

meet with that special committee is still under consideration by the General Synod's Committee on Church Union.*

At its fourth conference, in 1907, the Joint Committee continued in session from Wednesday the 11th to Monday the 16th of September, under the chairmanship of the Rev. Principal Patrick.

The fifth conference was held on the 9th, 10th and 11th days of December, 1908, and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. Carman.

With the exception of the first, the conferences of the Joint Committee have all taken place in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto.

At the first conference the Joint Committee was subdivided into five sub-committees, charged, respectively, with the consideration of all questions bearing upon the following subjects: Doctrine, Polity, the Ministry, Administration, and Law. At each conference the results of the deliberations of the sub-committees were submitted to and revised by the Joint Committee. They were then considered by the denominational sections meeting separately, and again considered by the Joint Committee in the light of any suggestions offered by the denominational sections. As thus amended they were published each year for the information of the negotiating Churches, along with the official report of the Proceedings of the Joint Committee.

Various suggestions have, from time to time, been sent forward by individuals or by Church courts; and these suggestions, whether transmitted through the denominational committees, or coming directly under the notice of the Joint Committee, have all received due consideration.

The negotiations that have been carried on during the past five years have been characterized by a spirit of the utmost brotherliness; and while all matters in dispute have been discussed with the greatest frankness, the members of the Joint Committee have found it remarkably easy to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Each succeeding conference has deepened their confidence in one another's sincerity and their respect for one another's convictions; and with increasing earnestness they have addressed themselves to the practical task of evolving from their different views and practices the system that would be best adapted to the circumstances and requirements of the Church of Christ in Canada.

One of the last acts of the Joint Committee, on the night of Friday, 11th December, 1908, was the adoption of the following resolution proposed by Principal Gordon, and seconded by Judge Leet:

"THIS Joint Committee on Church Union, representing the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, in closing their fifth conference, desire to acknowledge with humble gratitude the goodness of God manifested in all their meetings.

In the brotherly spirit of their deliberations, in the harmony of their decisions, in the solution of many difficulties presented to them, they recognize the guidance of the Divine Spirit, and they submit the results of their conference to the Churches represented by them.

They believe that the conclusions to which they have been led in regard to the important interests considered by them show that the organic union of the negotiating Churches is practicable. They assume that ample opportunity will be given, not only to the courts, but also to the general membership of the various Churches, to consider the results of their conferences, and they expect that the more fully these are considered the more generally will they be approved.

* The present editors have received no information of further action in this matter.