

## CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF EASTERN CANADA.

I. That the Union of Congregational Churches and Ministers of Eastern Canada is founded on a full recognition of their own distinctive principle: namely, the Scriptural right of every separate Church to maintain perfect independence in the government and administration of its own particular affairs; and therefore that the Union shall not, in any case, assume Legislative Authority, or become a Court of Appeal.

II. That this Union consists of Ministers and Churches of the Congregational or Independent Order, duly received at a General Meeting.

III. That the following are the objects contemplated in its formation.

1. To promote evangelical religion in connexion with the Congregational Denomination.
2. To cultivate brotherly affection and sincere co-operation in every thing relating to the interests of the associated Churches.
3. To establish fraternal correspondence with the several Congregational Unions of Great Britain and Ireland, and with similar bodies throughout this continent.
4. To address an annual or occasional letter to the associated Churches, accompanied with such information as may be deemed necessary.
5. To obtain accurate statistical information relative to the Congregational Churches throughout the British American Provinces.

IV. To promote the accomplishment of these objects and the general interests of the Union, an Annual Meeting shall be held, consisting, if practicable, of the Minister and a Layman of each of the associated Churches; that the Annual Meeting be held in Montreal, or such other place as may be appointed.

### STANDING RULES OF THE UNION.

I. The Union shall meet annually at Montreal on the *first Wednesday after the first Sabbath* in September, and commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon with devotional exercises, accompanied with a short address by the Chairman.

II. At the close of the above devotional exercises, a Minute Secretary for the Session shall be chosen.

III. The Secretary shall take the roll of Ministers and Lay Delegates.

IV. The meetings shall be daily opened and closed with prayer.

V. A Committee shall be annually chosen to manage generally the affairs of the Union, and prepare a docket of business for the meeting.

VI. A Committee of *three* shall be early chosen by *ballot*, who shall be a Committee of Overtures, and who shall nominate Delegates or Correspondents with foreign or other bodies; also all Committees to whom business or subjects shall be referred for them to report thereon.

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