

of their own free will and accord combined, and formed a church, and by a majority of votes elected, and in the same way dismissed their minister. There were regularly two pastors to each congregation; a teacher "to minister a word of knowledge," and another "to minister a word of wisdom," a distinction which soon terminated in the appointment of one only, who was supported in some places by voluntary offerings, and in others by rates; which latter was subsequently adopted and finally enforced by law. They were sometimes designated as "teaching elders" to distinguish them from "ruling elders." The latter were, "ancient, godly experienced Christians, of lion-like courage when the sound and wholesome doctrines declared by pastor or teacher are spoken against by any one." "There were also deacons," "plain-dealing men endowed with wisdom from above to manage the Church treasury."

The synods were recognised as merely auxiliary bodies of advice; but were not allowed to exercise any authority or jurisdiction over particular churches, nor pronounce censures or enforce discipline. They were said to be in their own language, "consultative, decisive and declarative, but not co-active," and the union of lay and church members was thought to be typified by Moses and Aaron meeting on the Mount and kissing