



Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia

"your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" psalm 119:105

Formation of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia

The Presbyterian Reformed Church formed because of the desire of its founders to maintain the gospel witness of the church.

For many years there had been gradual decline within the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

As early as 1901, a Declaratory Act was passed, which, toned down the distinctive Calvinistic doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith and allowed liberty of opinion for ministers on a wide range of doctrines set forth in the Confession.

The spiritual health of the church was such that in 1936 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia shelved charges levied against Dr Samuel Angus, who denied the deity of Christ, and the inspiration and authority of Scripture.

In 1967 Professor Lloyd Geering, the Principal of the Presbyterian Theological College in New Zealand was brought up on charges of 'doctrinal error'. During his church trial he claimed that the remains of Jesus lay somewhere in Palestine and rejected the notion that God is a supernatural being who created and continues to look over the world. Despite these views, Geering was acquitted by General Assembly. This acquittal was the immediate cause of the separation from the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

(This account has been adapted from, Robert Humphreys and Rowland Ward, Religious Bodies in Australia, 2nd ed., p. 66.)