

They propose that two sheets of blank returns be issued, one to consist of matters of a more spiritual kind, and to be filled up by Kirk Sessions; the other to comprise matters of a more temporal character, and to be filled up by Boards of Managers. Two such sheets accompany this report, affording space for the insertion of a statement of all the facts which the Presbytery consider of sufficient importance to be annually submitted to the Synod. There is also herewith submitted a specimen sheet of columns, with appropriate headings, in which it is proposed to insert the principal matters that can be conveniently exhibited at one view. This, when filled up, they recommend to be appended annually to the printed copy of the Synod Minutes.

The Presbytery advise the appointment of a small committee of members residing near one another, so that they may meet when necessary with as little trouble and expense as possible. This committee might be known as "The Synod's Committee on Statistics." It is proposed that it shall be the duty of this Committee to issue annually printed copies of the blank returns, sending three of each to every Kirk Session, so that returns may be received from every church separately, even when more than one church constitute a single charge. It is recommended that these returns be issued a few weeks before the date at which they are returnable to the aforesaid Committee, and that the date at which they be made returnable be as marked in the forms herewith submitted, namely, the 1st day of April, so that the Committee may have sufficient time to make a digest of them before the meeting of Synod.

Accompanying these blank returns a short circular might be issued adverting to such matters as may require special attention or explanation. If the proposed returns be approved of by the Synod, they will contain much useful information which cannot be easily exhibited in the general columned sheet. Information of this kind the Committee might embody in a very interesting and useful report, which should contain, besides this information, references to such matters as might be considered necessary to receive the attention of the Synod, even though they appear in the columns of the general sheet. All which is respectfully submitted.

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