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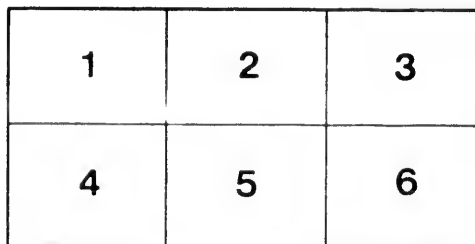
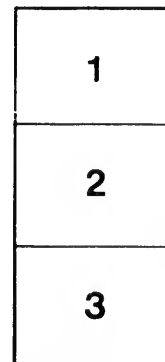
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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
SYNOD OF PITTSBURG.

By Authority of the Conference.

LUXENBURG, N. S.:

1877.

Printed by the NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING Co., Halifax.

“TAKE HEED THEREFORE UNTO YOURSELVES,
AND TO ALL THE FLOCK, OVER THE WHICH THE
HOLY GHOST HATH MADE ‘YOU OVERSEERS, TO
FEED THE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH HE HATH
PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.”

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*Nova Scotia
Lutheran Church
Pittsburg
1877*

CONSTITUTION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

ARTICLE I.—OF THE NAME.

This Conference shall be called the "Nova Scotia Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pittsburg."

ARTICLE II.—OF MEMBERS.

This Conference shall consist of the Lutheran ministers and congregations in the Province of Nova Scotia, received into its connection.

ARTICLE III.—OF REPRESENTATION.

Sec. 1.—Each parochial district in which religious service is regularly held once in each month, by a pastor in connection with this conference, shall be entitled to a delegate.

Sec. 2.—These delegates shall be elected at a general meeting of the congregations they represent, notice of which meeting shall be duly given beforehand.

Sec. 3.—Each delegate shall present, to the officers of Conference, credentials of his election, attended by the signature of the pastor and of the Secretary of the joint vestry of the charge from which he comes.

Sec. 4.—On the proceedings of Conference these delegates shall have the same rights and privileges as the ministers, namely ; the right to move, to second, to debate and to vote.

Sec. 5.—No minister or delegate shall absent himself from any regularly called meeting, without a valid excuse. Ordinary duties shall not be considered a valid excuse.

ARTICLE IV.—OF THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.

This Conference adopts the doctrinal basis of the Pittsburg Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as set forth in its revised constitution, (*Vide* Ministers of Pittsburg Synod—Session—page); being in full harmony, with the Confessions as agreed upon and held by the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America.

ARTICLE V.—OF THE POWERS OF CONFERENCE.

Sec 1.—The Powers and Duties of this Conference shall be to guard the purity of Faith and the right administration of the sacraments among its members ; to devise and execute plans for the increase of the holy, able and effective ministry ; to circulate religious literature to promote the religious training of the young, and to cooperate with Synod in carrying on the work of missions abroad and especially among the scattered members of our Church at home.

Sec. 2.—To use all its influence to recommend and encourage the use of such books, in particular, as are recommended by the Synod and General Council with which it is identified.

Sec. 3.—To collect statistics and information in regard to the Church within its limits, to publish the same as may be deemed advisable ; and to send a delegate to the annual meeting of Synod.

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Sec. 4.—To watch over the purity of doctrine and life of its ministers, as well as over the observance of their constitution, with its appended Bye-Laws; and to look after the maintenance of discipline both among the clergy and congregations connected with it.

Sec. 5.—To examine all regularly preferred charges against its ministers and to express its judgment, subject to the final action of Synod, with regard to the same.

Sec. 6.—To take charge of all monies entrusted to its charge for any benevolent purpose.

ARTICLE VI.—OF MEETINGS.

Sec. 1.—A regular meeting of Conference shall be held quarterly, at such time and place as shall have been determined upon at a previous meeting.

Sec. 2.—A special meeting may be called by the President when authorized or requested, in uniting, by any two pastors, or two Church Councils, so to do.

Sec. 3.—A notice of the time and place of each regular meeting shall be sent, by the Secretary, four weeks before the meeting, to the Lutheran and Missionary for publication; and announced twice at regularly appointed divine service in the principal church of each pastorate.

Sec. 4.—One third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the ministers connected with this Conference, and present at the time and place regularly appointed, shall, with the delegates in attendance, constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII.—OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1.—The Officers of Conference shall be a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Sec. 2.—The Conference shall elect its officers by ballot; a majority of all the members present being necessary to a choice.

Sec. 3.—The officers shall continue office for four regular meetings, or until new officers shall have been elected; incumbents in office being eligible to re-election.

ARTICLE VIII.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Sec. 1.—*Duties of the President.*—It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of Conference.

Sec. 2.—The Conference Sermon shall be preached during the regular meetings of Conference, either by the President or by some one whom he has appointed.

Sec. 3.—The President shall present to Conference at the close of his term of office, a written report of the official business transacted by him during the year, as well as of all important events which have occurred during the same time in the history of the Conference. He may, at the same time also, recommend any measures which are calculated to promote the welfare of the Church.

Sec. 4.—The President is authorized to appoint committees not otherwise provided for. With the concurrence of the other officers, he is authorized to report to Synod, and request the suspension or disposal from office of any minister, when any charge of immoral conduct, preaching false doctrine, or neglect of pastoral duty, substantiated by sufficient evidence, has been preferred against him.

Sec. 5.—So far as within his power lies he shall see that the decisions of Conference are carried into effect.

Sec. 6.—Should a vacancy, from any cause occur in the Presidency, during the interim between such vacancy occurring and the meeting of Conference, the Secretary shall, *pro tempore*, discharge the duties of the office and shall take possession of all papers and docu-

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ARTICLE IX.—OF THE DUTIES OF SECRETARY.

Sec. 1.—The Secretary shall keep a faithful and accurate account of all the proceedings of Conference; read at the opening of each session, the minutes of the previous meeting; record the same, after their correction and adoption, in the minute-book; and call the roll.

Sec. 2.—He shall prepare all official documents and deliver the same, attested by his signature, to the President. He shall also attest the record of the proceedings of Conference, with his signature.

Sec. 3.—Should the office of Secretary become vacant, from any cause, during the interim between the occurrence of such vacancy and the meeting of Conference, the President should take possession of all papers and documents belonging to Conference, and keep them in charge until the office can be filled by an election.

ARTICLE X.—OF THE DUTIES OF TREASURER.

Sec. 1.—The Treasurer shall receive and have custody of all monies belonging to Conference, and shall hold the same subject to its orders. He shall pay all sums regularly appropriated, taking receipts for the same and shall present, at each meeting of Conference, a written report, with a copy of his account.

Sec. 2.—He shall furnish the Secretary a tabular statement of the amounts received from the several pastoral charges, and of the expenditures made, and attest the same with his signature.

Sec. 3.—At the close of his term of office, the Conference shall appoint a Finance Committee to audit these several accounts and to advise with the Treasurer-elect in regard to the investment of monies.

Sec. 4.—Should the Treasurer's office from any cause whatever, become vacant, the President, with the advice and consent of the other officers, shall appoint a Treasurer, and shall take measures at once to have delivered to his appointee all monies, documents, and papers, in the hands of the previous incumbent.

ARTICLE XI.—OF MINISTERS.

Sec. 1.—It is the duty of the Pastors to preach the Word of God, to administer the Holy Sacraments, to give regular Catechetical Instruction, and to Confirm; to have oversight of Sunday Schools belonging to the congregations; to visit the sick, to bury the dead; to install regularly elected members of the Church Council and in connection with them to administer discipline; and to be an example to the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Sec. 2.—No pastor shall confirm any person without a previous examination of the candidate as to his knowledge of the Order of Salvation, with special reference also to his knowledge of the distinctive doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Sec. 3.—No minister shall preach or perform any ministerial duty within the pastoral charge of a brother, except at his request or with his consent, only under extraordinary circumstances. A standing exception of this rule being made and understood in favor of the Synods missionary at large. Rev. Carl Ernst Cossmann.

Sec. 4.—Every pastor shall present a verbal report of the *status* of his pastorate at each regular meeting of Conference, and a written parochial report once during each year; said reports to embrace such matters as Conference may designate.

Sec. 5.—Every pastor shall diligently endeavor to increase the interest of the members of his congregations

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in the object of benevolence commended by Conference, and to enlarge their liberality toward such objects to wit: missions, education of young men of the ministry, the support of widows and orphans, the circulation of the Holy Scriptures and suitable religious and devotional books and periodicals.

Sec. 6.—It is the duty of pastors to seek out talented and devout men and endeavor to secure their services for the Church. All such young men wishing to receive assistance in the prosecution of studies intended to fit them for the holy ministry, shall present themselves in person before Conference and be subject to examination as to their qualifications and motives in desiring to enter the ministerial office.

Sec. 7.—This Conference holds it as a general principle that such young men should be prepared at a Theological Seminary, under the special care of the Faculty of the Seminary, the pastor from whose charge they come, and the executive Committee of Synod.

Sec. 8.—Any business or office foreign to the nature and injurious to the influence of the ministerial is and shall be considered, incompatible with it.

ARTICLE XII.—OF THE ADMISSION OF MINISTERS.

Sec. 1.—When ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, or lawfully ordained ministers of some other recognized Christian denomination, apply for reception into this Conference, they shall:

(a) Present satisfactory evidence that they have maintained an unblemished character in their previous ecclesiastical relation:

(b) Be subject to a colloquium with the examining Committee, in order to establish their agreement with the confessions and usages of this Conference.

If upon the report of the Examining Committee, two-

thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the ministers present vote for their reception, they shall, by such action, become full members of this body. until s
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Sec. 2.—Students under the care of Conference, and all others desiring to be received by ordination into full connection with Conference, shall be subject to an examination by the Examining Committee as to their fitness, qualifications, and motives for the holy ministry. Sec.
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Sec. 3.—If upon report of the Examining Committee two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the ministers present, vote in favor of the reception of any applicant, with the approval of the President of Synod, he shall be admitted to ordination, which shall be administered in the presence of Conference by a committee appointed for the purpose. gelical
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Sec. 4.—If during the interim between the meeting of Conference, a call be made by an unsupplied pastor or mission for the services of a candidate for ordination, the case shall be made known to the President, who shall call a meeting of the clergy, at such time and place as the circumstances may require; these shall examine the candidate and if he be found qualified for the ministry, shall ordain him to said office in accordance with Section 3 of this Article. Church-
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Sec. 5.—No one shall be ordained to the office of the holy ministry without having previously received a call from a pastoral charge, or from Conference. The P

Sec. 6.—Each person ordained shall receive a certificate of ordination from Synod, and another, attested by the President and Secretary of Conference. (1). P
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Sec. 8.—A certificate of honorable dismissal shall be granted to any minister of good standing in Conference who may desire to remove from the bounds of this into another Lutheran organization. Each minister thus dismissed shall be held amenable to this body, however. AR
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ARTICLE XIII.—OF OFFENCES.

Sec. 1.—Offences shall be reckoned:

(1) With reference to *doctrine*—namely: Denying preventing, or adding aught to any doctrine taught in the Word of God and in the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

(2) With reference to *life and practise* namely: Any conduct which is incompatible with the purity of Christian life, or with the character of the ministerial office.

(3) With reference to *Government and order in the Church*—namely: The violation of any of the provisions or requirements of this Constitution, the appended Bye-Laws, or of the resolutions of Conference.

Sec. 2.—Should any congregation in connection with conference refuse to comply with requirements of this Constitution, the Conference shall endeavor to induce such compliance, and should these endeavors prove unavailing, then Conference shall have power to exclude such congregations from its connections and privileges.

ARTICLE XIV.—OF PENALTIES.

The Penalties which may be imposed are:

- (1). Private admonitions by the president.
- (2). Public censure before the Conference.
- (3). Report to synod with accompanying request for suspension or disposal from the office of the *ministry*.

ARTICLE XV.—OF PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE.

Sec. 1.—Charges may be brought against a minister provided for in this Constitution.

Sec. 2.—Charges against a minister, with reference to any offense designated in *Article XIII*, must be brought before the Church Council and by that body before Conference. In case the Church Council refuse to take cognizance of such offence and charges, they must be brought before the Conference by not less than three active members in good standing in the congregation.

Sec. 3.—Charges against an applicant for admission to this body, must be brought before the President and by him before the committee appointed to investigate said charges.

Sec. 4.—No charge shall receive attention unless presented in writing, with specifications of the offence charged, founded upon the testimony of and signed by at least two competent and credible witnesses.

Sec. 5.—If any minister be charged with an offense not in the manner aforesaid but by notorious rumor, the Conference shall enter into an investigation of such charge; or whenever the notorious rumor which charges some specific sin is widely spread, is not transient but growing, and is accompanied with strong presumption of guilt.

Sec. 6.—The President shall see that the accused receive a copy of the charges against him, and be duly cited, at least twenty (20) days previous, to appear before the body by which he is to be examined. If after such citation, he refuse or fail to appear, without assigning sufficient reason for such refusal or failure, the examination shall proceed as if he were present.

Sec. 7.—All relevant testimony shall be heard, and if he so desire, in the presence of the accused.

Sec. 8.—The accused shall have the right to be heard in his own defence; but he shall not be allowed to appear, or to defend himself by legal counsel.

Sec. 9.—After hearing the accusation, the testimony, and the defence of the accused, the body shall decide whether he is guilty or not guilty of the offence laid to his charge. If declared guilty the body shall determine which of the penalties prescribed in *Article XIV*, shall be imposed upon him, and the President shall pronounce the sentence before Conference at once, if possible in the presence of the person adjudged guilty, and a copy of the same sentence shall be given or forwarded to him. If he be declared not guilty, the President, in the presence of Conference, shall at once announce to him the decision.

Sec. 10.—The proceedings in a case of discipline dare not be made public before the case has been adjudicated, finally decided, and sentence declared.

ARTICLE XVI.—OF ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS.

Sec. 1.—The Conference shall have power to make such Bye-Laws and to adopt such measures as may be necessary to carry out the principle laid down in the foregoing constitution.

Sec. 2.—Any portion of the Bye-Laws and appendages of the Constitution may be amended or annulled, at any regular meeting of Conference, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members present.

Sec. 3.—Any article or section of this Constitution, except Article IV, may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of Conference, when such alteration or amendment shall have been presented in writing and shall receive the support of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members present; it shall then lie upon the table until the next regular meeting, when it may be discussed, and in case two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members present vote in its favor, it shall be forthwith adopted.

Sec. 4.—This Constitution shall be transcribed by

the Secretary into a book provided for the purpose, it shall be signed by every minister and (through its delegate authorized so to do) by every congregation received into its connection; and said transcript shall be the standard authority to which final appeal shall be taken in case of disagreement in copies or transcripts of the same.

Signed by

Rev. CARL ERNST COSSMANN—Missionary of the Pittsburg Synod.

Rev. J. H. HUNTON, of Bridgewater.

Rev. J. A. SCHEFFER, of Mahone Bay.

Rev. D. Luther Roth, of Lunenburg.

LAY DELEGATES.

Mr. JAMES HAAS, of Lunenburg.

" JOHN WAGNER, of Rose Bay.

" NICHOLAS SCHMEISER, of Middle La Have.

" PETER DEMONE, of Upper La Have.

" DAVID WILE, of Bridgewater.

" PHILIP RAFUSE, of Conquerall Bank.

" JOSIAH RODENHEISER, of Branch District.

" STEPHEN WETZEL, of Northfield.

" GEORGE WILE, of Waterloo.

Captain WM. SARTIE, of Conquerall.

Mr. NATHAN KEDY, of Mahone Bay.

" DAVID HIRTLE, of Cornwall.

" JACOB BECK, of Newbern.

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