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REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL ON THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF CONGREGATIONS, ADOPTED BY THE PRESBYTERY.

The Committee would just express their conviction, that the unfavourable financial condition of several of the congregations under the care of the Presbytery, arises from their following a bad system, and sometimes *no regular* system, in the management of their Finances. Some of the more prevalent evils are—The want of a regular Board of Managers; or, where there is such a Board, either they have no meetings, except at long intervals, or the meetings are attended by a very few, to whom the whole business is left;

Dependence on a subscription list, got up when the Minister was settled, or at some other special time. In this way each individual becomes personally responsible to the minister, and when some fail to pay their subscriptions, the stipend falls into arrears: and, as congregations too often have no adequate sense of responsibility for the amounts thereby lost, the arrears are allowed to remain unpaid, and to increase from year to year;

The irregular and infrequent collection of subscriptions;

The ignorance, and consequent apathy, of some congregations in regard to their own financial affairs, no information being supplied to them: and, finally, the lack of Christian liberality on the part of many individuals, who are content to enjoy the religious ordinances, while they contribute little or nothing to the support of them.

With a view to remedy these and other similar evils, the Committee would recommend the following regulations for the guidance of Congregations.—

1. That every Congregation should have, for the management of its Financial affairs, a regular staff of office-bearers, either Deacons or Managers, with a Secretary and a Treasurer; and that these should be partly changed every year, a certain portion of them retiring in rotation, (with the exception of the Treasurer and Secretary, whose offices ought to be more permanent), and others chosen in their place, so that the work of the Church may not be confined to a few, but may occupy and interest as many of its members as possible.

2. That the Secretary should record, in a book kept for the purpose, minutes of the proceedings of each meeting of the Managers. That the Treasurer also should keep a book, in which all receipts and disbursements should be regularly entered.

3. That each Congregation should be divided into convenient Districts, and Collectors appointed for these districts.

4. That these Collectors should go round their districts every quarter to take up the subscriptions.

The Committee would strongly urge that yearly, and even half yearly payments should, if possible, be avoided; and that the subscriptions should be