

presides at its meetings, preserves order, takes the votes, announces the decisions, administers censures, and opens and closes each meeting with prayer. The Moderator has a casting, but no deliberative, vote.

4. The Synod appoints also a Clerk or Clerks to keep the roll of its members, record its proceedings, preserve its papers, and write out and attest extracts of its resolutions or decisions, when ordered by the Court.

5. At the commencement of each meeting of Synod a Sermon is preached by the Moderator of the preceeding year, who then constitutes the Synod by prayer. The Clerk then calls the Roll of the Presbyteries, which must previously be handed in by Presbytery Clerks. The roll with the names of members present is then laid on the table.

6. The Moderator may then nominate a successor. Each Presbytery also may return one of the ministers of Synod, nominated at a preceding meeting, as a candidate for the office. It is also competent to any member of the Synod to nominate a candidate. The Candidate elected shall take the Chair, and, if he see cause, may address the brethren. The same Moderator cannot be re-elected within a period of five years.

7. If there be a vacancy in the Clerkship, the Synod shall next proceed to appoint a member to fill this office.

8. A Committee of Bills and Overtures is then appointed. This Committee consists of two ministers and two elders from each Presbytery, with the Moderator and Clerk of Synod. All other members of Synod are entitled to speak, but not to vote, at meetings of this Committee.

9. The duty of the Committee of Bills and Overtures is—

(1.) To see that all the papers forwarded to the Clerk and laid before them, have been duly transmitted, and are in all respects regular and proper to be laid before the Synod. Before refusing to transmit to Synod parties are notified of the objections to transmission, and liberty is given to obviate these objections if practicable. The Committee's decision may be reviewed by the Synod on protest and complaint.

(2.) To fix the order of business, and as far as practicable the time when each particular matter shall be taken up, and when they may think it expedient to report to the Synod their opinion on the form in which any particular cause may be taken up, or as to the propriety of referring it to a special Committee.

(3.) To receive the name of any Minister or member of any other religious body whom any member may wish to introduce to the Synod. No member of any other body shall be permitted to sit and deliberate in the Synod, until his name is declared to this Committee, and their sanction is obtained. Nor in any case shall a member of any other religious body be permitted to vote in the Synod.

10. So soon as practicable, after the Synod is constituted, the Committee of Bills and Overtures reports the cases transmitted and the arrangements made. The arrangements, when sanctioned by the Synod, are, in no case, departed from, except with the concurrence of all parties interested in the other cases on the roll affected by the change. When the arrangements are decided on, a roll of cases is affixed to the

door of the house in which the Synod meets.

11. The Synod endeavors to dispose of each case within the time assigned in the arrangements. If from the time occupied in one case, the others fixed for the same Session, cannot be overtaken, these others are not allowed to take the place of those fixed for other sittings, but are delayed till arrangements are made for taking them up without interfering with others on the roll. To avoid derangement, when the discussion of any case has occupied three hours, it is the duty of the Moderator to take the sense of the Synod, whether it should be brought to a close by a vote, or adjourned to another sitting.

12. When the overture comes from a Presbytery, no more than two members are heard in support of it, and only one in reply. If there are several overtures, on substantially the same subject, from different Presbyteries, only one member from each Presbytery is heard in support of them, and only one speech in reply, the speaker being fixed on by the supporters of the overtures. This rule applies to all cases in which Presbyteries are parties before the Synod.

13. The Synod, for the greater freedom of discussion, has the power of resolving itself into a Committee of the whole house, in which case the Moderator leaves the Chair, and a Chairman is appointed. A separate minute is taken of the proceedings of the Committee. When the Synod resumes, the minutes of the Committee are read. The decision is then read, and, without further discussion, approved and sanctioned, any member having at this stage the privilege to dissent.

14. The Moderator of the Synod, on his own authority, may call a meeting of Synod, for the transaction of special business. He is also bound to call such meetings at the request of three Presbyteries. These meetings are called by a circular, signed by the Moderator or by the Clerk on his written authority, and addressed to each member of Synod. The circulars must be delivered, or despatched through the Post Office, at least two weeks before the time of meeting. No business can be transacted at these meetings, except that for which they have been convened, and which is specified in the circular calling them.

15. The Synod being the supreme court of the Church—its decisions are final, and cannot be protested against, or appealed from. For the same reason it is entitled, when circumstances seem to require it, to alter its forms of procedure, and, in cases of very urgent necessity, to dispense with their observance.

CHAP. XI.—RULES OF BUSINESS IN CHURCH COURTS.

1. During the discussion of any question, no member shall direct his discourse to any but the Moderator; nor shall any member who has spoken once upon a subject, have leave to speak again, except in explanation, until members who have not spoken thereon, shall be heard if they desire it.

2. The Moderator has authority to interrupt, and call to order, any member of the Court, or party at the bar, who departs from the subject, or infringes the rules of procedure. Any member of the Court has also a right to call to order, and immediately on, his doing so, the speaker stops, and takes his seat. The decision of the point rests

with the Moderator. Members calling to order unnecessarily, are liable to the censure of the Court.

3. No motion can be discussed, unless seconded and submitted in writing. A motion, or amendment, cannot be withdrawn, without leave of the seconder; but should the seconder withdraw his support, and no other member second it, the motion is thereby lost; and when a motion or amendment is made, no change of either can take place without the special leave of the Court.

4. When there are more than two motions, or than a motion and amendment, the last proposed is immediately put against the motion or amendment immediately preceding it, till only two remain, which are voted for as first and second motion, or motion and amendment, or by any other names which may briefly indicate their import.

5. Before a vote is taken, the doors of the house are closed, and no members are allowed to go out or come in. In difficult cases the Synod engages in prayer before voting. The vote may be taken by a show of hands, but if any member of Court expresses a wish for it, the roll is called, and the votes marked.

CHAP. XII.—PETITIONS AND OVERTURES.

1. Every member of the Church has access to the different courts by petition or memorial. He has direct access to the Session of the Congregation to which he belongs, and through the inferior to the superior courts.

2. Transmission of a petition by an inferior court does not imply approbation of its object or concurrence in it; but it is the duty of inferior courts, in transmitting petitions, to see that they are regular and expressed in respectful terms. Sessions or Presbyteries may refuse to transmit; in which case the petitioner is entitled to protest and appeal, and thus bring the matter before the next superior court.

3. A petitioner in his own cause is a party, and a member of court being such petitioner, cannot deliberate and vote in the matter.

4. Overtures are proposals made to the supreme court, to enact rules binding upon the whole Church, or to pass resolutions on any matter of general importance.

5. They may be originated by a Presbytery, Session Minister, Elder, or private member of the Church, but must be submitted in writing, and regularly transmitted in the same way as petitions. They may also be brought in by a Committee of Synod appointed for the purpose.

6. An overture which contemplates a material change in the Constitution of the Church if entertained by the Synod, is to be very carefully considered, and should be remitted to Presbyteries and Sessions for their consideration, before being finally adopted; but the Synod may order it to be acted on *ad interim*.

CHAP. XIII.—OF REFERENCE AND APPEALS.

1. A reference is a judicial representation made of a case not yet decided, from an inferior to a superior court, which representation ought always to be in writing. The reference may be made either *simpliciter*, that is in regard to the whole case, without any opinion being expressed, or upon some particular point, which in the course of proceeding has appeared to the inferior court a matter of difficulty.