

During Mr. Stewart's pastorate were some important movements in the church at large affecting her customs and activities. The use of the individual communion cups, instead of the common cup, in the observance of the Lord's Supper, had become quite widespread. In the year 1911 Motherwell congregation adopted the new system and used the individual cups in March of that year for the first time.

During this period also the discussion of the question of the union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches was before the church. In 1912 Motherwell voted in favor of the union, 65 for and 11 against. Again in 1915 another vote of the church at large was taken and again Motherwell voted in favor—76 for and 3 against.

Another movement of importance was in the direction of the larger missionary policy of the church. Again the congregation showed her willingness to respond to the leadership of the church. The Budget plan was endorsed, and the duplex envelope system was adopted. The effect on the offerings of the church has been very marked. The missionary givings in particular have risen rapidly.

In March, 1916, Mr. Stewart received a call from Dutton, Ontario, and decided to accept it. The congregation was again left without a pastor. On the 9th of April Rev. S. MacLean, of St. Marys, declared the pulpit vacant. The usual procedure of hearing candidates with a view to a call was again resorted to. On Tuesday, June 19th, the united congregations met in Motherwell church and decided to call the Rev. G. F. N. Atkinson, B. A., of Tilbury, Ontario. The call was sustained by Stratford Presbytery and presented to Mr. Atkinson at a meeting of Stratford Presbytery on July 11th, 1916, and accepted. The representatives who were appointed to support the call before Stratford Presbytery were H. Russel, J. Sterritt and A. Watson, of Motherwell, and J. Mountain, R. Aitcheson and R. Thompson for Avonbank. The representatives appointed to appear before Chatham Presbytery were R. E. McIntosh for Motherwell and John Oliver for Avonbank.