moral or immoral in principle?
- What are the potential impacts of the Voice for Australia as a whole?

Theological concerns with the Uluru Statement from the Heart

One important aspect of the background to the Voice is the Uluru Statement from the Heart, made in 2017. The Uluru Statement calls "for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution".

Some Christians have expressed concerns relating to the content of the Uluru Statement. For example, the Uluru Statement states that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes "were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands," and that, "This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the

soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.”

Christians will rightly reject any concept of “mother nature” divorced from God the Creator, and also reject pagan spiritual concepts of sovereignty. Given this background, some Christians are concerned that the Voice would be likely to introduce pagan spiritual concepts into the Australian constitutional system.

A counter argument is that the proposed amendments to the Constitution do not contain any mention of spiritual or sovereignty issues, although the explanatory memorandum to the proposed referendum Bill expressly references the Uluru Statement. While some proponents advocate the Voice on the basis of non-Christian spiritual beliefs, many Voice proponents are likely not motivated by such beliefs. Voting in favour of the Voice does not commit a person to accepting all the reasons which motivate others for supporting the Voice. As an analogy, a Protestant Christian could make common cause with a Roman Catholic in attending an anti-abortion rally; this would not commit the Protestant to everything promoted by the Roman Catholic Church. It should also be noted that constitutional recognition of First Peoples will provide the courts with a basis upon which to conclude that indigenous peoples possess a kind of sovereignty, grounded in their spiritual relationship to the land.

One key question for Christians, therefore, is whether amending the Constitution to include an indigenous Voice would be likely to entrench pagan spiritual concepts in the Australian constitutional system.

From exclusion to inclusion: Indigenous people should have a say in matters that affect them

Probably the strongest argument in favour of the Voice is as follows:

A First Nations constitutional voice would move Australia from constitutional exclusion of Indigenous peoples, to constitutional inclusion. The continent of Australia was colonised by the British without Indigenous consent. This colonisation wrought dispossession, destruction and discrimination for Indigenous peoples, the effects of which are still being felt today. Indigenous peoples were omitted from the constitutional negotiations that gave rise to the Australian nation and were not afforded a fair place in the resulting constitutional compact. They were explicitly excluded from the Constitution, which has presided over extensive discrimination against them.³⁶

According to Shireen Morris, a First Nations Voice would positively reform the unfair power relationship between Indigenous peoples and the state. She considers that there is a powerful moral argument that the First Nations should be ensured a specific say in the political decisions made about them and their rights.³⁷

As put by Sydney Anglican minister Michael Jensen: “putting the Voice in the Constitution is an act of deep respect. It has the benefit of constitutional recognition, but it adds more: it says to our neighbours ‘Not only do we recognise you, but we will listen to you, especially when it comes to matters concerning you’.”³⁸

³⁶ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 241–2.

³⁷ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 249–51.

³⁸ Michael Jensen, ‘The Voice: A Christian Consideration’, *The Gospel Coalition Australia*, 16 June 2023 <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-voice-a-christian-consideration>.

Law professors Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy argue as follows:

The voice is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to participate in decision-making and law-making processes that affect them. It's not the granting of special property rights, cultural rights or the creation of separate legal systems. Under the voice proposal, these rights and claims can still only be granted, amended or even repealed by the Parliament, which represents all Australians.³⁹

Former Chief Justice of the High Court Robert French argues as follows:

The Voice proposal is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Australia to fill a gaping hole in our Constitution — to recognise our first history and the First Peoples who bear it and the painful legacy of its collision with the second history of colonisation. The high return against low risk is that The Voice will provide a practical opportunity for First Peoples to give informed and coherent and reliable advice to the Parliament and the Executive to assist them in law and policy making in one of the most difficult areas of contemporary government. It empowers First Peoples and the Australian people as a whole to acknowledge, address and move forward from the legacy of their colliding histories.⁴⁰

Against this, others argue that there is already a high level of indigenous representation in and to Parliament. In general terms, all people may participate through the mechanisms of representative democracy whereby we can elect our MPs, make submissions to government inquiries, etc.

Beyond this, indigenous MPs have been elected to the federal Parliament at a higher proportion of the population than non-indigenous people in recent elections. There are Indigenous Affairs ministers at the state and federal levels who regularly liaise with Indigenous organisations. Advisory bodies have also been established to advise on indigenous matters, including:

- The National Indigenous Australians Agency, whose role includes providing advice to the government on policy priorities for indigenous peoples, and “to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a say in the decisions that affect them”.
- The Prime Minister’s Indigenous Advisory Council, whose role is to “provide advice to the Government on Indigenous affairs, and will focus on practical changes to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people”.

It is apparent that indigenous people already have extensive opportunities to participate in decision-making and law-making processes that affect them. One of the main differences is that the referendum would entrench the existence of the Voice in the Constitution.

Therefore, for this argument to be persuasive two things would have to be demonstrated:

³⁹ Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy, “Indigenous Voice: Practical and Symbolic Reasons for Change”, *The Australian*, 18 February 2023.

⁴⁰ <https://www.auspublaw.org/first-nations-voice/the-voice-a-step-forward-for-australian-nationhood>.

- Indigenous people warrant unique mechanisms for representation and input into policy given the unique historic connection of indigenous people with Australia, and the disadvantage and alienation which has arisen as a result of European settlement; and
- The current mechanisms for indigenous representation and input into the policy-making process are inadequate.

Improved practical outcomes

The second core argument in favour of the Voice is that it will lead to improved policy outcomes for indigenous people. Shireen Morris asserts:

A constitutionally guaranteed Indigenous voice in Indigenous affairs will help improve policy-making and thus outcomes. Addressing this is urgent. Indigenous people experience worse outcomes in life expectancy, incarceration, suicide, family violence, employment and education than other Australians. This day-to-day vulnerability arising from extreme disadvantage is caused, exacerbated and perpetuated by Indigenous constitutional powerlessness.⁴¹

Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy argue:

The voice achieves recognition but also provides a forum through which Indigenous expertise can improve policy outcomes. The voice offers a change to the Constitution that is targeted at practical outcomes. It's a new representative body in the Constitution that will facilitate political participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with the goal of improving government and parliamentary decision-making. It will provide a mechanism through which their experience will inform, and improve, outcomes. The voice is very much about good governance — the wise use of public resources.⁴²

Against this, James Allan argues that the Voice will not remedy the practical problems facing aboriginal people. Instead, what needs to be addressed are the cultural, moral, educational and social issues which will not be remedied by constitutional change.⁴³ Keith Windschuttle argues:

There is no credible empirical evidence that mentioning Aborigines in the Constitution would improve their health. The claim is speculation by a lobby group of psychiatrists, who claim it would improve Aboriginal self-esteem. The gesture would be largely irrelevant to the 80 per cent of Aboriginal people who are now well integrated into mainstream Australia, mostly in the suburbs of the major cities and larger regional centres. And it would go completely unnoticed in the emergency departments of hospitals in central and northern Australia where, because of the failed policy of isolating indigenous people in remote communities, Aboriginal women and child victims of Aboriginal violence and sexual abuse are grossly over-represented.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 247.

⁴² Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy, "Indigenous Voice: Practical and Symbolic Reasons for Change", *The Australian*, 18 February 2023.

⁴³ James Allan, "What Does 'The Voice' Mean?", FamilyVoice seminar, 23 February 2023.

⁴⁴ Keith Windschuttle, "The Yes and No Cases for Constitutional Change", *Quadrant*, 6 June 2022 <<https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/aborigines/2022/06/the-yes-and-no-cases-for-constitutional-change>

Whether or not a Voice will in any way lessen the practical problems facing indigenous Australians is one of the key issues, as acknowledged by advocates of the Voice.⁴⁵ For this argument to be persuasive, it would have to be demonstrated that the Voice will provide additional mechanisms for representation and input into policy development than those currently available, and that these will lead to improved policy outcomes for indigenous people.

We do not know the detail

Many matters relating to the Voice have not been settled, such as who will be part of the Voice, how it will work in practice, how it will relate to Parliament, what its powers will be and what matters it will be authorised to advise on. Some argue that voting in favour of the Voice is giving a blank cheque to the government.

On the one hand, any proposed constitutional amendment will only set out the broad detail of the Voice and it will be for Parliament to determine the detail of the body's composition and powers. When enacting legislation Parliament will be subject to the usual mechanisms of public debate and democratic accountability. On the other hand, it is reasonable that we have a clear idea as to exactly what is being proposed before being asked to vote at a referendum, and so there is an argument that we should be fully informed before voting.

The Voice will enshrine 'race' into the Constitution

Some argue that the Voice will constitutionally enshrine racial divisiveness. Stephen Chavura argues that the Voice entrenches the idea of two separate and opposed nations, which will dissuade Indigenous Australians from integrating into mainstream Australian culture. For Chavura, "The Voice is nothing more than new constitutionally enshrined rights (to make direct representations to Parliament prior to any legislation, to stand for office in the Voice machinery, to vote for representatives in the Voice) to be enjoyed only by Australians who identify with a particular race".⁴⁶

James Allan argues that there are no examples of democracies that do well when they introduce racial distinctions among the people and that the political reality is often very different from the outcome promised by the theoretical models implemented.⁴⁷

Mark Powell argues that the Uluru Statement (which underlies the Voice) will enshrine 'race' into the Constitution and is based on a "Cultural Marxist paradigm of race based upon an imbalance of 'power' and 'struggle'". This distorts race relations by a paradigm of power, such that the disadvantaged race cannot achieve justice until the balance of power is equalised. In Powell's view, this will diminish the moral agency of Aboriginal people by projecting all current social problems that exist within Indigenous communities onto how they were treated by Europeans historically. This means that Aboriginal people are merely victims of previous injustices.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Megan Davis and Gabrielle Appleby, "Narrow Reform Means Voice Vote Without Practical Benefits", *The Australian*, 25 February 2023, 20 ("The success of the referendum to constitutionally enshrine a First Nations voice is going to turn in large part on convincing the Australian people that this is a reform that will deliver positive, practical change in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and improve the future for all Australians").

⁴⁶ Stephen Chavura, 'Michael Jensen's Christian defence of the Voice to Parliament: A Christian critique', *ABC Religion and Ethics*, 26 June 2023 <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/stephen-chavura-christian-critique-of-voice-to-Parliament/102523242>.

⁴⁷ James Allan, "What Does 'The Voice' Mean?", FamilyVoice seminar, 23 February 2023.

⁴⁸ Mark Powell, "'No' means no: the sensible case against the Voice", *Spectator Australia*, 8 February 2023 <<https://www.spectator.com.au/2023/02/no-means-no-the-sensible-case-against-the-voice>>.

The counter-argument is that the Constitution already “enshrines the concept of race”, in arguably even more objectionable terms than proposed by the Voice. Section 51(xxvi) of the Constitution gives the Commonwealth Parliament the power to make laws with respect to “the people of any race for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws”. Section 25 provides:

... if by the law of any State all persons of any race are disqualified from voting at elections for the more numerous House of the Parliament of the State, then, in reckoning the number of the people of the State or of the Commonwealth, persons of that race resident in that State shall not be counted.

The Commonwealth Parliament already possess the power to make laws conferring rights which are “to be enjoyed only by Australians who identify with a particular race”. In other words, the Constitution, in sections 25 and 51(xxvi), currently “enshrines race in the Constitution”.

Thus, the counter-argument to this objection is that the Voice would be comparable to what already exists in the Constitution, which has not led to two separate and opposed nations.

Treaty and reparations

Stephen Chavura argues that “the Voice, by its own testimony, is a mere stepping-stone to a treaty, something that will prove to be one of the most controversial and divisive issues in Australia’s history”. He goes on to argue:

It is also important to know that the Voice, once instituted, will pursue a treaty because the treaty will prove to be incredibly controversial and hardly conducive to national peace and reconciliation. Furthermore, it is naïve to think that, if obtained, a treaty will be the end of controversies. Questions will then be raised about the size of the land granted, the rights, if any, of non-Indigenous Australians who may presently be on that land, and the amount of reparations money allocated.⁴⁹

The Uluru Statement calls for “a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history”, which supports the argument that there will be calls for a treaty.

The counter argument to this objection is that it seems likely that there will be calls for a treaty regardless of whether or not the Voice is accepted by the Australian people. Implementing the Voice is unlikely to guarantee that a treaty will in fact occur, although it may lend significant impetus to the push for a treaty.

The Voice would undermine our system of government

Mark Powell argues that the Voice will undermine the three existing arms of government:

The current Constitution of Australia involves three distinct but complementary limbs of government: the legislative (Parliament), the judiciary (Courts), and the executive (The Queen, through her representative the Governor-General). However, TUSH [The

⁴⁹ Stephen Chavura, ‘Michael Jensen’s Christian defence of the Voice to Parliament: A Christian critique’, *ABC Religion and Ethics*, 26 June 2023 <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/stephen-chavura-christian-critique-of-voice-to-Parliament/102523242>.

Uluru Statement from the Heart] seeks to introduce a fourth arm into this mix: an Indigenous Voice, with substantive constitutional change and structural reform.⁵⁰

Powell considers that the introduction of a Voice would disturb the functioning of our system of government.

The counter-argument is that this seems very unlikely. The current proposal is that the Constitution will be amended such that the Voice “*may* make representations to Parliament and the executive government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples”. There is no requirement for the Voice to make representations, and no requirement that the Parliament, or the executive, must accept those representations or even take them into account. Parliament retains the ultimate power to legislate as it sees fit. Were the legislation implementing the Voice to require the Parliament to accept the Voice’s representations, this would likely be constitutionally invalid.

Proponents argue that the Voice is unlikely to disturb the fundamental structures of the Constitution or the power of Parliament. Shireen Morris argues that a First Nations constitutional Voice fits with the central organising values of the Australian Constitution by providing a political constitutional guarantee, not one that is enforceable in the courts.⁵¹ Appleby and Levy argue that the Voice leaves our existing democratic and governance systems in place, operating within our established Westminster traditions of democracy.⁵²

Judicial activism

James Allan argues that the Voice would inevitably lead to judicial activism and creative interpretations by the High Court.⁵³ It is of course impossible to predict how the High Court would interpret the provisions of the Constitution relating to the Voice.

The High Court has emphasised on numerous occasions that its role in constitutional interpretation is to interpret the text of the Constitution according to the plain meaning of its terms, determining the meaning of a provision objectively from the language used. When interpreting the Constitution, the High Court typically (although not always) resists reading matters in that are not expressly stated in the text.

The provisions that are proposed to be inserted into the Constitution are modest and intended to leave significant flexibility to the political branches of government. They confer power on Parliament and do not impose any mandatory duties or obligations. Former Chief Justice of the High Court Robert French has argued that “there is little or no scope for any court to find constitutional legal obligations in the facilitative and empowering provisions of the amendment”.⁵⁴

The Voice proposal certainly raises complex legal issues. Law professors Nicholas Aroney and Peter Gerangelos have argued that inserting a new Chapter IX into the Constitution would create the potential for constitutional implications, for example it could be held that the Voice has power to make representations to the entirety of the

⁵⁰ Mark Powell, “‘No’ means no: the sensible case against the Voice”, *Spectator Australia*, 8 February 2023 <<https://www.spectator.com.au/2023/02/no-means-no-the-sensible-case-against-the-voice>>.

⁵¹ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 249–51.

⁵² Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy, “Indigenous Voice: Practical and Symbolic Reasons for Change”, *The Australian*, 18 February 2023.

⁵³ James Allan, “What Does ‘The Voice’ Mean?”, FamilyVoice seminar, 23 February 2023.

⁵⁴ <https://www.auspublaw.org/first-nations-voice/the-voice-a-step-forward-for-australian-nationhood>.

executive branch of government, introducing considerable uncertainty into government decision-making.⁵⁵

Other arguments

A politically viable proposal: Morris argues that a Voice is the most politically viable proposal and is likely to be the only proposal that can succeed in a recognition referendum.⁵⁶ This is not really an argument for the Voice, but an argument that, of all the proposals for indigenous constitutional recognition, the Voice is the most politically feasible proposal that also enables effective indigenous representation to government.

Human rights compliance: Morris argues that implementation of a First Nations Voice would support compliance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which provides that “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures”.⁵⁷ Others argue precisely the opposite, namely that the Voice would “would risk placing this country in breach of international law”.⁵⁸ For this argument to be persuasive, it would have to be demonstrated that the current mechanisms for indigenous representation and input into the policy-making process are inadequate and that the Voice will redress these inadequacies.

International experience: It has been argued that a Voice would be consistent with the approach taken in other countries such as New Zealand, Canada, Norway and Sweden.⁵⁹ Whether this is a persuasive argument depends on the extent to which indigenous constitutional recognition and political participation has led to improved outcomes for indigenous peoples in those countries, and has had a beneficial outcome for those countries overall.

There is no single indigenous voice: It has been argued that indigenous people do not have a single viewpoint, and so having a single Voice falsely assumes a uniformity of opinion among indigenous Australians. There is a risk that the Voice may purport to represent indigenous views when many indigenous people may disagree with the positions advocated for by the Voice body. The counter argument is that this is not a problem unique to the Voice but is inherent with representative institutions. There may, nevertheless, be value in having a body which can debate issues relating to indigenous people and formulate proposals for input into the policy development process.

Some practical steps

Over the next few months ‘The Voice’ will feature prominently in political discussion. Above all else, on divisive issues like this on which people have strong opinions both for and against, we should strive to maintain relationships of love, mutual respect and unity in the faith among Christians, especially given that the particular referendum question before us is not something that the Bible addresses directly

⁵⁵ Nicholas Aroney and Peter Gerangelos, ‘Submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice Referendum’, p 3.

⁵⁶ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 251.

⁵⁷ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 252–4.

⁵⁸ Chris Merritt, ‘Voice Risks Australia Breaching Human Rights Obligations’, Rule of Law Institute, 5 April 2023 <<https://ruleoflawaustralia.com.au/commentary/voice-risks-australia-breaching-human-rights-obligations>>.

⁵⁹ Shireen Morris, *A First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution* (Hart, 2020) 241; Gabrielle Appleby and Ron Levy, ‘Indigenous Voice: Practical and Symbolic Reasons for Change’, *The Australian*, 18 February 2023.

Here are some practical suggestions of how we as Christians can respond to this issue, both individually and within our congregations:

- **Take time to study both sides of the debate.** Both sides of the Voice debate agree that the referendum will present voters with a historic choice for the future of Australia. Christians should therefore be prepared to devote the time necessary to consider the issue carefully.
- **Commit time to prayer.** As Christians, we should approach the issue prayerfully, asking the Lord both to grant his people wisdom and to oversee a just and beneficial outcome. We should pray particularly for:
 - a) those who are leading each side of the debate that they will speak truthfully and act graciously;
 - b) the Aboriginal community and indigenous Christians who are particularly impacted by this debate;
 - c) all Australians, that they will form their views on the Voice based on good information and with genuine concern for the flourishing of our nation; and
 - d) mutual respect among church members during this difficult debate, so that divergent views on the Voice may not become a point of conflict within our congregations.
- **Trust in God.** While the Voice referendum will mark an important milestone in our national life, Christians should also keep it in perspective. Structures of government do not irrevocably determine the future of our nation. We should trust God, especially when we foresee difficult circumstances. Whatever the outcome for which we vote, and whatever the result of the referendum, we should continue 'humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God' (in the words of the preamble to the Australian Constitution). Matters of politics and government are penultimate, not ultimate.

14. Proposed revisions to Sex, Gender and Marriage Statement

The Church and Nation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia at the presentation of its report to the General Assembly of Australia included an update on the statement on 'Sex, Gender and Marriage' which was received and adopted

The Church and Nation Committee (PCV) recommends that we adopt the updated statement of the PCA on 'Sex, Gender and Marriage. The changes and final statement follow.

In 2019 the GAA adopted the Statement on Sex, Gender and Marriage prepared by the Church and Nation Committee. The statement has several purposes:

- to guide Ministers, Sessions and Church institutions in teaching and pastoral care;
- to inform and encourage church members;
- to provide easy reference for enquiries about the church's position
- to provide some defence in anti-discrimination complaints by making the teaching of the church explicit.

In the last year the Committee reviewed the statement and recognised that it could be strengthened at several points. It also noted that when the Victorian Assembly adopted the Statement it had included a preface which further clarified the position of the Statement. In light of these developments, the Committee decided to revise the statement.

A first draft was circulated to several people around the Church. As well as commenting on the proposed changes, this feedback highlighted other points where the statement could be improved.

The Committee now recommends a series of changes to the Statement. None constitutes a major change, but each strengthens or clarifies the Statement (or corrects a typographical error).

The proposed full revised statement is contained in the Committee's deliverances. An appendix to this report provides details of the proposed changes and a short explanation of the reasons for each one.

Appendix

The following comments deal with proposed changes to the Sex, Gender and Marriage Statement. References are to the paragraph number in the proposed new statement. The revised Statement is included in the deliverances.

Preamble

Remove: "This statement uses the terminology of 'sex' and 'gender' while setting out a biblical understanding of their relationship."

Replace with: "This statement uses the terms 'sex' and 'gender' as is common in contemporary discussion. Sex is the binary differentiation of humans as male or female by chromosomes, hormones and the reproductive organs which makes possible reproduction. Gender refers to a person's self-understanding, social identity and social presentation. The position of this statement is that a person's gender should be determined by their sex."

Explanation: This explains the use 'sex' and 'gender'. It summarises the position which is set out later in the Statement.

2.2

Add: "These differences should be recognised and celebrated."

Explanation: This emphasises that sexual and gender differences are good gifts of God to be embraced. We should view them positively, rather than as any kind of problem.

2.3

Remove: "In God's good order, gender identity was determined by one's biological sex (Gen. 1:27; Matt. 19:4)."

Replace with: "In God's good order, human beings have been created with a biological sex (male or female) with different genetic, chromosomal and anatomical characteristics (Gen 1:27; 2:24; 4:1; WCF 5.2) which determines gender identity (self-recognition of being either a man or a woman) and gendered roles in relationships (for example being either a husband or a wife, Gen 2:24-25). While the Bible does not closely prescribe expression of gender (for example tastes, clothing, personality traits etc), Christians should express themselves in godly ways which do not mislead others in their culture as to their sex and gender (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 11: 2-16).

Explanation: This expands the definitions to clarify distinctions between sex, gender identity, gender roles and gender expression.

2.4

Remove: “a husband is to love his wife as his own body and as her head, and a wife is to submit to her husband (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:22–30).”

Replace with: “the husband is the head of the wife. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and a wife is to submit to her husband (Gen 2:18; Eph 5:21–30).”

Explanation: This wording follows the wording of Ephesians 5 more closely. The passage does not say that the husband is to love his wife “as her head”.

Remove: “sexual intercourse”

Replace with: “sexual activity”

Explanation: Scriptural prohibitions extend beyond sexual intercourse outside of marriage.

Add: Start a new sentence with “It is”

Explanation: improves readability

3.1

Remove: “sexuality and gender”

Replace with: “— and seek to establish sexual and gender identities apart from God and his order (Rom 1:26-27)”.

Explanation: This is clearer than stating that people worship “sexuality and gender”.

3.2

Remove: “women are often mistreated and abused (Ge 34:7-31; Deut 22:28–29; Jdg 19:22-20:7; 2Sa 13:1-32; Zec 14:2; 1 Pet 3:7); men and women are tempted to, and participate in, sexual immorality (Ge 39:6-12; 2Sa 11:2-5; Mt 5:27-28; 1 Pe 4:3; 2 Pe 2:14-18) including homosexual sex (Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:9-10); people transgress the boundaries of their sex (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Cor 11:4-5, 13-15).”

Replace with: “spouses are abusive and unfaithful in marriage and marriages end in divorce (Dt 21:13-14; Mal 2:10-16; Mt 19:4-8; 1Co 7:10 -14). Women are oppressed (Ge 34:7-31; Deut 22:28–29; Jdg 19:22-20:7; 2Sa 13:1-32; Zec 14:2; 1 Pet 3:7). Polygamy and polyandry are both corruptions of God’s good pattern of marriage (Gen 4:19; 29:30; 30:1; Dt 21:15-17; 17:17; 1 Ki 16:31; 1Co 7:2; 1Ti 3:2). Men and women are tempted to, and participate in, sexual immorality (Ge 39:6-12; 2Sa 11:2-5; Mt 5:27-28; 1 Pe 4:3; 2 Pe 2:14-18) including, adultery (Ex 20:14; Lev 18:20; Dt 5:18; Pr 22:14; 30:20; Mt 19:18; Jas 2:11), pre-marital sex (Dt 22:13-21, 23; Matt 1:19;), polyamory, homosexual sex (Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 1 Tim 1:9-10), incest (Lev 18:6-18; 20:17,19; Dt 22:30; 27:20,22-23; Eze 22:11), and rape (Ge 19:4-9; Dt 22:25-29; Lev 18:22; 20:13; Jdg 19:22-28; 20:4-5; 2 Sa 13:14-20). A further effect of sin is that men and women transgress the boundaries of their sex (Deut 22:5; 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Cor 11:4-5, 13-15).”

Explanation: This clarifies that husbands and wives can be abusive and provides a fuller list of sexual sins.

3.6

Remove: "All aspects of sexual life and gender are subject to temptations to turn from God's good order and to break his commands."

Replace with: "All forms of sexual immorality are sin, as is marital unfaithfulness through violence, or desertion. Jesus condemns all sexual immorality, teaching that sin begins prior to any such act, in the corruption of heart and eye (2 Sam 11) with a lustful, covetous look, a redirecting of desires, emotions and fantasies (Matt 5:27-28; Prov 6:23-29; Jer 5:8)."

Explanation: 3.2 now gives a full catalogue of sinful sexual behaviour. Here we clarify that other forms of marital unfaithfulness are sinful and that sexual sin is not limited to behaviour.

3.7

Remove (from previous 3.6): "Temptation is not, in itself, sin; though for all fallen humans it appeals to sinful desires which are affected by our sinfulness and for which we are culpable. As a consequence, we are all prone to living out these sinful desires in thought, word and deed (Jam 1:13-15). Marital unfaithfulness through violence, desertion or sexual unfaithfulness is sin, as are all forms of sexual immorality."

Replace with: "People are tempted to turn from God's good order and break his commands in all aspects of sexual life and gender, as is the case in all other areas of human life after the Fall. Temptations to sin can arise externally to ourselves, as Jesus experienced (Matt 4:1-11). For all fallen human beings, temptations also arise from their sinful nature and external temptations appeal to their corrupted desires. The corrupted nature and all the covetous desires that proceed from it, including involuntary or pre-conscious attractions towards ends contrary to God's law, are truly and properly sin and we are culpable for them (2 Peter 3:3; 1 Jn 2:16-17; WCF 6:4-6). We are all prone to living out these sinful desires in thought, word and deed (Jam 1:13-15). All sexual temptations are to be resisted and are desires which should be mortified (Gal 5:24). There is a pastorally significant moral difference between experiencing sinful desires and seeking to mortify them, as opposed to cultivating desires into actions (James 1:14-15)."

Explanation: This clarifies the relationship of temptation, desire and sin. For fallen humans, desires for sinful actions are, themselves, sinful and should be resisted and mortified. Yet we should not conflate having unwanted desires and temptations with cultivating such desires and allowing them to guide actions.

3.8

Add: "Christians who do not struggle with gender incongruence or same-sex attraction can possess unwarranted self-righteousness ignoring their own sinful desires, their need to repent and their need for mercy in Christ. Everyone's expression of sexuality and gender has sinful aspects, and all desire for sexual activity outside the boundaries of marriage is illicit."

Explanation: This makes clear that 'cis-gendered' heterosexual Christians must acknowledge their sexual temptations and sinfulness.

4.3

Remove: "By the gift of the Holy Spirit those in Christ are restored to God and are able to live for him (Rom 8:3-9; WCF 10.1, 13.1)."

Replace with: "Christ calls all people, though lost in sin, to come to him to be reconciled to God and discover their true humanity in his service. By his Spirit working through his Word and prayer, God draws sinners to him, transforming our rebellion into love and reordering our desires and deeds to conform to Christ. By his Spirit, he enables us to grieve and hate our sinful nature and to recognise and repent of particular sins,

particularly (Lk 3:10-14; Rom 8:3-9; WCF 10.1, 13.1, 15.5). Truthfully and humbly naming sin and calling people to repentance are not harmful because of God's gracious mercy and the sanctifying power and promised fullness of life in Christ (John 10:10; Acts 2:38, 2 Cor 7:10)."

Explanation: This gives a fuller description of sanctification both as God's work and as the response he enables in his people. It underlines that acknowledging and turning from particular sins is an important aspect of sanctification. Against views that lead to some anti-conversion legislation, we insist that encouraging people to turn from particular sins by God's mercy is not harmful.

4.4.

Add: "By his Spirit, all believers must struggle against sin and constantly turn to Christ, putting to death the sinful nature with its particular sins (Rom 6:11-14; WCF 13, 15:5). The Spirit helps us to humbly speak the truth in love and encourage one another to grow in Christ (Eph 4:15-16). We should exercise wisdom in choosing language that articulates the truth about ourselves, naming our sins but not being named by them (1 Cor. 6:9-11). Christians should flee sin (Gen 39:6b-12; Matt 5:27-30; 1 Cor 6:18; Rom 6:11-12; 1 Pet 1:14; 2:11), and hence be careful to avoid legitimising sin by using descriptions that either downplay or even celebrate temptation."

Explanation: This sets out the importance of clear and honest descriptions of sin in the process of mortification. The Committee considered referring to the terminology of "Gay Christians". We have not included that for two reasons. First, Christians can use that phrase in a variety of ways which cannot be assessed in a statement of this nature. Second, there are other ways that Christians may downplay or celebrate sin and temptation with our terminology e.g. "having an affair", "using pornography", "sexual exploration".

4.5

Add: "Neither does he say that sinful desires are fixed and can never be changed."

Explanation: The original section emphasised that change was not promised, this should be balanced with the possibility of change.

Add: "and his Spirit will bear rich fruit in every aspect of our lives (Gal 5:13-25)."

Explanation: This also emphasises more clearly the powerful sanctifying work of the Spirit.

4.9

Remove: "gender dysphoria"

Replace with: "gender incongruence"

Explanation: This adds clarity and accuracy

4.10

Add: "Both the desire for, and the act of, sexual relations with a person of the same sex are sinful (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:9-11). Such desires should be rejected and mortified, as a Christian seeks "to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:24). The good news for those who experience same-sex attraction (as indeed for all sexual sinners) is that in Christ they can be known and identified not according to their sexual impulses but as beloved children of God, forgiven and justified, freed from guilt and shame, set apart for growth in Christlikeness and good works, secure in resurrection life, and precious brothers and sisters in Christ."

Explanation: This applies the theology of sanctification explicitly to same-sex attraction.

5.3

Add: (WCF 9.5)

Explanation: A further reference to our subordinate standard.

6.1

Add: "it"

Explanation: This corrects a typographical error

Add: "in prayerful dependence upon the Holy Spirit"

Explanation: This emphasises that the Church's response in all these areas can only be faithful as it relies on the Spirit.

6.2

Remove: "silently"

Explanation: This removes an unnecessary limitation.

6.6

Add: "The Church teaches that a marriage can only end in divorce when the marriage covenant is broken (Matt. 19:3–9, WCF 14.4-5). It should seek to support marriages and encourage reconciliation where possible (1 Cor 7:10-11)."

Explanation: This balances the statement in 6.7 on the possible grounds of divorce.

6.7

Remove: "should teach"

Replace with: "teaches"

Explanation: This uses more direct language, consistent with 6.6.

6.8

Add: "No office bearer of the Church shall solemnise or bless a union between two people other than that between a man and a woman who have no legal impediment to marriage."

Explanation: Solemnisation of same-sex marriage is not permissible under PCA forms, this also prohibits blessing. Primarily it is to give comfort and even some protection to any officer who is asked to bless a same-sex relationship.

Christopher T Duke
CONVENER

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE (Min 34)

1. A big thank you to the members of the committee

The Church Planting Committee (CPC) currently consists of the following members (alphabetical order by last name): Aaron Boyd (convenor), Phil Campbell, Aimee Grinter, John Huynh, Tanya Kelada and Luke McSeveny (secretary). Richard Wilson, the Assembly appointed Church Planting Officer (CPO), is not an official member of the CPC but we are very grateful for his involvement in the work of the Committee.

2. Compassion for the lost

The CPC is aware that it is comparatively easy for the members of the Assembly to hear, see and feel the pain of the churches represented in our Assembly, because those churches each have people who are physically present to represent them and speak on their behalf. It is much harder for our Assembly to keep seeing, hearing and feeling the pain of the crowds of lost people living in Victoria, who do not have personal representatives in our Assembly.

Therefore, we must bear in mind what Matthew tells us about the heart of our Lord Jesus towards those who were lost. In Matt 9:36 Matthew says:

³⁶ When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Our Lord Jesus saw the crowds of lost people around him and was filled with deep compassion for them, because he saw them as they really were - as people who were spiritually harassed and helpless because they did not yet know him as their Good and Great Shepherd.

As an Assembly we must keep asking our Lord Jesus to fill us afresh with his Spirit so that we might also be filled with his deep compassion for the crowds of lost people across Victoria - people who are spiritually harassed and helpless because they do not yet know Jesus as their Good and Great Shepherd. As the compassion of Christ fills our hearts we will be compelled to send people out to preach the gospel, to make disciples, and to plant churches.

3. Currently supported plants

The CPC currently supports Fresh Start Presbyterian Church - Donnybrook, which is in the 3rd year of its 5 year funding cycle from the CPC. There have been some challenges for this church given that it was planted during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the CPC is very thankful for their faithfulness and perseverance, under the leadership of Rev Ben Kelada, and we are encouraged that they are starting to see some fruit for their labours.

4. A change in role for the CPO - Richard Wilson

As per Assembly approval in October 2022, the role of Rev. Richard Willson, CPO, was changed to 0.5 EFT from January 1st 2023. This change has freed up money in the CPC budget for other important endeavors, has enabled Richard to focus his ministry as the CPO in the most strategic areas, and has meant that he can continue to serve as the pastor at Valley PC,

But this change has not meant any change to Richard's driving passion and vision. As we emerge from the trials of the COVID-19 pandemic, and immigration begins to ramp up bringing the nations to Victoria, Richard remains determined to help the PCV to continue our efforts to reach the nations for Christ through church planting.

Richard has been encouraged to have met with at least 10 young men this year who are interested in serving the Lord by church planting with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. He is meeting with some of these men regularly in an 'incubator' program in partnership with the Geneva Push (now a branch of Reach Australia). In the incubator they are talking and praying together about gospel ministry and meeting with experienced planters to learn from them about what it might look like to reach Victoria with the gospel through church planting.

The CPC will continue to support the planting of new churches in the growth corridors of Melbourne. However, in more recent years the focus of housing growth in Melbourne is changing to include the building of medium and high density housing in the middle and inner ring suburbs. With this in mind Richard is increasingly working out how we might plant churches in these more established suburbs as well.

We have a number of Presbyterian church properties in these suburbs that are not fully utilized, so Richard has been meeting with these churches to see if they would consider supporting a new church plant in their facilities to reach new people for Christ. We expect that this may become an increasingly important element of our church planting in the years ahead.

Richard's key goals moving forward will be to:

- a. Run the Advance Church Planting Conference annually as a rallying point for church planting in Victoria (more about the 2023 conference below).
- b. Identify people interested in church planting.
- c. Encourage and develop these people through the incubator process and meet with individuals to help them progress their planning.
- d. Help presbyteries to assess candidates as to their suitability for church planting.
- e. Coach existing church planters.
- f. Visit church plants and encourage them in their progress.
- g. Help presbyteries identify suitable locations for church plants and work with them to develop their plans.
- h. Work with partners to identify suitable places to invest in property.

5. A broadening of our church planting strategy

Since its inception the CPC has typically sought to facilitate church planting across the PCV, in collaboration with presbyteries, by identifying places of gospel need and strategic importance, identifying, assessing and sending a suitable church planter and core team, providing financial support to the church plant, and providing ongoing training and coaching to the church planter via the CPO.

While we are definitely open to continuing with this model of church planting in the future, we are increasingly aware that it has certain limitations, particularly with regard to the raising up of suitable church planters, the availability of church plant core teams, and the provision of sufficient funds for the church plant.

With this in mind the CPC is convinced that we need to broaden our church planting strategy by helping established churches in the PCV to become churches that have the capacity to plant churches with less denominational support.

We are yet to identify all the ways in which we might do this, but it will likely include things such as assisting local churches to develop a vision for church planting, running the Advance Church Planting Conference, and providing subsidy grants to enable leaders of churches with a passion and plan for church planting to attend leadership development programs that might facilitate that.

6. Property Development Fund

The CPC has the privilege and responsibility of administering the Property Development Fund (PDF) which receives funds via the regular distributions from the Scots Church Property Trust.

In the past 12 months the CPC was very pleased to be able to provide a PDF grant of \$828,000 to Darebin Presbyterian Church to assist them in purchasing a church property in Rossmoyne St, Thornbury. This property has been repaired and renovated over the past 12 months and the church will soon start conducting all its ministries there. We praise God that this property will provide greater stability and permanence to the gospel witness of Darebin PC.

In previous years the CPC has been able to provide PDF grants to Bundoora Presbyterian Church and Reforming Church in Bendigo, and we thank those churches for continuing to make contributions to replenish the PDF.

The CPC was also delighted to receive \$84,846 (10%) from the Batesford, and \$60,169 (10%) from the Anakie Presbyterian Church property sale from within the bounds of the Geelong Presbytery.

7. The need for land and property in outer suburbs

The CPC is mindful that not so long ago most Victorians lived in rural and regional areas and as a result we have a legacy of many Presbyterian churches being located in these areas. Now, however the Victorian population continues to be rapidly urbanized so we need to consider how we might buy land and build church properties in the outer suburbs of Melbourne, for both existing churches and new churches without property.

One potential source of funding for this land and property is the old church properties, often in regional and rural areas, that presbyteries have regularly been

petitioning the Assembly to sell in recent years. While the CPC is very grateful for recent contributions to the PDF from the sale of such properties, we would like to urge all Presbyteries to consider petitioning the Assembly to allocate a more significant percentage of the proceeds of sale of any properties to the PDF, so that we can buy land and build churches in the outer suburbs.

8. Advance Church Planting Conference

On the morning of 18 November 2023, the CPC will be holding the Advance Church Planting Conference at 156 Collins Street. The conference will be run in partnership with the METRO Committee whose conference will start after lunch at the same venue. Rev Phil Campbell will be the keynote speaker, speaking on the topic of 'Planting from the inside out' and sharing his experiences of church planting in Brisbane. There will also be a variety of workshops. We encourage all PCV churches to send some representatives along to further develop a passion and plan for being involved in the vital work of church planting. If you have young people with a passion to reach the nations this is the conference to bring them to.

9. Assessor elders for church planting

The CPC has identified that there's a lack of trained, experienced and available elders to serve as Assessors in church planting sessions. With the advent of Zoom session meetings, the CPC feels that there is an excellent opportunity to recruit and equip a cohort of elders who are willing to assist new congregations, without the need for regular travel. (Elders may be appointed across boundaries with the support of presbyteries and the assembly moderator.) The CPC is preparing a training course designed to equip suitable elders to assist in this way. We will request presbyteries and sessions to commend this online training to elders with appropriate gifts and passions for service around the state.

Aaron Boyd
CONVENER

CLERK'S REPORT: RECORDS (Min 98)

Since the dissolution of the Assembly Records Committee (2015), the Clerk is to report annually to the General Assembly on the state of presbytery and committee records.

Presbytery minute books are generally well-kept. This no surprise as each of our presbytery clerks and their assistants are faithful to duty and hardworking in his/her own spare time.

I have communicated to each presbytery separately according to specific need.

Again, this year, there are recurring errors of procedure. Sadly, while I have pointed these out in last year's reports to presbyteries, they appear not to have been rectified. I've yet to name these presbyteries, but I suppose that if the same procedural errors recur again then I will have to do so.

These are the most common areas of concern remain, as follows:

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 members of the court are not disenfranchised, there are ONLY four reasons for a presbytery meeting 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.

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? Is it a full sentence with a subject, verb and predicate? 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.

Using the powers of review is a blessing for the church, helps congregations avoid error or heresy and is an encouragement for the pastors.

It's true to say that committee minute books vary in standard. I think this deserves closer attention in years to come.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

**CLERK'S REPORT-FORMERLY: MODERATOR'S COMMITTEE'S
DUTIES (Min 26)
(SEE GAV 2014, MIN 28)**

The last time the General Assembly made a declaration regarding its expectations of moderatorial visits to congregations, committees and the mission field was in 2014. It's the Clerk's opinion that it would better serve the church to re-present our expectations this year and ask for Assembly approval.

The main difference between this proposed schedule of visits and the previous one is that by extending the roster for an extra year we have lessened the overall number of visits expected of each moderator in his year of office.

Notices of Motion in connection with the Clerk's Report:

1. Adopt the following schedule of visits for the years 2023 - 2030

| year | regional charges | no. | metro charges | no. | total |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 2023/24 | Bendigo (St Johns), Eaglehawk, Kerang-Swan Hill, Bendigo East (Reforming), Rochester, Sunraysia | 6 | Bundoora, Eltham, Epping, Donnybrook (Fresh Start), Heidelberg, Hume, Kangaroo Ground, Reservoir | 8 | 14 |
| 2024/25 | Ararat-Skipton, Ballarat North (Scots)-Smeaton-Mt Prospect, Ballarat South (Ebenezer), Ballarat West (Grace), Castlemaine, Horsham, Nhill-Kaniva | 7 | Coolaroo (Samoan), Valley, Whittlesea-Mernda, Belgrave Heights, Blackburn, Croydon, Donvale | 7 | 14 |
| 2025/26 | Broadford, Benalla-Balmattum, Seymour-Nagambie-Yea, Shepparton-Stanhope-Kyabram, Tatura-Rushworth, Wangaratta-Yarrowonga-Myrtleford, Wodonga | 7 | Heathmont, Kilsyth (Kirkbrae), Mt Evelyn, Warburton, Woori Yallock, Arabic (Sth Yarra), Ashburton | 7 | 14 |
| 2026/27 | Bellarine, Geelong North, Bannockburn | 3 | Auburn (Chalmers), Burwood, Camberwell (Trinity), Canterbury, Caulfield-Elwood, Gardenvale East, Hawthorn, North Balwyn (Korean), Malvern, South Yarra, St Kilda-Balaclava | 11 | 14 |
| 2027/28 | Geelong West, The Leigh, Bairnsdale, Drouin, Leongatha, Moe-Yarram, Morwell, Sale, Warragul | 9 | Surrey Hills, Brimbank, Clifton Hill-Essendon, Darebin, Gisborne | 5 | 14 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| 2028/29 | Camperdown-Noorat-Terang, Colac, Hamilton, Portland, Koroit-Port Fairy, Warrnambool-Sth Warrnambool | 6 | Scots (Melbourne)-Flemington Melton, Point Cook, Sunshine-West Melb Korean, Wyndham, West Footscray, Williamstown, Aspendale | 8 | 14 |
| 2029/30 | Sorrento-Rye, Somerville, Dromana-Mornington | 3 | Brighton, BayChurch, Clarinda, Clayton, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Embrace (Korean), Frankston, New Life (Officer), Nuer (Clarinda), SE Samoan | 11 | 14 |

2. Request the Moderator of each year, 2023/24 – 2029/30, if possible, to offer a moderatorial visit to congregations as listed in the table above for the congregation's edification and encouragement.

3. As it lies within their capabilities, and after consultation with the APWM (Vic) Committee, request the Moderator of each year 2023/24 – 2029/30, together with his wife if appropriate, to consider a visit to one or more mission field(s) where our Victorian APWM missionaries are serving as an act of encouragement and pastoral care for them (the visit to be the Moderator's choice, at his timing, and entirely at PCV's expense, namely: the Deakin Trust).

4. Request conveners of Assembly committees to invite the Moderator of the day to visit one meeting during his year of office for the purpose of encouragement and strengthening the work of the committee.

5. Confirm the practice that in the case of an inducted minister serving as Moderator, each Sunday that he is absent from his Charge for specific moderatorial duties, the pulpit supply shall be reimbursed from Assembly funds, namely the Deakin Trust, to his Board of Management.

6. Confirm the practice that, aside from reimbursing all costs associated with his moderatorial duties, the Moderator of the day shall be awarded 10% of the stated Minimum Ministers Remuneration for the year he takes up office, from Assembly funds, namely the Deakin Trust.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE (Min 45)

The Clerkship Committee's purpose is set out in its regulation 4:

Purpose

The purpose of the committee shall be to

- a) provide counsel, pastoral care and support to the clerk;
- b) administer the clerk's terms of settlement;
- c) provide a body from whom the clerk can seek advice between meetings of the General Assembly;
- d) receive annual reports from the clerk on the performance of duties as determined by the General Assembly and specified in the 'Statement of Duties' as published by the General Assembly from time to time;
- e) recommend to the General Assembly, in consultation with the BIF, the remuneration to be paid to the clerk;
- f) receive and determine any requests for leave made by the clerk;
- g) appoint an acting clerk whenever the clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office;
- h) perform the role of the Clerkship Review Committee as specified in the terms of settlement for the Assembly Clerk; this review shall include:
 - i) the roles and specific duties of the Clerk;
 - ii) the performance of the Clerk during his time in office;
 - iii) the terms of settlement of the Clerk; and
 - iv) the reappointment of the Clerk.

The Committee has sought to faithfully fulfill its duties under these regulations.

1. Appointment of Assistant to the Clerks

Following the resignation of Mr Dean Carroll from the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and his resignation from the role of Assistant to the Clerks, for the good governance of the church the Committee met on 30 March 2023, and appointed Rev Philip Burns as Acting Deputy Clerk whilst the incumbent Deputy Clerk, Rev Peter Phillips, continued to serve as Moderator. Rev Cameron Garrett was also appointed Acting Assistant to the Clerks. These acting positions were established as a Commission has no authority to appoint a Clerk (in any capacity).

Mr Phillips has now resumed his role as Deputy Clerk and the committee recommends that Assembly thank Mr Burns for his faithful service during this time.

The Committee, recognising Mr Garrett's faithful service, further recommends that he be appointed to the role of Assistant to the Clerks, formalising his 'acting' appointment.

2. Clerk of Assembly's resignation

It is with deep regret that the Committee reports that it received from the Clerk of Assembly, Rev Dr John Wilson, on 16 June 2023, advice that he is not seeking a renewal of his contract past 31 December 2024.

The words he used when advising the Committee were,

'... this is to give you advance notice that I'm not seeking re-appointment. I'm stepping down from clerkship as at 31 December 2024, or before if the GAV thinks wise, in order to make way for a younger generation of leadership to take up the reins and to guide

the General Assembly into our next era. I do this for the good of the church - I think that with the increasingly complex environment of regulatory control from outside bodies, and the need to embrace a renewed vision for the church's mission of preaching the Gospel, the role of clerk needs the energy and freshness of a man in his 40s or 50s.'

Consequently, the Committee will be implementing a process seeking to appoint a new Clerk of Assembly.

We have approached the Code Committee with a proposed process, and they will be bringing their report to the Assembly for consideration. We decided to formalise the process as we have in the past only rarely appointed Clerks of Assembly (in my time I recall only two: Rev E Pearsons and, since May 2007, our current Clerk).

The Committee recognises that there will, of necessity, be a time of hand over as a new clerk takes up tenure. This could result in an overlap of remuneration for two clerks up to a period of six months.

3. Administer the clerk's terms of settlement.

The Committee met and applied the terms as approved by this Assembly and as set out in the clerk's contract of employment recognising that he is not a "religious practitioner" under the terms of s57 of the Fringe Benefits Tax Act and thereby does not receive any exempt benefits but rather receives their equivalent.

4. Clerk's annual report

The Committee asked the Clerk to provide his annual report together with any recommendations of changes to his role and specific duties set out under the Clerk of Assembly's Job description in the PCV Job Descriptions portion of the Code Book, as well as any feedback on "other things" that have fallen the Clerk's way which are not reflected in his Job Description.

Attached below is a copy of his report together with matters highlighted in blue which he recommends dropping from the clerk's role.

The Committee recommends that Dr Wilson be excused from responsibility on the matters highlighted for the remainder of his tenure and that once a new Clerk is identified that discussions ensue as to what changes could be made to the Clerk's job description.

5. Clerk's Leave, Expenses And Wider Church Activities

The Committee has attended to these as required.

The Clerk's due diligence and continued emphasis on transparency in all that he does, spends and visits is greatly appreciated.

In the past the Committee has provided much more detail of the Clerk's activity to the Assembly, but like other Committees, with people in their employ, who do not provide all the details of what they do or spend, we believe the Assembly recognises the Clerk's integrity and the Committee's stewardship and appreciate it as we follow the model of other committees.

6. The Clerk’s Support Team

It is once again incumbent on this committee to acknowledge the roles played by the Administrative Assistant to the Clerk, Siew Teng Yap, the Deputy Clerk, and the Assistant to the Clerks (both incumbents and those ‘acting’). They 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.

This past year, as the Assembly recognises, has been a challenging and heartbreaking year for our Clerk and his wife Paula at the tragic passing of their daughter Emily. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

The Committee recognises that now is not the time to say our thanks for a job well done by our Clerk. The appropriate time for the Assembly to do so is in October 2024. However, together with the Moderator at that time, the Committee will take the opportunity for an appropriate farewell and a gift closer to the date when he concludes his tenure.

Attachment

Clerk’s Report to the Clerkship Committee – July 2023

| Role of the Clerk: | Comments |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Chief administrative officer of the Assembly. | I am very well aware of the serious responsibility and high privilege of this first-mentioned role. |
| 2. Proactively seeks the peace and good government of the denomination. | This is my whole focus, day and night, and governs every decision I make and every piece of advice issued. |
| 3. Convener of the CGAC; secretary of the CFCl, supports the GAV Moderator, presbytery moderators and clerks. | Highlights of the year include preparing business for both the Code Committee and the “Schools” Commission. I enjoy serving these bodies. There are many phone calls and other supportive emails to the moderator, and in particular to presbytery clerks. |
| 4. Responsible for scrutiny of presbytery and Assembly committee records. | Reading every page of the year’s work for each presbytery and each committee gives the Clerk a valuable insight into the work of the whole church. See under 4(a) below for more detail (p.). |
| 5. Responsible for church records management and the church archives. | Meeting with the PCV Archivist at least monthly for report and counsel. See under Specific Duties (q) below for more detail (p.5). |

| Role of the Clerk: | Comments |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. Responsible for maintaining a PCV website. | The Clerk's best contribution in this area is deputising to Cam Garrett (back end) and Siew Teng Yap (front end). |
| 7. Deemed head of entity for the PCV for the purposes of the Reportable Conduct Scheme in Victoria. | A heavy responsibility. This year, again, there were some seriously unpleasant matters that came to my desk on their way to becoming (i) a report for the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), or (ii) part of another two Supreme Court cases against the PCV, or (iii) a National Redress Scheme (NRS) payout. |
| 8. Liaises with the General Assembly of Australia (GAA) and other state Assemblies. | The advantage of being Deputy Clerk of the GAA at the same time and also acting convener of the PresAID Committee means that my liaison with the GAA and other state Assemblies is more consistent and thorough than anyone else could manage. I visit each state Assembly every second year. |
| 9. The Church's 2nd representative to Victorian Church Leaders meeting. | It's difficult to find the motivation to attend such meetings. We could remove this role and not be any worse off as a church. |
| 10. In carrying out the above (1–9), where appropriate, exercises a pastoral responsibility towards the ministers and members of the denomination. | Absolutely true. This is my demeanour in working as clerk. I also practice pastoral work by courtesy of Andrew Vines at Reservoir as his Assistant Minister (honorary). |
| Specific DUTIES of the Clerk: | |
| 1. Chief admin officer: | |
| a) keep an accurate roll of Assembly | Essentially, the roll of Assembly is determined by what presbytery clerks certify and send me under their signatures. |
| b) receive, examine, record, report to the Assembly all documents, papers or communications | Yes, all this is attended to. |
| c) prepare the White Book | Easily done, especially with Siew Teng's skill and attentiveness. |

| Role of the Clerk: | Comments |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| d) attend all sittings of the Assembly | I haven't missed a sitting of the General Assembly since October 1977 (I think that's 47 consecutive years). |
| e) keep a correct record of all proceedings of the Assembly | Easily done through a valuable team of assistants. |
| f) prepare the minutes after each sitting of the Assembly, for publication | See above - easily done, especially with Siew Teng's skill and attentiveness. |
| g) undertake periodic training, as required, in regard to the Church's relations with the Media and other outside bodies and arrange for such training to be made available for the Moderator and convener of C&NC | Not so attentive in the light of other duties. We could remove this role and leave it in the hands of the Moderator and not be any worse off as a church. |
| h) be Clerk of the Commission of Assembly and the Committee of the Whole | Haven't missed a Commission of Assembly since April 1978. I've never witnessed the Assembly resorting to "Committee of the Whole". |
| i) make such statutory declarations and affidavits as may from time to time be required by law | Yes – not often required, but I make myself available for this and attend to it when required. |
| j) keep in safe custody all books, records, documents of the Assembly, and produce certified copies or extracts when required | Yes, I'm reasonably adept at organising and storing Assembly records. Extract minutes are produced upon request. |
| k) see that the decisions of the Assembly are notified to presbyteries, committees, congregations concerned | All notifications are attended to by the week following the General Assembly - easily done, especially with Siew Teng's skill and attentiveness. |
| l) provide annual training of presbytery clerks, committee reps in all relevant Code matters, meeting procedures | Yes, onto this. Will try this year a Zoom training afternoon because when it is in person, inevitably, one or two find it difficult to attend a city meeting. |
| m) teach church polity at PTC, Box Hill as required | Yes, always willing to do so. |
| n) respond and supply information to all who requiring information concerning the business of the Assembly | Yes, a pleasure to attend to this. |
| o) make available to the press, radio and television, information concerning the church | Yes, happy to be of service. Though, you'd understand that the public media has very little interest in what the church is saying or doing. |
| p) facilitate the flow of information through the PCV email network | Yes – and easily done, especially with Peter Phillip's skill and faithful duty. |

| Role of the Clerk: | Comments |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| q) be responsible for the PCV Archives | My regular plan is to meet with the Archivist, Michael Smith, once per month, though lack of a home for the Archives has hampered this. |
| r) inform the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages of those to be registered under the Marriage Act and any changes to their status | Yes, constantly being attended to, especially with Siew Teng's skill and attentiveness. |
| 2. As Convener of the Code Committee: | |
| a) shall ensure the work of the committee is fulfilled according to its regulations | No problems – I attend to this. |
| b) provide advice to parties who wish to bring business to the court | Yes, advice (often collaborating with Peter Phillip first, and occasionally when necessary, with Geoff Cox) is competently and swiftly provided upon request. |
| c) is the first point of contact by presbytery clerks, committee conveners, and others for interpretation and application of Church Rules | Yes, advice (often collaborating with Peter Phillips first, and occasionally when necessary with Geoff Cox) is competently and swiftly provided upon request. |
| 3. Responsible for church records and PCV Archives: | |
| a) shall arrange for the acquisition and care of church records from courts, organisations, individuals who may have material | With the help of Michael Smith, we are doing this. |
| b) is responsible for: i) the running of the Church Archive and the appointment and oversight of archive staff ii) inquiries from within the church relating to records and material contained in the Church Archive | With the help of Michael Smith, we are doing this. |
| 4. Responsible for scrutiny of presbytery, committee records: | |
| a) call annually for records of all presbyteries to be deposited 2 weeks prior to the meetings of the General Assembly for scrutiny by the Assembly Clerk clerks of the presbyteries | Let the Assembly Clerk do this. |
| b) on behalf of the Assembly and on a regular basis call for and scrutinise the records of Assembly committees, boards, councils responsible directly to the Assembly | Yes, all attended to with the diligent assistance of Siew Teng to keep a check on who has reported and who has not reported at any given time of the year. |
| c) report to the Assembly on the state of the church records with any recommendations | Yes, all attended to. |

| Role of the Clerk: | Comments |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| d) furnish to clerks and conveners a statement on their records, indicating any omissions, irregularities or recommendations required | Yes, all attended to. Each presbytery and each committee receive their own report for their records. |
| e) keep a permanent record of all comments on the records inspected | Yes, all attended to. |
| 5. The Clerk (along with the Deputy Clerk): | |
| provides assistance and guidance for members of the church, and for the church's courts and committees, in all matters of the rules, practice and procedure of the church | Yes, all attended to. |
| 6. In liaising with the GAA and other state Assemblies: | |
| a) seeks the good government of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; | Yes, all attended to. As indicated above the advantage of being Deputy Clerk of the GAA at the same time and also acting convener of the PresAID Committee means that my liaison with the GAA and other state Assemblies is more consistent and thorough than anyone else could manage. I visit each state Assembly every second year. |
| b) seeks the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout the nation. | The value-add in this regard is our reputation and advancement not only "throughout the nation" but also world-wide. Because I have a walk-up friendship with, and invitations to work alongside, Presbyterian leaders in Zambia, Malawi, Dehradun India, the World Reformed Fellowship (where I'm a Board member) and the Presbyterian Church in America, I am able, wherever I travel, to speak a word in favour of the PCV. |
| In relation to outside bodies: | |
| 1. The second representative to the Victorian Heads of Churches. | Could do without this. |
| 2. Along with the Convener of C&NC, consult with one another and the Moderator on business of Heads of Churches, including adding new business to the Agenda. | See above. |
| 3. From time to time the Moderator, the Clerk and the Convener (C&NC) will individually represent the church in communication with government, the media etc. | See above.. |

| Role of the Clerk: | Comments |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 4. The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Convener of the C&NC are requested to undertake periodic training in regard to the Church's relations with the Media and other outside bodies. | See above. |

Colin Morrow
CONVENER

CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Min 37)

Introduction

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, presbyteries and the General Assembly.

There was an increased level of interaction last year resulting in thirteen overtures being presented to the 2022 General Assembly. This has not been repeated this year, and while there are some rule changes (of minor-level importance) in preparation, we are holding those back until GAV 2024 or 2025. We are relieved to observe an unofficial moratorium on rule changes leading up to what will be a necessarily significant raft of changes upon the introduction of the PCV New Entity.

1. Remit 1: A Commission appointing a commission (rule 6.50.3)

This remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 1 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

2. Remit 2: Amending regulations by notice of motion (rule 5.45.1)

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: Church discipline and being reinstated to the roll (rule 3.32.2)

This remit was returned with 10/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 3 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

4. Remit 4: Record apart referenced in the ordinary minutes of the court (rule 6.19)

This remit was returned with 9/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 4 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

5. Remit 5: Response to GAA's position on paedocommunion (rules 3.24.2 and 3.24A)

This remit was returned with 8/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 5 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule changes.

6. Remit 6: changing from mandatory ACRs to specific use MMRs

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 changes.

7. Remit 7: Maintaining minutes of meetings in a bound minute book

This remit was returned with 9/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 7 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

8. Remit 8: Presbytery oversight of trials for licence

The remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 8 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

9. Remit 9: Order of business for presbytery meetings

The remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 9 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

10. Remit 10: Procedural steps for linking congregations (rule 4.68B)

The remit was returned with 11/11 presbyteries in favour, and the committee believes the change should proceed. Clause 10 of the proposed deliverance advances the rule change.

11. The difference between Ministers and Home Missionaries in Home Mission Charge appointments

The case of a minister of the church being appointed by presbytery to a Home Mission Charge under rule 4.73 raised the question of whether or not he is considered to be a home missionary, i.e. is he both a minister and a home missionary?

Then, a subsequent question follows: If the current MDC definition (eg regulation 13(a)) suggests the answer is YES to the above question, does that minister have to go through the regular application and accreditation procedure for home missionaries?

The Code Committee suggests that the answer to the primary question is NO, and advances to the Assembly a simple regulation change to make that clear. It follows that the subsequent question would then dissolve. Clause 11 of the proposed deliverance advances that change to MDC regulation 13(a).

12. The Allan Bequest and who should properly administer it

The question has been raised at the Assembly as to the proper administration of the Allan Bequest.

For many years, the Christian Education and Nurture Committee (now: Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee – PYCC) was said under its regulation 3 to administer the trust called “The Allan Bequest”. This has been pointed out to us by the Trusts Corporation to be improper and in need of change.

This year, while the church is seeking a wider use of funds from the Allan Bequest, and the matter is before the courts via a *cy pres* application, it seems the right time to redirect the administration of the Allan Bequest to the Trusts Corporation, whose responsibility it is to administer any Trust of the church anyway. Clause 12 of the proposed deliverance advances the necessary change to PYCC regulation 7.

13. The need to establish a process for appointment of a new clerk

As soon as the Clerk announced that he was stepping down from all Assembly clerkship duties at the conclusion of his present contract (31 December 2024), it became apparent that the church had no clear process for nominating or appointing a new clerk. It seems to be the best time to formulate such a process now. The committee also considered that it's timely to extend the process to include that of Deputy Clerk and Assistant to the Clerks as well.

It appears to this committee that the best place for new regulations in this regard belongs with the Clerkship Committee. Clause 13 of the proposed deliverance advances the necessary changes to the Clerkship Committee, regulations 6 and 7.

14. Continuity of convenership of the Change or Suppression Committee

In considering the work of this committee as to how far it has progressed and what is still required of it going forward, the need for continuity of leadership was expressed. A concern was raised that under the current regulations, the convenership would change in October, and that this might be an inappropriate expectation for any incoming moderator to suddenly take over as convener.

We think that the current convener (and Moderator) Rev Peter W Phillips, is best placed to continue. Clause 14 of the proposed deliverance advances the necessary change to the Change or Suppression Committee regulation 2.

15. The ad hoc PCV Archives Committee to be considered as a Standing Committee of the Assembly

The ad hoc PCV Archives Committee has asked to be reconstituted as a regular standing committee of the General Assembly. Given the planned occupation of 690 Elgar Road and the employment of a new Archivist, this seems both necessary and wise to this committee. Clause 15 of the proposed deliverance advances the necessary new regulations.

John P Wilson
CONVENER

COMMISSION FOR CHURCH INSTITUTIONS (Min 73)

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 Commission oversees, by careful management and oversight, the PCV's 57 annual appointments.

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. 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 appointments for the 2023–2024 council year have not been finalised.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

CONCILIATION COMMITTEE ((Min 99))

PART 1

Prior to the Assembly in 2022, the Business Committee received a petition from several parties relating to a dispute the petitioners had relating to the actions of the Presbytery of Melbourne East and specifically a member of the presbytery.

The Business Committee resolved to hand this matter to the Conciliation Committee to attempt to bring about a satisfactory resolution for both parties.

Normally, the Immediate Past Moderator would act as convener of the committee, but since Rev Philip Mercer is a member of the presbytery named by the petitioners, Mr Colin Morrow, a past Moderator, was asked to convene the committee.

The Clerk of the General Assembly advised Mr Morrow on 15 August 2022 of the Business Committee's proposed process. Mr Morrow convened a meeting of the conciliation committee on 16 August 2022 with those on the presbytery of Melbourne East not present. There were no conflicts of interest reported.

Subsequently, a sub-committee of the Conciliation Committee met with representatives of the petitioners, face to face, on 22 August 2022 and with representatives of the presbytery of Melbourne East via Zoom on 30 August 2022.

With the agreement of the petitioners, the Presbytery of Melbourne East appointed a committee of the presbytery to re-investigate the petitioners concerns from the beginning with all parties named by the petitioners.

The presbytery committee was due to report their findings to the presbytery on 14 December 2022.

On 25 November 2022, prior to the presbytery committee submitting its finding, the convener of the Conciliation Committee received an email from the petitioners stating they wished to withdraw from the process and not proceed with conciliation or mediation.

The Conciliation Committee reports:

- There was no actual mediation meeting held by the Conciliation Committee with both parties present.
- Although both parties had agreed to participate and did commence reviewing the whole process, with the presbytery appointing a new investigative committee to undertake the review.
- The petitioners withdrew from the process for the reasons, and in the terms, stated in their email of 25 November 2022 (above).
- The Conciliation Committee has failed to bring about the timely resolution of disputes through mediation as a means of reducing demand on the General Assembly (regulation 3(a)).
- Since the email from the petitioner claims this is in essence a complaint against a minister, this has taken the whole matter out of the hands of the Conciliation Committee unless it is referred back to it by the Assembly per our regulation 3(b).

Colin Morrow
CONVENER

PART 2

The Conciliation Committee met on 23 March 2023 via Zoom to consider strategies for conciliating the appeal in the name of Rev Dr Peter Barclay against decisions of the Presbytery of Flinders.

Rev David Martin declared a conflict of interest and stood aside. Rev Martin de Pyle accepted appointment to the committee to deal with this matter.

Discussion took place around matters raised in the appeal and how best to seek conciliation.

The committee, represented by me as chair and Dr Bob Farquharson, met with the appellant in the Assembly Building on 30 March 2023. The committee heard from Peter on his appeal and regarding his base line position, which is that everything be put back to the way it was and start again.

The committee put to Peter a proposal for reaching a negotiated settlement:

1. Replace the Interim Moderator with an independent Interim Moderator.
2. Charge the new Interim Moderator with the responsibility of convening meetings of both congregations to ensure that no one's rights or privileges had been infringed, and that the will of both congregations had been respected in the processes taken to date.
3. Formulate a strategic plan for the united congregation including proposals for the ongoing use of the Mordialloc property for Gospel ministry.
4. Give an undertaking that the independent role of Interim Moderator will be respected going forward.

While we were of the view that these 4 steps addressed the concerns of the appellant, Peter declined to conciliate the matter any further. He expressed the wish that his appeal to be proceeded with.

The committee, represented by me and Rev Andrew Vines, met with representatives of the Presbytery, Rev Brett Peatman and Rev David Martin on 31 March 2023 via Zoom. We reported that Peter's base-line position for any negotiations was for Presbytery to put everything back to the way it was and begin again. The Presbytery expressed its inability to agree to that request.

On the basis of our proceedings, we must report that conciliation was not achieved in this case.

Rev Philip Mercer

DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min 63)

The Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee (DFCC) stands to support the work of Defence Force Chaplaincy. The Committee is comprised of the following people: Mr Chris Perry, Mr Jamie Kapelles, and all Defence Force Chaplains serving in Victoria.

Chaplains are religious practitioners serving in an unusual workplace and are overseen by the Religious Advisory Committee to Services (RACS) in a multi-faith environment. One of the main focuses of RACS and Defence Chaplaincy recently has been the response to moral injury.

Moral injury refers to the psychological, social and spiritual impact of events involving betrayal or transgression of one's own deeply held moral beliefs and values occurring in high stakes situations. Moral injury is not a recognized mental health disorder in itself but may be associated with PTSD or depression. Moral injury was first described in military personnel who returned from deployment having been involved in events that transgressed their deeply held moral beliefs or values. The impact of these experiences on individuals' psychological, social and spiritual wellbeing was seen as being broader than the symptoms of PTSD or depression.⁶⁰

Defence Force Chaplaincy has been blessed with the work of two of their own, CHAP Timothy J. Hodgson and CHAP Lindsay B. Carey PHD who have developed and implemented a Pastoral Narrative Disclosure (PND) strategy for intervening in moral injury. PND is 'a holistic bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach to moral injury, by including chaplaincy in the screening and treatment of moral injury among actively serving military members and retired veterans. As part of the moral injury treatment process, and in alignment with the World Health Organization's Spiritual Intervention Codings, a new technique is proposed, "Pastoral Narrative Disclosure" (PND), as a guide for chaplains and others trained in spiritual care to assist those suffering from moral injury'⁶¹.

All Defence Force Chaplains have been trained and equipped by Hodgson and Carey in PND. Chaplains engage with members with moral injury on a constant basis, as evidenced through chaplain reports.

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 who can engage with Defence members of all ranks and from all diverse backgrounds, 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 well received.

Please, pray for your Defence chaplains that they may continue to be strong ambassadors for Christ in the context of our Defence Force.

⁶⁰ Sourced from Open Arms Website: <https://www.openarms.gov.au/signs-symptoms/moral-injury>

⁶¹ Carey, Hodgson; Article from Frontiers of Psychiatry:
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2018.00619/full>

Chaplains currently members of this Assembly are:

Navy

Chaplain Miles Fagan RAN HMAS Cerberus

Army

Chaplain Kyung Ee ASLO South Bandiana

RAAF

Chaplain Nathan Runham RAAF RAAF Base Sale

Miles Fagan
CONVENER

EXIT STUDENTS COMMITTEE (Min 62)

The Exit Students Committee (ESC) is tasked with the sole responsibility of the placement of Exit Students into their first ministry appointment. Consideration is given to the individual and their families, congregational needs and availability and the needs in presbyteries and the denomination. These Exit Appointments always carry a sense of anticipation of what the Lord will work in and through both Exiting Candidate and receiving congregation.

Due to the nature of the exit process the membership of the committee varies from year to year with a representative from the Ministry Development Committee (MDC) convening the committee, joined by the Ministry Development Officer (MDO), the Principal of the PTC (or appointed representative), and a representative from each Exiting Candidate's presbytery of jurisdiction.

This year the Committee consisted of:

- Ministry Development Officer: Rev Chris Siriweera.
- MDC Representative: Rev Gary Stephens (Convener).
- PTC Principal: Rev Peter Hastie.
- Presbytery representatives: Rev David Martin, Rev Ben Nelson and Rev Wayne McArdle.

There were three exiting PCV ministry candidates available for an appointment this year and the following appointments were able to be finalised at the end of June:

- Mitchell Amoah: Assistant at Frankston Presbyterian Church.
- Stephen Denness: Leongatha Presbyterian Church.
- Cameron Weir: Colac Presbyterian Church.

This year the appointment process was encouraging in several aspects:

- Through the conversations with students and their families hearing stories of people who desire to serve the Lord and labour for his body, the church.
- The gracious provision of the Lord of both candidates and ministry appointments to be made.
- The unity of mind amongst the Exit Committee as we interviewed the students and their families and came to conclusions regarding the appointment possibilities.

Please join with the committee in praying for the Lord's work in and through these appointments for the praise of his name amongst his people.

Gary Stephens
CONVENER

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min 49)

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 committee employs two paediatric chaplains who each work at the Royal Children's Hospital two days per week - Mrs Gita Dickinson and Mrs Suzanne Oakes. Both provide care to children, parents, and staff in what are often particularly difficult circumstances. The effects of COVID-19 within hospitals and staff shortages have placed additional strain on all hospital staff including our chaplains.

Both are viewed highly within their Spiritual Care team and the committee is thankful for their faithful service in these circumstances.

At the time of writing, Mrs Gita Dickinson has informed the committee that she is not intending to renew her contract as a PCV paediatric chaplain for the 2023/2024 year. The committee would like to thank Gita for her service in this role and for her work in caring for many people and pointing them to Christ.

The trust that provides for paediatric chaplaincy – the Harold Hughes Trust – remains in a stable position giving the committee confidence in its ability to continue to provide for these positions into the future.

Volunteer hospital chaplains

During the last financial year, eight committee-authorized Presbyterian hospital chaplains provided pastoral care in seven public hospitals and one private hospital. Collectively they made 248 patient contacts over this time.

Volunteer hospital chaplaincy provides unique opportunities for ministry. The committee encourages Sessions to consider the public hospitals within their parish bounds and whether there are people within their congregation(s) who would be suitable and willing to engage in this sort of ministry.

If so, they would be welcome to contact the Chaplaincy Support Worker, Mr Ashley Manly to discuss this possibility further (chaplaincy@pcv.org.au, 0432 537 359).

Prison chaplains

The committee's two prison chaplains have been able to conduct face-to-face visits this year across three prisons. They have regularly had contact with 43 people in these visits.

Tertiary Chaplains

The committee supports and contributes to the funding of tertiary chaplains/campus workers who are communicants or adherents of the PCV. Over the past financial year, a total of \$20,000 was given to the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students which was distributed between 20 AFES workers in Victoria.

Deaf Chaplaincy

Rev Tony Salisbury retired from ministry in June 2023 after serving in deaf chaplaincy over many years. The committee gives thanks for Tony's faithful service in the deaf

congregation at Surrey Hills, and his encouragement of people in nursing homes, at RMIT university, and in hearing colleges.

Good Friday Appeal

This year's Assembly-sanctioned Good Friday Appeal raised a final total of \$23,893. The committee thanks God for this result as well as the PCV congregations, boards of management, and individuals who gave towards the appeal. Your generosity is significant in enabling the work of the committee.

Minister's Family Camp

The committee was thankful to be able to run the minister's family camp this year at Phillip Island Adventure Resort, following a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the length of time since previous camps the committee made the decision to run this year's camp with a refreshed purpose and program. The committee thanks guest preacher Rev Murray Campbell from Mentone Baptist Church who preached from John's Gospel.

The committee is intending to run the camp again next year at Phillip Island Adventure Resort over the dates 10 – 12 Apr 2024. The guest speakers will be Keith and Sarah Condie who have titled their time there: *Refresh: Persevering with joy in ministry*.

Ministry Family Assistance

The committee's Ministry Family Assistance program continues to provide up to four free and confidential counselling sessions per family each financial year. The committee encourages ministers, home missionaries, candidates for ministry and their families to make use of this program for their support and wellbeing.

Ministry Wives' Chaplain

Mrs Kellie Davis is employed 3 days per week in the position of Ministry Wives Chaplain. Kellie is enthusiastic and has thoroughly embraced her role of pastorally supporting ministry wives within the PCV.

Kellie has been active and effective in reaching out to and supporting ministry wives right throughout Victoria. Kellie has also been present at events such as the Ministry Family Camp, Women's Ministry Victoria Conferences, and PTC College Wives evenings. The committee thanks Kellie for her dedication to this ministry.

Chaplaincy Support Worker

The committee employs Mr Ashley Manly as its Chaplaincy Support Worker on a two days per week basis. He is the first point of contact for enquiries regarding chaplaincy and the Ministry Family Assistance program. He also fulfils administrative duties.

Ashley's knowledge and experience has been invaluable to the committee over the past year. The committee thanks him for his fine work in this role.

Committee Membership

Mrs Christine LePage was appointed to the committee at the 2022 General Assembly bringing the number of committee members to eight, with two vacant positions.

The committee meets bi-monthly with five meetings being held via Zoom, and its December meeting being face-to-face at Heathmont House.

Areas of the committee's work have been divided up among committee members which they have faithfully and diligently served in.

Mrs Martina Jones will retire from the committee at the dissolution of the 2023 General Assembly. If Assembly members know of any suitable candidates for the current vacant positions, please let the convener know.

Daniel Dixon
CONVENER

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min 46)

1. The Committee's Role

The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (MMC) exists, under its current regulations to:

- 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;
 - 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 (in accord with its regulations).

Under Regulation 12 the Committee also has been given discretionary powers in fulfilling the functions listed above.

Over the last several years the Committee has worked toward automating and vastly simplifying its role. With certain systems changes, including the ongoing development of the "in-house" system ARMS (**A**dministrative **R**eporting **M**ade **S**imple), we believe this Assembly should look toward dissolving the Committee, with any remaining functions at best being a sub-function of the BIF through the Church Office or a Human Resources professional.

Status of Committee responsibilities under Committee regulations together with recommendations.

| Responsibility | Proposed or Actual New Process |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Making recommendations as it sees fit on matters relating to Maintenance of the Ministry (Regulation 3(a)i)) | The committee believes this is a "Human Resources" function. |
| Reporting the actual dollar (\$) amounts derived from the operation of our regulation 5. Rates i.e., changes to Stipend etc. (Regulation 3(a)ii)) | This is now an administrative process and could be managed by the Church Office reporting through the BIF. |
| Determining the Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MinMR) rates should two consecutive annual decreases in the 'Earnings; Males; Full Time; Adult; Ordinary time earnings; Victoria' occur (Regulation 3(a)iii)) | The committee believes this is a "Human Resources" function. |

| Responsibility | Proposed or Actual New Process |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reporting Long Service Leave taken in the previous year and any other matters related to long service leave as the committee deems necessary (Regulation 3(a)iv)). | The reporting of LSL taken to GAV or its Commission is an administrative function. Data should be/is maintained in ARMS and reports can be auto generated for dissemination by Church Office or as a workflow. The only remaining issue relates to the words " <i>any other matters related to LSL as the Committee deems necessary.</i> " The Committee believes the " <i>other matters</i> ", again are a Human Resources function. |
| Approve or disapprove or "Declare" the proposed Terms of Settlement (Regulations 3(b) and 9 and Rule 4.81) | The ARMS process will automatically confirm if proposed Terms of Settlement are at least the minimum. The Committee believes that with this systematized checking process the ultimate responsibility should be with the Presbyteries in their role of oversight and pastoral care of religious practitioners. To put this into effect we propose to ask the Code Committee to develop appropriate rules and regulations. |
| Administer the LSL fund (Regulation 3b) | The Committee believes this is largely an accounting function and should be in the domain of the Church Office. |
| Periodic assessment/reassessment of the method of calculation of the Minimum Ministerial Remuneration. | This requires benchmarking and awareness of realities of costs of living today. It is subjective in nature and should involve an independent analysis of "the market". Once again this is a Human Resources function. |
| Notifying charges of changes to minimum terms of settlement. (Regulation 8) | Changes only occur by way of notification to the Assembly and approval by the Assembly. The clerk notifies all parties of decisions of the Assembly affecting them. |

| Responsibility | Proposed or Actual New Process |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Approval of terms of settlement for part-time ministries and annual reporting to this Assembly. (Regulation 11 and rules 4.115, 4.71 and 4.82.2(b)) | As foreshadowed in our report to the Commission in May, we are developing a process in ARMS to facilitate managing reporting “part-time” ministries. However, the Committee believes that ultimately this should be a Presbytery responsibility and that rule 4.115 should be removed and 4.71 and 4.82.2(b) amended. |
| Authority to exercise discretionary powers (Regulation 12) | The Committee notes that the BIF already has discretionary powers which when exercised must be reported to the Assembly. Additionally, responsible bodies have the right to petition the Assembly. |

Status of Committee responsibilities under LSL Fund regulations together with recommendations.

| Responsibility | Proposed or Actual New Process |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Administration of the Fund (Regulation 18) Regulation 18 reads: “The Fund shall be administered by the committee.” | This is an Administrative process and should be managed by the Church Office in administering the Fund regulations. ARMS is planned to be developed to enable ease of application and approval. |

Overall, the Committee is focused on putting the responsibility in the “right” place.

Decisions are rightly the responsibility of the presbyteries. Administration is rightly the responsibility of the Church Treasurer (BIF).

Consequently, the Committee recommends that the goal should be to eliminate the need for this Committee from 30 June 2025, with responsibilities being taken on board as set out above, from that date.

2. Non-Cash Benefits

In the light of the recent surge in inflation and to align with other denominations, the Committee recommends that the maximum Non-Cash Benefit (NCB) proportion of actual Ministerial Remuneration be changed from 35% to 40%, with the actual dollar (\$) figure rounded down to the nearest multiple of 12 and that MMC Regulations 5b and Supplementary Policies 11. Minimum Ministerial Remuneration (MMR) [Oct 2021 min 65.7] be changed accordingly.

By way of benchmarking:

- Presbyterian Church of Queensland 50%
- Anglican Diocese of Sydney 40%
- Presbyterian Church of NSW 30%
- Churches of Christ 70%
- Baptist Union of Victoria 50%

3. Travel Benefit

For the purposes of providing a travel benefit at the prescribed rate the Committee recommends that the payment of an Exempt Benefit for travel exceeding 6,000kms (Regulation 6c) should be changed to travel exceeding 5,000kms.

This is more consistent with existing tax law, where ministers are able to claim as a deductible expense for income tax purposes work related travel up to 5,000kms (if they are claiming for Kms only). This change will eliminate a 1,000km gap.

4. Annual Charge Reports

By way of reminder the Committee reminds members that the Annual Charge Reports are no longer required to be submitted to presbyteries or the MMC. Audited Annual Accounts together with budget projections are all that is required.

The Committee recommends, however, that the ACR format (Chart of Accounts) be retained for reporting of Income and Expense purposes for consistency of reporting format.

5. Terms of Settlement Report (TSR)

The new TSR is now live!

Charges should now submit congregation approved proposed changes to Terms of Settlement (TOS) via this module in line rules 2.14(i)c); 2.45 and 4.81 requirements. Details submitted will automatically “workflow” (on submission) to relevant clerks of presbytery for presbytery approval.

It is intended that no other format will be accepted by presbyteries and the church office when changes are proposed to Terms of Settlement.

Where currently MMC approval is required the TOS form, after approval and submission by a presbytery, will “workflow” to the Committee for their approval. The onus for reasonableness of the stipend will now clearly be vested with the presbyteries.

6. Maintenance of Ministry Report (MMR)

The Committee has decided not to proceed with preparing a separate Maintenance of Ministry Report.

Should the Committee require additional information in its review role, like presbyteries, Audited Annual Reports will suffice together with the TSR.

7. Reporting

Under its regulations the Committee provides reports on certain Long Service Leave statistics. Due to time constraints these tables are not included in this report and will be reported as a Supplementary report.

The information not included herein relates to:

- LSL Approved and paid from Fund in the calendar year ended 30 June 2023 (**per MMC Reg 3(a)(iv)**); and
- LSL Accrued exceeding 13 weeks (including if an approved plan has been submitted to the Committee is in place)

The table for part-time ministries is included below:

Part-Time Ministry per rule 4.71

Below is a table of presbytery approved part-time ministries reported to and approved by the Committee in the 12 months to 30 June 2023.

| Charge | Name |
|---------------|--------------|
| Warragul | Ray Patchett |

8. Consolidation of Databases

Currently there are, from what we can discern, two major databases in use across the PCV: The Office managed Access Database and the ARMS SQL database.

The Committee recommends the consolidation of these databases into one database. This will enable “one version of the truth” and remove the need for the constant reconciliation between the two (as occurs currently for LSL and LSL Levy purposes!).

9. LSL Fund Administration

As part of the administration of the LSL Fund the Committee will be automating the production of email reminders to responsible bodies and ministry workers in the fund for those who:

- Have less than seven years of service, i.e., not eligible yet but have between five and seven years of service.
 - Advise both the Ministry worker and the responsible body re eligibility and encourage a plan to be discussed.
- Are eligible to take LSL
 - < 13 weeks but > seven weeks
 - Advise the worker to take leave accrued but don't exceed accrued amount.
 - Remind them that they must get approval from responsible body and MMC.
 - > 13 weeks
 - Without having an approved plan in place, advise the worker is outside the LSL Fund regulations.
 - Advise responsible body (the Session) that they can petition presbytery to direct the worker to take excess LSL within 6 months.

10. Members Leaving the Committee

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to the Rev Cameron Garrett and Elder Reg Butcher. Although Mr Garrett has not served the Committee for as many years as Mr Butcher, both these men have served with distinction and contributed greatly to the Committee's direction and work.

As always, the committee welcomes queries and questions on the report before the Assembly.

11. Reporting (continued)

Under its regulations the Committee provides the following tables:

LSL Approved and paid from Fund in the year ended 30 June 2023 (per MMC Reg 3(a)(iv))

| Name | Name | Name |
|------------|------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

LSL Accrued exceeding 13 weeks (including if an approved plan has been submitted to the Committee is in place) as at the 30 June 2023:

Please note: Regulation 13 of the LSL Fund states:

“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.”

| Presbytery | Name | Leave Liability (weeks) | Approved plan in place |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Maroondah | [REDACTED] | 19.27 | No plan |
| Maroondah | [REDACTED] | 20.14 | No plan |
| Maroondah | [REDACTED] | 26.86 | No plan |
| Maroondah | [REDACTED] | 16.60 | No plan |
| Melbourne East | [REDACTED] | 16.11 | No plan |
| Melbourne East | [REDACTED] | 19.91 | No plan |
| Melbourne East | [REDACTED] | 14.98 | No plan |
| Melbourne East | [REDACTED] | 18.40 | No plan |
| Melbourne East | [REDACTED] | 14.60 | No plan |
| Melbourne East | [REDACTED] | 16.43 | No plan |
| Melbourne North | [REDACTED] | 26.50 | No plan |
| Melbourne North | [REDACTED] | 13.10 | No plan |
| Melbourne North | [REDACTED] | 16.08 | No plan |
| Melbourne North | [REDACTED] | 28.53 | No plan |
| Melbourne West | [REDACTED] | 23.29 | No plan |
| North-East Victoria | [REDACTED] | 24.68 | No plan |

| Presbytery | Name | Leave Liability (weeks) | Approved plan in place |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| North-East Victoria | | 13.61 | No plan |
| North-Western Victoria | | 13.64 | No plan |
| Flinders | | 13.55 | No plan |
| Flinders | | 13.49 | No plan |

Colin Morrow
CONVENER

METRO COMMITTEE (Min 35)

The Ministry Equipping Training and Recruiting Organisation (METRO) Committee of the PCV is thankful to God for what he is doing in the lives of his people and his churches within the PCV. The committee seeks to encourage men and women being trained in, and training others in, gospel ministry, through full-time and part-time traineeships. We remain committed to facilitating traineeships to help people think, be and serve like Jesus, for the evangelisation of the lost, the edification of God's people and the glory of God.

2022 Graduates

We had a most encouraging graduation event last November. Jon Ullrich (from Ebenezer PC, Ballarat) graduated from his two-year full-time METRO traineeship. He is now studying at a Bible college in Sydney and considering missionary service.

Four young adults completed YouthMETRO (the one-year part-time traineeship in youth ministry), from Surrey Hills, Frankston and Heathmont.

Present Trainees

METRO trainees finishing in 2023:

Alexandra Sheeley – Darebin

Jacob Martin – Warrnambool

Leighton Rowe – Clifton Hill

Solomon Perecharla – Geelong West

We thank God some of the above have been considering applying as candidates for ministry in the PCV. The partnership our committee has with the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) has been very helpful, and we have a very good working relationship with them, for which we are grateful. MTS assists us with administration and training support.

YouthMETRO trainees finishing in 2023:

Eight trainees from Surrey Hills, Hamilton, Benalla, Seymour and Epping. Lord willing, all the above METRO and YouthMETRO trainees will graduate in November.

The committee is thankful for the good working relationship with the Presbyterian Youth and Children's Committee regarding YouthMETRO involvement in the PYV Summer Camp. We continue to think about how we can work together going forward.

METRO trainees who started in 2023 and will finish (Lord willing) in 2024:

Zack Grace – New Life, Officer

Sam Braid – Ebenezer, Ballarat

Aaron Tai – Epping

Paul Angeles – Epping

Aditya Kuthalam – Surrey Hills

EquipMETRO

The METRO Committee had no one graduate from the EquipMETRO traineeship, nor anyone start it in 2023. We commend this traineeship to you and your sessions again. EquipMETRO is a part-time traineeship which involves trainees investing 8-10 hours a week in being trained and in ministering to others. One meets up with a trainer/mentor weekly, and trainees are encouraged to grow in their personal godliness,

knowledge of God's word and ministry skills. They read a few books and ministry papers throughout the year with their trainer, learn how to teach the Bible, pastorally care for others, and share their faith. It's an ideal course for elders, and women and men (who have other part-time or full-time work) to be equipped for word ministry and to disciple others. If you're interested or have questions, please speak with the convener or a committee member.

METRO Recruit

An encouraging information, publicity and recruiting event was held on Saturday 22 July 2023 at Bundoora Presbyterian Church, with about 30 people coming to hear about the various traineeships. The afternoon was also an encouraging time for trainees to gather and touch base with one another. We hope that this event will become an annual one and assist the PCV in encouraging people towards starting a traineeship and having questions answered.

Admin Assistant

The committee is thankful to God for the generous, faithful and gifted ministry of Maddy O'Brien, our Admin Assistant. After two years in the role Maddy has had to resign due to her personal circumstances, and the committee seeks a replacement. Maddy has been immensely helpful in getting our website, application forms, Safe Church processes and administrative matters in order. She will be missed.

Committee

The METRO Committee has had stable membership for which we thank God. Anna Harris (Ebenezer), Joy Arundell (Chalmers, serving as secretary), Andy May (Bundoora), Steve Denness (Cranbourne) and Luke Brownley (Hume) are members. Aaron Liew (from Bundoora) joined the committee this year to serve as treasurer. We hope, with Assembly's approval, Toby McIntosh can rejoin the committee post-Assembly.

Clinton Le Page
CONVENER

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Min 61)

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 Russ Grinter, and Elders Mr Iain Bramley and Mr Ralph Kop.

1.2 Ministry Development Officer

The committee is pleased to update the Assembly with news about Rev Chris Siriweera, the Ministry Development Officer (MDO), who has been actively involved in advancing ministry development across the church. At the time of writing the committee has initiated an internal review of the MDO and his work. A sub-committee will be reporting on or before our regular meeting in November 2023. We note that the post-COVID-19 ministry environment has provided unique challenges for many gospel workers, and we are thankful that the MDO has been able to offer assistance to some congregations as they face these corporate and personal challenges. A comprehensive report of the MDO's activities is found in section 4 below.

1.3 MDC Administration Officer

The committee would like to acknowledge the valuable administrative work done by Mr Ben Palmer who resigned in the past year to take on a new employment challenge. Ben served the committee for 22 years. With the administration position vacant the committee reviewed and reworked the job description and advertised. Following an interview process, Mrs Suzy Vines was appointed in February 2023.

1.4 Home Missionaries

The committee acknowledges its significant and long-standing historical involvement in home missions and church extension across the PCV. As part of the home mission program, the committee maintains close connections with numerous home missionaries serving in Victoria. The following table offers a concise overview of the home missionary appointments and their respective responsibilities. The committee expresses gratitude for these dedicated individuals and the invaluable gospel work they spearhead.

| | Home Mission Charge | Home Missionary or Minister |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Blackburn | Rev Graham Bradbeer |
| 2 | Castlemaine | Rev Daryl Jackson |
| 3 | Clarinda | Rev Michael Lee |
| 4 | Clarinda Nuer (Sudanese) | Rev Tut Jock |
| 5 | Footscray West | Rev Martin De Pyle |
| 6 | Kangaroo Ground | Supply |
| 7 | Kaniva / Nhill | Supply |
| 8 | Leongatha | Stephen Denness (Pending PTC Certificate) |
| 9 | Sale | Bairnsdale (Rev. Gary Stephens) conducting Services |
| 10 | Seymour / Nagambie / Yea | Supply |
| 11 | Sunraysia | Colin Morrow |
| 12 | Doncaster | Adrian Kebbe |
| 13 | 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. The committee encourages GAV members to note how the sustentation regulations guide applications for sustentation. The committee continues to monitor the call on funds and envisages ongoing consultation with the Board of Investment and Finance over the next few years (See min 8.12.,.2022 Commission of GAV).

2.2 Collection of Statistics

The committee again extends its thanks to the majority of congregations who submitted data for the 2022 statistical return. The committee is focused on the collection of data that best reflects the ongoing development of gospel ministry and mission across the PCV. To this end the committee are proposing to alter the question on professions of faith into two fields namely, membership transfers and new professions (i.e. conversion).

The committee expresses its thanks to Rev Cameron Garrett for the further development of the Administration and Reporting Made Simple database (ARMS). Likewise, the committee thanks Elder Ralph Kop for his leading effort in preparing the statistical report that is presented in section 5 below.

2.3 The Home Mission Program

The committee's home mission program, at a principle 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 how it can best serve the program. The following issues have been discussed and continue to be developed.

Ministry Development Conference

The committee was pleased to host its first conference in February 2023 based on a theme of faithful and fruitful in ministry, with 63 ministers, elders and interested church members in attendance. Guest speaker, Rev Dr Murray Capill, served us very well as he spoke from 1 Corinthians chapter 3, and his two talks can be found on the committee webpage. Additionally, workshop material on leadership and local mission dynamics was stimulating. The committee is committed to providing a regular conference that addresses pastoral theological issues for gospel workers in local churches. It is envisaged that the conference will be a key element of the ministry development track which is currently being developed for church revitalisation.

Ministry Development Track

After considering and evaluating the committee's efforts to engage congregations and church leaders in the work of church revitalisation, we are moving towards the establishment of a Ministry Development Track (MDT). The MDT is still under design but in broad terms, it is a two-year curriculum that, under God, engages ministers, elders, key leaders, and church members in evaluating, developing, and leading biblical change in key aspects of church life. The hope is that the MDT will better engage local believers and help them embrace and advance their local gospel ministry

and mission. The committee is convinced that ministry coaching will play a crucial role in helping the MDT work well.

Gospel Ministry Coaches in the PCV

Gospel ministry coaching focuses on helping individual leaders discover and develop their God-given potential, align their lives with the teachings of Christ, and fulfil their ministry purpose. Key elements of gospel coaching include active listening, powerful questioning, providing biblical guidance, and fostering accountability in personal living and gospel work. Wisdom literature in Scripture helpfully reminds us that, “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed” (Pro 15:22). We are convinced that a pool of ministry coaches would undoubtedly strengthen the ministry and mission of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Some of the benefits include student ministers being better supported, revitalisation work being energised and informed, lower rates of burnt-out ministers, and the cross-pollination of pastoral best practices among ministry leaders in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Initial contact with the Free Church of Scotland has yielded helpful information and connections with suitable trainers. We note that the Free Church has trained 25 ministers as ministry coaches in recent years. Anecdotal evidence points to their coaches drawing on ministry experience, pastoral theology principles, relational skills, and international discipleship so that local leaders are helped and strengthened in their work.

The committee intends to work towards offering scholarships for ministry coach training, to ministers and potentially elders in August-September 2024. In brief, those being trained would engage in a 4 step process: a 3-day foundational intensive; moving to be part of a coaching cluster where a facilitator oversees trainee coaches meeting (online) across 4 months to coach one another; individual trainee coaches then establish a short-term (6 months) ministry coaching relationship that is evaluated by the facilitator; and finally, each trainee coach completes a refresher course 12-24 months after the third step.

Eldership training

In the New Testament, the apostles outline a vision for pastoral leadership. This model involves teams of shepherds (referred to as elders, overseers, and pastors) collaborating to guide and guard individual churches in their mission centred on the advance of the gospel both in the lives of believers and into the lives of the lost. Alongside them, the apostles make provision for deacons who work together to support the church's mission by managing practical and material requirements, in such a way that they attend to the needs of the vulnerable, weak, and impoverished. Murray Smith in the introduction to “Effective Eldership” says; “Church eldership is not a Presbyterian thing. It’s a God thing. It’s part of God’s provision for his mission through his Church in his world.” Healthy biblical leadership is vital for the health of Christ’s Church. We ought not to underestimate this. The principal way for Christ to grow His Church is by the work of the Spirit through the faithful ministry of God’s Word. When local church elders are teaching the gospel by example (1 Tim 4:2) and giving instruction in sound doctrine (Tit 1:9) it is good for churches.

In the 2022 report, the committee flagged the need for the PCV to intentionally address the development of a new generation of leadership across the PCV. The Assembly asked the committee to oversee the development and production of a training course that could be used by local congregations for identifying and discipling men who might

then serve as elders (BB 68.14). A sub-committee has been giving thought to this matter. At this stage, the committee is not in a position to publish a training course. However, we are actively compiling a suite of resources that will be available via our website. These include book resources as well as links to Metro ministry papers and a link to a series of lectures on the Westminster Confession by Ligonier Ministries. The committee is reticent to be overly prescriptive, recognising that each ministry context is unique and local leaders are best placed to tailor eldership training. Additionally, ministry training ought to be viewed as a natural extension of a lifetime's discipleship.

It is possible for Christian believers to be stuck in spiritual infancy. Likewise, elders can stagnate in practising and sharing their Christian faith, let alone reproducing it in others (2 Tim 2:2). Healthy churches find ways of cultivating an environment where people are not just invited to engage in discipleship, but they are embracing all Jesus commanded. When ongoing eldership training is visibly part of church life, it helps nurture a culture of discipleship for the whole church. While church leaders may plan and undertake specific intensives in elder training, it is wise to think through how a church can provide long-term pathways for discipling men. Such an environment is more likely to identify faithful, available, and teachable men who are open to being called into eldership. Readers are reminded that the Ministry Development Officer is available for planning and undertaking leadership training.

2.4 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. The committee encourages ministers and elders to attend these online prayer opportunities during the 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). GAV members will recall that the split ratio is moving towards a 50:50 share by 2025. The committee remain confident that this arrangement will enable it to continue its valuable mission.

Across the previous four years, the committee has used an overdraft facility established with the Board of Investment and Finance to fund its activities. The provision has worked well. The current Budget forecast envisages this facility no longer being required after the 2024-25 financial year.

The committee wishes to reinforce that Ministry Development Grants need to be seen as development grants, not subsidies. We aspire 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 that no longer requires grants.

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 ^(a) | MDG paid in 2022-23 | MDG approved for 2023-24 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Broadford | 2020 | 38,000 | 18,000 | 16,000 |
| Carisbrook-Castlemaine | 2005-20 & 2023 | 215,762 | - | 32,107 |
| Clarinda | 2017 | 172,053 | 14,668 | 4,607 |
| Clarinda Nuer | 2022 | 1,668 | 1,668 | 8,966 |
| Cranbourne | 2010 | 311,717 | 10,000 | 18,000 |
| Dandenong | 2017-23 | 122,000 | 5,500 | n.a. |
| Deaf Church | 2002-23 | 402,533 | 11,000 | Did not apply |
| Eaglehawk | 2013 | 186,550 | 20,500 | 18,000 |
| Heidelberg | 2017-23 | 63,390 | 7,290 | Did not apply |
| Horsham | 2007 | 345,982 | 17,820 | 16,000 |
| Hume | 2019 | 82,764 | 17,000 | 23,300 |
| Kaniva-Nhill | 2019-23 | 76,504 | 22,068 | Did not apply |
| Leongatha | 2013-22 & 2023 | 247,850 | - | 6,054 |
| Mt Evelyn | 2016-23 | 113,000 | 10,000 | Did not apply |
| Somerville | 2023 | - | - | 15,102 |
| West Footscray | 2020 | 143,750 | 18,750 | 23,625 |
| Wodonga | 2022 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 9,000 |

(a) Includes amounts paid in 2022-23

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 |
| South Yarra Arabic | 8,600 |

At the time of compiling this report, no charges have applied for sustentation grants in 2023-24.

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 2022–23 | Approved for 2023–24 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Epping | 5,000 | completed |
| Ballarat South | 6,250 | 10,000 |
| Bairnsdale | - | 19,000 |
| Embrace Church (Korean) | - | 26,064 |

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 2022– 23 | Approved for 2023– 24 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ashburton | 19,000 | 15,000 |
| Bundoora | 15,000 | 12,500 |
| Clayton | 15,000 | 13,500 |
| Dandenong | 8,000 | 6,000 |
| Essendon-Clifton Hill ^(a) | - | 30,000 |
| Canterbury ^(a) | - | 40,000 |

(a) Essendon-Clifton Hill and Canterbury grants are subject to the successful appointment of a suitably qualified cross-cultural worker.

3.4 Capital Grants

Capital grants are not currently offered by the committee.

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. Across 2022-23 grants totalling \$46,100 were paid to the following churches: Ashburton, Aspendale, Bairnsdale, Canterbury, Caulfield-Elwood, Cheltenham, Clayton, Clarinda, Cranbourne, Croydon, Darebin, Donvale, Eaglehawk, Embrace, Essendon-Clifton Hill, Geelong West, Gisborne, Heathmont, Inverleigh, Mordialloc, New Life Presbyterian (Officer), Reforming (Bendigo East), Reservoir, Shepparton, Sunraysia, Surrey Hills, The Leigh, Warrnambool, West Footscray and Wodonga.

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 2022-23.

4. Ministry Development Officer's Report - Rev Chris Siriweera

It has been a privilege to continue to serve the PCV and the wider Church in the past year. I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve our LORD and His people. These opportunities and challenges are outlined in my report.

Summary of Ministry Activities

Ministry Meetings and Contacts - To date (July 12th)

251 Ministry meetings and contacts

- 21 of these with home missionaries
- 186 phone contacts
- 44 one-on-one meetings

The one-on-one meetings and phone contacts have been a forum to share and talk through ministry strategies, for prayer and provide support.

Individual Mentoring

In addition to the one-on-one meetings, I have met regularly with four ministers for individual mentoring. The mentoring involves talking through spiritual disciplines, ministry life, support, pastoral well-being, self-care, and other areas. It has also been a time of mutual encouragement.

Peer Support Groups

I have continued to meet regularly online with three Peer Support Groups. A total of 18 ministers from both suburban and country churches, and the Rev Joel Otten from Mandurah [WA] meet to share, pray, and discuss ministry matters. I find meeting with these ministers has helped me understand both the blessings and challenges they face in pastoral ministry. I believe that the Peer Support Groups are a forum and a network to support and encourage one another both personally and pastorally. If you are interested in joining a Peer Support Group, please contact me.

Preaching and visits to Congregations

It has been encouraging to visit many congregations across our State. I have enjoyed the warm hospitality and wonderful fellowship with our people. I enjoy engaging with people in our congregations and I take this opportunity to thank the Ministers and Sessions for inviting me to preach the Word of God in our churches. I have preached and, in some instances, conducted the Lord's Supper in the following churches:

Reservoir, Donvale, Geelong West, Broadford, Gisborne, Frankston, Bendigo Reforming, Arabic Church, Brighton, Somerville, Bairnsdale, Sale, Heathmont, Burwood Community Church, Mt Evelyn, Shepparton, Sorrento/Rye, and Aspendale.

In addition to preaching, I have also taken the opportunity to visit other congregations across the State.

Other Speaking Engagements

I spoke at the PTC Chapel Service and preached at the OBU Wesley College Colombo Thanksgiving Service. I also spoke at the Men's breakfast at Donvale on 'The Unspoken Challenges Men Face'. Also spoke at the Donvale Youth Group on 'Jesus & Buddhism'.

Partnership with PCWA

The Assembly has encouraged the MDC to provide encouragement and support to the PCWA through visits by the MDO. This partnership continues and is such a mutual encouragement to both the PCV and PCWA.

Presbytery Visits

I wish to thank presbyteries for the opportunity to attend their meetings. Visiting Presbyteries enables me to hear from them about the challenges and opportunities they face, as well as to present the work of the MDC and how the committee can support their ministry within the churches in the Presbytery. This year I visited the following presbyteries: Melbourne North, Flinders, Melbourne West.

Meetings/Consultations with Sessions

I have met with Sessions for consultation and discussions regarding the seminars/workshops I conduct as well as for other matters. In the past year, I have met with the following Sessions: Gisborne, Broadford, Mt Evelyn, Brighton, and Sorrento/ Rye. I also met with the elders of the Essendon/Clifton Hill churches to work through their 'SWOT' analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats).

Training Seminars/Workshops

I continue to provide training in the following areas to congregations.

- **How to Share Your Faith (Workshop/Training)**

To assist congregations, and focus on evangelism, I have conducted the above workshop/seminar. The purpose of this workshop is to help us think about evangelism and how to share our faith in Christ with others. The aim is to equip/discuss how to share our faith by being intentional i.e., individually as well as collectively as a church. We touch on areas like the clarity of the Gospel, being ready to share the gospel, apologetics, and other areas.

As we share the gospel let us continue to pray for conversions, that many will come to know Christ. Let me encourage congregations to avail themselves of the Evangelism Grants that the MDC offers for evangelistic outreach. It has been encouraging to hear how congregations have used the grants to reach out to their communities with the gospel.

The training has been conducted in the following Presbytery/congregations. The Presbytery of Geelong, Heathmont, Canterbury, Broadford, Mt Evelyn, Rye/Sorrento, and Gisborne.

- **Pastoral Leadership Training**

This training is offered to Sessions to talk about the role of elders and what more could be done to lead the congregations as under shepherds. Among other areas that are dealt with in the training are the following:

- Role of Minister/Elder.
- Qualifications for office.
- Plurality of Elders.
- Elders setting an example in faith and life.
- Elders' personal and spiritual life in Christ.
- Elders' role in the spiritual life of the Church.

The training was held for the Noorat/Terang and Camperdown Sessions.

- **Church Revitalisation**

This year it was great to conduct the Revitalisation Seminars at Rye-Sorrento and at Gisborne. Part of this seminar is also meeting with the elders for a time of prayer and discussion about the ministry in the church.

- **Developing Church Leaders**

This training focuses on the need to constantly identify and develop new leaders/disciples for Christ, as well as to encourage and equip believers to be involved in the life of the church and exercise their leadership gifts in the Church.

MDC Conference – Faithful & Fruitful

In February 2023 the MDC held its first Ministry Development Conference. I had the privilege of presenting on the need to ‘Develop Church Leaders’. It was encouraging to have many participants and I pray that we will continue to be ‘Faithful & Fruitful’ in our lives and ministries.

European Leadership Forum (ELF)

It was great to be part of the ELF in Poland in May. There were about 700 delegates in attendance. The keynote speaker was Dr Conrad Mbewe who worked through the book of Malachi. Among other speakers was also Dr Michael Reeves. Apart from the network I also attended workshops. I followed the Leadership Foundations Network which dealt with the following key topics. Helping leaders grow and develop their skills, the following topics were dealt with in the network,

- Gospel-Shaped Leaders
- Gospel-Shaped Need
- Gospel-Shaped Focus
- Gospel-Shaped Communication
- Gospel-Shaped Profile of a Disciple
- Gospel-Shaped relationships
- Gospel-Shaped Plans
- Gospel-Shaped Effectiveness

The committee has encouraged me to develop ways I can best share the information/training I have received through attending the ELF. I am currently working through the information received and am hoping to be able to share with the wider PCV in the second half of 2024.

Exit Appointments

I was involved with the Exit Students Committee in finalising Exit Appointments for 2024. We thank the Lord for our Exit students and their families and trust that all the appointments will be well received by the congregations and that we will see under God a fruitful ministry for all involved.

Presbyterian Theological College (PTC)

I am thankful for the ongoing partnership with the PTC, to meet with the faculty members and students. I also attended the PTC’s Ministry Conference. I value very much the partnership I, and the MDC, have with the College and appreciate the close working relationship with the faculty and students.

Kingdom Come Online Prayer Meetings

This is a great opportunity for Ministers, Home Missionaries, and elders of the PCV to come together in prayer. There are four prayer meetings a year and they are held on Saturday morning from 8.00 - 9.00am. Let me encourage you to join as we together seek the Lord's face in prayer seeking His grace, favour and blessings upon the congregations, our ministries, our State and Nation and the world.

Meetings with Interstate Colleagues (PCNSW and PCQ)

I attended the LIPIDS Meeting (Least Important People in Different States) which was held at Scot's Church Sydney. Met with Revs Matt Oates (Superintendent PCNSW Ministry & Home Missions Committee), Dave Thurston (PCQM Healthy Churches) Bern Merchant, Paul McKendrick and with the women's workers Anna Moss and Sylvia Siu. We met to discuss the sharing of resources and how we can continue to build a partnership to support and encourage each State to have a unified focus ministry.

Presbyterian Church of Australia Committees

I continue to serve on two General Assembly of Australia committees, the Reception of Ministers Committee and Relations With other Churches Committee.

Police Chaplaincy

I continue to serve as a Chaplain for Victoria Police, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the police force in this way. This year I was humbled to receive the Victoria Police Command Commendation for my role as chaplain in response to the quadruple fatal police collision on the Eastern Freeway at Kew on 22 April 2020.

African Enterprise Australian Board

Due to my work commitments, I resigned from my position as a Board member of African Enterprise (AE). It was a privilege to serve on the Board and be able to contribute towards the ministry of AE across Africa in reaching people for Christ in both Word and deed ministry.

Where to from Here?

As we face the changing cultural landscape, with cancel culture and the cultural wars in the world, this has an impact in the church and how we go about doing ministry. Do we have to change our message to accommodate the needs of the culture in our world? How do we face such a challenge? How do we equip our people to stand strong in their convictions and defend the faith? This may come as a cost.

I believe that as a Church we need to remain strong in Christ and faithfully preach the Word of God so that our congregations continue to be equipped to meet the challenges they face in a rapidly changing environment be at university, at school, in the workplace, in their communities and the people they hang out with. We need to continue to equip them to confront the 'marketplace' issues in our world and be grounded in the Word of God and not be pressured to compromise what we believe as Christians. I am reminded of the words in Isaiah 40:8

*The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

I want to encourage our congregations to continue to read the Word of God and continue to place God in the centre of their lives and ministry. That indeed we all continue to enjoy Him and grow in our love for Him and His Church.

I recall the words of Dr Martyn Lloyd Jones who said:

'I am not asking whether you know things about Him, but do you know God, are you enjoying God, is God the centre of your life, the soul of your being, the source of your greatest joy? He is meant to be.'

As the MDC and I focus on helping grow healthy churches I believe that this can only happen as we personally continue to know God as revealed in His Word and enjoy Him in our lives through faith in His Son Christ alone. Whilst I go about conducting workshops and training seminars to assist congregations focus on Church Health, important as they are, nothing can replace the solid personal study of God's Word and growing in love for Him. Here lies real spiritual health both individually and collectively in the life of the congregation.

Let us as elders and ministers continue to encourage our congregation members to have a strong Bible reading commitment in their own lives, and with their families. Let us encourage one another as leaders to meet up, when possible, with people in our churches and read the Word together one on one where applicable and set the example for the church family. This way we can continue to create a culture in the Church that focuses on reading the Word individually and collectively. In so doing we communicate to our members that the spiritual health of the Church is driven by a passion to know the Word of God, to continue to know Him, enjoy Him and serve Him.

As we do so let us also have a deed-based ministry so that there is both the 'Word and Deed' ministry in the life of the congregation which flows into the community. This will mean seeking what the needs are in our communities and connecting with people through our good works. That our good deeds will bring glory to God as we read the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere thanks to the MDC, and its Convener Rev. Stuart Withers, for their ongoing, support, guidance and wisdom given to me in fulfilling my role. I value very much the relationship I have with the committee and how we work as a team.

I want to express my personal thanks to Mr Ben Palmer, the former MDC Secretary, and Office Administrator. Ben worked closely with me and gave many years of faithful service to the committee and the wider work of the PCV. I wish Ben the very best in his new role at the PTC.

I am very thankful to Mrs Suzy Vines, our new Secretary and Office Administrator, for her faithful service. She has assisted me by arranging meetings, maintaining my

schedule, and attending to numerous administrative matters and correspondence in the office. Thank you, Suzy.

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.

I thank my wife Rose for her prayerful support and encouragement given to me. I am often away from home, and I very much appreciate her understanding, love, and prayers. Without such love, encouragement and support I would not be able to fulfil my role.

Once again, I want to sincerely thank the General Assembly for your ongoing prayers, and support. They are a real encouragement to me.

I thank the congregations I have visited for their very warm, friendly, and loving hospitality extended to me. I have enjoyed and loved meeting, interacting, listening, and engaging with them.

Finally, I express my humble thanks to my Lord for granting me strength and grace throughout the year. I stand in awe of His mercy, kindness, patience, and love granted to me. I am continuously 'Amazed' of His saving grace in my life.

I am deeply humbled and honored to serve my LORD and His people in the PCV and in the wider Church. It is one that I never take for granted.

Let me close with the words of the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9-11

⁹But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Please join me in prayer that we continue by His grace to build spiritually healthy churches in the PCV. That we continue to share the Gospel of God and keep on praying for conversions. That we do so not with our own strength but by the power of the Risen and mighty Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour!

It is a tremendous joy and privilege to serve Him and His people. If I can be of any help, please feel free to contact me. Always available!

Soli Deo Gloria.
Rev Chris Siriweera
Ministry Development Officer

5. Statistical Returns Report for 2022

The ARMS data management system has been used to input statistical data from each congregation in the PCV for 3 years and has enabled trends to be more easily identified and analysed.

Thanks to each of the 124 congregations who submitted their 2022 statistics. There were 10 congregations who did not complete their statistics and one congregation that closed.

The statistics provide the PCV, Presbyteries and Sessions with a useful tool to monitor the health of congregations. It should be remembered that as a tool it has its limitations. It is very useful for generating the right questions to ask when reviewing the health of a congregation, or the PCV as a whole: e.g., the statistics tell us that there has been a fall in the number of elders but not why this has occurred. A second example would be that we can see how many people are attending Bible studies, but we cannot see whether the material they are studying is equipping the saints for service or providing them with a sound biblical foundation. The important thing is to ask questions of results to see what are the underlying reasons for the results being observed.

As an example, we have had faithful preaching of God’s word in our congregations for 30 or more years and yet there has been in steady decline in attendance over that time. What are the reasons for this and what needs to be done to turn this around?

Another aspect of the results is that we have 3 years of data that can be compared, and this will assist Presbyteries who undertake 5 yearly visitations. It will provide indicators on whether the congregation is growing and in what areas and help formulate what questions should be asked. In two years’ time we will have 5 years of data to compare. After this the data will be rolled over each year so that we will always be able to compare 5 years of data at a time. This will give a more reliable idea of trends in each congregation.

We should also note that the statistics that are collected are a record of what has occurred in the past and therefore they are known as lag indicators. We need to investigate whether there are any lead indicators that can be used to predict what will happen in the future.

The MDO is willing to meet with Presbyteries to discuss the results and workshop ways to improve the health of congregations.

5.1 Executive Summary

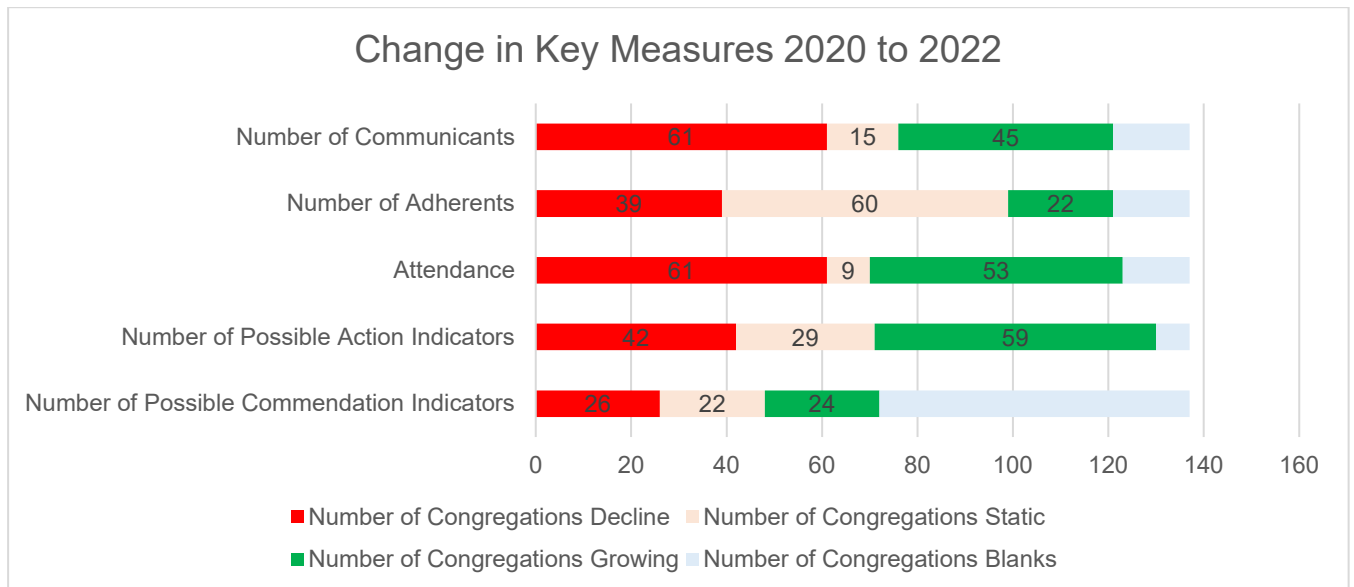
The 2022 statistical returns have highlighted numbers of areas that we can give thanks to God for being:

- The number of new elders and deacons in 2022
- The significant increase in professions of faith, and infant and adult baptisms
- The reduction in the number of congregations in the 0-25 size range
- The reduction in the number of possible action indicators and an increase in the number of possible commendation indicators.

A summary of the change in key measures between 2020 and 2022 is shown in the table and graph below in relation to the number of congregations who are growing, the number who are static and the number who in decline for each key measure. This enables the reader to assess the extent of changes in the state and whether they are the result of just a few congregations or whether it is more widespread.

| Measure Type | Number of Congregations |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
|---------------------|--------------------------------|

| | Decline | Static | Growing | Blanks |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Number of Communicants | 61 | 15 | 45 | 16 |
| Number of Adherents | 39 | 60 | 22 | 16 |
| Attendance | 61 | 9 | 53 | 14 |
| Number of Possible Action Indicators | 42 | 29 | 59 | 7 |
| Number of Possible Commendation Indicators | 26 | 22 | 24 | 65 |



The 2022 statistical returns also highlight a number of areas where further work is required to understand what is driving the trends that are being observed.

In order to understand the causes and factors behind these trends the MDC intends to consult with congregations with a view of identifying the major causes of this long-term decline and investigating possible ways that this trend can be reversed.

A quick snapshot of the 2022 statistics reveals that:

- a) That there are 134 congregations as part of 103 charges.
- b) The percentage of small congregations (0-25 people) is dropping, and medium size congregations are growing as percentage of the total number of congregations.
- c) Membership numbers are holding steady whereas adherent membership has grown 13% since 2020.
- d) Attendance has increased since 2021 but the increase is not sufficient to cover the drop in attendance between 2020 and 2021. The increase in growth is less than the growth of population in Victoria over that same period.
- e) The increase in attendance is not uniform across the state with one metro Presbytery having a 25% drop in attendance since 2020 and one non-metro Presbytery having an increase of attendance of 23.6% over the same period.
- f) The average size of a congregation is 49.8 people which has grown slightly since 2021.

- g) There have been significant increases of 240% to 386% in professions of faith, adult, and infant baptisms since 2020.
- h) The rate of decline in the eldership has turned around with 34 new elders offsetting the reduction of 28 elders since 2020. This growth was not sufficient to reduce the need for assessor elders which have increased by 15%. The rate of decline is not uniform across the state. One metro Presbytery has seen a drop of 21.1% in the number of elders since 2020 and one other metro Presbytery has seen a growth of 38.5% in the number of elders. Generally, the increase in assessor elders has occurred in the metro Presbyteries.
- i) There are 28 congregations without any elders, and 28 with only one elder i.e., a total of 42% of congregations without sufficient local elders to serve the congregations.
- j) Since 2020 there has been a fall in the numbers of deacons and managers. This needs to be turned around.
- k) Financially the giving has increased by 11.7% since 2020 and the amount of capital has grown by 0.8% over the same period. There are 92 congregations with annual giving less than the congregation living income of \$94,000. This represents 60 out of the 104 charges in the PCV.
- l) Bible study attendance has fallen 5.2% since 2020.
- m) Lord's Supper attendance has increased 2% since 2020.
- n) The average number of possible actions indicators per congregation has dropped by 9.6% since 2020. Over that same time the average number of possible commendation indicators has increased by similar percentage.
- o) The total number of congregations with 7 or more possible action indicators has fallen from 34 to 27 since 2020.

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.

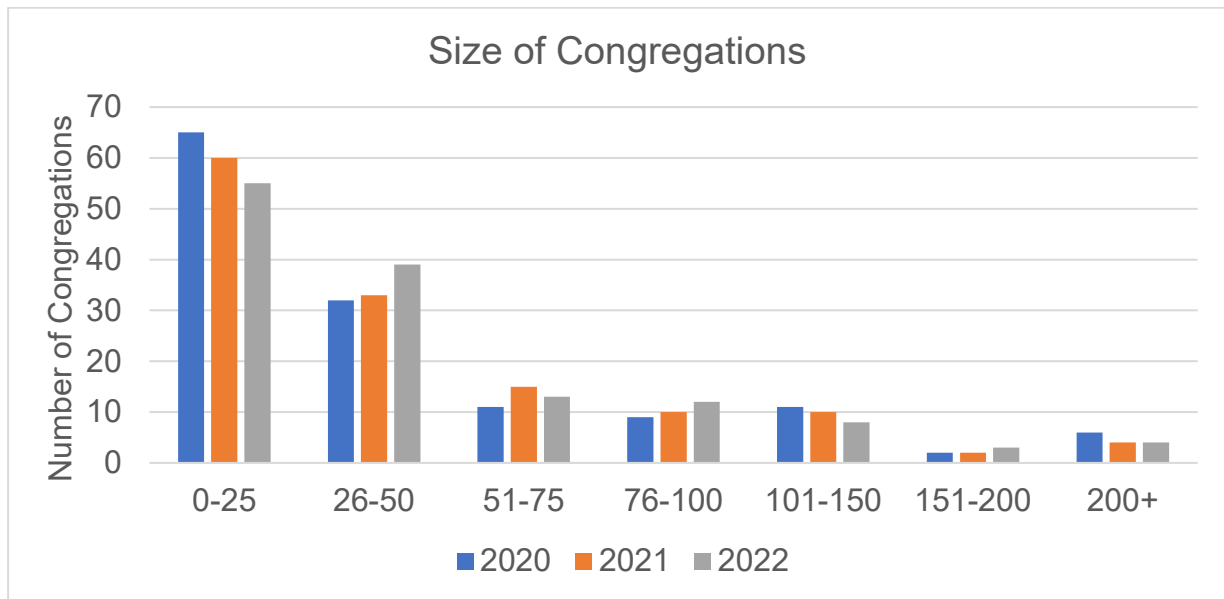
The state-wide overview will be considered under the following headings:

1. Number of churches
2. Number of members
3. Attendance
4. Growth
5. Leadership
6. Financial
7. Commitment
8. Possible Health Indicators

5.2.1 Number of churches

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|--------|----------|
| Number of congregations | 136 | 134 | 134 | -2 | -1.49% |
| Number of charges | 104 | 103 | 103 | -1 | -0.97% |
| Size of congregations | | | | | |
| 0-25 | 65 | 60 | 55 | -10 | -15.4% |
| 26-50 | 32 | 33 | 39 | 7 | 21.9% |
| 51-75 | 11 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 18.2% |
| 76-100 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 33.3% |

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|----------|
| 101-150 | 11 | 10 | 8 | -3 | -27.3% |
| 151-200 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 50.0% |
| 200+ | 6 | 4 | 4 | -2 | -33.3% |
| Total | 136 | 134 | 134 | | |



The reduction in the number of congregations in the 0-25 age range is pleasing to see, especially considering that there is not a corresponding drop in the total number of congregations.

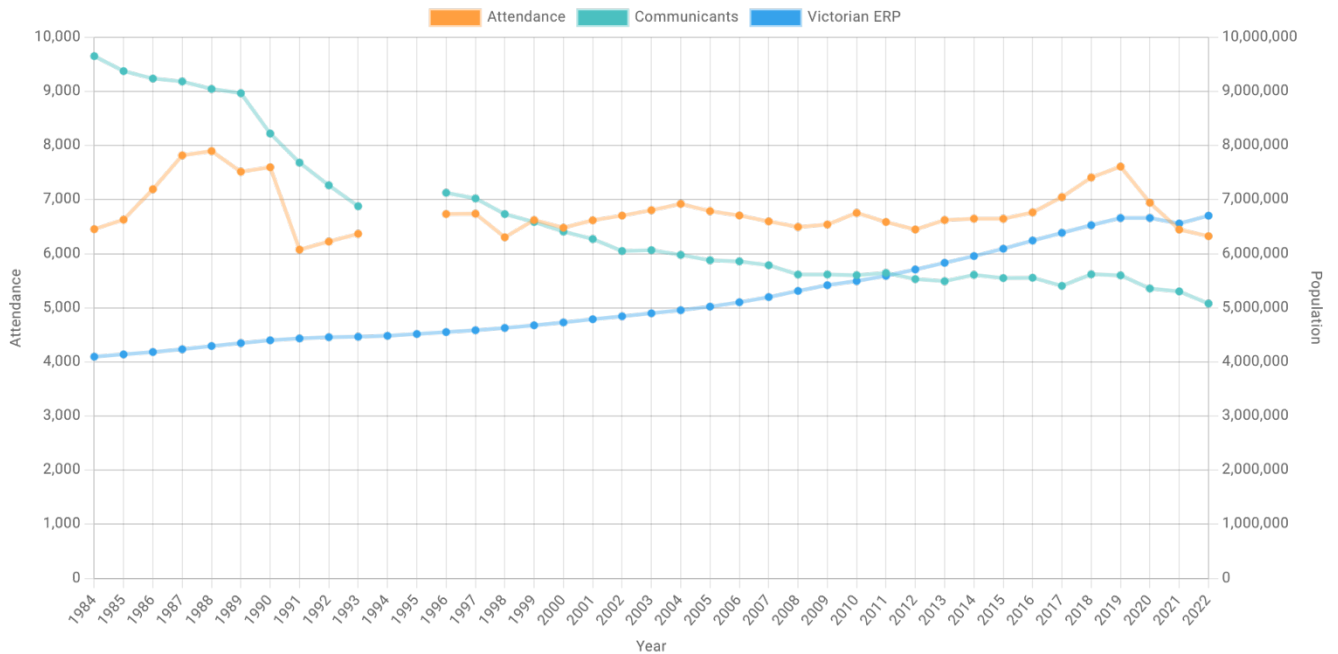
5.2.2 Number of members

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|--------------|------|------|------|--------|----------|
| Communicants | 5358 | 5304 | 5315 | -43 | -0.8% |
| Adherents | 820 | 969 | 927 | 107 | 13.0% |

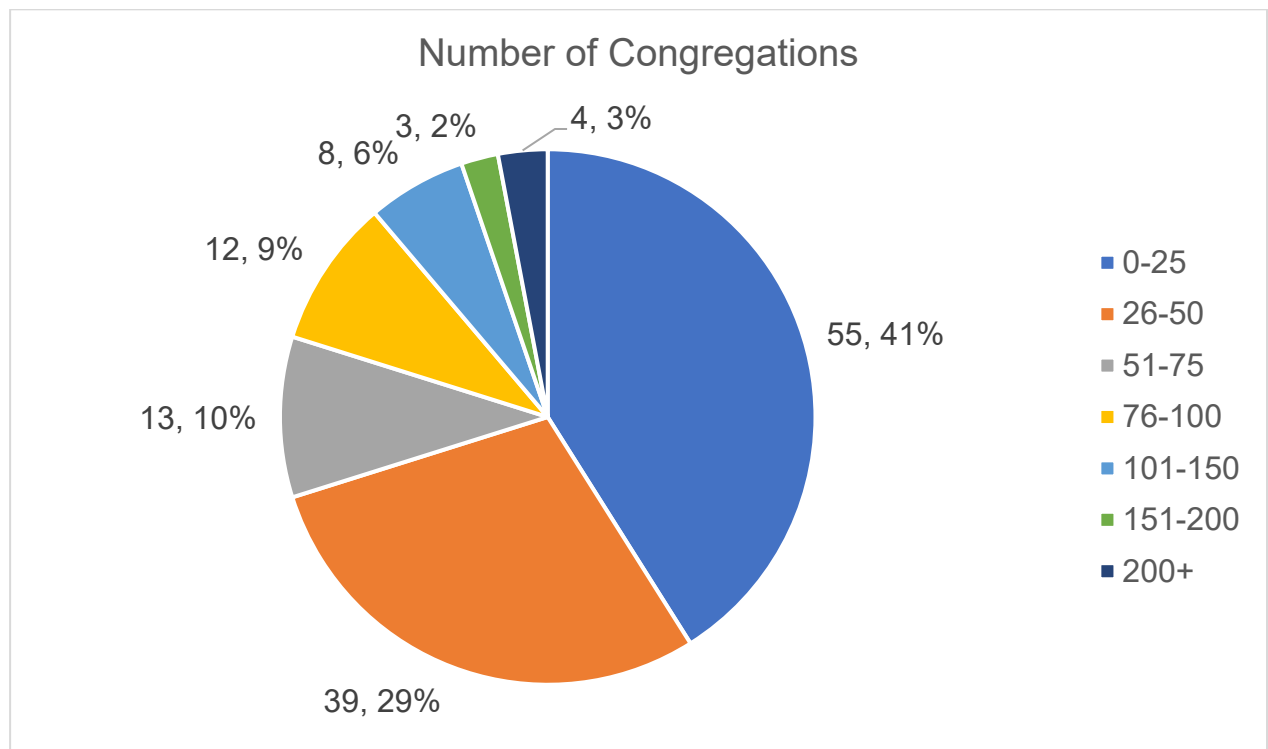
5.2.3 Attendance

Attendance across the state has picked up since 2022 but is still below the 2021 figures.

The long-term trend continues to decline as seen in the graph below.

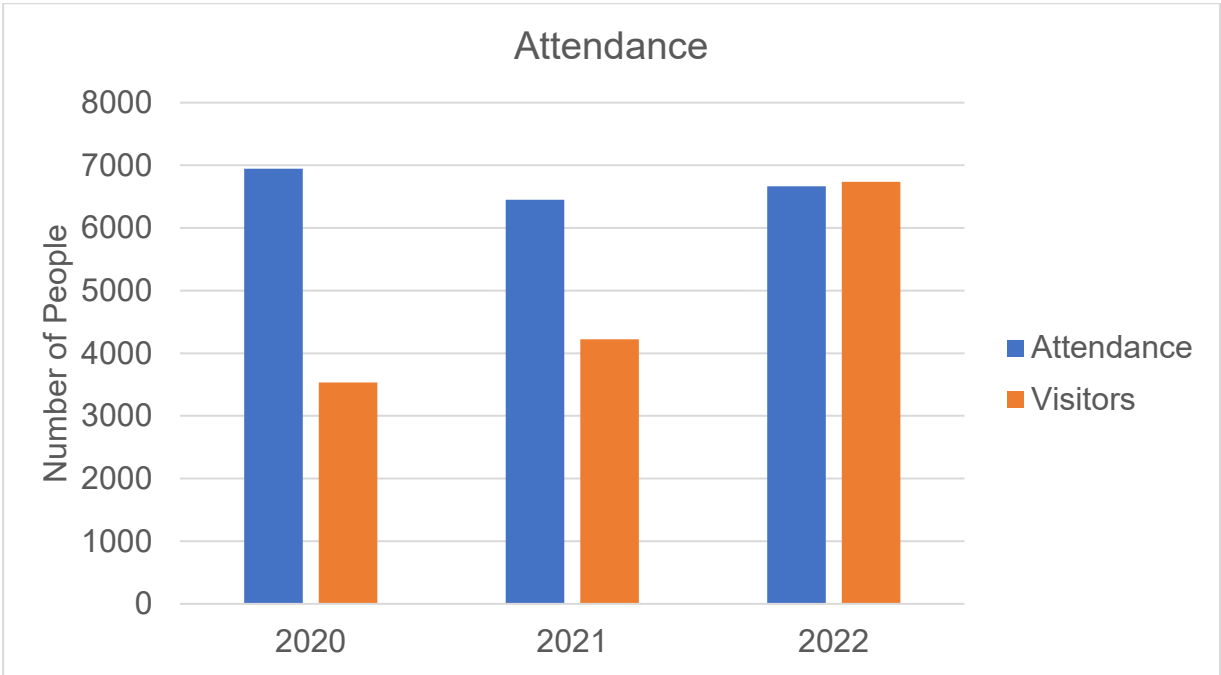


The numbers of each congregation in each size range based on attendance is shown in the following graph.



The following table shows the trends in attendance by looking at the change between 2020 and 2022.

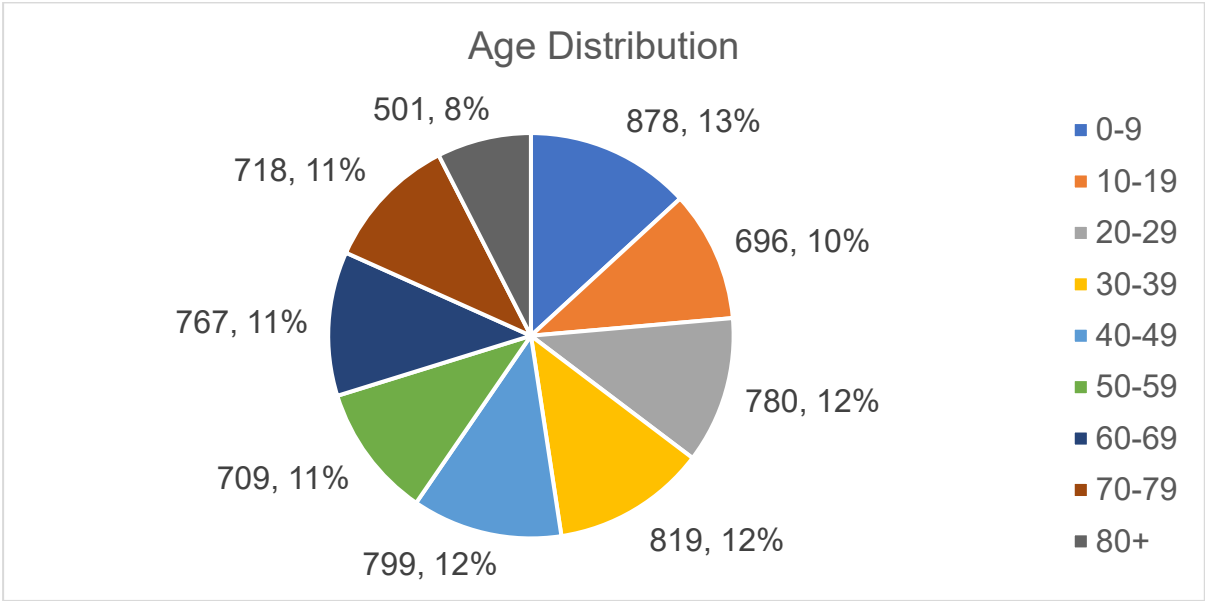
| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Attendance | 6944 | 6448 | 6667 | -277 | -3.99% |
| Visitors | 3532 | 4223 | 6734 | 3202 | 90.66% |
| 0-9 | 888 | 823 | 878 | -10 | -1.13% |
| 10-19 | 670 | 778 | 696 | 26 | 3.88% |
| 20-29 | 830 | 696 | 780 | -50 | -6.02% |
| 30-39 | 843 | 822 | 819 | -24 | -2.85% |
| 40-49 | 725 | 776 | 799 | 74 | 10.21% |
| 50-59 | 761 | 682 | 709 | -52 | -6.83% |
| 60-69 | 781 | 683 | 767 | -14 | -1.79% |
| 70-79 | 756 | 681 | 718 | -38 | -5.03% |
| 80+ | 690 | 508 | 501 | -189 | -27.39% |
| Victorian Population | 6,500,000 | 6,620,000 | 6,710,000 | 210,000 | 3.23% |
| Vic Pop/Attendance | 936.06 | 1026.67 | 1004.49 | 68.43 | 7.31% |
| Victoria Births | 74,620 | 76,410 | 76,198 | 1578 | 2.11% |
| Victoria Deaths | 41,143 | 42,507 | 47,996 | 6853 | 16.66% |
| Estimated Presbyterian Deaths based on Victorian Death Rate | 44 | 41 | 48 | | |
| Estimated Victorian births | 80 | 74 | 76 | | |



It should be noted that in 2020 that the age group distribution numbers when totalled did not match the total attendance. The figures in the above table have been adjusted so that they do match the total.

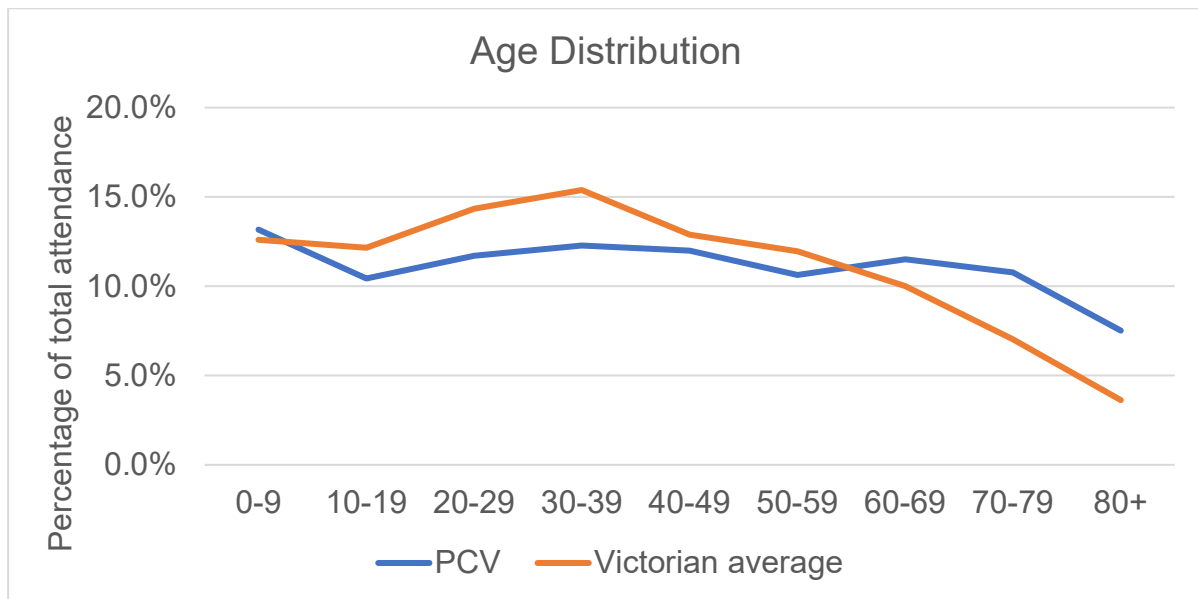
The age distribution trend shows that the greatest drop in attendance is occurring in the 50-plus age group i.e., 293 and in the 20 to 29 age group accounting for a further drop of 50 people. The greatest increase is in the 40-49 age group with an increase of 74 people.

The age distribution of those attending church is shown below.



The following table compares the percentage distribution of age with the Victorian State average.

| Age Range | Attendance | % of total attendance | Victorian % age distribution |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 0-9 | 878 | 13.2% | 12.6% |
| 10-19 | 696 | 10.4% | 12.2% |
| 20-29 | 780 | 11.7% | 14.3% |
| 30-39 | 819 | 12.3% | 15.4% |
| 40-49 | 799 | 12.0% | 12.9% |
| 50-59 | 709 | 10.6% | 12.0% |
| 60-69 | 767 | 11.5% | 10.0% |
| 70-79 | 718 | 10.8% | 7.0% |
| 80+ | 501 | 7.5% | 3.6% |



The plus-60 age group are overrepresented compared to the state average. Surprisingly the 0-9 age group are also higher than the state average giving us hope of growth provided they stay within the Presbyterian Church throughout their lives.

5.2.4 Growth

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|----------------------|------|------|------|--------|----------|
| Professions of faith | 90 | 188 | 334 | 244 | 271.11% |
| Infant baptisms | 41 | 82 | 140 | 99 | 241.46% |
| Adult baptisms | 28 | 49 | 136 | 108 | 385.71% |
| Total | 159 | 319 | 610 | 451 | 284% |

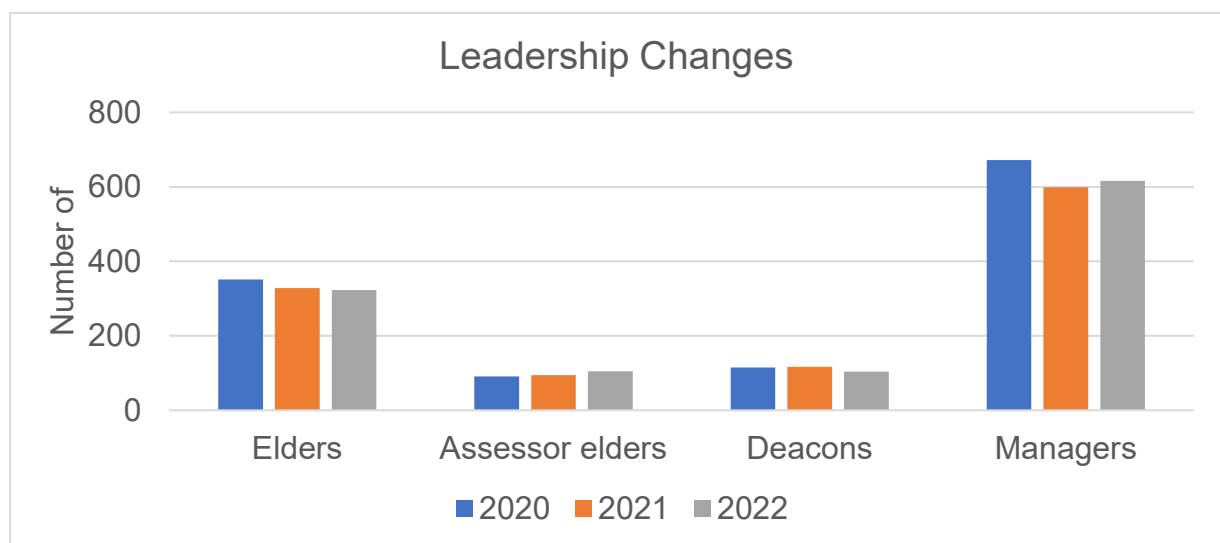
One of the issues in analysing growth data is identifying the difference between a new Christian (converted and baptised) and one who makes a profession of faith. The concern is double counting. In order that the data collection is accurate the committee is recommending that the field named professions of faith be split into two categories, namely transfers and internal professions of faith (i.e., people from within the congregation professing their faith.) There is a clause in the deliverance that reflects this change.

Membership growth

In the period 2020 to 2022, there has been a total drop of 38 people in membership across the PCV. This is despite 612 professions of faith. This means that there have been 650 names removed from the communicants roll over this period. Approximately 133 can be attributed to deaths but that still leaves 519 that are not accounted for. How many are due to roll revision or people transferring to another state or another denomination?

5.2.5 Leadership

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------|------|--------|----------|
| Elders | 351 | 328 | 323 | -28 | -8.0% |
| Assessor elders | 91 | 94 | 105 | 14 | 15.4% |
| Deacons | 115 | 117 | 104 | -11 | -9.6% |
| Managers | 672 | 599 | 616 | -56 | -8.3% |
| New Elders | | | 34 | | |
| New Deacons | | | 11 | | |
| Average Number of Elders per congregation | 2.70 | 2.45 | 2.41 | -0.19 | -7.3% |
| Average number of Deacons per congregation | 0.85 | 0.87 | 0.77 | -0.08 | -8.9% |
| Average number of Managers per congregation | 4.94 | 4.47 | 4.56 | -0.38 | -7.7% |



It is pleasing to see that there were 34 new elders ordained, which is a sufficient increase to cover the loss in the total number of elders since 2021 but not since 2020. However, the increase is not enough or in the right areas to avoid the need to increase the number of assessor elders required across the state.

In relation to deacons, the number of new deacons is not covering the number of deacons who have ceased carrying out their duties.

Some useful indicators are:

% of new elders: 10.46%

% of new deacons: 10.47%

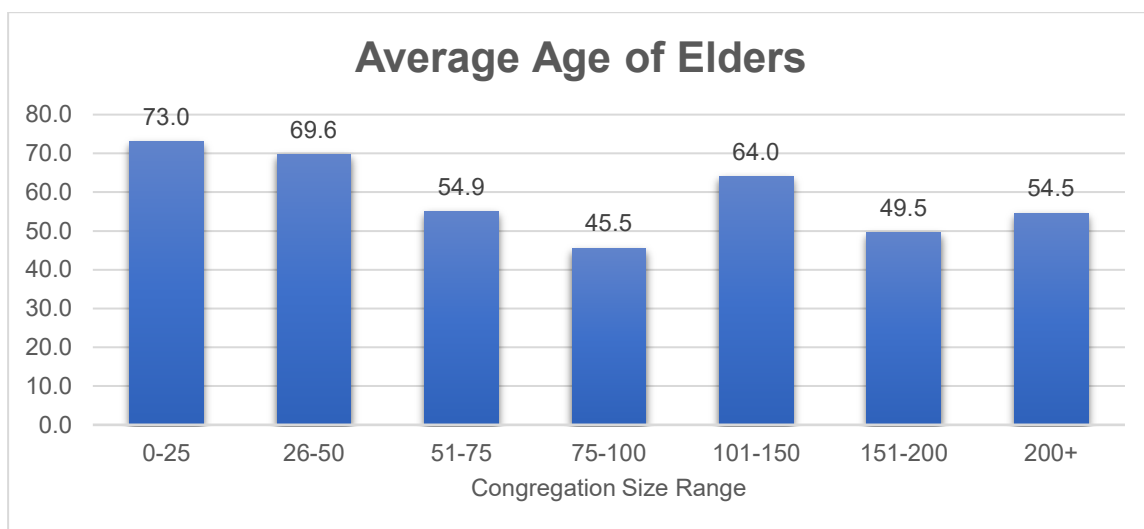
Average Number of elders per congregation: 2.41

With the induction of new elders, it is important to see where this growth is occurring. 19 of the 34 new elders are located in congregations greater than 150 in size as shown in the table below:

| Size Range | Number of New Elders |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 0-25 | 3 |
| 26-50 | 7 |
| 51-75 | 4 |
| 76-100 | 1 |
| 101-150 | 0 |
| 151-200 | 9 |
| 200+ | 10 |
| Grand Total | 34 |

There are 52 congregations requiring assessor elders i.e., 38.52%. Note the maximum number of assessor elders for one congregation is 10 (Surrey Hills Deaf). The next greatest is 4. The average is 2.

From the report presented to the 2022 Assembly, the average age of the elders was 62.6 years (10 years more than the average age of ministers). The spread of elders, by age, across the congregation size range highlights that the smaller congregations have older elders as shown below.



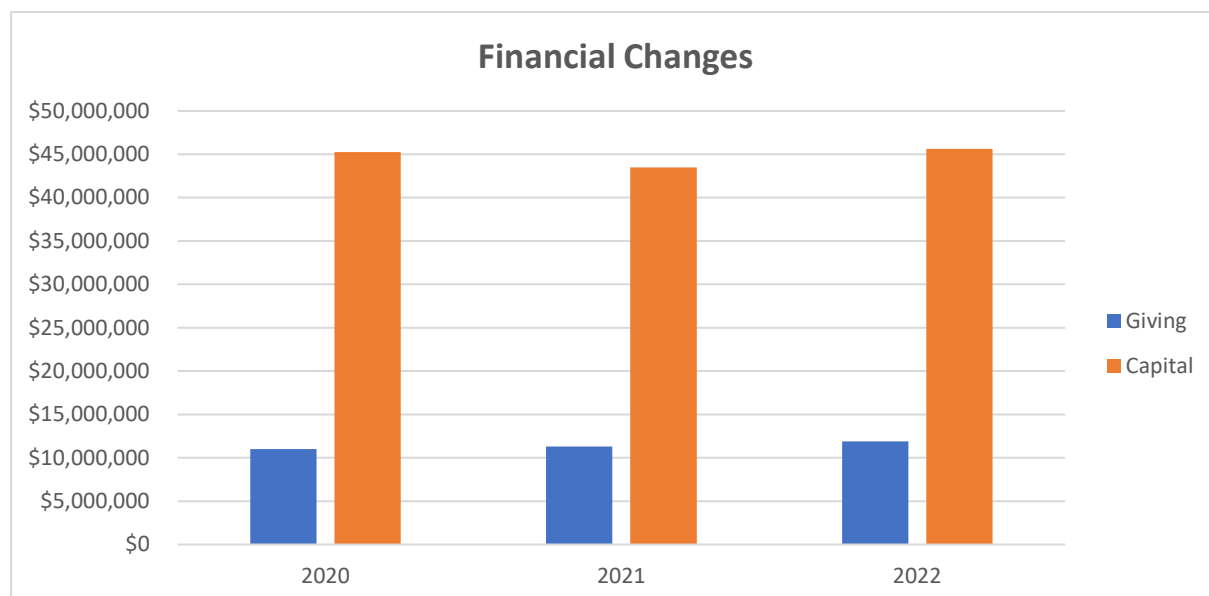
The issues for the smaller congregations are:

1. Of the 95 congregations in this category, 53 of them lack a plurality of elders.
2. It is estimated (based on the answers to the supplementary questions from 2021) that only 20 of the 137 elders in these congregations is less than 60 years of age. 44 of these elders is estimated to be between 70 and 80 years of age. A further 46 elders are estimated to be over 80 years of age.
3. There were only 10 new elders in this group in 2022.

Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the shortage of elders in this group is expected to grow.

5.2.6 Financial

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Giving | \$10,998,026 | \$11,318,747 | \$11,908,436 | \$910,410 | 8.28% |
| Capital | \$45,268,667 | \$43,477,885 | \$45,618,685 | \$350,018 | 0.77% |
| Debt | \$2,309,843 | \$1,480,231 | Not measured | | |



The % increase in giving compared is less than the % change in CPI across Australia as can be seen by the figures below.

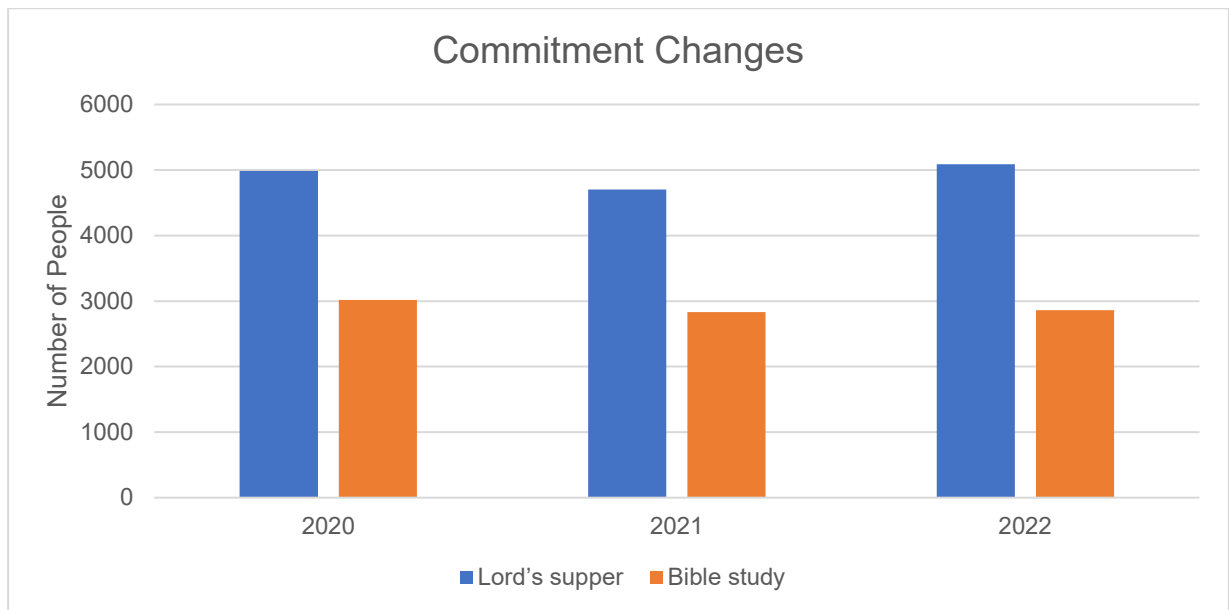
CPI 2022: 7.8%

CPI 2021: 3.5%

CPI 2020: 0.9%

5.2.7 Commitment

| Statistic | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Change | % Change |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| Lord's supper | 4987 | 4704 | 5086 | 99 | 1.99% |
| Bible study | 3019 | 2833 | 2862 | -157 | -5.20% |
| Serving | Not measured | 3075 | 3566 | | |
| LS % of attendance | 71.82% | 72.95% | 76.20% | 4.4% | 6.10% |
| BS % of attendance | 43.5% | 43.9% | 42.9% | -0.6% | -1.28% |
| Serving as % of attendance | | 47.69% | 53.38% | | |



It is disappointing to see a drop in bible study attendance because the future of the church is dependent upon members who have been taught the truths of scripture and are able to teach others.

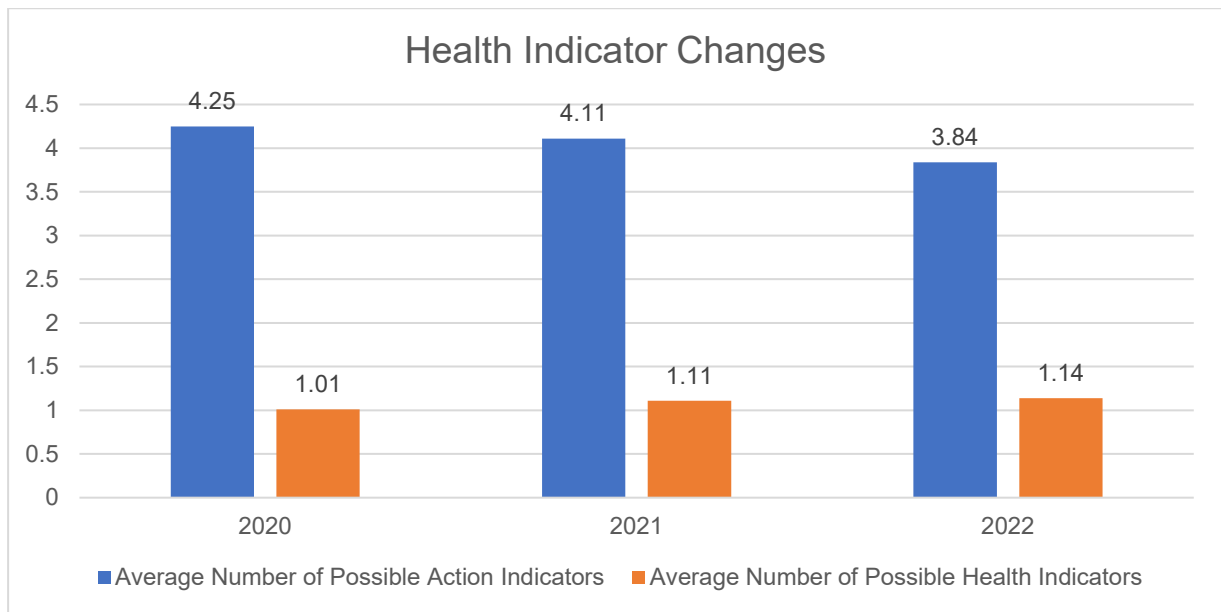
5.2.8 Health Indicators

Two new questions have been added in 2022 to assist in assessing the growth of, or lack of, leaders in the church. Congregations have provided information on the number of new elders and deacons over the last 12 months. It will also be possible to compare the number of new elders and deacons with existing numbers of each to determine the % increase or decrease of these leaders.

The change in the total number of indicators gives an indication of the change of health of congregations across the state.

The following table shows the change in the average number of possible action and commendation indicators over time.

| Type of Indicator | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|----------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Average Number of Possible Action Indicators | 4.25 | 4.11 | 3.84 |
| Average Number of Possible Health Indicators | 1.01 | 1.11 | 1.14 |



The average health of congregations has slightly improved with the average number of possible action indicators falling by 9.6% since 2020. There has also been a similar increase in the number of possible commendation indicators.

| Total Possible Number of Action Indicators | 2020 Number of Congregations | 2021 Number of Congregations | 2022 Number of Congregations | Difference |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 0 | 4 | 10 | 18 | 14 |
| 1 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 4 |
| 2 | 12 | 19 | 12 | 0 |
| 3 | 25 | 15 | 22 | -3 |
| 4 | 17 | 10 | 12 | -5 |
| 5 | 15 | 17 | 12 | -3 |
| 6 | 17 | 15 | 16 | -1 |
| 7 | 17 | 18 | 15 | -2 |
| 8 | 9 | 8 | 5 | -4 |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | -2 |
| Total Number of congregations with 7 or more possible health indicators | 34 | 41 | 27 | -7 |

Congregations with seven or more possible action indicators are deemed to require urgent intervention by local leaders and presbyteries. It is pleasing to see that the total number of these congregations has fallen overall since 2020.

The table below shows the change in the number of possible commendation indicators that has taken place over the last three years.

| Total Number of Possible Commendation Indicators | 2020 Number of Congregations | 2021 Number of Congregations | 2022 Number of Congregations | Difference |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 0 | 64 | 55 | 61 | -3 |
| 1 | 34 | 36 | 36 | 2 |
| 2 | 17 | 22 | 13 | -4 |
| 3 | 16 | 16 | 14 | -2 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| 5 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 6 |

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 | Total Number of congregations in 2022 | Change |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Size of congregation less than 25 | 65 | 60 | 56 | -9 |
| 2. Average age of congregation greater than 50 | 65 | 58 | 57 | -8 |
| 3. % of children to adults less than 10% | 50 | 40 | 44 | -6 |
| 4. % attending bible study less than 15% | 30 | 30 | 25 | -5 |
| 5. The number of elders is less than 2 | 52 | 57 | 57 | +5 |
| 6. No (zero) infant baptisms | 117 | 99 | 84 | -33 |
| 7. No (zero) adult baptisms | 121 | 114 | 103 | -18 |
| 8. No (zero) professions of faith | 103 | 83 | 78 | -25 |
| 9. Annual Giving less than \$11,000 | 13 | 8 | 12 | -1 |
| 10. Average attendance less than 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | -3 |
| Commendation Indicators | Total Number of congregations in 2020 | Total Number of congregations in 2021 | Total Number of congregations in 2022 | Change |
| 1. Size of congregation greater than 100 | 19 | 16 | 15 | -4 |
| 3. % of children to adults between 30% to 50% | 25 | 28 | 23 | -2 |
| 4. % attending bible study greater than 40% | 48 | 54 | 50 | 2 |
| 5. No infant baptisms greater than 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| 6. No adult baptisms greater than 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 7. No professions of faith greater than 5 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 11 |
| 8. Annual Giving greater than \$94,000 (CLI) | 38 | 39 | 41 | 3 |

Another way of identifying change in the overall health of congregations is to consider the extent of change in health indicators across the state. The following table shows the extent of change and the number of congregations in each unit of change of possible health indicators.

| Difference in Possible Action Indicators from 2020 to 2022 | Number of Congregations | % of total | Sum of % |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| -6 | 1 | 0.7% | 44.1% |
| -5 | 1 | 0.7% | |
| -4 | 3 | 2.2% | |
| -3 | 13 | 9.6% | |
| -2 | 19 | 14.0% | |
| -1 | 23 | 16.9% | |
| 0 | 31 | 22.8% | 22.8% |
| 1 | 27 | 19.9% | 33.1% |
| 2 | 13 | 9.6% | |
| 3 | 2 | 1.5% | |
| 4 | 2 | 1.5% | |
| 5 | 1 | 0.7% | |
| Total | 136 | 100% | 100% |

From the above table we can see that there was no change in the number of possible action indicators in 22.8% of congregations; 44.1% had a reduction in the number of possible action indicators; whereas 33.1% had an increase in the number of possible action indicators.

The following table shows the extent of change for possible commendation indicators.

| Difference in Possible Commendation Indicators | Number of Congregations | % of total | Sum of % |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| -4 | 1 | 0.7% | 19.9% |
| -3 | 2 | 1.5% | |
| -2 | 3 | 2.2% | |
| -1 | 21 | 15.4% | |
| 0 | 69 | 50.7% | 50.7% |
| 1 | 29 | 21.3% | 29.4% |
| 2 | 8 | 5.9% | |
| 3 | 3 | 2.2% | |
| Total | 136 | 100% | 100% |

From the above table we can see that there was no change in the number of possible commendation indicators in 50.7% of congregations; 29.4% had an increase in the number of possible commendation indicators; whereas 19.9% had a decrease in the number of possible commendation indicators.

5.2.9 Data Quality

It should be noted that 12 congregations did not complete their statistical returns for 2022. A number of these were vacant charges and some of these are expected to

close in the next 12 months. It was decided that the 2021 figures would be used in these cases to provide a more accurate picture of the state of the church as a whole.

Some errors have been detected in the data submitted and have been fixed up where possible. One large congregation chose to put all their congregation in the 0-9 age group rather than distribute them across the various age groups. This is not very helpful and distorts these figures.

The MDC thanks all those congregations who have diligently submitted their statistics because this enables the PCV to monitor the growth and health of congregations and assists Presbyteries to determine how to encourage and build healthy congregations.

In relation to those congregations who have not completed their statistical returns on time, it was determined that where the data relates to the whole of the state, the most accurate analysis would be achieved by substituting last year's data, with a note to that effect.

5.2.10 Improvements

The following improvements to the collection of statistics for 2023 are suggested:

- To assist with the checking of data submitted include a field for contact details. Currently, we have the name of the person who submitted the returns but not their contact details.
- We should ask the following additional information about the congregation:
 - Charge
 - Status
 - Whether vacant or not
 - Who the minister is.
- Providing clarification for professions of faith by splitting it into two categories namely transfers and internal professions of faith.

5.3 Overview of Presbyteries

The overview of the 2022 statistical returns will enable the PCV to determine the health of each Presbytery and determine whether any action needs to be undertaken to assist a particular Presbytery.

The overview of the health of Presbyteries will be conducted under the following headings:

1. Attendance
2. Growth
3. Leadership
4. Financial
5. Commitment
6. Serving
7. Health Indicators

5.3.1 Attendance

| Presbytery | 2020 Attend | 2021 Attend | 2022 Attend | Difference | % difference |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Flinders | 840 | 919 | 862 | 22 | 2.62% |
| Geelong | 315 | 311 | 378 | 63 | 20.00% |
| Gippsland | 465 | 390 | 441 | -24 | -5.16% |
| Maroondah | 631 | 614 | 694 | 63 | 9.98% |
| Melbourne East | 1363 | 1160 | 1205 | -158 | -11.59% |
| Melbourne North | 1160 | 953 | 869 | -291 | -25.09% |
| Melbourne West | 935 | 872 | 922 | -13 | -1.39% |
| North-East Victoria | 274 | 298 | 295 | 21 | 7.66% |
| North-Western Victoria | 252 | 273 | 258 | 6 | 2.38% |
| South-West Victoria | 347 | 323 | 414 | 67 | 19.31% |
| Western Victoria | 362 | 335 | 329 | -33 | -9.12% |
| Total | 6944 | 6448 | 6680 | -277 | -3.99% |

The following table shows the number of congregations in each size range and shows that non-metro Presbyteries have the greatest numbers of small congregations and that they are dependent upon multipoint charges to survive.

| Presbytery | Number of Congregations in Each Size Range | | | | | | | Total |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| | 0-25 | 26-50 | 51-75 | 76-100 | 101-150 | 151-200 | 200+ | |
| Flinders | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | | 18 |
| Geelong | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 5 |
| Gippsland | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | 1 | | 8 |
| Maroondah | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 10 |
| Melbourne East | 7 | 5 | | | 3 | | 2 | 17 |
| Melbourne North | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 12 |
| Melbourne West | | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 15 |
| North-East Victoria | 13 | 5 | | | | | | 18 |
| North-Western Victoria | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | 7 |
| South-West Victoria | 8 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 11 |
| Western Victoria | 10 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 13 |
| Grand Total | 55 | 39 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 134 |

One area of concern is the average attendance per congregation at a Presbytery level as seen in the following table. The non-metro congregations have significantly lower average attendance than the metro congregations. The lowest average attendance for a Presbytery is 16.4 which is based on 18 congregations. This is a challenge. However, once identified leaders can be analysing and strengthening gospel work in the bounds of each Presbytery.

| Presbytery | Average Attendance per congregation | Average Attendance per Charge |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flinders | 47.9 | 53.9 |
| Geelong | 75.6 | 75.6 |
| Gippsland | 55.1 | 63.0 |
| Maroondah | 69.4 | 69.4 |
| Melbourne East | 70.9 | 80.3 |
| Melbourne North | 72.4 | 79.0 |
| Melbourne West | 61.5 | 76.8 |
| North-East Victoria | 16.4 | 36.9 |
| North-Western Victoria | 36.9 | 43.0 |
| South-West Victoria | 37.6 | 69.0 |
| Western Victoria | 25.3 | 41.1 |
| Total | 49.8 | 64.1 |

5.3.2 Growth Due to Professions of Faith and Baptisms.

Ideally, growth should be measured by the number of conversions in any one year, but we do not measure this. Given this fact, we are left to measure growth other than by attendance by looking at the number of professions of faith and baptisms.

Professions of Faith

| Presbytery | 2020 Profess. | 2021 Profess. | 2022 Profess. | Difference | % difference |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Flinders | 15 | 19 | 117 | 102 | 680.0% |
| Geelong | 7 | 12 | 13 | 6 | 85.7% |
| Gippsland | 2 | 5 | 32 | 30 | 1500.0% |
| Maroondah | 4 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 250.0% |
| Melbourne East | 19 | 67 | 66 | 47 | 247.4% |
| Melbourne North | 23 | 30 | 32 | 9 | 39.1% |
| Melbourne West | 13 | 28 | 21 | 8 | 61.5% |
| North-East Victoria | 3 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 266.7% |
| North-Western Victoria | 1 | 7 | 16 | 15 | 1500.0% |
| South-West Victoria | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | |
| Western Victoria | 3 | 11 | 2 | -1 | -33.3% |
| Total | 90 | 188 | 334 | 244 | 271.1% |

Note one recent church plant had 85 Professions of faith in 2022.

Adult Baptisms

| Presbytery | 2020 Adult Baptism | 2021 Adult Baptism | 2022 Adult Baptism | Difference | % difference |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| Flinders | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 150.0% |
| Geelong | 2 | 1 | 0 | -2 | -100.0% |
| Gippsland | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10 | |
| Maroondah | 2 | 1 | 0 | -2 | -100.0% |
| Melbourne East | 2 | 8 | 24 | 22 | 1100.0% |
| Melbourne North | 15 | 21 | 70 | 55 | 366.7% |
| Melbourne West | 3 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 166.7% |
| North-East Victoria | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | |
| North-Western Victoria | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 100.0% |
| South-West Victoria | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | |
| Western Victoria | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 133.3% |
| Total | 28 | 49 | 136 | 108 | 385.7% |

Infant Baptisms

| Presbytery | 2020 Infant Baptism | 2021 Infant Baptism | 2022 Infant Baptism | Difference | % difference |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| Flinders | 2 | 11 | 26 | 24 | 1200.0% |
| Geelong | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 33.3% |
| Gippsland | 2 | 7 | 22 | 20 | 1000.0% |
| Maroondah | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | |
| Melbourne East | 9 | 6 | 14 | 5 | 55.6% |
| Melbourne North | 13 | 24 | 20 | 7 | 53.8% |
| Melbourne West | 5 | 15 | 29 | 24 | 480.0% |
| North-East Victoria | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| North-Western Victoria | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 400.0% |
| South-West Victoria | 3 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 166.7% |
| Western Victoria | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 166.7% |
| Total | 41 | 82 | 140 | 99 | 241.5% |

5.3.3 Leadership Numbers

Elders

Eldership numbers have decreased over the period from 2020 to 2022. Three Presbyteries had an increase in the number of elders, over this period as seen in the following table.

| Presbytery | 2020 Elders | 2021 Elders | 2022 Elders | Diff. | % Diff | 2022 New Elders |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Flinders | 41 | 37 | 35 | -6 | -14.6% | 1 |
| Geelong | 13 | 14 | 18 | 5 | 38.5% | 3 |
| Gippsland | 16 | 15 | 15 | -1 | -6.3% | 1 |
| Maroondah | 35 | 35 | 32 | -3 | -8.6% | 1 |
| Melbourne East | 66 | 60 | 58 | -8 | -12.1% | 9 |
| Melbourne North | 38 | 35 | 30 | -8 | -21.1% | 3 |
| Melbourne West | 53 | 50 | 49 | -4 | -7.5% | 9 |
| North-East Victoria | 22 | 20 | 23 | 1 | 4.5% | 2 |
| North-Western Victoria | 13 | 11 | 12 | -1 | -7.7% | 0 |
| South-West Victoria | 28 | 28 | 29 | 1 | 3.6% | 3 |
| Western Victoria | 24 | 23 | 22 | -2 | -8.3% | 2 |
| Total | 365 | 328 | 323 | -26 | -7.1% | 34 |

The greatest drop in elders occurred in the Presbytery of Melbourne North with a 21.1% reduction in the number of elders.

Assessor Elders

| Presbytery | 2020 Assess Elders | 2021 Assess Elders | 2022 Assess Elders | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Flinders | 16 | 18 | 16 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Geelong | 5 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 80.0% |
| Gippsland | 9 | 6 | 5 | -4 | -44.4% |
| Maroondah | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 60.0% |
| Melbourne East | 7 | 9 | 19 | 12 | 171.4% |
| Melbourne North | 7 | 7 | 6 | -1 | -14.3% |
| Melbourne West | 9 | 17 | 17 | 8 | 88.9% |
| North-East Victoria | 15 | 15 | 11 | -4 | -26.7% |
| North-Western Victoria | 10 | 5 | 7 | -3 | -30.0% |
| South-West Victoria | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Western Victoria | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 66.7% |
| Total | 88 | 94 | 105 | 17 | 19.3% |

Deacons

| Presbytery | 2020 Deacons | 2021 Deacons | 2022 Deacons | Diff | % Diff | 2022 New Deacons |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Flinders | 19 | 16 | 18 | -1 | -5.3% | 0 |
| Geelong | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | | 3 |
| Gippsland | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 28.6% | 3 |
| Maroondah | 13 | 15 | 9 | -4 | -30.8% | 2 |
| Melbourne East | 17 | 27 | 27 | 10 | 58.8% | 3 |
| Melbourne North | 44 | 37 | 30 | -14 | -31.8% | 0 |
| Melbourne West | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 200.0% | 0 |
| North-East Victoria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 |
| North-Western Victoria | 2 | 3 | 1 | -1 | -50.0% | 0 |
| South-West Victoria | 9 | 6 | 0 | -9 | -100.0% | 0 |
| Western Victoria | 2 | 2 | 1 | -1 | -50.0% | 0 |
| Total | 115 | 117 | 104 | -11 | -9.6% | 11 |

Managers

| Presbytery | 2020 Managers | 2021 Managers | 2022 Managers | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Flinders | 98 | 92 | 90 | -8 | -8.2% |
| Geelong | 28 | 21 | 25 | -3 | -10.7% |
| Gippsland | 39 | 39 | 46 | 7 | 17.9% |
| Maroondah | 41 | 40 | 37 | -4 | -9.8% |
| Melbourne East | 94 | 77 | 76 | -18 | -19.1% |
| Melbourne North | 81 | 54 | 53 | -28 | -34.6% |
| Melbourne West | 70 | 72 | 74 | 4 | 5.7% |
| North-East Victoria | 63 | 59 | 57 | -6 | -9.5% |
| North-Western Victoria | 40 | 38 | 37 | -3 | -7.5% |
| South-West Victoria | 64 | 63 | 78 | 14 | 21.9% |
| Western Victoria | 53 | 44 | 39 | -14 | -26.4% |
| Total | 671 | 599 | 612 | -59 | -8.8% |

5.3.4 Financial

Giving

| Presbytery | 2020 Giving | 2021 Giving | 2022 Giving | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Flinders | \$1,220,134 | \$1,409,562 | \$1,553,174 | \$333,040 | 27.3% |
| Geelong | \$503,456 | \$537,566 | \$572,609 | \$69,153 | 13.7% |
| Gippsland | \$608,070 | \$641,551 | \$699,055 | \$90,985 | 15.0% |
| Maroondah | \$1,191,403 | \$1,209,526 | \$1,340,480 | \$149,077 | 12.5% |
| Melbourne East | \$2,334,435 | \$2,250,530 | \$2,316,558 | -\$17,877 | -0.8% |
| Melbourne North | \$1,792,950 | \$1,807,360 | \$1,818,114 | \$25,164 | 1.4% |
| Melbourne West | \$1,246,228 | \$1,376,265 | \$1,518,158 | \$271,930 | 21.8% |
| North-East Victoria | \$465,060 | \$527,875 | \$515,264 | \$50,204 | 10.8% |
| North-Western Victoria | \$506,481 | \$510,251 | \$552,807 | \$46,326 | 9.1% |
| South-West Victoria | \$579,513 | \$559,344 | \$564,817 | -\$14,696 | -2.5% |
| Western Victoria | \$522,692 | \$488,918 | \$457,400 | -\$65,292 | -12.5% |
| Total | \$10,970,421 | \$11,318,747 | \$11,908,436 | \$938,015 | 8.6% |

Capital

| Presbytery | 2020 Capital | 2021 Capital | 2022 Capital | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Flinders | \$7,514,478 | \$9,301,202 | \$7,274,768 | -\$239,710 | -3.2% |
| Geelong | \$2,436,146 | \$1,771,208 | \$3,069,600 | \$633,454 | 26.0% |
| Gippsland | \$2,285,499 | \$1,994,217 | \$1,860,497 | -\$425,002 | -18.6% |
| Maroondah | \$5,457,411 | \$3,451,784 | \$3,379,357 | - | -38.1% |
| | | | | \$2,078,054 | |
| Melbourne East | \$10,067,976 | \$9,415,627 | \$10,482,969 | \$414,993 | 4.1% |
| Melbourne North | \$2,001,736 | \$2,494,585 | \$2,488,338 | \$486,602 | 24.3% |
| Melbourne West | \$3,185,495 | \$4,369,818 | \$3,956,708 | \$771,213 | 24.2% |
| North-East Victoria | \$2,916,887 | \$2,735,959 | \$2,651,092 | -\$265,795 | -9.1% |
| North-Western Victoria | \$737,375 | \$643,933 | \$607,474 | -\$129,901 | -17.6% |
| South-West Victoria | \$5,824,944 | \$5,706,060 | \$5,820,758 | -\$4,186 | -0.1% |
| Western Victoria | \$2,476,720 | \$1,593,492 | \$4,027,125 | \$1,550,405 | 62.6% |
| Total | \$44,904,667 | \$43,477,884 | \$45,618,686 | \$714,019 | 1.6% |

5.3.5 Commitment

Lord's Supper

| Presbytery | 2020 Lord's Supper | 2021 Lord's Supper | 2022 Lord's Supper | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Flinders | 604 | 540 | 627 | 23 | 3.8% |
| Geelong | 236 | 226 | 241 | 5 | 2.1% |
| Gippsland | 399 | 337 | 350 | -49 | -12.3% |
| Maroondah | 552 | 559 | 592 | 40 | 7.2% |
| Melbourne East | 928 | 707 | 866 | -62 | -6.7% |
| Melbourne North | 406 | 627 | 585 | 179 | 44.1% |
| Melbourne West | 805 | 652 | 761 | -44 | -5.5% |
| North-East Victoria | 227 | 220 | 284 | 57 | 25.1% |
| North-Western Victoria | 237 | 210 | 193 | -44 | -18.6% |
| South-West Victoria | 322 | 288 | 343 | 21 | 6.5% |
| Western Victoria | 271 | 338 | 244 | -27 | -10.0% |
| Total | 4987 | 4704 | 5086 | 99 | 2.0% |

Bible Study

| Presbytery | 2020 Bible Study | 2021 Bible Study | 2022 Bible Study | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Flinders | 306 | 323 | 297 | -9 | -2.9% |
| Geelong | 179 | 147 | 160 | -19 | -10.6% |
| Gippsland | 218 | 154 | 169 | -49 | -22.5% |
| Maroondah | 326 | 310 | 364 | 38 | 11.7% |
| Melbourne East | 515 | 458 | 458 | -57 | -11.1% |
| Melbourne North | 645 | 593 | 555 | -90 | -14.0% |
| Melbourne West | 381 | 409 | 379 | -2 | -0.5% |
| North-East Victoria | 75 | 67 | 98 | 23 | 30.7% |
| North-Western Victoria | 110 | 112 | 104 | -6 | -5.5% |
| South-West Victoria | 151 | 134 | 158 | 7 | 4.6% |
| Western Victoria | 113 | 126 | 120 | 7 | 6.2% |
| Total | 3019 | 2833 | 2862 | -157 | -5.2% |

Serving

| Presbytery | 2020 Serving (not surveyed) | 2021 Serving | 2022 Serving | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Flinders | | 354 | 473 | 119 | 33.6% |
| Geelong | | 147 | 179 | 32 | 21.8% |
| Gippsland | | 252 | 304 | 52 | 20.6% |
| Maroondah | | 295 | 320 | 25 | 8.5% |
| Melbourne East | | 494 | 553 | 59 | 11.9% |
| Melbourne North | | 504 | 539 | 35 | 6.9% |
| Melbourne West | | 406 | 489 | 83 | 20.4% |
| North-East Victoria | | 143 | 145 | 2 | 1.4% |
| North-Western Victoria | | 141 | 137 | -4 | -2.8% |
| South-West Victoria | | 147 | 223 | 76 | 51.7% |
| Western Victoria | | 176 | 200 | 24 | 13.6% |
| Total | | 3059 | 3562 | 503 | 16.4% |

5.3.6 Comparison on the Number of Possible Health Indicators

Average Number of Possible Action Indicators

| Presbytery | 2020 Average No of Possible Action Indicators | 2021 Average No of Possible Action Indicators | 2022 Average No of Possible Action Indicators | Difference | % Difference |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Flinders | 3.71 | 3.67 | 3.17 | -0.54 | -14.6% |
| Geelong | 3 | 2.2 | 2 | -1 | -33.3% |
| Gippsland | 4.5 | 4 | 3.5 | -1 | -22.2% |
| Maroondah | 3.89 | 4 | 3.6 | -0.29 | -7.5% |
| Melbourne East | 3.41 | 3.18 | 3.29 | -0.12 | -3.5% |
| Melbourne North | 2.77 | 2.85 | 2.58 | -0.19 | -6.9% |
| Melbourne West | 3.2 | 2.53 | 2.27 | -0.93 | -29.1% |
| North-East Victoria | 5.8 | 6.39 | 5.94 | 0.14 | 2.4% |
| North-Western Victoria | 4.25 | 3.71 | 2.86 | -1.39 | -32.7% |
| South-West Victoria | 5.58 | 5.83 | 5.17 | -0.41 | -7.3% |
| Western Victoria | 5.43 | 5.46 | 6 | 0.57 | 10.5% |
| Total | 4.17 | 4.12 | 3.84 | -0.33 | -7.9% |

Average Number of Possible Commendation Indicators

| Presbytery | 2020 Average No of Possible Commend. Indicators | 2021 Average No of Possible Commend. Indicators | 2022 Average No of Possible Commend. Indicators | Difference | % Difference |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Flinders | 1.12 | 1.11 | 1.22 | 0.1 | 8.9% |
| Geelong | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.2 | 12.5% |
| Gippsland | 1.13 | 1 | 1.38 | 0.25 | 22.1% |
| Maroondah | 1.33 | 1.22 | 1.2 | -0.13 | -9.8% |
| Melbourne East | 1.29 | 1.53 | 1.41 | 0.12 | 9.3% |
| Melbourne North | 1.77 | 2 | 1.75 | -0.02 | -1.1% |
| Melbourne West | 1.27 | 1.33 | 1.47 | 0.2 | 15.7% |
| North-East Victoria | 0.39 | 0.28 | 0.33 | -0.06 | -15.4% |
| North-Western Victoria | 0.63 | 1.14 | 1 | 0.37 | 58.7% |
| South-West Victoria | 0.5 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 0.33 | 66.0% |
| Western Victoria | 0.57 | 0.62 | 0.77 | 0.2 | 35.1% |
| Total | 1.01 | 1.12 | 1.14 | 0.13 | 12.9% |

There are 27 congregations with 7 or more possible action indicators. These congregations are part of 20 charges.

These congregations account for 209 of the 519 possible action indicators across the state i.e., 40.2% of all possible action indicators.

Some characteristics of these congregations are:

- They all have an average attendance of 25 or less.
- 14 of these congregations have no elders.
- 20 of these are located in rural Victoria.
- The average attendance of these congregations is 11.
- They have a combined annual giving of \$398,351 which is an average of \$14,754 per congregation.
- They have a total capital value of \$4,450,944 or an average of \$164,849 per congregation.
- There has only been one profession of faith in all these congregations.
- 13 of these congregations have no bible studies.
- There are only 20 people in these congregations under the age of 40 out of a total of 287.

5.4 Detailed Analysis

5.4.1 Minimum Cost of Full Time Ministry

Last year the minimum cost of full time ministry was calculated to assist in assessing the financial viability of congregations. This figure has been updated as follows:

| Ministry Cost | 2022/2023 Amount | 2023/24 Amount |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stipend | \$38,400 | \$39,096 |
| NCB | \$20,664 | \$21,048 |
| Superannuation | \$8,868 | \$9,624 |
| LSL | \$410 | \$840 |
| Minister's Disability insurance | \$2,000 | \$2,200 |
| Missions and evangelism | \$6,000 | \$6,500 |
| General Mission Program | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Insurance | \$2,500 | \$3,000 |
| Assembly and Presbytery Rates | \$500 | \$550 |
| Property maintenance and insurance | \$10,000 | \$11,000 |
| Other | \$4,000 | \$4,400 |
| Total | \$94,342 | \$99,258 |

Adopt **\$94,000** **\$99,000**

The above analysis is based on the following assumptions:

- that the congregations own a manse and do not have to pay a manse allowance
- That if they do pay a manse allowance there are funds in sites reserve from the sale of the manse that will assist the congregation in offsetting the manse allowance paid.

In 2022 the Building and Property Committee conducted a survey on the Manse Standards. 73 responses were received. That survey showed that 68.5% of congregations who responded owned a manse and of those 68% were occupied by the minister. Of the 73 congregations who responded 18 paid a manse allowance, another 2 congregations leased a manse.

Due the number of congregations that pay a manse allowance, and not knowing whether these congregations have site reserves from the sale of a manse that is used to pay the allowance it was decided to include an amount, which congregations who pay a manse allowance could add to minimum cost of full-time ministry. The amount will vary according to which part of the state the manse is located within. It is suggested that for those congregations an amount of \$26,000 - \$31,000 a year should be added to the above figures to cover this amount.

5.4.2 Need to develop a strategy for growing healthy churches

There has been a decline in church attendance over at least 20 years, with a subsequent fall in church leadership numbers. Given that there has been faithful preaching over this period the church as a whole needs to identify the causes of the decline and see whether there are practices or cultures that need to be changed.

The MDC is looking to carry out a survey over the next 12 months of congregations who are exhibiting growth with the aim of identifying common factors that can be used as an encouragement to Sessions and Presbyteries who wish to develop healthy ministries.

From the data collected it is possible to identify those congregations who have the least possible action indicators and the most possible commendation indicators. These are the healthiest congregations in our state and therefore these are the congregations that we can learn from. The table below identifies those congregations.

| Size Classification and Congregation | Sum of No of Possible Action Indicators | Sum of No of Possible Commendation Indicators |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 26-50 | 1 | 3 |
| Lyndhurst (Samoan) | 1 | 3 |
| 51-75 | 0 | 6 |
| Bairnsdale | 0 | 3 |
| West Footscray | 0 | 3 |
| 76-100 | 5 | 27 |
| Clayton | 1 | 3 |
| Doreen | 0 | 4 |
| East Bendigo | 1 | 4 |
| Embrace (Korean) | 1 | 3 |
| Epping | 0 | 4 |
| Geelong West | 1 | 3 |
| Hamilton | 0 | 3 |
| Melbourne West (Korean) | 1 | 3 |
| 101-150 | 1 | 23 |
| Ballarat South | 0 | 5 |
| Balwyn North (Korean) | 0 | 5 |
| Frankston | 0 | 5 |
| Indonesian Melbourne (CBD) | 0 | 3 |
| North Geelong | 1 | 5 |
| 151-200 | 0 | 8 |
| Drouin | 0 | 4 |
| Warrnambool | 0 | 4 |
| 200+ | 1 | 16 |
| Bundoora | 0 | 5 |
| Camberwell | 0 | 3 |
| Donvale | 1 | 3 |
| Surrey Hills | 0 | 5 |

The MDC is considering undertaking a survey of the healthiest churches over the next 12 months to determine what lessons can be learnt and passed on to the denomination as a whole.

The survey is expected to cover such topics as:

- Vision and purpose
- Leadership
- Discipleship and equipping the saints for service
- Preaching
- Prayer
- Missions
- Priorities

It is envisaged that the survey will be carried out between October and December 2023 and the results analysed in the early part of 2024 with a view to presenting findings to the 2024 GAV.

Stuart Withers
CONVENER

PAST MODERATOR'S REPORT (Min 25)

It has again been a high honour, a great privilege and wonderful blessing, to be able to serve the church I love as Moderator of the General Assembly. Again I wish to honour my wife and thank her for her unstinting and unwavering support of me as Moderator and for the church in her pastoral service, especially to the wives of ministers in the course of moderator's visits.

I recall someone asking me what changes I noticed when returning to the role of moderator after first being moderator in 2000-2001. Apart from the fact that this time my moderator's robes have remained hanging in the wardrobe, as far as the people of the congregations I visited are concerned, while the welcome was equally warm, my impression was that on the whole they knew less about what a Moderator is and why he visits congregations than they did in 2000-2001. As far as I was concerned, it was less of an adventure and more of a pleasant duty to perform. On the whole, I have thoroughly enjoyed being Moderator and being able to make use of my greater knowledge of our church and its polity in the role, and I am very grateful to the General Assembly for allowing me to serve in this way.

Looking back at the time of writing (mid July 2023) it seems that moderatorial duties since October 2022 have been nearer to full-time than part-time and I've been very thankful that I do not have the many responsibilities of a minister in a charge. Also, being Moderator while living out of the Melbourne metropolitan area has meant a lot of travelling and many different motel beds – but we have on occasions enjoyed manse hospitality, which was much appreciated, and which gave us the opportunity to get to know some of our manse families better. Another aspect of being Moderator that has contributed to busyness has been convenership of the ad hoc New Entity Committee and of the Change or Suppression Committee. The personnel of both of these committees have been a pleasure to work with, and the work has been both pleasantly stimulating and challenging, which is good, because it hasn't finished yet.

Of the many responsibilities of being Moderator, in my experience the best is visiting congregations – and one of the useful things about a second consecutive term was being able to catch up on the visits we couldn't fit in last year. Since October last year Lorraine and I have visited (in order) the following congregations: Ashburton, Malvern, Cranbourne, Sorrento and Rye, Gardenvale East, Somerville, the Leigh, Cheltenham, Mornington, Frankston, Geelong West, Aspendale, South East Samoan, Kaniva and Nhill, North Geelong, Bannockburn and Bellarine. We were warmly welcomed everywhere we went, and we are grateful to the ladies of the congregations we visited for their generous hospitality, and to our God for safe travel.

One of the purposes of a Moderator's visit is to encourage congregations by reminding them that the wider church is interested in their well-being, for the Moderator reports in general terms on the state of the congregations he visited during his term of office. Generalisations are difficult, for the congregations of our church are in many ways diverse; some are strong, some are not so strong, some are anxious about the future, while others are rejoicing in unusual growth; some sing hymns, while others sing 'songs' and some sing both – and to a variety of instruments; some worship in traditional buildings, while others worship in less traditional spaces. However, what I found especially encouraging (as someone old enough to remember our church as it was pre 1977 and for some time after that) is that every congregation I visited expected to hear the gospel preached and were glad to hear it preached.

The apostle John wrote 'I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.' (2 Jn 4) – and Lorraine and I were blessed in the course of our visits to congregations to catch up with people we had not met for many years, including young people who once were part of our youth group, and to rejoice greatly to find them still walking in the truth. Ministry can be discouraging – but we were grateful to be reminded by such contacts that God is faithful and that the gospel is still the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes and to be affirmed in the conviction that there is no greater privilege than to be able to serve others in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In addition to congregational visits, Moderators often have the opportunity to bring the greetings of the General Assembly and give a word of encouragement as special occasions such as ordinations and / or induction, church anniversaries and even the opening of new church buildings, and to represent the church in a variety of circumstances. Thus far this moderatorial year we have represented the church at:

- Scotch College Year 12 Night
- Farewell afternoon tea at the PTC for Felix Chung
- Ordination of Billy Kurniawan at Burwood Community PC
- PTC end of year dinner
- Church Anniversary service at Dandenong PC
- Induction of Rev David Martin at Officer PC
- Ordination of Marcus Campbell at Malvern PC
- Installation of Rev Brett Cummins at Bellarine PC
- Australia Day Function at Government House
- Installation of Dr Scott Marsh as the 10th Principal of Scotch College
- Ordination and Induction of Michael Riske at Rochester
- Bendigo East (Reforming) 10th Anniversary service
- Ordination and Induction of Kalpan Vasa at Tatura PC
- Scotch College's Easter service
- PTC Graduation service
- Ministry Family Camp
- St Andrews Christian College – official Moderator's visit
- Reception at Government House Victoria to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla
- Opening of the new church building at Mornington

Lorraine and I also visited Rochester to gain a first-hand appreciation of the terrible damage to houses and farms from the October 2022 floods, which were the worst floods in the history of the district. Subsequently I launched a Moderator's Flood Appeal to the whole church to support the congregation in its time of need. The response to this appeal was very generous, far exceeding my expectations, and a great encouragement to the congregation, which as I write is still recovering with repairs to the church buildings ongoing.

Another moderatorial responsibility is to encourage our church's missionaries. Each year the General Assembly resolves to 'request the Moderator to give the greetings of the Assembly to all our serving missionaries' – and this has been done. The Assembly also urges members to '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.'

This year we haven't done much by Zoom (it's been so busy) and rather than visit missionaries overseas we decided to visit some of our missionary families within Australia; by the time you read this report (DV) during three weeks from late July to mid-August we will have visited Alan and Faye Canavan in Townsville, Ian and Dorcas Denness in Innisfail and David and Lisa Pearce in Cairns, and at the same time had some much needed rest and recreation.

Then, still looking forward, in my diary there are preaching responsibilities at a thanksgiving service at St Cuthbert's Brighton and at the 135th Anniversary of the Sorrento congregation, and an official visit by the moderator and his wife to Belgrave Heights Christian School, not to mention attendance at the 2023 General Assembly of Australia, and perhaps other matters to be added to the moderatorial schedule. Thankfully, we are confident that the God who has sustained us thus far will keep us to the end!

I wish to acknowledge the support of the many people across the church who have supported me in my responsibilities as Moderator, especially my friend and colleague, Rev John Wilson, Assembly Clerk, the Administrative Assistant to the Clerks, Siew Teng Yap, and the General Manager, Mr Michael Ellison.

I also take this opportunity to wish Rev Ian Hutton and Ann, his wife, God's richest blessings and much joy in the work as he, with her support, takes up the responsibilities of Moderator.

Finally, I give thanks to God both for the opportunity to serve the church again as Moderator and for his faithfulness, goodness and his forgiveness in that service.

How good is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend:
His love is as great as his power
And knows neither measure nor end.

For Christ is the first and the last;
His Spirit will guide us safe home;
We'll praise him for all that is past
And trust him for all that's to come.

Peter W Phillips
PAST MODERATOR

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES COLLEGE CHAIR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS OF PLC AT THE AGM



In accordance with Clause 8.3(c) of the College's Constitution, the Chair 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 2023 as required by Clause 9.3 of the Constitution.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” Psalm 127:1

It is with great pleasure that I present the Chair's report for 2023. There is much to celebrate and rejoice in since the last Annual General Meeting, and much progress has been made by the College since coming out of the pandemic years.

Academic Achievements and College Celebrations

The College continues to experience strong enrolments across all levels of the College, with waiting lists at the key intake levels of Prep, Years 5 and 7. Parents continue to be attracted to the rigorous learning and rich extra-curricular program that the College is able to offer and there is also a strong appreciation of the College's values which emanates from our ongoing commitment to the Christian foundation of the College.

It is no great surprise that the graduating class of 2022 achieved excellent VCE and IB results, much like their predecessors. The median ATAR (combined across both VCE and IB) was 94.15, with 89% of the cohort achieving an ATAR above 80. We congratulate the 'Class of 2022' for their outstanding results and wish them the very best in their next phase of life after PLC. We trust that the rich education that they have benefitted from will enable them to thrive at their future endeavours whatever they may be.

Along with all the usual events throughout the year, such as the annual House Concerts, Junior School musical and Senior School play and the myriad concerts, the College was finally able to gather, after two year hiatus, for its annual Gala Concert in August 2022 at the Hamer Hall. It was a wonderful evening of celebration made possible by the amazing talent and hard work of our students and ably supported by the dedication of our Music department. Likewise, the usual sporting events on the school's calendar were held to the great joy and satisfaction of our girls.

The second annual Community Forum was again held in March 2023, and this year, the answers of the School Captains on the interview panel were delightful, insightful and enlightening for all who attended.

Senior Appointments and Farewells in 2022

In September 2022, we welcomed our new Business Manager and Company Secretary, Mr Matthew Duke and it is pleasing to see him settled well, and working cohesively and collaboratively with the Principal and the leadership team. He has made an immediate contribution to the operations of the College which we trust will be the

start of a long and productive time with us. Our acting Head of Junior School, Mrs Melissa Voce, has also now been appointed as the permanent Head of Junior School, and we congratulate her on this important appointment. She too has been a valuable asset to the College leadership team.

Over the year, the Council also marked the resignation and retirement of a number of its members, including Dr Tanya Josev, Mr Wayne Rice, Mrs Elisabeth McGregor, Mrs Priscilla Mellado and Dr Andrew McDonald. Our sincere thanks go to all of them for their contribution to Council over their time of service. A specific note of thanks is extended to Mr Wayne Rice, who served as Deputy Chair of Council, and Dr Andrew McDonald, who served as the President of PLC Foundation and as a member of Council for 23 years, made a significant contribution to the capital and infrastructure renewal of the College.

In their places, we welcome the following new Council Members: Ms Debbie Barbour, Mr Adrian Spencer and Dr Deborah Seifert. Mr Ian Gould will also commence on Council at the conclusion of this year's Annual General Meeting. One remaining Group C position remains vacant and the Council plans to fill this shortly. Each new Council Member brings their unique set of skills, professional expertise and life experiences, but have in common with all the members of Council, a deep commitment to the mission and vision of the College. We look forward to their contribution to Council in the coming years.

Sports, Aquatic and Fitness Centre

It is also with great satisfaction that the College Council approved the development of the Sports, Aquatic and Fitness Centre (SAFC) in November 2022. This was the culmination of many months of diligent work and planning. Construction commenced in early 2023 and all going well in God's providence, the expected opening date for the facility will be in early 2025. The completed facility will represent the most significant addition to the facilities of the College and we are excited as to the opportunities for education that this will bring for the students of the College.

The Council commends to the members of PLC the 2022 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.

Strategic Plan

Following a thorough and extensive consultation process, the next Strategic Plan for the College has been approved by Council and will be launched to the wider community in Term 3 of 2023. The new plan is exciting and inspiring and will further embed the many teaching and learning initiatives that are taking place in the College. There remains a strong emphasis on education that springs from our Christian Ethos, and the establishment of the Ethics Institute as one of the initiatives in the plan is a reflection of this. We are calling on the entire PLC community to rally around this new Strategic Plan so that our vision to form empowered women of character who change the world for good can be realized.

Finances

The College continues to enjoy a sound financial position and the surplus generated over the last financial year allows the College to continue its investment program, both in capital as well as human and other resources. It will ensure that the implementation of the Strategic Plan will be appropriately funded. These surpluses are made possible by strong enrolments, including the rebound of numbers within the Boarding House, careful management of operating expenses and capital project costs, and the ongoing generosity of the wider PLC community. Ultimately, we recognize God's hand of providence in these resources and we continue in thankfulness to Him for His provision.

State of Affairs on Council

College Council consists of up to 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 third year as Chair of Council, and I am honoured to be able to serve alongside the following office bearers:

- Deputy Chair – Mrs Kate Sampson
- Chair, Finance Risk and Audit Committee – Ms Mui Chun Chew (with Ms Debbie Barbour as Deputy Chair)
- Chair, Property and Planning Committee – Mr Ben de Waard (with Mr Daniel Gregor as Deputy Chair)
- Chair, Group B Selection Committee – Mrs Kate Sampson
- I also serve as Chair, Executive and Strategy, with Rev Ben Johnson serving as Deputy Chair of this committee

Together these office bearers also comprise the members of the Governance and Leadership Committee, while the Deputy Chair and Chair of FRAC serve with me on the Remuneration Committee.

Mr Daniel Gregor continues to chair the SAFC Steering Committee to oversee the construction of the SAFC.

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 Mrs Fiona Hare as its representative on the Board of the PLC Foundation and we hope to appoint Council's second representative on the Board of the PLC Foundation in due course. With the retirement of Dr Andrew McDonald as President, the PLC Foundation Board has elected Ms Diana Bevington as its President. She is not a member of Council but I intend to work closely with her so that together, both PLC Foundation and the College Council will coordinate its efforts in building up and strengthening the philanthropic network of the College.

Conclusion

I wish to conclude by giving thanks to God on Council's behalf for our Principal, Mrs Cheryl Penberthy and her strong and cohesive leadership team. Together, they have exercised wisdom and judgement in leading the College through the many operational and strategic challenges it faces. We are also thankful for the wonderful community that we have at PLC and the contribution that each and every member of the community makes to it. The Independent Schools sector in Victoria and Australia is a fast-changing and challenging environment to be working within but with a unity of purpose, the College Council is committed to serving as good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. May the name of Christ be honoured and God's good purpose be fulfilled as we steer and guide the College into the future.

Rev Mark Chew
CHAIR OF COUNCIL
PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE
8 June 2023

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (Min 104)

The supportive role of PWMU

PWMU takes its place alongside APWM-Vic and APWM National in supporting cross-cultural workers to bring the saving news of Jesus Christ to peoples near and far. Grants have been distributed and funds have been channelled to these workers along with valued messages of support. Relationships with new workers and those in training have been developed. Three serving Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) ministers have been given PWMU grants for their short-term service in Zambia and at Ernabella.

State meetings

The August Thanksgiving Event was again held online in 2022. About 40 people listened to Chris Griffioen speak about the work of Operation Mobilisation. 11 cross-cultural workers (both overseas and Australian based) brought greetings and gave updates to the meeting.

The annual meetings in October were held in person for the first time in three years, with 51 people in attendance. Guest preacher was Rev Toby McIntosh from Ebenezer (Ballarat South) PC. Several agency representatives and eight workers (both current and immediate past) brought greetings. During the afternoon session thanks were extended to Rosemary Zurrer, Elspeth Slater and Stephanie Hood, all of whom finished up their off-council roles. A certificate of long service was presented to Christine Closter for 47 years with PWMU.

The Country Rally was held in Drouin in April 2023. The 40 or so present, both men and women, were interested to hear Samuel and Dhruvi recount the journey leading to their work overseas and how the focus for them has changed and developed since being on the field. The day was enhanced by a demonstration of how to wear a sari and an entertaining quiz.

Children's work

The third *Dayspring Day* hosted by Geelong West Presbyterian Church was held in June 2023 and was themed *Dayspring Tours on Safari*. With Africa as the focus, six 'countries' had been set up in different parts of the church. Children heard from workers from three of those countries about their life and work in the environment. Stories from the Jungle Doctor books were read to the children throughout the day. The children's magazine *Dayspring*, produced by Sue White three times a year, has changed to an A5 format. It is suitable for primary-aged children and is cost free. State Council would love to see it offered to children in every congregation of the PCV.

Bursaries

Four of the PWMU-sponsored bursary students in Ethiopia graduated in June 2023. This leaves just two students to finish their studies. PWMU State Council met with Motor Isaac Yat at our April meeting to clarify the progress of these students. Rev Simon Koang continues his Master's Program, aiming to finish mid-2024.

Jairos Kachulu, a pastor in Zambia, has become PWMU's most recent bursary student. Jairos' original plans to study at the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) in Melbourne in 2020 never eventuated. He is now registered to study online through the Potchefstroom campus of the North West University of South Africa. Studying a Bachelor of Theology online means that he will not be separated from his wife and two-year-old child. PWMU will pay fees and equipment costs whilst the Church of Central

Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in Zambia will provide accommodation and living expenses. He has been assigned to a church while he is studying. Gaye McKenzie and Robyn Crocker share the role of bursary liaison.

PWMU Cookbook

Cookbook sales have been heartening. Assembly attendees in 2022 responded to an eloquent report from Pam Grant of the PWMU Cookbook Committee by buying all available copies. Afternoon tea provided by committee members was enjoyed by everyone. PWMU cookbooks are now on sale at the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) thanks to collaboration with Jess Thomas at the bookshop. They are also on sale at each Women's Ministries Victoria (WMV) event.

Korea

Our links with Korea continue to be strengthened. In April 2023, during the Annual Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in South Korea in Busan, a special service at the historic Busanjin Church celebrated the national heritage status given to the nearby Australian Missionary Cemetery. A number of historical artefacts relating to PWMU missionaries in Korea were also heritage listed. APWM cross-cultural worker in Korea, Hannah Davies, was able to be present.

Overview

Office Manager Natalie Miller has continued to be an asset to PWMU. In April 2023, a new PWMU website was launched, still found at pwmu.org.au. PWMU has a mutually supportive relationship with Kathryn Gatt, the Women's Ministries Facilitator of WMV. The PWMU Devotional Booklet, written by workers and members, provides monthly spiritual sustenance to groups and individuals. Pam Vandenberg prepares detailed prayer points each month for our Council meetings. Though a number of PWMU branches have closed, members remain in good heart, many continuing as individuals or joining a nearby group. Canterbury PWMU hosted various home-based workers during the year and have resumed Regional Association (RA) meetings.

Council

Two extra council members were welcomed in October 2022. Robyn Crocker rejoined after a two-year hiatus, and Jayni Manners joined Council for the first time. This spreads our workload amongst eight. The newsletter editorship passed from Elspeth Slater to Alison Stanley. Rosalie Fleming has negotiated the complex treasury business extremely well.

In 2022 – 2023 PWMU distributed a total of \$91,624 to further the work of bringing the gospel message to people of other cultures, both near and far.

Roslyn Brown
PRESIDENT

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE (Min 78)

1. Thanksgiving

We thank God for the following people who have served since the last General Assembly: Suzy Vines concluded her service as our administrator in January 2023 to take an administrative role with the MDC. She was a hardworking and kind hearted servant of the committee. Anna Burns stepped down as chair of the PYV council when she got married and changed jobs at the beginning of 2023. Anna oversaw the PYV council during a difficult period of change and her enthusiastic love of this ministry has left a positive legacy. Since Suzy finished Maggie Tay and Bethany Lattimore have provided administrative support through our engagement of Virtual Church Assist (VCA). Although we only contract VCA a few hours a week, they have been really helpful. Christine Parker served as an events manager for the 2023 Winter Camp which was unfortunately unable to go ahead due to a lack of volunteers. Erin Dykstra has been serving as our Big Day Out Events Manager. Louise Griffiths has been extraordinarily conscientious in her role as the PYC Responsible Person and has contributed to our camps being safe environments for our youth. Andrew Vines has also served as our reserve Responsible Person.

I also thank members of PYCC: Paul Huynh, Cam Griffiths, Mel Denness, Bec Walz, Bagoes Seta and the newly appointed Elisabeth Roberts. Although this ministry is very time consuming and challenging, this committee has been particularly amazing. They did all the administrative and pastoral work of this ministry faithfully and without complaining. Additionally, they volunteered at events and sought at every opportunity to serve Jesus. Several people from the wider denomination have volunteered to serve on the various subcommittees. Sherif Makar, Matt Burns and Fiona Bligh have each made important contributions to their respective subcommittees and we thank them for serving in this way. The Summer camp and Big Days Out would not be possible without all the volunteer leaders, too numerous to list here. Although, it's worth giving a big shout out to Nick Atrill the convener of the 2023 Summer Camp and Laura Brown the convener of the upcoming 2024 Summer Camp.

Lastly, we thank God for the privilege of being able to help youth either be introduced to Jesus for the first time or see their faith in him nourished.

2. 2023 Summer Camp Report

At PYV Summer Camp 2023, we had almost 130 youth and about 60 leaders from various churches and youth groups throughout the PCV. With lots of new leaders and returning PYV leaders leading both activity and bible study groups. It was great having our training day at North Geelong Presbyterian Church, and we are very thankful for their hospitality in hosting and catering for our leaders training day.

Phillip Island Adventure Resort was a fantastic facility. The youth really enjoyed activities such as high ropes, archery and canoeing. The other activities that the youth participated in were all team based and around the *Jungle* camp theme.

Dave Martin from Officer Presbyterian Church was the camp speaker talking on *The Highs and Lows of Isaiah*. He did a fantastic job at unpacking Isaiah to help the youth see that the Bible is really one big picture, and that God does fulfil his promises through Jesus. Feedback from the youth has been that they enjoyed the talks and found them engaging and challenging. We also had workshops run by different leaders on topics such as *Anxiety* by Cameron Griffiths, *Should Christians Vape?* by Jake Martin and

Mission Work by Natalie and Warwick Short. Jacob York ran prayer meetings every morning that youth and leaders could attend before breakfast to start the day talking to God.

This camp encouraged the youth of the PCV in their faith, helping some to come to Jesus for the first time and strengthening others in their faith and commitment to Christ. Thanks be to God for working in the lives of youth through the work of PYV. Our hope and prayer is that our youth will be able to look back on their high school years one day and see that the talks and studies they had on PYV camps helped them in their journey and walk with Christ.

Nick Attrill
Convener, PYV Summer Camp 2023

3. Big Day Out Report

Big Day Out (BDO) events gather PYV Youth and friends from across a region of Victoria so that they can meet, connect and be encouraged, between PYV Camps. PYV asks BDO host churches to advertise the day and support the program. The PYV Strategy and Operations Committee (SOC) organises these events with the assistance of Erin Dykstra (Big Day Out Event Manager) and provides a small team to attend on the day. The SOC is open to program suggestions from host churches and ways it can encourage youth in the various regions of Victoria.

This year PYV has been organising three BDOs across the state: Term 1 at Donvale Presbyterian Church (East), Term 3 at Bundoora Presbyterian Church (North), and Term 4 at Warrnambool Presbyterian Church (West). In late April, Donvale Presbyterian Church hosted a BDO which saw over 60 youth attend (even from Bairnsdale!). The day consisted of indoor and outdoor activities, food, and a main session that included a short bible talk, testimonies, Youth Group updates and a song. Paul Huynh spoke from Ephesians 6 about Putting on the Armour of God. He encouraged youth to stay strong and persevere as they face all types of pressures from the world.

Melanie Denness
Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee

4. Upcoming 2024 Summer Camp

Preparations are underway for PYV Summer Camp 2024. We thank God for Laura Brown, who is the convener for this camp, and for all the volunteers who generously give their time and effort to make PYV camps happen, and pray that He would give them the energy to do so. Please join us as we pray for this camp to glorify Jesus and to build up our youth in Him.

In years past we had been accessing the Thomas Hall Bequest to assist in youth attending camps. These funds were originally set aside for a Presbyterian orphanage and since that orphanage's closure, they had been applied to Presbyterian residential events as a near equivalent. With the increasing costs of campsites over the years, we have found this increasingly important. Many children and teenagers have been blessed by PYV camps over the years, some becoming Christians, and others being strengthened in their faith, and these funds enabled some to attend who would not otherwise have been able to afford to do so. However, these funds are no longer available for this purpose. The impact of this is already being felt with many families

considering the camping costs beyond their abilities to pay. We ask for prayer to find a solution to this problem.

5. Committee work

At the 2022 General Assembly the committee regulations and Youth Worker job description were revised. The Committee, like other committees of the Assembly, now functions as a governance body overseeing the work of various subcommittees (e.g., strategy and operations, finance, promotions, interview panel, etc.) and employees (e.g., Youth and Children's Worker, Administrator, Big Days Out Events Manager, etc.) These subcommittees include both members of the PYC and other volunteers from across the denomination who give their time and energy to see vision of children and youth being made or nurtured as disciples of the Lord Jesus made into a reality. Additionally, the camps and Big Day Outs would not be able to occur without a dedicated cadre of volunteer leaders, to see this vision become a reality.

As you can appreciate, this area of ministry is a big mission field, there is a lot of work to be done, and we have lots of volunteer leaders to be trained, mobilised and cared for. The importance (making and nurturing disciples of Jesus) and scope (6 subcommittees, various employees, multiple events) of the work also make it a substantial undertaking, albeit one that serves the whole denomination and exists to strengthen the work of all the congregations. This creates a large workload for the PYC especially in the absence of a Youth Worker and Administrator. While I am happy with the changes and consolidation done so far, I do not have the capacity to be both the convener of the committee and the pastor of my own pastoral charge. I am sad about reaching this junction because the ministry of PYV is important but I am not able to be both a pastor and convener of this committee. It needs someone who has the time and energy to oversee the whole ministry and also help it efficiently carry out the vision of making and nurturing disciples of Jesus among the children and teenagers of Victoria. The convener does not have to be a member of Assembly, although given the amount of interaction with the BIF, the Safe Church Unit and various congregations it would need to be someone familiar with how the PCV operates.

6. Youth Worker and Administrator

Until the *Cy Pres* action is complete the Allan Bequest is unavailable. The Allan Bequest had been previously used to pay much of the salary of the Youth and Children Worker (previously known as the Youth Ministries Director) salary. Ideally the Youth and Children's Worker would be full time funded from both the Allan Bequest and committee funds, but for now the position can only be part time. Additionally, the committee requires an administrator. This would be a part time position based at Heathmont House. We have been using the services of VCA as a temporary stop-gap while we sort out how best to recruit and employ an administrator. In our view, the part time nature of these roles (especially the Youth and Children's Worker role) contributes to the difficulty in attracting suitable personnel. We have advertised the YCW role and have not received any responses. Additionally, finding people motivated to share Jesus with children and teenagers plus following all the correct processes extends the time frame for filling these positions. However, having both a Youth Worker and Administrator, even if both were part time would alleviate the committee's workload and help the whole ministry serve the denomination better.

Luke Isham
CONVENER

PRIVACY OFFICER (Min 30)

The Privacy Officer continues to provide:

1. Relevant privacy legislative changes updates to the PCV via email communications to Presbyteries for distribution to Sessions.
2. Ongoing privacy training to new PCV employees and other PCV personnel, committees and organisations as requested.
3. Responses to privacy enquiries and complaints.
4. Practical advice, information and resources such as privacy-compliant forms, via the Privacy page at the Safe Church PCV website.

Thank you to the Assembly for their work to ensure privacy compliance is maintained in the PCV.

Please be advised that on computers, laptops and devices (including smart phones and tablets) that are used for PCV work and business, members of the Assembly must use two-factor authentication for file sharing cloud-based services, for example, Google Drive and Dropbox.

Courts of the church, Assembly Committees and PCV organisations which utilise file sharing cloud-based services, must have an access and management protocol. This protocol must state who needs to have access to files, for demonstrably legitimate reasons, in line with their role(s) and responsibilities. This protocol must also state who is responsible to manage the files and manage access to, and removal from access to, these files. The person responsible for management should review access on a quarterly basis to confirm that people who have finished up in their role no longer have access to the files.

In addition, the type of access needs to be considered for each individual – i.e. should that individual, by virtue of their role, be able to edit files or have read-only access. Consider if the manager of the account should enable “track downloads” in the account settings (if this is feature of the service) and activate as considered necessary.

If, in the case of a complaint or Safe Church related matter being raised to the relevant body *about* one of the members of that body, it is essential to ensure that the subject of the complaint or matter *is not able to access any files relating to the complaint or matter*. Always open a new stand-alone folder for any such complaint or matter and re-invite authorised individuals only to access the file.

Data and privacy breaches are increasingly common in this inter-connected and online landscape that all organisations operate in and have serious consequences – for example, this may include legal ramifications. Members of the Assembly are requested to seriously consider their privacy security practices in the use of file sharing cloud-based services and take appropriate preventative action through adhering to this advice offered in this report. Thank you.

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, are 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 29)

The Safe Church Appointments Process

The Safe Church Appointments Process was established in 2018 as a way of ensuring that the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is conducting the appropriate screening of all who work with children in our churches. To assist with compliance in this matter, the Safe Church Appointments process was re-distributed to all presbyteries in April 2022. The Safe Church Committee would like to thank all presbyteries and sessions who take seriously the Safe Church Appointments Process. The Safe Church Committee desire that all sessions and presbyteries be clear on the need for this process. A failure by one presbytery or one session in these matters places the whole of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria at risk of being non-compliant in the matter of child safety.

If you have difficulties in working through the process, please advise the Safe Church Unit or the Safe Church Committee.

Compliance

It is a great testimony to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria of how seriously that all those involved are taking safety within our churches that annual Working With Children Check listings and three yearly Compliance Audit Schedules are being conducted and completed in a timely manner.

You will know that each church is asked annually to return a WWCC update list to the SCU while every third year each church is asked to complete a safe church compliance schedule. In past years the Safe Church Unit has written to the local safe church representative. The Safe Church Unit is now including the session clerk in that correspondence, as it is appropriate for the session to know when the compliance schedule is due.

The committee has requested our compliance officer to write to presbyteries every two months to inform them of the compliance status of each charge under their jurisdiction. This is intended to assist presbyteries to ensure that charges in their jurisdiction remain compliant with Safe Church protocols.

'If you see something, do something!'

The Safe Church Unit has been made aware of occasions where someone from the church or more often a visitor to the church, will act in ways that are clearly and obviously inappropriate. The church is a place of welcome and gospel fellowship – it is also a place where the overseers shepherding the sheep must act to protect the flock. The Safe Church Committee, together with the Safe Church Unit, are grateful to our godly overseers who act in such circumstances to protect the flock, by addressing the inappropriate behaviour immediately and with clarity, and calling the Safe Church Unit to seek advice. This enables protection to be extended beyond the local church, to other churches in the presbytery or even the whole of the PCV. Sadly, there are individuals who roam multiple churches and conduct themselves in inappropriate ways with the vulnerable, including children. By responding and contacting the Safe Church Unit, this helps us all to ensure safety within own churches and also to ensure safety in other churches.

Risk assessment

Our 2022 report advised of a risk assessment tool being made available for sessions of PCV churches to undertake annually. If your session has not already completed a risk assessment for this year, please do so as a priority.

The Safe Church Committee also advise that ministers conduct their own personal risk assessment for personal safety. We are aware of incidents in churches – and not only in the PCV - where a minister has been assaulted. The committee is not seeking to mandate any particular action, but to remind all workers, especially ministers to take especial care and to act wisely especially in pastorally difficult situations. We encourage you to lean on your fellow leaders and elders and keep them informed of any concerning behaviours towards the minister of your church and always:

- go in pairs to any meetings where you believe your safety may be at risk
- document any threatening texts or emails and things that are said to you and call the Safe Church Unit for advice and help
- be especially mindful of safety when meeting with any person who is the subject of abuse allegations. It is recommended to always go in pairs for such a meeting, so there is a witness to anything that is said or done.

Safe Church Training

Basic and Advanced training continues to be made available across different localities in Victoria and the committee would like to thank those who have attended these training sessions.

All those who hold a role within the local church must complete an annual Refresher Training which consists of a short video. The video is available on the Safe Church website or through the Safe Church YouTube channel. Please ensure that those in your churches who are engaged in ministry work, complete this refresher course.

Link to Refresher video here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcKfpSOJon4>

As a committee we are aware that for some members of Assembly basic or advanced training was undertaken a number of years ago. Whilst we note that the Refresher Training must be completed each year to keep up to date, we also encourage members to consider attending training sessions again, to ensure that our skills and understanding remain sharp.

Understanding Childhood Development for the sake of the Gospel - Online One Day Intensive Course

In February 2023 SCU in conjunction with PTC held a one-day intensive course about ministry to children and childhood development, conducted by Mrs Louise Griffiths. This was held as part of the PCV's implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations.

The course was recorded and there is a booklet to go with it. The course was well attended in person and online and we have received a large amount of positive feedback from those who attended.

The video of this one-day intensive is being edited and will be made available at no cost. PTC will host the course on their website, along with the booklet, making it available for PCV personnel.

Committee membership

We are pleased to have welcomed Rev Brett Cummins onto the Safe Church committee. We also give thanks to Rev Nello Barbieri for giving his time and support to the committee through 2023.

Rev Brian Harvey
CONVENER

SAINT ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (Min 72)

Leading in A New Season

It has been an incredible honour to be appointed as the 5th principal of St Andrews Christian College and commence leading the school in 2023. Thanks to the faithful service and courageous leadership of my predecessor Catriona Wansbrough, I am blessed to have stepped into the role of leading a school with strong enrolments and a culture of bringing glory to God in all that we do. I am blessed to have a board who have been incredibly encouraging and supportive as I settle in to the principalship, and it encourages me to see the board continue to remain firm in holding to our mission and our desire to be distinctly Christian in our identity and practice. I am pleased to report that we continue to be blessed with a committed staff who desire to serve God through performing their roles with excellence within the College. Whilst a change in leadership, particularly a principal does inherently bring a sense of uncertainty to some within a community, I am encouraged to see a staff who continue to remain committed to the College and serving God.

Who We Are

Our Mission at St Andrews Christian College is *'To educate students so that they are well skilled, understand life on the basis of Biblical truth, and are motivated to walk with God and serve Him in their lives, so that they will be a positive Christian influence in the world.'* Our mission statement is central to everything that we do at St Andrews Christian College, and an integral part of the outworking of our mission is the vital and valued connection and relationship that the College has with the PCV. A strong connection between St Andrews Christian College and the PCV was of great importance at the inception of the College in 1983, and I am encouraged and heartened to know that our desire is to continue to forge a positive and strengthening relationship with the PCV. It is during times such as these in which political agendas and particular ideologies compromise our ability to employ Christian staff that we value and appreciate the strong ties and partnership that we share with the PCV. Religious freedoms are central to our ability to provide a genuinely and authentically Christ-centred, biblically based education for our students. And whilst we as a college continue to advocate with Federal MPs about our need to maintain our religious freedoms, we sincerely value and appreciate the support of the Presbyterian Church and its efforts to support Christian schooling. And acknowledging that relationships can always be further strengthened, I look forward to the continuation of a long and fruitful partnership with the PCV.

Our Mission

To educate our students so that they are well skilled, understand life on the basis of Biblical truth, and are motivated to walk with God and serve Him in their lives, so that they will be a positive Christian influence in the world.

PILLARS of PURPOSE

Well **SKILLED**



Biblical **TRUTH**



Walk with **GOD**
and serve Him



Positive Christian
INFLUENCE



Celebrating 40 years

2023 is an incredibly important year in the life of the College as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. From humble beginnings in 1983 with 10 students in an old convent in Surrey Hills, God has been faithful in His provision and blessing to lead the College to where it is today with 680 students, wonderful facilities and a culture in which Christ still remains firmly at the centre. We were able to celebrate our 40th anniversary in July with a thanksgiving service in which over 1000 people were in attendance. It was a delight to have many of our founding board members, previous principals, and past members of staff in attendance on the evening along with our students and parents. It was especially moving to honour Professor Allan Harman and his wife Mairi, who were the founders of our college and sacrificed much in order to bring their vision to fruition. The 40th anniversary thanksgiving service was both God honouring, and honouring of those faithful founders who enabled the College to be what it is today. And whilst we look back and reflect, celebrating 40 years and savour the many memories and moments of our college, we also look forward to the next 40 years and dedicate this to God for His glory.

Strategic Planning

The College has been in the process throughout the year of consultation and data collection in order to prepare the new 2024-2027 strategic plan. Parents, students and staff have participated in consultation sessions and have been actively involved in co-constructing what the next four years looks like in the life of our college. With a strong demand for a St Andrews education, we set our sights on facilitating opportunities for growth, as well as the College being a hub for Christian community. We currently celebrate the completion of the final stage of our secondary school building program, and we now set our sights on providing our primary students and staff with a permanent and fit for purpose building for them.

As a college, we continue to put God at the centre in all that we do, and our mission statement remains at the centre of why we exist. In all that we do, we seek to bring Glory to God.

Yours in Christ,
Nick Haines
PRINCIPAL
ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

SCOTCH COLLEGE (Min 70)

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.

Enrolments

There continues to be high demand for admission into the College at all entry points. At the start of 2023, there were 1454 boys enrolled in the Senior School, compared to the 1462 enrolments in 2022. Within the total enrolments, 160 (165 in 2022) are boarders, of whom 41 were new to the Hill community. Twelve indigenous students are members of the 2023 Scotch community, eight of whom reside on the Hill. The school roll at the start of 2023 included 15 full-fee paying overseas students (14 in 2022), with new overseas students joining Scotch from Hong Kong, mainland China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Cambodia and Russia. 74 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 College's approach to enrolment will maintain a Senior School of approximately 1460 boys.

Chaplaincy

In both Senior and Junior Schools, the School Chaplains, the Reverend David Assender and the Reverend 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 Professor Andrew Gleadow (Class of '66). Professor Gleadow works in the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Melbourne and is a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Camberwell.

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 maintains a shared vision of helping establish a boys' 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 Christian setting, of boys into the Upper School and into their designated houses. The feedback from staff and boys was again very encouraging. The Reverend Doug

Campbell continues to liaise with the Chaplains' Prayer Support Group that meets every Tuesday morning during term time at 8.30am in the meeting room in the Tolson Centre.

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 2022 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 260, 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 90.65, compared to 88.85 in 2021.

Five 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 (31 boys) across the state achieved the maximum ATAR score of 99.95 in 2022. Whilst it is worth noting the performance of our scholarship boys who continue to perform strongly (three of the five 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, 13.5% of boys made the top 1% of the State; 35.4% the top 5%; 52.3% the top 10%; and 74.6% the top 20%. There were 20 highest possible subject scores of 50 (compared to 19 in 2021) across 16 boys and 12 subjects, and 12 boys won a total of 17 VCE Premier's Awards. Based on Year 5 ability testing data, the mean value-added percentile for the Class of 2022 was 14.54%. 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 program and departmental reviews will further improve teacher capacity in this area and continue to support high quality outcomes for future Year 12 cohorts.

The College has, in recent years worked hard 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 programs 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 programs, introduced in the core subject areas in Year 8 in 2016, have also begun to flow through to VCE level.

Campus

The College’s building program continues apace. Construction of the new accommodation for boarders and boarding staff, which commenced in 2022, is complete, with boys and staff enjoying the new accommodation as of the start of Term 3 this year. Work on the Retreat building on The Hill continues and 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

The College continues to offer a rich teaching and learning program 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. As with all schools, how we engage young people in this digitally saturated world and prepare them for the challenges of 21st Century life, remains a critical question that must be continually wrestled with.

In anticipation of the arrival of Scotch’s 10th Principal in January 2023, we remained focussed on embedding our ‘Relational Learning Framework’ throughout 2022. Believing that relationships are at the heart of teaching, especially in a boys school context, staff have continued to explore ways by which relationships can be fostered with their students.

With the arrival of our new principal, staff have been challenged to think about our work in teaching and learning and in particular, how we might review our curriculum to better cater for the needs of all boys. Importantly, alongside the work already completed on the growth of Scotch boys, we have commenced a focus on character education and will be working to incorporate character education into all aspects of a Scotch education.

In 2023, we have introduced a new Executive role to lead our teaching and learning within and outside the classroom. Furthermore, work has been completed on restructuring and reshaping teams to ensure all staff are supported and able to receive meaningful feedback. This work will continue over the next 18 months to ensure that all staff are supported and that clear lines of accountability exist for all within our community.

In 2024 we are due for re-registration. As such, the later part of 2023 has been devoted to reviewing our curriculum material to ensure all documentation is compliant and ready for review.

The first Annual Review following the School’s re-accreditation from the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) as a safe school took place at the end of last year

(December 2022). The School's ACF consultant, was very impressed with the work Scotch College has done over the past 12 months in regard to Safeguarding.

The second round of Teacher Action Research and Career Development program (TARCDP) projects have commenced. Approximately 65 staff across the Senior School are engaged in one of 25 action research projects. Junior School staff are also involved in undertaking action research projects.

Co-Curricular

Sport continues to play an important role in the lives of our boys.

After limited winter sport over the last two years, 2022 provided great enjoyment for our boys as they took to the various fields, pitches and courts to represent the School. The boys performed strongly with a clear highlight the performances of our Hockey and Cross-Country squads. The First XVIII Football team played some exciting team-orientated football, but unfortunately struggled with consistency from game to game and quarter to quarter. The highlight of First XV Rugby team's season was a strong victory against Melbourne Grammar on the main oval, the game celebrating the 90th anniversary of school rugby. The Reverend Bill Morgan, the oldest living Old Boy attended the game as he had witnessed the first game in 1932. The First V Basketball and the First XI Soccer team had successful seasons without challenging for a premiership. Our Fencing squad have again outnumbered all other schools at events with 110 boys participating in the individual and team events.

The 2022 spring season saw Scotch perform very strongly in both the APS Athletics and Water polo competitions. The Athletics program saw over 300 boys represent the school at lead up meets. The team started the finals campaign well with 16A finals from 21 events. An overall third place was great reward for effort and was the Schools best performance since 2006. 11 school records were broken on the day with two new APS records also set in the Under 15 1500 metres and the Under 14 Discus. The Water Polo season saw Scotch finish in equal third position with an outstanding 10-7 win against St. Kevin's the highlight of the season.

Scotch enjoyed a highly competitive 2023 summer sport season, albeit struggled to contend for premierships.

Our 1st VIII Rowing have been without doubt, the standout squad with wins at the APS Heads of the River Regatta, the Victorian State championships, and the Barwon and Henley regattas. The victory at the APS Heads of the River regatta made it the 16th win in the last 19 years for Scotch crews. The 1st VIII finished in fourth place at the National Championships in Perth. The Year 10A crew finished an impressive third in their respective event at the National Championships.

Our swimmers enjoyed a highly successful season finishing second at the APS finals and in the All-Schools Swimming relays. The Diving squad ended the season on a high with a third overall placing in the APS Finals. Many of our team sports performed strongly with top four placings. Early wins in the season set up Futsal and Volleyball to be placed in the top half of the re-draw. Despite not being able to contend with the top teams we were consistent in our performances with fourth placing in these sports. The 1st Badminton team finished fourth also. The 1st XI Cricket team finished eighth and the 1st VIII Tennis team finished sixth in their respective competitions. The Old Scotch

Athletics program has seen significant individual success for our students. Scotch had nine boys selected to represent Victoria at the National Championships in Brisbane, where the boys won a total of four medals and had seven performances in the top ten. Our Sailing squad competed well to finish fourth in the Victorian Interschool finals at Mornington Sailing Club in the final week of Term 1. The crew began strongly in the opening two days of the championship and despite struggling on the final day, have qualified for the Nationals in South Australia later in the year.

The breadth of the sporting program 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, hockey, para-Athletics, sailing and swimming.

The Scotch Enterprise program, introduced in 2015, continues to attract Year 10 boys with a passion for designing and making things, and solving problems. Boys involved in the program have designed a portable digital scoreboard system, a facial 'sign in' system for use in the boarding house, a heated foam roller to relieve tension in muscles, and an economically friendly locker organiser, an integrated tube life-saving device, a hidden bicycle lock system, and a sensor that identifies if a police gun has been taken out of its holster.

The Clubs program, 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. Two boys, one from Year 7, the other from Year 11, both received bronze medals in the International Mathematics Olympiad. They were part of a team of six students chosen from across the country to represent Australia in Norway. A Year 8 boy was Highly Commended in the History Teachers' Association of Victoria Historical Fiction Writing Award, a Year 11 boy was a winner in the 2022 Young Australia Writers' Award, and four Year 11 boys had their film 'Spreading Kindness' shortlisted in the Year 11 category of the 2022 Independent Schools Victoria Film Festival. The College's Chess team retained their title as Victorian Chess Champions, and our Year 8 Da Vinci Decathlon team won the State Championships and placed third overall in the National Championships. A Year 10 boy was selected in the Australian Junior Science Olympiad team and a Year 11 boy was a member of the Australian team that competed in the Asian Physics Olympiad competition. A team of four Year 12 boys reached the national final of the Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad competition, and two boys were awarded Gold medals at the Australian Infomatics Olympiad competition. Six boys across a number of year levels competed in the Asian division

of the International History Bowl that was held in Thailand, and a Year 12 boy was a member of the team that competed in the 'Battlecode' competition in Boston, this being one of MIT's flagship programming competitions. Two boys from the class of 2022 were invited to audition for the VCE Top Class in Drama, a Year 12 boy was crowned Australian Junior Chess champion, and a Year 12 boy had an article, written in collaboration with his teacher Dr David Treeby, published in *The Mathematical Gazette*.

Performing Arts and Debating

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 program, which this year saw boys in Year 8, in collaboration with girls from MLC, produce a highly entertaining performance of *The Alibis*. Boys in Years 9 and 10, in collaboration with girls from Lauriston, produced a most enjoyable production of Thornton Wilder's *The Match Maker*, and our senior boys, again in collaboration with girls from Lauriston, produced an outstanding production of *West Side Story*.

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 enthusiastically received by those in attendance. The School was able to celebrate its foundation with a marvellous concert at Hamer Hall, this being the first time we have been able to do so for two years, due to COVID.

The Scotch Number 1 Pipes and Drums Band won the Grade 4A competition at both the Australian National Championships and the New Zealand and South Pacific National championships. The Scotch Number 2 band won their division at the Australian National Championships. Members of the Number 1 Band participated in the annual ANZAC Day March, as did the School's Military Band.

This has been a successful year for Scotch debating, with 113 boys participating across 21 teams in the Debating Association of Victoria's interschool competition. Three of our teams proceeded to the finals, with the D1 team reaching the play-offs and the C1 team making it as far as the Quarter Finals. The highlight was our B1 team, which reached the Grand Final ultimately won the B Grade Competition. In terms of individual achievements, a Year 11 boy received a 'Swannie Award' as the best Year 11 speaker in the Hawthorn competition. A Year 12 boy received a similar award for the Year 12 Division, and a Year 11 boy came first in the debating component of the Australian Individual Debating and Public Speaking championships, and as a consequence participated in the World Competition. A Year 12 boy was one of four students to represent Victoria in the National Debating competition. Scotch were also Grand Finalists in the Australian National Virtual Debating Competition.

Alongside the DAV competition, a myriad of competitions and training occurs throughout the year for boys at every level, including teams in British Parliamentary debating, a substantial mooting program with Bond, Monash and Latrobe universities,

Model United Nations experiences, International online debating and UN Youth programs.

Services Program

The Services program continues to be an integral aspect of the College'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 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 weeklong service-learning experience as part of the School's Immersion program. This program 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 programs 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 victims of the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, the Ukrainian Association, Victoria, 'Movember', 'Eat Up' and the Lighthouse Foundation. The School's commitment to the acceptance of each individual has seen further conversation on consent and respectful relationships, highlighted by recognition of International Women's Day and IDAHOBIT (sexual diversity). The Prefects have delivered presentations in Assembly on various themes related to character development. The Prefects have also organised a trivia evening with mixed teams combining with Methodist Ladies' College. They also played a game of netball against the Prefects from Lauriston. Our Year 10 boys spent a day with girls from MLC discussing issues around the theme of Respectful Relationships. A similar day is being trialled at Year 8. Just prior to the long weekend in Term 1, 119 hikers, supported by 23 boys and 13 staff in various support roles, undertook the 24 hour hike, covering an average distance of 69.8 km, and raising just over \$51,000, monies that have been promised for Spur Afrika, a charity that empowers children and young adults with skills to transform not only their own lives but the lives of their families and communities. This year saw the resumption of the annual VCE Art tour to Sydney, Canberra and Bundanon. Unfortunately, students from Hume Central and Auburn High were unable to attend this year.

Leadership

On the morning of 30 January 2023, Dr Scott Marsh was officially installed as Scotch's 10th Principal in a ceremony conducted at the Memorial Hall and attended by many members of the Scotch Family. In introducing Dr Marsh that morning his traits of respect, devotion, vision and dedication were highlighted, drawing on his more than 30-year career in education to date.

In the six months preceding Dr Marsh's installation the College was indeed fortunate to be able to have him visit on several occasions to meet with Council members, key staff and other stakeholders. As a result of those visits it can truly be said that the new Principal has 'hit the ground running' and been able to come to grips with the challenges of the role much more quickly than would otherwise have been the case.

It is pleasing to report that the School Council has already noted the traits previously referred to fully on display in the early months of Dr Marsh's tenure.

In the second half of 2022, prior to Dr Marsh's arrival, the School was indeed blessed to have been able to call on the services of Vice Principal Rob McLaren to take up the role of Acting Principal. With 35 years of employment history at Scotch, Rob was well placed to fulfil the transition role and did so in an exemplary fashion. Rob's cool head and calm demeanour were critical during some challenging moments and School Council is deeply grateful for his dedicated efforts.

Governance

The Principal transition process has required the School Council to remain focussed and united in order to maintain an environment where boys can continue to thrive despite significant change occurring in the organisation around them. It is very pleasing to report that Council has not only met the transition challenge but has been able to make considerable progress in planning for the future.

The strategic planning process was commenced in 2022 as the Principal transition process began to unfold and involved extensive stakeholder consultation with all branches of the Scotch community, including boys, parents, staff (both teaching and non-teaching), OSCA and the Foundation. This process has continued throughout 2023 to date and has enabled a comprehensive understanding of key considerations for future planning.

As Council formulates its strategic response to the key considerations there are four straightforward headings into which the responses are being categorized. Those headings are 'Our Boys', 'Our People', 'Our Community' and 'Our School'. It is hoped that the adoption of this approach will provide clarity and meaning to the plan when it is ultimately communicated to the School community towards the end of 2023.

The members of Council continue to demonstrate a deep love and regard for the College 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.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I can report, with confidence that the College is currently in a strong position within the marketplace, with high demand for places. The College remains committed to improving and refining its programs 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

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min 65)

Your committee has continued to do its work behind the scenes. We endeavour to make decisions in a timely manner to enable other committees to engage in the work with which they have been charged. The current members are John Angelico, Peter Orchard, Ben Palmer, Jesse Walz and myself. Ian Leach finished his time on the committee this year and we are thankful for his input.

Committee member numbering system

Here is a reminder of how our numbering system works. Generally, each year a third of a committee's membership is required to retire,⁶² hence the rotation (RT) numbers. If a member is willing and eligible, they can be renominated and serve up to a total of nine years,⁶³ 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,⁶⁴ which means they will sometimes have different square-bracketed numbers next to their name. As an example, someone with these numbers – **RT 24: Rev A Minister [2029]** – would need to be renominated at the 2024 General Assembly and must end their service on the committee at the 2029 General Assembly.

It also worth noting that when someone is appointed to fill a vacancy, they will typically be added to that vacancy's rotation year so that their first term on the committee may be less than three years before they need to be reappointed.

Online database of committee membership

We are very pleased to announce that our online database is now operational. A huge thank you to John Angelico who has driven its development and invested many hours into the project. It has been built using Google Sheets and all committee conveners will be given access to view the database and to make comments. These comments can then be viewed by John and myself so that the Selection Committee can respond accordingly, including making updates. The Clerk's office also has access to view and add comments which will greatly improve accuracy of records.

This system enabled us to produce this year's committee review forms more effectively. We invite conveners to give us feedback on this new system and hope they will be patient with us as we fix errors.

Filling vacancies

We remind the Assembly and particularly committee conveners that you must notify the Selection Committee if a vacancy arises on your committee. A person can only fill that vacancy and begin serving once the Selection Committee has appointed them.

Making additional nominations to GAV committees

For Assembly, there are two ways to make nominations in addition to those nominations brought forward by the Committee as listed below. These are spelt out in our newly updated regulations (3b and 3c). The first is nomination from a committee not later than ten days prior to the day of the opening service of the Assembly, which for this year will be Friday 22 September. With the approval of our committee, this nomination will generally be put forward in a supplementary report. The second is nomination from a committee or any member of the Assembly not later than noon on

⁶² PCV Code 5.25.3. Note, the BIF operates on five year terms.

⁶³ PCV Code 5.25.1. Note, BIF members serve for ten years.

⁶⁴ PCV Code 5.24.1.

Tuesday of the Assembly, which for this year will be Tuesday 3 October. Such a nomination will be voted on by a ballot on the Wednesday of Assembly. Either type of nomination needs to be in the hands of the Selection Committee convener in writing (we consider email to be sufficient).

Upcoming vacancy on St Andrew's Foundation

There will be a vacancy for a PCV trustee on the St Andrew's Foundation at the end of 2023 when Mrs Margaret Conradi finishes. Details of the Foundation and the role of trustees has been provided to the Selection Committee and listed below. In summary, the Foundation manages the funds received from the former St Andrew's Hospital.

Trustees must fit the requirement of a 'responsible person' under the trust which is defined as an individual who:

1. performs a significant public function;
2. is a member of a professional body having a code of ethics or rules of conduct;
3. is officially charged with spiritual functions by a religious institution;
4. is a director of a company whose shares are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange;
5. has received formal recognition from government for services to the community;
6. is an individual before whom a statutory declaration may be made; or
7. is approved as a Responsible Person by the Commissioner.

It is important we fill this vacancy for 2024. A trustee must be a member of a PCV church. We are ideally looking for a woman. Any interested person can speak to myself or to current PCV trustees of the Foundation to obtain an overview document.

Further details on the St Andrew's Foundation

Background

The St Andrew's Foundation is the successor body to the former St Andrew's Hospital, East Melbourne. The Hospital had been established in 1935 as a hospital of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. However, with the inauguration of the Uniting Church in 1977, the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches jointly ran the hospital. In the 1980's, during the course of a major building development, it suffered financial difficulties. The Victorian Government, the guarantor for the loans for the new building work, 'sold' the hospital to the Peter MacCallum Hospital for the amount of the Government's guarantee. The receiver, however, did not have the right to St Andrew's endowment funds from the hospital's supporters – many of whom were members of either the Presbyterian or Uniting Churches. These endowment funds were only available for use by the hospital which by then was no longer in existence. So, after lengthy negotiations with the Government, the legislation establishing the hospital was amended to provide for the St Andrew's Foundation (created through a trust deed) as the successor body to receive these funds of the former St Andrew's Hospital. When the Foundation was established in 1997, the available funds were approximately \$800,000. (The Foundation now holds as approx. \$6,250,000.)

The Operation of the Foundation

The Foundation has seven trustees: the chairperson, being independent, that is, not being appointed by either of the two churches (currently Ms Bronwyn Wellings), together with three representatives from each of the two Churches. The Foundation is registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a Public Ancillary Fund (that is, it may receive charitable donations from the public and dispense that money to other charities – here meaning, organisations which have Deductible Gift Recipient status). The accountancy firm of William Buck manages the affairs of the Foundation. The Board meets six times a year.

In accordance with its trust deed the Foundation may make grants to '*hospitals, aged care facilities and other community service programmes of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and to other public benevolent organisations or institutions in Australia having objects similar to these bodies or to the objects of the former body corporate known as St Andrew's Hospital.*' In any given year it allocates approximately \$250,000 to these purposes.

Experience

Ideally the trustees of the Foundation would collectively have experience in the following areas: philanthropy/grant giving, not-for-profit/community services, legal and regulatory frameworks (such as that relating to public ancillary funds), knowledge of the Church and its structure, governance/board experience, finance and investment, strategy and marketing/communications. The trustee will be committed to the strong Christian ethos of the Foundation.

Diversity

In making an appointment the Church would seek the Board of the Foundation would seek the board to be diverse in age, gender, ethnicity and life experience.

Nominations

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 (not the immediate-past), presbytery clerks and parity members]

Flinders: Rev B Peatman (clerk), (nil for parity)

Geelong: Rev R White (clerk), Mr B Stasse (parity)

Gippsland: Rev G Stephens (alt), Mr T Guilford (parity)

Maroondah: Mr P Veith (alt), Rev M Tonkin (parity)

Melbourne East: Mr K Childs (clerk), Rev B Nelson (parity)

Melbourne North: Rev C LePage (alt), Mr T Cunneen (parity)

Melbourne West: Rev J Ellis (clerk), (nil for parity)

North East Victoria: Rev K Ee (alt), 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: Rev R Duncanson (clerk), Mr S McKerrow (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 Committee (Victoria)

[12 Members - 10 nominated by GAV, 2 nominated by PWMU, all appointed by the Assembly]

RT 24: Mrs L Ellis [2025], Rev M Campbell [2031], Rev D Schulz [2026].

RT 25: Rev J Mestry [2028], Miss M Price [2031], Mrs W Moody [2025], Mrs D Brownley [2031].

RT 26: Rev R Waterhouse [2026], Rev K Bell [2031], Rev T Archer [2024].

PWMU: Miss R Crocker [2032], Mrs P Vandenberg [2024].

Convener: Rev D Schulz [2029].

Ballot Committee

[Appointed by each Assembly or Commission]

Board of Investment and Finance

[10 Members]

RT 24: Mr J Walter [2029], Rev B Oakes [2024].

RT 25: Mr M Gibson [2030], Mr D Wright [2030].

RT 26: Mr R Walley [2032], Mr J Bligh [2026].

RT 27: Rev G Wentworth [2032], Mr A Foster [2027].

RT 28: Mr E De Zilwa [2028], Mr D Graham [2028].

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the board]

Building and Property Committee

[3 Members]

RT 24: Mr R Kop [2027].

RT 25: Mr D Wright [2024].

RT 26: Mr P Thomas [2031].

Convener: Mr R Kop [2026].

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 24: Rev B Cummins [2030].

RT 25: Mr D Fraser [2024].

RT 26: Mr R Herweynen [2031], Rev Dr J Hood [2026].

Convener: Rev R White (*pro tem*), Rev Dr J Hood [2024].

Change/Suppression of Conversion Practices Committee

[2 members, plus ex officio the Moderator (Convener), the Immediate Past Moderator, the Assembly Clerk, the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee]

RT 24: Rev W McArdle [2031].

RT 25: Rev D Elliott [2031].

Convener: Rev P Philips.

Church and Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 24: Rev J Walz [2030], Vacant, Vacant, Mr I Waller [2029].

RT 25: Rev M Jensen [2030], Rev C Duke [2025], Mrs J McHardy [2027].

RT 26: Prof B Saunders [2031], Mr P Stanton [2029], Mr J Ballantyne [2026].

Convener: Rev C Duke [2025].

Church Planting Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev P Campbell [2031], Rev A Boyd [2024].

RT 25: Mrs A Grinter [2031], Rev J Huynh [2024].

RT 26: Mrs T Kelada [2031], Rev L McSeveny [2030], Vacant.

Convener: Rev A Boyd [2024].

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)]

RT 24: Rev R White [2028].

RT 25: Rev P Burns [2028].

RT 26: Rev B Oakes [2028], Mr K Childs [2028].

Convener: Mr C Morrow [2025].

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 24: Mr D Wright [2032].

RT 25: Rev P Burns [2032].

RT 26: Mrs S de Pyle [2030]. **Convener:** Rev J Wilson.

Conciliation Committee

[6 Members: 3 Ministers and 3 Elders, from at least four presbyteries]

RT 24: Rev Dr K Hood [2029], Rev D Martin [2029].

RT 25: Mr P Jellis [2032], Vacant.

RT 26: Rev A Vines [2027], Vacant.

Convener: Rev P Mercer.

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, ex officio all ADF Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 24: Mr J Kapelles [2030].

RT 25: Rev P Lee [2031].

RT 26: Mr C Perry [2030].

Convener: Rev M Fagan [2024].

Exit Student Committee

[Membership ex officio]

Convener: MDC Convener

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Members]

RT 24: Mrs J Martin [2028], Rev Dr K Hood [2027], Dr J Neil [2031], Vacant.

RT 25: Mrs R O'Brien [2026], Mrs C LePage [2031], Vacant.

RT 26: Mrs L Campbell [2030], Vacant, Rev D Dixon [2026].

Convener: Rev D Dixon [2026].

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

[4 Members]

RT 24: Mr A Putnins [2031], Rev G Wentworth [2032].

RT 25: Vacant, Mr C Morrow [2031].

RT 26: Rev R White [2032].

Convener: Mr C Morrow [2029].

METRO Committee

[8 Members]

RT 24: Mrs J Arundell [2030], Mr A Liew [2032], Mr S Denness [2030].

RT 25: Rev C LePage [2030], Mrs A Harris [2026].

RT 26: Rev T McIntosh [2032], Mr A May [2027], Rev L Brownley [2026].

Convener: Rev C LePage [2029].

Ministry Development Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev P Greiner [2024], Rev R Grinter [2031].

RT 25: Rev S Withers [2025], Mr I Bramley [2027].

RT 26: Rev D Middleton [2029], Mr R Kop [2029], Rev G Stephens [2030].

Convener: Rev S Withers [2025].

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]

Vacant, Rev R Waterhouse, Rev A Brown, Rev R White, Rev C Garrett, Rev G Stephens, Rev P Court, Rev P Orchard, Rev T Fishwick, Rev I Leach, Rev G Nicholson, Rev K Bell.

Presbyterian Youth and Children's Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev C Griffiths [2027], Mrs M Denness [2031].

RT 25: Mrs R Walz [2030], Rev P Huynh [2030].

RT 26: Vacant, Rev B Seta [2030], Miss E Roberts [2032].

Convener: Vacant.

Safe Church Committee

[6 Members]

RT 24: Mr G Hui [2026], Rev B Harvey [2026].

RT 25: Rev D Brown [2032], Rev B Cummins [2032].

RT 26: Mrs H Thomas [2031], Mrs L Griffiths [2030].

Convener: Rev B Harvey [2024].

Selection Committee

[Nominated by the Code and General Administration Committee]

Social Services Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev W McArdle [2030], Rev S Wesley [2031].

RT 25: Mr D Conradi [2025], Mrs C Cunneen [2031].

RT 26: Mrs J Pilgrim [2028], Mr T Cunneen [2024], Vacant.

Convener: Mrs J Pilgrim [2028].

State News Committee

[5 Members: At least 2 Ministers]

RT 24: Rev S McDonald [2027].

RT 25: Mr P Betts [2029], Mr A Zirngast [2032].

RT 26: Mr R Paix [2031], Vacant.

Convener: Rev S McDonald [2026].

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, ex officio the College Principal and another member of faculty]

RT 24: Mr D Wright [2024], Rev K Maxwell [2026], Rev D Hann [2032], Rev M de Pyle [2030].

RT 25: Rev R White [2028], Mrs J McHardy [2026], Rev S Jones [2025].

RT 26: Rev J Born [2030], Rev G Nicholson [2025], Rev D Martin [2032].

Convener: Rev K Maxwell [2026].

Women's Ministries Victoria Committee

[7 Members, at least two of whom are members of the assembly]

RT 24: Mrs N Horman [2031], Mrs A Ludas [2032].

RT 25: Mrs S McDonald [2030], Rev R Grinter [2029].

RT 26: Mrs J Martin [2031], Rev B Johnson [2029], Mrs ST Yap [2029].

Convener: Rev B Johnson [2027].

GAA APPOINTMENTS

Commission of the General Assembly of Australia

[3 ministers and 3 elders, *ex officio* Officers of the GAA and former Moderators-General]

Ministers: Moderator, Deputy Clerk, Rev P Hastie

Ministers Alternate: Vacant, Vacant, Vacant

Elders: Mr P Betts, Vacant, Mr C Morrow

ex officio: Rev C Garrett, 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 S Wesley

PWMU Cook Book Committee

[3 PCV, 1 PWMU + Convener (alternates between PCV and 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 50)

This year the Social Services Committee (SSC) has continued to focus all efforts on the application of the trust funds. Currently the SSC administers four (4) 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.

A total of 135 persons in need have been helped and have or will be reimbursed for expenses incurred for church camps and counselling

The Trust Disbursements for the 2022/2023 Financial Year are as follows:

| Name of Trust: | Description | Amount (\$) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Brocklesby | Counselling Epping PC | \$2,500.00 |
| Brocklesby | Counselling Epping PC | \$5,000.00 |
| Brocklesby | Counselling Leigh PC | \$650.00 |
| Challenger | Counselling Epping PC | \$2,500.00 |
| Challenger | Creswick PYV Camp (April 2023) | \$2,000.00 |
| Challenger | Bannockburn PC (Sept) | \$3,695.00 |
| Challenger | PYV Winter Camp | \$3,330.00 |
| Challenger | PYV Summer Camp | \$14,598.70 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS MADE FOR 2022/2023 | | \$34,273.70 |

The SSC continue 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 Trusts Corporation requests. It is hoped that by doing so there is a clear understanding of the application of the trusts by the SSC and its applicants.

The SSC reiterates that unless those making applications to SSC provide such specifications within that initial application process it will delay the application until such details are provided.

The members of the committee are Jenny Pilgrim (Convener), Rev Wayne McArdle (secretary) Tom Cunneen (treasurer), Rev Surendra Wesley, Denis Conradi and Christine Cunneen. The SSC is presently prayerfully considering an extra member on the committee who feels a calling to help those in need.

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 REPORT (Min 74)

The Special Judicial Committee is expected to report on petitions (rule 5.55(c)) – to “report on their nature, but not necessarily their contents”. The committee sees no barrier to the General Assembly considering the merits of the following petitions.

Petition 1

From: Presbytery of North Western Victoria—MDC Funding Eaglehawk

This request comes to the Assembly for evaluation pursuant to Rule 4.83.2 and its purpose is to enable the Presbytery of North Western Victoria to consider a further application from the Eaglehawk congregation for MDC grants following ten consecutive years of such funding. The Special Judicial Committee’s view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 2

From: Presbytery of Western Victoria—Dissolution of Lexton Congregation and Sale of Lexton Church Building and Vacant manse block and dissolution of Daylesford congregation and Sale of Daylesford Church Building

This is a petition with four component parts.

a) Dissolution of Lexton Congregation:

Prior to the final dissolution of a congregation a presbytery requires the Assembly’s agreement and that 12 months has elapsed since the last regular Presbyterian worship service (Rule 4.69). The Committee notes that the 12 months has elapsed.

b) Sale of Lexton properties and purposing of proceeds:

Provided immediate effect is given to the above decision by applying the provision of Rule 6.15, it is open for the Presbytery to request the Assembly to direct the trustees to sell the Lexton properties for particular purposes under clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed.

c) Dissolution of Daylesford Congregation:

Prior to the final dissolution of a congregation a presbytery requires the Assembly’s agreement and that 12 months has elapsed since the last regular Presbyterian worship service (Rule 4.69). The Committee notes that the 12 months has not yet elapsed.

d) Sale of the Daylesford property and purposing of proceeds:

Provided Presbytery waits until 19 December 2023 to bring effect to any decision, it is open for the Presbytery to request the Assembly to direct the trustees to sell the Daylesford property for particular purposes under clause 14 of the Model Trust Deed.

The Special Judicial Committee’s view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 3

From: Presbytery of Western Victoria—MDC Funding Extension for Horsham

This request comes to the Assembly for evaluation pursuant to Rule 4.83.2 and its purpose is to enable the Presbytery of Western Victoria to consider a further application from the Horsham congregation for MDC grants following ten consecutive years of such funding. The Special Judicial Committee’s view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 4

From: Maintenance of the Ministry Committee—Long Service Leave

The Maintenance of the Ministry Committee seeks permission to make a payment which appears to lie outside the regular application of the LSL regulations. The Special Judicial Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 5

From: Presbytery of Geelong—Renaming of the Batesford Sites Reserve Fund to Bannockburn Sites Reserve Fund and its future allocated purpose

Regarding the purposing or re-purposing of Sites Reserve Funds, the Special Judicial Committee considers that, unless for exceptional circumstances, the Assembly does not have authority to grant permission because of the moratorium it has placed on these and the other 34 named funds (see GAV Record Apart, May 2021, Min. 8). This moratorium will be lifted in May 2026. Nevertheless, the Special Judicial Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 6

From: Presbytery of Geelong—Renaming of the Shelford Sites Reserve No. 1 Account and the Future Allocated purposes for No. 1 Account

Regarding the purposing or re-purposing of Sites Reserve Funds, the Special Judicial Committee considers that, unless for exceptional circumstances, the Assembly does not have authority to grant permission because of the moratorium it has placed on these and the other 34 named funds (see GAV Record Apart, May 2021, Min. 8). This moratorium will be lifted in May 2026. Nevertheless, the Special Judicial Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 7

From: Presbyteries of North Western Victoria and Western Victoria—presbytery Boundaries and Castlemaine

The Special Judicial Committee sees no barrier to this request as it appears to fall within the general authority of Rule 4.1.1(b) and the particular authority with regard to amalgamations and alteration of boundaries, Rule 5.51. The Committee notes that this is the reverse of what occurred in the 1980s. Nevertheless, the Special Judicial Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 8

From: Presbytery of Melbourne East—St Kilda and Balaclava Unification

The Special Judicial Committee draws the Assembly's attention to the limited role of the Assembly in that its authority is restricted to matters of property arrangements and allocation of funds (Rule 4.68A.5b). The Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 9

From: Presbytery of Flinders—MDC Funding Cranbourne

This request comes to the Assembly for evaluation pursuant to Rule 4.83.2 and its purpose is to enable the Presbytery of Flinders to consider a further application from the Cranbourne congregation for MDC grants following ten consecutive years of such funding. The Special Judicial Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 10



Petition 11

From: Presbytery of Western Victoria – selling the Ballarat North Manse with a view to purchasing another

The Presbytery

The Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration.

Petition 12

From: Presbytery of Melbourne North – new lease for 945 Yan Yean Road Doreen for Valley Presbyterian Church

The Presbytery

The Committee's view is that this petition is competent to come before the Assembly for consideration, but because of non-compliance with the due date for petitions to be submitted (Rule 5.54.2) the Assembly needs to be asked firstly to waive the requirement in this case.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE (Min 36)

This year, the State News Committee has published three editions of *Fellow Workers* to inform and encourage the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

We've received articles from congregations and members in the presbyteries of Flinders, Melbourne East, Melbourne North, Melbourne West, North East Victoria, North West Victoria, and South West Victoria. Other pieces have been published from Australian Presbyterian World Mission, Presbyterian Inland Mission, Presbyterian Youth Victoria, the Church Planting Committee, and Women's Ministries Victoria.

The committee encourages presbyteries and committees with news to share to submit articles for publication. News items, book reviews, ministry moves, and suggestions for people to interview are what makes *Fellow Workers* such a blessing to the wider church.

Circulation numbers continue to grow. Since our last report, the number of email subscriptions has grown by just 3 to 206. However, the committee is encouraged that the printed editions circulated to individuals and churches has increased by 65 to a total of 734. The committee believes that this continues to represent a strong and growing readership. The committee encourages congregations that are not currently receiving *Fellow Workers* to subscribe at www.pcv.org.au/committees/fellow-workers/ Of the five spots on the committee, three are presently filled by Rev Stephen McDonald and elders Rob Paix and Phil Betts. The committee hopes to welcome Tony Zirngast back after one year off under the 9-year rule.

The committee expresses its thanks for the partnership of many fellow workers who share in our work.

Stephen McDonald
CONVENER

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT ((Min 97)

Introduction

The Theological Education Committee (TEC) can report that our Lord, and Saviour has supplied all our needs, and sustained the students, staff, faculty, and committee members through a demanding 12 months. The committee gives thanks for the faithful service of the College staff and faculty and their dedication to preparing men and women for gospel service and pastoral ministry, ably led by our Principal, Rev Peter Hastie. The committee continues to be humbled by the trust placed in it by the wider Presbyterian church. The committee gives thanks to our Lord for gifted men and women, given to the church, entrusted with the gospel, prepared by the Spirit and entrusted to the Presbyterian College in Melbourne to be trained for the advancement of the kingdom of heaven.

Committee Membership and Staff

The last 12 months has seen committee membership reduce. We give thanks for the contributions of Rev Martin DePyle who has made thoughtful, and valued contributions to the work of the committee and the committee is thankful for his fellowship and contribution. The committee is prayerfully seeking suitable members who can add to the depth and experience of the current committee. Fulfilling the mandate to train men for pastoral ministry while governing a tertiary education institution and satisfying the requirements of various oversight bodies remains challenging and complex. As convenor I remain grateful for the contribution and insight of each member of the committee, for the prayers of the church, for the dedication of the principal, and the faithfulness of the faculty, staff and student body representatives. Elder Dennis Wright remains the committee Treasurer. The committee gives thanks for Dennis' gifts and contribution in supporting the operations of the College. In December Mrs Janelle Born, resigned as committee secretary to take up employment that better meets the needs of her family. The committee thanks Janelle for her excellence in managing the College office and support. In January 2023 the College welcomed Ms Rosemary Chandra to the office, and she also serves as committee secretary. In January, the College also welcomed Ben Palmer to the role of Registrar. This year has also seen the appointment of Michael Smith as Librarian replacing Heather Feilding. The committee gives thanks for Heather's contribution and advice over many years in managing the resources of the library. We are blessed to have the services of Ben, Rosemary, and Michael and give thanks for our Lord's provision for the needs of the College this year. The principal and faculty representatives serve the TEC by ensuring that the committee is fully aware of all operations of the College and well-being of the student body.

Governance

In addition to the regular governance needs of the College the focus of the TEC throughout late 2022 and 2023 has been the appointment of lecturers to replace the services of the Rev Dr Felix Chung who retired to Queensland. This task has not progressed smoothly. The committees preferred candidate for the position of Church History and Public Theology withdrew very late in the process in order to take up another position that did not require an interstate move. The committee did not receive any suitable applications for the position of Christian Studies and Asian Programme Coordinator. In addition, and because of Dr Chung's departure, the Australian College of Theology withdrew the College's approval to teach Chinese language courses. This forced the committee to review the lecturing needs of the College and revise the position description and seek approval for the revised position description. The committee is advertising the new position and currently seeking applicants for the

position of Church History and Practical Theology. The delay in filling these two positions and the need to review the lecturing needs of the College has left the committee without the capacity to advance the search for a new Principal. The principal's position has not yet been advertised. The committee recommends that the current principal's appointment be extended for 12 months, to the end of 2024.

Again, the committee gives thanks for the Lord's provision in meeting the need to expand the library. The committee has entered a partnership with the Archive Committee in the leasing of the old district nurses' facilities beside the College. Part of this facility will be used for storing less well used library resources and the College has assisted the Archive Committee in preparing the site for use. We give thanks to the students and staff who have worked diligently to make this partnership a practical reality. We continue to give thanks for the ongoing support of the Library Fundraising Committee. Ultimately a new library is the only satisfactory solution to meet the needs of an expanding College library.

The transition of Australian College of Theology (ACT) to a standalone entity (independent from the Anglican Church) has progressed smoothly. The ACT board and CEO, James Dalziel, continue to pursue the status of "Australian University" for the ACT. Achieving the status of university brings many advantages to the consortium and the committee believes it will be beneficial for PTC. The ACT is strongly encouraging the TEC to create a stable core group of lecturers to continue to improve teaching standards and student outcomes. Specifically, the ACT is encouraging the committee to appoint a fifth fulltime lecturer. In addition, ACT is also encouraging the committee to reduce the use of adjunct lecturers and replace them with permanent part-time appointed lectures. Future lecturer appointments will need to be considered in relationship to recent changes in the employment law to take effect in December 2023. In summary, and subject to very limited exceptions, the changes will prohibit employment under fixed term contracts of greater than two years. For the most part, the employment of persons for a term in excess of two years would need to be on a permanent basis. The committee is considering how these changes could impact the practice of the PCV and future appointments to the PTC faculty.

At the end of August the committee received correspondence from the ACT Broad communicating that,

"PTC has been late and insufficient in its responses to the requirements of the Affiliated College Risk and Compliance Reporting Framework (Framework)... . The ability of ACT to grant degrees, obtain FEE-HELP loans and many other matters which benefit Affiliated Colleges are based on ACT and its Affiliated Colleges meeting these regulatory obligations. In addition, the third goal of the ACT's strategic plan is "Regulatory Compliance that is a Witness to our Faith"."

The ACT Board continues,

"We reluctantly need to raise with you the possibility of disaffiliation of PTC from ACT if these matters cannot be resolved in a timely and ongoing manner."

"We appreciate the efforts of those PTC staff who have worked on meeting these requirements, but it is our sense that these requirements are not being given sufficient importance. We also sense that there is insufficient staff time provided for these necessary regulatory tasks."

This relates to a more general concern we have that PTC does not have sufficient permanent staff to undertake all of its obligations as an Affiliated

College. We appreciate that there has been recent staff turnover, and there are plans to appoint more permanent staff, but we need to stress the importance of having sufficient permanent staff to meet regulatory requirements, and that meeting these requirements is part of the documented workload of relevant staff (rather than being an extra task which is not accounted for in workload planning – as this may be a reason for the difficulties leading to the current circumstances).”

The committee is working with the ACT to resolve this matter as soon as possible. Several members of the committee are working with College staff and faculty to ensure that PTC comply with the Framework requirements.

Educational Delivery

The TEC through the PTC is tasked with preparing graduates to meet the challenges of ministry across the wider Presbyterian Church in Victoria. In fulfilling this task the College’s primary focus is on equipping graduates to think theologically, to preach and pastor biblically. Developing this skill set is foundational to all ministry within the church of Christ. The student body is ably served by a team of fulltime faculty and adjunct lecturers. The committee gives thanks for the quality of the lectures delivered by each member of the team. The TEC is also pleased to report that the College continues to perform above average in the ACT student engagement surveys. This is a credit to the faculty, adjunct lecturers, and support staff. The committee is also thankful for the hard work of the student body and their academic performance.

Although the committee has spent a number of years developing and resourcing Chinese language courses, unfortunately the College is unable to continue offering courses in the Chinese language. This is a frustrating development for the College. Demand for theological education for Chinese speaking pastors in the reformed tradition remains strong. The committee is considering how this need could be met by PTC in the future.

Student Body

The student body has a strong collegial spirit evident in their support for the College and the Archive Committee. Many students participate in grounds, garden and building maintenance programmes. The student body has also assisted in preparing the newly leased buildings and grounds for the Archive Committee and library overflow. In addition, many of the students’ home churches, families and friends have assisted in maintaining the College grounds and facilities. The committee gives thanks to God for the generosity of the student body and in particular the leadership of Cameron Weir in overseeing the maintenance program.

The College faces many challenges in the coming year, some known others unknown, and requests the prayers of the wider church for everyone involved in the work of the PTC. Pray that the Lord will provide all our needs, sustain us, and grant us wisdom from above in each and every decision.

Kevin Maxwell
CONVENER

Faculty Report 2023

Throughout the last academic year, (2022-23), the College has continued to prosper in the post-pandemic environment. Normal lectures have resumed, although the proportion of students who physically attend both the lectures and Chapel has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Nonetheless, the candidates for the ministry in the PCV are normally present at these events at the College. While the numbers of students enrolled at the PTC have remained relatively stable over the last two years, thankfully we have not suffered the 23% decline that has been experienced across other colleges affiliated with the Australia College of Theology.

Despite the difficulties of the last four years, the constancy in the number of students enrolled in the College is promising. The statistics for both first and second semesters in 2023 have been encouraging to the TEC and Faculty. In Semester 1, 2023 – enrolments totalled 88 (30% Full-Time and 70% Part-Time). In Semester 2, 2023, we enrolled 74 students (29% F-T; 71% P-T). One of the reasons for the rise in the number of enrolments over the last few years has been due to the increasing take-up of online courses and running popular lecture courses by specialists in the fields of biblical studies and pastoral theology through the introduction of Microsoft Teams. We are also indebted to Dr Jared Hood's assistance in helping the College to acquire the technology that has made this possible.

In terms of the whole student body, the overall ratio between male and female students is 73% male to 27% female, a ratio of roughly 2.7 to 1. This has been encouraging to the Faculty because it means that more women are becoming available for leadership and specialised ministries within local congregations and placements in different kinds of Chaplaincy and counselling services, as well as opening doors to a range of different educational and teaching opportunities.

TEC, Faculty and Staff

In the light of the recent retirements of Drs. Felix and Mei Chung from the College, who served the PTC faithfully for over fifteen years, I wish to thank the Faculty and Staff for having assumed a number of additional responsibilities in both the First and Second Semesters in 2023 after Felix and Mei's departures. Thankfully, during this time the Lord has provided us with a capable and hard-working Registrar in Ben Palmer, and also for a very competent Administrative Officer in Rosemary Chandra. We are also hopeful of appointing another Faculty member to replace Felix Chung, which must be done by 2024 for the College to maintain our accreditation with the ACT and the Australian Government.

The Faculty also wishes to thank the members of the TEC for their understanding and willingness to assist the College, particularly Kevin Maxwell (Convener) and Dennis Wright (Treasurer), who have discharged their responsibilities very faithfully. They have served the College willingly and at significant personal cost. They are valued and respected for the service they render and have encouraged the Faculty through their helpfulness and strategic thinking. We are grateful particularly for Kevin Maxwell's representation of the College with Australian College of Theology and in the Assembly. The Faculty acknowledges two TEC members, who live in regional Victoria and have travelled considerable distances to attend our meetings over a number of years. Sadly, with the passing of time and in view of the distances involved, they have indicated that they feel the time has come for them to retire from the TEC. The College is privileged

to have had such committed members and we have been grateful for their leadership and contribution.

We are indebted to hard-working Faculty members, Rev Drs Jared Hood, Felix Chung, and Rev Ben Nelson, and grateful for our adjunct lecturers and HDR supervisors, Drs Allan Harman, Douglas Milne, Michael Brautigam, Tony Bird, Peter Barnes, Karl Hood, Rowland Ward, and Bruce Riding. Other adjunct staff members who have played a crucial role in the last year have been the Revs Martin Pakula, Stuart Bonnington, Chris Siriweera, Andrew Vines and particularly Dr Andrew Matthews, who has stood in for Dr Jared Hood at very short notice to ensure the delivery of all Old Testament subjects while Jared is taking special leave for Semester 2, 2023).

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 advocacy on behalf of the College.

I am also grateful for our friendly and efficient administrative staff, Mr Ben Palmer (Academic Registrar), Ms Rosemary Chandra (Administration Officer), Ms Heather Fiedler (retired in May 23), Mr. Michael Smith (Librarian), Mrs Suzanne Zhang (Associate Librarian & Chinese Library Services), Mrs Jessica Thomas (PTC Media), and Mrs. Annie Weir (occasional Marketing and Events Management).

We also thank the PCV General Office for their help with our affairs, especially Michael Ellison (General Manager), Jason Zhang (Accountant), and Sharee Barnett (Book-keeper). We have also received invaluable help from Rev Dr John Wilson (Clerk of GAV) and Siew Yeng Tap (Assistant to the Clerk), as well as the assistance and support of the BIF. The contribution of the General Office to the College is significant and without their administrative support, advice and help, the task of running the College would be much more difficult.

I also wish to acknowledge the generosity of two students, 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 as well as organising events and meals in which everyone in the College can participate. They have played a key role in running many of our social activities as a College. Their efforts with property maintenance, safety issues, and the general administration of the College have been invaluable. Scott Thomas is another student who has also made significant improvements and contributions to the maintenance and appearance of the College and its facilities. We owe the Weirs and Thomases a debt of gratitude for the significant contribution they make to the College properties and other facilities offered by PTC.

The Academic and Ministry Training Program

The College works alongside our 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 based on a government 'Student Experience Survey' (SES) that is now released annually 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 from student surveys that are initiated by the

government without any involvement from the College, and are then distributed to the ACT. In the most recent reporting period the profile has recorded some useful facts and figures.

1. The College continues to be ranked at a high level amongst theological colleges in the ACT in several important areas: skills development (PTC 96%-ACT av 90), learner engagement (PTC 75%-ACT av 61), teaching quality (PTC 100%-ACT av 96), and learning resources (PTC 98%-ACT av 96). The College is also rated highly for freedom of expression (PTC 100%-ACT av 96).
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 had shown a drop-off of around 23% over the last year and had also declined in the 2021-22 Reporting Period.
3. Our gender profile of students in terms of total enrolments has shifted from 9 male/1 female (2018) to 2.5 male/1 female (2023). Part of this change is attributable to the implementation of the PTC Strategic Plan developed in 2016 and a major move to online services.
4. Full-time students at PTC now represent 30% of the student body, whereas part-time students continue to increase and now represent 70% of the student body in 2023. In terms of comparison, other colleges have fulltime students around 20% and part-time at 80%. The rise in part-time students is part of a world-trend and is consistent with figures in similar institutions in countries like North America.
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 are required to 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 with a more significant proportion in the latter, although the overall numbers for MDiv and BTh/BMin are beginning to even out. The higher numbers in the ordination track for MDiv reflects the fact that more candidates are mature age graduates from other universities or higher education providers.
7. At PTC many of our students enrol with either ordination or a full-time/part-time Christian ministry of some kind in mind. In other colleges in Australia, those seeking to be ordained for pastoral ministry are considerably less, although some colleges have significant numbers of students who are training with a view to cross-cultural mission and employment in Christian agencies.
8. The one problem that we continue to face is our existing library. It still remains small in comparison with other colleges and may well inhibit prospective students when choosing a college for theological studies. Despite the excellent quality of the books located in the Swanton Library, the collection does not match the size of other comparable theological libraries. Our critical problem is shortage of space and our need to warehouse a growing portion of current journals and books in different

sites. The need for a new library building remains urgent. 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.

We are encouraged that a majority of our full-time students and many of our part-time ones have some form of church-based ministry in mind. We also have 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) | 2023 |
| 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.

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 2017-2023, has seen an overall long-term decline in student numbers, which has been more acute in the 2022-2023 period. Whether this broad decline over the last six 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 2020

The 2023 academic year commenced on 25 March in the Werner Brodbeck Hall in the Assembly Hall building. We have held the service there on ten 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 we were glad to return again to Assembly Hall, and the gathering was memorable, not only for the large attendance, but also because our Guest speaker for the occasion was Professor Douglas Milne, who gave a stirring address on the importance of our need of progress in the Christian life, entitled, 'Let Us Go On to Maturity' (Heb 5:11-6:12). We were 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, we thank the Scots' Church Board of Management, the Rev Philip Campbell, their minister, the helpful staff at Scots' Church, especially for their generosity in allowing us 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 our theological students.

The advantage of the program at the 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 represent a clear contrast to their home churches plays an essential role in their preparation for wider ministry in the denomination. We thank the Rev. Andrew Vines for his supervision of this program in conjunction with the faculty.

The College supplements this field 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 the whole of their academic course of four years at PTC 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. We have been very privileged to have had Dr Felix Chung supervising this program for the last fifteen or so years, and Andrew Vines is an excellent successor who will help to retain both the College's focus and the focus of our ministry candidates on Practical Ministry.

The results of the most recent national Student Experience Survey in 2022-23 indicate that these courses are crucial to our 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. During 2020-2021 we were prevented from taking students on the annual College Mission due to lockdowns. However, in December 2022 the annual mission took place in Ballarat over ten days, mainly at St John's-Ebenezer, although contact was made with other churches as well.

Our cooperation with the Ministry Development Committee has continued through the commitment of the Rev Chris Siriweera, who maintains close contact with the College and our ministry candidates. He occasionally attends Chapel, to both preach and to become better acquainted with candidates and build friendships with them. Hopefully, these friendships create opportunities for him in the future to continue a mentoring role with them in the early years and afterwards of their 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 of the church. This is one of the denominational distinctives of the PCV. We offer help to students while they are still at College and then throughout their ministry in very

personal ways. Further, students and new ministers are not required to pay for it, as happens in other situations.

We are 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.

Higher Degree Research

The responsibility for this area resides with Rev Ben Nelson, the post-graduate Dean. The level of interest in HDR study at PTC is significant, and is important for the long-term future of the College. Our hope is that this program will be the means not only to provide ministers trained to a high level academically, but also to create a pool of potential lecturers for the PTC and other allied colleges who adhere to the standards of our church.

The College has a number some of very able supervisors for the HDR program: Prof Allan Harman, Drs Rowland Ward, Jared Hood, Peter Barnes, and Michael Brautigam. We are very grateful to God for such a capable and experienced team to help us in the HDR program.

Staff Development, Sabbatical Leave and Contribution

1. **Peter Hastie**, has taught six subjects in 2023: Biblical Theology, Apologetics, Reformed Worship, The Knowledge and Doctrine of God, Creation, the Fall and the Person and Work of Christ, and Grace and Ministry Formation. As part of his HDR studies he is engaged in research related to his PhD studies on Adam, the Fall and Original Sin.' He has also produced a chapter for a Festschrift on the same subject that is being published this year. He also serves the PCV in his capacity as the Moderator of Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church, and as a member of the Commission for Church Institutions and the Exit Students Committee. He has continued to promote the College within Victoria, and has visited a number of churches in both Metropolitan Melbourne and in The Presbytery of the North-East.

2. **Jared Hood** has taken special leave in Semester 2, 2023 due to special family needs. He remains involved in the publication of RTR where he serves as the Executive Editor. During the last year he has published an important article in the RTR in the Dec 2022 edition on the subject of 'Eternal Torments in the Westminster Confession.' This article was an important piece of scholarship and was well received by the GAA College Committee. Under Jared's oversight, the Journal has been redeveloped. It now has an international editorial board and seeks to be an international academic journal of Reformed Theology. RTR has several themed issues planned, including the April 2023 issue on the *Visio Dei*, with four international scholars who explored the theme in an engaging and in-depth manner. A further issue on the subject of J. I. Packer's contribution to theology is scheduled for April 2026. Jared continues to serve as the Academic Dean. He facilitates curriculum revision, is a PhD Supervisor accredited with the ACT, serves on the Theological Education Committee, the Business Committee, and the GAA College Committee, and is convening the GAA College Committee Sub-committee which is examining the doctrine of 'eternal torments' in the Westminster Confession. He also oversees IT at the College.

3. **Ben Nelson** – Ben Nelson teaches Study Skills, New Testament NT001 and NT002, NT Exegesis, 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', which he hopes to complete in 2024. He serves the denomination by chairing the Candidates' Committee at 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 around 120 attendees (from 42 different churches). Ben also serves as an elder at South Yarra Presbyterian Church, where he is the Session Clerk and also often preaches.'

Promoting the College

This activity is the responsibility of the Administrative Officer in consultation with the Principal and Academic Dean. Over the last year, Rosemary Chandra has been improving the website and developing the College's social media profile. Rosemary has done impressive work in informing the wider public of the College's course offerings, and this, in turn, has created a wider interest in our activities.

As already mentioned, we are also particularly grateful for Jared Hood's important technical contributions to the IT network. Jared has been the driving force in expanding our presence on the web. Jessica Thomas also plays an important role in promoting the College by maintaining PTC Media's bookshop. Through her initiative, we now have a very well-stocked bookshop that has 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 to October to assist local congregations in ministry and inform the church about the role and opportunities provided to the church through the PTC. We are hoping that the ongoing improvements introduced by Jessica will bear growing fruit as the Bookshop increases its sales of quality books to our churches.

Candidates' Wives

These meetings normally take place each month, and there are also occasional social get-togethers. Our thanks are due especially to Annie Weir for her organization and promotion of the group. Some of the wives and guest speakers travel considerable distances to attend the meetings. We are especially grateful to visiting speakers for sharing their experiences and offering encouragement to the wives of our future ministers.

The group holds a planning session at the beginning of each year. The wives themselves play a direct role in the leadership and programming for the group. The group is a very positive experience for the students' wives. Around ten to twelve women regularly attend the monthly meetings. Sue Hastie also attends these meetings to befriend and encourage the wives of our students.

Engagement with the Denomination

The faculty plays a significant role in the denomination. Apart from our work at the College, which is demanding in itself, the faculty also maintains commitments in the wider church through various church committees, presbyteries and in the Assembly. We are also available to preach for congregations on Sundays and at occasional services on other days.

Peter Hastie
PRINCIPAL

TRUSTS CORPORATION (Min 32)

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 (Victoria) 1958 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 benefitted from rebounding share markets over the past 12 months.

The portfolio continues to grow in overall income generation with the fixed income component of the portfolios rolling into higher interest earning securities due to interest rate rises and overall dividend income remaining relatively stable.

The portfolio has maintained a defensive tilt to ensure that reinvested funds from recent capital injections do not suffer from market timing issues and will be invested to benefit from market dips when value opportunities present. Overall, the current portfolio allocation is still within target range of the broader strategic asset allocation.

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 1890 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 funds invested by the Trusts Corporation are comprised of the following amounts:

| | \$ 2023 | \$ 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Common Fund | | |
| Balance of Trusts and Committee Funds | 59,593,986 | 47,241,471 |
| Income Suspense Account | 4,277,974 | 4,119,077 |
| Common Fund Reserve | 40,062,115 | 35,632,923 |
| Total Common Fund | 103,934,045 | 88,897,298 |
| | | |
| Separately Invested Funds | 51,875,236 | 46,536,405 |
| | | |
| Plus Payables | 34,599 | 253,364 |
| | | |
| Total Funds Invested | 155,843,879 | 135,687,066 |

The Common Fund Investments have yielded income of \$3.2 million after operating costs (2022 \$4.1M) and have increased in value by \$4.6 million as a result of capital gains (2022 losses of \$8.6M). This represents an overall return of 8.9% (2022 -4.7%).

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 | 8.0% |
| Sites Reserve funds | 4.0% |
| Deposits in the Capital Fund | 1.0% |
| Congregational general funds | 1.0% |

A total of \$3.3 million (2022 \$2.7M) was distributed to Church Committees, Groups and Congregations during the year.

The return on funds which 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 gains of 4.3% for a total return of 9.3% (2022 -7.0%).

Movement in Balance of Funds held

The movement of the balance of funds held by the Trusts Corporation is explained as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Common Fund Movements | | |
| Income Suspense Account | | |
| Investment Income | 3,433,101 | 4,368,574 |
| Distributions to Trusts and Committees | (3,274,233) | (2,703,534) |
| Transfer to Common Fund Reserve | - | (1,000,000) |
| | 158,867 | 665,040 |
| Common Fund Reserve | | |
| Capital Gains/(Losses) | 4,664,170 | (8,579,496) |
| Expenses | (234,979) | (245,517) |
| Transfer from Income Suspense | - | 1,000,000 |
| | 4,429,192 | (7,825,014) |
| Common Fund Movements | | |
| Deposits/(Withdrawals) of Trust Funds | 10,958,676 | 1,903,827 |
| Total change in Common Fund balance | 15,546,735 | (5,256,146) |
| Separately Invested Funds | | |
| Investment Income | 2,431,183 | 1,878,387 |
| Capital Gains/(Losses) | 2,135,825 | (4,408,828) |
| Deposits/(Withdrawals) of Trust Funds | 771,822 | 2,579,860 |
| Change in Separately Invested Funds | 5,338,831 | 49,419 |
| Total change in Funds | 20,885,566 | (5,206,727) |
| Trade and Other Payables | 34,599 | 253,364 |
| Total Funds Invested | 155,843,879 | 135,687,066 |

For more detailed information concerning the funds managed by the Trusts Corporation please refer to the Annual Financial Report distributed with the Assembly papers.

CM Wilson Trust

This trust has a capital sum of \$42,465 the income of which is to fund grants to ministers. Until recently the fund has been administered by the Maintenance of the Ministry committee to subsidise interest paid on ministers' car loans and to provide other grants to ministers.

The May 2023 Commission of Assembly requested the Trusts Corporation to report to the General Assembly on the appropriate application of trust which now that The Maintenance of the Ministry committee no longer provides grants or subsidies of interest to ministers (minute 10.11).

As the Trusts Corporation is responsible for assessing and approving the loans, it is recommended that the trust be managed by it in a manner similar to the David & Sarah Donaldson Trust.

Bequests

The following bequest have been received during the year:

| Estate of | Beneficial Purpose | Amount |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Margaret Isabel Jean Ward | General purposes of the Tallangatta and District Presbyterian Church | \$26,963 |
| Marion Isabel Jennings | Theological College Building Fund | \$1,019,918 In listed shares |
| Marion Isabel Jennings | Presbyterian Church of Victoria | \$4,000,000 |

National Redress Scheme

Since last reporting to the General Assembly no further claims have been made against any of the group members under the scheme.

Property and Polity

Recent debate in the Assembly highlights that there is continued misunderstanding around the holding of property and in particular the appropriate allocation of the proceeds of sale of property.

‘All church property not held under any other formal declaration of trust is held upon trust for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria under the Model Trust Deeds pursuant to the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890 for the charitable purposes of the church. ... The Model Trust Deeds provide the basis upon which a congregation may be given rights of occupancy and use of property held under these deeds.’

These words were approved by this Assembly as the preamble to the revised BIF Regulation 17. The same provisions are recognised in Rule 2.19.1, which provides that congregational property is held subject to the provisions of the *Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890* under the terms of the Model Trust Deed, with the trustees being either the PCV Trusts Corporation (preferred) or local trustees.

Property is not held for the beneficial interest of a particular congregation or a presbytery, but for the denomination. The Model Trust Deed states that the trustees permit ‘...the said land and hereditaments to be used for such purposes and by such person or persons as the General Assembly of the said Church (hereinafter called the Assembly) may from time to time direct...’ This recognises that such purposes and persons may change, subject to the determination of the Assembly. If we were to frame this in biblical terms, the role of congregations and presbyteries in relation to property is one of stewardship, not ownership.

This is not questioned until a property is sold. Congregations may then consider they are entitled to the proceeds as owners, and presbyteries may see themselves as owners of the property of deceased congregations and therefore entitled to the proceeds of sale. This is not how the Model Trust Deed operates, and this is not consistent with our polity. Of course, there is a sense in which the Lord owns it all, even as we ourselves are His, and the outworking of His will and purpose is the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. As He sovereignly orders all things to that end, gospel work may cease to flourish in one place and burgeon in another. In our

experience, new congregations are planted and some older congregations die, whilst the requirements of other congregations change in relation to property. There is a sense in which this is already, inadvertently or purposefully, recognised in our polity.

In the event of property becoming surplus to needs, the Model Trust Deeds sets out the basis for dealing with the proceeds of the sale of property held by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for its charitable purposes. The provisions of BIF Regulation 17 also reflect these bases. The Model Trust Deeds (Clause 5) provide that upon disposition of property the Treasurer of the Assembly shall ‘...pay the balance to the said Congregation or otherwise as may be directed by the Assembly...’ In this latter case, the provisions of BIF Regulation 17(a)(ii)B (creating a Sites Reserve account associated with the congregation) do not apply.

In a similar way, Clause 14 provides that the property of a deceased congregation shall be dealt with ‘...upon such conditions as to disposition of the proceeds or otherwise (if any) as the Assembly may from time to time direct...’

What do we understand from this?

1. Property always remains the property of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria held for the beneficial interests of the denomination. The allocation and purposing of funds from the sale of property is always, in the first instance, at the discretion and direction of the Assembly, which is free to direct from time to time as it sees fit.
2. Whilst the Assembly may purpose the proceeds of sale according to the specific plans of the selling congregation, or net proceeds may otherwise be held in a Sites Reserve account associated with the congregation in the absence of any declared purpose, and whilst the proceeds of sale of a deceased congregation may be available to a Presbytery under the operations of BIF Regulation 17(f), the Model Trust Deeds provide no pre-emptive right to the proceeds to the congregation or presbytery – it is granted at the will of the Assembly which is free to consider where funds may best be applied to serve gospel ministry.

Here, it is worth noting that a weakness of present practice is that no opportunity is provided to consider wider (and sometimes pressing and urgent) gospel needs within the denomination. Recognition that our assets are ‘denominational’ assets is not un-Presbyterian; it is our polity. It is also crucial. It may be uncomfortable to reconsider some of our long-held assumptions, but if our first concern is to see the advance of the gospel for the sake of the Kingdom, a willingness to do so may create an agility to direct financial (and property) resources where they are most needed.

Hinneberg Matters

The court proceedings in respect of the claim from Mark Hinneberg was settled following mediation and prior to trial.

Barry Oakes
CHAIRMAN

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES VICTORIA COMMITTEE (Min 27)

The Women's Ministries Victoria Committee exists to support and grow intentional gospel ministries by women, to and for women across our PCV churches. Our goal is that women of the PCV would grow towards maturity in Christ, nurture, disciple and serve as they reach out to the community with the gospel.

The committee members are Russ Grinter (Secretary), Natalie Horman, Alison Ludas (appointed following the resignation of Annie Weir and appointed as Treasurer), Jan Martin (appointed to fill a vacancy), Sarah McDonald, Siew Teng Yap and Ben Johnson (convener). The committee has met 10 times since we last reported to the Assembly 12 months ago.

The Women's Ministries Facilitator (WMF)

On 4 October 2022, WMV appointed Kathryn Gatt as the Women's Ministries Facilitator. Kathryn has worked hard to make herself and her role known to Assembly and presbyteries and congregations through social media, emails, and other face to face meetings. She has also been running a survey with ministers to get a feel for what is happening in local churches across the state and what the perceived needs may be, as well as a survey of women in the PCV to gain their perspectives on church life as women, and to identify where WMV can provide the most helpful support.

Kathryn has been busy organising, advertising and speaking at our *On The Road* conferences this year on 'Everyday Evangelism'. Her two talks from the book of Acts and John were well received at the two conferences we ran earlier this year in Shepparton and Pakenham and she will speak again at the final one in Warrnambool on 9 September 2023.

Options for further training and encouragement of women's ministry are also being explored and developed for future years.

Unfortunately, due to the current fundraising model, part of the WMF's work was taken up with helping the committee raise the required financial support for her role to continue. We are keen to free her from this task to enable her to focus on the work of facilitating women's ministries in the PCV across the state. The committee is very happy and encouraged by Kathryn's work and we have budgeted for her role to continue at 13 hours per week in 2023-24. We are keen to see the WMF hours increase as the role grows in the next few years under a proposed funding model (see below) as there is so much more that can be done.

The *On the Road* Conference 2023 - *Everyday Evangelism*

On the Road was run by Women's Ministries Victoria in conjunction with local teams at Shepparton on Saturday 29 April, Pakenham on 17 June and Warrnambool on the 9 September God willing. The topic has been 'Everyday Evangelism' and it has been a wonderful time for women of the PCV to challenge themselves to see the importance of being involved in evangelism, and understand that we do not need to avoid it, or feel incapable when seeking to share our trust in Jesus with friends and family.

During the main sessions, Kathryn Gatt, our WMF and keynote speaker, spoke on why women should evangelise, and how they can engage in evangelism. She looked at the example of Peter and John in Acts 4 boldly declaring the gospel before the Sanhedrin, as well as three vignettes from the book of John: Andrew inviting Simon Peter, Phillip

inviting Nathanael, and Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman, who goes on to invite her community. Each of these accounts reminded women of the importance of inviting others to come and see Jesus, the Messiah, the saviour of the world.

Food, fellowship, and further investigation into specific topics related to evangelism made up the rest of the conference. Attendees were able to participate in one of three elective workshops to think through how to grow in evangelism:

- **Evangelism in Practice** helped women think through what holds them back from engaging in evangelism, what strategies they could use to overcome these hesitations and what practical steps to take to start being faithful in evangelism.
- **Evangelism in the Home** looked at the many different ways that women can use their home and hospitality to invite others into the kingdom.
- **Evangelism and Prayer** discussed the vital role of prayer when women seek to share our faith with others, and when, where and how they can regularly pray for others to hear the good news.

We are thankful for our workshop leaders: Jenny Price, Laurel Hall, Su Ingleton, Jo Watson, Sarah Weber, Carolyn Punton, and Louise Griffiths for their work in preparing and presenting these workshops.

On the Road cannot happen without the diligent work of many people to bring the conference to fruition. Many thanks to Rachel Rath and her very capable team, supported by Pastor Kyung Ee, who all worked tirelessly to make the day at Shepparton run smoothly, and to Kirsten Harvey and her fantastic team from New Life Officer, supported by Pastor Dave Martin, who did a wonderful job organising the event at Pakenham.

On the Road Warrnambool has not run at time of writing, but we thank in advance the team led by Meg Craig and Charlotte Town and workshops by Marie van Ravesteyn, and Hannah Chu supported by Pastor Ben Johnson. More information can be found at the Women's Ministries Victoria website www.wmv.org.au

Women's Ministry Training Day 2024

WMV is planning an annual training event for women who are already serving in women's ministry in their church and for women who would like to start a women's ministry but need support and advice. ***'Women's Ministry: Why it Matters, Where to Get Started, and How to Persevere'***.

Our goal is to provide practical steps for women when starting a new women's ministry; ensuring firm biblical foundations and focus on the precious truths of the gospel, as well as encouraging those who have already begun this ministry to further establish and keep persevering. We envisage that this event would include a keynote talk followed by two streams ('Where to start' and 'How to Persevere') as well as a panel discussion and opportunities to sit down and plan within church teams to think through how to apply these ideas in specific church contexts.

While WMV already provides encouragement and training through our *On the Road* conferences, we want to follow Jesus' example in drawing aside from the crowd with those who are ready to learn and serve on another level. We think this time will be beneficial for women in all churches, and we are encouraging pastors to think through

which women in their church may benefit from attending. Placing it after the conferences gives opportunity for women to engage and be encouraged to plan this day into their calendar - even annually,

Help with identifying Training Pathways and Paid Positions:

In a complementarian view, while the pathway into ministry for men is often clearer than for women, we believe that both men and women are called to be actively involved in ministry and church life. We believe that it is vital to equip women to serve in ways that are appropriate to our complementarian position. Currently, there is a paucity of training in Victoria that addresses women's involvement in ministry from a complementarian position.

WMV is planning a **Women's Ministry Short Course** of eight sessions over the course of one year to address practical and theological issues in women's ministry. This course would be ideal for any women seeking to grow in their understanding of ministry and practice. It could also work alongside a one-year METRO Equip Traineeship to prepare a woman to work part-time in a ministry team in the local church. We want to encourage churches to plan to employ suitably trained women for part-time work with women, children or families. Please reach out to [WMV](http://www.wmv.org.au) for job description templates and funding models for this at wmv@pcv.org.au

Survey Findings

Our survey of PCV women has lots of encouraging findings, with the majority of women surveyed feeling that women's ministry in their local church is centred on the Word (74.5% agree or strongly agree), that their church helps them to grow and mature in faith (72.4% agree or strongly agree) and that they feel confident to read the Bible (78.7% agree or strongly agree).

There are other areas that require attention however, with only 25.6% of women agreeing or strongly agreeing that they have the opportunity to be discipled by someone more mature in faith, and only 40.5% of women agreeing or strongly agreeing that they have opportunities to disciple someone younger in faith. WMV is seeking to support women in this area, by choosing **'Discipleship'** for our 2024 *On the Road* topic. We pray that churches will also be intentional about supporting, training, and creating opportunities for older women to disciple younger women, in obedience to Titus 2.

The other area that has stood out strongly in our survey is the need for church leadership to actively work to identify and equip the next generation of female leaders. When asked to identify their biggest needs as a woman in their church, the most common response was 'having enough women who are willing and able to lead others'. This will not happen without church leadership intentionally seeking to identify and train capable women who can in turn encourage, lead and train other women.

One of the next highest responses in our survey was that women needed encouragement from leadership to persevere in their faith and serving. It is concerning that no pastor surveyed identified this as a need that women had.

These findings also came through strongly in the written response sections of the survey.

"The biggest need is ongoing support from leaders within our church."

"Women need training and encouraging to be intentionally discipling younger women."

“Our ministers are so lovely but I'm always scared that I will burden them if I have an issue or need prayer about something... Sometimes, I think if our church just saw the value of training up women for ministry our ministers wouldn't be so at risk of burnout...and sometimes I just need a woman to talk and pray with as opposed to a man.”

“Our session does well in identifying men for leadership roles and training them up in it, but I would love to see women given access to similar training; not to preach and be elders, but to mentor and support others and grow in their faith and understanding of God and his word.”

“I would love to be trained to be a women's ministry worker for future work in ministry...I really believe God has given me gifts in this way...However, I also feel like women's ministry is seen as "less than" men leading/serving. I feel like no one sees the value of investing in me or others who could and want to be equipped in this way.”

“Opportunities to serve are not clearly articulated by the session as a whole, nor are they proactive in seeking out the gifts and contributions of women... We would really love to see gospel culture grow and a maturity among older men that realises and welcomes the contributions of women in gospel evangelism, discipleship, establishing and equipping the saints and not just the morning tea and flower, Bible reading and welcoming roster.”

Women in our churches are hungering for support from their leadership, and for more women to be raised up for women’s ministry. It is our prayer that churches will see the vital importance of recognising and encouraging the faithful service of women in their congregations. When this happens consistently, it is such a blessing, not just to those individual women, but also to the church as a whole. We are heartened to see this encouragement at work in this final quote from one of the surveyed women.

‘It is SUCH an honour to have elders that value women’s ministry!’

Finances – looking back, looking forward

The committee is thankful to God for his ongoing provision for this ministry through the generous donations from many Presbyterian Churches and individuals. The committee has been encouraged by the financial support we have received and we would have been unable to sustain the work of this ministry without these donations. For the 2022/2023 financial year, WMV received \$20,790.00 in donations made up as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Recurring pledges | \$10,700.00 |
| One-off pledges | \$5,775.00 |
| General donations & fundraising | \$4,315.00 |
| Total | \$20,790.00 |

In addition, income from *On The Road* conferences was \$6,912.44. After associated conference costs, a surplus of \$3,689.02 contributes to WMV ministry expenses.

Financial resources were allocated to advertising, education for our WMF (PTC polity training), website and zoom subscriptions and travel expenses in respect to conferences. The main expense is the WMF salary, which was incurred from 1 October 2022.

With approval from the Assembly, the WMV committee raised funds for and employed our first Women's Ministry Facilitator at 0.34 FTE. Our original intention was for this position to be 0.6 FTE, however there were insufficient funds to support a position at that level. Additionally, we have come to see that paying a wage through a donation

model is unreliable and inefficient, and the Board of Investment and Finance (BIF) also shares this view. We note that over 3 years from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024, 11 churches have committed to pledge a combined total of \$28,880.00. WMV is blessed by the one-off pledges (\$9,375.00) and donations (\$7,500.00) for the 2 years up to 30 June 2023, however the amounts are discretionary and uncertain and cannot be relied upon to sustain an ongoing salary.

WMV will be seeking the approval of the Commission of Assembly in May 2024 to fund the WMV at 0.6 FTE from GMP for the 2024/25 year and ongoing. A budget has been prepared reflecting this new model. We are prayerful and hopeful that the Assembly would demonstrate a commitment to women's ministry as a denomination and WMV would have the financial security to resource and equip women in presbyterian churches across the state and further support local women's ministry in order to present all women mature in Christ.

The amount needed is \$39,230.00 which includes the existing \$5,000 that we have been receiving from GMP. The amount has been adjusted to reflect a potentially higher increase to modern awards in light of the recent Fair Work increase of 5.75%. For prudence, we have factored in another potential increase of 5.5% from 1 July 2024 to avoid a shortfall. We prayerfully seek your approval.

The committee is well and truly established with successful *On The Road* conferences returning positive and encouraging feedback. We now have traction to expand the ministry's reach as originally intended and provide purposeful training and resources to equip local women's ministry within state presbyteries for the glory of God. Prayerfully, the valued gifts and talents of our Women's Ministries Facilitator, Kathryn Gatt, will greatly contribute to the success of WMV's mission, and our hope is that the Assembly concur and support Women's Ministries Victoria in the following deliverance.

Ben Johnson
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 1 FROM GAA—RESPONSE TO CURRENT
LEGISLATION RE: PROHIBITION OF CHANGE OR
SUPPRESSION PRACTICES (Min 48)



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Moderator-General: Rev D Burke

Clerk: Rev L J F Hall
PO Box 510
SPRING HILL Q 4004
(Mobile) 0412 990 110
Email: GAAclerk@pcnsw.org.au

The Rev. Dr John Wilson
Assembly Clerk
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
By email: clerk@pcv.org.au

22 September 2023

Dear John,

**Extract Minute – Overture (ii) anent response to current legislation re: prohibition of
Change or Suppression Practices**

At Sydney, and within the Hurstville Presbyterian Church, the General Assembly of Australia met between 4-7 September 2023 and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

**60. Overture (ii): GAV (response to current legislation re: prohibition of
Change or Suppression Practices)**

The Overture was laid on the table and received.

Rev. Peter Phillips stated the Overture.

Questions were asked.

Pursuant to notice, Rev. Dr John Wilson moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note the possibility of similar legislation to the Victorian Change of Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act, 2021, (The Act) becoming law in other states.
2. Pray for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, for its pastors, elders and other leaders, that they will know how to remain faithful to the biblical teaching on sex, gender and marriage without unnecessarily falling foul of state law.
3. Pray in particular for the General Assembly of Victoria Committee that is charged with drawing up a Code of Conduct and a Training Package that will assist Presbyterian Church of Victoria members in dealing with the consequences of The Act.

The motion was seconded and approved – with no dissenting voice.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia by me, Lesleigh Hall, Assembly Clerk, on Friday, 22 September 2023.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

(Rev) Lesleigh Hall
Clerk of Assembly



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Moderator-General: Rev D Burke

Clerk: Rev L J F Hall
PO Box 510
SPRING HILL Q 4004
(Mobile) 0412 990 110
Email: GAAclerk@pcnsw.org.au

The Rev. Dr John Wilson
Assembly Clerk
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
By email: clerk@pcv.org.au

22 September 2023

Dear John,

I provide for the information of the General Assembly of Victoria an Extract Minute pertaining to the recent appointment of Mr Adam Foster as Law Agent of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Extract Minute – Communication (iii): Resignation of the Law Agent

At Sydney, and within the Hurstville Presbyterian Church, the General Assembly of Australia met between 4-7 September 2023 and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

62. Communication (iii): Resignation of the Law Agent

Communication (iii) was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Receive Communication (iii) and receive with regret the resignation of Mr Simon Fraser B.A., LL.M. as Law Agent of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
2. Record its thanks to God for Mr Simon Fraser's service as Assembly Law Agent since 1991 noting in particular his wise and erudite counsel on many matters and his significant contributions in the framing of the Constitution, Procedure and Practice (1991/1994), the Code of Discipline (1994/1997) and the Articles of Agreement (1997/2001).
3. Appoint Mr Adam Foster L.L.B (Hons); B.A. (Hons), elder, Darebin Presbyterian Church, PCV, as Law Agent of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator thanked Mr Simon Fraser on behalf of the Assembly.

Mr Fraser addressed the Assembly.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia by me, Lesleigh Hall, Assembly Clerk, on Friday, 22 September 2023.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

(Rev) Lesleigh Hall
Clerk of Assembly



COMMUNICATION 3 FROM GAA—DEACON'S VOWS (Min 52)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Moderator-General: Rev D Burke

Clerk: Rev L J F Hall
PO Box 510
SPRING HILL Q 4004
(Mobile) 0412 990 110
Email: GAAclerk@pcnsw.org.au

The Rev. Dr John Wilson
Assembly Clerk
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
By email: clerk@pcv.org.au

22 September 2023

Dear John,

Extract Minute – Overture (iv) – Deacon's Vows

At Sydney, and within the Hurstville Presbyterian Church, the General Assembly of Australia met between 4-7 September 2023 and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

32. Overture (iv) – Deacon's Vows

Overture re: GAA Deacons Vows was tabled and received.

The overture was stated by Rev. Dr John Wilson.

Questions were asked of the overturist.

Rev. Dr John Wilson moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. Dr John Wilson moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Remit the overture and the following proposed new Deacons Vows to state assemblies and presbyteries under the Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31 December 2024, namely:

Questions for the Deacons-Elect

- (i) Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice?
- (ii) Do you own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, as amended by the General Assembly, and read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by this Church on the 24th day of July, 1901, as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures and as a confession of your faith?
- (iii) Do you own and accept the purity of worship as practised in this Church?
- (iv) Do you own and accept the Presbyterian form of government to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto?
- (v) Do you adhere to the acceptance of the call of this Congregation to exercise among them the office of Deacon?
- (vi) All these things you profess and promise, through grace, as you shall be

answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

- Grant interim authority, under Article 2.3, to the proposed change of chapter 6.7 of the GAA Constitution, Procedure and Practice, so that it will read:

Questions for the Deacons-Elect:

- Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice?
- Do you own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, as amended by the General Assembly, and read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by this Church on the 24th day of July, 1901, as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures and as a confession of your faith?
- Do you own and accept the purity of worship as practiced in this Church?
- Do you own and accept the Presbyterian form of government to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto?
- Do you adhere to the acceptance of the call of this Congregation to exercise among them the office of Deacon?
- All these things you profess and promise, through grace, as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Arising from the debate, Rev. Dr C. Clausing moved for an insertion of words, namely: "and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same" after "confession of your faith" in the second vow in both clauses.

The debate on overture (iv) was adjourned. (Min. 78)

78. Overture (iv): Deacon's Vows (Min. 32)

The debate was resumed at the point of Rev. Dr C. Clausing's proposed amendment arising from the debate.

Dr Clausing fell from his amendment in favour of two further amendments provided by notice.

Pursuant to notice, Rev. Dr C. Clausing moved for an insertion of words in vow (ii), in both the remit and the intended interim authority motion, namely:

"and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same" after "confession of your faith" in the second vow.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice, Rev. Dr C. Clausing moved for an insertion of words in vow (iv), in both the remit and the intended interim authority motion, namely:

"and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same" after "confession of your faith" in the second vow.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The motion as amended was moved, as follows:

That the Assembly:

- Remit the overture and the following proposed new Deacons Vows to state assemblies and presbyteries under the Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31 December 2024, namely:

Questions for the Deacons-Elect

- Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice?
- Do you own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, as amended by the General Assembly, and read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by this Church on the 24th day of July, 1901, as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures and as a confession of your faith, and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same?
- Do you own and accept the purity of worship as practised in this Church?
- Do you own and accept the Presbyterian form of government to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto, and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same?
- Do you adhere to the acceptance of the call of this Congregation to exercise among them the office of Deacon?
- All these things you profess and promise, through grace, as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

- Grant interim authority, under Article 2.3, to the proposed change of chapter 6.7 of the

GAA Constitution, Procedure and Practice, so that it will read:

Questions for the Deacons-Elect:

- (i) Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice?
- (ii) Do you own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith, as amended by the General Assembly, and read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by this Church on the 24th day of July, 1901, as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures and as a confession of your faith, and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same?
- (iii) Do you own and accept the purity of worship as practiced in this Church?
- (iv) Do you own and accept the Presbyterian form of government to be founded on the Word of God and agreeable thereto, and do you engage firmly and constantly to adhere to the same?
- (v) Do you adhere to the acceptance of the call of this Congregation to exercise among them the office of Deacon?
- (vi) All these things you profess and promise, through grace, as you shall be answerable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

The motion was seconded and approved by not less than two thirds of those present and voting.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia by me, Lesleigh Hall, Assembly Clerk, on Friday, 22 September 2023.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



(Rev) Lesleigh Hall
Clerk of Assembly

PETITION 1: PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA—MDC FUNDING EAGLEHAWK (Min 75)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Eaglehawk Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has only been an Appointment Charge for five years of the last ten years (having previously been a Home Mission charge until February 2018) and is of strategic importance for the Presbytery of North Western Victoria, being one of three charges in the City of Greater Bendigo, which has a population of 167,764 at the 2021 census with a number of growth areas, yet there are very few reformed or complementarian churches in the area.
- b) The presbytery is encouraged by the continued revitalization of the congregation since changing its status to that of an Appointment Charge, with evident growth in church health, finances, unity in the gospel and attendance at worship – increasing from an average of 20-30 people to an average of 35- 40, sometimes over 45, including young families and children in recent months.
- c) The church has a consistent outreach ministry as follows;
 - i. 'Mainly Music' happens weekly with a core group of five volunteers (others occasional as needed), with up to ten non-church families attend weekly and relationships being developed between members of the church and the community.
 - ii. A Ladies' High Tea event happens on an annual basis with about 80 ladies attending from the community, enjoying the food, a musical item and gospel presentation as well as invitation to participate in Christianity Explored.
 - iii. A Christmas Eve Carols service also happens on an annual basis with a gospel presentation incorporated as a 'Kids Spot'. The children from 'Mainly Music' also perform an item to encourage community participation and attendance.
 - iv. Other outreach takes place on an ad hoc basis (e.g. occasional chalk outline of 'Two Ways to Live' on the footpath outside the church to generate conversations with those walking past; doors to church are open throughout the week with occasional walk ins and gospel conversations).
- d) Improvements made to the property by the Board of Management have made the facilities more functional and attractive to outsiders. These have included an upgrade of outdated sound system, the construction of sand pit, repainting of meeting rooms and rearranging of furniture in the church building to allow for more seating. The Board has sought to do this as cost-effectively as possible with many donating their time and materials.
- e) When, towards the end of 2019, the Appointed Minister, Rev Jesse Walz (appointed in July 2018), was made redundant by the Presbytery due to decreased giving and the seeming inability of the congregation to fund the ministry to the required levels, the congregation rallied with immediate increased giving and successfully petitioned the Presbytery to have their

minister re-appointed. Since then, the giving has increased even despite COVID-19 lockdowns with the annual amounts shown as follows:

| Financial Year | Tithes & Offerings \$ | Increase/(Decrease) % |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018/19 | 48,517 | |
| 2019/20 | 47,810 | (1.5%) |
| 2020/21 | 50,570 | 5.8% |
| 2021/22 | 58,447 | 15.6% |
| 2022/23 | *69,000 | 18.1%* |

*anticipated at the time of writing the petition

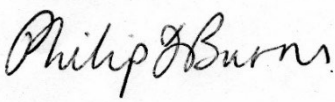
- f) At that time of re-appointment, the Presbytery placed Rev Jesse Walz on a one-year contract which was renewed again in 2021. In 2022 the contract was extended to become a three-year contract, indicating the presbytery's confidence in the progress of the revitalization of the charge.
- g) The charge is now in the position of having exceeded the ten year limit on grant funding from the MDC, but further funding is required for revitalization to continue. The actual subsidy grant amount has decreased from previous years, and the MDC has indicated a willingness to continue to provide a Ministry Development Grant subsidy pending the Assembly's approval.

Now therefore the Presbytery of North Western Victoria humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and authorise the Ministry Development Committee at their discretion and subject to MDC guidelines, to provide a Ministry Development Grant, restarting the ten year 'clock', that the charge may continue on the path to revitalization through the preaching and sharing of the gospel and the enabling of the Holy Spirit,

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 16 June 2023 by me.

Signed:



Rev Philip Burns
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Rev Jesse Walz and Rev Philip Burns have been appointed to present the petition.

Bendigo

APPENDIX 1 PETITION 1

Presbyterian Churches



Eaglehawk Presbyterian Church



Bendigo Presbyterian Church



Reforming Church

Growth areas



Maiden Gully



Jackass Flat



Huntly



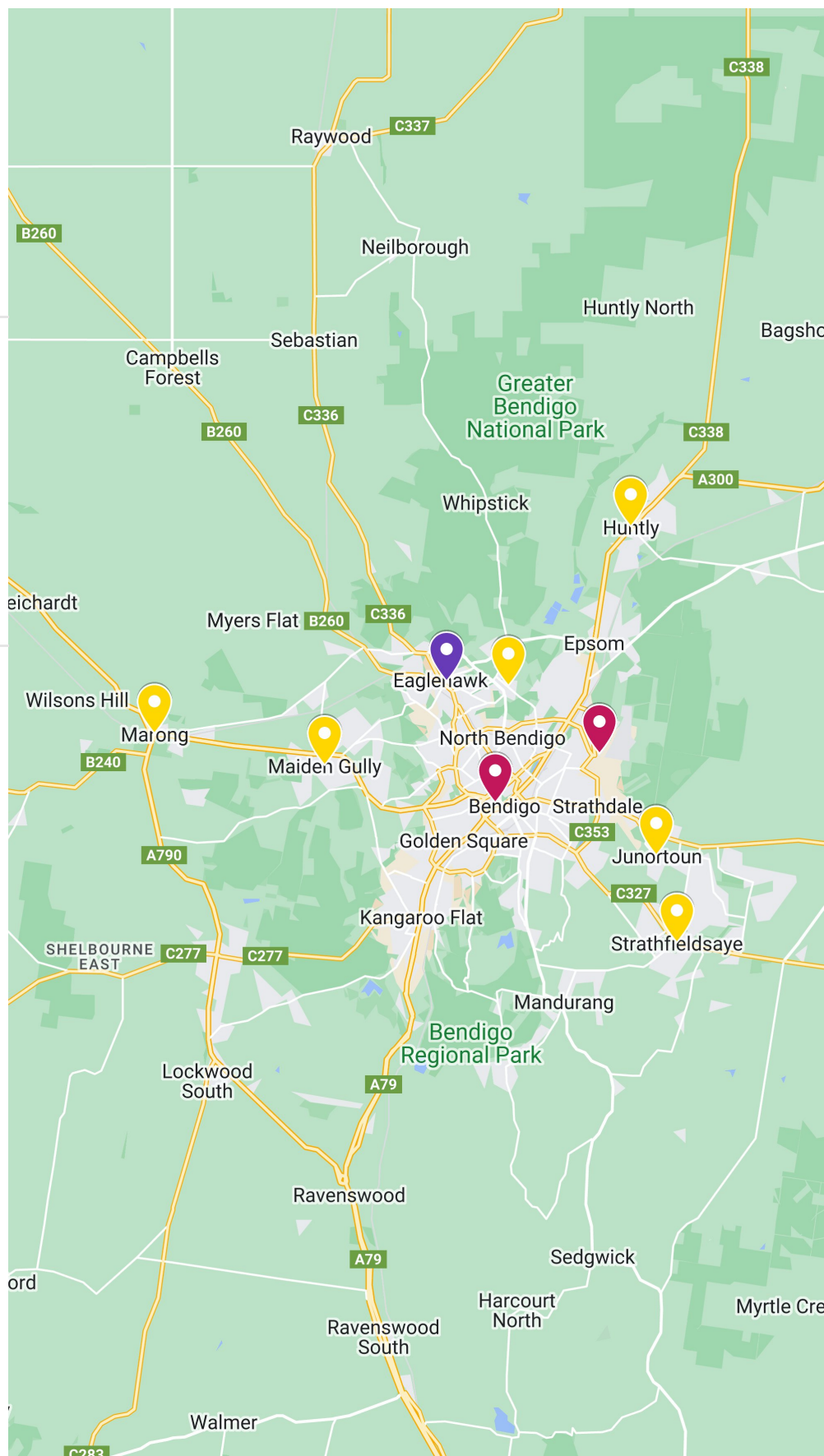
Junortoun



Strathfieldsaye



Marong



**PETITION 2: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA—
DISSOLUTION OF LEXTON CONGREGATION AND SALE OF
LEXTON CHURCH BUILDING AND VACANT MANSE BLOCK AND
DISSOLUTION OF DAYLESFORD CONGREGATION AND SALE OF
DAYLESFORD CHURCH BUILDING (Min 76)**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

Regarding Lexton:

- a) The land connected to the Lexton congregation is at 2 Williamson St, Lexton Volume 11799 Folio 998 and Cemetery Rd, Lexton Crown Allotments 23B, 24, 28 and 29 of Section C, Parish of Lexton, County of Talbot, comprising approximately 80 acres.
- b) There are no communicant members of the Lexton congregation.
- c) The last regularly authorised Presbyterian service of worship of the congregation was held at Lexton in August 2019.
- d) The Lexton congregation has been linked with the Ballarat West (Grace Ballarat) Presbyterian Church since 2005.
- e) The session requested the Presbytery of Western Victoria to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to dissolve the congregation and sell the properties.

Regarding Daylesford:

- f) The property connected to the Daylesford congregation is at 10 Vincent St, Daylesford Volume 10355 Folio 319.
- g) There are five communicant members of the Daylesford congregation. Only one of these is still able to attend worship, with the others unable to attend due to the weaknesses of advanced years.
- h) There are no local elders. The Presbytery of Western Victoria appointed three elders from Grace Ballarat (Ballarat West Presbyterian Church) as assessor elders from 1 January 2023.
- i) There are insufficient numbers to form a quorum for a congregational meeting or to elect a Board of Management.
- j) At its meeting on 12 December 2022, the Presbytery of Western Victoria appointed the Grace Ballarat Board of Management to look after the financial affairs of the Daylesford congregation and therefore was obliged to consider the dissolution of the congregation (Code 4.69.3 b).
- k) At its meeting held on 14 February 2023 the Presbytery of Western Victoria resolved to take all necessary steps towards the dissolution of the Daylesford congregation.

- l) In response to the Church planting committee report to the last Assembly, the Presbytery of Western Vic approached the PCV Church Planter Evangelist to see if the Church Planting Committee was likely to have any interest in Daylesford. After inspection and deliberation, they indicated that they did not have any interest.
- m) The last regularly authorised Presbyterian service of worship of the congregation was held at Daylesford on Sunday 18 December 2022.
- n) The session requested the Presbytery of Western Victoria to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to dissolve the congregation and sell its property.
- o) There is urgency to the request to proceed with the realisation of the assets of the congregation as the congregation’s liquid assets are severely depleted and they struggle to pay their insurance bills and other standing costs.
- p) The Code (4.69.5b) requires that the Presbytery informs the General Assembly of its intention to dissolve the congregation and gain its approval.
- q) If this approval (above) is given the Presbytery will still need to wait until the second requirement, (4.69.5a) of a lapse of a period of “at least one year from the time of the last regularly authorised Presbyterian service of worship” is fulfilled, before it finally dissolves the congregation.

Regarding both Daylesford and Lexton:

- r) The Presbytery of Western Victoria met on 11 July 2023 to ‘discuss church planting, the use of properties and the use of funds held by the presbytery’ and resolved among other things to
‘undertake a single church plant within Ballarat by 2026 and invite the Church Planting Committee to advise us in this.’
- s) The Presbytery of Western Victoria met on 8 August 2023, and after a review of its congregations, assets, obligations, and prospects, it noted:

| Liquid Assets in hand | | Estimates of church planting and property needs. | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Smythesdale land Sites Reserve | \$93,000 | Horsham Toilet block (high priority) | \$75,000 |
| | | Ballarat West Manse (Grace B’rat) | \$700,000 |
| Likely sale of assets. | | Ebenezer Cry Room (50% local funds) | \$25,000 |
| Sale of Lexton properties (estimate) | \$600,000 | Ballarat Nth maintenance | \$50,000 |
| Sale of Daylesford (estimate) | \$1,300,000 | Church plant in Ballarat | \$1,500,000 |
| Sale of Scotsburn (under contract for \$234,000) | \$225,000 | | |
| Total | \$2,218,000 | Total | \$2,350,000 |
| | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Available to Presby (est) | \$2,218,000 | | Presbytery needs | \$2,350,000 |
| | | | | |
| | | | Shortfall | \$132,000 |

t) The Presbytery of Western Victoria, indicating its intention to dissolve the Lexton congregation, resolved at its meeting on 8 August 2023 to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to agree to the dissolution of the Lexton congregation and to approve the sale of the property at Lexton as indicated in recital (a) above for the purpose of:

- i. reimbursing Ballarat West (Grace) for expenses incurred at Lexton; and then
- ii. funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows:
 1. a new Horsham toilet block;
 2. a Ballarat West (Grace) manse;
 3. Ballarat North's (Scots) urgent repairs to buildings;
 4. Ballarat South's (Ebenezer) construction of a new cry room;
 5. a new church plant in Ballarat;

with the proviso that if there are no concrete plans in place to commence a church plant in 2027, that the remaining funds revert to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund (PDF) or otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom might decide.

u) The Presbytery of Western Victoria, indicating its intention to dissolve the Daylesford congregation, resolved at its meeting on 8 August 2023 to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to agree to the dissolution of the Daylesford congregation (effective 19 December 2023) and to approve the sale of the property at Daylesford, following that date, as indicated in recital (f) above for the purpose of:

- i. reimbursing Ballarat West (Grace) for expenses incurred at Daylesford; and then
- ii. funding Presbytery-approved improvement and expansion projects as follows:
 1. a new Horsham toilet block;
 2. a Ballarat West (Grace) manse;
 3. Ballarat North's (Scots) urgent repairs to buildings;
 4. Ballarat South's (Ebenezer) construction of a new cry room;
 5. a new church plant in Ballarat;

with the proviso that if there are no concrete plans in place to commence a church plant in 2027, that the remaining funds revert to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Property Development Fund (PDF) or otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom might decide.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Western Victoria humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree to the dissolution of the Lexton and Daylesford congregations and to give its approval for the sale of the Lexton properties (church, and manse block) and the Daylesford property for the stated purposes of Presbytery-approved, church planting, extension and repair projects as itemised in clauses (t) and (u) above.

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

Signed: Rev Rob Duncanson
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Rev Rob Duncanson and Rev Greg Matthews have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 2 APPENDIX 1



Our Ref: 2065-01 R01 (Issue 01)
Contact: Alan Barham

20 September, 2021

Attention: Cole Roscholler
SJ Weir
4 Old Creswick Road
Wendouree Vic 3355

TGM Group Pty Ltd
(a Cardno Company)

ABN 11 125 568 461

1315 Sturt Street
Ballarat VIC 3350
Australia

Phone +61 3 5330 8888
Fax +61 3 5333 3815

www.cardno.com

Dear Cole,

Investigation of Spire Scots Church, 415 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat

Cardno TGM have been engaged by SJ Weir to complete an investigation and report on the condition of the existing spire structure at Scots Presbyterian Church. This includes reviewing a report on the structure prepared by Bruce Hollioake and Partners Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers. It also includes details on the works deemed necessary to ensure the spire is structurally stable.

An inspection was completed on 23 July, 2021 and this included both an external inspection using a crane and internally using scaffold access. The inspection was also attended by Wendy Jacobs Architect, Cole Roscholler and Brad Gifford from SJ Weir, a plumbing contractor, representative from Tuddy's Engineering and Advanced Cranes.

The inspection completed by Cardno TGM also included a laser scan of the internal and external structure. The laser scan provides an accurate 3D digital survey of the structure and includes photographic images. The main purpose of the laser scan was to obtain the accurate internal survey while there was scaffold access and if there was a need for internal framing where the survey could be used to prepare detailed documentation.

1 Existing Structure

This investigation applies to the spire only and not the remainder of the church building.

The spire is shown in the photo below and is a solid brick octagonal structure with a parapet that has buttresses at each corner. The spire is located on a tower that has a timber floor structure that is clad with metal sheet. The spire consists of timber framed rafters with lining boards, timber cross bracing and slate cladding. A cross is located on top of the spire and it has a vertical rod suspended down to the platform level. The base of the spire structure is a timber plate that bears on the brickwork. A box gutter is located between the base of the spire and the parapet and the space is relatively narrow. The box gutter grades to a downpipe on the north-western side. This pipe is either blocked or

the gutter lining has failed which is allowing water to discharge into the top of the tower resulting in damage to the spire base plate, lower sections of the timber framing and brickwork.



Spire with the lean to the north clearly visible

The damage to the timber bottom plate has caused decay and subsidence of the base timber structure. Some of the rafters and timber bracing members have disconnected from the plate which has resulted in the spire leaning to the north.

Externally there is cracking evident in the brickwork around the side of the tower and also in the structure below this level. The cracking is not significant and can be repaired using conventional brick repair practices. There was also evidence of loose or missing render to the parapet brickwork. All rendered areas should be checked and repaired to prevent water ingress and to ensure safety for the public. The brickwork internally was generally in good condition except for the water damaged areas where the mortar had softened. This could be repaired by removing and replacing the mortar once the water ingress was stopped.

The spire was previously inspected by Bruce Hollioake and Partners Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers and a report was issued on 9th January, 2019. The damage to the base of the spire was noted in the report and photographs also showed the damage noted above which has become worse since their report was prepared.

2 Structural Assessment

The report prepared by Bruce Hollioake and Partners Consulting Civil and Structural Engineers stated that the spire had suffered significant deterioration and that urgent repair works were required. No works had been undertaken at the time of our inspection. The report provided recommendations on a method of repair which included jacking the spire up at the northern side and repairing the decayed timber areas.

We agree that this is a suitable option however, discussions held at the time of our inspection confirmed that it would not be possible to repair the existing gutter satisfactorily to ensure that water ingress did not continue to affect the base structure.

We have assessed the structure and options for repair based on the extent of damage, ability to repair the box gutter, accessibility, safety aspects of the work processes and safety of the public due to the current state of the spire. Based on our review and assessment, our recommendation is that the spire be removed from the tower and either repaired or replaced. We understand that the spire has heritage significance however, the safety of the public and contractors is a significant concern due to the deteriorated condition of the structure.

There is clear space at the rear of the adjacent residence and subject to approval, the spire could be lifted to levelling blocks and stabilized with cables. Either the existing timbers could be repaired or replaced where required, or our recommendation is to construct a replica steel frame and clad it with slate. This will ensure a more durable spire structure. The spire would then be lifted into place back on the tower following installation of a new gutter and the completion of remedial work to the brickwork.

The removal of the spire to enable repair and/or total replacement would be subject to approval. Additional details would need to be completed and these would most likely include:

- Steel frames at the base to stabilize the damaged timber sections
- Steel frame at the centroid which is approximately one-third of the spire height up from the base
- Connection of the steel frames to the timber structure
- Connections between the steel structures to stabilize the spire during removal
- Lifting system which would need to be confirmed with the crane contractor. However, we recommend that if the top section of the spire was removed and clear access provided, the preferred system is a single cable down to four separate cables that would be connected to the steel frame at the centroid.
- Alternatively, if this was not a suitable option then sections of the cladding and lining would be removed to enable two horizontal lifting beams that would be connected to the upper steel frame. These would project beyond the spire walls to enable the cables to be connected.

Details of these options are included in the attached sketch. The laser scan that has been completed by Cardno TGM could be used to assist with the fabrication of the steel frames.

3 Recommendations

Our recommendations are based on the inspection of the existing tower, inspection of the spire structure, consideration of the box gutter repair, safety of contractors in repairing the spire and also the safety of the public. The spire is in poor condition and is leaning due to the deterioration of the base timber members. This deteriorated condition appears to have become worse since the last inspection and action is required as soon as possible. Based on our assessment, our recommendations are:

- Stabilize the existing spire structure with steel frames at the base and centroid which is one-third of the spire height up from the base.
- Remove the spire and locate it in the clear area at the rear of the adjacent property (subject to approval).
- Either repair the existing timber members or preferably replace the spire with a steel or timber framed structure clad to match the existing size and appearance.
- Repair the damaged internal and external brickwork.
- Remove the existing gutter and install a new box gutter with downpipe.
- Replace the spire structure and connect to the existing base structure.

If you have any queries or wish to further discuss this report, please don't hesitate to contact Alan Barham on (03) 5330 8888.

Yours sincerely,

CardnoTGM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Barham".

Alan Barham

Business Unit Manager - Buildings

PLANNING DRAWINGS FOR GLAZED INTERIOR WALL AT 121 ARMSTRONG STREET S, BALLARAT CENTRAL FOR EBENEZER ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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© design by:





August 23, 2023

Mr. Rob Duncanson
Grace Ballarat Presbyterian Church
(e) robdunc.rd@gmail.com

Dear Rob,

Re: New Manse for Grace Ballarat Presbyterian Church

I have read through the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) guidelines for a manse, and am pleased to suggest an indicative price range, of what it may cost, to purchase such a home in Ballarat.

I expect that PCV would need to consider homes in the \$900,000 to \$1,100,000 range.

I further expect that PCV may not be able to find a suitable manse within two kilometres of your church at 390 Victoria Street, Sebastopol.

As a resident of Ballarat, Rob, you will understand that Sebastopol is not likely to provide the size of home, nor standard of home, that PCV will require.

The nearby 'newest' area of Winter Valley, is predominately built with homes, which sell in the \$600,000 - \$750,000 price range and showcase floorplans which mostly will not be large enough.

Delacombe, is predominantly more mature stock, built from the mid-1980's and onwards. There are some larger homes in this area, but PCV would be unwise to consider these because of age.

In Alfredton and Lucas, PCV could expect to find a residence to suit.

For example, 7 Montadale Court, Alfredton sold in April for \$965,00. The floorplan and inclusions show many of the attributes PCV may seek.

In Lucas, 24 Groat Street, sold in March 2023 for \$1,100,000. Although, this residence is two storey, as an example it exhibits many of the floorplan and inclusions sought by PCV.



The Insignia Estate, Alfredton, which is close to the Ballarat Golf Club is a subdivision of quality homes, with many suitable size and inclusion features that PCV would desire. However, homes in Insignia may well sell above \$1,100,000.

Rob, I trust this brief outline will be of assistance to your church and PCV.

If I can help you in any further way, I will be privileged to do so.

Yours faithfully,
Trevor Petrie Real Estate Pty Ltd

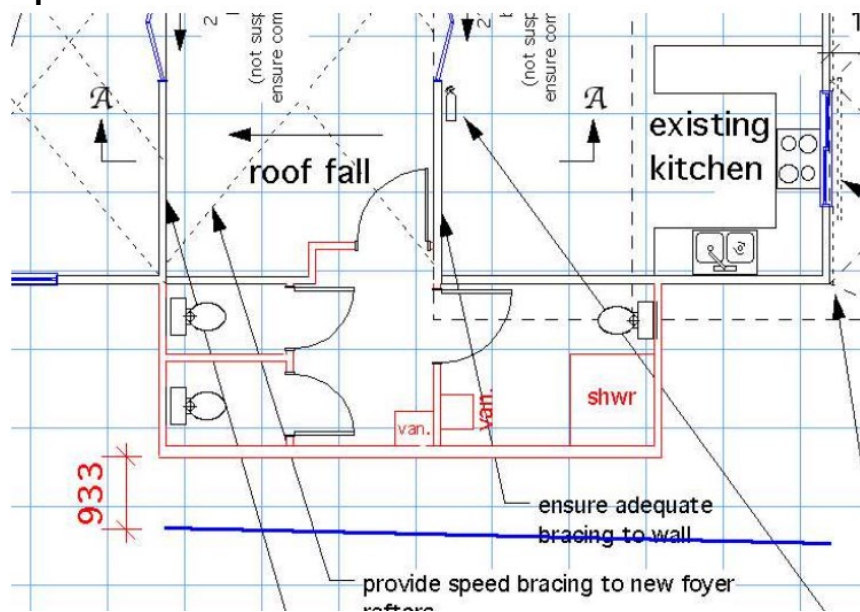
Trevor Petrie - Licensed Estate Agent
trevor@trevorpetrie.com.au

Additional Information – Horsham Toilets Extension

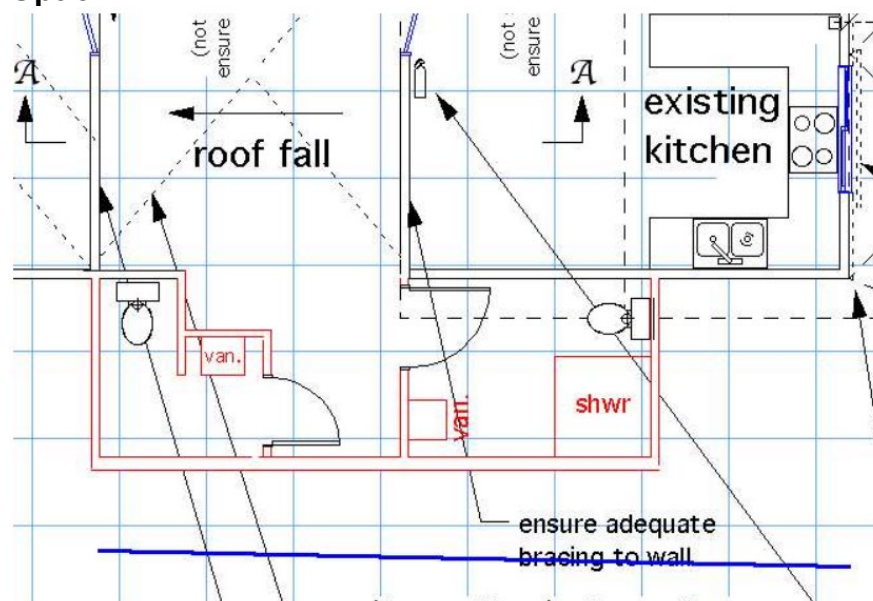
The congregation at Horsham are seeking to build an extension to the existing building for indoor toilet facility. Currently the toilets are located apart from the main church building and cheaply constructed. They do not provide disabled access. They are unfriendly for parents with young children. The new facilities will be a significant improvement for the elderly, disabled, and families with young children.

In 2019 plans were drawn up with possibilities as outlined below, and costs were estimated at roughly \$35,000 at the time. The Board of Management is currently seeking suggestions and requirements from the congregation. A building committee is to be formed, and if funding can be obtained, we are hoping to proceed with development in the coming year.

Option 1



Option 2



Ballarat Church Plant

The Presbytery of Western Victoria is the weakest presbytery in Australia with just three full-time pastors - two in Pastoral Charges and one in an Appointment Charge.

The Presbytery covers a vast area, which includes the major population centres of Ballarat (117,240, 2023), Horsham (20327, 2022), Castlemaine (11,352, 2021), and a number of other centres with populations of below 10,000.

The churches within our small towns are small and mostly dependent upon the churches in Ballarat and Horsham for ministry and support. (the exception being Castlemaine with its recently appointed full-time minister)

The Presbytery has responsibilities given to it by the Code regarding these regions, including:

4.67 New housing development, areas of rapid growth

- 4.67.1 A presbytery must give special attention to areas of new housing development and rapid housing and population growth.
- 4.67.2 A presbytery must ensure adequate provision for the spread of the gospel and for all spiritual needs in such areas by the formation or adjustment of congregations or by other suitable means (subject to the provisions of [rule 4.68](#)).

For the last ten years Ballarat has shown a growth rate of just under 4%.

The Ballarat Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character study examined residential development of Ballarat to 2041, and predicted that the municipality will have 55,000 new residents by then. (*The Courier*, 18/08/2023).

City on a Hill has recently commenced a new congregation in Central Ballarat. There is an independent Baptist Church in the North-West. Apart from these two and our three Presbyterian Churches, there are no other churches with Reformed theology. Ballarat South occupies a central position and will always have reach to the central city and throughout all the other areas.

Some of the developing areas of Ballarat are to the South and West and within reach of Grace Ballarat (Ballarat West PC).

Some of the areas of development are to the North and within reach of Ballarat North PC.

The areas to the East and to the North-West are the areas which are less adequately serviced by existing Presbyterian churches.

PETITION 3: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA—MDC FUNDING EXTENSION FOR HORSHAM (Min 106)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Horsham congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has strategic importance for the presbytery of Western Victoria for the following reasons:
 - i. Horsham is a town of over 20,000, a key centre in the region, providing services to a large surrounding area.
 - ii. There is no other Presbyterian witness nearby, the nearest being Nhill (74km NW), Ararat (96km SE), Hamilton (130km S).
 - iii. The ongoing vitality of the Presbytery of Western Victoria is strengthened by having a full-time minister in Horsham. Horsham provides support for congregations at Nhill and Kaniva.
- b) The congregation at Horsham shows promising signs amid difficult times. In the past four years, the congregation has seen one family move to Geelong, one family leave the church, and had four members go to be with the Lord. We have lost two elders. However, we have gained two new elders, four new members, and four other young adults are in regular attendance. Membership is expected to grow over the next year.
- c) With thanks to the Lord, giving has increased, and the congregation has been able to reduce its funding requirements over the last few years as follows:

| Financial Year | 2019-20* | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sustentation | \$6,793 | \$9,324 | \$8,604 | \$8,604 | \$0 |
| MDC Grant | \$13,389 | \$22,000 | \$19,800 | \$17,820 | \$16,000 |
| Total | \$20,632 | \$31,324 | \$28,404 | \$26,424 | \$16,000 |

*For a portion of 2019-20, there was no minister in Horsham, so less funding was used.

- d) Horsham remains dependent upon funding from the Ministry Development Committee (MDC). MDC regulations permit funding to be provided to a charge for a maximum of 10 years. When the period is exceeded, the Assembly must give permission for the MDC to continue accept applications for funding. This permission was last given in 2019 and extended that permission until the end of December 2024.
- e) The extension approved in 2019 was until the end of the calendar year 2024. It is the view of the MDC that if an application for funding for the full FY24/25 period is to be sought, approval from the Assembly must have already been obtained and is thus needed from this gathering of the Assembly.
- f) While the date when the congregation will become self-sufficient is nearing, it remains unknown, and will only come when the Lord wills. If Horsham does become self-sufficient within the period being sought, existing guidelines of the MDC will mean that funding will come to an end.

Now, therefore, the Presbytery of Western Victoria humbly petitions the Assembly to permit the Ministry Development Committee to consider future applications for funding for the Horsham Appointment Charge from 1 January 2025 until 30 June 2029, notwithstanding its own guidelines as expressed in Ministry Development Committee's regulation 8(d).

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

Signed: Rev Rob Duncanson
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Date: 9 August 2023

Rev Greg Matthews and Rev Toby McIntosh have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 4: MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE— LONG SERVICE LEAVE (Min 107)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) There is a Long Service Leave (LSL) Fund which is administered by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee (MMC)⁶⁵
- b) [REDACTED] was engaged in ministry at [REDACTED] prior to licensing and was not covered under the LSL Regulations:
 - i. 13/01/2014 – 30/06/2016 at 0.7 FTE
 - ii. 01/07/2016 – 30/12/2017 at 0.9 FTE
 - iii. 01/01/2017 – 20/04/2017 at 1.0 FTE
- c) [REDACTED] was Licensed and Ordained by the [REDACTED] and continued in ministry at [REDACTED] following his ordination and was covered under the LSL Regulations from the date of ordination until the end of his service within the PCV.
- d) As of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] had completed seven years continuous service within the PCV and was entitled to take LSL under state legislation.
- e) [REDACTED] paid the LSL Levy for [REDACTED]
- f) MMC approved payment of a LSL Grant for [REDACTED] in respect of [REDACTED] for ministry performed whilst he was in the LSL Fund from [REDACTED] onwards until his resignation date, [REDACTED]
- g) To date this payment has not been made to [REDACTED]
- h) [REDACTED] ceased service within the PCV prior to [REDACTED] and so did not complete seven years continuous service under the LSL Fund Regulations.
- i) It is possible that a ministry worker may complete seven years continuous service and so be entitled under state legislation and yet at the same time only have completed 6 years, 11 months and 30 days under the LSL Fund if the person was appointed one day and licensed the next. In such a situation a congregation would be ineligible for a Grant from the LSL Fund even though the congregation may have paid seven years of LSL Levies.
- j) Congregations need certainty when engaging Candidates for the Ministry or those going through the Reception of Ministers process who are not yet but may become covered under the LSL Regulations.

Now therefore the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into considerations and:

⁶⁵‘PCV Ministers Long Service Leave Fund’ is the full title.

1. Notwithstanding the Regulations of the LSL Fund, approve a Grant to the [REDACTED] from the LSL Fund in respect of payments made by the [REDACTED] to the benefit of [REDACTED] for the period of service following his Ordination.
2. Request the Code and General Administration Committee review the LSL Regulations to make provision so that other congregations in like situations are not adversely affected in the future.

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

Signed: Colin Morrow

Date: 18 August 2023

Rev C. Garrett and Mr C. Morrow have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 5: PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG— RENAMING OF THE BATESFORD SITES RESERVE FUND TO BANNOCKBURN SITES RESERVE FUND AND ITS FUTURE ALLOCATED PURPOSE (Min 108)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a) At the 2021 General Assembly, the congregations of Anakie and Batesford were dissolved; their properties were approved to be sold; with the funds allocated to Bannockburn congregation for property redevelopment; and 10% allocated for PCV Church Planting Committee use. These have now been achieved.
- b) The former Moorabool Sites Reserve Fund was renamed to “Batesford” Sites Reserve Fund by the BIF on 22nd April 2021. Moorabool being the former name of the Parish of the three congregations of Anakie, Batesford and Bannockburn.
- c) The Bannockburn Township has been earmarked by the State Government for rapid growth trajectory in the short term. With a ten-year growth rate of 2.7% per annum, Golden Plains Shire is in the top three fastest growing regional Local Government Areas (LGA) in Victoria by percentage and there is considerable growth planned for Bannockburn by 2030.
- d) There is a vibrant and growing gospel community and ministries within the Bannockburn Charge that require property redevelopment and expanded ministry that future access to what is now known as the “Batesford” Sites Reserve Fund could assist in.
- e) There is a strong historical and physical link between Batesford and Bannockburn (former Batesford manse and Bannockburn land combined to construct the new manse in Bannockburn) that provides a basis for the name change and recognition of Bannockburn’s injection of funds into the manse by way of use of their land, minimising the use of all cash resources at the time which were retained in the former Moorabool, now Batesford Sites Reserve Fund.
- f) There is historical precedent where some of the Sites Reserve Funds have already been approved and used for gospel ministry in Bannockburn through the building of the current manse.
- g) The united Bannockburn congregation at its meeting held on 26 March 2023 unanimously agreed to request Presbytery to petition the General Assembly for the renaming of the ‘Batesford’ Sites Reserve Fund to ‘Bannockburn’ Sites Reserve Fund, the balance of which (after a further deduction on 19 January 2023 for the PCV Sinking Fund of \$33,625.00) is \$140,925.14 as at 31 March 2023, and to allocate the funds for Bannock-burn Property redevelopment and Gospel Ministry work.
- h) Presbytery at its meeting held on 11 April 2023 agreed to support the re-naming of the ‘Batesford’ Sites Reserve Fund to ‘Bannockburn’ Sites Re-serve Fund.

- i) Bannockburn Charge and the Presbytery of Geelong foresee a need to seek the allocation of the Sites Reserve funds for continuing building redevelopment and gospel ministry work once the current moratorium on access to the funds ends. This request is built into this petition in order to save a further petition being presented to the Assembly in coming years.

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 taken on 11 April 2023, to:

- a) Agree to the renaming of the recorded 'Batesford' Sites Reserve Fund No 1 to 'Bannockburn' Sites Reserve Fund; and
- b) Agree to the purpose of this Sites Reserve Fund to be allocated for Bannockburn Property redevelopment and gospel ministry work.

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

Extracted from the minutes of the meeting of Geelong Presbytery on 17 August 2023 by me:

Robert White
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Rev Darren Middleton and Rev Matthew Deroon have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 6: PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG—RENAMING OF THE SHELFORD SITES RESERVE NO. 1 ACCOUNT AND THE FUTURE ALLOCATED PURPOSES FOR NO. 1 ACCOUNT (WITHDRAWN)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

Historical Link And Precedent

- a) There is a strong historical precedent and physical link between Shelford, Inverleigh and Teesdale congregations.
- b) The three congregations have operated together as the Leigh Charge for a period in excess of seventy years, with all three having fully co-operated in Parish life, ministry and mission.
- c) During the life of this three preaching place charge, each of the congregations have deliberately and wholeheartedly shared in the federal expenses of ministry.
- d) When the old Shelford Manse property was sold on 23 November 2013 for \$780,000, part of the proceeds were used for the new Charge Manse built in 2015 at a cost of \$400,000 on the Teesdale land holding which includes the Teesdale church.

Current Financial Arrangement

- e) The remaining \$361,481.96 of the net proceeds of the sale of the old Shelford Manse property are presently unallocated in the account labelled Shelford Sites Reserve No.1.
- f) At the 2022 General Assembly, the congregation of Shelford was dissolved and its church property was approved to be sold. The Shelford church property has subsequently been sold with its finality still in process at time of writing.
- g) The Assembly approved the proceeds of this sale to be distributed 95% to The Leigh Charge for the purposes of its general ministry and property development, 2.5% to the Property Development Fund and 2.5% to the APWM (Vic) Committee.
- h) The funds resulting from this sale will be held and invested by the Trusts Corporation within a Sites Reserve account until they are required to meet the stated congregational purposes.

Projected Future Needs

- i) The Charge lies within a population growth corridor with an existing growth rate of 2.7% per annum in a semi-rural setting on the threshold of the expanding City of Greater Geelong.
- j) Inverleigh is on the Hamilton Highway, 28 kms from the Geelong CBD and lies at the south western boundary of The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas which is the largest urban growth project in regional Victoria and will welcome more than 110,000 new Geelong residents.

- k) The Leigh Charge is an established and growing congregation which, 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.
- l) Already there is a lively and growing gospel community within The Leigh Charge that necessitates property development and expanded ministry that future access to what is now known as the "Shelford Sites Reserve No.1" would assist.
- m) The Leigh Charge and the Presbytery of Geelong foresee a need to seek the allocation of the Sites Reserve for its general ministry and property development once the current moratorium on access to the fund ends.
- n) Given
 - i. the linked congregational structure of The Leigh charge dating back more than 70 years;
 - ii. that the parish has operated under a single board of management during that time; and
 - iii. the allocation to the The Leigh Charge of the funds resulting from the dissolution of the Shelford congregation and the sale of the Shelford church property,
a name change of the "Shelford Sites Reserve" to "The Leigh Charge Sites Reserve" is appropriate, as it more accurately encapsulates the historical and geographical realities of The Leigh Charge.
- o) The united congregation of The Leigh at its Congregational meeting held on 4 June 2023, unanimously agreed to request the Presbytery of Geelong to petition the General Assembly for the renaming of the Shelford Sites Reserve No.1, the balance of which stands at \$361,481.96 as at 31 March 2023, to The Leigh Charge Sites Reserve No.1. and allocate the funds of The Leigh Charge Sites Reserve No.1 for the purposes of its general ministry and property development.
- p) Presbytery at its meeting held on 13 June 2023 agreed to support the renaming of the Shelford Sites Reserve No.1 to "The Leigh Charge Sites Reserve No.1."

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 taken on 13 June 2023, to:

- a) Agree to the renaming of the recorded "Shelford Sites Reserve No 1 to "The Leigh Charge Sites Reserve No 1;" and
- b) Agree to the purpose of this Sites Reserve to be allocated for The Leigh Charge general ministry and property development at the conclusion of the present Assembly moratorium on these funds..

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

Extracted from the Minutes of the meeting of Geelong Presbytery on 17 August 2023 by me,

Robert White
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Rev Surendra Wesley and Rev Robert White have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 7: PRESBYTERIES OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA AND WESTERN VICTORIA—PRESBYTERY BOUNDARIES AND CASTLEMAINE (Min 110)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) That the Presbytery of North Western Victoria and the Presbytery of Western Victoria are adjoining Presbyteries.
- b) That the congregation of Castlemaine is a Home Mission Charge currently within the bounds and under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Western Victoria.
- c) That within the Presbytery of Western Victoria, now that worship services at both Carisbrook and Daylesford have been discontinued, the nearest charge to Castlemaine is Ballarat North, some 82 kilometres away (over 60 minutes travel).
- d) That within the Presbytery of North Western Victoria, the nearest charge to Castlemaine is St John's Bendigo, some 37 kilometres away (under 30 minutes travel).
- e) That the people of Castlemaine are generally 'Bendigo-oriented' rather than 'Ballarat-oriented' due to it being geographically closer.
- f) That the proposed transfer has been agreed to by the Castlemaine Session and congregation.
- g) That both the above-named Presbyteries have agreed to this overture.

Now therefore, we the Presbytery of North Western Victoria and the Presbytery of Western Victoria, jointly and humbly overture the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to take the above into consideration and readjust the bounds between the Presbyteries so that it follows the road from Laanecoorie to Newstead (through Maldon) and then from Newstead by a direct line eastward to Taradale, thus incorporating the Charge of Castlemaine within the bounds of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria,

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

Signed: Philip Burns and Rob Duncanson
PRESBYTERY CLERKS

Rev Philip Burns (NWV) and Rev Toby McIntosh (WV) have been appointed by their respective Presbyteries to present the petition.

PETITION 8: PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST—ST KILDA AND BALACLAVA UNIFICATION (Min 111)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) Following an extensive period of preparation during 2021 and 2022 by the St Kilda & Balaclava Session which included discussions with both congregations, and the Presbytery Strategy committee, the proposal to unify was approved by the St Kilda & Balaclava federal board and Session and sent to the Presbytery of Melbourne East in December 2022. (As per PCV rule 4.68A.1a).
- b) The Presbytery of Melbourne East then formed a consultative committee in February 2023 which then consulted with the minister, session and congregations. (As per PCV rule 4.68A.1b).
- c) The consultative committee obtained the agreement of the minister of the St Kilda & Balaclava charge to the proposal and consulted with the St Kilda & Balaclava Session and the federal board of management. (As per PCV rule 4.68A.1b).
- d) The consultative committee also checked with the Board of Investment and Finance with the BIF registering no reasons to object to this proposed Basis of Union on the 19th of May 2023 (As per PCV rule 4.68A.1b).
- e) The consultative committee prepared a draft of the enclosed 'Proposed Basis of Union of Congregations' and recommended that the proposal proceed, and the Presbytery of East Melbourne then gave preliminary approval of union of the St Kilda and Balaclava congregations on the 28th of June 2023 (As per PCV rule 4.68A.2).
- f) The Presbytery of Melbourne East then formed a steering committee consisting of the minister of the charge, two members of Presbytery and a member from each congregation. (As per PCV rule 4.68A.5a).
- g) The Steering committee prepared a list of practical tasks to be completed upon union and checked again with the BIF/TC to confirm that there were no outstanding practical issues that needed resolving; the BIF/TC then confirmed that there were none. The Steering committee then reported to the Presbytery and recommended petitioning the Assembly with this petition. (As per PCV rule 4.68A.5a).
- h) The proposed Basis of Union, together with the current St Kilda & Balaclava Presbyterian Church strategic plan (2022) has been enclosed for the Assembly's information.
- i) The proposed name of the united congregation is 'St Kilda Presbyterian Church'.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Melbourne East humbly petition(s) the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and approve the provisional 'basis of union' for

the merger of the St Kilda and the Balaclava congregations or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Petition to be presented by Luke Isham and Ben Nelson on behalf of the Presbytery of Melbourne East.

Signed:

Mr Kevin Childs
PRESBYTERY CLERK

Rev Luke Isham and Ben Nelson have been appointed to present the petition.

APPENDIX A

Proposed Basis of Union for the St. Kilda and Balaclava congregations as per PCV Code 4.68A.1.b, 4.68A.2 and 4.68A.4

- a) The united congregation shall be called 'St Kilda Presbyterian Church'.
- b) The two pastoral rolls shall be combined into a single pastoral roll.
- c) The united congregation shall meet in a single church building in the inner southside suburbs of Melbourne.
- d) There shall be a single new main bank account and NCB account.
- e) The remains of the two existing Sites Reserve accounts shall be fused into a single fund.
- f) The property of the two existing congregations (both church buildings, Point Cook house, Manse, Alma Rd apartment) will be allocated to the united congregation.
- g) The united congregation will remain under the current Session. The two congregations are currently served by two assessor elders, but the Ministry Plan envisages the ordaining and inducting of two local elders.
- h) The bounds of the new parish shall be the southside of the Yarra River down to the Elwood parish boundary and then east to the South Yarra parish boundary.
- i) The minister will continue to live in the manse on 7 Denman Ave , St Kilda East.
- j) Rev. Luke Isham will be the minister of the united congregation.

'While these terms and conditions shall form a basis of union for the two congregations now uniting, the united congregation shall be free to adjust its arrangements and manage its affairs as need may arise under authority of the Presbytery.'

APPENDIX 1 PETITION 8

Congregational Merger Proposal



St Kilda & Balaclava

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Congregational Merger Proposal
As per Rule 4.68 and Rule 4.68A

November 2022

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Preamble

1. Vision: Become a gathering of Jesus' disciples who have a reputation for meaning and grace. *Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, where else would we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)*
2. Mission: Share the good news of the grace and meaning that come from Jesus through gathered worship, art, music, hospitality and philosophical discussion with the people on the south-side of Melbourne.

In order to more effectively conduct ministry in the St Kilda area, it is better to have a single congregation worshipping in a single building, rather than two congregations two kilometres apart. A single congregation in one location creates a welcoming critical mass of people, into which visitors feel comfortable to join and from which evangelistic projects can be launched. The St Kilda Spire and Roof have a couple more years left in them before requiring major repairs and the St Kilda Sites Reserve has a few more years worth of maintenance and annual insurance premium payments left in it before it is exhausted. We want to use this time to make ourselves known to the people living in the apartments blocks surrounding us, and use this time to build up a congregation that is self-sustaining.

In the long run we want to be a self-sustaining congregation that is able to carry out our mission of sharing the good news of Jesus with the people around us. We believe a building is a useful base for ministry, which provides a memorable location for evangelism and a venue for hospitality and training. However we want a building that is not a costly burden so that we can use our remaining resources to carefully to ensure the longevity of ministry to the people on the Southside of Melbourne.

This document is divided into sections. A timeline and checklist to guide us through the process followed by a one page summary of our Ministry plan and a one page summary of the 'Basis Union of Congregations' document. The Presbytery of Melbourne East Strategy committee reviewed the summaries and recommended adding an extended section explaining the Ministry plan in more detail.

St Kilda & Balaclava Ministry Plan (one page summary)

Vision and Mission

1. Vision= Become a gathering of Jesus' disciples who have a reputation for meaning and grace. *Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, where else would we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)*
2. Mission = Share the good news of the grace and meaning that come from Jesus through gathered worship, art, music, hospitality and philosophical discussion with the people on the Southside of Melbourne.

Timeline

2022

- Transfer to the St Kilda building
 - Public worship
 - Thursday evening Bible Study (Discipleship)
 - Jordan Peterson Discussion Group (for non-Christians & Christians)
 - Discovery Bible Study (for people curious about Christianity)
 - Sort Yourself Out group (by invitation, for people working through issues)
- Continue
 - Prayer Meetings at the Hargraves Apartment
- Begin Union of Congregation process
- Begin training a new local elder

2023

- 'Finding the People of Peace in the Local Apartments' evangelism Project
- Union of Congregation process finalised
- New local elder elected
- Form Building Committee

2024

- Begin sale of the Alma Rd Flat
- Second new local elder trained

2025

- Second new local elder elected
- Repurpose remaining Sites Reserves

Ministry philosophy

1. Simple, well-organised Word-centred service with singable songs, children's talk, fellowship afterwards (visitors specifically welcomed and followed up)
2. Create lots of local connections
3. Christian artist & musician in residence, philosophical discussion groups
4. Single big Evangelistic Project
5. Train people who are keen to serve

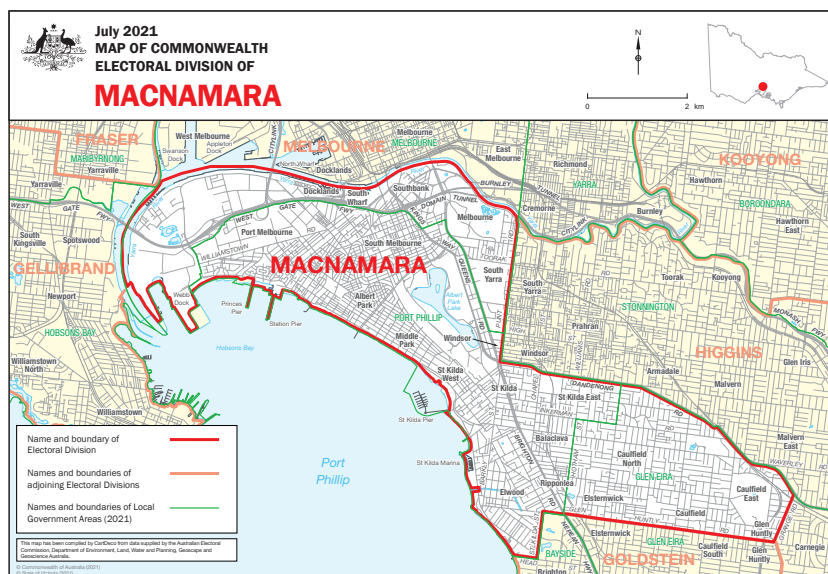
Current 2025 Goals

- Single stable congregation of 50 people
- Two local elders

Extended Ministry Plan

1. Vision

At the end of Matthew’s gospel Jesus commands us to make disciples all across the world. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20) The PCV vision statement picks up this sentiment when it 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.”¹ We hope as a church to then obey Jesus’ words and echo the PCV Vision statement in our own context. Our vision is to become a gathering of Jesus’ disciples in this corner of Melbourne. The Southside of Melbourne is basically the western half of the federal electoral division of Macnamara.² It is the area between the Yarra River to the north, Port Phillip Bay to the south and the Botanical Gardens on the east.



Within that area is the industrial Port Melbourne, the high density apartments on the South Bank, the gentrified suburbs along Port Phillip Bay and the medium density apartments in and around St Kilda and Balaclava. Recently the Victorian government opened the Pride Centre, a large multipurpose centre on Fitzroy St that celebrates secular sexuality and ideology.³ We decided that a gathering of Jesus’ disciples who have a reputation for meaning and grace would

be best way we can focus on the work of the Great Commission and represent PCV vision in our area. We want to have reputation that is a counterpoint to the Pride Centre and firm foundation of meaning and grace for the residents of his part of Melbourne. Therefore, we picked this verse from John’s Gospel as our church slogan. *Simon Peter answered Jesus, “Lord, where else would we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)*

2. Mission

¹ ‘Presbyterian Church of Victoria Vision Statement’, *PCV Code*, 3. https://pcv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/PCV-Code-2022_3Mar2022.pdf

² ‘Macnamara’, *AEC*, <https://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/vic/macnamara.htm#:~:text=The%20Division%20of%20Macnamara%20consists,Port%20Phillip%20City%20Council.>

³ Sumeyya Ilanbey, ‘I can be my whole self’: Australia’s only LGBTIQ Pride Centre opens’ *The Age* (11 July 2021) <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/i-can-be-my-whole-self-australia-s-only-lgbtq-pride-centre-opens-20210711-p588pc.html>

Congregational Merger Proposal

A vision statement is usually understood to be a phrase that describes where you want to go, and a mission statement summarise how you want to get there.⁴ We want to be making and maturing disciples⁵ in ways that suit both our precinct of Melbourne and the gifts and interests of our congregation. Hans Rookmaaker describes the relationship between Christians and culture. “[H]ow we are to live in a world that is full of sin and ungodliness. Where things are loving, good, right and true, where things are according to God’s law and His will for creation, there is no problem. The Christian will appreciate and actively enjoy and enter into all the good things God has made. But where they have been spoilt or warped by sin, then the Christian must show by his life, his words, his action, his creativity what God really intended them to be.”⁶ In order to react like Rookmaaker has described and clearly communicate the grace and meaning we find only in Jesus we want to make and mature disciples through gathered worship, art, music, hospitality and philosophical discussion with the people on the Southside of Melbourne.

Tim Keller emphasises the importance of gospel renewal in growing and revitalising congregations.⁷ Therefore we believe that a variety of activities help lay the foundation for God to change people’s hearts. A variety of activities also allows different congregation members to participate in the work of the gospel according to their gifts. Gathered Worship is vital because the Incarnation is God’s full and perfect communication of salvation to us. Preaching is the communication of God’s words and a record of God’s actions, and the centre of gathered worship. Public worship is also a unique opportunity for Jesus disciples to help one another mature.⁸ We wouldn’t have a congregation without gathered worship. Art and music are cultural expressions of what we believe, how we think and the way we feel everything. Rookmaaker says “Christianity is about the renewal of life. Therefore it is also about the renewal of art. This is how art can be shown its validity through Christianity.”⁹ Rosaria Butterfield’s book, *The Gospel Comes With a House Key*, demonstrates how important welcoming, participating in a meal and sharing your life is for Christian discipleship. It’s particularly important for the Southside of Melbourne, given how transient the apartment population is. Sam Chan from the City Bible Forum describes evangelism as a process of coffee, dinner, gospel. We find common interests with people (coffee), we find out what they value, and why they value those things (dinner), and then we talk about their worldviews (gospel). Philosophical discussion is a natural context for this evangelistic process.

Even during the COVID years we were able to gather online in a hybrid of pre-recorded services and interactive post-sermon discussion. Gathering for public worship has been and will remain the cornerstone of our Mission. More recently we have had large groups of agnostics, New-Age people, Roman Catholics and new Christians gather for philosophical discussions, creating too many opportunities to follow up. Hospitality is difficult without a kitchen in either building, but we are trialling various work-arounds, ideally we will be in a building where sharing a meal is natural and easy. Recently we have started in artist in residence program where we display the artwork of a

⁴ Craig Hamilton, *Wisdom in leadership: The How and Why of leading the people you serve*. (Sydney: Mathias Media, 2015):422-423.

⁵ ‘Presbyterian Church of Victoria Vision Statement’, *PCV Code*, 3.

⁶ H.R. Rookmaaker, *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1970): 38.

⁷ Timothy Keller, *Shaped by the Gospel: doing balanced, Gospel-Centred ministry in your city*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016): 114.

⁸ Trent Hunter, ‘Resources for One-Anothering’ (The Gospel Coalition, 6 May 2013) <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/resources-for-one-anothering-the-word/>

⁹ Rookmaaker, *Modern Art and the Death of a Culture*, 229.

Congregational Merger Proposal

Christian artist for a season. In addition to encouraging one another with “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” (Eph 5:19) we want to be a place for Christian musicians to practice and perform. Both of these are a work in progress.

3. The geographic region

As alluded to above the Southside of Melbourne is an unusual area. There is an arts precinct in the north-eastern corner featuring the National Gallery of Victoria, Arts Melbourne and the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art. This area is complimented by the National Theatre Drama School and Palais Theatre within St Kilda itself. Ethnographic observation reveals multiple cultural focus points or neighbourhoods with their own cultural flavour on the Southside of Melbourne; the South Melbourne Market area, the wealthy Albert Park shopping precinct, the grittier Fitzroy St and Acland St, and the Balaclava shopping precinct. East of the Nepean Highway has a large Jewish community, with the more conservative Jewish denominations around Balaclava and Ripponlea. Prior to the COVID years, St Kilda was a backpacking and international traveller’s hub and it remains to be seen if that pattern resumes in the year ahead. Sadly patches of the St Kilda neighbourhood feature homelessness, prostitution and drug use. The Salvation Army runs a well resourced chapel providing a large variety of services¹⁰ which is complemented by the Sacred Heart Mission run by the Roman Catholic St Kilda parish.¹¹

4. Timeline

2022

Timelines are tricky because circumstances can change but these are our current circumstances and our plans for the years ahead given our Vision and Mission. Both services meet in the St Kilda building. With the Balaclava congregation gathering at 10am inside the St Kilda church building and the St Kilda congregating gathering at 5pm inside the St Kilda church building. Because of the fire in their building, the South Yarra congregation are currently using the Balaclava building until Christmas 2022. As described above, we have started each aspect of our mission, some more successfully than others. The St Kilda building is both a help and a hindrance. It is a natural draw card to the residents of the local apartment buildings and hardly a week goes by without a visitor or two at, at least one of the services. However that is the where the current arrangement is also hindrance. At the start of 2020 there were five people at the Balaclava service about 20 at the St Kilda service. Now there are about 15 at both services. But both lack a critical mass, and we plan on consolidating into a single service in order to better welcome visitors. Parking at the St Kilda building can be tricky for families or people new to the area and the building lacks a kitchen and break out rooms. Despite its massive size, the three toilets limit its capacity to 75 people.

2023

Therefore the plan is to formally unify both services, not just in person but on paper as well, combining financial assets. Once the services are consolidated we want to use the time in the St Kilda building to constructively reach the people living in apartment buildings nearby. We’re calling this evangelism project the ‘Person of Peace Project.’ However unification in-person and on-paper needs to take place first. Hopefully during this time a new local elder will be recruited, trained and ordained.

¹⁰ <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/locations/victoria/v235/st-kilda-crisis-contact-centre/>

¹¹ <https://www.sacredheartmission.org/>

Congregational Merger Proposal

2024-2025

The Balaclava building was built in the 1950s and the St Kilda building was built in the 1880s. Both have suffered from a lack of regular maintenance. However given the size and height of the St Kilda building, its slate roof and stone work, the cost of repairs and then ongoing maintenance is prohibitive. (A separate engineer's report - available on request - outlines the repairs required and estimates the total cost at about five million dollars.) The repairs are overdue and could safely be deferred for a few years but eventually the required repairs and ongoing insurance costs will come due. While the Balaclava building requires some maintenance and improvements it would be a more suitable building to gather inside. However its not an intuitive place to visit and is at the eastern edge of the Southside of Melbourne. (With five other Presbyterian church buildings within a few kilometres.) A building committee would seek to resolve the building issues. The Point Cook house would be kept to provide an income stream. It is likely given the overall condition of the Alma Rd Apartment block, that we would sell it as soon as possible.

5. Ministry philosophy

Our ministry philosophy is built around discipleship, "making and maturing disciples".¹² While individuals and families can disciple one another effectively, the spiritual dynamics of meeting together publicly to pray, read the Scripture, hear the Scripture preached, sing and share a meal are vital. "We are called to worship, and our hearts are restless until we respond to that call by faith and obedience and come and feast on Christ."¹³ Following in the pattern of the Reformation our public gathered worship is simple and Word-centric, conducted in a way that is welcoming to visitors. We believe that gathered worship is unique for believers but should be accessible to everyone. Although it isn't glamorous or noticeable, prayerfulness at every level of the congregation, pastor, leadership and congregation will determine the ministry plan's effectiveness.

Our primary evangelistic strategy is to make lots of connections and create opportunities for people to learn about Jesus. We think the Christian artist & musician in-residence programs, philosophical discussion groups will help us do this. However sometimes a planned and focused evangelistic project helps create connections and opportunities. (Its also a great training opportunity for members of the congregation.) Part of being a gathering of disciples is to make other disciples, and formal training plays a part in this. Colin Marshall writes: "The gospel will only be guarded and spread as it is passed from one faithful hand to the next; as each generation of faithful preachers passes their sacred trust on to the next generation, who in turn teach and train others, and so on."¹⁴

6. Goals

Craig Hamilton says "numbers don't matter .. except they do."¹⁵ No reliable statistics exist for the parish prior to 2020. On average 100 people are required for a self-sufficient Presbyterian church in Victoria. We have a long way to go. The first step is consolidation, the next step is viability and then self-sufficiency. This ministry plan will be revised once we reach each of those milestones, which are roughly 30, 75 and then 100. Hopefully the Presbytery of Melbourne East will develop a ministry plan that we can fit into.

¹² 'Presbyterian Church of Victoria Vision Statement', *PCV Code*, 3.

¹³ Jonathan Gibson & Mark Earngey, *Reformation Worship* (Greensbro: New Growth Press, 2018): 20.

¹⁴ Colin Marshall, *Passing the Baton: A handbook for ministry apprenticeship*, (Sydney: Matthias Media, 2007): 15.

¹⁵ Craig Hamilton, *Wisdom in leadership*, 403.

PETITION 9: PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS—MDC FUNDING CRANBOURNE (Min 112)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Cranbourne Presbyterian Church has been growing steadily in numbers and spiritual maturity over the last 13 years since the appointment of the Rev Peter Roberts as pastor.
- b) Prior to this period, the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church went through a very difficult time of cleansing and re-establishing ministry on an evangelical and reformed basis.
- c) At the time of Mr Roberts' appointment, the congregation was little more than a handful of people.
- d) Four years ago, the Presbytery of Flinders successfully petitioned the General Assembly for a five-year extension to funding support from the Ministry Development Committee.
- e) Cranbourne Presbyterian Church was also granted from the assembly funds from the sale of Cardinia Presbyterian Church property. Assembly minutes 2021 74.4 Approve the sale of the Cardinia property at 2400 Ballarto Road Cardinia, Volume 3923 Folio 784468 under MTD clause 14, on the condition that the net proceeds of sale are paid to the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church firstly to help fund their presbytery-approved building redevelopment, provided that should there remain, after this purpose is satisfied, any surplus funds, then such funds are to be held by the Cranbourne Board for the benefit of the charge.
- f) The development of the property is still in planning stages, progressing through the required town planning and PCV approval process.
- g) The facilities at Cranbourne Church remain at capacity, seating 100 people. Around 130 people are connected to our church including children and babies. We continue to run Sunday school through the whole service (up to 23 primary school age children) so that we can accommodate enough seating for adults in the main church area.
- h) The Cranbourne Presbyterian Church is strategically located on a large property in a growth corridor in the South Eastern region of Melbourne.
- i) By God's grace, Cranbourne Presbyterian Church hopes to see its new facilities built late 2024 to early 2025, we believe this will enable us to grow further and do better outreach in the area. We hope to become a full charge as a result but need the support of MDC until then.
- j) The congregation, generally speaking, is made up of diverse peoples of lower economic status, yet one in Christ, rejoicing in the hope of the Gospel.
- k) Current ministry activities in the charge include the following: Sunday morning

service at 10am, Sunday school during service; Communion first Sunday each month followed by fellowship lunch; Wednesday night Men's bible study; Friday night bible studies; playgroup every Wednesday 10am-12pm (average 14 children); and youth group Friday nights. Evangelism: Community Christmas Carols, 700-1000 attend; Easter service with games and message; Men's and Ladies' evangelism; Taco'bout Jesus night; Indian outreach night; Our pastor has been in local papers, Herald Sun, and TV programs, speaking at different organisations, reaching out into the community and beyond. Due to 2 years of restriction, and the aftermath of restarting again, progress has been slower, but a positive outcome over the last year is a number of people watching via Zoom that would otherwise not be able to be part of our church.

- l) The following tabulation for attendance, membership, offerings and MDC subsidy, should give confidence to the General Assembly that the work at Cranbourne is worthy of diminishing, ongoing financial support.

| Year | Members | Adherents | Attendance | Tithes & Offerings | MDC Subsidy |
|------|---------|-----------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2009 | 8 | 17 | 25 | \$13,186 | \$10,000 |
| 2010 | 23 | 23 | 53 | \$15,450 | \$35,000 |
| 2011 | 23 | 29 | 60 | \$19,196 | \$38,000 |
| 2012 | 23 | | 63 | \$26,818 | \$36,000 |
| 2013 | 25 | | 69 | \$35,433 | \$37,717 |
| 2014 | 29 | | 71 | \$51,517 | \$29,500 |
| 2015 | 40 | | 69 | \$64,008 | \$22,000 |
| 2016 | 43 | | 79 | \$74,385 | \$18,500 |
| 2017 | 42 | | 89 | \$65,453 | \$18,500 |
| 2018 | 44 | | 85 | \$66,184 | \$18,500 |
| 2019 | 55 | | 85 | \$74,294 | \$15,500 |
| 2020 | 57 | | 90 | \$83,000 | \$12,500 |
| 2021 | 60 | | 92 | \$91,158 | \$10,000 |
| 2022 | 65 | | 95 | \$103,000 | \$10,000 |

- m) For 2023/24, the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church requested, and was granted a MDC subsidy of \$18,000, this is an increase of \$8000, due to appointment parishes unable to receive sustentation grants. In its approval letter dated 6 June 2023 it stated, *"The MDC regulations only allow us to provide a ministry development grant for a maximum of 10 years. The MDC seeks revitalisation of churches over the 10-year period such that future funding is no longer required. As your church has been receiving funding for 10 years (including 2023-2-24) any future funding would need to first seek the General Assembly of Victoria's approval before the MDC could even consider a funding application."*
- n) The Cranbourne Presbyterian Church is especially grateful for the generous support it has received through the Ministry Development and Maintenance of Ministry Committees. However, it is still in need of financial assistance to support the current ministry and to move the church forward to become a fully self-supporting charge.
- o) In view of the ten-year limit on the receipt of subsidies (MDC Regulation No. 8(d)),

Now therefore the Presbytery of Flinders humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and:

1. Give thanks to God for the steady growth in numbers and spiritual maturity of the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church over the last thirteen years.
2. Grant the Cranbourne Presbyterian Church approval to receive funding support from the Ministry Development Committee for a further five years.

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

Signed:

Brett Peatman

PRESBYTERY CLERK

Rev Brett Peatman and Rev Peter Roberts have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 10:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PETITION 11: PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN VICTORIA—SALE OF SCOTS BALLARAT NORTH MANSE (Min 113)

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

- a) The Manse connected to the Scots Ballarat North congregation is at 506 Neill Street, Soldiers Hill, Victoria. CA16 Sec S.
- b) This manse does not meet the PCV Manse requirements.
- c) The manse requires major refurbishment and repairs and is not currently up to a standard where it could be leased under the Residential Tenancies Act.
- d) The manse is heritage listed.
- e) At a congregational meeting held on 30 October, 2022 the congregation unanimously resolved to “sell the manse with the aim of purchasing a more sustainable church facility.”
- f) The church building of Scots Ballarat North is located at 415 Lydiard St and needs urgent repairs to its spire. (see Engineer’s report in appendix)
- g) On 14 February 2023, the Presbytery of Western Victoria resolved:
23.02.14:16 Resolved presbytery approves the urgent sale of the BN manse & request BN to prepare & submit a petition for permission to sell to the May 2023 meeting of the Commission of Assembly. The proceeds to be directed to the purchase of a replacement manse. Any surplus funds after the purchase of the new manse to be directed to the repair of the spire at Scots church 415 Lydiard St Nth.
- h) The Presbytery of Western Victoria adopted this petition by email resolution on 18 September 2023 and resolved to forward it to the General Assembly of Victoria.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Western Victoria humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and agree to the approval for the sale of Scots property (Manse) mentioned in recital a), and direct the funds to:

- a) Purchasing a new manse
- b) Balance towards the reconstruction of the Church spire.

Or to do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed

Rob Duncanson

CLERK OF PRESBYTERY

Date: 18 September 2023

This petition will be presented on behalf of the Presbytery by Rev John Brennan and Session Clerk Graham Hammond.

**PETITION 12: PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH —LEASE OF
945 YAN YEAN ROAD, DOREEN FOR VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (Min 114)**

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This Petition shows that:

- a) The Presbyterian Church of Victoria purchased the property at 945 Yan Yean Rd, DOREEN, in early 2015 (see Appendix for site plan).
- b) The designated purpose for the purchase is to provide the growing Valley PC congregation land on which to build a worship and ministry centre.
- c) The congregation has been unable so far to gain approval to build on the site, but expects to be able to build soon.
- d) Meanwhile the congregation would like to enter into a new lease of the property and gave approval for this at a duly constituted meeting on 27 August 2023 (see Appendix).
- e) The Presbytery of Melbourne North gave its approval on 12th September 2023, and presented the request to the relevant General Assembly committee (BIF) as requested under Rule 4.79(b).
- f) Seeing as the matter was not deemed urgent, the BIF, acting under its regulation 16 requested that the matter come before the General Assembly for approval.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Melbourne North humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and grant Valley Presbyterian Pastoral Charge permission to enter into a new lease as specified in the Petition Appendix

Or to do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

John P Wilson
(Presbytery Clerk, *pro tem*)

Petition will be stated by Rev Richard Wilson

PETITION 12 APPENDIX 1



1 Cormorant Cl.
Doreen VIC 3754
www.vpc.org.au

10th September 2023

Dear Presbytery,

I am writing to seek permission to lease the property at 945 Yan Yean Rd.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria purchased the property in early 2015 and we have been working to gain approval to build on the site ever since. We still have not been given approval for a development plan let alone a building permit which we are finding frustrating.

We currently have permission to lease the property till the end of 2023. We now have excellent tenants and would like to extend their lease beyond this time.

On Sunday 27th August we held a special congregational meeting at which the following motions were passed.

Motion #4: Resolved: That the congregation approves the lease of 945 Yan Yean Rd to the Argiriou family for \$625/wk until 31st December 2024 and then on a monthly basis after that.

Motion #5: Resolved: That the congregation approves the lease of 945 Yan Yean Rd for up to three years from the 31st December 2023. Ie Until the 31st December 2026, for at least \$625/wk.

The Board of Management wishes to begin the building project as soon as possible however the congregation has asked for the extended lease period so that we do not have to keep coming back to the Presbytery and the Trust Corporation each year to renew permission.

Kind regards,

Rev Richard Wilson

Moderator, Valley Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

(Sites, Sales, Mortgages, etc)

Application for Leave to Lease

At a duly convened meeting of the Congregation of Valley Presbyterian Church held on the 27th day of August 2023, it was resolved by a two-thirds majority of those present (number of members and adherents personally in attendance 24, number voting in favour 24) to approve of and join in the application of the Trustees (whose signatures are appended) to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

For Permission to Lease

The herein described 945 Yan Yean Rd, Doreen Vic
(Church or Manse site and/or buildings)

It is requested that the proceeds of such be applied building fund, taxes, maintenance, rates

Particulars of title deed, and where held Vol 08306 Fol 727

It is expected to realise \$ 652/Week net per month \$2,708.33 / month

Give reasons why the suggested lease should be approved The development plan is not yet approved so we cannot build yet.

Signature of Moderator of Session or Chairman of Meeting of Congregation

[Signature]

Signature of Trustees

(This only applies to Leases when there are local trustees.)

Approved by the Presbytery of MELBOURNE NORTH and in its opinion
urgent ~~YES~~ NO

Minute number 217, Clerk John P Wilson

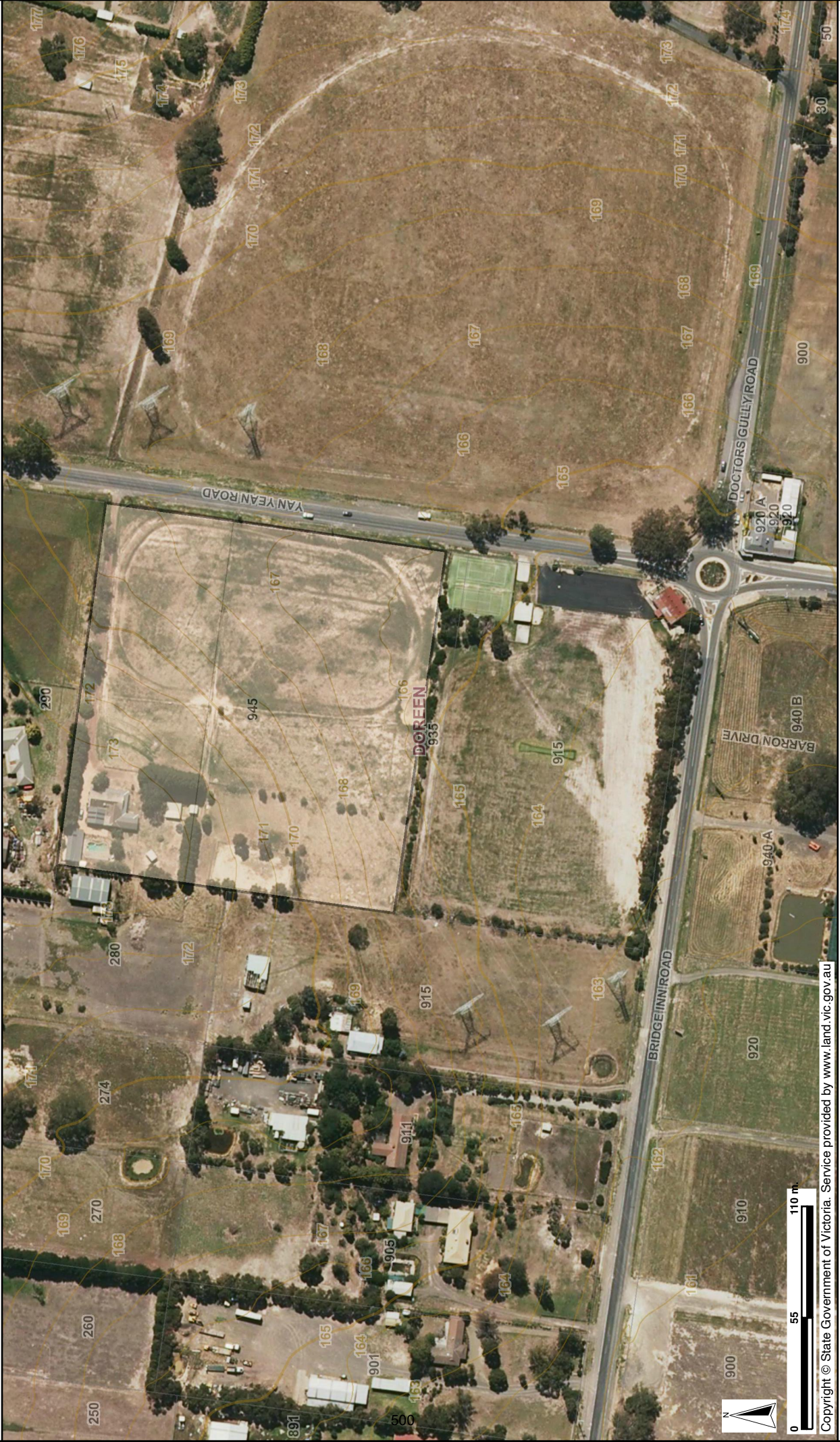
Date 14 Sept 2023

The congregational request is for a lease until DEC 2024
and then on a monthly basis from 1 JAN 2025 until
31 DEC 2026.

[Signature]

945 Yan Yean Rd Doreen

Map Centre - Melways 391 G11



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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
URGENT MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOVEMBER 2023**

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

By Zoom, an electronic means of meeting, on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 10:00am.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by order of the Moderator. The Moderator, Rev Ian Hutton, constituted the Assembly with the reading of Luke 7 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 this Urgent Meeting of the 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 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Apologies

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies that have been submitted to the Clerk for absence from this Urgent Meeting of the General Assembly and record their names in the minutes.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Ministers: Tony Bird, Luke Brownley, Phil Campbell, Neil Chambers, Philip Court, John Ellis, Alan Every, Russ Grinter, Robert Koh, Wayne McArdle, Stephen McDonald, David Schulz, Chris Siriweera, Andrew Slater, John Sutherland, Rod Waterhouse.

Elders: John Angelico, Ross Barnett, Haddon Chang, Ian Courts, Geoff Cross, Ken Fuhrmeister, Adrian Guillot, Ben Palmer, Graeme Presser.

5. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-8 were approved.

Clause 9 was approved.

The Convener, Rev Robert White, moved the proposed deliverance as a whole:

That the Assembly:

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:00am to the finish of business, with breaks as determined by the Moderator.
2. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:
 - 20 minutes in total for:
 - Conveners and seconders moving proposed deliverances (as a whole and total of clause-by-clause)
 - Question time (including 20 mins for total proposed deliverance questions)

5 minutes for:

Movers of substantive motions and amendments

All other speakers.

3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
Rev Adam Humphries (Convener), Luke McSeveny, Andrew Vines, Stuart Withers, and Elder Dennis Wright
and determine that this committee be held to be thanked and discharged at the dissolution of this Assembly.
4. Permit the General Manager to be present in the Assembly including when meeting in private, and to answer any financial management questions.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Deputy Clerk informed the Assembly that:

- Rev John Wilson has declared a conflict of interest in relation the appointment of staff to the PTC and that he will recuse himself, to return to the meeting upon invitation for the announcement of appointments.
- Rev Peter Phillips has declared a conflict of interest in relation to Notice of Motion A 5(i) and that that he will recuse himself, to return to the meeting upon invitation for the announcement of appointments.
- Rev Philip Burns has declared a conflict of interest in relation to Notice of Motion A 5(ii) and that that he will recuse himself, to return to the meeting upon invitation for the announcement of appointments.

Elder Colin Morrow moved:

That the Assembly:

Take no action in respect of these declarations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

7. Theological Education Committee

Rev John Wilson recused himself and left the meeting.

The report of the Theological Education Committee was received.

The proposed deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

The vote was unanimous.

Rev John Wilson was recalled to the meeting.

The Moderator informed Mr Wilson that his appointment had been approved unanimously.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

(1) Rev Barry Oakes moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 3 of the proposed deliverance by the addition after '2024' of the words, 'noting that the position is temporary and the appointment is extraordinary and unbudgeted,' so that Clause 3 will read:

3. Appoint Rev Dr Felix Chung to the faculty of the Presbyterian Theological College for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, noting that the position is temporary and the appointment is extraordinary and unbudgeted.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

Clause 3 as amended was approved.

The approval was unanimous.

Clause 4 was approved.

(2) The Convener, Rev Kevin Maxwell, moved the deliverance as a whole as amended:

That the Assembly:

1. Join with the TEC and College in giving thanks to God for answered prayer and his provision for the needs of the College and the wider PCV.
2. Appoint Rev Dr John Wilson to the position of the Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology at PTC, for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025 in accordance with the Terms of Settlement approved by the GAV.
3. Appoint Rev Dr Felix Chung to the faculty of the Presbyterian Theological College for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, noting that the position is temporary and the appointment is extraordinary and unbudgeted.
4. Approve the Terms of Settlement for the appointment of Dr Chung as follows:

Terms

- a) 1.05 times the minister's minimum remuneration package as defined by 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 of paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of employment or twelve months of paid study leave during each seventh year of employment.
- 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 by 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.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

8. Communication 1 – from the Clerk of Assembly

(1) The Business Convener moved:

That the Assembly:

Receive communication 1 from the Clerk of Assembly re: his resignation.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Permit Rev Dr John P Wilson to resign his appointment as Assembly Clerk effective 1 January 2024, notwithstanding his not having given six months' notice of his intention to resign.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant Rev Dr John Wilson a seat on the Presbytery of Melbourne North under rule 4.2(j), effective 1 January 2024, while he is appointed a full-time lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological College.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Michael Jensen moved:

That the Assembly:

Give thanks to God for the service of Rev Dr John Wilson as Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria over an extended period of time.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The vote was unanimous.

Moderator's Chaplain Rev Gerald Vanderwert led in prayer.

9. Appointment of Acting Clerk and Acting Deputy Clerk

Rev Peter Phillips and Rev Philip Burns recused themselves and left the meeting.

Rev Philip Mercer moved;

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint Rev Peter W Phillips Acting Clerk from 1 January 2024 until the new Clerk takes office;
2. Appoint Rev Philip J Burns Acting Deputy Clerk from 1 January 2024 until the new Clerk takes office;
3. Direct the Clerkship Committee, after consulting with the BIF, to approve appropriate remuneration for Mr Phillips and Mr Burns.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The vote was unanimous.

Rev Peter Phillips and Rev Philip Burns were recalled to the meeting.

The Moderator informed them of the Assembly's unanimous decision and thanked them for their willing service.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for Peter and his wife Lorraine and Philip and his wife Sandra.

10. Clerk's Job Description and Terms of Appointment

(1) Rev Philip Mercer moved:

That the Assembly:

Approve the Clerk's proposed Job Description and Terms of Appointment (NOM A9).

The motion was seconded.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the proposed Clerk's Job Description, point 5(f) by replacing the words: 'for the purposes of the Reportable Conduct Scheme in Victoria;' with the words: 'for the purposes of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005) Victoria;'.
'

The amendment was seconded and approved.

(3) Rev Graham Nicholson moved, arising from the debate:

That the Assembly:

Amend the Clerk of Assembly's Terms of Appointment by the addition of a new clause 6.6, 'Other arrangements as may be approved by the Assembly from time to time.'

The amendment was seconded and approved.
The motion as amended was approved as follows:

Clerk of Assembly – Job Description

1. Title

There shall be an official (see rule 5.19) of the General Assembly (the Assembly) called the Clerk of the General Assembly of Victoria (the Clerk).

2. Accountability

- a) The Clerk, as a servant of God, shall be accountable to the Assembly.
- b) The Clerkship Committee shall provide pastoral and other support for the Clerk and administer the Clerk's terms of appointment in accord with its regulations.
- c) The Clerk shall have, at the expense of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, an administrative assistant who reports to him.

3. Attributes

The Clerk shall:

- a) be a mature Christian;
- b) demonstrate a pastoral heart;
- c) possess exceptional interpersonal skills;
- d) be comfortable understanding matters of law and be able to relate to lawyers, officials external to the church, members of the public and the media, if required.

4. Qualifications and/or Skills

The Clerk must:

- a) be either a minister or a serving elder of the PCA with expert knowledge of Presbyterian polity;
- b) have in-depth knowledge of the:
 - i) Code of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria;
 - ii) GAA Constitution, Procedure and Practice;
- c) possess an ability to teach polity to candidates for the ministry in the PCV;
- d) hold and maintain a current WWCC and be compliant with all Safe Church requirements.

5. Key Duties and Responsibilities

The Clerk shall:

- a) proactively seek the peace and good governance of the church;
- b) produce certified copies or extracts of church records when legally required to do so;
- c) in the first instance, provide assistance and guidance for members of the church, and for the church courts and committees, in all matters of interpretation and application of the rules, practice and procedure of the church (see rule 5.12);

- d) in terms of rule 6.5.2(f), provide advice to parties who wish to bring business to the court;
- e) serve as:
 - i) Clerk of the General Assembly;
 - ii) Clerk of the Commissions of the General Assembly;
 - iii) Clerk of the Assembly when sitting as Committee of the Whole;
 - iv) Convener of the Code and General Administration Committee;
 - v) Convener of the Archives Committee;
 - vi) Convener of the Special Judicial Committee;
- f) act as Head of Entity for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, for the purposes of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005) Victoria;
- g) advise and provide support to:
 - i) the Moderator of Assembly;
 - ii) presbytery moderators and clerks;
- h) oversee:
 - i) the maintenance of the PCV website;
 - ii) the Presbyterian Church of Victoria email network;
 - iii) the safe custody of all books, records and documents of the Assembly, excepting those for which the Assembly makes other provision;
 - iv) together with the Archives Committee, the overall management of church records and archives;
- i) liaise, and maintain a good working relationship, with:
 - i) the GAA and its office bearers;
 - ii) other state Assemblies and their office bearers;
- j) represent the church and its interests by providing instruction to legal counsel, consulting with the church's trustees and doing all other things on behalf of the church as may be reasonably required from time to time in connection with claims against the church under civil law;
- k) as the chief administrative officer of the Assembly:
 - i) keep an accurate roll of Assembly;
 - ii) receive, examine, record and report to the Assembly all documents, papers or communications addressed to it;
 - iii) prepare the White Book;
 - iv) attend all sittings of the Assembly;
 - v) keep a correct record of all proceedings of the Assembly;
 - vi) oversee, after each sitting of the Assembly, the preparation of the minutes for publication;
 - vii) distribute:
 1. official information concerning the business of the Assembly to all who require it;
 2. the decisions of the Assembly to the assemblies, presbyteries, committees, sessions, boards and congregations concerned;

- viii) make available to the press, radio and television, appropriate information concerning the church;
- ix) make such statutory declarations and affidavits as may from time to time be required by law;
- l) review:
 - i) all presbytery records annually with the assistance of the clerks of presbyteries if required, and furnish to clerks a statement on the records submitted, indicating any omissions, irregularities and recommendations inscribed on the records themselves; and keep a permanent record of all comments on material matters inscribed in the records inspected;
 - ii) all records of Assembly committees, boards and councils responsible directly to the Assembly annually and furnish to conveners or chairs a statement on the records submitted, indicating any omissions, irregularities and recommendations inscribed on the records themselves; and keep a permanent record of all comments on material matters inscribed in the records inspected;
- m) report to the Assembly:
 - i) on the state of the church records with any recommendations;
 - ii) on the administration and adequacy of the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy;
- n) inform the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages of those to be registered under the Marriage Act as marriage celebrants and any changes to their status in accord with rule 4.55;
- o) provide training for:
 - i) presbytery clerks and committee representatives, annually, in all relevant matters of the Code, and in meeting procedures in order to expedite the business of presbyteries and committees in an efficient and responsible manner;
 - ii) candidates and students in church polity as required.

6. Denominational Involvement

- a) The Clerk shall ordinarily have a seat on the presbytery of the bounds in which he resides, rule 4.2(k) or (n)(iv).
- b) The Clerk shall not without Clerkship Committee approval:
 - i) serve as moderator of a home mission charge or interim moderator of a vacant charge;
 - ii) serve as presbytery moderator or presbytery clerk;
 - iii) serve as State or Federal Assembly moderator.

7. Position Description Changes

The Assembly may at any time change this position description.

Clerk of Assembly – Terms of Appointment

1. **Employer**
The Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
2. **Position Title**
Clerk of the General Assembly of Victoria.
3. **Location**
The Clerk's Office, 156 Collins Street Melbourne or such other location as determined by the General Assembly.
4. **Probationary Period**
Nil for the right candidate but as decided at the discretion of the General Assembly of Victoria.
5. **Hours of Work**
38 hours per week.
6. **Salary and other emoluments**
As the position is not deemed to be one of a Religious Practitioner, the position is not entitled to Exempt Benefits under the Fringe Benefits Tax Act.
 1. **Salary**
The salary paid will be at the equivalent of 1.25 times the Minimum Ministerial Remuneration.
 2. **Superannuation**
At the Government's Gazetted Superannuation Guarantee rate.
 3. **Manse**
A manse or manse allowance will be provided.
 4. **Telephone/Internet**
\$1,200 reviewed annually by the Clerkship Committee.
 5. **Energy benefit**
All
 6. **Other arrangements**
As may be approved by the Assembly from time to time.
7. **Leave**
 1. **Annual leave**
5 weeks p.a. to be taken annually unless prior approval to defer is given by the Clerkship Committee.
 2. **Study leave**
1 week (not cumulative).
 3. **Long Service Leave**
In accord with PCV provisions.
 4. **Sick leave**
As per ministerial leave provisions in the code.
 5. **Carers and Special Leave**
In accord with state legislation.
8. **Expenses**
 1. **Work related**
Reimbursement as authorised by the Clerkship Committee.

2. Relocation

As authorised by the Clerkship Committee in consultation with the BIF.

9. Termination of Appointment

1. By the Assembly

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

2. By the Clerk

If the Clerk desires to resign his appointment, he shall give at least six months' notice in writing to the Clerkship Committee, unless the General Assembly should allow a shorter period of notice.

3. Immediate by change of circumstance

1. Deposition or Excommunication.
2. WWCC exclusion.

10. Clerical Assistance

Shall be provided at the expense of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

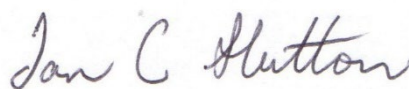
11. Dissolution

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

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips
C B Garrett

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Commission, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 5.8 thereof.



Rev Ian C Hutton
Moderator

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY

Presbytery of Flinders (V1)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
| Aspendale | Brett Peatman | |
| Brighton (HMC) | | |
| BayChurch | Paul Huynh | Ross McKinnon |
| Clarinda (HMC) | | Michael Lee |
| Clarinda Nuer (HMC) | | |
| Clayton | Michael Jensen Lam Paul Gak (Associate) | Arnis Putnins |
| Cranbourne | Peter Roberts | |
| Dandenong | Andrew Wong | Robert Paix |
| Dromana-Mornington | Matt Cole | |
| Embrace Melbourne (AC) | Paul Jang | |
| Frankston | Jared Keath | |
| New Life, Officer | David Martin | Sabyan Hardjo |
| Somerville (HMC) | | |
| Sorrento-Rye | Hui Lim | |
| South East Samoan | Kainano Opetaiia | |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Peter Barclay | |
| | Ivan Barker | |
| | David Brown | |
| | Ken Brown | |
| | Frank Savage | |
| | Wally Zurrer | |

Presbytery of Geelong (V2)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Bannockburn | Matthew Deroon | G (Bert) Stasse |
| Bellarine (AC) | Brett Cummins | Neil Mansfield |
| Geelong West | Luke McSeveny | Drew Chittenden |
| North Geelong | Darren Middleton | Richard Worth |
| The Leigh | Surendra Wesley | Jim Venters |
| | | |
| Retired Ministers: | Andrew Bray | |
| | John Cromarty | |
| | Allan Harman | |
| | Ian Hutton | |
| | Scott Kroeger | |
| | John Stasse | |
| | Robert White | |

Presbytery of Gippsland (V3)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Bairnsdale | Gary Stephens | Roger McIvor |
| 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 |
| | | |
| 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 | Roni Tobing |
| Doncaster (HMC) | | Colin Flynn |
| Donvale | Gerald Vanderwert Joel Mestry (Assistant) Jordan Born (Assistant) Xien Yao (Assistant) | Iain Bramley |
| Heathmont | Brian Harvey | Doug Fraser |
| Kirkbrae | Paul K B Lee | |
| Mt Evelyn (AC) | Miles Fagan | Bruce Timmins |
| Warburton (HMC) | | |
| Woori Yallock | Tony Archer | Andre Dahmen |
| PTC Lecturer | Jared Hood | |
| Retired Ministers: | Tony Bird | |
| | Graham Bradbeer | |
| | Trevor Cox | |
| | Wally Gear | |
| | Grant Lawry | |
| | Peter Orchard | |
| | Andrew Slater | |
| | Willem Vandenberg | |
| | 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 Billy Kurniawan (Assistant) | Paul Lee |
| Camberwell | Philip Mercer | Philip Barton |
| Canterbury | David Hann Dong Choi (Assistant) | Kevin Childs |
| Caulfield-Elwood | Phillip Chang | Haddon Chang |
| Gardenvale East (AC) | | |
| Hawthorn | Graham Nicholson | John Singleton |
| Korean | Jae Kook Kim | Daniel Chung |
| Malvern | Marcus Campbell | |
| South Yarra | | Ben Palmer |
| 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: | Alan Every | Parity: |
| | Douglas Milne | Ken McClimont |
| | Richard O'Brien | Jim Hare |
| | Bob Thomas | |

Presbytery of Melbourne North (V6)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Bundoora | Neil Chambers Clinton Le Page (Associate) | Andrew May |
| Donnybrook, Fresh Start (CPC) | Ben Kelada | |
| Eltham | Don Elliott | Ian Courts |
| Epping | Nello Barbieri Brian Luong (Associate) | Neil Furlong |
| Heidelberg (AC) | Bagoes Seta | Tom Cunneen |
| Hume (AC) | Luke Brownley | Tony Ruggeri |
| Kangaroo Ground (HMC) | | |
| Reservoir | Andrew Vines | Reg Butcher |
| Samoan | | |
| Valley (AC) | 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) | Daniel Dixon | 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) | Graeme Harris |
| Melton | Dinesh Taunk | Dennis Wright |
| Point Cook | | |
| Sunshine-Melbourne West Korean (AC) | Samuel Son | Charles Okwo |
| West Footscray (HMC) | Martin de Pyle | |
| Williamstown | | |
| Wyndham | Peter Greiner | Harold Carpenter |
| Retired Ministers: | John Cho | |
| | Philip Court | |
| | John Ellis | |
| | Walter Johnson | |
| | Len Pearce | |
| | Bruce Riding | |

Presbytery of North East Victoria (V8)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Benalla-Balmattum- Thoon | Stephen McDonald | Graeme Hayes |
| Broadford (AC) | Barry Porter | Ross Barnett |
| Seymour-Nagambie-Yea (HMC) | | Bill Day |
| Shepparton-Stanhope- Kyabram | Kyung Ee | Philip Betts |
| Tatura-Rushworth | Kalpan Vasa | Gary Dunstan |
| Wangaratta-Myrtleford- Yarrowonga | | Malcolm Browning |
| Wodonga (AC) | Stuart Withers | |
| Retired Ministers: | Neil Harvey | Parity: Ralph Kop |
| | Kevin Maxwell | |
| | Neil McDonald | |
| | Ian Touzel | |

Presbytery of North Western Victoria (V9)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Bendigo | Philip Burns | Andrew Kerr |
| Bendigo East (Reforming) | Russ Grinter | Ryan Smith |
| Castlemaine (HMC) | Daryl Jackson | Richard McArdle |
| Eaglehawk (AC) | Jesse Walz | |
| Kerang/Swan Hill (AC) | | Ken Pinchen |
| Rochester | Michael Riske | |
| 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 | Tom Fleming |
| Colac | | Geoff Cross |
| Hamilton | David Schulz Robert Koh (Associate) | Graeme Presser |
| Koroit-Port Fairy | | |
| Portland | Rod Waterhouse | |
| Warrnambool | Ben Johnson Shady Mehanni (Associate) | Robert Prout |
| Retired Minister: | Neil Benfell | Parity: David Hayward |
| | Ian Leach | |

Presbytery of Western Victoria (V11)

| Charges | Ministers | Elders |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ararat-Skipton-Lismore (AC) | | Stewart McKerrow |
| Ballarat North (AC) | John Brennan | Graham Hammond |
| Ballarat South (Ebenezer St John's) | Toby McIntosh | Keith Mitchell |
| Ballarat West | Robert Duncanson | Jeremy Peet |
| Carisbrook | | |
| Daylesford | | |
| Horsham | Greg Matthews | Jonathan Starks |
| Kaniva-Nhill (HMC) | | Bruce Meyer |
| | | |

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee has received all papers of a non-judicial nature currently proposed to be submitted to the 21 November Urgent Meeting of Assembly to be conducted via ZOOM. It has resolved to transmit to the Assembly those papers that seem competent and respectful.

It is proposed that the Zoom Guide previously used at on-line meetings of Assembly and Commissions be used with minor updates for this Urgent Meeting.

The Ballot Committee members have been asked to also serve as Meeting Hosts.

Please be prepared

In order to facilitate the smooth running of the meeting commissioners are strongly encouraged:

- to be well prepared before the meeting, having read all the material.
- to advise conveners of questions in advance (which is our customary courtesy).
- to curtail unnecessary speeches and questions.
- to omit humorous and other interjections.

Outline of business

The committee will present a proposed agenda at the start of the Urgent Meeting. 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 (NOM A1)
3. Moderator's action approval (code 5.38.c, NOM A2)
4. Apologies (NOM A3)
5. Associations
6. Business Committee, WB pxx (Del WB pxx)
7. TEC Report to Urgent Meeting of Assembly (WB pxx; Del Pxx)
8. NOM A4 (Peter Phillips)
'That the Assembly permit Rev John P Wilson to be released from his contract in as much as he does not give six months' notice of his intention to terminate.'
9. NOM A5 (Philip Mercer)
'That the General Assembly:
 - i. appoint Rev Peter W Phillips Acting Clerk from 1 January 2024 until the new Clerk takes office;
 - ii. appoint Rev Philip J Burns Acting Deputy Clerk from 1 January 2024 until the new Clerk takes office;
 - iii. direct the Clerkship Committee, after consulting with the BIF, to approve appropriate remuneration for Mr Phillips and Mr Burns."
10. NOM A6 (Philip Mercer)
'That the General Assembly, in order to give the Clerkship Committee freedom to commence advertising for a new Clerk without waiting for the Commission of Assembly, approve the Clerk's Job Description and Terms of Appointment as follows:

Clerk of Assembly

- 1. Title**

There shall be an official (see rule 5.19) of the General Assembly (the Assembly) called the Clerk of the General Assembly of Victoria (the Clerk).
- 2. Accountability**
 - a) The Clerk, as a servant of God, shall be accountable to the Assembly.
 - b) The Clerkship Committee shall provide pastoral and other support for the Clerk and administer the Clerk's terms of appointment in accord with its regulations.
 - c) The Clerk shall have, at the expense of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, an administrative assistant who reports to him.
- 3. Attributes**

The Clerk shall:

 - a) be a mature Christian;
 - b) demonstrate a pastoral heart;
 - c) possess exceptional interpersonal skills;
 - d) be comfortable understanding matters of law and be able to relate to lawyers, officials external to the church, members of the public and the media, if required.
- 4. Qualifications and/or Skills**

The Clerk must:

 - a) be either a minister or a serving elder of the PCA with expert knowledge of Presbyterian polity;
 - b) have in-depth knowledge of the:
 - i. Code of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria;
 - ii. GAA Constitution, Procedure and Practice;
 - c) possess an ability to teach polity to candidates for the ministry in the PCV;
 - d) hold and maintain a current WWCC and be compliant with all Safe Church requirements.
- 5. Key Duties and Responsibilities**

The Clerk shall:

 - a) proactively seek the peace and good governance of the church;
 - b) produce certified copies or extracts of church records when legally required to do so;
 - c) in the first instance, provide assistance and guidance for members of the church, and for the church courts and committees, in all matters of interpretation and application of the rules, practice and procedure of the church (see rule 5.12);
 - d) in terms of rule 6.5.2(f), provide advice to parties who wish to bring business to the court;
 - e) serve as:
 - i. Clerk of the General Assembly;
 - ii. Clerk of the Commissions of the General Assembly;
 - iii. Clerk of the Assembly when sitting as Committee of the Whole;
 - iv. Convener of the Code and General Administration Committee;
 - v. Convener of the Archives Committee;

- vi. Convener of the Special Judicial Committee;
- f) act as Head of Entity for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, for the purposes of the Reportable Conduct Scheme in Victoria;
- g) advise and provide support to:
 - i. the Moderator of Assembly;
 - ii. presbytery moderators and clerks;
- h) oversee:
 - i. the maintenance of the PCV website;
 - ii. the Presbyterian Church of Victoria email network;
 - iii. the safe custody of all books, records and documents of the Assembly, excepting those for which the Assembly makes other provision;
 - iv. together with the Archives Committee, the overall management of church records and archives;
- i) liaise, and maintain a good working relationship, with:
 - i. the GAA and its office bearers;
 - ii. other state Assemblies and their office bearers;
- j) represent the church and its interests by providing instruction to legal counsel, consulting with the church's trustees and doing all other things on behalf of the church as may be reasonably required from time to time in connection with claims against the church under civil law;
- k) as the chief administrative officer of the Assembly:
 - i. keep an accurate roll of Assembly;
 - ii. receive, examine, record and report to the Assembly all documents, papers or communications addressed to it;
 - iii. prepare the White Book;
 - iv. attend all sittings of the Assembly;
 - v. keep a correct record of all proceedings of the Assembly;
 - vi. oversee, after each sitting of the Assembly, the preparation of the minutes for publication;
 - vii. distribute:
 1. official information concerning the business of the Assembly to all who require it;
 2. the decisions of the Assembly to the assemblies, presbyteries, committees, sessions, boards and congregations concerned;
 - viii. make available to the press, radio and television, appropriate information concerning the church;
 - ix. make such statutory declarations and affidavits as may from time to time be required by law;
- l) review:
 - i. all presbytery records annually with the assistance of the clerks of presbyteries if required, and furnish to clerks a statement on the records submitted, indicating any omissions, irregularities and recommendations inscribed on the records themselves; and keep a permanent record of all comments on material matters inscribed in the records inspected;

- ii. all records of Assembly committees, boards and councils responsible directly to the Assembly annually and furnish to conveners or chairs a statement on the records submitted, indicating any omissions, irregularities and recommendations inscribed on the records themselves; and keep a permanent record of all comments on material matters inscribed in the records inspected;
- m) report to the Assembly:
 - i. on the state of the church records with any recommendations;
 - ii. on the administration and adequacy of the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy;
- n) inform the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages of those to be registered under the Marriage Act as marriage celebrants and any changes to their status in accord with rule 4.55;
- o) provide training for:
 - i. presbytery clerks and committee representatives, annually, in all relevant matters of the Code, and in meeting procedures in order to expedite the business of presbyteries and committees in an efficient and responsible manner;
 - ii. candidates and students in church polity as required.

6. Denominational Involvement

- a) The Clerk shall ordinarily have a seat on the presbytery of the bounds in which he resides, rule 4.2(k) or (n)(iv).
- b) The Clerk shall not without Clerkship Committee approval:
 - i. serve as moderator of a home mission charge or interim moderator of a vacant charge;
 - ii. serve as presbytery moderator or presbytery clerk;
 - iii. serve as state or federal Assembly moderator.

7. Position Description Changes

The Assembly may at any time change this position description.”

11. Dissolution

Robert White
CONVENER PRO TEM

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Appointments to the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC) Melbourne for 2024

In accordance with the decisions of the PCV General Assembly of Victoria in August 23 the Committee advertised the position of lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology both nationally and internationally as directed by the Assembly. In addition, the Committee approached several suitably qualified individuals recommended by members of the Assembly. Although well received these approaches have been unsuccessful. Following the report of the Committee to the PCV General Assembly of Victoria in October 2023 the Committee received an application from the Rev Dr John Wilson. Dr Wilson is willing to commence full-time at PTC in January 2024. In addition to the application from Dr Wilson, the Committee received an offer of assistance from the Rev Dr Felix Chung. Dr Chung is willing to assist PTC full-time for a period of 12 months and can commence in January 2024. In addition to lecturing in his area of qualification Dr Chung is able to assist the College in meeting its administrative and reporting requirements to ACT.

Application Review

At the regular meeting of the TEC held on the 27 Oct 23 the Committee considered the application of Dr Wilson and the offer from Dr Chung. Dr Wilson is well-known to the PCV as a very experienced minister and suitably qualified lecturer for the position of Church History and Practical Theology, consequently the committee considered it unnecessary to conduct a formal interview process. His appointment to the faculty meets the current need of the College. The committee resolved to recommend to the PCV the appointment of Rev Dr John Wilson to the position of the Lecturer in Church History and Practical Theology, at PTC, for a period of 2 years. (TEC Min 27.10.33).

In considering the current needs of the College, the offer from Dr Chung is gratefully received. The committee resolved to recommend to the PCV the appointment of Rev Dr Felix Chung to the faculty at PTC, for a period of 12 months commencing in January 2024 with Terms of Settlement equivalent to a full-time lecturer. (TEC Min 27.10.32). The committee, in consultation with the principal and faculty, will determine the duties and responsibilities of Dr Chung. The committee and faculty anticipate that Dr Chung will provide administrative support to the College and greatly assist in meeting the administrative and reporting requirements of the ACT, while lecturing with a reduced teaching load. Dr Chung's appointment to the faculty in this role reduces the administrative load on the other members of faculty and provides additional support for the college staff.

The Committee gives thanks to God for answered prayer and His provision for the needs of the College and the wider PCV.

Rev Kevin Maxwell
CONVENER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

Treasurer's Financial Report For the year ended 30 June 2023



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
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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
Mr R Walley B.Sc, AssocDipTh (from 19 June 2023)
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 2023
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 2023, 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



Matthew Crouch

Partner

20 Albert Street, Blackburn.

Dated: 14 September 2023

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
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 2023, 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 2023 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 2023
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 2023
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



Matthew Crouch
Partner

20 Albert Street, Blackburn

Dated: 14 September 2023

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 60 are drawn up so as to present fairly the financial position of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria at 30 June 2023 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 fifteenth day of August 2023.



B Oakes
Chairman



D Wright
Board of Investment and Finance member

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Capital | | | |
| Accumulated Funds | | 66,759,866 | 56,638,889 |
| Reserves | | 26,686,041 | 25,400,684 |
| Total Church Funds | 2 | <u>93,445,907</u> | <u>82,039,573</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | 5.1 | 4,261,118 | 4,309,980 |
| Committee book stocks | | 8,587 | 7,747 |
| Prepayments | | 16,948 | 17,723 |
| Receivables | 4 | 918,756 | 478,292 |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund | 1.10 | 48,449,544 | 38,098,911 |
| Separately Invested Funds | | 32,935,398 | 28,383,196 |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>86,590,350</u> | <u>71,295,849</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | 19,942,718 | 20,617,200 |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Trust Funds | | 7,268,922 | 7,157,893 |
| Secured Loans | | 7,165,213 | 4,551,949 |
| Separately Invested Funds - Perpetual | | 1,047,794 | 982,384 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>35,424,647</u> | <u>33,309,426</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>122,014,997</u> | <u>104,605,275</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Employee Benefits | | 10,692 | 21,036 |
| Trade and Other Payables | | 1,025,065 | 1,063,032 |
| Kirkbrae Ingoings | | 21,233,387 | 17,753,814 |
| Provisions for Annual, Long Service and Study Leave | | 1,724,143 | 1,720,954 |
| Trust Funds and Deposits | | 37,355 | 39,392 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>24,030,643</u> | <u>20,598,228</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Loan PCV Common Fund | | 4,266,090 | 1,687,825 |
| Provisions for Long Service and Study Leave | | 272,358 | 279,649 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | <u>4,538,448</u> | <u>1,967,474</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>28,569,090</u> | <u>22,565,702</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>93,445,907</u> | <u>82,039,573</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Operating Revenue | | | |
| Assembly Rate | | 112,000 | 100,000 |
| Bequests | | 5,045,781 | 64,239 |
| Camp and Conference Income | | 129,708 | 4,624 |
| Contributions, Donations and Levies | | 920,706 | 707,926 |
| General Mission Programme | | 261,105 | 228,459 |
| Grants and Subsidies Received | | 6,780,843 | 4,935,735 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 3,668,723 | 3,260,533 |
| Insurance Settlement | | 34,625 | - |
| Kirkbrae Fees, Ingoings and Meals | | 3,168,748 | 2,752,665 |
| Lease Finance Income | | 512,693 | 268,846 |
| Management Fees | | 170,070 | 171,152 |
| Rental Income | | 81,958 | 89,052 |
| Scots' Church Properties Trust | | 1,097,273 | 765,584 |
| Tuition Fees and Bookshop Profit | | 620,150 | 551,634 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Operating Revenue | | 22,604,383 | 13,900,449 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Bursaries, Prizes and Tuition Fees | | 34,837 | 23,670 |
| Camp Expenses | | 125,445 | 8,327 |
| Contract Accounting and Audit Fees | | 217,050 | 231,352 |
| Depreciation | | 1,036,736 | 1,050,462 |
| Distributions, Grants and Subsidies | | 1,713,680 | 1,378,057 |
| Education, Training and Library | | 204,712 | 190,571 |
| Fees Chaplaincy and Consulting | | 54,918 | 97,954 |
| General Assembly Expenses | | 105,418 | 50,557 |
| Insurance Fire and General | | 148,822 | 148,260 |
| Interest Paid | | 159,978 | 89,975 |
| Kirkbrae Residents Expenses | | 685,218 | 604,853 |
| Lease Finance Expense | | 512,693 | 268,846 |
| Legal Fees and Settlements | | 211,432 | 1,479,484 |
| Loss/(Profit) on sale of assets | | 180,151 | 49,102 |
| Office Expenses | | 470,142 | 380,401 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 8,957,726 | 7,966,290 |
| Property Expenses and Improvements | | 1,183,558 | 1,039,038 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Expenses | | 16,002,515 | 15,057,199 |
| Other Expenses | | | |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Loss/(Gain) on Investments | 1.10 | (1,061,291) | 2,348,752 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Other Expenses | | (1,061,291) | 2,348,752 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) before Sites Reserve | | 7,663,159 | (3,505,501) |

Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income is continued on the following page

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (continued)**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|------------------|
| Sites Reserve | | | |
| Revenue | | | |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 843,287 | 1,007,876 |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 1.10 | 738,880 | (1,492,039) |
| Proceeds of sale of property | | <u>4,387,150</u> | <u>8,046,100</u> |
| Total Sites Reserve Revenue | | <u>5,969,317</u> | <u>7,561,937</u> |
| Expenses | | | |
| Donation to Property Development Fund | | 84,846 | - |
| Ministry expenses incurred by congregations | | 778,566 | 1,297,805 |
| Property improvements and expenses | | <u>1,362,731</u> | <u>1,646,635</u> |
| Total Sites Reserve Expenses | | <u>2,226,142</u> | <u>2,944,440</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from Sites Reserve | | <u>3,743,175</u> | <u>4,617,497</u> |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | <u>11,406,334</u> | <u>1,111,996</u> |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 5.2 | <u>11,406,334</u> | <u>1,111,996</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | Retained Earnings \$ | Sites Reserve \$ | Other Reserves \$ | Total \$ |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance at 30 June 2021 | | 60,144,390 | 17,506,230 | 3,276,956 | 80,927,577 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to beneficiaries | | (3,505,501) | 4,617,497 | - | 1,111,996 |
| Balance at 30 June 2022 | 2 | <u>56,638,889</u> | <u>22,123,727</u> | <u>3,276,956</u> | <u>82,039,573</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to beneficiaries | | 7,663,159 | 3,743,175 | - | 11,406,334 |
| Transfers to/(from) Reserves | | 2,457,818 | (2,457,818) | - | - |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 2 | <u>66,759,866</u> | <u>23,409,084</u> | <u>3,276,956</u> | <u>93,445,907</u> |

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Cash receipts from operations | | 24,534,358 | 19,785,364 |
| Cash payments from operations | | (16,762,511) | (16,993,836) |
| Net cash generated from / (used in) operating activities | 5.2 | <u>7,771,846</u> | <u>2,791,528</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Interest Received | | 1,993,152 | 1,370,280 |
| Dividends Received | | (117,783) | 880,313 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Trust funds and deposits | | (2,037) | (20,750) |
| Payments for investment securities and term deposits | | (22,711,276) | (24,495,314) |
| Payments for property, plant and equipment | | (391,795) | (257,795) |
| Proceeds from sale of investment securities and term deposits | | 6,857,785 | 17,423,445 |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | | 54,650 | 19,230 |
| Net cash provided /(used) by investing activities | | <u>(14,317,304)</u> | <u>(5,080,592)</u> |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | |
| Interest paid | | (159,978) | (89,975) |
| Net decrease in Capital Fund and Retirement Housing loans | | 2,578,265 | (353,131) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in residents loans and ingoings | | 4,078,310 | 1,346,404 |
| Net cash provided/(used) by financing activities | | <u>6,496,596</u> | <u>903,298</u> |
| Net decrease in cash held | | (48,862) | (1,385,766) |
| Cash at the beginning of the year | | <u>4,309,980</u> | <u>5,695,746</u> |
| Cash at the end of the year | 5.1 | <u>4,261,118</u> | <u>4,309,980</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 11 to 19.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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

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 60, 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 2023 of the following entities:

- 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.

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.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.4 Revenue (continued)

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 and Levies

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.

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).

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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.

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 straight-line basis over the lease term.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

1.5 Leases (continued)

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 2023 has been based on

- average RAD balance for the year, and

- Interest rate equal to the Maximum Permissible Interest Rate (MPIR) of 7.46% applicable at 30 June 2023 and 4.07% at 30 June 2022, averaging to 5.77% for the year, which are the Government set interest rate used to calculate the Daily Accommodation Payment to applicable residents.

The organisation's Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income presents Income of \$512,693 and an additional Finance cost (i.e. interest expense) of \$512,693 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.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$1,061,291 (2022 losses of \$2,348,752), and a net gain in Sites Reserve of \$738,880 (2022 losses of \$1,492,039).

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.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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 Ingoing 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.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 2. Accumulated Funds and Reserves | | |
| Balance at beginning | 82,039,573 | 80,927,577 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 11,406,334 | 1,111,996 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Consolidated Church Funds | 93,445,907 | 82,039,573 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Represented by: | | |
| Committee and General Assembly Funds | 66,759,866 | 56,638,889 |
| Asset Revaluation Reserves | | |
| Land and Buildings - Kirkbrae Properties | 18,151,058 | 19,049,365 |
| Sites Reserve | 23,409,084 | 22,123,727 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Reserves | 41,560,142 | 41,173,092 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Accumulated Funds and Reserves | 108,320,009 | 97,811,981 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 3. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Land and Buildings at cost | 30,819,587 | 32,358,846 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (11,298,952) | (12,224,646) |
| Accumulated Impairment Loss | (176,770) | (176,770) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 19,343,865 | 19,957,430 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Plant and Equipment at cost | 1,546,869 | 1,499,373 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (1,418,463) | (1,373,747) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 128,406 | 125,626 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost | 2,002,763 | 1,899,434 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (1,575,545) | (1,458,138) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 427,217 | 441,297 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Motor Vehicles at cost | 203,808 | 272,477 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (160,579) | (179,630) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 43,229 | 92,847 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 19,942,718 | 20,617,200 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 4. Receivables | | |
| Dividends Receivable | 553,631 | - |
| Franking Credits Receivable | 111,525 | 211,594 |
| Sundry Debtors and Kirkbrae Resident Receivables | 253,601 | 266,698 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 918,756 | 478,292 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 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 | 4,261,118 | 4,309,980 |
| 5.2 Reconciliation of operating result to net cash provided by operating activities | | |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 11,406,334 | 1,111,996 |
| Add/(less) items classified as investing/financing activities | | |
| Interest paid | 159,978 | 89,975 |
| Interest/dividends received | (2,333,956) | (2,383,181) |
| Add/(less) non-cash items: | | |
| Depreciation and amortisation of assets | 1,036,736 | 1,050,462 |
| Retentions claimed | (593,712) | (593,712) |
| Net losses/(gains) on sale of property, plant and equipment and investments | (25,109) | 11,852 |
| Net unrealised losses/(gains) on revaluation of Investments | (1,839,046) | 3,892,877 |
| Net impairment on Assembly Hall investment | - | - |
| Net impairment on Kirkbrae Assets | - | - |
| Net cash (used in) operating activities before change in assets and liabilities | 7,811,226 | 3,180,268 |
| Change in assets and liabilities during the financial year | | |
| Decrease/(increase) in sundry debtors | 13,873 | (115,564) |
| Decrease/(increase) in bookstore stock and Kirkbrae inventory | (840) | (1,266) |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accruals | (48,311) | (342,586) |
| Increase/(decrease) in amounts set aside for provisions | (4,101) | 70,676 |
| Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities | 7,771,846 | 2,791,528 |

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

6. Property Investment - Assembly Hall

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation holds a 37% interest in Assembly Hall at 156 Collins Street Melbourne as an investment for the purposes of home mission and church extension in Victoria.

This investment was included in the Financial Statements of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria under the General Assembly in the prior financial year. Arising from a change in policy the asset is more appropriately included in the Financial Statements of the Trusts Corporation. Prior year figures have been adjusted accordingly resulting in a decrease in Property held for Investment and in Reserves of \$10,175,000.

7. 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.

8. Contingent Liability

Legal Costs and Settlements includes an amount in the prior year to settle a claim made in the Supreme Court of Victoria in relation to historical institutional sexual abuse. Two further claims have been lodged with the Supreme Court and are yet to be determined. Funds have been reserved to meet expected costs in relation to these claims.

9. Subsequent Events

One of the two claims in relation to historical insututional sexual abuse was settled after year end. There were no other matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, the result of those operations or the state of affairs of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in future financial years.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|----------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| General Assembly Funds | 1 | <u>34,582,347</u> | <u>25,067,184</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash at Bank and on Hand | | 394,090 | 444,375 |
| Dividends Receivable | | 131,865 | 149,667 |
| Franking Credits Receivable | | 27,905 | 84,153 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 23,046 | 17,038 |
| | | <u>576,905</u> | <u>695,232</u> |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | 9,935,047 | 4,347,359 |
| Specific Purposes | 2 | 10,965,288 | 7,311,091 |
| Separately Invested Funds | 3 | 7,981,762 | 7,164,377 |
| | | <u>28,882,097</u> | <u>18,822,827</u> |
| Total Investments | | <u>28,882,097</u> | <u>18,822,827</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>29,459,002</u> | <u>19,518,059</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Loans to Assembly Committees | | - | 367,984 |
| Secured Loans | 4 | 7,249,213 | 4,635,949 |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | 2,482,119 | 2,439,653 |
| | | <u>9,731,333</u> | <u>7,443,586</u> |
| Total Investments | | <u>9,731,333</u> | <u>7,443,586</u> |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 5 | 15,842 | 22,261 |
| | | <u>9,747,175</u> | <u>7,465,847</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>9,747,175</u> | <u>7,465,847</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>39,206,177</u> | <u>26,983,906</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Capital Fund Deposits by Congregations | | 36,816 | 36,557 |
| Sundry Creditors and Accruals | 6 | 206,685 | 82,716 |
| Provision for Annual Leave | | 59,409 | 47,583 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 49,404 | 62,041 |
| | | <u>352,314</u> | <u>228,897</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>352,314</u> | <u>228,897</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Loan from Common Fund | | 4,266,090 | 1,687,825 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 5,427 | - |
| | | <u>4,271,516</u> | <u>1,687,825</u> |
| Total Non Current Liabilities | | <u>4,271,516</u> | <u>1,687,825</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>4,623,830</u> | <u>1,916,722</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>34,582,347</u> | <u>25,067,184</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 22 to 24.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | General \$ | Specific \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Archive Fees | | 781 | - | 781 | 225 |
| Assembly Rate | | 112,000 | - | 112,000 | 100,000 |
| Bequests, Donations, Gifts & Levies | | 4,026,816 | 620,783 | 4,647,599 | 320,194 |
| Insurance Settlement | | 34,625 | - | 34,625 | - |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 622,138 | 855,542 | 1,477,680 | 1,389,891 |
| Management Fees Received | | 170,070 | - | 170,070 | 171,152 |
| Rental Income | | - | 3,608 | 3,608 | 7,159 |
| Scots' Church Properties Trust | | 83,902 | - | 83,902 | 347,288 |
| Sundry Income | | 7,998 | - | 7,998 | 4,500 |
| Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 3 | - | 527,788 | 527,788 | (972,224) |
| Total Revenue | | 5,058,330 | 2,007,721 | 7,066,051 | 1,368,186 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Accounting and Audit Fees | | 25,884 | - | 25,884 | 23,470 |
| Depreciation | | 6,419 | - | 6,419 | 5,656 |
| Distributions, Grants and Subsidies | | 3,750 | 264,044 | 267,794 | 468,011 |
| Education and Training | | 1,431 | - | 1,431 | 3,071 |
| General Assembly Expenses | | 34,920 | 70,498 | 105,418 | 50,557 |
| Insurance and Risk Management | | 8,325 | - | 8,325 | 27,834 |
| Interest Paid | | - | 157,971 | 157,971 | 82,842 |
| Legal Fees and Settlements | 8 | 45,134 | 110,359 | 155,493 | 1,436,247 |
| Office Expenses | | 21,743 | - | 21,743 | 27,830 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 665,320 | 579 | 665,900 | 649,642 |
| Property Expenses and Improvements | | 99,317 | - | 99,317 | 83,885 |
| Total Expenses | | 912,243 | 603,450 | 1,515,694 | 2,859,046 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 4,146,087 | 1,404,271 | 5,550,358 | (1,490,860) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 4,146,087 | 1,404,271 | 5,550,358 | (1,490,860) |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 22 to 24.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-------------|
| 1. General Assembly Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | | 25,067,184 | 26,558,044 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 5,550,358 | (1,490,860) |
| Transfers from Sites Reserve | 1.1 | 2,457,818 | - |
| Transfer from Maintenance of Ministry Funds | 1.2 | 964,521 | - |
| Transfer of CM Wilson Fund to General Assembly | 1.2 | 42,466 | - |
| Transfer from Long Service Leave Fund | 1.3 | 500,000 | - |
| | | 34,582,347 | 25,067,184 |
| Accumulated Funds | | | |
| 1.1 Transfers from Sites Reserve | | | |
| In September 2021 the General Assembly approved the transfer of funds up to \$5 million various Sites Reserve accounts to provide funding for contingent liabilities. A sum of \$2,457,818 was transferred for this purpose. | | | |
| 1.2 Transfers from Maintenance of Ministry General Funds and CM Wilson Fund | | | |
| In May 2022, the General Assembly approved the transfer of \$850,000 from the General Funds of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee back to the General Assembly. In May 2023, the General Assembly approved the transfer the balance of the General Funds of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, including CM Wilson Fund, at 30 June 2023 pending a determination of how that funds may be appropriately expended | | | |
| 1.3 Transfers from Long Service Leave Fund | | | |
| In September 2022, the General Assembly approved the transfer of \$500,000 from the PCV Ministers Long Service Leave Fund to the General Assembly to assist in meeting anticipated liabilities of the church. | | | |
| 2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | | | |
| Beneficiary Funds | | 292,200 | 242,642 |
| Capital Fund | | 1,582,857 | 1,535,186 |
| General Assembly of Australia | | 282,852 | 282,320 |
| Insurance Fund | | 118,569 | 109,539 |
| Moderator's and Visiting Missionary Expenses | | 280,998 | 273,422 |
| Overseas Visitors | | - | 269,655 |
| Balfour Memorial Trust | | 532,930 | 1,001,043 |
| Simon Fraser Trust | | 1,010,193 | 955,142 |
| Pres-AID Appeals | | 156,782 | 339 |
| Designated Purposes | | 4,936,629 | 898,585 |
| National Redress Scheme | | 1,771,278 | 1,743,219 |
| | | 10,965,288 | 7,311,091 |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| 3. Separately Invested Funds | | | |
| Beneficiary Funds | | 2,588,259 | 2,240,074 |
| Ministers Retirement Housing | | 5,393,504 | 4,924,303 |
| | | <u>7,981,762</u> | <u>7,164,377</u> |
| <p>Investments have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$527,788 (2022 losses of \$972,224). These funds are designated for Specific Purposes.</p> | | | |
| 4. Secured Loans | | | |
| Ministers' Retirement Housing Fund | | 2,983,124 | 2,948,124 |
| Capital Fund | | 4,266,090 | 1,687,825 |
| | | <u>7,249,213</u> | <u>4,635,949</u> |
| 5. Property, Plant and Equipment | | | |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment | | 87,081 | 87,081 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (71,239) | (64,820) |
| | | <u>15,842</u> | <u>22,261</u> |

5.1 Property held for Investment - Assembly Hall

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation holds a 37% interest in Assembly Hall at 156 Collins Street Melbourne as an investment for the purposes of home mission and church extension in Victoria.

This investment was included in the Financial Statements of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria under the General Assembly in the prior financial year. Arising from a change in policy the asset is more appropriately included in the Financial Statements of the Trusts Corporation. Prior year figures have been adjusted accordingly resulting in a decrease in Property held for investment and in Reserves of \$10,175,000.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 6. Sundry Creditors and Accruals | | |
| Accounting and Audit Fees | 23,480 | 11,770 |
| Employee Benefits | 4,060 | 10,480 |
| PAYG Tax and Fringe Benefits Tax | 55,013 | 49,996 |
| Trade and Other Payables | 124,132 | 10,471 |
| | <u>206,685</u> | <u>82,716</u> |
| 7. Archives & Historic Records | | |
| Income | | |
| Archive Fees | 781 | 225 |
| | <u>781</u> | <u>225</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Office Expenses and Rent | 4,208 | 5,572 |
| Personnel Related Costs | 38,979 | 25,041 |
| Storage and Retrieval Costs | 10,578 | 8,865 |
| | <u>53,766</u> | <u>39,477</u> |
| Total Expenses | 53,766 | 39,477 |
| (Deficit) from ordinary activities | <u>(52,985)</u> | <u>(39,252)</u> |

8. Contingent Liability

Legal Costs and Settlements includes an amount in the prior year to settle a claim made in the Supreme Court of Victoria in relation to historical institutional sexual abuse. Two further claims have been lodged with the Supreme Court and are yet to be determined. Funds have been reserved to meet expected costs in relation to these claims.

9. Subsequent Events

One of the two claims in relation to historical insututional sexual abuse was settled after year end. There were no other matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, the result of those operations or the state of affairs of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in future financial years.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | 896,722 | 872,511 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 30 | - |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | 294,143 | 259,454 |
| Specific Purposes | 2 | 199,291 | 198,820 |
| Total Current Assets | | 493,464 | 458,275 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | 374,122 | 374,122 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | 29,536 | 40,114 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 403,658 | 414,236 |
| Total Assets | | 897,122 | 872,511 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | | 400 | - |
| Total Liabilities | | 400 | - |
| Net Assets | | 896,722 | 872,511 |

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | General \$ | Specific \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------|------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Donations and Appeals | | 160 | 46,753 | 46,913 | 28,677 |
| General Mission Programme | | 56,920 | - | 56,920 | 57,234 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 49,825 | 21,271 | 71,096 | 60,626 |
| Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset | | - | - | - | 10,341 |
| Total Revenue | | 106,905 | 68,024 | 174,929 | 156,879 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Depreciation | | 10,578 | - | 10,578 | 6,828 |
| Distributions, Grants and Subsidies | | 61,138 | 54,290 | 115,428 | 105,155 |
| Motor Vehicle Expenses | | 7,685 | - | 7,685 | 9,738 |
| Office Expenses | | 1,874 | - | 1,874 | 339 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 15,153 | - | 15,153 | 15,176 |
| Total Expenses | | 96,427 | 54,290 | 150,717 | 137,236 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | 10,477 | 13,734 | 24,211 | 19,643 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 10,477 | 13,734 | 24,211 | 19,643 |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 26.

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 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 872,511 | 852,868 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 24,211 | 19,643 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Committee Funds | 896,722 | 872,511 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | | |
| Dayspring (Transport in Vanuatu) | 4,094 | 4,094 |
| Dehra Dun Presbyterian Theological College | 4,579 | 3,752 |
| Overseas Missionary work | 79,272 | 78,605 |
| Overseas Missionary work within Australia | 111,345 | 112,369 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 199,291 | 198,820 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 3. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Motor Vehicles | 70,523 | 70,523 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (40,987) | (30,409) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 29,536 | 40,114 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | <u>368,699</u> | <u>352,111</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | <u>368,699</u> | <u>355,718</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>368,699</u> | <u>355,718</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 2 | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>368,699</u> | <u>355,718</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Annual Leave Provision | | <u>-</u> | <u>3,607</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>368,699</u> | <u>352,111</u> |

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Donations | 7,800 | - |
| Interest and Investment Income | <u>28,500</u> | <u>25,117</u> |
| Total Revenue | <u>36,300</u> | <u>25,117</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Depreciation | - | 610 |
| Personnel Related Costs | 11,896 | 28,702 |
| Other Expenses | <u>7,816</u> | <u>616</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>19,712</u> | <u>29,928</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | <u>16,588</u> | <u>(4,811)</u> |
| Other Comprehensive Income | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Comprehensive Income | <u>16,588</u> | <u>(4,811)</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 28.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 352,111 | 356,922 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 16,588 | (4,811) |
| | <u>368,699</u> | <u>352,111</u> |
| Committee Funds | <u>368,699</u> | <u>352,111</u> |
| 2. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost | 3,549 | 3,549 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (3,549) | (3,549) |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Accumulated Funds | 1 | <u>221,212</u> | <u>693,097</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets: | | | |
| Cash at Bank and on Hand | | 2 | 34 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 1,106 | 900 |
| | | <u>1,108</u> | <u>934</u> |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| Specific Purposes - Home Mission and Church Extension | | 58,745 | - |
| Specific Purposes - Property Development | | 169,357 | 835,971 |
| | | <u>228,103</u> | <u>835,971</u> |
| Total Investments | | <u>228,103</u> | <u>835,971</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>229,211</u> | <u>836,906</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>229,211</u> | <u>836,906</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Annual Leave Provision | | 7,309 | 10,954 |
| Employee Benefits | | 2 | 34 |
| Sundry Creditors | | 688 | - |
| | | <u>7,998</u> | <u>10,988</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>7,998</u> | <u>10,988</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Loan from General Assembly | | - | 132,821 |
| | | <u>-</u> | <u>132,821</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>7,998</u> | <u>143,809</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>221,212</u> | <u>693,097</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 30.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | General | Property | 2023 | 2022 |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Donations | | - | 134,691 | 134,691 | 163,766 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 4,851 | 26,695 | 31,546 | 46,092 |
| Rental Income | | 20,815 | - | 20,815 | 20,208 |
| Scots Church Property Trust | 3 | 304,011 | - | 304,011 | 125,489 |
| Total Revenue | | 329,678 | 161,386 | 491,064 | 355,555 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Education and Training | | 599 | - | 599 | 300 |
| Grants | 2 | 53,400 | 828,000 | 881,400 | 83,400 |
| Interest | | 4,007 | - | 4,007 | 6,964 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 76,942 | - | 76,942 | 101,258 |
| Total Expenses | | 134,948 | 828,000 | 962,948 | 191,922 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 194,729 | (666,614) | (471,885) | 163,633 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 194,729 | (666,614) | (471,885) | 163,633 |

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| | | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | | 693,097 | 529,464 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | (471,885) | 163,633 |
| Committee Funds | | 221,212 | 693,097 |
| 2. Grants | | | |
| Operating grant re Officer congregation | | - | 14,400 |
| Operating grant re Donnybrook congregation | | 53,400 | 69,000 |
| Grant to Darebin PC for Property Purchase | | 828,000 | - |
| | | 881,400 | 83,400 |
| 3. Scots' Church Properties Trust | | | |

Income Distributions from the Scots' Church Properties Trust are accounted for on a cash basis.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | 3,087,763 | 2,966,842 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash at Bank and on Hand | | 144,746 | 18,543 |
| Dividends Receivable | | 23,304 | 34,898 |
| Franking Credits Receivable | | 4,373 | 15,072 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 2,987 | - |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | 1,151,584 | 1,114,983 |
| Specific Purposes | 2 | 613,085 | 687,579 |
| Separately Invested Funds | | | |
| Specific Purposes | 2 | 131,847 | 137,855 |
| Total Investments | | 1,896,515 | 1,940,417 |
| Total Current Assets | | 2,071,926 | 2,008,931 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Separately Invested Funds - Perpetual Funds | 2 | 1,047,794 | 982,384 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | 135 | 398 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 1,047,929 | 982,783 |
| Total Assets | | 3,119,855 | 2,991,713 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accrued Annual Leave | | 19,463 | 17,143 |
| Accrued Long Service Leave | | 10,547 | 7,529 |
| Sundry Creditors and Accruals | | 2,081 | 200 |
| Total Liabilities | | 32,092 | 24,872 |
| Net Assets | | 3,087,763 | 2,966,842 |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 33.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | General \$ | Specific \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Conference & Events and Other Income | | 22,183 | 624 | 22,806 | - |
| Donations and Levies | | 23,893 | 15,000 | 38,893 | 34,349 |
| Grants and Subsidies Received | | - | 22,367 | 22,367 | 26,753 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 90,099 | 99,803 | 189,902 | 211,096 |
| Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 2 | - | 77,224 | 77,224 | (162,930) |
| Total Revenue | | 136,175 | 215,018 | 351,193 | 109,267 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Chaplaincy & Pastoral Support | | 47,979 | 1,175 | 49,154 | 47,801 |
| Conference & Events Expenses | | 21,884 | - | 21,884 | - |
| Depreciation | | 263 | - | 263 | 450 |
| Education and Training | | - | - | - | 228 |
| Insurance Professional Indemnity | | 725 | - | 725 | 666 |
| Office Expenses | | 3,624 | 207 | 3,831 | 3,949 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 23,158 | 131,257 | 154,415 | 141,382 |
| Total Expenses | | 97,633 | 132,638 | 230,271 | 194,476 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 38,542 | 82,379 | 120,921 | (85,209) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 38,542 | 82,379 | 120,921 | (85,209) |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 33.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 2,966,842 | 3,052,051 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 120,921 | (85,209) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Committee Funds | 3,087,763 | 2,966,842 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 2. Total Investments - Specific Purposes | | |
| Specific Purposes | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | |
| Children or Other Social Service | 578,433 | 587,229 |
| Children's Hospital Chaplaincy | 34,651 | 100,350 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 613,085 | 687,579 |
| Separately Invested Funds | | |
| Children's Hospital Chaplaincy | 131,847 | 137,855 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 744,932 | 825,434 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Perpetual Funds | | |
| Separately Invested Funds | | |
| Children's Hospital Chaplaincy | 1,047,794 | 982,384 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Investments - Specific Purposes | 1,792,725 | 1,807,818 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Separately Invested Funds have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$77,224 (2022 losses of \$162,930). These funds are designated for Specific Purposes. | | |
| 3. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment | 4,302 | 4,302 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (4,167) | (3,904) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 135 | 398 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | <u>27,891</u> | <u>1,488,107</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | - | 943,002 |
| Long Service Leave Funds | | 1,026,022 | 1,507,252 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | <u>380</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Investments | | <u>1,026,402</u> | <u>2,450,254</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>1,026,402</u> | <u>2,450,254</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | <u>-</u> | <u>42,466</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>-</u> | <u>42,466</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>1,026,402</u> | <u>2,492,720</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave Benefits | | 811,562 | 869,590 |
| Sundry Creditors | | <u>28,396</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave Benefits | | <u>158,553</u> | <u>135,022</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>998,511</u> | <u>1,004,612</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>27,891</u> | <u>1,488,107</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 35.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | General \$ | Long Service Leave \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| Interest and Investment Income | 24,275 | 102,471 | 126,746 | 178,435 |
| Long Service Leave Levy | - | 50,231 | 50,231 | 51,032 |
| Total Revenue | <u>24,275</u> | <u>152,703</u> | <u>176,977</u> | <u>229,467</u> |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Grants | - | 123,651 | 123,651 | 193,506 |
| Interest Subsidy on Ministers' Car Loans | 1,751 | - | 1,751 | 2,310 |
| Other Expenses | 4,805 | - | 4,805 | - |
| Total Expenses | <u>6,556</u> | <u>123,651</u> | <u>130,207</u> | <u>195,816</u> |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | <u>17,719</u> | <u>29,051</u> | <u>46,770</u> | <u>33,651</u> |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | <u>17,719</u> | <u>29,051</u> | <u>46,770</u> | <u>33,651</u> |

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 1,488,107 | 1,454,456 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 46,770 | 33,651 |
| Funds Returned to General Assembly | (1,006,986) | - |
| Transfer to Sinking Fund | (500,000) | - |
| Committee Funds | <u>27,891</u> | <u>1,488,107</u> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

METRO COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Accumulated Funds | 1 | 710,442 | 709,820 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | 710,359 | 709,820 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 83 | - |
| Net Assets | | 710,442 | 709,820 |

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Donations | 1,200 | 1,000 |
| Interest and Investment Income | 56,506 | 49,885 |
| Youth Metro Income | 3,001 | 750 |
| Total Revenue | 60,708 | 51,635 |
| Expenses | | |
| Grants paid | 44,617 | 59,150 |
| Office Expenses | 8,803 | 6,244 |
| Personnel Related Expenses | 6,665 | 6,270 |
| Total Expenses | 60,085 | 71,664 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 622 | (20,029) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 622 | (20,029) |

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| 1. Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | | 709,820 | 729,849 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 622 | (20,029) |
| Committee Funds | | 710,442 | 709,820 |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|------------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| Accumulated Funds | 1 | <u>1,842,352</u> | <u>1,543,292</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash at Bank and on Hand | | 274 | 663 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 3,095 | 2,500 |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | 2 | <u>1,644,605</u> | <u>1,592,554</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>1,647,975</u> | <u>1,595,717</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | 198,818 | 198,818 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | <u>12,895</u> | <u>18,459</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>211,713</u> | <u>217,277</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>1,859,687</u> | <u>1,812,994</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors and Accrued Expenses | | 538 | 703 |
| Employee Benefits | | 274 | 663 |
| Provisions | 4 | <u>16,522</u> | <u>33,174</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>17,335</u> | <u>34,539</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Loan from General Assembly | | - | 235,163 |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>17,335</u> | <u>269,702</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>1,842,352</u> | <u>1,543,292</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 39.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | General \$ | Specific \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Conference & Events Income | | 1,197 | - | 1,197 | - |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 11,180 | 142,525 | 153,705 | 126,941 |
| Donations | | - | 480 | 480 | 480 |
| Rental Income | | 48,569 | - | 48,569 | 47,148 |
| Scots Church Property Trust | 5 | 709,360 | - | 709,360 | 292,807 |
| Total Revenue | | 770,305 | 143,005 | 913,310 | 467,377 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Conference & Events Expenses | | 4,263 | - | 4,263 | - |
| Depreciation | | 7,381 | - | 7,381 | 7,918 |
| Distributions, Grants and Subsidies | | 230,046 | 101,966 | 332,011 | 431,427 |
| Education and Training | | 4,339 | - | 4,339 | 1,765 |
| Interest | | 7,654 | - | 7,654 | 7,132 |
| Office Expenses | | 12,694 | - | 12,694 | 8,712 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 194,407 | 49,000 | 243,407 | 240,109 |
| Property Expenses and Improvements | | 2,500 | - | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Total Expenses | | 463,284 | 150,965 | 614,250 | 699,563 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 307,021 | (7,960) | 299,060 | (232,186) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 307,021 | (7,960) | 299,060 | (232,186) |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 39.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | | 1,543,292 | 1,775,478 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 299,060 | (232,186) |
| | | <u>1,842,352</u> | <u>1,543,292</u> |
| 2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | | | |
| Home Mission and Church Extension | | 62,717 | - |
| Church extension in Victoria | | 11,024 | 8,135 |
| Evangelism | | 1,337,395 | 1,329,103 |
| Home Missionaries Beneficiary Fund | | 192,300 | 217,282 |
| Home Missionary Workers | | 41,170 | 38,034 |
| | | <u>1,644,605</u> | <u>1,592,554</u> |
| 3. Property, Plant and Equipment | | | |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment | | 14,680 | 12,864 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (11,764) | (10,380) |
| | | <u>2,916</u> | <u>2,484</u> |
| Motor Vehicle | | 39,981 | 39,981 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (30,002) | (24,005) |
| | | <u>9,979</u> | <u>15,976</u> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | | <u>12,895</u> | <u>18,459</u> |
| 4. Provisions | | | |
| Provision for Annual Leave | | 8,732 | 7,895 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 7,790 | 25,279 |
| | | <u>16,522</u> | <u>33,174</u> |

5. Scots' Church Properties Trust

Income Distributions from the Scots' Church Properties Trust are accounted for on a cash basis.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | 2,070,659 | 1,973,083 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | 771,569 | 745,391 |
| Specific Purposes | 2 | 719,134 | 664,054 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 3,002 | 2,892 |
| Total Current Assets | | 1,493,705 | 1,412,336 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | 564,351 | 564,351 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | 15,043 | 21,063 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 579,394 | 585,414 |
| Total Assets | | 2,073,099 | 1,997,750 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Annual Leave Provision | | - | 3,128 |
| Sundry Creditors and Accruals | | 2,440 | 21,539 |
| Total Liabilities | | 2,440 | 24,667 |
| Net Assets | | 2,070,659 | 1,973,083 |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 42.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | General \$ | Specific \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Camp Fees and Sale of Merchandise | 4 | 94,973 | - | 94,973 | 514 |
| Conference & Events Income | | 817 | - | 817 | 64 |
| Donations and Gifts | | 2,300 | - | 2,300 | 2,300 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 101,600 | 57,013 | 158,613 | 135,262 |
| Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset | | 150 | - | 150 | - |
| Total Revenue | | 199,841 | 57,013 | 256,854 | 138,139 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Bursaries and Prizes | | - | 145 | 145 | 2,125 |
| Depreciation | | 7,725 | - | 7,725 | 7,815 |
| Education, Training and Seminars | | 202 | - | 202 | - |
| Expenditure re Camps and Cost of Merch | 4 | 96,074 | - | 96,074 | 2,919 |
| Grants and Subsidies | | - | - | - | 1,118 |
| Insurance | | 6,425 | - | 6,425 | 5,866 |
| Office Expenses | | 10,409 | 2,268 | 12,677 | 7,252 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 36,029 | - | 36,029 | 106,669 |
| Total Expenses | | 156,865 | 2,413 | 159,278 | 133,765 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | 42,976 | 54,600 | 97,576 | 4,374 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 1.1 | 42,976 | 54,600 | 97,576 | 4,374 |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 42.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Committee Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | 1.1 | 1,973,083 | 1,968,709 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | 97,576 | 4,374 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Committee Funds | | 2,070,659 | 1,973,083 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 1.1 | During the year the General Assembly merged the activities of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee and Presbyterian Youth in Victoria to form a new committee Presbyterian Youth and Children Committee. The committee funds, balance sheet and revenue and expenses from the prior reporting period have been merged to provide the comparative figures. | | |
| 2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | | | |
| Sunday School work and scholarships in the terms of the Allan Bequest | | 719,134 | 664,054 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 3. Property, Plant and Equipment | | | |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at cost | | 59,422 | 59,694 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (44,379) | (38,631) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | | 15,043 | 21,063 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 4. Camp Activities | | | |
| Income from Camp Fees and Merchandise Sales | | 94,973 | 514 |
| Expenses from Camp Fees and Merchandise Sales | | (96,074) | (2,919) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Loss on Camp Activities | | (1,101) | (2,406) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | <u>152,753</u> | <u>124,972</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call | | | |
| General Purposes | | 180,413 | 153,466 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | <u>962</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>181,375</u> | <u>153,466</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 2 | <u>1,184</u> | <u>2,097</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>182,559</u> | <u>155,563</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provision for Annual Leave | | 10,696 | 11,421 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 9,870 | 19,170 |
| Sundry Creditors | | <u>9,240</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>29,807</u> | <u>30,591</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>152,753</u> | <u>124,972</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 44.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA**SAFE CHURCH COMMITTEE****STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | | |
| General Mission Program | 146,826 | 93,504 |
| Interest and Investment Income | 14,237 | 11,639 |
| Total Revenue | <u>161,063</u> | <u>105,143</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Depreciation | 913 | 1,338 |
| Consultants Fees - Investigations | 14,324 | 19,501 |
| Personnel related expenses | 108,150 | 86,440 |
| Office expenses | 9,896 | 8,606 |
| Total Expenses | <u>133,282</u> | <u>115,886</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | <u>27,780</u> | <u>(10,743)</u> |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | <u>27,780</u> | <u>(10,743)</u> |

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 124,972 | 135,715 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 27,780 | (10,743) |
| Committee Funds | <u>152,753</u> | <u>124,972</u> |
| 2. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Furniture Fittings and Equipment at Cost | 5,904 | 5,904 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (4,720) | (3,807) |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | <u>1,184</u> | <u>2,097</u> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SOCIAL SERVICES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Committee Funds | | | |
| Committee Funds | 2 | 11,670,681 | 11,237,181 |
| Reserves | 3 | 3,276,956 | 3,276,956 |
| Total Committee Funds | | <u>14,947,637</u> | <u>14,514,137</u> |
| Represented by | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | | 3,314,463 | 2,956,944 |
| Dividends Receivable | | 237,071 | 98,166 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | 4 | 207,393 | 252,480 |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call - Specific Purposes | 5 | 544,149 | 527,482 |
| Separately Invested Funds | 6 | 14,921,018 | 10,987,736 |
| Total Investments | | <u>15,465,168</u> | <u>11,515,219</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>19,224,094</u> | <u>14,822,809</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | 89,150 | 89,150 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 7 | 18,415,531 | 19,049,365 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>18,504,681</u> | <u>19,138,515</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>37,728,775</u> | <u>33,961,324</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Kirkbrae Ingoings | 8 | 21,317,387 | 17,837,814 |
| Provision for Annual and Long Service Leave | | 586,669 | 534,350 |
| Trade and Other Payables | 9 | 777,804 | 956,335 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>22,681,860</u> | <u>19,328,499</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 99,279 | 118,688 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | <u>99,279</u> | <u>118,688</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>22,781,139</u> | <u>19,447,187</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>14,947,637</u> | <u>14,514,137</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these accounts are set out on pages 47 to 50.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SOCIAL SERVICES

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | Kirkbrae \$ | Other \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Donations | | 1,425 | - | 1,425 | 39,678 |
| Grants and Subsidies Received | | 6,758,476 | - | 6,758,476 | 4,870,226 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 453,168 | 50,291 | 503,459 | 387,383 |
| Lease Finance re Residential | 10 | | | | |
| Accommodation Deposits | | 512,693 | - | 512,693 | 268,846 |
| Kirkbrae Fees, Ingoings and Meals | | 3,168,748 | | 3,168,748 | 2,752,665 |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 6 | 490,872 | - | 490,872 | (1,213,598) |
| Sundry Income | | 1,323 | | 1,323 | 1,306 |
| Total Revenue | | 11,386,705 | 50,291 | 11,436,996 | 7,106,507 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Accounting and Audit Fees | | 184,012 | - | 184,012 | 201,462 |
| Depreciation | | 934,215 | - | 934,215 | 950,266 |
| Distributions, Grants & Subsidies | | - | 33,624 | 33,624 | 276 |
| Education and Training | | 18,882 | - | 18,882 | 10,657 |
| Fees, Chaplaincy and Consulting | | 959 | - | 959 | 50,152 |
| Insurances | | 110,468 | - | 110,468 | 97,460 |
| Kirkbrae Residents Expenses | | 685,218 | - | 685,218 | 604,853 |
| Legal Fees | | 41,616 | - | 41,616 | 43,237 |
| Lease Finance re Residential | 10 | | | | |
| Accommodation Deposits | | 512,693 | - | 512,693 | 268,846 |
| Net Loss/(Profit) on Sale of Assets | | 180,301 | - | 180,301 | 59,443 |
| Office Expenses | | 355,883 | - | 355,883 | 278,589 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 6,855,557 | - | 6,855,557 | 5,825,987 |
| Property Expenses and Improvements | | 1,090,068 | - | 1,090,068 | 973,180 |
| Total Expenses | | 10,969,872 | 33,624 | 11,003,496 | 9,364,407 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | | 416,833 | 16,667 | 433,500 | (2,257,900) |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 416,833 | 16,667 | 433,500 | (2,257,900) |

Notes to and forming part of these accounts are set out on pages 47 to 50.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA**SOCIAL SERVICES****NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023****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

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 2. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 11,237,181 | 13,495,080 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 433,500 | (2,257,900) |
| Committee Funds | <u>11,670,681</u> | <u>11,237,181</u> |
| 3. Reserves | | |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve | <u>3,276,956</u> | <u>3,276,956</u> |
| 4. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | |
| Sundry Debtors and Resident Receivables | <u>207,393</u> | <u>252,480</u> |
| 5. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | | |
| Brocklesby Trust - Protestant Women in Need | 3,599 | 5,055 |
| Douglas Family Trust - Poor & needy in Australia | 21,505 | 16,059 |
| Poor of Melbourne | 38,299 | 59,749 |
| Residential Care for Children | <u>480,746</u> | <u>446,619</u> |
| | <u>544,149</u> | <u>527,482</u> |
| 6. Separately Invested Funds | | |
| Investments and Shares | 14,921,018 | 9,405,315 |
| Dividends Receivables | 237,071 | 1,680,589 |
| Short Term Cash | <u>1,782,749</u> | <u>1,582,422</u> |
| | <u>16,940,838</u> | <u>12,668,326</u> |

Investments have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$490,872 (2022 losses of \$1,213,598).

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SOCIAL SERVICES

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 7. Property, Plant and Equipment | | | |
| Land and Buildings at Cost | 7.1 | 28,545,171 | 30,084,430 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (10,394,113) | (11,379,063) |
| Impairment on Land & Buildings | | (176,770) | (176,770) |
| | | <u>17,974,288</u> | <u>18,528,597</u> |
| Plant and Equipment at Cost | | 1,454,379 | 1,407,783 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (1,328,251) | (1,284,052) |
| | | <u>126,128</u> | <u>123,731</u> |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at Cost | | 1,482,341 | 1,438,010 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (1,170,941) | (1,077,730) |
| | | <u>311,400</u> | <u>360,279</u> |
| Motor Vehicles at Cost | | 63,993 | 132,662 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | (60,278) | (95,904) |
| | | <u>3,715</u> | <u>36,757</u> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | | <u>18,415,531</u> | <u>19,049,365</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>21,317,387</u> | <u>17,837,814</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>777,804</u> | <u>956,335</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 2023 has been based on

- average RAD balance for the year, and

- Interest rate equal to the Maximum Permissible Interest Rate (MPIR) of 7.46% applicable at 30 June 2023 and 4.07% at 30 June 2022, averaging to 5.77% for the year, which are the Government set interest rate used to calculate the Daily Accommodation Payment to applicable residents.

The organisation's Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income presents Income of \$512,693 and an additional Finance cost (i.e. interest expense) of \$512,693 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.

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 2023, Kirkbrae's current liabilities are greater than its current assets by \$3,960,053. 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 has made an overall surplus in 2023, with an operating loss of \$166,573 in the current year and which is an improved result over the significant operating losses in previous years.
- 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.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | 79,453 | 70,561 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 378 | - |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call General Purposes | | 79,106 | 70,561 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 2 | - | - |
| Total Assets | | 79,483 | 70,561 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | | 30 | - |
| Total Liabilities | | 30 | - |
| Net Assets | | 79,453 | 70,561 |

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Contributions from PIM and APWM | 600 | 1,500 |
| General Mission Programme | 13,312 | 13,976 |
| Interest and Investment Income | 6,031 | 4,581 |
| Total Revenue | 19,943 | 20,057 |
| Expenses | | |
| Printing and Postage | 11,051 | 9,919 |
| Total Expenses | 11,051 | 9,919 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 8,892 | 10,138 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 8,892 | 10,138 |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 52.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 70,561 | 60,423 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 8,892 | 10,138 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Committee Funds | 79,453 | 70,561 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 2. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Furniture Fittings and Equipment at Cost | 1,772 | 1,772 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (1,772) | (1,772) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------|------|-------------------|------------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | 11,011,643 | 9,517,956 |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash at Bank and on Hand | | 6,991 | 10,554 |
| Franking Credits Receivable | | 46,018 | - |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | 52,165 | 8,612 |
| PTC Media Stock | | 8,587 | 7,747 |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call - General Purposes | | 2,923,188 | 2,733,608 |
| Common Fund at Call - Specific Purposes | 2 | 2,158,352 | 1,996,576 |
| Separately Invested Funds | 2.1 | 985,224 | - |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>6,180,524</u> | <u>4,757,097</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund - Perpetual Funds | | 3,560,362 | 3,449,333 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | <u>1,451,592</u> | <u>1,463,443</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>5,011,954</u> | <u>4,912,776</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>11,192,478</u> | <u>9,669,873</u> |
| Current Liabilities | 4 | 171,735 | 125,979 |
| Non Current Liabilities | 5 | <u>9,100</u> | <u>25,938</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>180,835</u> | <u>151,917</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>11,011,643</u> | <u>9,517,956</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 55 to 56.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | General \$ | Specific \$ | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Bequests | 6 | - | 1,019,818 | 1,019,818 | 15,000 |
| Bookshop Sales | 7 | 14,238 | - | 14,238 | 5,332 |
| Donations and Levies | | 8,665 | 72,247 | 80,912 | 105,873 |
| General Mission Program | | - | 39,154 | 39,154 | 53,823 |
| Grants | | - | - | - | 1,743 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 332,032 | 527,890 | 859,922 | 641,947 |
| Ministers' Conference & Events | | 15,205 | - | 15,205 | 9,915 |
| Tuition Fees | 8 | 742,365 | - | 742,365 | 661,106 |
| Rental Income | | 78,350 | - | 78,350 | 81,893 |
| Total Revenue | | 1,190,855 | 1,659,108 | 2,849,963 | 1,576,632 |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Audit Fees | | 7,154 | - | 7,154 | 6,420 |
| Bookshop Cost of Sales | 7 | 15,092 | - | 15,092 | 2,759 |
| Bursaries, Grants and Prizes | 8.1 | - | 181,960 | 181,960 | 151,100 |
| Depreciation | | 68,663 | 389 | 69,052 | 69,581 |
| Education, Training and Library, Fees | | 179,109 | - | 179,109 | 174,551 |
| Insurances | | 9,506 | 13,373 | 22,879 | 16,434 |
| Office Expenses | | 22,478 | - | 22,478 | 31,281 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 669,019 | 93,881 | 762,900 | 735,054 |
| Property Expenses and Improvements | | 45,140 | 15,917 | 61,058 | 46,829 |
| Unrealised Loss on Investments | 2.1 | - | 34,594 | 34,594 | - |
| Total Expenses | | 1,016,161 | 340,114 | 1,356,275 | 1,234,008 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | 174,694 | 1,318,994 | 1,493,688 | 342,623 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | 174,694 | 1,318,994 | 1,493,688 | 342,623 |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 55 to 56.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 9,517,956 | 9,175,332 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 1,493,688 | 342,623 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Committee Funds | 11,011,643 | 9,517,956 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 2. Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | | |
| Fernside Trust - Manse Allowance | 41,961 | 105,610 |
| Bursaries & Scholarships | 627,659 | 604,789 |
| Diaconal Funds | 238,754 | 226,421 |
| Memorial Lecture | 42,374 | 38,945 |
| Needy Students | 273,994 | 251,148 |
| Overseas Students | 65,488 | 66,438 |
| Prizes | 156,668 | 150,527 |
| Theological College Building Fund | 271,886 | 192,640 |
| Theological College Building Fund - Library Appeal | 439,567 | 360,059 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Common Fund at Call Specific Purposes | 2,158,352 | 1,996,576 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Separately Invested Fund Specific Purposes | | |
| Theological College Building Fund | 985,224 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Separately Invested Fund Specific Purposes | 985,224 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 2.1 Separately Invested Funds have been revalued to market value as at 30 June 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised losses of \$34,594 . These funds are designated for Specific Purposes. | | |
| 3. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Land and Buildings at cost | 2,274,416 | 2,274,416 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (904,839) | (845,583) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 1,369,577 | 1,428,833 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Plant and Equipment at Cost | 92,490 | 91,590 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (90,212) | (89,695) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 2,278 | 1,895 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Furniture, Fittings and Equipment at Cost | 342,562 | 286,261 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (262,825) | (253,546) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 79,737 | 32,715 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Motor Vehicle at Cost | 29,312 | 29,312 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (29,312) | (29,312) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 1,451,592 | 1,463,443 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 4. Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accrued Audit Fees | | 6,900 | 3,750 |
| Bonds Received | | 3,266 | 4,208 |
| Employee Benefits | | 6,356 | 9,859 |
| GST Collected on Sale | | 559 | - |
| Sundry Payables and Accruals | | 540 | 2,836 |
| Provision for Annual Leave | | 31,124 | 20,925 |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 39,482 | 20,777 |
| Provision for Study Leave | | 70,949 | 59,564 |
| Sundry Creditors | | 12,559 | - |
| Tuition Fees received in advance | | - | 4,060 |
| | | <u>171,735</u> | <u>125,979</u> |
| 5. Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | | 1,949 | 8,623 |
| Provision for Study Leave | | 7,151 | 17,316 |
| | | <u>9,100</u> | <u>25,938</u> |
| 6. Bequests | | | |
| Marion Isabel Jennings | for the Theological College Building Func | 1,019,818 | - |
| Donald Ian Gillies | for education and training of clergy | - | 15,000 |
| | | <u>1,019,818</u> | <u>15,000</u> |
| 7. Bookshop Trading Result | | | |
| Sales | | 14,238 | 5,332 |
| Cost of Sales | | (15,092) | (2,759) |
| | | <u>(854)</u> | <u>2,573</u> |
| 8. Tuition Fees | | | |
| Tuition Fees received in cash | | 595,097 | 531,551 |
| Tuition Fees funded from specific trusts | 8.1 | 147,268 | 129,555 |
| | | <u>742,365</u> | <u>661,106</u> |
| 8.1 | Bursaries, Grants and Prizes includes an amount of \$147,268 (2022 \$129,555) which is an internal allocation of funds from specific trusts for scholarships. | | |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

WOMEN'S MINISTRY VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------|------|---------------|---------------|
| Committee Funds | 1 | <u>37,249</u> | <u>22,173</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Common Fund at Call General Purposes | | 39,041 | 22,173 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | | <u>138</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | 39,180 | 22,173 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 2 | <u>960</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>40,140</u> | <u>22,173</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Provision for Annual Leave | | 1,136 | - |
| Sundry Creditors and Accruals | | <u>1,755</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>2,891</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>37,249</u> | <u>22,173</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on pages 58.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

WOMEN'S MINISTRY VICTORIA

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Conference & Events Income | | 6,912 | 4,309 |
| Donations | | 21,940 | 13,015 |
| General Mission Programme | | 4,894 | 9,921 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 2,186 | 910 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Revenue | | 35,933 | 28,155 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Advertising | | 472 | 300 |
| Bookstore purchases | | - | 250 |
| Conference & Events Expenses | | 3,223 | 5,158 |
| Depreciation | | 190 | - |
| Education, Training & Seminars | | 150 | - |
| Telephone & Internet | | 162 | - |
| Travel & Accommodation | | 462 | - |
| Website-Maintenance & Support | | 299 | - |
| Personnel related expenses | | 15,898 | 275 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Expenses | | 20,856 | 5,983 |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| | | 15,076 | 22,173 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| | | 15,076 | 22,173 |

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Committee Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | 22,173 | - |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | 15,076 | 22,173 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Committee Funds | 37,249 | 22,173 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 2. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Furniture & Equipment | 1,150 | - |
| Accumulated Depreciation | (190) | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 960 | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
SITES RESERVE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Church Funds | 2 | <u>23,409,084</u> | <u>22,123,727</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Cash at Bank and on Hand | 3 | 400,552 | 376,446 |
| Dividends Receivable | 3 | 161,390 | 219,784 |
| Common Fund at Call | | 13,898,366 | 11,321,996 |
| Investments and Securities | 3 | 8,915,546 | 10,093,133 |
| Sundry Debtors: Franking Credits | | <u>33,229</u> | <u>112,369</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>23,409,084</u> | <u>22,123,727</u> |

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 843,287 | 1,007,876 |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | | 738,880 | (1,492,039) |
| Proceeds from sale of property | 4 | <u>4,387,150</u> | <u>8,046,100</u> |
| Total Revenue | | <u>5,969,317</u> | <u>7,561,937</u> |
| Expenses | | | |
| Donation to Property Development Fund | | 84,846 | - |
| Ministry expenses incurred by congregations | | 778,566 | 1,297,805 |
| Property improvements and expenses | | <u>1,362,731</u> | <u>1,646,635</u> |
| Total Expenses | | <u>2,226,142</u> | <u>2,944,440</u> |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | <u>3,743,175</u> | <u>4,617,497</u> |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | <u>3,743,175</u> | <u>4,617,497</u> |

Notes to and forming part of these financial statements are set out on page 60.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

SITES RESERVE

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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 | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Church Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | | 22,123,727 | 17,506,230 |
| Less: Transfers to General Assembly | 2.1 | (2,457,818) | - |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | <u>3,743,175</u> | <u>4,617,497</u> |
| Committee Funds | | <u>23,409,084</u> | <u>22,123,727</u> |

2.1 Transfers to General Assembly

In September 2021 the General Assembly approved the transfer of funds up to \$5 million various Sites Reserve accounts to provide funding for contingent liabilities. A sum of \$2,457,818 was transferred for this purpose.

3. Separately Invested Funds

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Cash Assets | | 400,552 | 376,446 |
| Dividends Receivable | | 161,390 | 219,784 |
| Investments and Securities | | <u>8,915,546</u> | <u>10,093,133</u> |
| Total Separately Invested Funds | | <u>9,477,489</u> | <u>10,689,363</u> |

4. Proceeds from Sale of Property

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Ashburton | | - | 1,865,000 |
| Anakie | | - | 680,000 |
| Batesford | | - | 95,600 |
| Batesford No.2 | | 770,046 | - |
| Bendigo | | - | 812,000 |
| Cardinia | | - | 840,000 |
| Castlemaine | | 2,067,956 | 230,000 |
| Cheltenham | | 65,125 | - |
| Clifton Hill | | - | 3,523,500 |
| Koo Wee Rup | | 566,681 | - |
| Scarsdale | | 290,614 | - |
| The Leigh | | <u>626,728</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Proceeds from Sale of Property | | <u>4,387,150</u> | <u>8,046,100</u> |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
TRUSTS CORPORATION**

**Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2023**



**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
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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
Mr R Walley B.Sc, AssocDipTh (from 19 June 2023)
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 2023
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 2023, 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



Matthew Crouch

Partner

20 Albert Street, Blackburn.

Dated: 14 September 2023

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
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 2023, 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 2023 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.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023
ABN 89276382053
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 2023
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



Matthew Crouch
Partner

20 Albert Street, Blackburn

Dated: 14 September 2023

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 2023 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 fifteenth day of August 2023.



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 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Trust Funds and Reserves | | | |
| Income Suspense Account | | 4,277,944 | 4,119,077 |
| Common Fund Reserve | | 40,062,115 | 35,632,923 |
| Total Church Funds | 2 | <u>44,340,059</u> | <u>39,752,000</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | 5(i) | 8,607,042 | 7,371,122 |
| Receivables | 4 | 1,943,637 | 2,143,520 |
| Investments | | | |
| Cash on Term Deposit | 1 | 1,995,000 | 1,850,000 |
| Investments and Securities | | 128,768,873 | 112,368,081 |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>141,314,552</u> | <u>123,732,723</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments | | | |
| Advances to Ministers | 1 | 46,130 | 46,682 |
| Mortgages and Loans | | 4,308,197 | 1,732,661 |
| Property at cost - Assembly Hall | 7 | 10,175,000 | 10,175,000 |
| Total Investments | | <u>14,529,327</u> | <u>11,954,343</u> |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 3 | - | - |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>14,529,327</u> | <u>11,954,343</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>155,843,879</u> | <u>135,687,066</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trade and Other Payables | | 34,599 | 253,364 |
| Trust Funds and Deposits | 7.1 | 102,258,165 | 86,665,022 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>102,292,764</u> | <u>86,918,386</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trust Funds and Deposits - Perpetual | | 9,211,056 | 9,016,680 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | <u>9,211,056</u> | <u>9,016,680</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>111,503,820</u> | <u>95,935,066</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>44,340,059</u> | <u>39,752,000</u> |

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 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Bequests | 8 | 5,045,781 | 64,239 |
| Commissions | | 83,902 | 71,967 |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 4,788,499 | 6,246,961 |
| Total Revenue | | <u>9,918,182</u> | <u>6,383,167</u> |
| Other Income | | | |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 1 | 6,799,996 | (12,988,325) |
| Total Revenue and Other Income | | <u>16,718,178</u> | <u>(6,605,157)</u> |
| Expenses | | | |
| Audit and Review Fees | | 37,393 | 42,658 |
| Grants | | 83,902 | 71,967 |
| Insurance Fire and General | | 9,401 | 8,634 |
| Income Credited to Beneficial Trusts | | 11,811,238 | 237,332 |
| Legal Fees and Costs | | 10,095 | 7,500 |
| Management Fees | | 170,070 | 171,152 |
| Office Expenses | | 7,432 | 12,639 |
| Personnel Related Costs | | 587 | 2,934 |
| Total Expenses | | <u>12,130,119</u> | <u>554,816</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 5(ii) | <u>4,588,059</u> | <u>(7,159,973)</u> |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Income | | <u>4,588,059</u> | <u>(7,159,973)</u> |

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 2023**

| | Note | Income Suspense Account | Common Fund Reserve \$ | Separately Invested Funds \$ | Total \$ |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance at 30 June 2021 | | 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 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 | 1,665,040 | (8,825,014) | - | (7,159,973) |
| Balance at 30 June 2022 | 2 | 4,119,077 | 35,632,923 | - | 39,752,000 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to beneficial trusts | | 3,433,101 | (234,979) | 2,431,183 | 5,629,306 |
| Realised and Unrealised gains/(losses) | | - | 4,664,170 | 2,135,825 | 6,799,996 |
| (Surplus)/Deficit credited to beneficial trusts | | (3,274,233) | - | (4,567,009) | (7,841,242) |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 2 | 158,867 | 4,429,192 | - | 4,588,059 |
| Balance at 30 June 2023 | 2 | 4,277,944 | 40,062,115 | - | 44,340,059 |

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Cash receipts from operations | | 5,129,683 | 137,761 |
| Cash payments from operations | | (537,646) | (547,187) |
| Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities | 5(ii) | 4,592,037 | (409,426) |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Interest and Investment Income Received | | 4,988,382 | 5,458,407 |
| Decrease in Trust funds and deposits | | 15,787,519 | 1,843,124 |
| Payments for investment securities and term deposits | | (17,038,066) | (14,192,829) |
| Proceeds from sale of investment securities and term deposits | | 4,716,733 | 3,974,448 |
| Decrease in advances to Ministers | | 553 | 40,795 |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | | 8,455,121 | (2,876,056) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | |
| Interest paid and investment distributions | | (11,811,238) | (237,332) |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | | (11,811,238) | (237,332) |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash held | | 1,235,920 | (3,522,813) |
| Cash at the beginning of the year | | 7,371,122 | 10,893,935 |
| Cash at the end of the year | 5(i) | 8,607,042 | 7,371,122 |

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 2023**

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 2023 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 2023**

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).

Bequests Revenue

Bequests are recognised when received.

Commissions Revenue

Commissions are recognised when received.

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 2023**

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 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$6,799,996 (2022 losses of \$12,988,325).

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 2023**

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.

(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.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 2. Accumulated Funds and Reserves | | |
| Balance at beginning | 39,752,000 | 46,911,973 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 4,588,059 | (7,159,973) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Consolidated Funds | 44,340,059 | 39,752,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Represented by: | | |
| Income Suspense Account | 4,277,944 | 4,119,077 |
| Common Fund Reserve | 40,062,115 | 35,632,923 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 44,340,059 | 39,752,000 |
| | <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 |
| Dividends Receivable | 1,407,356 | 649,439 |
| Franking Credits Receivable | 522,095 | 1,444,432 |
| Sundry Debtors | 14,186 | 49,356 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 1,943,637 | 2,143,520 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2022 | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ | |
| 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 | 2,884,085 | 3,096,471 | |
| Cash on Short Term Deposit | 5,722,957 | 4,274,651 | |
| | <u>8,607,042</u> | <u>7,371,122</u> | |
| 5(ii) Reconciliation of operating result to net cash provided by operating activities | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) from ordinary activities | 4,588,059 | (7,159,973) | |
| Add/(less) items classified as investing/financing activities | | | |
| Interest paid | 11,811,238 | 237,332 | |
| Interest/dividends received | (4,788,499) | (6,246,961) | |
| Add/(less) non-cash items: | | | |
| Net Realised and Unrealised (Gains)/Losses on Investments | (6,799,996) | 12,988,325 | |
| Net cash (used in) operating activities before change in assets and liabilities | 4,810,803 | (181,278) | |
| Change in assets and liabilities during the financial year | | | |
| Decrease in sundry debtors | - | 1,555 | |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accruals | (218,765) | (229,703) | |
| Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities | <u>4,592,037</u> | <u>(409,426)</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 2023. The Trusts Corporation members receive no remuneration or other benefit for their services as trustees. | | | |
| A member of the Trusts Corporation is a partner of a firm which provided legal services to the Trusts Corporation | 11,266 | 72,556 | |
| 7. Property at cost - Assembly Hall | | | |
| The Trusts Corporation holds a 37% interest in Assembly Hall at 156 Collins Street Melbourne as an investment for the purposes of home mission and church extension in Victoria. | | | |
| 7.1 This investment was included in the Financial Statements of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria under the General Assembly in the prior financial year. Arising from a change in policy the asset is more appropriately included in the Financial Statements of the Trusts Corporation. Prior year figures have been adjusted accordingly resulting in an increase in Trusts Funds and Deposits of \$10,175,000. | | | |
| 8. Bequests | | | |
| Margaret Isabel Jean Ward | for the general purposes of the Tallangatta and District Presbyterian Church | 25,963 | - |
| Marion Isabel Jennings | for the Theological College Building Fund | 1,019,818 | - |
| Marion Isabel Jennings | for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria | 4,000,000 | - |
| Donald Ian Gillies | for education and training of clergy | - | 15,000 |
| Donald Ian Gillies | for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria | - | 49,239 |
| | | <u>5,045,781</u> | <u>64,239</u> |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Trust Funds and Reserves | | | |
| Accumulated funds | 2 | - | - |
| | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Net Assets | | | |
| | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|----------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Bequests | 3 | 5,045,781 | 64,239 |
| Commission from Scots Church Properties Trust | 1 | 83,902 | 71,967 |
| | | <u>5,129,683</u> | <u>136,206</u> |
| Expenses | | | |
| Grant to General Assembly | | 83,902 | 71,967 |
| Income credited to trusts for beneficial purposes | | 5,045,781 | 64,239 |
| | | <u>5,129,683</u> | <u>136,206</u> |
| Total Revenue | | <u>5,129,683</u> | <u>136,206</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 page 16.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.

The Trusts Corporation has resolved to pass this income to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

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.

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 2. Accumulated Funds | | |
| Balance at beginning | - | - |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Accumulated Funds | - | - |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 3. Bequests | | |
| Margaret Isabel Jean Ward for the general purposes of the Tallangatta and District Presbyterian Church | 25,963 | - |
| Marion Isabel Jennings for the Theological College Building Fund | 1,019,818 | - |
| Marion Isabel Jennings for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria | 4,000,000 | - |
| Donald Ian Gillies for education and training of clergy | - | 15,000 |
| Donald Ian Gillies for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria | - | 49,239 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 5,045,781 | 64,239 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Trust Funds and Reserves | | | |
| Income Suspense Account | 2 | 4,277,944 | 4,119,077 |
| Common Fund Reserve | 2 | 40,062,115 | 35,632,923 |
| Total Trust Funds | | <u>44,340,059</u> | <u>39,752,000</u> |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | | 5,738,583 | 4,302,084 |
| Sundry Debtors and Prepayments | 3 | 1,191,570 | 1,789,870 |
| Investments and Securities | | | |
| Cash held on Term Deposit | 4 | 1,750,000 | 1,850,000 |
| Investments and Securities | 5 | 90,934,163 | 79,429,365 |
| Total Investments | | <u>92,684,163</u> | <u>81,279,365</u> |
| Total Current Assets | | <u>99,614,317</u> | <u>87,371,319</u> |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Investments and Securities | | | |
| Mortgages and Loans | 6 | 4,308,197 | 1,732,661 |
| Ministers' Car Loans | 7 | 46,130 | 46,682 |
| Total Investments | | <u>4,354,327</u> | <u>1,779,343</u> |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | 8 | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | <u>4,354,327</u> | <u>1,779,343</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>103,968,644</u> | <u>89,150,662</u> |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trade and Other Payables | | 34,599 | 253,364 |
| Trust Funds General and Specific | 9 | 51,712,503 | 41,374,843 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | <u>51,747,101</u> | <u>41,628,207</u> |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trust Funds Perpetual | 9 | 7,881,483 | 7,770,454 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | <u>7,881,483</u> | <u>7,770,454</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>59,628,584</u> | <u>49,398,662</u> |
| Net Assets | | <u>44,340,059</u> | <u>39,752,000</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
INCOME SUSPENSE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | | \$ | \$ |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Interest and Investment Income and Fees | | 3,433,101 | 4,368,574 |
| Total Revenue | | <u>3,433,101</u> | <u>4,368,574</u> |
| Income Suspense carried forward from prior year | 2 | 4,119,077 | 3,454,037 |
| Distribution to Beneficiaries | | (3,274,233) | (2,703,534) |
| Transfer to Common Fund Reserve | 2 | - | (1,000,000) |
| Income Suspense | 2 | <u>4,277,944</u> | <u>4,119,077</u> |

The rate of interest applied to the average monthly fund balances for distribution purposes were:

| | % | % |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Perpetual, Specific and General Trust Funds | 8.00 | 7.00 |
| "At Call" Accounts | 4.00 | 3.50 |

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN COMMON FUND RESERVE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

Expenses

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------|-------------------|
| Accounting and Audit Fees | | 37,393 | 42,658 |
| Insurance - Management Liability & Fidelity | | 9,401 | 8,634 |
| Legal Fees and Costs | | 10,095 | 7,500 |
| Management Fees Paid | 10 | 170,070 | 171,152 |
| Office Expenses | | 7,432 | 12,639 |
| Training and Seminars | | - | 2,394 |
| Travel and meeting costs | | 587 | 540 |
| Total Expenses | | <u>234,979</u> | <u>245,517</u> |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 1 | 4,664,170 | (8,579,496) |
| Transfer from Income Suspense Account | | - | 1,000,000 |
| Accumulated Funds at beginning of the year | | <u>35,632,923</u> | <u>43,457,936</u> |
| Common Fund Reserve | 2 | <u>40,062,115</u> | <u>35,632,923</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 2023**

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 2023 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 2023.

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 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$4,664,170 (2022 losses of \$8,579,496). 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 2023**

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 2023**

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.

| | | 2023 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | \$ | \$ |
| Common Fund Reserve and Income Suspense Account | | | |
| Common Fund Reserve at beginning | | 35,632,923 | 43,457,936 |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments | | 4,664,170 | (8,579,496) |
| Less Expenses | | (234,979) | (245,517) |
| Plus transfer from Income Suspense Account | 2.1 | - | 1,000,000 |
| Common Fund Reserve | | <u>40,062,115</u> | <u>35,632,923</u> |
| Income Suspense Account at beginning | | 4,119,077 | 3,454,037 |
| Distributed during year | | (3,274,233) | (2,703,534) |
| Interest and Investment Income | | 3,433,101 | 4,368,574 |
| Transfer to Common Fund Reserve | 2.1 | - | (1,000,000) |
| Income Suspense Account | | <u>4,277,944</u> | <u>4,119,077</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 | | 809,373 | 649,439 |
| Fixed rate income accrued on term deposits | | - | 293 |
| Franking credits on dividends | | 368,012 | 1,090,781 |
| Goods and Services Tax refund | | 14,186 | 49,356 |
| | | <u>1,191,570</u> | <u>1,789,870</u> |
| 4. Cash held on Term Deposit | | | |
| Current | | | |
| NAB | | <u>1,750,000</u> | <u>1,850,000</u> |
| | | <u>1,750,000</u> | <u>1,850,000</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 2023**

| | 2023 | 2023 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 5. Investments and Securities | | |
| Government Bonds | 2,953,819 | 1,016,463 |
| Credit | 30,189,415 | 27,766,130 |
| Real Assets | 10,121,895 | 7,846,837 |
| Australian Equities | 22,776,406 | 21,891,825 |
| International Equities | 19,831,984 | 17,185,533 |
| Uncorrelated Strategies | 5,060,644 | 3,722,577 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 90,934,163 | 79,429,365 |
| 6. Mortgages and Loans | | |
| Loan to Presbyterian Church of Victoria Capital Fund | 4,266,090 | 1,687,825 |
| Other secured loans | 42,108 | 44,836 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 4,308,197 | 1,732,661 |
| | | |
| 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 | 46,682 | 87,477 |
| Add New Advances - Ministers | 25,000 | - |
| Interest and Administration Charges | 2,232 | 2,675 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 73,915 | 90,151 |
| Less Interest subsidy - Maintenance of the Ministry | (1,751) | (2,310) |
| Less Repayments - Ministers | (26,034) | (41,160) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Closing Balance | 46,130 | 46,682 |
| | | |
| 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/> |
| | - | - |

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA TRUSTS CORPORATION
COMMON FUND
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

| | 2023 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| 9. Trust Funds | | |
| General Assembly | 23,364,988 | 14,123,103 |
| Assembly Committees | | |
| Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) | 867,556 | 832,397 |
| Christian Education and Nurture | - | 1,463,808 |
| Church and Nation | 368,699 | 355,718 |
| Church Planting | 228,103 | 835,971 |
| Health and Community Chaplaincy | 1,764,669 | 1,802,562 |
| Ministry Development | 1,843,423 | 1,791,372 |
| Maintenance of the Ministry | 1,068,488 | 2,492,720 |
| Metro | 710,359 | 709,820 |
| Presbyterian Youth and Children | 2,055,054 | - |
| Presbyterian Youth in Victoria | - | 509,988 |
| Safe Church | 180,413 | 153,466 |
| Social Services | 633,299 | 616,632 |
| State News | 79,106 | 70,561 |
| Theological Education | 8,641,901 | 8,179,517 |
| Women's Ministry Victoria | 39,041 | 22,173 |
| Total Assembly Committees | 18,480,112 | 19,836,706 |
| Other | | |
| Congregations | 3,190,793 | 3,184,939 |
| Sites Reserve | 13,898,366 | 11,321,996 |
| Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union | 659,727 | 678,554 |
| Total Trust Funds | 59,593,986 | 49,145,298 |
| Consisting of: | | |
| Trust Funds General and Specific | 51,712,503 | 41,374,843 |
| Trust Funds Perpetual | 7,881,483 | 7,770,454 |
| Total Trust Funds | 59,593,986 | 49,145,298 |
| 10. Management Fees Paid | | |
| Common Fund Reserve | 170,070 | 171,152 |

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 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|---------------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Accumulated Funds and Reserves | 2 | - | - |
| Represented by: | | | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash Assets | | 2,868,459 | 2,504,277 |
| Dividends Receivable | | 597,983 | 564,761 |
| Franking Credits Receivable | | 154,084 | 353,650 |
| Investments and Securities | | | |
| Cash held on Term Deposit | | 245,000 | - |
| Government Bonds | | 1,427,987 | 840,601 |
| Credit | | 10,722,751 | 8,914,612 |
| Real Assets | | 3,665,990 | 3,561,953 |
| Australian Equities | | 10,793,107 | 9,524,478 |
| International Equities | | 8,450,525 | 7,811,039 |
| Uncorrelated Strategies | | 2,774,350 | 2,286,034 |
| Total Investments | | 38,079,710 | 32,938,717 |
| Total Current Assets | | 41,700,236 | 36,361,405 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property at cost - Assembly Hall | 4 | 10,175,000 | 10,175,000 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 10,175,000 | 10,175,000 |
| Total Assets | | 51,875,236 | 46,536,405 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trust Funds General and Specific | 3 | 50,391,579 | 44,936,529 |
| Undistributed Income | | 154,084 | 353,650 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 50,545,662 | 45,290,179 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | | | |
| Trust Funds Perpetual | 3 | 1,329,573 | 1,246,226 |
| Total Non-Current Liabilities | | 1,329,573 | 1,246,226 |
| Total Liabilities | | 51,875,236 | 46,536,405 |
| 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 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | | | |
| Bequests TEC Building Fund | | 1,075,785 | - |
| Interest and Investment Income and Fees | | 1,355,398 | 1,878,387 |
| Net Realised and Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments | 1 | <u>2,135,825</u> | <u>(4,408,828)</u> |
| Total Revenue | | <u>4,567,009</u> | <u>(2,530,441)</u> |
| Expenses | | | |
| Income/(Loss) Credited to Beneficiaries | | <u>4,567,009</u> | <u>(2,530,441)</u> |
| Total Expenses | | <u>4,567,009</u> | <u>(2,530,441)</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 2023**

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 2023 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 2023 resulting in net realised and unrealised gains of \$2,135,825 (2022 loss of \$4,408,828). 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 2023**

| | Note | 2023 \$ | 2022 \$ |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| 2. Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Balance at beginning | | - | - |
| Surplus from ordinary activities | | - | - |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Accumulated Funds | | - | - |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| 3. Trust Funds | | | |
| Congregations | | 4,291,553 | 3,728,747 |
| General Assembly | | | |
| Sites Reserve | | 9,477,489 | 10,689,363 |
| Donaldson Trust | | 2,741,454 | 2,503,012 |
| Ministers Retirement Housing | | 5,761,903 | 5,244,628 |
| Health and Community Chaplaincy | | 1,347,691 | 1,173,680 |
| Home Missions and Church Extension | 4.1 | 10,175,000 | 10,175,000 |
| Social Services | | 16,940,838 | 12,668,325 |
| Theological College Building Fund | | 985,224 | - |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Trust Funds | | 51,721,152 | 46,182,755 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Statement of Movement in Trust Fund Balances | | | |
| Trust funds at beginning | | 46,182,755 | 46,486,986 |
| Deposits received | | 4,546,392 | 4,925,000 |
| Income earned | | 4,567,009 | (2,530,441) |
| Less Franking Credits Receivable | | (154,084) | (353,650) |
| Payments to or on behalf of beneficiaries | | (3,420,919) | (2,345,140) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Trust Funds | | 51,721,152 | 46,182,755 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Consisting of: | | | |
| Trust Funds General and Specific | | 50,391,579 | 44,936,529 |
| Trust Funds Perpetual | | 1,329,573 | 1,246,226 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Trust Funds | | 51,721,152 | 46,182,755 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

4. Property at cost - Assembly Hall

The Trusts Corporation holds a 37% interest in Assembly Hall at 156 Collins Street Melbourne as an investment for the purposes of home mission and church extension in Victoria.

- 4.1** This investment was included in the Financial Statements of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria under the General Assembly in the prior financial year. Arising from a change in policy the asset is more appropriately included in the Financial Statements of the Trusts Corporation. Prior year figures have been adjusted accordingly resulting in an increase in Trusts Funds and Deposits of \$10,175,000.

ASSEMBLY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2023 – 2024

Archives Committee

John Wilson (Convener), Ben Nelson, Cameron Garrett, Fiona Bligh, Cameron Weir, Annie Weir, Chris Palmer, Archivist

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 Committee (Victoria)

[12 Members - 10 nominated by GAV, 2 nominated by PWMU, all appointed by the Assembly]

RT 24: Mrs L Ellis [2025], Rev M Campbell [2031], Rev D Schulz [2026].

RT 25: Rev J Mestry [2028], Miss M Price [2031], Mrs W Moody [2025], Mrs D Brownley [2031].

RT 26: Rev R Waterhouse [2026], Rev K Bell [2031], Rev T Archer [2024].

PWMU: Miss R Crocker [2032], Mrs P Vandenberg [2024].

Convener: Rev D Schulz [2029].

Ballot Committee

[Appointed by each Assembly or Commission]

Board of Investment and Finance

[10 Members]

RT 24: Mr J Walter [2029], Rev B Oakes [2024].

RT 25: Mr M Gibson [2030], Mr D Wright [2030].

RT 26: Mr R Walley [2032], Mr J Bligh [2026].

RT 27: Rev G Wentworth [2032], Mr A Foster [2027].

RT 28: Mr E De Zilwa [2028], Mr D Graham [2028].

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the board]

Building and Property Committee

[3 Members]

RT 24: Mr R Kop [2027].

RT 25: Mr D Wright [2024].

RT 26: Mr P Thomas [2031].

Convener: Mr R Kop [2026].

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 24: Rev B Cummins [2030].

RT 25: Mr D Fraser [2024].

RT 26: Mr R Herweynen [2031], Rev Dr J Hood [2026].

Convener: Rev R White (*pro tem*), Rev Dr J Hood [2024].

Change/Suppression of Conversion Practices Committee

[2 members, plus ex officio the Moderator (Convener), the Immediate Past Moderator, the Assembly Clerk, the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee]

RT 24: Rev W McArdle [2031].

RT 25: Rev D Elliott [2031].

Convener: Rev P Philips.

Church and Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 24: Rev J Walz [2030], Vacant, Vacant, Mr I Waller [2029].

RT 25: Rev M Jensen [2030], Rev C Duke [2025], Mrs J McHardy [2027].

RT 26: Prof B Saunders [2031], Mr P Stanton [2029], Mr J Ballantyne [2026].

Convener: Rev C Duke [2025].

Church Planting Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev P Campbell [2031], Rev A Boyd [2024].

RT 25: Mrs A Grinter [2031], Rev J Huynh [2024].

RT 26: Mrs T Kelada [2031], Rev L McSeveny [2030], Vacant.

Convener: Rev A Boyd [2024].

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)]

RT 24: Rev R White [2028].

RT 25: Rev P Burns [2028].

RT 26: Rev B Oakes [2028], Mr K Childs [2028].

Convener: Mr C Morrow [2025].

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 24: Mr D Wright [2032].

RT 25: Rev P Burns [2032].

RT 26: Mrs S de Pyle [2030]. **Convener:** Rev J Wilson.

Conciliation Committee

[6 Members: 3 Ministers and 3 Elders, from at least four presbyteries]

RT 24: Rev Dr K Hood [2029], Rev D Martin [2029].

RT 25: Mr P Jellis [2032], Vacant.

RT 26: Rev A Vines [2027], Vacant.

Convener: Rev P Mercer.

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, ex officio all ADF Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 24: Mr J Kapelles [2030].

RT 25: Rev P Lee [2031].

RT 26: Mr C Perry [2030].

Convener: Rev M Fagan [2024].

Exit Student Committee

[Membership ex officio]

Convener: MDC Convener

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Members]

RT 24: Mrs J Martin [2028], Rev Dr K Hood [2027], Dr J Neil [2031], Vacant.

RT 25: Mrs R O'Brien [2026], Mrs C LePage [2031], Vacant.

RT 26: Mrs L Campbell [2030], Vacant, Rev D Dixon [2026].

Convener: Rev D Dixon [2026].

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

[4 Members]

RT 24: Mr A Putnins [2031], Rev G Wentworth [2032].

RT 25: Vacant, Mr C Morrow [2031].

RT 26: Rev R White [2032].

Convener: Mr C Morrow [2029].

METRO Committee

[8 Members]

RT 24: Mrs J Arundell [2030], Mr A Liew [2032], Mr S Denness [2030].

RT 25: Rev C LePage [2030], Mrs A Harris [2026].

RT 26: Rev T McIntosh [2032], Mr A May [2027], Rev L Brownley [2026].

Convener: Rev C LePage [2029].

Ministry Development Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev P Greiner [2024], Rev R Grinter [2031].

RT 25: Rev S Withers [2025], Mr I Bramley [2027].

RT 26: Rev D Middleton [2029], Mr R Kop [2029], Rev G Stephens [2030].

Convener: Rev S Withers [2025].

Presbyterian Youth and Children's Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev C Griffiths [2027], Mrs M Denness [2031].

RT 25: Mrs R Walz [2030], Rev P Huynh [2030].

RT 26: Vacant, Rev B Seta [2030], Miss E Roberts [2032].

Convener: Vacant.

Safe Church Committee

[6 Members]

RT 24: Mr G Hui [2026], Rev B Harvey [2026].

RT 25: Rev D Brown [2032], Rev B Cummins [2032].

RT 26: Mrs H Thomas [2031], Mrs L Griffiths [2030].

Convener: Rev B Harvey [2024].

Selection Committee

[Nominated by the Code and General Administration Committee]

Social Services Committee

[7 Members]

RT 24: Rev W McArdle [2030], Rev S Wesley [2031].

RT 25: Mr D Conradi [2025], Mrs C Cunneen [2031].

RT 26: Mrs J Pilgrim [2028], Mr T Cunneen [2024], Vacant.

Convener: Mrs J Pilgrim [2028].

State News Committee

[5 Members: At least 2 Ministers]

RT 24: Rev S McDonald [2027].

RT 25: Mr P Betts [2029], Mr A Zirngast [2032].

RT 26: Mr R Paix [2031], Vacant.

Convener: Rev S McDonald [2026].

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, ex officio the College Principal and another member of faculty]

RT 24: Mr D Wright [2024], Rev K Maxwell [2026], Rev D Hann [2032], Rev M de Pyle [2030].

RT 25: Rev R White [2028], Mrs J McHardy [2026], Rev S Jones [2025].

RT 26: Rev J Born [2030], Rev G Nicholson [2025], Rev D Martin [2032].

Convener: Rev K Maxwell [2026].

Women's Ministries Victoria Committee

[7 Members, at least two of whom are members of the assembly]

RT 24: Mrs N Horman [2031], Mrs A Ludas [2032].

RT 25: Mrs S McDonald [2030], Rev R Grinter [2029].

RT 26: Mrs J Martin [2031], Rev B Johnson [2029], Mrs ST Yap [2029].

Convener: Rev B Johnson [2027].

AD HOC COMMITTEES

ad hoc committee Deacons (GAV2022 min 132)

Darren Middleton (Convener), Douglas Milne, 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)

Allan Harman (convener), Chris Siriweera, Grant Lawry, David Brown, Neil Benfell, Robert White, 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)

Immediate Past Moderator (Convener), Clerk, Law Agent, BIF Convener, three members appointed by BIF, plus three members of Assembly

GAV COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Appeals Commission

[Moderator, a past-moderator (not the immediate-past), presbytery clerks and parity members]

Flinders: Rev B Peatman (clerk), (nil for parity)

Geelong: Rev R White (clerk), Mr B Stasse (parity)

Gippsland: Rev G Stephens (alt), Mr T Guilford (parity)

Maroondah: Mr P Veith (alt), Rev M Tonkin (parity)

Melbourne East: Mr K Childs (clerk), Rev B Nelson (parity)

Melbourne North: Rev C LePage (alt), Mr T Cunneen (parity)

Melbourne West: Rev J Ellis (clerk), (nil for parity)

North East Victoria: Rev K Ee (alt), 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: Rev R Duncanson (clerk), Mr S McKerrow (parity)

Past-Moderator: Vacancy.

Chairman: Moderator

GAV PANEL

Panel of Discipline Assessors

[12 members, appointed by the Code and General Administration Committee; nominations permitted from presbyteries]

Vacant, Rev R Waterhouse, Rev A Brown, Rev R White, Rev C Garrett, Rev G Stephens, Rev P Court, Rev P Orchard, Rev T Fishwick, Rev I Leach, Rev G Nicholson, Rev K Bell.

GAA APPOINTMENTS

Commission of the General Assembly of Australia

[3 ministers and 3 elders, *ex officio* Officers of the GAA and former Moderators-General]

Ministers: Moderator, Deputy Clerk, Rev P Hastie

Ministers Alternate: Rev P Court, Rev B Harvey, Vacant

Elders: Mr P Betts, Vacant, Mr D Wright

Elder Alternates: Mr T Guilford, Mr P Betts, Vacant

ex officio: Rev C Garrett, 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 S Wesley

PWMU Cook Book Committee

[3 PCV, 1 PWMU + Convener (alternates between PCV and 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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