

PROPOSED BASIS OF UNION,

BETWEEN

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA, THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA, THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA, AND THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, AS FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON UNION, DECEMBER 6th. 1882.

I. DOCTRINE, GENERAL RULES, ORDINANCES, ETC.

The Doctrinal Basis of the proposed United Church shall be the Standards of Doctrine and Articles of Religion contained in the Book of Discipline of the Methodist Church of Canada, edition of 1879, from p. 13 to p. 21. That portion of the Book of Discipline of the said Methodist Church of Canada, edition of 1879, from p. 21 to p. 33, referring to General Rules, Ordinances, Reception of Members, and Means of Grace, is also adopted as part of the Basis.

II. CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

(I) THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

1. There shall be a Quadrennial General Conference, composed of an equal number of Ministerial and Lay Delegates, elected as hereinafter provided, with power to make rules and regulations for the entire Church. (See "Annual Conferences," par. 9.)

2. No change shall be made in the Basis of Union, affecting constitutional questions, or the rights and privileges of Ministry or Laity, except by a three-fourths majority of the General Conference, and, if required by either order of Ministry or Laity, a two-thirds majority of each order, voting separately.

3. There shall be one or more Itinerant General Superintendents elected by the General Conference, to hold office for the term of eight years. But, if it be decided at the meeting of the General Conference after Union to elect General Superintendents, one of them shall be elected for four years only, so that there may be a recurring election or re-election every four years.

4. A General Superintendent shall preside over all Sessions of the General Conference, and over all Standing Committees of the same.

(II) ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

1. The Territory occupied by the Church shall be divided into Conferences as the General Conference may from time to time direct.

2. Each Annual Conference shall be composed of all Ministers in Full Connexion within its bounds, and an equal number of Laymen, elected as elsewhere provided. (See "District Meetings," par. 6.)

3. Laymen elected shall have the right to be present at all ordinary Sessions of the Annual Conference, and to speak and vote on all questions, except the examination of Ministerial character and qualification; the Reception, by vote, of Probationers into Full Connexion, and their Ordination; and the granting of the Supernumerary or Supernumerary relation, on which exceptive questions Ministers alone shall take action. In case any Minister's character shall be arrested, it shall be competent for the Ministerial members to meet in Special Session to examine into the case and pronounce judgment, reporting their action to the Mixed Conference,—such report to be for information and record, and not for discussion.