

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA,

AS AMENDED JUNE, 1860.

I. That the name of this Association be, "THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA."

II. That it shall consist of Congregational, or Independent Churches; and of Ministers of the same Church Order, who are either in the Pastoral Office, or (being members of Congregational Churches,) are engaged in evangelistic or educational service, approved and received at a general meeting.

III. That this Union is founded on a full recognition of the distinctive principle of Congregational Churches, namely, the Scriptural right of every separate Church, to maintain perfect independence in its government, and administration; and therefore, that the Union shall not assume legislative or administrative authority, or in any case, become a court of appeal.

IV. That the following are the objects contemplated in its formation: 1. To promote evangelical religion in connection with the Congregational denomination. 2. To cultivate brotherly affection, and co-operation in everything relating to the interests of the associated Churches. 3. To establish fraternal correspondence with similar bodies elsewhere. 4. To address an annual, or occasional letter to the associated Churches, accompanied with such information as may be deemed necessary. 5. To obtain accurate statistical information relative to the Congregational Churches throughout the British American Provinces. 6. To hold consultation, on questions of interest, connected with the cause of Christ, in general.

V. To promote the accomplishment of these objects, and the general interests of the Union, an annual meeting of its members shall be held; each of the associated Churches being represented by two lay delegates; the meeting to be held at such time, and place, as may be appointed at each annual meeting.

VI. That the officers of the Union be a Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Minute Secretary, and Committee, all to be chosen annually from its members, who shall execute the instructions of the Union, and prepare a docket of business for the annual meeting.

VII. That alterations may be made in this constitution, by any annual meeting, provided that notice of such alteration has been given at the meeting next preceding.

STANDING RULES.

1. Application for admission to the Union, shall be made in writing, and shall include a statement of doctrinal and ecclesiastical views. All such applications shall be reported to the Union, and at once referred to a standing (membership) or special committee for full inquiry. Upon their report that the evidence of good standing is sufficient and satisfactory, the applicants shall be eligible for immediate admission by unanimous vote. In other cases, with the consent of the Union, they shall stand proposed (with the privileges of honorary membership,) until the next annual meeting, at which, after a further report from the same committee, they may be fully received.