

*Sgd. Minutes*  
*1845*

**ABSTRACT**  
FROM THE  
**Minutes of the Synod**  
OF THE  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
OF  
**Nova-Scotia.**

TRURO, JULY 9, 1845.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA met, after a Sermon by the Rev. PETER G. Mc-GREGOR, the Moderator, from Ps. CXXII. 7, "*Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.*" and was constituted.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that they had ordained Mr. John Cameron, Preacher of the Gospel, to the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Nine Mile River, including Rawdon, the Gore, and Kennetcook; and Mr. James Byers, Preacher of the Gospel, to the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Shelburne, Clyde River, and Barrington, since the last meeting of Synod, and that the names of these brethren have been added to the Presbytery Roll.

Ordered that their names be added to the Roll of Synod.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that the late Rev. William Patrick, of Merigomish, has been removed by death since the last meeting of Synod, and that his name has been taken from the Presbytery Roll.

Ordered that his name be dropped from the Roll of Synod.

The Rev. John McCurdy was unanimously chosen Moderator, and took the Chair accordingly.

Read a letter from the Rev. Robert S. Patterson, containing a statement of reasons of absence from the present meeting of Synod. His reasons were sustained.

The usual Committees were appointed.

A part of the afternoon sederunt was spent in devotional exercises.

The Rev. William McCulloch moved that the number of the Committee of Bills and Overtures be increased, and their power extended, constituting them a Committee of Business, to arrange the order and time in which the several subjects to be submitted to the Synod shall be discussed, whose arrangement shall be subject to the decision of the

Synod, and adopted, altered, or rejected, as may be judged expedient.

After reasoning, the motion was adopted.

JULY 10.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures submitted their Report, containing a statement of part of the business to come before the Synod, and of the order in which they recommend that it be discussed.

The Report was adopted.

The Clerks of the several Presbyteries, with the Rev. Mr. Smith, were appointed a Committee to prepare a Report on the Statistics of the Church, from the answers which may be received to the statistical questions, according to the arrangement agreed to at last meeting of Synod.—Mr. Roy to be Convener.

Called for the Reports of the different Presbyteries on the resolution respecting the revival of the office of Deacon in the Church, submitted to the Synod at its last meeting, and sent down to the inferior Courts for their consideration.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that they have agreed to recommend to the Synod to pass the resolution referred for their consideration, viz: that in Congregations in which it seems to be expedient, Ministers may sanction and preside at the ordination of persons to the Deaconship, without any infringement of their ordination vows; and by a majority it was agreed that with regard to the preceding resolution, it is the opinion of Presbytery that the duties of the Deaconship, as stated in Scripture, have respect to the care of the poor in the distribution of the charities of the Church alone.

The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island reported that, having taken the resolution referred to them into consideration, they are of opinion that the office of the Deacon is a scriptural office, and ought to exist in every regularly organized congregation.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that, having taken the resolution into consideration, it is their opinion that the revival of the office of the Deaconship in our Church, under existing circumstances, is unnecessary and inexpedient.

After reasoning, it was agreed to drop the farther discussion of the subject for the present.

Received the Report of the Board of Foreign Missions, from which it appeared that there is in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of £140—that the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island have guaranteed the payment of the sum of £70 annually—that the Presbytery of Pictou have agreed to pay during the current year the sum of £58 10.—and that the Presbytery of Truro have promised to pay this year the sum of £50—that neither the Presbytery of Pictou nor of Truro had pledged themselves to raise any exact sum every year, though sanguine hopes were entertained that it would be increased—and that from several congregations no contributions nor promise had yet been received.

The Report was adopted: and the same brethren with the Rev. Messrs. David Roy and George Christie, and Mr. J. W. Dawson of Pictou, were appointed a Board of Foreign Missions for the ensuing year; and instructed to select a field of missionary labour, and to negotiate with candidates for occupying it with as little delay as possible.

The Rev. John McKinlay read a lecture on the "Characteristics of Modern Times."

JULY 11.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to manage the Theological Fund, laid on the table an account of the present state of that fund, from which it appears that it now amounts to the sum of £339 5s. 9d.

On motion the Synod resolved itself into a Committee of the whole Synod on the state of the Church, to consider the general state of Education in the Province, in its bearing upon the training of a native ministry, for the purpose of devising some plan by which the pressing wants of the body, for faithful men to labour in the word and doctrine, may be supplied,—the Rev. Angus McGillivray in the Chair.

The Synod resumed, the Moderator in the Chair.

The Committee reported that they have agreed to submit the following resolutions:

1. That the Synod should use diligence in order to obtain the means of supporting, and to secure the services of, some competent person to give instruction in Logic, Moral and Natural Philosophy, and the higher branches of the Mathematics, to such young men as may be desirous of preparing themselves for the office of the holy ministry.

2. That the Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, McCulloch, Christie, P. G. McGregor, Waddell and the Clerk, be appointed a Committee for the purpose of carrying the preceding resolution into effect, by ascertaining if the necessary funds can be raised, and the services of some competent person or persons secured, and to report to the Synod at its next meeting.

3. That in the mean time the Presbyteries be enjoined to appoint one of their number to superintend the education of young men in the above named branches of education, until the preceding resolution can be carried into effect—the Presbytery of Pictou to provide instruction in Logic and Moral Philosophy, and the Presbytery of Truro in Natural Philosophy and the higher branches of the Mathematics; and to make such arrangements respecting time as shall best accommodate the students and the members of Presbytery who shall have them in charge.

The Rev. Mr. Kier requested the advice of the Synod in behalf of the Prince Edward Island Presbytery, respecting one of the students in Divinity, now in attendance at the Hall, who has not attended the Natural Philosophy class, but who is now receiving instruction in that branch of study from a member of that Presbytery. The case was remitted to the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, to act therein as they shall judge most expedient and for the interests of the Church.

The Rev. Mr. Roy, as Clerk of the Pictou Presbytery, informed the Synod that three young men had been receiving instruction in Logic and Moral Philosophy from a member of that Presbytery—that the Presbytery have examined them, and agreed to recommend the Synod to sustain their attendance on these instructions, as a part of their preparatory course. The Synod agreed to the recommendation of the Pictou Presbytery, and also to admit the said young men to the Divinity Hall, with the understanding that they shall attend a course of Natural Philosophy before receiving license.

The Rev. David Roy read a Lecture "On the Divinity of the Person and Sonship of Christ."

JULY 15.

Received a communication from the Rev. Thomas Trot-

ter, containing reports of his action upon the different matters entrusted to his care as Convener of Committees.

Ordered that the same do lie upon the table.

On motion, it was agreed, that the Synod do render it imperative upon Committees and persons appointed to prepare business during the interval of Synod, and also upon all those who have of themselves prepared business for the Synod, to table the same at the first sederunt at which they shall be present, otherwise leave must be asked and obtained before they be introduced at any subsequent sederunt.

The Rev. Mr. Murdoch, according to notice given, moved that in the resolution of last year, respecting the ordination of Elders by the imposition of hands, it was and still is the mind of the Synod, that the uniformity in the above named resolution refers to the imposition of hands.

The motion passed.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Campbell, it was agreed, that the Synod do use diligence to make provision for the widows of ministers of this Church, and that a Committee be appointed to devise a plan, and submit it to the Synod during the present session.

The Rev. Messrs. Campbell, Murdoch and Crowe, were appointed a Committee for the purpose of carrying the object of the above motion into effect.—Mr. Campbell to be Convener.

Called for the Reports of the several Presbyteries on the Resolution submitted at last meeting of Synod—respecting the ordination of young men at the time of their licensure, sent down to them for their consideration.

The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island reported, that they disapprove of the ordination of young men at their licensure, except under particular circumstances.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported, that they do not approve of ordaining young men at the time of their licensure.

The Presbytery of Truro reported, that in their opinion it is inexpedient to alter the present practice.

Called for the Report of the Committee on the Formula of Questions to be put to candidates for admission to the communion of the Church. The Convener stated, that notwithstanding of all the diligence they had used, the Committee were unable to obtain from the members of Synod answers to their circular, and could not, therefore, prepare a Report. The same brethren were reappointed a Committee, with the addition of the Rev. Messrs. Crow and Murdoch, with instructions to prepare an amended draft of the Formula, to be submitted to the Synod at its next meeting.

On motion, the Rev. Messrs. Christie, P. G. McGregor and Cameron were appointed a Committee to prepare some additional questions to the exercises of Presbyterial Visitation, and to report the same to the Synod for consideration, as soon as convenient.—Mr. Cameron to be Convener.

The Rev. William McCulloch submitted the Report of the Committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to devise measures for assisting the congregation of Poplar Grove, Halifax, to erect their Church.

The Report was received, and the diligence of the Committee approved.

Called for the Report of the Presbytery of Pictou, respecting the arrears alleged to be due to the Rev. Hugh Dunbar from the Congregation of Tatamagouche. The Clerk of Presbytery gave the following statement: The Congregation of Tatamagouche maintain that they have fully met all

Mr. Dunbar's just claims. Mr. Dunbar considers them as still in arrears to him to the amount of £3 10s. In these circumstances the Presbytery have agreed to recommend to the Synod to advance this sum to Mr. Dunbar. The Synod agreed to acquiesce with the recommendation of the Presbytery, and the specified sum was ordered to be paid out of the Synod's Funds.

The Committee appointed to devise a plan for making provision for the widows of ministers in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, gave in their Report, which was adopted. In accordance with its suggestions, the Rev. Messrs. Campbell, Smith, and Patterson were appointed a Committee to carry it into effect, and report at next meeting of Synod.—Mr. Smith to be Convener.

Read the Report of the Committee on Union. Read also the drafts of a basis of union between the two bodies, agreed to by the joint committees.

The Report was received.

On motion, it was agreed to send down the said basis to the several Presbyteries, with instructions to report thereon to the Synod, at its next meeting.

The Board of Domestic Missions submitted their Report, which was received.

JULY 16.

The Rev. John Kier was reappointed Convener of the Board of Foreign Missions, and the Rev. John I. Baxter Sub-Convener.

The Committee on Union with the Synod of Nova Scotia, adhering to the Westminster Standards, were reappointed.

Received the Report of the Committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to convey to the Free Protestant Church of Scotland an expression of the sympathy of this Synod, containing a statement of their proceedings in the business entrusted to their care, and assigning reasons on account of which the design of their appointment had not been carried into effect. The Synod agreed to express their regret that the business entrusted to the Committee had not received proper attention.

Received the Report of the Committee appointed to apply to the United Associate Synod of Scotland for preachers, from which it appeared that a licentiate from that body may soon be expected; but that the services of a Gaelic Preacher cannot be obtained. The diligence of the Committee was approved, and the same Brethren were re-appointed and instructed to renew their application for one or two preachers to be sent out during the present season, if possible.

The Committee appointed to examine Presbytery Minutes, reported, that they have examined the minutes of the Presbytery of Truro and of Pictou, and with a few exceptions in the minutes of the Pictou Presbytery, find that they are accurately kept, and that business has been regularly conducted; and that no minutes from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island have been submitted to their inspection.

Received the Report of the Committee on Statistical Accounts. The diligence of the Committee was highly approved.

Agreed that the Report be printed under the superintendance of the Committee without delay, and three copies thereof sent to each minister, through the Clerks of the respective Presbyteries.

Read a letter from Wm. James Anderson, M. D., Secre-

tary to the Board of Trustees of the Pictou Academy, containing a brief statement of the arrangements which the Board have made, with the view of re-opening the Institution, and respectfully soliciting the co-operation of the Synod in carrying them into effect. After reasoning, the Clerk was directed respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of the communication, and to assure the Trustees that it will afford the Synod much pleasure to hear that the Institution in Pictou has gone into successful operation; but that at the present time the Synod are unable to return an answer entering into the merits of their letter.

The Committee appointed to prepare some additional questions at Presbyterian visitations, submitted their report, which was received. The additional questions were considered seriatim and agreed to; and the Clerk was ordered to reprint the former Formula, with the additions now made, in the abstract of the minutes for the present year.

The Board of Domestic Missions were re-appointed, with their former powers.

Called for the Report of the Committee on the Act of Incorporation. The Committee reported that they had taken the said Act into consideration, but for several reasons had judged it inexpedient to proceed until they had an opportunity of again consulting the Synod upon the matter. The Committee were re-appointed, with instructions to proceed.

The Committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's Accounts, reported that they have attended to that duty, and find that the Accounts have been accurately kept, and farther that several Congregations have not contributed towards the Synod's Funds. The Clerk was ordered to write to the Ministers of such Congregations, urging them to make and forward collections for this object without delay.

Agreed that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Proprietors of the Chapel, for the use of the building during the present meeting of Synod.

The Synod ordered an expression of their approbation of the diligence and faithfulness with which the Rev. David Roy had fulfilled his Mission to Cape Breton to be recorded upon their minutes.

The Clerk of the Presbytery of Truro reported that the Presbytery were still dealing with Mr. Reid, but were not yet prepared finally to report. His case was again referred to the Presbytery of Truro, with full powers to bring the matter to a final adjustment.

On motion it was agreed that the Commission and Committee of Superintendance be not re-appointed, and that their powers be vested in the Synod's Board of Domestic Missions.

The Rev. Messrs. Ross, Murdoch and Baxter, were requested to lecture before the Synod at its next meeting, which was appointed to be held in New Glasgow, on the second Tuesday in July, 1846, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

Agreed that at next meeting of Synod, a reason of absence shall be demanded by the Moderator from those members of Synod who, upon the calling of the Roll, shall be ascertained to be absent without leave.

Concluded with Singing, Prayer, and the Apostolic Benediction.

Extracted from the Minutes of Synod, by  
JAMES ROSS, *Synod Clerk.*

## APPENDIX.

**Formula of Questions at Presbyterial  
Visitations.**

## I. TO THE MINISTER.

1. Do you preach the gospel faithfully?
2. Do you hold diets of examination in the various sections of the Congregation regularly?
3. Do you visit the Congregation ministerially from house to house with regularity?
4. Do you visit the afflicted attentively?
5. Do you keep a Record of Baptisms, Marriages, Admissions to the Church and Deaths, as they occur in your Congregation, as well as a book in which are recorded the proceedings of the Session?—and if so, produce them.
6. Are you regular and conscientious in your attendance upon Church Courts, as far as God in his providence affords you an opportunity?
7. Do you administer the Sacrament of Baptism in an orderly way,—that is, when a Congregation is assembled,—or do you at any time administer it privately?
8. Have you a competent number of Elders?
9. Are you careful not to admit to sealing ordinances persons from other Congregations who may be under sentence of suspension?

## II. TO THE ELDERS.

1. Is it your endeavor to exercise a vigilant inspection over the families and individuals in your respective quarters in particular, and over this Congregation, and the Church in general?
2. Are you attentive in visiting the afflicted?
3. Do you regularly attend the meetings of Session, and of other Church Courts, according as you may have been appointed?
4. Do you regularly attend, and superintend, or take a part in the proceedings and exercises of prayer meetings?
5. Have managers been appointed to transact the general business of the Congregation?—and if so, who are they?

## III. TO THE SESSION.

1. Do you meet occasionally for religious conference and prayer?
2. Do you exercise careful inspection over the conduct and religious instruction of the youth in the Congregation who have been, by baptism, recognised as, members of the visible Church?

## IV. TO THE MANAGERS OR COMMISSIONERS.

1. How have you fulfilled your pecuniary engagements to your minister?
  2. What system is pursued by the Congregation or its managers in raising the minister's salary?
- Agreed also that the Presbytery strongly recommend, in cases in which such recommendation shall be deemed necessary, the use of due diligence to relieve the minister from

the necessity of keeping accounts respecting stipends, with individual members or heads of families in the Congregation; and further, that in all cases in which a part of the minister's salary is payable in produce, the produce part of it be received and disposed of by the managers, and the proceeds thereof handed over to the minister.

## ACCOUNT.

### RECEIVED.

1845.			
July 1,	Balance on hand,		£18 12 6½
" 7,	Contribution from Pictou,	4 14 1½	
" 9,	" East River,	3 0 7½	
" 10,	" St. Peter's, P. E. I.,	1 5 0	
" "	" U. Settlement E. River,	4 2 10	
" 11,	" Windsor & Newport,	3 10 0	
" "	" Miramichi,	2 0 0	
" "	" Truro, for 1844,	3 0 0	
" "	" Do., for 1845,	3 0 0	
" "	" St. Mary's,	3 1 3	
" "	" Nine Mile River,	3 12 6	
" "	" Cavendish & New London,	2 6 0	
" "	" Musquodoboit,	2 0 0	
" "	" Halifax,	5 10 0	
" "	" Stewiacke,	3 12 0	
" "	" Economy, for 1844,	2 5 0	
" "	" Do., for 1845,	2 0 0	
" "	" Londonderry,	3 0 0	
" "	" Tatamagouche,	1 9 0	
" "	" Onslow,	2 5 0	
" "	" Antigonish,	2 1 10½	
" "	" Princetown, P. E. I.,	2 10 0	
Sept. 25,	" Bedeque,	1 7 ¾	
Oct. 1,	" Merigonish,	1 16 1½	
" "	" West River,	4 0 0	
			£86 0 9

### PAID.

1845.			
July 16,	The Professor of Theology, one year's salary, one half in advance,	£90 0 0	
" "	Bill for Printing,	3 15 0	
" "	Cleaning Chapel after meeting of Synod,	0 3 0	
Aug. 20,	Mrs. McLean,	5 0 0	
" 28,	Rev. Hugh Dunbar,	3 10 0	
" "	Synod Clerk,	5 0 0	
	Expenses of removing Theological Library to P. E. Island,	1 5 7½	
	Printing Basis of Union,	0 11 3	
	Balance on hand,	56 15 10½	
			£86 0 9