

# MINUTES OF SYNOD, MONTREAL, JUNE 9TH, 1863. 31

I. A congregation in the meaning of this Act is the people of any pastoral charge now upon the Synod Roll, or of any charge which may hereafter be constituted by any Presbytery of this Church.

II. The conditions of admission to the status of a congregation shall be:—

1. That the applicants number at least forty families.

2. That they declare to a Presbytery in writing their desire for admission, their adherence to the faith, government, worship, and discipline of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Connection with the Church of Scotland, and their submission in all matters affecting their interests to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the said Church.

3. That they adopt, as their constitution, "The Model Constitution" adopted by the Synod in 1847, and make the Title Deeds of their property conformable to its requirements.

III. The steps to be taken by a congregation for obtaining a minister shall be:—

1. To agree, in public meeting summoned under authority of Presbytery on a Sabbath at least ten days previous, upon the choice of a qualified minister, by a majority of valid votes.

2. To appoint at said meeting the Elders, Trustees, and Managers, or any number of them, to represent the result of the meeting to the Presbytery and make application to moderate in a call to the minister-elect.

3. To depute the said parties to assure the Presbytery that the congregation will be ready, on the day of moderation, to submit a guarantee of the minimum annual stipend required by the Synod.

VI. The electors and callers of a minister shall be:—

1. For the first minister,—male persons above twenty-one years of age, resident within the bounds of the congregation, and professing their adherence to the Presbyterian form of worship and their willingness to support the Church.

2. For any minister after the first,—male communicants, free of Church censure, and of at least three months standing on the Roll.

V. That a minister be eligible for election to a charge, it is necessary:—

1. That he be of good standing as minister of a charge, an ordained minister or missionary, or a probationer within the bounds of a Presbytery.

2. That he have taken the oath of allegiance to the British Throne.

3. That he have conducted public worship on at least one Sabbath, before the congregation calling.

VI. The steps to be taken by a Presbytery for the calling of a minister shall be:—

1. To agree to the request for moderation, and appoint a meeting for that purpose or depute one or more of their number to attend to the duty.

2. To cause notice of the said meeting to be given to the parties concerned, in the way which appears most practicable and efficient.