

REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERY
Moderator: Rev C Tuck Clerk: Pastor N van der Wel
C/O 206 High Street, Berserker, QLD 4701

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERY [Narrative only]

EXTRACT MINUTE

Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery, met via Skype video conference, on the Nineteenth of February 2021 and was constituted, was adjourned and then resumed on the Twentieth of February 2021. Among other things,

5. Business Arising.

X. A Brief History of the Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery.

See Appendix “D”.

It was moved, seconded and agreed THAT:

The Presbytery receive the revised document ‘A Brief History of the Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery’ for its own records, to be published on the RPCAP website, and to be distributed to interested parties, and that the Presbytery update the document at least once a year, and that the Presbytery publish two versions of the document ‘A Brief History of the Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery’, the first containing the Narrative only, for publication on the Presbytery website, and the second being the entire Document, including Appendices, to be available for distribution to those who desire more detailed information.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery by the Clerk on the First of March 2021.

Pastor Neil van der Wel
Clerk of Presbytery

EXTRACT MINUTE

Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery, met via Skype video conference, on the Eighteenth of November 2022 and was constituted, was adjourned and then resumed on the Nineteenth of November 2022. Among other things,

6. General Business.

II. Annual revision of RPCAP History document.

It was moved, seconded and agreed THAT:

The following statement be added to the final paragraph of the document ‘A Brief History of the Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery’: "On the Fifteenth of January 2022, Mr Christopher Richter was ordained as a Governing Elder in Reformation Presbyterian Church, Culpeper VA and the RPC Culpeper, VA Session was constituted", and that the revised document be published to the RPCAP website.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery by the Clerk on the Twenty-Sixth of December 2022.

Pastor Neil van der Wel
Clerk of Presbytery

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERY.

Narrative:

The initiating action to constitute the Composite Presbytery of Western Australia was taken by Rev Malcolm Stuart. In early 2010, Mr Stuart contacted a number of Ministers and Elders to canvas their opinion concerning constituting a Presbytery for the purpose of examining and ordaining Mr Tuck. The men that he contacted all agreed that it was fit and proper to proceed to constitute a Presbytery for the purpose.

The original intention was that the Presbytery would be dissolved upon completion of the examination and ordination of Mr Tuck, but upon further consideration of the circumstances prevailing in Australia the members of the Presbytery decided to maintain it as a means of providing pastoral care and Presbyterian help to the scattered flock in Australia.

The Presbytery constituted the Interim Session towards the end of 2011, to provide pastoral care and oversight to individuals and families who had no possibility of Church Membership because of the circumstances of the Churches in their locality. The first members of the Interim Session were Rev Malcolm Stuart, Rev Iain Smith and Rev Christopher Tuck. The Session’s role was expanded to include oversight and government of Preaching Stations, and Congregations where there were either no suitably qualified men to serve as local Elders, or where there were suitably qualified men who had to be examined and then ordained with the principle in 1 Timothy 5:22 “lay hands suddenly on no man”, in view.

As the work continued, the major part of the work of the Presbytery was on the East Coast of Australia. To further facilitate the work on the East Coast the CPWA constituted the Composite Presbytery of Eastern Australia (CPEA), appointing Rev Malcolm Stuart, Rev Paul Seiler, and Rev Christopher Tuck as the founding members of the new Presbytery which was constituted on the Fifteenth of January 2014. The Interim Session was transferred to the oversight of the CPEA on the Ninth of December 2014.

On the Seventh of November 2014, Pastor Neil van der Wel and Mr Stephen Barton (who had been ordained as a Governing Elder in the Rockhampton congregation) both joined the Presbytery in terms of the previous invitation by the Presbytery. The Rockhampton Session was constituted on the Eighth of November 2014, the Rockhampton congregation having met under various auspices for some years previous, and its members being most recently under

the oversight of the Interim Session. Mr Tuck began preaching regularly in the congregation, ordinarily on a monthly basis, commencing on the Lord's Day, Twenty-Seventh of March 2005. There was, however, a period during 2008 and 2009 when the pulpit was otherwise supplied, from time to time, due to the congregation being associated with another denomination. Mr van der Wel was inducted as the pastor of the Rockhampton congregation on the Eighteenth of September 2015. The adoption by the Rockhampton Session of the Congregation's new name – 'Reformation Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton' took place on the Tenth of March, 2016.

On the Tenth of June 2015, Pastor Stuart was released from the Presbytery due to a decline in his health. This decision was in response to Mr Stuart's request and was made with regret and with deep appreciation for his contribution to the work of the Presbytery.

The Gold Coast congregation was constituted by the Presbytery and commenced services of Public Worship on the Lord's Day, Twenty-Seventh of December 2015. On the Fifteenth of September 2018, Mr Renz Little was ordained as a Governing Elder in Reformation Presbyterian Church, Gold Coast and the Gold Coast Session was constituted.

On the Seventh of June 2018, the Presbytery accepted with regret Rev Paul Seiler's resignation as Moderator of the Presbytery, and from the Presbytery. It was noted that this resignation was due to reasons relating to Mr Seiler's own situation, and not because of any concerns with the ministry of the CPEA.

On the Third of August 2018 the CPEA changed its name to "Reformation Presbyterian Church, Australian Presbytery".

On the Fourteenth of February 2019, Pastor Blake Law was received as a member of the Presbytery, having previously applied to join the Presbytery and to come under its oversight and discipline.

On the Thirty-First of March 2019, Reformation Presbyterian Church, Culpeper VA was constituted and commenced services of Public Worship. On the Fifteenth of January 2022, Mr Christopher Richter was ordained as a Governing Elder in Reformation Presbyterian Church, Culpeper VA and the RPC Culpeper, VA Session was constituted.