

It was moved by the Rev. T. C. Leaver, and seconded,

That the Bishop be invited to request the Clergy to have an annual collection in their Churches in aid of the funds of the Endowment Sub-Committee.

It was moved in amendment by Rev. T. H. White, seconded by A. M. Umiko, Esq.

That the Endowment Sub-Committee be requested before any further action is taken, to submit a plan for the distribution of the funds.

The Amendment was put and passed.

It was the opinion of the Society that the next Public Meeting be at the same time of the year with the annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Edwin Gilpin, Jr. Secy

DIOCESEAN ASSEMBLY.

Minutes of an adjourned Meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of Nova Scotia, held at Halifax, in the Bishop's Chapel, Oct. 11, 1856.

The Rt. Revd the Lord Bishop took the chair at half-past 10 o'clock, and directed the Revd. Edwin Gilpin, Jr. A. M., Clerical Secretary, to call the names of the Clergy. The following Gentlemen were present:—

Table listing names of clergy members and lay delegates present at the assembly.

The Bishop directed the Registrar of the Diocese, Henry Pryor, Esq., to call the names of the Lay Delegates, and the following Gentlemen were present:—

Table listing names of lay delegates present at the assembly.

After a short Prayer suitable to the occasion,

The Bishop addressed the Meeting, expressing his satisfaction at seeing so many present. He reminded them that they had come to attend an adjourned meeting from 12th Octr. 1854, for the purpose of adopting a Constitution for the future government of the Assembly.

He informed them that apart from Prince Edward's Island, there were forty places which should be represented, and of that number eight had not appointed delegates.

The Bishop closed his remarks with an earnest charge that all our proceedings should be conducted with charity and in a manner becoming to Christians and Churchmen.

The Lay delegates proceeded to elect a Secretary, and J. W. H. Rowley, Esq. was unanimously appointed.

The Bishop directed the clerical Secretary to read the Report of the Committee appointed to confer with the Bishop in framing Rules and Regulations for the Diocesan Assembly.

Which having been done, it was moved, seconded and unanimously resolved, that the Report of the Committee be received for consideration.

The Report was then taken up in detail, and was adopted in the following form:

I. Declaration of Principles.

We, the Bishop and Clergy, and Representatives of the Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland, within the Diocese of Nova Scotia, assembled together and intending, under God's blessing and guidance, to consider and determine upon such matters as shall appear necessary for the welfare of the Church in this Diocese, desire, in the first place, for the avoiding of all misunderstanding and scandal, to make a declaration of the principles upon which we purpose to proceed.

We desire that the Church in this Colony may continue, as it has been, an integral portion of the United Church of England and Ireland.

We recognize the true Canon of Holy Scripture, as received by that Church, to be the rule and standard of faith: we acknowledge the Book of Common Prayer and Sacraments, together with the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion, to be the true and

faithful declaration of the doctrines contained in Holy Scripture: we maintain the form of Church government by Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, as Scriptural and Apostolical: and we declare our firm and unanimous resolution, in dependence on Divine aid, to preserve those doctrines and that form of Church Government, and to transmit them to our posterity.

We uphold the ancient doctrine of our Church, that the Queen is rightfully possessed of the chief government or supremacy over all persons within her dominions, in all causes whether ecclesiastical or civil; and we desire that such supremacy may continue unimpaired.

It is our earnest wish and determination to confine our deliberations and actions to matters of discipline, to the temporalities of the Church, and to such regulations of order as may tend to her efficiency and extension.

The above declaration passed unanimously by both Clergy and Lay-delegates.

II. Constitution and Regulations of Assembly.

1st. Periodical meetings shall be held, composed of the Bishop, Clergy, and Laity of this Diocese; and their Assembly constituted as hereafter provided, shall be called the Diocesan Assembly of Nova Scotia.

2nd. Every Clergyman in the Diocese duly licensed by the Bishop, shall have a seat in the Assembly. Presbyters alone having the right of voting. The Laity shall appear by their representatives.

3rd. An election of Representatives shall take place at the Easter meeting held in each Parish or Ecclesiastical district next before each ordinary meeting of the Assembly.

4th. The Representatives of the Laity must have been communicants for the twelve months preceding the election, and every adult male Parishioner may vote for the Parish or District of which he is a member, upon subscribing the following declaration, (if required by the chairman or any parishioner present.)

"I do declare that I am a member of the United Church of England and Ireland, and belong to no other religious denomination."

5th. Each Representative shall receive from his minister a certificate that he is qualified as above, and from the chairman of the meeting at which he is elected a certificate of his election, and shall continue in office until his successor be appointed.

6th. If a vacancy should occur in the number of Representatives, the minister shall proceed to appoint a new election, with as little delay as possible after due notice.

7th. Each District forming a separate cure of souls may send 2 Lay-representatives, and the Parish of St. Paul's in the City of Halifax, may send four, so long as its present area remains undiminished.

The above Rules 1 to 7 inclusive, passed unanimously by both Clergy and Lay-delegates.

8th The 8th Rule was then read. It was moved in amendment by Capt. Ousely, seconded by C. Bowman, Esq.

That the quorum required to constitute a session of the Assembly shall be one-fourth of each order, but that no resolution shall be valid unless 20 Clergy and 10 Lay-delegates be present.

It was moved in amendment by J. W. H. Rowley, Esq. and seconded by Rev. W. G. Jarvis, and Resolved,—that three-fourths of the quorum be the number required to be present for the voting. This amendment was put to the meeting and passed.

The eighth rule therefore passed in the following form:—The quorum required to constitute a session of the Assembly shall consist of not less than one-fourth of the whole number of qualified Presbyters in the Diocese and of the Lay representatives whose election shall have been certified to the Registrar of the Diocese, but no vote of the Assembly shall be taken unless in the presence of at least three-fourths of those forming the quorum, with the Bishop or his commissary presiding.

9th The vote of each order shall be taken separately, such vote being determined by the majority of the members present and voting in each order. And no act or resolution of the Diocesan Assembly shall be valid which shall not have received the concurrent assent of the Bishop, the Clergy, and the Laity.

It was moved in amendment by the Honble. M. B. Almon, seconded by Mr. Whitford,—That every measure requiring the concurrence of the three houses shall after having passed the two lower, be presented to the Bishop for his assent; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it with his objections to that house in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large in their journal and proceed to reconsider it.

If after such reconsideration two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the measure, it shall be sent together with the objections to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if ap-

proved by two-thirds of that House it shall become a standing rule of the Synod.

Col. Gladwin spoke in favor of the proposed rule. Col. Ousely Revd. W. Bullock, Revd. T. C. Leaver; the Rev. T. Dunn spoke against the proposal.

After much consideration Mr. Almon's amendment was put to the assembly and lost, no Clergyman voting for it, while twenty-seven voted against it—and of the Laity three voted for it and eighteen against it.

The proposed Rule was then put to the Assembly and passed, twenty-eight Clergymen voting in favor of it and no one against it, and of the Lay-delegates twenty voted for it and one against it.

10th. The Clergy being under the obligation implied in their subscription to the Thirty Nine Articles, as well as the three Articles of the 38th canon, it is not competent for the Diocesan Assembly to make alterations in those formularies or in the method of interpretation laid down in the Declaration prefixed to the 39 Articles, or in the Book of Common Prayer of the United Church of England and Ireland, or finally in the authorized version of the Holy Scriptures. With these exceptions, the Diocesan Assembly may deliberate and decide by a majority of votes taken as specified in Rule 9 on all matters affecting the interests of the Church in this Diocese.

11th There shall be two Secretaries, one chosen by the Clergy, the other by the Laity, who shall keep regular Minutes of all proceedings of the Assembly.

The above two Rules: the 10th and 11th, passed unanimously by both Clergy and Lay-delegates.

12th. The 12th Rule was then read. It was resolved that the meetings of the Assembly be biennial.

It was also resolved that a meeting be held in 1856 be held as near as possible to the 20th Oct'r.

It was moved in amendment and seconded, that the meeting be held in the last week in September.

The amendment was put to the assembly and lost. The Resolution was then passed.

The 12th rule therefore passed in the following form:

The meeting of the Diocesan Assembly shall be biennial, but the Bishop or in his absence the Archdeacon, shall have power to summon additional meetings at his discretion.

13th. Any proposition for an alteration of the constitutions, regulations, rules of order or canons, shall be introduced in writing and considered at the meeting at which it is proposed, and if approved by a majority shall lie over to the next meeting of the assembly, and if then again approved by majorities consisting of not less than two-thirds of both clergy and lay-delegates, and by the Bishop, it shall be adopted.

The above rule passed unanimously both by Clergymen and Lay delegates.

14th. It was moved by C. Bowman, Esq., seconded by Rev. J. Forsythe and resolved,—That at every meeting for the election of Representatives the Parishioners shall be at liberty to choose their own chairman.

15th. Members of the Church may be present at meetings of the Assembly, on the understanding that they must be subject to the directions of the Chairman; and they may be required by him to withdraw upon the application of any three members of the assembly.

The following Rules for order of proceedings—the preservation of order—regarding committees—were then passed in the form they appear below. The opinion of the Assembly was particularly taken upon those Rules which are marked thus †

III. Order of Proceedings.

1st. The business of every day shall be preceded by special prayer for the Divine guidance and blessing according to a form authorized by the Bishop.

2d. After this prayer the clerical Secretary shall call over the roll of the Clergy, to be furnished by the Bishop, and mark the names of those in attendance, and the lay Secretary shall call over the names of the several parishes; when the certificates of the representatives, having been presented, shall be examined by the Secretary and a committee of two to be appointed for that purpose; and whose found satisfactory the names shall be recorded and read by the Secretary.

3d. The election of new Secretaries shall then be made by the clergy and laity respectively, all of which officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be appointed.

4th. After this the order of business shall be as follows:

† It was afterward ordered that this Rule be added to Rule 3rd.