

known names of the Revs. Hiram Denny, W. F. Clarke, Thomas Baker, Solomon Snider, Robert Robinson, D. McCallum, John Wood, with others, were appended. The meetings were held quarterly. The earnest spirit of these men and churches is attested by their "Objects of the Association," which were, "To promote the revival of spiritual religion, to secure closer union among the churches, to take counsel with each other in cases requiring it, to promote the interests of the churches associated in every way short of authoritative interference, and to unite in efforts to extend the Kingdom of Christ, together with the management of the missionary business within its limits."

Fully conscious of their responsibilities, these brethren discussed measures which led to important results. It was in 1852 that, at the suggestion of Dr. Wilkes, who was visiting them, they debated the question of the consolidation of the Unions of Upper and Lower Canada, which, as we have seen, was accomplished the following year. In consequence of the unsatisfactory representation of churches, the Western Association thought it wise to resolve itself into a purely ministerial body in 1853, and until 1869 the attempt was made to perpetuate itself on that basis. At the latter date a reorganization took place, comprehending churches as well as ministers, and comprising London, Brantford, and Guelph sections.

At Guelph, in 1859, the Central Association came into being, though it at first bore the title of the North-Western Association. This included Toronto, and reached to Owen Sound.

The Ministerial Association of the Eastern District was formed a year later, at Brockville, the original members being the Revs. Fenwick, Lancashire, Robinson, Black, and Burpee.

In the Eastern Townships was organized an Association at Compton, in 1836, by the Revs. Robertson, of Sherbrooke; Parker, of Shipton; Hubbard, of Melbourne, and Sabin, of Stanstead, with Horace Chapin, of New Hampshire. "The St. Francis Association of Congregational and Presbyterian Ministers," it was styled, and declared in the preamble to its constitution that "We acknowledge as our articles of faith the system of religious truth taught in the Assembly's Shorter Catechism." It was not until 1870 that the title was assumed of the "Eastern Townships' Association of Congregational Ministers."