

L  
F1028

1859 P9P

1859

Polity of the Presbyterian Church of Canada,  
in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

BOOK I.

THE NATURE, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SEVERAL CHURCH COURTS.

SESSION.

1. The Session is composed of the Minister and Elders of a Congregation.

2. When the Pastoral Charge consists of more than one Congregation, the Minister and the Elders of each may, if it be found desirable, constitute a Session for the oversight of that Congregation; but for representation in the higher Courts, all the Elders of a Charge, together with the Minister thereof, are regarded as one Session.

3. The business of a Session is to regulate all matters relating to the worship of God, and the spiritual government of the Congregation; in particular, to take an oversight of the members in respect of their walk and conversation, and to care for the religious instruction of the young and the ignorant; to admit and disjoin communicants; to grant certificates of membership; to exercise discipline; to direct the administration of the sacraments; to arrange for the election and ordination of additional elders, and judge of the qualifications of persons nominated to the eldership; to receive and dispose of memorials or petitions from the members; to transmit papers to the Presbytery.

4. The Minister is *ex officio* Moderator of the Session. In a Collegiate Charge the ministers preside at the meetings of the Session alternately, or otherwise, as settled between them: the one who is not presiding sits as a member. An ordained assistant and successor is a member of Session, but does not preside except by appointment of the minister, or when he is absent or incapacitated for acting. In the absence of the minister, another minister of the church may be authorized by him to act as Moderator, *pro tempore*. In case of a vacancy, the Presbytery appoints one of its members, being a minister, to be Moderator for a single meeting, or for a short period of time. A minister appointed by the Presbytery to preach in a vacant congregation may hold a meeting of Session for any competent business requiring immediate attention. No meeting of Session can be held without the presence of a minister as Moderator.

5. The Moderator and two Elders constitute a quorum.

6. The Moderator can convene the Session whenever he thinks a meeting necessary; and it is his duty to do so when requested in writing by two of the elders. It is regularly convened when summoned from the pulpit after public worship, or by personal citation to all the members.

7. In a congregation where, from any cause, there are not two ruling elders within its bounds, the Presbytery may appoint one or more of its own members, who shall have all the powers of elders in the Congregation until a Session is formed in the ordinary way. When such an appointment is for a vacant congregation, the Presbytery shall nominate a Moderator for the Session.

120180