

framed, as in all respects to admit of being put into immediate operation by all the congregations of our church, it seems necessary that the Synod do along with this model constitution issue a specification of such essential principles and rules as shall be universally imperative in the formation of constitutions in the case of organized churches. This will at least promote general conformity in all things which may be considered as of vital importance to right government and discipline.

3. In the case of calls given to ministers by bodies of persons not organized into a church, and where there can be no distinction between those who are members and those who are not, it seems to be admitted on all hands that the right of voting must of necessity be extended to all who are willing to contribute to the minister's support, and who labour under no particular disqualification. But the Synod may judge it to be expedient to frame and issue some rules applicable to this special case. It is desirable, that Presbyteries before they proceed to settle ministers amongst congregations in this situation, should carefully examine into the merits of each particular case that may come before them, with a view of determining whether things are ripe for the formation of the pastoral relation, or whether it would not be better to prepare the ground for this by the labours of a missionary.

DRAFT OF A CONSTITUTION.

Constitution of the church of _____, in the township of _____, and district of _____, in the province of Upper Canada, lying within the bounds of the Presbytery of _____, and acknowledging the jurisdiction of the said Presbytery, and of the Synod of Canada, in connection with the church of Scotland.

To secure order and good government in the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church, we, the undersigned, as adherents thereof, do agree to the following articles:

ART. 1. This church and congregation, now in connection with the Synod of Canada, and adhering to the standards thereof, declare that they shall continue to adhere to the standards, and submit to the form of worship, government, and discipline of the said church.

ART. 2. That the property of the church aforesaid, comprehending a parcel of land (here take in its description and how deeded,) obtained for the use of a congregation in connection with the Synod of the Presbyterian church of Canada, together with the church built thereon, and all other lands or tenements that do or shall belong to this church, shall be managed by the persons, and in

the manner after described, for the sole benefit and behoof of this church and congregation.

I. OF THE SPIRITUAL AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH. *Of the Minister.*

ART. 3. The minister shall be a member of the Synod of Canada, in connection with the church of Scotland.

ART. 4. The pastoral relation shall be permanent—as its permanency is defined and modified by the laws and practice of the church of Scotland.

ART. 5.* In every case of vacancy of a charge by death, resignation, translation, deposition, or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the eldership of the congregation to give immediate notice to the Presbytery of the bounds where the vacant charge lies, in order to the early and proper filling up of the vacancy. After the Presbytery shall have performed the duties devolved upon them by the laws of the church, in sending one or more of their number to preach before the congregation, and advise and communicate with them respecting the circumstances of the vacant charge, and particularly respecting the necessity of speedily filling up the vacancy by a fit and pious minister; and after the Presbytery shall have also sent such person or persons to preach to the vacant congregation, according to their own application, and as may seem most suitable and acceptable to them. After all these steps shall have been duly taken, a meeting of the male heads of families of the congregation, being communicants, shall take place at a distance of not less than six weeks from the date of the vacancy, and after a fortnight's previous notice from the pulpit shall have been given. The person who shall be chosen minister by a majority of this meeting, shall be held validly elected; and upon his call and acceptance being laid before the Presbytery—upon his undergoing the necessary trial before them, and upon their being satisfied of his qualifications, and that the congregation have made competent provision for his support, his settlement shall be proceeded in, according to the laws of the church. In the case of the meeting not being able to fix upon one individual, but candidates being chosen to preach before the congregation, the election to be conducted in such manner as shall be arranged by a majority of the said meeting, with concurrence of the Presbytery. Should any questions arise respecting the minister's election, they shall be submitted to the decision of the Presbytery.† Nothing contained in the preceding article shall be understood to preclude the said heads of families, in whom is vested the right of electing a minister, from devolving the right, with

*See Appendix.

† Note A.