

to the status of a Preaching Station. As things stand, it is possible for Presbytery and the Committee to be circumvented by the local patriotism of a handful of people. This is often in itself an admirable thing, yet it can easily make the Committee's financial position untenable. It is accordingly suggested that in any such case, when the Committee and Presbytery are agreed as to the desirability of one or other of the above courses, but where it proves impossible to achieve this under local conditions, it shall be within the competence of the Committee, with the concurrence of Presbytery, to declare the Charge one in which the current minimum stipend does not apply. The Committee would then be free to give only such aid as it could reasonably afford. A clause to this effect is included in the Deliverance. It should be noted that this step could only be taken during a vacancy in the pastorate.

TRANSPORT

The Committee reports with regret that it has been unable to complete its work during this year in implementing Assembly regulations re Ministerial transport. It was realised at the outset that this would involve protracted and sometimes difficult negotiations. No rule-of-thumb can be applied in assessing what is an adequate Transport Grant. Differences in the age and make of cars in use, and in the mileage involved, mean that each case has to be individually judged. Detailed information on all these points had first to be obtained, and we would thank Ministers throughout the Church for their assistance in providing us with this. On the basis of this information every case was individually considered by the Committee, and a decision reached as to what would be an adequate Grant. In this lengthy and detailed work we were greatly indebted to several Committee members with experience of transport costing in the business world. Where Grants appeared to be inadequate we then entered upon correspondence with the Boards of Management concerned. We were greatly heartened in this work by the courtesy with which very many Boards of Management received our suggestions, and the efforts which many of them have made to meet suggested increases, in whole or in part, from their own resources. A comparison of the number of Transport Grants being paid, as between last year and this year, reveals a fair amount of the necessary adjustments to have been made. At the time of writing this report about three-quarters of all cases have been dealt with, and it is not impossible that by the time of Assembly we may have been able to finalise Transport Grants throughout the Church. It should be noted, however, that the total annual cost is by no means revealed in the present accounts. Almost all Grants have had effect only from 1st January, 1953. The amount will therefore be doubled in a full financial year, with the addition of such other Grants as may still have to be made.

MAN-POWER

It is a matter for continued anxiety that the man-power situation has, if anything, slightly worsened during the year. Our small number of additions has failed to balance our losses from various causes, while the proposals made by the Committee at last Assembly are not yet in a position to bear fruit. With regard to the directed service of Probationers, the Committee reports that six of our students to whom the option was given decided to accept the new regulations. As from next year we should therefore begin to have men available for service. In addition, a final year student at New College, Edinburgh, who is a South African by birth, has applied

to enter our Ministry, and his application has been accepted by the Consultative Committee. We therefore hope to have our first Probationer available for service as from about October of this year.

The regulations for Ordained Evangelists (European) have now been accepted, with certain minor amendments made by the Executive Commission of Assembly. Since these regulations came into force only at the end of April, 1953, we have not at the time of writing this report been able to make any appointments, though some tentative applications are already before us. It is probable, therefore that our man-power crisis will persist for some time and every effort will have to be made to meet it.

THE LOANS FUNDS

The Committee is deeply grateful to those congregations which have repaid substantial amounts of their loans during the past year, since a rapid turnover of our very small capital is essential if the fund is to be of maximum use. The Committee continues to emphasise the great urgency for a rapid increase in the Loans Fund capital, and to this end places two suggestions before Assembly. First, we request that, as last year, interest accruing from loans be placed to the credit of the capital of the Loans Fund concerned. Secondly, we suggest that any funds which are received by the Finance Committee, as a result of the sale of Church property, should be credited to the Loans Fund capital unless otherwise directed by Assembly in any particular case. There appears at present to be no precise ruling with regard to money so received, and the Finance Committee feels, with a certain propriety, that it ought to hold such sums at the discretion of the Presbytery concerned. It is our submission that the C. E. & A. Committee is in a better position than an individual Presbytery to know the relative needs in different parts of the country; secondly, that the Loans Fund is the means by which any such monies can achieve their maximum usefulness to the Church. It may be objected that money for building purposes is sometimes needed as a gift rather than as a loan, and that such windfalls can only be expected when property is sold. It may safely be assumed that the C. E. & A. Committee is not unmindful of this need. We have again this year continued the policy of free grants for building purposes, having given such to Welkom, to Kroonstad and to the Coloured congregation at East London. So far as our means make it possible, we shall continue this policy, which was strongly emphasised by the Committee in its early years, but if we are to mobilise our resources to the best advantage, we need to have access to what funds are available, and some discretion as to when a gift should be made and when a loan.

We have taken note of the fact that the Transport Loans Fund is governed by the same regulations as the General Loans Fund: namely, loans are for a period up to twenty years, the minimum repayment of capital being 5% per annum. A case may be made for this so far as concerns the General Loans Fund, though a more rapid turnover of capital would be an obvious advantage. With the Transport Loans Fund the case is very different. We are not investing our money in a building with a probable life of a couple of centuries, but in a car with a probable life of five to ten years. The Committee therefore feels that it is unsound practice to repay a loan over twenty years on an article which is unlikely to last half that time. We accordingly suggest that the maximum period for repayment of Transport Loans be reduced to seven years. Clauses on these points are contained in the Deliverance.

FINANCE

As a result of the increased rate of C.O.L.A. and the gradual implementing of legislation on Ministerial Transport, the Committee still faces a rising scale of expenditure. This will naturally be increased if various proposals made in this year's report are adopted by Assembly. The Committee, however, does not feel justified in seeking a larger appropriation from the Budget, chiefly because of the large credit balance accumulated in former years, a good proportion of which remains unused. The unexpectedly low level of expenditure has made it possible, as already noted, to make a number of free Grants for building purposes. In any year where current expenditure should be heavy, it would be impossible to make such Grants, but the Committee feels that whenever a surplus is available it is in this way well invested for the future of the Church. It would be our policy to make such Grants in any area where they might be needed, but a word should perhaps be said in explanation of the emphasis which we have laid on the work in Goldfields. It is true that this area offers the biggest challenge in extension work which we have had to face for some time, but another consideration is even more important from the financial point of view. Most extension work to-day is taking place in large urban areas where the Church is already represented by several strong congregations. While the Committee is most willing to give every possible assistance, one must assume in all such cases a local interest in Church Extension, which will lead established congregations in the area to bear some of the financial burden. In many areas this is already happily the case. In this respect Goldfields is unique; it can expect no local help from any strong Presbyterian Church, and apart from its own resources must look entirely to the Committee. We are therefore determined to spare no effort in establishing a strong and well-equipped congregation in the minimum number of years. Nor is it merely a question of establishing one good congregation at Welkom. In a very short time the Free State Goldfields may need several Presbyterian churches. We are already alive to the need of acquiring sites and establishing Preaching Stations, but a strong, well-equipped and self-supporting congregation at Welkom is the most feasible bridgehead from which the whole area can be developed in years to come.

In view of the fact that it has not been necessary greatly to deplete our accumulated balance, we have again requested the Finance Committee, as in last year, to transfer a portion of it to the capital of the Loans Fund, where we think that it will be of more immediate use to the Church.

Assembly's legislation last year, in setting up Maintenance of the Ministry Committees in each Presbytery, intended these Committees to absorb locally some proportion of the expenditure on Church Aid, in order that the Committee might have more confidence in launching out on new ventures. It cannot be said that this has as yet borne any fruit. In Port Elizabeth, where such a committee has existed for some years, it continues to raise enough money to meet all Church Aid, apart from Transport Grants, for the Presbytery area. There is no indication that any money has been raised in any other Presbytery. This is not altogether unexpected; it takes Presbyteries some time to become aware of new legislation, and some time for committees to begin to function. So far there is evidence that committees have been formed in the Cape, Orange River, Rhodesia and Transvaal. It is hoped that by next year there may be something to report on the actual achievements of these committees.

CHURCH EXTENSION

In the field of Church Extension there are no major new developments this year, but many signs of growth in existing work. The Presbytery of Cape Town is still considering the possibility of employing a full-time Church Extension Agent to co-ordinate and develop the Extension possibilities in many suburbs of the city. A number of practical details are delaying the start of this project, to which the Committee will give every possible support whenever the Cape Presbytery finds it practicable.

In Port Elizabeth Presbytery it has been found expedient to abandon for the present the work at Newton Park as an Extension project, and no other Extension work is being undertaken, though two of the city Charges are contemplating new building programmes in the near future.

In King William's Town Presbytery the Coloured Church in East London has been moved to a new building in another location, which has been opened free of debt. The Presbytery is also exploring the possibility of sites for Extension projects in the newer suburbs of East London.

In Natal the possibility of building at Stellawood is being actively investigated, as is also the opportunity offered in another Durban suburb. No report is made on the work at the Bluff, which continues to progress, since the Committee decided during the year that this fairly mature Charge should be rather belatedly removed from the list of Extension projects and regarded henceforth as an Aid-receiving Charge.

In the Orange River Presbytery the work at Welkom has shown a steady and encouraging progress. The Manse and Garage-Chapel having been fully paid for last year, it is now hoped to erect a suitable Church Hall by about the end of this year. In this matter the congregation have shown great courage and vision in obtaining plans for a complete suite of Church buildings for a large congregation, and deciding the stages in which it shall be built. The projected hall is the first stage, and will be fairly costly, but we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that it should not be necessary to pull it down in ten years' time because of the growth of the congregation. The Committee has been in close touch with the congregation at every stage of their planning, and it is hoped that building will commence before the end of this year on a hall which will be really worthy of the Presbyterian Church. A further sign of vitality in the Goldfields area is that during the year Odendaalsrus has become the first sanctioned Preaching Station of the new congregation at Welkom. While they realise that it is still a matter for the future, the Committee of Management at Odendaalsrus have already opened a Building Fund and are considering plans for a building of their own.

The matter specially remitted to this Committee by Assembly two years ago—that of providing an itinerant ministry for the small communities throughout the Orange River area—has not been forgotten. Through the initiative of the Presbytery considerable financial support has been obtained for the project and it is confidently expected that with some assistance from the Committee a Minister will commence this itinerant work in the very near future.

In Rhodesia the congregations at Salisbury and Bulawayo continue to be active in establishing new Preaching Stations and in providing buildings for these scattered groups of Presbyterians. At Gwelo and Umtali alike, the pressing need for new building is urgently felt and plans are being made to meet it.

In the Presbytery of Transvaal several existing Preaching Stations are growing healthily towards full status. The Committee is at present negotiating with this Presbytery on the possibility of employing a full-time Extension Agent on the Rand.

HAROLD H. MUNRO,
Convener.

ANNEXURE "A"
PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR PAYMENTS OF
GRANTS-IN-AID

1. Grants-in-Aid shall be payable quarterly in retrospect, and for this purpose quarters shall end on the last day of February, May, August and November of each year.

2. Prior to the end of each quarter each Aid-receiving Charge shall receive a Quarterly Report Schedule in duplicate. These shall be completed as to Organisation and Finance by the Minister and Treasurer respectively. As soon as possible after the end of each quarter one copy shall be forwarded to the C. E. & A. Committee, and one copy to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee of the Presbytery of the bounds.

3. The Committee shall make its Grants for the previous quarter on the basis of the information given in the Quarterly Report, and shall thereafter furnish each Presbytery, through its M. of M. Committee, with a detailed report of all Grants made within the bounds. Presbytery shall have the duty of making such comments as it sees fit from time to time on the appropriateness of the Grants made, and such advice shall be taken into account by the Committee in making its Grants for the following quarter.

4. A Charge shall be deemed to have become self-supporting when the Committee has found it unnecessary to make any Grant in four successive quarters which have not involved a vacancy, when no further schedules will be sent. Such Charge may at any time re-apply to receive Aid as noted below.

5. A Charge shall apply to receive Aid through the Presbytery of the bounds, and Presbytery may indicate its recommendation as to the probable monthly level of Aid needed. On receipt of such application approved by Presbytery, the Committee shall forward the necessary schedules for the current quarter. The initial report from such Charge shall summarise in its financial section the income and expenditure from the beginning of the financial year to the end of the current quarter, and shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the previous year's financial statement.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report.

2. The Assembly thanks the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for continued help, and expresses appreciation for the help given by the Women's Association and individual donors to the funds for Extension and Aid.

3. The Assembly fixes the minimum stipend payable to European Ministers at £480 per annum for the year commencing 1st January, 1954.

4. The Assembly notes the increase in basic C.O.L.A. to £14 14s. 8d. per month, and especially commends those congregations which have been able to meet this increase in whole or in part.

5. The Assembly commends to the interest and generosity of donors and testators the urgent needs of the Central Fund of the Church.

6. The Assembly directs that, in the financial year 1953/1954, all income derived from interest accruing from loans from the Church Extension Loans Fund and the Transport Loans Fund shall be credited to the capital accounts of these funds respectively.

7. The Assembly approves the proposed regulations for the payment of Grants-in-Aid set out in Annexure "A" to the Report.

8. The Assembly affirms that a suitable Manse is a necessary part of the equipment of every sanctioned Charge, and in every case where such is not already owned, urges upon congregations the necessity of acquiring one as soon as possible.

9. The Assembly enacts that in every congregation where a Manse is not available for the Minister's use, the total cost of provision of suitable alternative accommodation, by way of rent, rates and similar payments, shall be a charge on the congregation. The Assembly lays upon Presbyteries the duty of determining as to the suitability of such alternative accommodation, and empowers its Church Extension and Aid Committee to take such accommodation costs into account in determining Grants-in-Aid.

10. The Assembly enacts that in the case of a Charge, which in the judgment of the Presbytery of the bounds ought to be reduced to the status of a Preaching Station or united with another Charge, and where it shall not prove practicable to follow either of these courses, it shall be competent for Assembly's Church Extension and Aid Committee, with the concurrence of Presbytery, to declare such Charge to be one to which the minimum stipend regulations do not apply.

11. The Assembly directs that the sum accrued from the sale of the Manse at Indwe be credited to the capital of the Church Extension Loans Fund.

12. The Assembly directs that all monies reverting to the Church from sale of lands or buildings shall be credited to the capital of the Church Extension Loans Fund, unless otherwise directed by Assembly in any particular case.

13. The Assembly enacts that the capital amount of all Transport Loans shall be fully repaid within a period of not more than seven years.

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In conformity with its previously expressed decision, your Church and Nation Committee has concerned itself primarily with tendencies and movements in the nation that are adverse to the Christian principles for which the Church stands.

PACIFISM

A letter addressed to your Committee sought the support of the Church for the ideal of Pacifism. The letter came from the Historic Peace Churches and the International Fellowship of reconciliation. Your Committee considered the contents of this letter

most carefully and sympathetically at several meetings and agreed that it was necessary that the Church should receive some guidance in this matter. To this end your Committee drew up the following statement on the ideal of Pacifism.

The accepted doctrine of the Historic Presbyterian Church is summed up in the Westminster Confession of Faith. In regard to the question of the righteousness or otherwise of engaging in war the Confession of Faith is very definite and permits of no ambiguity. "It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate . . . So they may lawfully, now under the New Testament, wage war upon just and necessary occasions" (C. of F. chap. 23, par. 2). This then is the accepted, traditional and historical viewpoint of the Church Presbyterian.

Again, the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church of S.A. is equally definite. "While we own our citizenship to be in Heaven, that does not absolve us from performing the duties of our citizenship in the State." (Page 97, Articles of Faith, par. 3.)

Thus, particularly as well as generally, our Church has clearly stated its view on the question of Pacifism, and it is to the Church's view that we are all committed by our own vows.

It may also be argued that the Pacifist position cannot be reasonably held. Indeed, under modern conditions it is obvious that the Pacifist thesis cannot be carried to a logical extreme. It is patently impossible for a man to say that he will have no part or share in warlike action, for during a war the very bread he eats comes to him as a result of warlike actions. His whole life depends on the military and naval actions of others. So that logically to maintain his thesis he would be compelled to go alone into a solitary place and subsist on vegetation if possible. Thus is his argument reduced to absurdity.

One branch of the Pacifist school, on the other hand, maintains that it is lawful to share in warlike activities provided one is not involved in the taking of a single human life. If this is logical, then by what methods is war to be waged (granting as they do that war is lawful)? Again their thesis is reduced to absurdity. It was in recognition of this standpoint that those who conscientiously objected to the taking of human life were, during the last war, given the opportunity of serving on mine-sweepers, which went far to prove their courage, but did not involve them in the immediate destruction of life.

War is sinful, the taking of human life in war is an evil, but in the sight of God there are greater evils, the taking away of faith, the destruction of souls and personalities by modern techniques.

In the light of these modern manifestations of war, Pacifism appears to offer no positive approach. We, as Christians, earnestly pray that as more and more men ENGAGE NOW in the actual pursuit of the Will of God, that men may be moved to obedience thereto, the root causes of the evil of war may be eradicated from the hearts of mankind, and the peace of God be known throughout the world.

We admit the sincerity of many Pacifists. We pay respect to them for their moral courage in upholding their opinions, but we maintain that for the preservation of human society, we are duty bound to obey the Church's doctrine and law, as it is laid down in the great standards of our Church, in accordance with the New Testament—that while we must render unto God that which is His, we too must also give, with whatever sorrow, to Caesar the things which are his.

This statement is not intended to be a full and complete outline of the Church's position but rather it is intended as a basis for prayerful thought.

SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL LITERATURE

Your Committee considered a suggestion emanating from the Dutch Reformed Church that the Presbyterian Church of South Africa should associate with them and other Churches in a delegation to be received by the Minister of Interior, Dr. Dönges, in regard to the suppression of immoral literature.

Your Committee was strongly represented at this meeting with the Minister in Pretoria at Union Buildings on Monday, the 15th June, 1953. At the very outset your Committee made it clear that they were present in the position of observers and had no mandate to commit the Church to any stated line of action. The petition submitted by the joint committee of Churches asked the Minister to appoint a representative Statutory Board to have control of literature, imported or indigenous, with powers to prosecute or ban if necessary, pornographic or immoral publications. The decisions of the Statutory Board were subject to the overriding veto of an Appeal Board appointed by the Minister. The Minister received the delegation very sympathetically and promised to bring their statement before the Cabinet if he could be assured of the support of such other bodies as Teachers' Associations and Educational Authorities. Your Committee sympathises very much with those who feel that immoral and obscene reading matter should not be allowed to continue with impunity, in particular the concern shown by thoughtful members of the Afrikaans-speaking public at the rapid increase in this type of "Literature" in the Afrikaans language in recent years. We hesitate to agree that the proper method of controlling this is by establishing a Censorship Board. A censorship of the written word is something that cannot be lightly accepted as the best method of dealing with this problem. A Board of Censors, no matter how well intentioned, sitting in judgment over the South African Printing Press may itself become a greater danger than the abuses it desires to remedy. We feel that the problem could be satisfactorily controlled by tightening up of the existing laws. We fear that once the system of censorship is imposed it could only too readily develop into a threat to the freedom of expression and opinion.

ENQUIRY INTO THE PRESS

The Presbyterian Church of South Africa approves and maintains the principle of the Freedom of the Press in which is embodied the right of the individual, or groups of individuals in a state to publish and to comment on any subject according to conscience. The Church believes that the Freedom of the Press is controlled by certain well-established principles. (1) The law of Copyright. (2) Contempt of Court. (3) The law of libel, while the Civil Law provides restrictions and penalties in the case of Press offences against morality, religion, public justice and public decency. In a Democracy, the right of the individual and groups of individuals, within the State to criticise the acts, intentions and interior administration of the Government and the foreign policy of the Government, is inherent.

The Freedom of the Press is enshrined in the constitution of the democratic countries throughout the world as, for example, the United States of America, the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries,

Switzerland, etc., and the principle is only not accepted by countries which lie under a totalitarian régime or a form of government which is subservient to the policies of the Roman Church.

M. A. HARTSLIEF,

Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the report.
2. The Assembly instructs members of the Church that they prayerfully consider the implications of Pacifism in the light of the historic pronouncements of the Church, and while recognising the sincerity of the supporters of Pacifism, declares that the New Testament permits of the interpretation that the Christian may take part in military activities.
3. The Assembly views with grave concern the increase of immoral publications and instructs all members of the Church to use their influence, private and public, to prevent the sale and spread of such matter.
4. The Assembly declares that the Freedom of the Press, to publish views and opinions that are not offensive to public morals and public decency, must be inviolate.

REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ON ADMISSIONS TO THE MINISTRY

The Committee has dealt with the following cases during the year:—

(i) *Mr. R. J. D. Robertson, B.Sc.*—Mr. Robertson graduated at the University of the Witwatersrand, and is completing his third year in the Divinity Faculty of Edinburgh University.

Subject to an exit certificate being granted to Mr. Robertson, the Committee has agreed that he be admitted to the ministry of the Church.

Mr. Robertson has agreed that he will be under the direction of the Church Extension and Aid Committee for a period of eighteen months, as in the case of students who are qualifying at Rhodes University.

(ii) *Rev. W. M. J. Lund.*—Mr. Lund applied through the Transvaal Presbytery for re-admission to the Presbyterian Church of South Africa. The Presbytery of the Transvaal considered the application and unanimously agreed to forward it with a strong recommendation to the Consultative Committee on Admissions to the Ministry.

The Consultative Committee agreed that Mr. Lund be re-admitted, and that he be under the care of the Presbytery of the Transvaal meantime.

(iii) *Mr. R. M. Cousins.*—Mr. Cousins was formerly a minister of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa, resigning his Charge at Beaconsfield in 1948, and thereafter proceeding overseas, where he has been in secular employment.

After due consideration the Committee agrees that Mr. Cousins be not admitted to the Ministry of this Church.

J. PATERSON WHYTE,

Convener.

Deliverance.

The Assembly receives the Report and approves the action of the Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE
ORDER OF DEACONESSES

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting its short report on the work at Mowbray where our one Deaconess is giving such fine service. At a meeting with Sister Smith we were privileged to hear at first-hand an account of the activities of this good and godly woman.

Very fine work is being done at very small cost to the Church and this work must continue. Sister Smith, who is not young any more, will continue to labour while breath is in the body and she can crawl to visit her faithful flock, but we must be alive to the necessity of having a successor, and here your Committee is worried for there is no one in view who has the qualifications.

If this Order is to continue it might well be that the Church must finance the training of any recruit willing to go overseas just as it helps our Divinity students.

Sister Smith in her Report writes: "In connection with the work of our Mission I attend all services, hold a devotional meeting for the women on alternate afternoons. We have a blessings box and the offerings are sent to missions outside our own; one of our number has undertaken to send out the Tract Society letters to the aged and absent members, also gifts of flowers to the sick.

"I have a class for the older girls in the Sunday School, the average attendance is 70, children from 4 to 19 years of age. A number of cottage meetings have been held during the year, especially in homes where there are aged folks living a long way from the Mission. Funerals, marriages and baptisms are held in the Mission from time to time.

"We have just had our annual sale of work, which realised £70. This is a Red Letter Day at Ayres Street. It entails many extra meetings and organisation. The women for months prepare their wares—konfyts, preserves, cakes and small needlework garments. Above all, the lovely spirit that prevails, especially the excitement when the afternoon's takings is announced, is thrilling.

I thank God for the privilege of being able to carry on this work and pray that He will continue abundantly to bless the work in this part of His Vineyard."

H. McDONALD,

Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report.
2. The Assembly thanks the Deaconess most warmly for her faithful service.
3. The Assembly makes a grant of £50 to the Mowbray Church towards the salary of Sister Smith.

REPORT OF ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE

The Presbyterian Church of South Africa is a constituent member of two larger Christian bodies, the World Presbyterian Alliance and the World Council of Churches. "It is a great thing," says W. N. Clarke in "An Outline of Christian Theology," "to live in a universe." One of the functions of the Ecumenical Committee is to remind us of our larger citizenship in the ecumenical universe, and to keep our Church in touch with these two great families to which it belongs.

Next year, both these bodies mentioned above will be meeting in plenary session and we are cordially invited to send a delegation. The Seventeenth General Council of the Alliance of Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian System will convene at Princeton University, New Jersey, U.S.A., on 27th July, 1954, and will close its deliberations on 5th August. The general theme of the conference will be "The Witness of the Reformed Churches in the World To-day." Ten days later, on 15th August, the World Council of Churches will meet, in its Second Assembly, at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A., and will continue in session until 31st August. The general theme of this conference is "Christ—the Hope of the World."

We, as a Church, are entitled to send two delegates to the first of these conferences and one to the second. It is the considered opinion of the Ecumenical Committee that the Presbyterian Church of South Africa should be represented at both gatherings. We remember with gratitude our indebtedness to our ex-Moderator, Dr. A. Kerr, who was present, in our interests, at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches held at Amsterdam in 1948, and who brought back most illuminating reports of the proceedings and something of the wider vision which he himself had caught.

During the year under review South Africa was favoured by a visit from the Executive Secretary of the World Presbyterian Alliance, Dr. Marcel Pradervand, whose main purpose was to establish contact with constituent Churches of the Alliance and to bring the different Reformed Churches of this country together for fellowship and for united action. A charming personality, Dr. Pradervand endeared himself to all who met him and there is no doubt that his visit has brought about friendlier relations between ourselves and the brethren of the Dutch Reformed Churches. A "Reformed Co-ordination Committee" has been formed in Johannesburg, under whose aegis a united gathering was held, at which the main speaker was that brave apostle of Ecumenicity, the Rev. J. Bruce Gardiner, D.D.

On his way home to America from India, where he had been attending the meeting of the Central Committee of the W.C.C. at Lucknow, Dr. Henry P. van Dusen, one of the leaders of the movement, paid us a flying visit. Like Dr. Pradervand, he brought with him a breath of air from the ecumenical universe outside South Africa. Few who heard him when he spoke at a fraternal in Johannesburg will forget his masterly survey of the multifarious activities of the World Council of Churches, and, in particular, his fascinating description of the splendid rehabilitatory work being done in Europe and elsewhere by the Department of Inter-Church Aid.

The Ecumenical Committee considered carefully the matter of grants to various objects and organisations, and decided to recommend to General Assembly that these be continued as before with two exceptions. In the first place, it was felt that the grant to the Christian Education Movement should be reduced from £25 to £5. The Committee understands that, some years ago, an initial sum

of that amount (£25) was paid over to enable the Movement to get under way. The ship is now afloat and the Committee feels that a grant of £5 should be sufficient. Then, secondly, the Ecumenical Committee is in some doubt as to whether or not the annual grant of £50 to the funds of the Students' Christian Association should be continued. There are rumours that this movement has fallen into narrow fundamentalist hands and is losing its effectiveness in our schools and universities.

PETER G. GORDON,
Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report.
2. The Assembly agrees to contribute the sum of £75 to the Budget of the World Council of Churches.
3. The Assembly makes a grant of £50 to the Department of Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches.
4. The Assembly make a grant of £10 to the Faith and Order Movement.
5. The Assembly resolves to pay the affiliation fee of £10 to the Institute of Race Relations and urges members of the Church to become individual members of the Institute.
6. The Assembly resolves to continue the grant of £25 to the funds of the World Presbyterian Alliance and commends to ministers and officer-bearers "The Presbyterian World," the organ of the Alliance.
7. The Assembly agrees to make a grant of £5 to the funds of the Christian Education Movement of South Africa.
8. The Assembly enjoins all ministers and sessions to observe "Reformation Day" on or about the first Sunday in November.
9. The Assembly makes a grant of £50 to the Students' Christian Association (English-speaking section).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
FOR THE MINISTRY

The report which follows embodies the report of the Assembly's representatives on Livingstone House Committee and also the report of the Tutor appointed by Assembly.

1. RHODES UNIVERSITY

Greatly to the regret of all concerned the Rev. Professor Horton Davies, Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, has resigned his Chair on appointment as Lecturer in Ecclesiastical History at the Colleges of the Baptist and Congregational Churches in Oxford.

When Rhodes, under the leadership of Dr. J. Smeath Thomas, then Master, established the Chair of Divinity and appointed Dr. Davies as Professor, high hopes were entertained by all concerned. It can be said with truth that these hopes have been surpassed and that the delicate and difficult task of soundly establishing an Ecumenical Department of Divinity has been carried through by Dr. Davies in a remarkably short time.

Dr. Davies, a scholar of growing reputation and an able teacher and administrator, has worked in close co-operation with the Churches and has inspired all associated with him, staff and students, with something of his own vision and enthusiasm.

We thank God for his ecumenical zeal and the great service he has rendered. The good wishes of all associated with him are extended to himself and his family.

2. STUDENT ROLL

(a) *Admissions*.—Admission of new students are reported as follows: Messrs. J. D. C. Anderson, Hill Church, Port Elizabeth (from Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia); D. S. Bax, Queenstown Church; T. A. Hay, St. Columba's, Johannesburg, and C. de Wet, St. John's, Bloemfontein.

The above students are in their first year at Rhodes and Mr. J. T. Moelwyn-Hughes, St. Andrew's, Durban, also admitted, will possibly commence his studies at Rhodes in 1954.

In summarising figures below only those who have actually commenced their studies are included amongst "admissions."

(b) *Withdrawals*.—To the regret of the Committee the following have withdrawn as students for the Ministry:

Mr. Norman Bailey and Mr. D. H. Elford.

(c) *Exit Certificate*.—Mr. J. Nicol Binnie, B.A., having completed the B.A. Degree and the other requirements of the Committee, was granted an Exit Certificate and has been licensed, ordained and inducted to a Charge. The Committee's good wishes are extended to him.

(d) *Summary*—

Number of students preparing for the Ministry in 1952	12
Added in 1953	4
Exit Certificate issued	1
Withdrawals	2
Number of students in 1953	13

3. RECRUITMENT

The Committee thanks all who have assisted with recruitment and directs attention to the resolution in the proposed Deliverance appealing for continued efforts to increase the number of our students for the ministry.

4. REPORT ON PROGRESS OF STUDENTS

(i) *Mr. C. W. Cook, B.A. (R.U. and Hons. Cantab.)* has completed his "comprehensives" and Thesis and has been awarded a Doctorate in Theology by Princeton Theological Seminary. He hopes to be in South Africa by September of this year.

The congratulations of the Committee on this considerable achievement have been conveyed to Mr. Cook.

(ii) *Mr. Robert Orr, B.Sc. (Hons. Rand.)* has passed all second-year subjects, with three "firsts," also Speech Training, Sermon Class, and Pastoral Theology (Common Classes) and the Committee's examination in Worship. He is now in his final year of the B.D.—a creditable record.

(iii) *Mr. Brian J. Woods, B.A. (N.U.)* has achieved second-year B.D. and has passed Sermon Class, Homiletics and the Committee's examination in Worship.

(iv) *Mr. Patrick J. L. Montgomery* has proceeded to second-year B.A. (Div. Majors) and has passed the examination in Homiletics and the Committee's examination in Worship.

The last three named students reside at Livingstone House and are taking the course in Church Doctrine provided by the Tutor and also the appropriate Common Ministerial Training at Livingstone House.

(v) *Mr. Douglas L. Crawford, B.Sc. (U.C.T.)* has found it necessary to leave Grahamstown for the sake of Mrs. Crawford's health (which has, happily, benefited from the change) and is now, by special permission of the Committee, pursuing his studies outwith Grahamstown. He has completed the first year of his B.A. (Div. Majors) curriculum, also Homiletics (Common) and the Committee's examination in Worship. He will return to Grahamstown later for a period of special study.

(vi) The following are in the second year of the 5 (or 6) years B.A., B.D. curriculum and are attending the Tutor's preparatory class along with first-year students:

Messrs. Chas. M. Gordon, J. Francois Bill, Michael P. Moore and Ian E. Thomson.

Mr. Ian Thomson gained four first-class passes in his first-year subjects and was awarded a Beit Scholarship by the University—a creditable record.

(vii) The following are in the first year of their studies:

Messrs. J. D. C. Anderson, D. S. Bax, T. A. Hay, and C. de Wet

The conduct and application of our students has been satisfactory.

5. DENOMINATIONAL TRAINING

The Committee thanks all Ministers and Sessions who have given facilities for the practical training of our students. It will be appreciated if those concerned will bear in mind the need for opportunities of practical experience for our students during the July and December vacations. Applications for student supply and/or assistance in pastoral work should be addressed, in good time, to the Tutor and not to individual students.

The Tutor is holding classes in Church Doctrine during this year and these have been attended by our men in their last three years at Rhodes. A preparatory class for our students who are at an earlier stage of their training has also been held.

The Tutor has also borne part in the Common Ministerial Training at Livingstone House and is Chairman of the Livingstone House Sub-Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Livingstone House Committee.

The expenditure proposed by the Committee in connection with Denominational Training remains at the level approved by the General Assembly in 1952, namely,

Tutor, Grahamstown	£100
Trinity Church, Grahamstown ...	£100

6. ASSEMBLY'S STUDENT AID FUND

A careful survey of the needs, known and possible, in 1954 has shown that the sum of £500 is again required for this fund.

That our requirements remain at this level, whilst maintaining a reasonable student influx, is due to the assistance given to some of our men preparing for the ministry by the Robert Niven Trust for which we are indeed grateful.

7. ORDER OF LAY PREACHERS—EXAMINERS (Assembly Remit: P.G.A., 1952, page 123, cl. 9)

In accordance with Assembly's instruction the Committee appointed Rev. H. H. Munro, M.A., 1, Alfred Terrace, Port Elizabeth, as first examiner and Rev. J. McDowall, M.A., 22, Lawrance Street, Grahamstown, as second examiner.

It is noted that many of the books in the reading list for Lay Preachers in training (issued by the Life and Work Committee of Assembly) are out of print or unobtainable and the suggestion is made that it would be advantageous if this list could be revised by the Committee concerned in consultation with the Book Room.

8. LIVINGSTONE HOUSE

The following is largely based on the annual report of the Warden of Livingstone House. Opportunity is here taken to express the Committee's appreciation of the consistently cordial co-operation of the Warden, who has shown a personal interest in every student of the co-operating Churches.

(a) *Statistics*.—The number of ministerial students in residence at Livingstone House or at Jan Smuts Douse is as follows:—

Congregational, 1; Methodist, 16 accredited and 4 others; Presbyterian, 12.

(b) *Academic Progress*.—D. R. Briggs, B.A. graduated B.D. in the first class and is the first student of Livingstone House to gain the degree.

D. G. L. Cragg graduated B.A. with Distinction in Systematic Theology and History and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. He is proceeding to Christ Church, Oxford.

J. Hardwick, B. Graaff and N. Binnie graduated with B.A. Degree.

Reference is made in the report to I. E. Thomson's success recorded elsewhere in this report to Assembly. He is the third ministerial student to gain the Beit Scholarship in the six years since the Department was established.

Robert Orr passed all his second-year B.D. subjects gaining three first-class passes.

(c) *Various Activities*.—Students have conducted services in local churches and further afield and, during vacations, have gained valuable experience in preaching and pastoral work, under denominational auspices.

Methodist students have been identified with Wesley Guild and some have acted as Group Leaders at Youth Camps held at chairman of the committee which planned the mission to the young people in Port Elizabeth.

Presbyterian students have been prominent in the activities of Trinity Church Youth Group which held a successful camp at Stone's Hill. Of special interest was the mission conducted in the Port Elizabeth churches from 26th April to 3rd May. Nine students under the leadership of Robert Orr took part and were assisted by other members of the Youth Group.

Students have been active in the work of the S.C.A. Robert Orr was appointed Chairman of the Rhodes Branch and was also chairman of the committee which planned the mission to the University in April.

(d) *Health and Sport*.—The health of the students has been generally good and men have taken part in various University sports. Representative honours have been gained.

(e) *Common Ministerial Training*:

- (i) *Speech Training*.—A specialist has conducted classes in this subject attended by all ministerial students at a certain stage. Keen interest and improvement in speech is reported.
- (ii) *Sermon Classes*.—During the first three terms weekly sermon classes have been held and second- and third-year men have conducted services and preached in the chapel. In these classes the Warden has been assisted by Dr. Davies and Rev. J. McDowall as Denominational Tutors.
- (iii) *Pastoral Theology and Homiletics*.—Classes in these subjects have been held and Dr. Davies has delivered a series of lectures on special subjects, the last of the series being attended by men from St. Paul's (Anglican) Theological College, as well as our own students.
- (iv) *Contents of the English Bible*.—A three years' syllabus of readings, covering most of the books of the Bible, has been arranged by the Tutors. Examinations will be held yearly to test students' knowledge of the content of Holy Scripture.
- (v) *Chapel Prayers*.—Each evening Chapel Prayers are held and a beginning has been made with the use of Afrikaans on these occasions. V. W. Harris and C. de Wet have conducted prayers in Afrikaans. This procedure has been facilitated by the recent gift of Afrikaans hymn books by the Methodist Church.
- (vi) *Chapel Furniture*.—The funds already provided are being used to furnish the Chapel, and Messrs. Thesen of Knysna are constructing a Communion Table, Lectern and pews.
- (vii) *Library*.—The library is being catalogued and the books classified to the Dewey system.
- (viii) *Repairs*.—It is worthy of note that repairs to the House, costing over £250, have been carried out by Rhodes University Council. These repairs were necessitated by water leakages and have proved satisfactory. It may be observed that all maintenance of the building is borne by Rhodes and the advantageous nature of the agreement whereby the Churches are entitled to perpetuity of occupation without such financial responsibility is manifest.

At the conclusion of the Warden's Report deep and sincere regret at the departure of Professor Davies is expressed and warm acknowledgement is made of the signal service he has rendered to the Churches. It should be added that the Livingstone House Committee, the Denominational Committees and our own Presbyterian Church have conveyed to Dr. Davies expressions of gratitude.

9. LIVINGSTONE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Proposed Amendment of the Constitution.—At the meeting of the above Committee held on 17th June, 1953 (after the proposed Deliberance attached to this report had been approved by Assembly's Committee) two amendments to the Constitution of the Livingstone

House Committee were unanimously approved and it was agreed that they should be sent to the Assemblies of the co-operating Churches.

The Constitution referred to will be found in the 1948 Blue Book, page 110, and the amendments are given in the proposed Deliverance attached to this report (Nos. 7(a) and 7(b)).

The first amendment (7(a) in the Deliverance) refers to Clause 2 ("Membership of the Committee") in the Constitution. The amendment arises from the practical difficulty of finding, within the membership of the Committee, a qualified Treasurer and has, therefore, a certain urgency. The amendment has the effect of making any Treasurer appointed by the Committee a member, *ex officio*, of the Committee. For convenience the clause was made to cover the office of Secretary also, in case of need.

The second amendment (Clause 7(b) below) repairs an obvious drafting omission and provides that no change in the Constitution may be made without the recommendation of the Committee and the approval of the highest courts of the co-operating Churches.

10. LIVINGSTONE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Finance—Proposed Expenditure.—The Livingstone House Committee (representative of all three of the co-operating Churches) has approved certain necessary expenditure on equipment in 1954 (£40), reorganisation of the Library (£30 non-recurring) and a sum for the proposed annual purchase of books for the Library at Livingstone House. The volumes to be purchased for this Library will largely supplement those in the Rhodes Library and will be mainly of homiletical, liturgical, pastoral or denominational interest. They will, in short, relate largely to the common and denominational training of all our students.

The budget for 1954 submitted by the Committee to the three Churches therefore shows an overall increase of £100 over last year's figures.

Estimates of Livingstone House Committee for 1954

Warden—Salary and allowances	...	...	£189
Equipment for Livingstone House	...	...	£40
Administration	...	...	£80
Library—Reorganisation (non-recurring)	...	...	£30
Library—Annual purchases of books	...	...	£30
			£369

It is noted that the salary and administration figures are unchanged.

The Presbyterian share of the above budget is £131 15s. 7d. and Assembly's Committee support the Livingstone House Committee in submitting this proposed expenditure to Assembly.

11. TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURE, 1954

(a) As noted above, your Committee support the Estimates of the Livingstone House Committee (Section 10 in this report).

(b) *Denominational Training:* Our needs remain at the level approved by the 1952 meeting of General Assembly.

(c) *Assembly's Student Aid Fund for our own students:* Again the amount remains as in 1952.

Summary of the Committee's Financial Recommendations

Livingstone House Committee (1954)	...	£131 15 7
Assembly's Tutor	... ..	£100 0 0
Trinity Church, Grahamstown	... ..	£100 0 0
		£331 15 7
Assembly's Student Aid Fund (Budget)	...	£500 0 0
		£831 15 7
Total	...	£831 15 7

J. McDOWALL,
Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report.

2. The Assembly thankfully records that the following have offered themselves and have been admitted as Theological Students and commends them to the keeping of Almighty God:

J. D. C. Anderson, D. S. Bax, T. A. Hay, C. de Wet.

3. The Assembly authorises the payment of the sum of £131 15s. 7d. to the Livingstone House Committee in respect of the Church's share of the annual expenditure of that Committee in 1954, payment of the amount named to be made as and when requested by the Livingstone House Committee.

4. The Assembly authorises the following payments in connection with denominational training at Grahamstown:

Assembly's Tutor, Grahamstown, £100; Trinity Church, Grahamstown, £100.

5. The Assembly instructs that the sum of £500 for the Student Aid Fund be included in the All Schemes Budget and authorises the payment of assistance to accredited Theological Students, from the amount standing to the credit of the fund, to the amount and in the instalments recommended in each case by the Committee on Education for the Ministry.

6. The Assembly thanks all who have assisted with recruitment of students for the Ministry, requests continued efforts in this direction and recommends that all Ministers should bring before congregations, as early in the year as may be convenient, the claims of the Ministry as a calling.

7. The Assembly approves the following amendments to the Constitution of the Livingstone House Committee submitted by that Committee to the Assemblies of the co-operating Churches:

(a) In Clause 2 of the Constitution (defining "Membership of the (Livingstone House) Committee")—

Add, after the words "on the recommendation of the Livingstone House Committee,"

"together with the Secretary and Treasurer if these are not already members of the Committee."

(b) *Add* a new clause as follows, to be numbered 12, the numbering of the subsequent clauses to be adjusted accordingly:

"12. REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Any alteration in or addition to this Constitution shall require the recommendation of the Livingstone House Committee and the approval of the highest courts of all the co-operating Churches."

EXECUTIVE COMMISSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, on Tuesday, 14th April, 1953, at 2.15 p.m., at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, as commissioned by General Assembly.

In the absence of the Moderator, Mr. E. Beardmore presided. The proceedings were opened with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Mr. E. Beardmore, Revs. D. McRae, L. B. Thornton, H. H. Munro, E. H. Thomas, D. S. Robertson, J. Paterson Whyte, A. R. S. Poho, Messrs. D. D. Cameron and H. Weir.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Moderator, Right Rev. P. B. Hawkrigde, Dr. A. Kerr and Mr. A. A. Balsillie.

RHODESIA AND TRANSVAAL COMMISSIONERS

It was agreed that the action of the Presbytery of Rhodesia and the Presbytery of the Transvaal in appointing Revs. L. B. Thornton and E. Horace Thomas respectively to represent Rev. R. H. R. Liddell and Rev. J. Kennedy Grant be confirmed.

HOURS OF BUSINESS

It was agreed that the Commission sit at the following times:—
9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.; 2.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.; 7.45 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. Tea Intervals—10.45 to 11 a.m.; 3.45 to 4 p.m.

BUSINESS

As resolved by General Assembly the following items of business were placed on the Agenda:—

- (a) Regulations governing the Order of Ordained Evangelists.
- (b) Revision of the Book of Order.
- (c) Report on the Dutch Reformed Church Conference at Uitenhage.

The Clerk of Assembly reported that the following items had been referred to the Commission for consideration:—

- (1) Letter from the African Missions' Committee anent the licensing of an African Student by the Transvaal Presbytery.
- (2) Overture from Natal Presbytery re Vryheid Church.
- (3) Overture from Natal Presbytery anent handing over Registers to Interim-Moderators.
- (4) Overture from Natal Presbytery anent authorising any Elder elected as Moderator, to dispense the Sacraments.
- (5) Letter from the Clerk of the O.R. Presbytery (European) anent the dispensation of the Sacraments by Mr. Harold Weir.

These items were considered from the point of view of urgency, and it was agreed:

- (1) That the Commission finds that there is a *prima facie* case for the investigation of the complaint of the African Missions' Committee anent the licensing of an African Student by the Transvaal Presbytery; that the Transvaal Presbytery be advised accordingly, and that the complaint be dealt with at the forthcoming General Assembly.
- (2) That the Commission consider the Overture of the Natal Presbytery anent Vryheid Church.
- (3) That this Overture be referred to the General Assembly.
- (4) That this Overture be referred to the General Assembly.
- (5) That in the matter of the dispensation of the Sacraments by Mr. H. Weir, the Commission pass from the subject.

ORDER OF ORDAINED EVANGELISTS

The Commission thereupon proceeded to consider the proposed regulations governing the Order of Ordained Evangelists,

The Clerk of Assembly intimated that the Presbyteries of Natal and Transvaal had not approved the regulations.

The Presbyteries of Cape Town, Orange River and Rhodesia had forwarded to the Clerk lists of alterations to the proposed regulations.

Further discussion was deferred, pending additional information.

D.R.C. CONFERENCE—UITENHAGE

The report of Revs. J. Rodger and G. B. Molefe, on the Dutch Reformed Church Conference at Uitenhage was read.

It was agreed that the report be received, and that Revs. J. Rodger and G. B. Molefe be thanked.

REVISION OF BOOK OF ORDER

Thereafter the Commission proceeded to consider the revision of the Book of Order.

It was agreed that a note be inserted in the preface acknowledging the sources used in the revision of the book. It was further agreed that the Moderator, Right Rev. P. B. Hawkrigde, be requested to express in the preface, the Church's appreciation of the work of Mr. E. Beardmore, Q.C., in connection with the revision of the book.

The Commission proceeded to consider the first chapter in the draft copy of the revised book.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place the following day at 9.15 a.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SECOND SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 9.15 a.m., on Wednesday, 15th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly resumed consideration of the revision of the Book of Order, Rev. D. McRae leading in prayer.

Apropos of paragraphs dealing with Church Courts, it was agreed that the Commission recommend to the General Assembly that regulations re the keeping of Minutes of the various Courts of the Church be drawn up.

In connection with paragraph 24, it was agreed that this Commission is of the opinion that leave to Presbyteries to meet during Assembly, should not be given without due notice having been given to members of Presbytery.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet again at the same place at 2.15 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

THIRD SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 2.15 p.m., on Wednesday, 15th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly resumed consideration of the revision of the Book of Order, Rev. J. Paterson Whyte leading in prayer.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 7.45 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FOURTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 7.45 p.m., on Wednesday, 15th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. H. H. Munro leading in prayer.

Discussion was resumed on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place the following day at 9.15 a.m., the Benediction being pronounced.

FIFTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 9.15 a.m., on Thursday, 16th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. A. R. S. Poho leading in prayer.

With reference to paragraph 6 ff. in the revised Book of Order, the Commission recommend that the General Assembly pass a resolution requesting congregations to forward copies of Trust Deeds and Constitutions to the Central Church Offices.

Further, it was agreed to recommend that suitable accommodation for Trust Deeds, etc., and the archives of the Church, should be secured; and that Presbyteries and congregations should, in future, be instructed to deposit Trust Deeds and Constitutions, Title Deeds, and Securieties, with the Clerk of Assembly.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 2.15 p.m., the Benediction being pronounced.

SIXTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 2.15 p.m., on Thursday, 16th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. D. S. Robertson leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

It was agreed to recommend to the General Assembly's Life and Work Committee that it consider a suitable scale of fees for pulpit supply.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 7.45 p.m., the Moderator adjourned to meet in the same place at 7.45 p.m., the Benediction being pronounced.

SEVENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 7.45 p.m., on Thursday, 16th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. H. H. Munro leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 9.15 a.m. on Friday, 17th April, 1953, the Benediction being pronounced.

EIGHTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 9.15 a.m., on Friday, 17th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Mr. D. D. Cameron leading in prayer.

An apology was received from Rev. A. R. S. Poho.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 2.15 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

NINTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 2.15 p.m., on Friday, 17th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. J. Paterson Whyte leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 7.45 p.m., the Benediction being pronounced.

TENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 7.45 p.m., on Friday, 17th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. McRae leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 9.15 a.m. on Saturday, 18th April, 1953 the Benediction being pronounced.

ELEVENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 9.15 a.m., on Saturday, 18th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Mr. H. Weir leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 2.15 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

TWELTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices at 2.15 p.m., on Saturday, 18th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. L. B. Thornton leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place on Monday, 20th April, 1953, at 9.15 a.m., the Benediction being pronounced.

THIRTEENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 9.15 a.m., on Monday, 20th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of the General Assembly met, Rev. A. R. S. Poho leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

It was agreed that the chapter dealing with the Synod be deleted.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 2.15 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FOURTEENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 2.15 p.m., on Monday, 20th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of General Assembly met, Rev. D. S. Robertson leading in prayer.

The Commission resumed discussion on the revision of the Book of Order.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 7.45 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FIFTEENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 7.45 p.m., on Monday, 20th April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of General Assembly met, Rev. D. McRae leading in prayer.

It was agreed that the final revision of the chapter on Rules of Procedure and Discipline be left in the hands of the Moderator.

The following Overtures from the Presbyteries of Natal and the Transvaal respectively, were considered:—

OVERTURE

“In St. Andrew’s Church, Durban, on Tuesday, 10th February, 1953, at 2.15 p.m., the Presbytery of Natal met and was constituted with prayer.

inter alia . . .

Mr. Beardmore moved the adoption of the Overture of which due notice had been given, viz.—

“That the Presbytery of Natal, as a matter of urgency, overtures the Executive Commission of Assembly, to reject the proposed emendation in paragraph 274(b) of the revised Book of Order, referring to the laying on of hands at the Ordination of a Ministers by Ministers only, and to retain the existing practice in our Church, viz. the laying on of hands “by the Presbytery.”

Rev. H. F. Yule seconded.

On being put to the vote, the resolution was carried and the Rev. D. McRae was appointed to speak in support of the Overture before the Executive Commission of Assembly.

Certified a true extract.”

OVERTURE

At a meeting of the Transvaal Presbytery on 20th January, 1953, Mr. Rea gave notice of the following motion:—

“The Presbytery of the Transvaal humbly overtures the Venerable the General Assembly to amend paragraph 274(b) of the Revised Book of Order to read:

Satisfactory answers having been received, the Ordinand, having signed the Formula, shall kneel, and the Moderator by solemn prayer and the laying on of hands, in which the *members* present join, ordains him to the office of the Holy Ministry.”

At Presbytery on 17th February, 1953, Mr. Rea spoke to the motion in his name and moved:

“that the motion as it appears in page 3 of Minutes of 20th January, 1953, be forwarded to the Venerable the General Assembly.”

Mr. Stewart seconded. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried by 16 votes to 11.

Mr. Copeland and Mr. Hawthorn asked that their dissent be entered in the Minute.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place the following day at 9.15 a.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SIXTEENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 9.15 a.m., on Tuesday, 21st April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission met, Rev. J. Paterson Whyte leading in prayer. Discussion was resumed on the Overtures of the Natal and the Transvaal Presbyteries.

After full discussion it was agreed that the crave of the Overtures be not granted, and that paragraph 274 of the revised Book of Order remain as set out in the draft, but that it be a recommendation of this Commission to the Life and Work Committee of the General Assembly, that a statement on ordination and the status of the ministry be prepared by that committee in consultation with such persons as are theologically qualified.

Discussion on certain paragraphs of the chapter in the revised Book of Order on the Executive Commission was resumed. It was agreed to recommend that the General Assembly receive the final draft of the revised Book of Order, as corrected and amended in the light of returns to remits by Presbyteries, and that the Book of Order thus amended and corrected be promulgated as from a date to be fixed by the General Assembly.

It was agreed that after the initial proofing, corrected galley proofs be sent to each member of the Commission, individual members of the Commission to be responsible for different sections of the book.

It was agreed that cards for indexing be purchased, and Rev. H. H. Munro kindly undertook to make enquiries as to the possibility of indexing being undertaken at Port Elizabeth.

The Commission proceeded to consider the proposed rules governing the Order of Ordained Evangelists.

Having received the returns of Presbyteries on the remit on regulations anent Ordained Evangelists, and taking note that a majority of Presbyteries have not disapproved, the Commission resolves that the regulations as set out in Blue Book, 1952, pp. 94-96 be adopted, subject to the right to amend, provided that such amendments do not enter into the substance of the regulations.

Rev. E. H. Thomas and Mr. H. Weir were granted leave from the Commission.

The hour for adjournment having arrived, the Commission adjourned to meet in the same place at 2.15 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

At Cape Town, and within the Church Offices, at 2.15 p.m., on Tuesday, 21st April, 1953, at which time and place the Executive Commission of General Assembly resumed, Mr. E. Beardmore, Moderator, leading in prayer.

The following Overture from the Presbytery of Natal was considered:—

OVERTURE

“In St. Andrew’s Church, Durban, on Tuesday, 10th February, 1953, at 2.15 p.m., the Presbytery of Natal met and was constituted with prayer.
inter alia . . .

Mr. E. Beardmore moved the adoption of the Overture of which due notice had been given, viz.—

“That the Presbytery of Natal, as a matter of urgency, overtures the Executive Commission of Assembly to reduce the pastoral Charge at Vryheid to that of a Preaching Station under the care of the Presbytery of Natal.”

Rev. K. Edgar seconded.

On being put to the vote, the resolution was carried and the Rev. D. McRae was appointed to speak in support of the Overture before the Executive Commission of Assembly.

Certified a true extract.”

Rev. D. McRae as commissioned by the Presbytery of Natal, spoke to the Overture.

After a full discussion, it was finally agreed that in the judgment of the Executive Commission, the crave of the Overture should not be granted, as it is not right to demote a Charge while it is filled by a Minister. The Commission would suggest to the General Assembly that the rule with regard to the minimum stipend and the transport allowance might be reviewed with a view to meeting the position of congregations which cannot comply with the requirements without an unduly large grant-in-aid.

Thereafter the Executive Commission resumed discussion on the proposed regulations governing the Order of Ordained Evangelists. Suggested alterations sent down by Presbyteries were considered, and the rules were amended as follows:

Clause 9. For “70” read “68”.

Clause 10. For “clergy” read “ministry”.

Clause 12. For “minimum rate of £360 p.a.” read “minimum rate of £420 p.a.” or as may be determined from time to time by the General Assembly.

This concluded the business of the Executive Commission. Rev. H. H. Munro expressed to Mr. E. Beardmore, on behalf of the Commission, the deep appreciation of the members, not only for Mr. Beardmore’s Chairmanship of the Commission, but for his wise guidance on so many of the points at issue and under discussion during debates.

Mr. Beardmore replied expressing his grateful thanks to all members of the Commission for their splendid co-operation in the task of the revision of the Book of Order.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

E. BEARDMORE,

Moderator.

J. PATERSON WHYTE,

Clerk.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

It is with deep regret that the Committee records the death of Mr. A. A. Balsillie, M.P.C. Mr. Balsillie has been a member of Committee for many years, and at the last General Assembly was appointed Convener. During his years of service with the Committee he has shown a constant and unfailing interest in the affairs of the Church.

Dr. A. B. McDonald resigned membership of the Committee during the year, and his resignation—on the grounds of ill health—was reluctantly accepted. In view of this, and the transfer of Mr. A. M. White to Pretoria, and the vacancy on the Committee created by the death of Sir Fraser Russell last year, the following persons were co-opted: Messrs. A. C. Craig, L. F. Dallas and A. C. Matheson, all of whom kindly consented to serve.

BUDGET

The Budget, as approved by Assembly, aimed at a total of £13,340 and realised £11,995, being 89.9 per cent of the total. Last year £11,486 was raised which represented 87 per cent of the total Budget. The continued increase in both the Budget total and the percentage achieved is gratifying. The distribution of the amount received for 1952/53 is as follows:—

	<i>Asked For.</i>	<i>Final Allocation.</i>		
	£	£	s.	d.
Church Extension and Aid	2,000	1,697	15	9
Children's Home, Queenstown	2,500	2,744	13	7
Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund ...	800	679	2	3
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund	800	679	2	3
Widows' Supplementary Fund	250	212	4	5
Ministers' Supplementary Fund	250	212	4	5
African Missions	5,500	4,668	18	2
S.A. Temperance Alliance	100	84	17	9
Deaconess Fund	50	42	8	11
Students' Aid Fund	500	424	8	10
Youth Department	100	84	17	9
Grants to external objects	290	295	0	0
King Williams' Town Hostel	200	169	15	6
	£13,340	£11,995	9	7

CHURCH EXTENSION AND AID

This Committee ended the year with an excess of expenditure over revenue of £51 7s. 4d. During the year some substantial grants were, however, made for Church extension work, and a building grant of £1,000 was paid to the O.F.S. Goldfields congregation.

At the request of this Committee, and with the sanction of the Finance Committee, a further £1,000 of the balance of the Church Extension and Aid Revenue Account has been transferred to the Church Extension Loans Fund.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland again contributed to this work, and the Finance Committee is grateful for its interest and support.

At 30th June, 1953, the credit balance of the Church Extension and Aid Revenue account was £1,720 14s. 3d.

CHILDREN'S HOME

Although only £2,500 was included in the Budget for the Children's Home, a total of £2,774 13s. 7d. was received in earmarked contributions. The net result for the year was a very small loss of £8 9s. 4d., which shows an improvement on previous years when the losses have been substantial. The expenses of running the Home showed an increase over the previous year, but increased revenue from the Budget and other sources has more than offset this position. The loss for the previous year was £289.

The Committee are grateful to the Robert Niven Trust for a generous donation of £250, and wish to acknowledge the following legacies and donations which have been placed to the Capital Fund.

Estate late Wm. Palmer	...	...	...	£100
Estate late Annie Stuart	...	...	...	£100
Estate late Mrs. J. D. Morton	...	...	...	£500
Estate late W. Tait	...	...	...	£660
Estate late Mrs. I. A. M. Dallas	...	...	...	£50
Estate late Andrew Patterson	...	...	...	£50
Donation—A. B. McDonald Trust	...	...	...	£100
Donation—Anonymous	...	...	...	£250

The Committee are concerned about the future financing of the Home in view of the fact that over £12,000 of its interest-earning investments have had to be realised to pay for the cost of the new Russell Cottage and fittings which has just been completed. For next year interest earnings will be down by at least £600, and with the new Hostel in operation expenses will inevitably show an increase.

At the request of the Moderator and the Convener of the Finance Committee, the General Secretary paid a special visit to the Home to enquire into administrative and financial matters. A report of this visit was duly submitted to the Finance Committee, and arising from this the Committee feels that it is a matter of urgency that steps be taken by the Assembly to consider the administration of the Home in all its aspects.

AFRICAN MISSIONS

As will be seen from the accounts this Committee has a surplus for the year of £652 0s. 7d., which is carried forward and will be available in the current year. In addition an amount of £1,211 18s. 9d. was paid out in building and other grants from the surplus of revenue for the 1951/52 year.

Thanks are again due to the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for a donation of £50, the Robert Niven Trust for £250, and the David Hunter Trust for £214.

The separate account of the Mission work in Rhodesia shows a deficiency of £213 16s. 4d. The Committee is concerned at the fact that proper records of expenditure have not been kept by the superintendent in charge of the Gloag Ranch Mission. It will be noted that the farm account shows an amount of £287 13s. 5d. for sundries for which no satisfactory details have been obtained. The auditors who acted in previous years could get no satisfaction, and refused to act, and but for the help of Mr. H. T. Leeds, who has put in a great deal of work on the Mission accounts, it would have been impossible to submit any figures to General Assembly. The Committee expresses its appreciation of the work done by Mr. Leeds.

It will be noted from the Balance Sheet that an amount of £359 1s. 11d. has been charged against Missions Capital in respect of amounts which were credited in the Ntabasinduna and General Missions Revenue and Expenditure Accounts for rents received on the lease of the Bulawayo Location Church.

Since 1945 these rents have been shown as Revenue of the Ntabasinduna and General Missions Revenue and Expenditure Account, and it would appear that this was done in error, as these amounts have now been paid over to the Bulawayo Location Church.

GENERAL EXPENSES

The General Expenses Account shows a small surplus of £33 1s. 3d. for the year. The revenue from assessments on congregations was £4,440, which is an increase on the figure of £3,985 for the previous year. Expenses generally show an increase and the cost of the 1952 Assembly and Blue Book was approximately £230 more than in the previous year. This account has also had to bear the loss on the "Leader" which amounted to £398 6s. 7d. for the year.

It is recommended that the assessment for General Expenses be maintained at 5 per cent on the ordinary income of congregations.

The Committee notes that there is a proposal from the Life and Work Committee asking for a guarantee fund of £400 to be set aside for the expenses of a special missionary to visit the Union in January, 1954. To meet this expense an amount of £500 has been included for General Expenses Account in the Budget for 1954.

STUDENTS' AID

The Budget provision of £500 resulted in an allocation of £424 8s. 10d. for the year. Grants to students totalling £525 were paid out, and the fund ended the year with a balance of £495. The estimate for 1953/54 of the Committee on the Education for the Ministry included a figure of £500 for Students' Aid, and this amount has been included in the Budget.

MINISTERS' SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

The Assembly instruction that the minimum pension to all annuitants be £210 with the help of the Supplementary Fund has been carried out. After careful consideration the Committee made an *ex gratia* payment of £36 to each annuitant of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

This fund ended the year with a credit balance of £260, and in order to meet requirements for the 1953/54 year an amount of £500 has been included in the Budget.

WIDOWS' SUPPLEMENTARY FUND

An annuity of £120 p.a. was paid to each widow from the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the Church, and in addition an *ex gratia* payment of £20 was paid from this fund, with smaller amounts to other persons receiving aid from the Supplementary Fund. The fund ended the year with a balance of £487, and to meet the requirements for the 1953/54 year an amount of £500 has been included in the Budget.

"LEADER"

The loss on the Presbyterian "Leader" for the year was £398 6s. 7d. as compared with a loss of £402 for the 1951/52 year. The loss for the year has been charged to the General Expenses Account.

BOOK ROOM

The Book Room has had a satisfactory year, and has earned a profit of £193, which has again been transferred to the Book Room

Reserve Account. As has been noted in another report, the Book Room has been transferred from Balfour House to the Johannesburg Building Society building.

BOYS' HOSTEL

The Boys' Hostel at King William's Town shows a profit of £72 14s. 11d. for the year. The amount of £169 15s. 6d. accrues to the Hostel from the 1952/53 Budget, and an amount of £200 has been included in the proposed Budget for 1953/54.

GRANTS TO EXTERNAL OBJECTS.

The following grants to external objects authorised by Assembly were paid out during the year:—

Christian Council of S.A.	£50
S.A. Institute of Race Relations	£10
Students' Christian Association	£50
Christian Education Movement	£25
Faith and Order Movement	£10
World Presbyterian Alliance	£25
Inter-Church Aid	£50
World Council of Churches	£75

BUDGET FOR 1953/54

The Budget recommended by the Finance Committee for the year 1953/54 is as follows:—

Church Extension and Aid	£2,000
Children's Home, Queenstown	3,000
Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund	700
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund	700
Widows' Supplementary Fund	500
Ministers' Supplementary Fund	500
African Missions	5,600
S.A. Temperance Alliance	100
Deaconess Fund	50
Students' Aid Fund	500
Youth Department	200
King William's Town Hostel	200
Grants to external objects	500
General Expenses Account re Missioner	500
	£15,050

Grateful thanks are extended for the following legacies and donations which have not already been acknowledged in this report.

Estate late S. D. Northcote	£100
Estate late Mrs. J. D. Morton	£500

PROPERTY

In accordance with paragraph 263 (e) of the Book of Order, the Committee have to report that it has been consulted in respect of the following transactions relative to property:—

- King William's Town Hostel—Loan of 3,000 approved and Bond passed.
- Indwe Manse.—Sold for £1,200.
- Retreat Mission School—Loan of £1,000 approved and Bond passed.
- Bloemfontein.—Purchase of Ground.
- Welkom.—Purchase of Ground.
- St. Andrew's Walmer.—Loan of £1,000 approved.

THANKS.

The Committee expresses its gratitude to the Women's Association for their active interest in raising funds for the schemes of the Church, and to all who have so generously supported the work of the Church during the year.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND

During the year annuitants received an annuity of £130 p.a. with a payment for extra years of service of over 20 at the rate of £10 per annum. Where annuitants received less than £210 on the scale the Supplementary Fund was called on to make up the shortfall. A total of £270 was required from the Supplementary Fund for this purpose.

The capital of the Fund at the beginning of the year was £48,351, and at the year-end it showed an increase to £50,604. The amount available for distribution in the 1953/54 year is £4,185 8s. 2d. which is sufficient to cover payments on the present scale, and the Committee therefore recommends that the payment for extra years of service be fixed again at £10.

The Funds benefited from a legacy of £50 from the Estate of the late Mrs. I. A. M. Dallas, and received donations of £750 from the Robert Niven Trust and £214 from the David Hunter Trust.

A report by the Special Committee set up by General Assembly to enquire into the rules governing this Fund, and other matters, will be submitted to the General Assembly.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND

The number of annuitants at 1st July, 1952, was 24. During the year one annuitant died, leaving 23 annuitants at 30th June, 1953.

The capital of the Fund is now £49,165, an increase during the year of £2,065. A sum of £800 from the Robert Niven Trust and £214 from the David Hunter Trust was gratefully received.

Each annuitant was paid at the rate of £120 p.a. and an *ex gratia* payment of £20 was made to members from the Widows' Supplementary Fund.

As in the case of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, a report by the Special Committee set up by Assembly, will be submitted to General Assembly, in which recommendations will be made in so far as they affect a change in the rules of this Fund.

J. D. MILNE,

Deputy Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report and adopts the Church Accounts.

2. The Assembly fixes the Assessment for General Expenses at 5 per cent of the ordinary income of congregations for the year ending 31st December, 1952.
3. The Assembly approves the Committee's proposed Budget for 1953/54 as set out in the body of the report.
 4. (a) The Assembly requires Presbyteries to continue their enquiries into the failure of congregations within their bounds to contribute their quota.
 - (b) The Assembly instructs the Finance Committee that its Minutes be sent to Clerks of Presbyteries for the information of Presbyteries.
 - (c) The Assembly requires congregations to appoint one of their members as a Budget Appeal agent.
5. The Assembly thanks the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Church of Scotland for continued generous help.
6. The Assembly appoints an *ad hoc* Committee to act in conjunction with the Children's Home Committee to consider the administration of the Children's Home, and to report to the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly before 1st March, 1954.
7. The Assembly authorises the Finance Committee to ensure for each retired Minister a minimum pension of £210 p.a. with the aid of the Ministers' Supplementary Fund.
8. That in terms of paragraph 8 (b) of the Regulations of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, the Assembly decrees that the maximum additional sum for each year's service in excess of 20 years shall be £10 p.a.
9. The Assembly fixes the annuity payable to each widow at the rate of £120 p.a.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

ADMINISTRATION

The routine work of administration has been carried out during the year with every effort at expedition and efficiency. In January, after consultation with the Finance Committee, the Church Offices were moved from Balfour House, St. George's Street, to the Johannesburg Building Society building, in the same street.

While the floor space is not much greater than in Balfour House, the position of the Johannesburg Building Society building is much more convenient, being right in the heart of the city, and the offices are more up-to-date.

EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

The Executive Commission of General Assembly met in the Church Offices during April, the preparation for this being undertaken by the office staff. Accommodation in the General Secretary's office was a little cramped, but the inconvenience of this was probably compensated by the immediate availability of all information required from files, etc., and the services of the office typist.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meetings of the Finance Committee have been held regularly in the Board Room of the Johannesburg Building Society, and all secretarial work and business arising out of the meetings has been carried out by the General Secretary.

CHURCH NEWS BROADCAST

Every effort has been made to keep up this service week by week, but the same difficulty as last year has been met with, viz., a lack of news items from Presbyteries. It would be helpful if Presbyteries could appoint persons who would undertake to forward suitable news items regularly.

VISITATION

At the request of the Moderator, and the Convener of the Finance Committee, I made a special visit to Queenstown to visit the Children's Home, prior to the taking over of the superintendency by Mr. H. Weir. I was able to make a thorough investigation into the administration of the Home, and all financial implications, a report of which was duly submitted to the Finance Committee for its information.

As enjoined by the General Assembly, I visited the Presbytery of King William's Town at the end of June and beginning of July. Through the kind co-operation of the Presbytery, I was able to meet officials of each congregation, with whom I discussed matters of finance, etc., at the same time giving some account of how General Assembly monies are expended.

I was also able to visit institutions within the bounds, and to meet standing committees of General Assembly. I should like to record my deep appreciation of the kindness with which I was received everywhere.

THANKS

I am again indebted to all who have co-operated to make for the smooth and efficient running of the Office; to the staff for much hard work, to the Accountant, Mr. Welsh, for his supervision of financial affairs, to Mr. J. D. Milne, for help in legal matters, to Clerks of Presbyteries, and Conveners of Assembly Committees for prompt replies to all requests for information.

J. PATERSON WHYTE,

General Secretary.

Deliverance.

The Assembly receives the Report.

HOSTEL'S REPORT

We welcome our minister, the Rev. J. Keith Craig and Mrs. Craig to King William's Town and trust that their stay with us will be happy and profitable. Mr. Craig has been co-opted a member of this Committee.

We also welcome the new headmaster of Dale College. Mr. R. W. Searle, B.A., whose willingness to help and ready co-operation is much appreciated by the Committee. Mr. Searle is a member of the Session of St. Andrew's.

During the year two boys joined the church; this number is small owing to the fact that we have few seniors this year.

The number of boys in residence come from the following provinces: Cape, 38; O.F.S., 3; Natal, 1; Transvaal, 11; N. Rhodesia, 7; total 60.

The Junior Certificate is now an internal examination. Five candidates entered for the Senior Certificate; all passed, three gaining a first class.

A Mannequin Parade (boys') was held in the Church Hall to raise funds for the Church. It was most successful and over £40 was made.

Dale College sponsored an Accident Insurance on all the boys at a premium of £1 1s. per annum.

A regular event is the visit of the minister on Friday evenings, when he conducts prayers and speaks to the boys. We are always glad to welcome the ministers of the Church; also a visit from any friends or Old Boys. We had the honour of a visit from the General Secretary, Rev. J. Paterson Whyte, M.A. We trust he was satisfied with all he saw. The new buildings are proving very satisfactory.

As from April the boarding fees were raised from £18 to £20 per term.

Following its usual custom, the Committee was present at a function of farewell to the leaving boys last year. The convener, in the name of the Committee, welcomed the new boys individually this year.

A very successful dance was held on Monday, 22nd September, to commemorate the opening of the new wing.

A touring party of 22 schoolboys from the Mansfield High School, Durban, were shown over the Hostel during December.

Mr. J. P. Schultz, of Ladybrand, donated a handsome cup for the best all-round boy of the year. The trophy, which is called the "Schultz Cup," was won by Robert Pringle, the head prefect for 1952.

A gold bracelet was presented to Mrs. Hanks, our matron, in appreciation of the work done under difficult conditions during building operations.

Miss C. V. Van Heerden, housekeeper, commenced her duties in October, and is proving very satisfactory.

J. R. ALLISON,
Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report.
2. The Assembly tenders its sincere thanks to the Warden and Staff for faithful service during the year.

REPORT OF "THE PRESBYTERIAN LEADER"

From the editorial side there is little to report. We are grateful for the volunteered help of three new contributors, but have still to regret that little news is sent in from the Mission fields, and that few articles are received from ministers and laymen.

The editor is removing to Cape Town, where, being in close touch with the Head Office, he hopes to be able to give fuller and fresher Church news.

In the meantime the printing and publishing will remain with the East London *Daily Dispatch*, whose staff is now thoroughly familiar with the work of the magazine, and who are able to offer many advantages, besides contributing regularly to the cost of production.

Mr. A. M. Higgin has kindly offered to supervise the final set-up of each issue, a task demanding the experience he has had for over thirty years. The Committee is deeply grateful to him.

We have to acknowledge once more the successful work of Mr. T. M. MacFarlane in the matter of obtaining advertisements.

It is not possible to report on the financial side of the "Leader," as the finance statement for the year has not yet been received.

In spite of the "direction" of the General Assembly the Committee has *not* been supplied by the Church Treasurer with quarterly statements. That for the half year was received towards the end of February, and nothing further has come to hand.

The number of advertisements has been maintained, but no new ones have been received. This, we feel, is due to the failure of the Presbyteries to appoint canvassers to try to secure additional advertisements. (This does not apply to the Port Elizabeth and King William's Town Presbyteries.) It should not be difficult for an interested person to obtain sufficient advertisements in Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Durban.

The Committee is grateful to those congregations who have increased their orders, but it must be emphasised again that many give but meagre support to the official magazine of their own Church. At present 6,150 copies are being printed and distributed each month, which means that only about one quarter of our Church members buy the "Leader."

H. BOOTH COVENTRY,

Convener.

Deliverance.

1. The Assembly receives the Report.
2. The Assembly reappoints the editor.
3. The Assembly thanks all contributors and advertisers, and the publishers for their help.
4. The Assembly again asks all ministers, office-bearers, and members of our congregations to do their utmost to arouse greater interest in the magazine and to endeavour to increase the circulation.
5. The Assembly again directs Presbyteries to appoint a canvasser for advertisements within their own bounds.
6. The Assembly directs that a letter of thanks be sent to the directors of the *Daily Dispatch* for their donation of one column per issue.

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