

1868.

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, KINGSTON, JUNE 9TH, 1868. 45

for election. A person nominated for election must be not less than twenty-one years of age, a member of the church in full communion, circumspect in his walk, punctual in his attendance upon ordinances, and regular in keeping up the worship of God in his family.

9. The appointment of elders may be made simply by the Session, or by election of the requisite number from a larger number nominated by the Session, the election being by a majority of the votes of the communicants in good standing, and under the direction of the Session. In a new congregation where there are no elders, the Presbytery shall use the best means in its power for getting an early election of elders.

10. After the appointment of elders has been made, the edict of their ordination is served at the close of public worship on a Sabbath not less than ten days before the ordination. If objections against any of them are lodged with the Session, procedure is delayed until such objections have been disposed of. The edict having been returned, if no objections are offered, or if those offered are found to be frivolous or unsupported by evidence, the Session appoints the ordination to proceed.

11. The ordination usually takes place on a Sabbath, after sermon, in the presence of the congregation. After satisfying answers have been given to the questions proposed, the elders are solemnly set apart to their office by prayer. They afterward receive the right hand of fellowship, and are exhorted regarding their duties as rulers of the house of God. Thereafter they are judicially called on to sign the Formula, and then their names are added to the Roll.

12. Elders coming from other congregations, and duly certified as being in good standing, may be received as members of Session, the serving of their edict and subsequent procedure in their case being the same as in the admission of new elders, excepting the act of ordination.*

13. The Session keeps a roll of the communicants, and revises the same once a year. If a communicant removes from the bounds of the congregation without asking for a certificate, the Session may, after the expiration of a year, remove his name from the roll. Certificates of membership may be granted by the Moderator and Clerk, or by the Moderator alone, when the Session is not met. The Session keeps a Register of Baptisms.

14. The Session Records must be regularly kept, and presented once a year to the Presbytery for revision.

15. The Session is represented in the Presbytery and Synod by one of the elders. The election is made annually, and the commission is forthwith sent to the Presbytery Clerk.

* When practicable, each elder has a district of the congregation assigned to him, of the members in which he keeps a list; with these he cultivates special acquaintance, visiting them, and giving them counsel, encouragement or warning, as need requires.

PRESBYTERY.

1. A Presbytery has its bounds fixed by the Supreme Court of the Church, and consists of all the ministers having charges within these bounds, assistant ministers being successors, professors in colleges connected with the church, being ordained ministers of the church, and an elder from each charge.

2. The Moderator is appointed annually, and must be a minister.*

* The order of the Roll is usually followed in the appointment of a Moderator, but, as in the case of inexperienced ministers, it is sometimes advisable to elect a Moderator without regard to this practice.