

Rolls of their Presbyteries to the clerks of their respective Synods, at least eight days before the meetings of said Synods; and such rolls shall be the rolls respectively of the several Synods.

5. The Moderators of said Synods shall, in all meetings after the first, be nominated and appointed by open vote, or in such other manner as the Synod itself may from time to time determine. The business shall be conducted in the same manner *mutatis mutandis*, as is the business of the General Assembly; provided, nevertheless, that the Synods shall have power from time to time to frame, alter, and amend such other and additional standing orders as they may deem necessary for their own orderly procedure.

6. Said Synods shall meet once and not oftener than twice during the ecclesiastical year, and shall annually send up their Minute Books for examination to the General Assembly.

### 33. *Declaratory Act on Baptism.*

The Synod having had their attention directed to the subject of Baptism, and the relation in which this initiatory Sacrament of the Church of Christ, stands to the other Sacrament of the New Testament; also to the question of public or private administration of the initiatory ordinance, *Declare and Resolve*—

That, as is already in our excellent subordinate Standards set forth, "a Sacrament is an Holy Ordinance instituted by Christ, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation; to distinguish them from those who are without; and to oblige the partakers of such ordinances to obedience."

That "Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible Church, and so strangers from the covenant of promise, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to Him; but infants descending from parents, either both or but one of them professing faith in Christ and obedience to him, are in that respect within the covenant, and to be baptized."

That, adhering to these principles, the Synod earnestly urge on all ministers and Sessions, to be careful, in administering Baptism, that they who receive this privilege at their hands, be such only of whom there is good reason to believe that they are consistently professing the name of Christ, and obedience to him: and inasmuch as one appointed method of solemnly confessing the Saviour, and acknowledging ourselves to be in communion with his followers, is by commemorating his love and death in the holy ordinance of the Supper; they shall satisfy themselves that parents receiving Baptism for their children be not neglecting this command of Christ, but that at the least they be equally in the intention, as God may afford opportunity, to comply with both ordinances, and giving token of this by willingly waiting on such instructions as it may be judged necessary to impart to them on the nature and design of the Sacraments.