

of two months is allowed for the election of Representative Elders, nevertheless, Sessions are enjoined to make their elections with all convenient speed, and if it come to the knowledge of Sessions or Moderators of Sessions that a meeting of the Presbytery of the bounds is called or appointed to take place, before the first ordinary or stated meeting thereof after the closing of the annual session of Synod, they are required to regard this circumstance as an urgent reason for expedition in this matter, so that if possible there may be no meeting of Presbytery without Representative Elders, should it be their desire or interest to attend.

II. At the meeting of Session summoned and constituted, as hereinbefore provided, no procedure shall be taken in the election of a Representative Elder until the Moderator shall have read the following statement in the hearing of the members present:—

WHEREAS it is the principal and distinctive duty of the office of a Representative Elder to attend the Superior Church Courts and there to deliberate and vote, agreeably to the word of God and the constitution of this Church, on all questions affecting the interests both of the Church at large, and of the particular Congregation to which he belongs; and whereas it is of the utmost consequence that the Church, in her legislative, judicial, and executive capacities, should be assisted and strengthened in her several Courts by the presence of her Representative Office-bearers; therefore the member of this Session, who may be elected to fill the office of Representative Elder, shall be required, before his election be sustained, to acknowledge it to be his duty, (1) to attend the meetings of the Presbytery of the bounds and the annual meeting of Synod, (2) to give an account of his attendance thereat when required to do so by this Session, and (3) to send a written apology to the Moderator or Clerk of Synod if necessarily prevented from attending the annual meeting of Synod, and he shall be required to promise that, God willing, he will, to the utmost of his ability and diligence, fulfil his duty in these several particulars:

And this statement having been read the Session shall make an election, and require of the party elected his assent thereto, and if he refuse to give his assent his election shall be held to be null and void, and the Session shall proceed immediately to a new election, but if he give his assent his election shall be sustained, in which case the Session Clerk shall record a minute of this procedure according to the Form annexed to this Act, and shall forthwith furnish the Representative Elder with an extract thereof, which shall be his Commission, and which shall be good and valid until the close of the ensuing annual Session of Synod but no longer, and if no member of Session be found willing to be elected, a minute to that effect shall be recorded and an extract thereof forwarded to the first stated meeting of Presbytery.

III. In circumstances rendering it impossible to elect a Representative Elder within the aforesaid period of two months, the Session so situated