

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer." Psalm 18:2

The Presbyterian Banner



June 2025

This Issue

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

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Meditation: Pray Till You Pray

By Paul Levy

The following is from the Church and Nation Committee report for Synod 2025, compiled by the convenor, George Ball.

To encourage us in prayer, the following is a quote from Paul Levy’s monthly letter to the congregation of The International Presbyterian Church, Ealing, West London, in Nov. 2024.

I am reading the biography of the 19th Century Scottish Minister Alexander Moody Stuart. He was part of a golden generation of Scottish Ministers which included Robert Murray McCheyne and the Bonar brothers, that did so much good for the gospel. Moody Stuart gave 3 instructions on prayer which I’ve found helpful:

1. Pray till you pray
2. Pray till you are conscious of being heard
3. Pray till you receive an answer.

This is helpful to us because there is a recognition here that prayer is not always easy. Very often it can feel as if we are going through the motions, rattling through a list. Lists are helpful for prayer. I was once bemoaning them, when my mother said to me, ‘when you go to the shop, do you find a list restrictive?’ It’s a great point that when I go to the shop, I make sure I have a list to remind me what I need. However, the danger in prayer is we go onto autopilot, and we think we’ve prayed by going

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There are congregations in Kalinga in QLD; Maclean, Wauchope, Kindee, Taree, Cardiff, Raymond Terrace, Sydney CBD, and Mt Druitt in NSW; Narre Warren, Carrum Downs, and Geelong in VIC; Ulverstone in TAS.

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through our lists.

Moody Stuart recognises that we need to pray until we pray. That is, in prayer we are engaging with God, seeking to bring our utter impotency before him. It is the practical expression of our need, without him we cannot work, we have nothing. There is a reliance and dependence on God which gives expression to prayer. It is a recognition that we need God and God is one who has drawn near, who is able, who does act, who does love and who gives. Our hearts are stirred as we bring before him his character and his nature, and we are reminded of our privilege.

We move from going through our list to realising we are in the presence of God, that his Son is interceding for us. His Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and it is at that point we can, “pour out our hearts before him” (Psalm 62:8). We need not, nor can we hold anything back from him. We are coming to one to whom all hearts are open, he knows us, he understands us and yet he loves us passionately. He delights to hear us pray.

This takes time. In our human relations, if we are to have important conversations, we know that we must give time to them; put the phone down, get away from the screens. It is no different with God. It is why Jesus tells us to go into our closet (Matthew 6:6).

We need to see how cold our hearts often are. They need to be warmed by God’s love and grace in

his Son. It is by engaging with God in his Word and prayer that the ice of our hearts is melted. As our minds and hearts understand the love of God in Christ, our affections are stirred and our wills motivated. We become conscious that our every moment is lived before God by his Spirit.

Moody Stuart’s second instruction is to pray until you are conscious of being heard.

Having prayed until we pray, recognising who God is and what he’s done, understanding his heart for sinners, appropriating his love for his people; we then become conscious that he has heard us. At times in conversation people will say, ‘I don’t want you to do anything – I just want you to listen’. It’s often a cry of anguish, where someone feels they haven’t been heard. It is a horrible thing for one to feel that their voice is not listened to . . .

It is possible to be in a conversation where you are speaking with people and you become conscious that they are not listening; but that is never the case with God. Moody Stuart instructs us to pray until we are conscious that God has heard us.

His third instruction follows on from this – pray until you receive an answer.

We know he does not always answer, ‘yes’. He sometimes says, ‘no’, and often he says, ‘wait’; but we must get to the point where we are aware he has heard and answered. The call to prayer is a call to perseverance – Jesus tells us

to ‘ask, seek, knock (Matthew 7:7-12)’, to keep on asking (Luke 11:8) . . . and to not give up (Luke 18:1-8).

There are many times when God is asking us to wait, and the temptation for us is to give up. Like you, there are people I have been praying for, for decades. I can think of one non-Christian friend who I think we have prayed for most days over 25 years and yet she has still not trusted Christ. I can often feel ashamed about asking the same thing over and over again, but God encourages me to do that. The longer we have prayed for something the more difficult it is to keep going, but the life of faith is one that says we will not go away, we will keep knocking, we will keep asking. God has given us this right and privilege to come to him – he is not fed up with us. Our asking will get bolder, our seeking will be more intense, our knocking will become louder. Do not give up praying for people.

One last thing, it is tempting to read this and privatise it. Private prayer is essential: Jesus commands it, but it would seem that corporate prayer – where the church gathers together to pray – is most prevalent in Acts. These truths of, ‘praying until we pray, pray until we are conscious of being heard, and pray till we receive an answer’, are as applicable to our church gatherings for prayer. It speaks of an urgency, perseverance, deliberateness and doggedness in prayer. May that increasingly characterise us as a church.

Clippings from the Synod 2025 Minutes

The following clippings “in quotation marks” are taken from the minutes of Synod 2025. Please note: other decisions and minutes are referenced in other articles in this issue, including in the synod prayer points found on pages 9-11.

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“The [retiring] Moderator [John Forbes] preached on Philippians 3:15-16 under four headings: First, under the heading of right-mindedness, essentials are maintained with humility. Second, other-mindedness, or differences exist in the church on non-essentials, this is a reality though not the ideal. Third, we are urged that there be a striving for progress in unity. This takes work, but there is a promise of God granting help. Fourth, that which has been attained should not be given up and ground that is gained, held.”

“The [current] Moderator [Jim Klazinga] delivered his opening address on Micah 6, with a focus on verse 8: The Lord brings a charge against His people that cannot be answered. The basis for the charge is found in verse 8, that the Lord requires his people to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly, and they do not do it, or regard themselves as already complying. Christ Jesus is the only one that is innocent of the charge of Micah 6 against God’s people and fulfils the requirements of verse 8 perfectly. He mediates on our behalf and takes the punishment due to us upon Himself.”

The moderator, in his morning

devotions, went on to focus on the requirements listed in Micah 6:8, that the Lord requires us to ‘do justly’ (Wednesday, the 7th of May), ‘love mercy’ (Thursday, the 8th), and ‘walk humbly with your God (Friday, the 9th).

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It was resolved to add to the Synod Standing Orders (rules that help govern how synod operates), “At the annual meeting of Synod participation by phone or video conference will not normally be allowed. In exceptional circumstances request should be made to the Administration Committee in reasonable time before Synod, which may approve the request if it sees fit.”

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It was resolved, “Synod instructs the Law and Advisory Committee to examine the theological principles for the sustenance of the ministry including the proposed introduction of ‘PayDay Super’ from 1 July, 2026 and to consider the legal and practical implications of any change from our current system, and to bring a report to the 2026 Synod.”

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It was resolved, “That the Synod include the Reformed Theological College, Melbourne in our Synod-approved list of Colleges for candidate training and that the Committee be authorised to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the RTC.”

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It was resolved that, “Synod thank John and Judy Greensill for the preparation and continued use of their property, and the Northern Rivers congregation for their generosity for the youth camps over the last several years.”

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In regard to ministers taking long service leave, the following were moved, seconded and carried together:

1. “Synod approves the establishment of a centralised Long Service Leave (LSL) fund for ministers to ensure financial stability and predictability for congregations.
2. “Synod agrees to set aside an initial amount of \$90,000 in a LSL fund to cover current LSL liabilities, and thus authorises the drawing of \$45,000 from the Superannuation Support Fund (SSF) working account, current balance of \$50,414, and \$40,000 from the SSF capital account.
3. “Synod agrees to impose an LSL levy on congregations with an ordained minister eligible for LSL, ensuring fair contribution to the fund.
4. “Synod approves setting the LSL levy at 0.9 times the weekly minimum stipend to cover LSL entitlements, assuming a 4% annual increase in the stipend.
5. “Synod agrees to review the LSL levy annually on January 1st to adjust for changes in stipend rates and ensure the fund remains adequately funded.

6. “Synod approves the requirement that applications for LSL leave be approved by the Session and Presbytery, with these approvals reported to the Superannuation and Insurance Committee for monitoring and record-keeping.
7. “Synod approves the refund of LSL levy payments to the contributing congregation(s) on a pro rata basis when long service leave is taken.”

* * * * *

In response to an overture from Northern Presbytery, it was resolved, “That the wording of Handbook 3.15 and the related Act of 2017 be amended as follows:

“DELETE ‘While the ACNC does not require Small Charities to submit a Review or Audit report with their Annual Information Statement, SYNOD requires either a Review or Audit report to form part of the congregation's Annual Financial Report when presenting it to the Presbytery of the bounds for attestation (see 2.33).’

“ R E P L A C E W I T H ‘Congregations classified as Small Charities are required by Synod to have their annual Financial Statement examined. They may obtain a professional Review or Audit or they may appoint as examiner a competent independent person who is not a member of the court.’”

* * * * *

Regarding this magazine, it was resolved,

1. “Synod continues to endorse The Presbyterian Banner as the official magazine of the PCEA.
2. “Synod continues to support the

printing and mailing of the magazine, along with distributing pdf copies by email and making it available on the PCEA website.

3. “Synod expresses thankfulness for the assistance of the Presbyterian Banner liaisons from the congregations.”

Also concerning publications, it was moved, “That *Purity of Worship* by Rev. M.C. Ramsay be republished. After some considerable and positive discussion, the motion was seconded and carried.”

* * * * *

“The petition from the Southern Presbytery concerning the sale of Wantirna church building was presented on behalf of the petitioners by Dr Ramsay. It was moved, seconded and carried that the petition be received. Questions were put to the Petitioners.

“Mr Steel presented a motion, which was seconded, that the prayer of the petition be granted in the following terms:

1. Permission be granted to Knox (renamed Melbourne) Deacon’s Court to sell the Wantirna church situated at 358 Mountain Highway, Wantirna Vic.
 2. That proceeds from the sale to be held by Melbourne Deacons’ Court until the restructuring of the existing centres of worship is completed.
 3. Melbourne Deacons’ Court is then to decide on the application of the proceeds and seek permission for such from Synod in terms of Handbook 3.22
- “Upon being put against each

other, Mr Steel’s motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote the prayer of the petition was granted in the terms of the motion. The petitioners were advised of the decision and acquiesced in it.”

* * * * *

The following Committee Structure was approved:

“**Administration:** Clerk (Convener), Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Presbytery Clerks.”

“**Law and Advisory:** J. Forbes (Convener), D. Kerridge, T Reeve, I. Miller.”

“**Inter-Church Relations:** R Tso (Convener), GD Ball, J Forbes, JD Klazinga, Z. Dotson.”

“**Church and Nation and Publication:** GD Ball (Convener), I Miller, JD Klazinga (Banner), D. Kerridge (Archive), M. Pilgrim, I. Hall.”

“**Information Technology:** D Kerridge (Convener), R Tso, N. O’Dell, B. Saljooghi.”

“**Youth and Fellowship:** S Carswell (Convener), J Forbes, Matthew Schmidt, Mandy Kerridge.”

“**Finance:** AH Steel (Convener), DJ Ramsay, G. Hamilton.”

“**Superannuation and Insurance:** R Tso (Convener), DJ Ramsay, AH Steel.”

“**Missions:** DK Muldoon (Convener), JD Klazinga, J Greensill, Mark Hamilton, Zach Dotson.”

“**Training of Ministry:** D Kerridge (Convener), R Tso, GD. Ball, G Hamilton. I. Miller.”

Regarding the Psalmody Committee, it was resolved “that the Committee be discharged.”

Visitors from Other Churches at Synod 2025

Once again, a highlight of synod were the visitors who brought greetings from other churches.

Synod again resolved: “The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolve to pray for the Lord’s blessing upon their work and witness.”

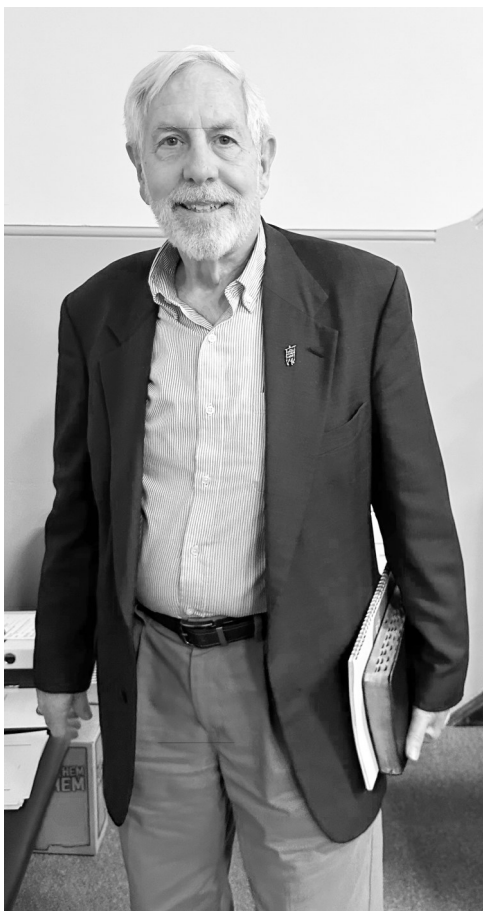
The following quotations are from the minutes of synod.

“Rev Robin Tso introduced delegates from other churches: Rev. Bruce Backensto from RPCNA; Rev. Sjirk Bajema, RCNZ; Rev. Graeme Hart, RPCA; Rev. David Lachman, SPC; Rev. Samit Kumar, PFCCI, India; Rev. John Nelson, AFC. It was moved seconded and carried that these men be associated with the court. The Moderator advised them of the conditions of association. The Moderator welcomed the delegates to the Synod.”

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“Rev. Bruce Backensto brought greetings from the RPCNA. The RPCNA is hosting the NAPARC conference this year. The speaker, Chad van Dixhoorn is highlighting the unity that is possible through the Westminster Confession of Faith. Expansion has seen an RPC church established in Canada and there is great vitality in the work in East Asia.

“Rev. Backensto answered questions from the members. Mr Ball led the court in prayer for the work of the RPCNA.”

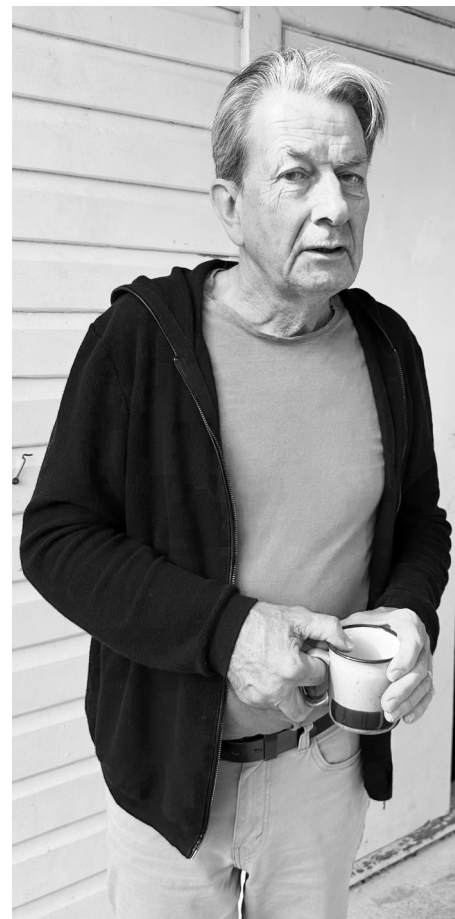


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“Rev. Sjirk Bajema brought greetings from the RCNZ. He spoke of the history of the RCNZ from its foundation in Dutch immigration in 1953, integrating with roots in New Zealand Presbyterianism dating back to Dunedin and early Presbyterian churches. Liberal influence in New Zealand led to an exodus to the RCNZ along with immigration from the Continent. In recent years there has been a new influx of South African and Korean folk. The Federation has struggled for 72 years but continues in the strength of the Lord. Mr Bajema asked for prayer for their vacant charges.

“Mr Bajema answered questions from the members. Mr Carswell

led the court in prayer for the RCNZ.”



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“Rev. John Nelson brought greetings from the AFC. He rejoiced in the good order and zeal he saw in the PCEA and looked forward to union. He reported that the two congregations of the AFC have seen tokens of the Lord’s kindness and blessing in recent times, with interest from further afield in Canberra. He was thankful for ecumenical contact with fellow churches and the strong interest and support that the AFC was able to give to mission endeavours. Mr Nelson was hopeful of changes in the political and social fabric of our society in recent times, relying on

The Broader Body

“Scripture preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’” Galatians 3:8



the promises of the Lord to never leave nor forsake His people. He encouraged the PCEA to be lights in a dark place, walking by faith and not ashamed of the Gospel.”

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“Rev. Graeme Hart from the RPCA was introduced to and welcomed by the Moderator. Mr Hart brought greetings from the RPCA and gave details of current membership in their three congregations. Mr Hart reported that the RPCA Presbytery AGM is upcoming. Fraternal relations with the SPC have been established. In the RPCA there is a renewed emphasis on prayer and revival. Elders are needed in their congregations. The prayers of the RPCA were with the PCEA

through its recent struggles, especially in the Southern Presbytery. We have enemies within and without: Satan, the world and ourselves, yet Christ reigns supreme. We stand in the power and continuity of election



and the Gospel. He exhorted the PCEA not to lose heart, the kingdom of Christ advances.

“Questions were put to Mr Hart. Mr Dotson prayed for the work of the RPCA.”

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“Rev. David Lachman brought greetings from the SPC. He reported that they have been observing the work of the PCEA with affection. They have been in prayer for the PCEA in its recent struggles. He has great hope for our mutual blessing because the Lord keeps the church. The

Launceston congregation have been affected by tragic events in the EPC and have had to face huge change. SPC’s Hobart congregation has been stable, with their own blessings and challenges. Five challenges to closer ties than we already have: History, concern for adherence to the Confession, commitment to purity of worship



in PCEA, disunity and constitutional matters. They have seen these matters addressed somewhat as the smaller sister looking to their elder, but hesitancy needs to be overcome by close interaction and diligent deliberation.

“Mr Forbes prayed for the work of the SPC.”

Missions Evening at Synod 2025



Another highlight of synod was the Missions Evening, held in the Wauchope church building on Thursday, the 8th of May.

The next day, it would be resolved: “The Synod gives thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and privilege to be involved in the work of missions at home and abroad, both in giving, in praying, and being directly involved during this past year.”

The following is from the minutes of synod.

“The Convener, Dr Muldoon, introduced Rev. Samit Kumar and Mr Pradeep Kumar to the Moderator who welcomed them to the Synod and invited them to speak.

“Rev. Kumar sent greetings from the PFCCI and introduced the presentation. He spoke on the ongoing work of the PFCCI despite challenges. He spoke of the

providential way on which they had come to our Synod, due to being hampered from going to a previous engagement in the Netherlands due to Visa delays. Relationships are important and they value the long-standing relationship they have with the PCEA.

“Mr Pradeep Kumar then spoke on the work of the school in Chhapara and the wonderful progress made in developing infrastructure, being able to run new programs including computers and robotics labs, and the outstanding results of some students, which heightens the school’s reputation and in turn draws enrolment.

Rev. Kumar spoke of the SERVE program being implemented. Strategic approaches are bearing fruit, by God’s blessing, in church planting work, in building infrastructure, in community involvement and in some income generating activities. The PFCCI hopes to conduct its second Synod in November, 2025. There have been some challenges and direct opposition, but the work continues to grow by the Lord’s providence and blessing.

“The Session closed with prayer at 9:10pm.”



June Search Work

"Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart." Psalm 119:2

Senior and Intermediate
(Intermediate omit questions 1 and 7)

Acts 9:32-43

1. What was the reaction of the people when Aeneas was healed, and Dorcas raised from the dead? (2 separate verses)

Acts 10

2. What did the angel of God say to Cornelius concerning his prayers and alms?
3. What was the Lord's answer when Peter said he had never eaten anything common or unclean?
4. Why was Peter to go with the three men, doubting nothing?
5. What was Peter's response when Cornelius fell down at his feet?
6. What were the opening words of Peter's sermon? (2 verses only)
7. What had God commanded the apostles to preach to the people, and testify concerning Jesus?

8. What happened when Peter was still preaching, and what was the reaction of the believing Jews? (2 verses)

Junior

John 7:28-53

1. Why could no one lay hands [a hand] on Jesus?
2. What did many of the people who believed on Christ say about him?
3. What did Jesus cry [out] on the last day, the great day of the feast? (2 verses)
4. What was the officers' answer when they came back to the chief priests without Jesus?

Find the verse(s) in the Bible that answer the questions, write/type them out, and send to:

Mrs Irene Steel

18/1-55 West Parade, West Ryde NSW 2114
or Email: iesteel@gmail.com

Synod Prayer Points

"I thank God... as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day." 2 Timothy 1:3

Note: These prayer points all pertain to what took place at the 2025 PCEA synod meeting held in Wauchope, NSW, 6th to 9th May. Unless otherwise noted, matters "in quotation marks" are taken from Standing Committee Reports or from the Minutes of Synod 2025.

1st: Give thanks for the service of John Forbes as moderator over the last year. Give thanks for Jim Klazinga's service as moderator at this year's synod meeting.

2nd: "The Moderator welcomed Rev. Zachary Dotson to his first Synod as an ordained Minister and Mr Martin Pilgrim to his first Synod as Representative Elder." Give thanks that these men from

Ulverstone could participate in their first synod.

3rd: "Rev. George Ball and Rev. Trevor Leggott notified their inability to attend on Thursday due to the funeral of Mrs Val Cromarty, wife of Rev. James Cromarty." Continue to pray for Jim Cromarty and all who mourn the recent death of his wife Val.

4th: From the Admin Committee report: "Ministerial Movements: Rev. Robin Tso was translated to St George's Congregation and inducted 23rd August, 2024. Mr Zachary Dotson was ordained and inducted to the ministry in the PCEA on 8th November, 2024. Rev. Andres Miranda resigned from the

PCEA ministry effective from 25th November 2024. Rev. Ian Hall remains available for a call." Continue to pray for these men.

5th: From the Admin Committee report: "Expressions of Sympathy: We express our deepest sympathy to the family of the late Mr Alex Neil, a long serving and faithful PCEA Elder, and member of this court at various times and to the family of Mr John Disney, Elder and member of Southern Presbytery." Give thanks to God for his work in the life of these men.

6th: The Law and Advisory Committee will be considering the statement, "The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

Synod Prayer Points

"I thank God... as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day." 2 Timothy 1:3

understands that the six days referred to by the Westminster divines in 1643 [WCF IV.1] were six, twenty-four hour days." Pray for wisdom for the committee as they anticipate advising synod on this matter next year.

7th: "Rev. Bruce Backensto brought greetings from the RPCNA." Give thanks for Rev. Backensto's attendance at our meeting, and pray for our relationship with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

8th: In discussing the Training of Ministry committee report, it was resolved, "That we would fervently pray for the provision of candidates for the ministry, help from sister churches, and men ready for office-bearing in our congregations."

9th: It was resolved, "Synod encourages the Youth and Fellowship committee to continue with the organisation of family and youth camps and encourages the church to pray for the practical planning and organisation of all activities. Pray that the events will bring deep spiritual growth under the ministry of the Word, with enrichment of Christian relationships, and a refreshing time of body and mind."

10th: It was resolved, "Synod instructs the Youth and Fellowship committee to continue to produce Essay Questions and Prescribed Youth Work and encourages the church to pray that this will continue to bring theological discovery, personal strength, and spiritual direction in the lives of

children, and adolescents who participate in this activity."

11th: It was resolved, "The Synod prayerfully thanks God for the contributions of members and volunteers who have provided leadership during the camps. Synod also prays for the guest speakers who are preparing the talks for the Youth and Family camps. Pray for their messages to increase the joy of learning new things from Scripture."

12th: It was resolved, "Synod gives thanks and pray for those are involved in the work of teaching Sunday-school and youth classes."

13th: It was resolved, "Synod thank Irene Steel for her dedication to the scripture search work and Nic and Amelia O'Dell for birthday card greeting and uphold them in prayer."

14th: It was resolved, "Synod continues to pray for the children and youth in the Church and the work of the [Youth and Fellowship] committee in building relationships between congregations as members of Christ's body."

15th: "Rev Sjirk Bajema brought greetings from the RCNZ." Give thanks for Rev. Bajema's attendance at our meeting, and pray for our relationship with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.

16th: It was resolved, "We record our thanks to God for the continual temporal blessings the Synod and the church overall has enjoyed during 2024."

17th: Synod agreed to gift the Ulverstone congregation \$470,000 for the purchase of a manse. Pray for wisdom in the process of Ulverstone acquiring a manse.

18th: "Rev. John Nelson brought greetings from the AFC." Give thanks for Rev. Nelson's attendance at our meeting, and pray for our relationship with the Australian Free Church, and for the work of the Inter-church Relations Committee as they discuss with AFC leaders their desire to join with the PCEA.

19th: It was resolved, "Synod urges members to pray for the reformation and revival of the church and seek the Lord's mercy on our nation. It appoints a day of prayer on 28th June and encourages its members to also make this matter a regular part of personal and corporate prayer. The Lord's words to Solomon in 2 Chron. 7:14 are still relevant, 'If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.'"

20th: It was resolved, "Synod commends the article 'Pray till you pray' by Rev. Paul Levy (Ely IPC) with the hope it may encourage us all to continue in the ministry of prayer and intercession." [Note: This article can be found on pages 2-3 of this magazine]

21st: "Rev. Graeme Hart from the RPCA was introduced to and welcomed by the Moderator." Give thanks for Rev. Hart's attendance

Synod Prayer Points

"I thank God... as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day." 2 Timothy 1:3

at our meeting, and pray for our relationship with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.

22nd: It was resolved, "That the Synod commend the PCEA website to delegates and congregations and they be encouraged to participate in the life of the church online by active registration, collaboration and comment." Pray for the website, and for the work of David Kerridge as webmaster.

23rd: "The Clerk of Presbytery, Mr John Forbes, presented the Northern Presbytery report." Pray for the Northern Presbytery.

24th: "The Clerk of Presbytery, Mr Ian Miller, presented the Central Presbytery Report." Pray for the Central Presbytery.

25th: "The Clerk of Presbytery, Mr Donald Ramsay, presented both the 2023 and 2024 reports for the Southern Presbytery." Pray for the Southern Presbytery.

26th: "The Convener, Dr Muldoon, introduced Rev. Samit K and Mr Pradeep K to the Moderator who welcomed them to the Synod and invited them to speak." Give thanks that Samit and Pradeep could visit our synod and report on their ministries in India.

27th: It was resolved, "The Synod gives thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and privilege to be involved in the work of missions at home and abroad, both in giving, in praying, and being directly involved during this past year."

28th: It was resolved, "Synod

thanks the congregations that held mission events during the year and urges all congregations to consider inviting mission workers in person, or online, to give an update of their ministry, and field questions from church folk. Presbyteries could assist or coordinate." Pray for opportunities for our congregations to learn more about mission works around the world.

29th: It was resolved, "To assist in determining whether the Reformed Protestant Mission – Sri Lanka be included in the current churches/missions and medical work regularly supported by Synod, it liaise with Rev Shanmugan NV Partheepan with a view to visiting him to learn more of the work and their needs. If Rev. Partheepan agrees, Rev David Kerridge be appointed to visit him for this purpose at a mutually agreeable time and report back to Synod 2026 via the Missions Committee." Pray for the relationship we hope to develop with this ministry in Sri Lanka.

30th: It was resolved, "That Synod approve the Mission Committee decision to send the Convener, Dr Dennis Muldoon, to the Republic of South Africa to assess and encourage the ministry of the Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School in King William's Town, with a travel subsidy of \$750 from mission funds." Pray for Rev Muldoon as he prepares to make this visit.

31st: "Rev. David Lachman brought greetings from the SPC." Give thanks for Rev. Lachman's attendance at our meeting, and

pray for our relationship with the Southern Presbyterian Church.

32nd: "Alex Steel has (again) submitted his resignation as General Treasurer. Having fulfilled the role of Assistant Treasurer, Donald Ramsay is expected and nominated to take on the role of General Treasurer. Mr Steel's resignation was accepted by the Synod with thanks and Dr Ramsay was appointed as General Treasurer." Give thanks for Alex Steel's faithful work as treasurer, and pray for Donald Ramsay as he serves in this role.

33rd: It was resolved, "That synod thank the assessors to Southern Presbytery who have worked diligently within that presbytery over the last several years- Rev John Forbes, Rev Dennis Muldoon, and Tom Reeve. And that synod review the assessors and appoint Rev Jim Klazinga and Rev Robin Tso and Rev George Ball as assessors." Continue to pray for the Southern Presbytery.

34th: It was resolved, "that Mr Tso be the Moderator-Elect for 2026." Pray for Robin as he prepares to take on this task.

35th: "It was agreed that the next Annual Synod take place in the Wauchope Church of the Hastings River Congregation from Tuesday 5th to 8th May, 2026." "A vote of thanks was expressed to the Hastings River Congregation for their kind hospitality and carried by acclamation." Pray for Hastings as they prepare to host synod again next year.

