

the pulpit Bible which is still in use. It was slightly injured by the fire in 1880, but escaped with so little damage that fresh binding made it as good as new. It has now been in continuous use for forty-four years, and bids fair to serve its purpose for the rest of the century.

THE SESSION

The government of the church by a Session or Bench of Elders is one of the outstanding and distinctive frank features of Presbyterian Policy.

The Session consists of the Minister and Ruling Elders of a congregation. It is the duty of the Session to watch over and to promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

For a detailed statement of the duties of Session, see the Blue Book, pages 16 to 20.

It is sufficient for the present purpose to say that one of the primary duties of the Session is to supervise the communion roll. No name can be placed rightfully on the roll, or removed from it without their consent, and no name can remain on the roll any longer than the Session chooses to permit.

The Minister alone can neither add to nor remove from the roll any name without the consent of the Ruling Elders.

Before the settlement of the pastor, in fact before the election of elders, those who had been elders in Knox Church, and while the congregation was in the very early formative stage, made concerted visits to all the families who had become, or who seemed about to become connected with the church, special attention being paid to strangers. These visits in an informal way spread information regarding the growth and prospects of the cause, and helped to fuse the various elements which were gathering around the new enterprise, into a homogeneous body prevaed by a confident and aggressive spirit.

As already noted, the session of Bank Street Church was formally instituted on the 26th of November 1865, the first ruling elders being Wm. Hutchison, Wm. Taylor, Donald Kennedy, Robert Whyte and Wm. Porter. In March of the following year, by the settlement of a minister the organization was completed and the session became an independent, self-perpetuating body, subject, of course, to the authority of the Presbytery.