

5. That Sessions and Presbyteries in reporting their respective votes on the Basis of Union report at the same time the numbers of the vote.

6. That the Union Committee be continued, and the Clerks of Assembly prepare a statement of the result of the vote in Presbyteries and Congregations, and furnish the same to the Secretaries of the Union Committee, in order that the said Committee may have opportunity to meet and prepare a deliverance to be submitted to the Assembly of 1916.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE SHORT STATEMENT OF 1400 WORDS

IN SUPPORT OF CHURCH UNION

Again Presbyterians are asked to vote upon union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches.

1. The question has now been under consideration for eleven years. For four years the other churches have been ready to consummate the union. Meanwhile the Union Committee of the Presbyterian Church has, in obedience to the instructions of the General Assembly, been revising the Basis of Union in response to criticism and suggestion invited from the whole church. As finally amended by the Joint Union Committee, the Basis was after thorough discussion approved by the recent Assembly by 368 votes to 74.

2. The Assembly's resolutions, sent herewith, should be carefully read by every voter. They prove that, in the opinion of those who have had the best opportunity of considering the question, union is both desirable and practicable.

3. Attachment to familiar names and forms may make some people reluctant to vote for union, but let it be observed that everything essential in the church we love is retained.

4. The doctrine of the Basis is thoroughly evangelical. The central truths of the gospel stand out even more clearly than in our own creed, yet none need suppress any belief which he has now a right to proclaim.

5. The polity is distinctively Presbyterian. While congregations already in existence may continue unchanged their present management of their local affairs, in congregations established after union there will be Sessions chosen by the people and set apart to the oversight of spiritual things. There will also be Presbyteries, Conferences and a General Council in which lay representatives are equal in number to ministers.

6. The Basis arranges for an educated ministry and aims to provide every charge with an uninterrupted pastorate and every active minister with a charge. The right of the people to call is conserved and the Settlement Committee is required, so far as possible, to meet the wishes of ministers and charges. Provision is made for orderly changes when desirable, but a charge may keep its pastor so long as both are satisfied.

7. Our Lord requires His people to be one in spirit, and unity of spirit seeks to express itself in mutual fellowship and common action.

This union is demanded by

- (a) the conditions of our newer West,
- (b) the weakened state of rural churches in older Canada,
- (c) the social disorders of city slums,
- (d) the problem of the foreigner, and
- (e) the needs of the heathen world.