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The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

The following is the Basis of Union agreed upon by the Synod at its last meeting, and sent down to Congregations for approval :

(Parties entitled to vote are communicants, male and female. Adherents may send up their opinions in a separate form.)

I. THE BASIS OF UNION.

1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the Word of God, are the only infallible rule of faith and manners.
2. The Westminster Confession of Faith shall form the subordinate standard of this Church; the Larger and Shorter Catechisms shall be adopted by the Church, and appointed to be used for the instruction of the people—it being distinctly understood that nothing contained in the aforesaid Confession or Catechisms, regarding the power and duty of the Civil Magistrate, shall be held to sanction any principles or views inconsistent with full liberty of conscience in matters of religion.
3. The government and worship of this Church shall be in accordance with the recognized principles and practice of Presbyterian Churches, as laid down generally in the "Form of Presbyterial Church Government," and in "The Directory for the Public Worship of God."
4. This Church, while cherishing Christian affection towards the whole Church of God, and desiring to hold fraternal intercourse with it in its several branches, as opportunity offers, shall, at the same time, regard itself as being in such Ecclesiastical relations to Churches holding the same doctrine, government and discipline with itself, as that Ministers and Probationers from these Churches shall be received into this Church, subject to such regulations as shall, from time to time, be adopted.

(The above Basis was approved and accepted by the Synod *unanimously*, it being their conviction that there is nothing in it inconsistent with the principles which this Church holds and has always held.)

II. ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTIONS.

1. ON THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

With regard to modes of worship, the practice presently followed by congregations, in the matter of worship, shall be allowed, and further action in connection therewith shall be left to the legislation of the United Church.

2. ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MINISTERS.

Steps shall be taken, at the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Church, for the equitable establishment and administration of an efficient Fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of Ministers.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF COLLEGIATE INSTITUTIONS.

The negotiating Churches shall enter into union with the Theological and Literary Institutions which they now have; and application shall be made to Parliament for such legislation as will bring Queen's University and College, Knox College, The Presbyterian College, Montreal, Morrin College, and the Theological Hall at Halifax, into relations to the United Church similar to those which they now hold to their respective Churches, and to preserve their corporate existence, government and functions, on terms and conditions like to those under which they now exist; but the United Church shall not be required to elect Trustees for an Arts' Department in any of the Colleges above named.

4. ON THE LEGISLATION TO BE SOUGHT FOR IN REGARD TO PROPERTY AND THE RIGHTS THEREOF.

Such legislation shall be sought as shall preserve undisturbed all rights of property now belonging to congregations and corporate bodies, and, at the same time, not interfere with freedom of action on the part of congregations in the same locality desirous of uniting, or on the part of corporate bodies which may find it to be expedient to discontinue, wholly or partially, their separate existence.

5. ON HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY OPERATIONS.

The United Church will heartily take up and prosecute the Home and Foreign Missionary and Benevolent operations of the several Churches, according to their respective claims; and with regard to the practical work of the Church and the promotion of its Schemes, whilst the General Assembly shall have the supervision and control of all the work of the Church, yet the

United Church shall have due regard to such arrangements, through Synods and Local Committees, as shall tend most effectually to unite in Christian love and sympathy the various sections of the Church, and at the same time to draw forth the resources and energies of the people in behalf of the work of Christ in the Dominion, and throughout the world.

6. ON GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO DENOMINATIONAL COLLEGES.

The Committee claims for the respective Churches represented by it the fullest forbearance as to any difference of opinion which may exist respecting the question of State grants to Educational Establishments of a Denominational character, and does not see in such diversity of sentiment upon a subject on which uniformity of opinion is not enforced within any of the negotiating bodies, anything which need prove a barrier to a Union, or disturb the peace of a United Church.

7. ON THE UNANIMITY OF SENTIMENT IN REGARD TO THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST, IN REGARD OF WHICH DOCTRINE THE SYNOD REGRET THAT ANY QUESTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN MOOTED—THE ORTHODOXY OF THIS SYNOD ON THE SUBJECT BEING, AND HAVING ALWAYS BEEN, BEYOND QUESTION.

Authoritative documents of the respective Churches on the subject of the Headship of Christ were read, viz: On the part of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland; The Act of Independence; the questions put to Ministers at ordination; the Formula signed by the Ministers of that Church, and the Form used in closing the meeting of the Supreme Court. On the part of the Canada Presbyterian Church there were read the articles of the Basis of Union between the two bodies now composing that Church, the Questions put to Ministers at ordination, and the Formula.

The Committee does now express its satisfaction with the unanimity of sentiment which is exhibited in the documents referred to above.

(All the above resolutions were approved and accepted by the Synod *unanimously*, it being their conviction that there is nothing in them inconsistent with the principles which this Church holds and has always held.)

III. RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DISPOSAL OF THE TEMPORALITIES' FUND.

The Temporalities' Fund shall remain, as at present, in the hands of a Board, the membership of which shall be continued, after the consummation of the Union, by the remanent members having power to fill vacancies caused

by death, resignation or otherwise; and the administration of the Fund shall continue on the same principles and for the same purposes as at present, until all vested rights shall have lapsed; and these rights shall be held to be hundred and fifty dollars (\$450), four hundred dollars (\$400), and two hundred the following:—(1.) The annual receipt by Ministers now receiving four hundred dollars (\$200), of the same amount during their lifetime and good standing in the Church. (2.) The annual receipt of two thousand dollars (\$2000) by the Treasurer of Queen's College; and (3) the annual receipt of two hundred dollars (\$200) by all the Ministers who shall be on the Synod Roll at the time of the Union, and by all recognized Probationers and Licentiates during their lifetime and good standing in the Church: That as soon as the Fund, or any part of it, shall no longer be required for these purposes, it shall be appropriated (1) to the formation of a Fund for the benefit of Aged and Infirm Ministers of the United Church, retired from the active duties of the Ministry with the sanction of the said Church, in the proportion of six-ninths; (2) for the maintenance and extension of the Theological Faculty of Queen's College in the proportion of two-ninths; (3) to the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the said United Church, in the proportion of one-ninth—these calculations to be based on a capital fund of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000), and the residue, over and above this amount, up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), to be devoted to the maintenance of the Theological Faculty of Morrin College: And whereas, the Committee on Union desire instructions as to the mode of making provision for the payment of two hundred dollars (\$200) per annum to all Ministers on the Roll at the time of Union until such time as they become beneficiaries of the 'Temporalities' Fund, the Synod refer the matter to the wisdom of the Committee to arrange such method of provision as they may deem best, drawing, if necessary (but only as an extreme measure, when no other method of meeting the difficulty can be devised), upon the capital of the Fund—the same to be repaid to capital before any distribution of the principal Fund takes place.

(The Synod approved and accepted the above Resolution (over amendments thereto by majorities of 39 to 18, 51 to 13, 39 to 9, and 45 to 13), as being on the whole, in the altered circumstances of this Church after Union, the most advantageous for the promotion of the great interests which the Fund was designed to subserve, with this exception, however, that the salary of two hundred dollars (\$200) shall in the case of Ministers, who with the consent of the Church retire from the active duties of the Ministry from old age or infirmity, be increased to four hundred dollars (\$400); and that legislation be sought to legalize such distribution.)

