

each synod or conference annually, shall consider all applications from ministers or charges within the section over which it has jurisdiction. Ministers may at the end of any one year seek a change of pastoral relation by application to the Settlement Committee.

In the event of a vacancy occurring at any time, and the congregation failing to make a call, the Settlement Committee shall be empowered to make an appointment to such vacancy for the current year, after consultation with the congregation or its governing board.

The Settlement Committee shall have authority to initiate correspondence with ministers and charges, with a view to completing arrangements to secure necessary and desirable settlements.

(a) Any minister shall have the right to appear before the Settlement Committee to represent his case in regard to his appointment; and any congregation or Governing Board may also appear by not more than two representatives, properly authorized in writing, appointed from among its members at a regular meeting, or at a special meeting, of which proper notice has been given.

(b) When a minister chosen by a congregation cannot be settled, the congregation or its Governing Board may place before the Settlement Committee other names.

There shall be also a committee for the transfer of ministers from one synod or conference to another, which may be composed of the presiding officer of the highest court of the Church, who shall be the convener and chairman of the committee, together with the presiding officers of the several synods or conferences. This committee shall have authority to transfer ministers and candidates for the ministry from one synod or conference to another.

The minister in charge shall be the presiding officer of the governing body of each congregation within his pastoral charge.

Training for the Ministry.

On the subject of "Training for the Ministry," the committee recommends as follows:—

1. That the attainment of a B.A. degree, to be followed by three years in the study of theology, is desirable; but in cases where this is unattainable, that there be two alternative courses, constituted as follows, both starting from university matriculation:—

(a) Three years at least in arts, followed by three years in theology, and that before ordination, or contemporaneous with his college course, twelve months be spent in preaching.

(b) Two years' preaching under the supervision of a body corresponding to a district meeting or presbytery, with appropriate studies, and four years of a mixed arts and theological course in college.

(The consideration of the contents of the required curricula was deferred for further consideration, and the judgment of the representatives of the various colleges concerned is to be solicited as to the same.)

The Supreme Court of the Church shall have power to authorize the ordaining of any person to the ministry if it shall see fit so to do.

Candidates for the ministry who have entered on their course shall be allowed to complete it on the conditions which obtain when they began.

No candidate shall be received for the ministry unless he has been first recommended by a body corresponding to a session of a Quarterly Board or a local church,

In regard to the relation of a minister to the doctrines of the Church the committee recommends that the duty of enquiry into the personal character, doctrinal beliefs and general fitness of candidates for the ministry shall be laid upon the presbytery, district meeting or association.

Sub-Committee on Polity.

The Sub-Committee on Polity, after an examination of the forms of church government of the negotiating churches and the practical working thereof, is greatly gratified to find that there is such a substantial degree of similarity among the churches in the duties and functions of their officers and courts. That engaged in the same work, the negotiating churches have been steadily approximating more nearly to each other. That it is possible to provide for substantial congregational freedom and at the same time to secure the benefits of a strong connexional tie and co-operative efficiency.

To this end the following recommendations are submitted as setting forth the leading principles to be recognized in framing the polity of the united church:—

I. The Church.

The members of the church shall be the members of the uniting denominations, and such others as may, hereafter, become members of the united church.

The unit of organization shall be the pastoral charge, circuit or congregation.

The governing bodies, higher than the pastoral charge, shall be the presbytery, district meeting or association, the annual conference, synod or union, the general council, conference or assembly. These terms are not suggested as final names for the governing bodies or courts.

II. The Congregation.

A. Charges existing previous to the union.—In the management of their local affairs the various charges, circuits or congregations of the united denominations shall be entitled to continue the organization and practices enjoyed by them at the time of union, subject to the general legislation, principles and discipline of the united church. Their representatives in the next higher governing body or court shall be chosen as at present.

Any charge, circuit or congregation formed previous to the union shall be entitled to continue the practices of the denomination to which it belonged, with respect to membership, church ordinances, Sunday schools and Young People's Societies, subject to such modifications as may be made by the general council, conference or assembly of the united church.

B. Charges Formed After Union. The liberty of the individual charge shall be recognized to the fullest extent compatible with the oversight of the spiritual interests of the charge by the minister (or ministers) and a body of men specially chosen and set apart or ordained for that work. New charges shall be formed with the consent of the presbytery, district meeting or association. Before sanctioning the formation of a new charge, however, the presbytery, district meeting or association is required to hear and consider the representations of any charge that may be affected by the proposed action. The members of a charge who are entitled to all church privileges are those who, on a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, have been received into communion. The children of such persons are members of the church, and it is their duty and privilege, when

they reach the age of discretion, to enter into communion.

Members, male and female, shall have the right to vote at all meetings of the church or congregation. The minister (or ministers), and elders, or deacons, or leaders, and local preachers, or have oversight of the spiritual interests of the charge or congregation. The management of its temporal and financial affairs shall be entrusted to a committee of stewards or managers. The elders, deacons or leaders, and local preachers, shall be chosen by the communicants, and shall hold office under the regulations to be passed by the general council, conference or assembly. It shall be the duty of the minister and elders, deacons or leaders, and local preachers to have the oversight of:—

(1) The admission and demission of members.

(2) The conduct of members, with power to exercise discipline.

(3) The dispensation of the sacraments.

(4) The religious training of the young.

(5) The order of public worship, including the service of praise.

(6) The care of the poor and the visiting of the sick.

It shall be their duty:—

(7) To receive and judge petitions, etc., from members.

(8) To transmit petitions, appeals, etc., to presbytery, district meeting or association.

(9) To recommend suitable candidates for the ministry.

The stewards or managers shall be chosen by the congregation annually.

It shall be the duty of the joint committee or board:—

(1) To secure contributions for missionary and other general objects of the church.

(2) To select representatives of the charge to the presbytery, district meeting or association.

(3) To submit to the charge or congregation for their consideration reports on the life and work of the charge, including estimates of expenditure.

(4) To attend to matters affecting the charge not assigned to any of the other bodies.

III. The Presbytery or District Meeting.

The Presbytery, District Meeting, or Association shall consist of:

(1) All ordained ministers within the bounds; (a) who are engaged in some department of church work; or (b) who have been regularly permitted to retire from active service and continue to reside within the bounds of the presbytery, district meeting, or association with which they were connected at the time of their retirement; or (c) who have been placed on the roll by special enactment of the Annual Conference, Synod or Union.

(2) And elders, deacons, leaders, or non-ministerial representatives of pastoral charges, within the bounds equal in number to the number of ministers engaged in any department of church work.

19. It shall be the duty of the presbytery, district meeting, or association:

(1) To have the oversight of the charges within its bounds and review their records, and to form new charges.

(2) To receive and dispose of petitions and appeals from the lower governing bodies or courts.

(3) To transmit petitions and appeals to the higher governing bodies or courts.

(4) To superintend the education of students looking forward to the ministry, and to certify students to theological halls.

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