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PROCEEDINGS
OF
A CONVENTION,
AND THE
MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE
OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD,
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
OF THE
STATE OF INDIANA,
CONVENED IN THE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH,
INDIANAPOLIS, OCTOBER 28, A. D., 1848.
WITH
AN APPENDIX
CONTAINING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SAME.

“In fundamentals, unity—in non-essentials, liberty—in all things, charity.”

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PROCEEDINGS OF A CONVENTION
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA,
HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS, OCTOBER 28, 1848.

In accordance with a resolution of the Wabash Conference of the Miami Synod, the Ministers of the Gospel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Indiana, met in Convention in the English Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, on Tuesday evening, October 27, 1848, for the purpose of engaging in divine worship, and free and friendly consultation as to the expediency of forming a Synod in this State.

The exercises of the Convention were opened with a sermon by the Rev. S. Saford, from Heb., chap. 12, v. 1. After the services of the evening, the first session of the Convention was announced for the following day at nine o'clock.

FIRST SESSION.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, NINE O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Convention was organized for the transaction of business, by the appointment of Rev. H. WELLS, Chairman, and Rev. A. H. MYERS, Secretary.

After which, the session was opened by the singing of a hymn, and prayer by the Chairman, for wisdom and direction from on high, and the Divine benediction upon our doings.

A call having been made from the Chair for the names of Clerical and Lay Delegates, the following were handed in to the Secretary, and registered as duly qualified members:

<i>Pastors.</i>	<i>Post Office.</i>	<i>Lay Delegates.</i>
Rev. Hugh Wells,	Augusta, Marion County, Ind.	
Rev. A. H. Myers,	Indianapolis, Marion County Ind.	G. D. Staats.
Rev. Samuel McReynolds,	Camden, Carroll County, Ind.	
Rev. Franklin Templin,	Columbia, Whitley County, Ind.	
Rev. Samuel Saford,	Middletown, Henry County, Ind.	
Rev. Obediah Brown,	Indianapolis, Marion County, Ind.	

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That in humble reliance upon the Great Head of the Church, we now proceed to organize ourselves into an Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Pastors and one Lay member, be appointed to draft a Constitution for this body, to be submitted for action at the earliest possible hour.

This committee consisted of Rev. A. H. Myers, Rev. S. McReynolds, and Br. G. D. Staats.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That each session of the Convention be preceded by thirty minutes devotional exercises.

It was then

Resolved, That we adjourn until after service this afternoon.

Closed with prayer by the Secretary.

[Preaching by the Rev. F. Templin at two o'clock, P. M., from Acts, chap. 15, v. 11.]

SECOND SESSION.

HALF-PAST THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

The business of the Convention was resumed after prayer by Br. H. Ohr. The minutes of the morning session were

then read and adopted. Br. H. Ohr, and A. Haugh, members of the Indianapolis church were introduced and invited to seats among us as advising members.

The Rev. David Hoshour was also introduced by the Secretary, and on motion, invited to a seat among us, as an advisory member.

The committee appointed to draft a Constitution, reported that they had examined the Constitution proposed by the General Synod of our Church, for District Synods, and recommended its adoption with certain alterations and additions which they proposed; which Constitution with the proposed alterations and additions was read by the Secretary. The report was accepted and the committee discharged; when it was

Resolved, That we now proceed to adopt the Constitution by Sections.

The Preamble was adopted, when some discussion arising with reference to filling the blank in Section 2, of Article I, with reference to the title, it was

Resolved, That we now adjourn to meet next Monday morning at nine o'clock.

Closed with prayer by the Chairman.

[Preaching on Saturday evening, by Rev. O. Brown, from Luke, chap. 19, v. 13. Services of the Sabbath: Rev. H. Wells preached the Sacramental Sermon, from John, chap. 20, vs. 19, 20; after which the Communion Service was read by the Pastor Loci, when a very respectable number of the followers of the Redeemer, united in the commemoration of the Savior's dying love. The exercises were interesting, and we most devoutly trust profitable to many souls. Rev. H. Wells preached in the First Presbyterian Church in the evening, from Ps. 34, v. 8. Rev. S. McReynolds preached in the Lutheran Church from Matt., chap. 22, v. 14.]

THIRD SESSION.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, NINE O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by Rev. S. Saford. The minutes of the Second Session were read and adopted.

The Convention took up the unfinished business, and the blank in Section 2, of Article I, being by motion of the Secretary, filled by inserting "The Olive Branch Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the State of Indiana," the Article after some friendly discussion was unanimously adopted. After which the remaining Articles being separately considered, were unanimously adopted. The vote then being on the adoption of the Constitution as a whole, it was unanimously adopted. [See Appendix.]

On motion,

The Convention now adjourned to give place to the organization of a Synod, in accordance with the Constitution just adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Journal of the Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of October, A. D., 1848.

A. H. MYERS,
Secretary of the Convention.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE
OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD,
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, ELEVEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Synod was fully formed by the election of the following officers:

REV. S. McREYNOLDS, *President*;

REV. A. H. MYERS, *Secretary*;

MR. G. D. STAATS, *Treasurer*.

The following Committees were then appointed by the Chair:

No. 1. H. Wells, F. Templin, and G. D. Staats; to report resolutions expressive of the feelings of this body towards our beloved brother, D. M. Hoyt, deceased.

No. 2. O. Brown, H. Ohr, and G. D. Staats.

No. 3. The Secretary, S. Saford, and F. Templin.

Various papers and documents were distributed among the Committees.

On motion,
Adjourned to meet this afternoon at half-past one o'clock.
Closed with prayer by the Secretary.

SECOND SESSION.

HALF-PAST ONE O'CLOCK, P. M.

Synod convened according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by Br. S. Saford.

Minutes of first session read and adopted.

Committee No. 1, made the following report, which was adopted by a rising vote:

REPORT.

Your Committee to whom was assigned the melancholy duty of preparing resolutions expressive of the feelings of this body toward the Rev. D. M. Hoyt, one of our number, lately deceased, respectfully submit the following: Inasmuch as it has pleased our All-wise and Benevolent Parent to remove our beloved brother D. M. Hoyt, of Lafayette, Ind., from his labor to his reward—Therefore,

Resolved, That in the removal of Brother Hoyt, the Ministers of the Gospel of Reconciliation in this great Western Valley, (which he had selected for his field, and in which he hoped long to labor,) have lost one of their most learned and efficient co-laborers.

Resolved, That Sister Hoyt has lost a kind and affectionate husband, and her infant children a protector and friend.

Resolved, That his congregations have lost a faithful and worthy Pastor, and an affectionate friend.

Resolved, That Society has lost a peaceable and highly respected member.

Resolved, That in this Providence we hear the voice of the Master, calling us to renewed diligence in the prosecution of the great work assigned us.

Resolved, That the Secretary forward a copy of these resolutions, accompanied with a letter of condolence, to Sister Hoyt, expressive of our sympathy for herself and little ones, in their irreparable loss.

H. WELLS,
F. TEMPLIN,
G. D. STAATS.

Committee No. 2, made following report, which was read and adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee, to whom were referred the minntes of sister synods, respectfully report as follows :

1st. Upon the minutes of the Synod of Virginia, held in New Market, Shenandoah county, May 5th to 10th, 1848. Its officers are Rev. J. P. Cline, President; Rev. A. P. Ludden, Secretary; Rev. P. Sheckle, Treasurer. It embraces 19 ministers, 37 congregations, and 1,842 communicants.

No. 2. Of the Hartwick Synod, held in Waterloo, New York, September 2, 1847. Its officers are Rev. G. A. Lintner, D. D., President; Rev. R. Dedrick, Secretary; Rev. Wm. N. Scholl, Treasurer. It embraces 20 minister, 2 congregations, and 2,723 communicants.

No. 3. The Synod of Miami, held in Hamilton, Ohio, April 17, 1848. Its officers are Rev. A. J. Weddle, President; Rev. A. J. Karns, Secretary; Mr. A. Gebhart, Treasurer. It is composed of 25 ministers, 72 congregations, and 3,392 communicants.

No. 4. Of the Pittsburgh Synod, held in Middle Lancaster, Pennsylvania, May 25, 1848. Its officers are Rev. Gottlieb Bassler, President; Rev. S. D. Witt, Secretary; Mr. Geo. Hubley, Treasurer. It embraces 22 ministers, 75 congregations, and 4,978 communicants.

Those bodies are represented as in a very healthy and prosperous condition. Your committee rejoice in the prosperity of those Synods; and most devoutly pray that they may continue to enjoy enlarged prosperity, and signal and permanent success in their labors of love.

Respectfully submitted,

O. BROWN,
G. D. STAATS,
H. OHR.

ON VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

Lafayette charge, embracing three congregations, was reported vacant. It was

Resolved, That the President and Bro. Wells visit the Lafayette charge, if possible, within three months.

Bro. Templin reported vacant congregation in Elkhart county, Indiana. Bro. S. Saford reported Liberty, in Union county, and Brownsville, and Cambridge City, as destitute, and thinks a good charge could be formed by a man who could preach both German and English.

Committee No. 3 made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee, to whom were referred the proceedings of the fourteenth convention of the General Synod of our church in the United States, respectfully submit the following: From this document we learn that the delegation was very respectable in number, all the Synods in connection being represented, and that a vast amount of business of general interest to the church was transacted in the utmost harmony. This Synod is now composed of sixteen district Synods, containing ministers and members scattered over most of the States of our wide spread Union. From the statistics we gather the following: It embraces 336 ministers, 762 congregations, and 62,022 members with an annual increase of 5,000 or 6,000. Has under its control five Theological Seminaries, three Colleges, and several Classical Schools, in which there are about 125 individuals in various stages of preparation for the ministry of our church. Its Home Missionary Society aided seventeen ministers the past year, and will greatly extend its operations in the future. This organization is most signally answering the design of its originators and friends, and bids fair to unite all parts of our church in this country in one unbroken communion. Your committee rejoice in the prosperity of this body, and its flattering prospects for the accomplishment of great and signal good for the church in this, our happy land, and would offer the following:

Resolved, That we highly approve the design of this organization, have the utmost confidence in its efficiency, and with a view to the promotion of the peace, prosperity and union of our beloved Zion, will at the proper time, seek connection with it.

A. H. MYERS,
S. SAFORD,
F. TEMPLIN.

MISSIONARY BUSINESS.

Resolved, That this Synod recommend to its members, and to the members of our churches, the adoption of a systematic plan, (to-wit: the contributing of a specified sum either weekly or monthly, say a cent a week, or a half dime or dime a month,) for missionary, educational and synodical purposes.

Resolved, That each member of this body consider himself an exploring missionary, and prepare himself to report to this body accordingly at our next session.

It was now

Resolved, That the next meeting of this ecclesiastical body be held in Columbia, Whitley county, Indiana, on the Friday preceding the second Sabbath in October, A. D. 1849.

Resolved, That this Synod be divided into two conference districts, embracing the following charges:

District No. 1, Lafayette, Columbia, and Camden charges. Bro. Brown was added to this district.

No. 2, Indianapolis, Augusta, and Middletown charges.

The following members were appointed delegates to sister Synods:

To the Miami Synod, the President.

To the Indianapolis (German) Synod, the Secretary.

To the Synod of Illinois, Rev. O. Brown.

To the Wittenberg Synod, Rev. F. Templin.

On motion,

The Synod adjourned to meet after evening service.

Closed with prayer by Rev. H. Wells.

HALF-PAST SIX O'CLOCK, P. M.

A short session of the ministerium was held. Opened with prayer by the President.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That Bro. F. Templin having passed the usual period of probation, and made full proof of his ministry, he be ordained at the close of public worship this evening.

Resolved, That the license of Bro. Brown be renewed.

On motion,

The Ministerium adjourned. Prayer by the Secretary.

[Preaching this evening by Rev. S. Saford from Matt. xxi, 28:30. At the close of the services, in accordance with the resolution of the Ministerium, Bro. Templin was solemnly ordained to the office of the Gospel Ministry, by prayer, and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery.]

THIRD SESSION.

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK, P. M.

Synod met in accordance with adjournment. Opened with prayer by the Rev. F. Templin. Minutes of second session read and adopted.

PROMISCUOUS BUSINESS.

Resolved, That the Secretary be empowered to purchase a book of suitable size and quality, in which to record the minutes of this body.

Resolved, That the Secretary and Bro. G. D. Staats be a committee to procure for this Synod a seal with the following *device* and *motto*: Device, an olive branch lying upon an open Bible. Motto, *in necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas*.

Resolved, That our confidence in the "Lutheran Observer" is still unimpaired, and that we will make vigorous efforts for its general circulation in our bounds.

Resolved, That we are unfeignedly grateful to our Home Missionary Society for the timely aid extended to many of the members of this Synod, and pray that its resources may be greatly enlarged, and its usefulness increased.

Resolved, That we hail with pleasure and delight "The Missionary," wishing it long existence and enlarged prosperity.

Resolved, That we highly approve the design of Prof. Wm. M. Reynolds, with reference to the publication of "The Evangelical Review," and wish him the most liberal patronage and signal success, for which we will pray and labor.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to have 300 copies of the minutes published.

Resolved, That we are laid under a debt of gratitude to the members of Mt. Pisgah Church for the hospitable entertainment which we have received at their hands.

Resolved, That Synod adjourn to meet at the appointed place and time.

Prayer by the President.

The foregoing is a true record of the proceedings of the first session of the "Olive Branch Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the State of Indiana."

A. H. MYERS, *Secretary*.

INDIANAPOLIS, *Indiana*.

PAROCHIAL REPORT.

MINISTERS.	Congregations.	Stations.	BAPTISMS.			Confirmation.	Admitted by Letter.	Communicants.	Removed.	Sunday Schools.	Scholars.	Prayer Meetings.	Collections for Synod.
			Infants.	Adults.	Total.								
Rev. S. McReynolds,	2	5	2	4	6	1	1	70	..	1	..	1	\$5 00
Rev. A. H. Myers,	3	1	6	2	8	8	1	135	..	5	175	6	11 38
Rev. H. Wells,	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	70	..	..	..	..	11 00
Rev. F. Templin,	5	3	7	1	8	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	10 00

Our Parochial Report is very deficient. Br. Templin was not prepared to report the number of communicants in his charge. Br. Brown has no charge as yet. Br. Saford having but recently moved into his charge, was not prepared to report.



APPENDIX.

CONSTITUTION OF THE OLIVE BRANCH SYNOD, OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, OF THE STATE OF INDIANA.

PREAMBLE.

We, the ministers and lay-delegates of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Indiana and adjacent parts, believing the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be a sufficient, and the *only infallible rule* of faith and practice—receiving the Augsburg confession of faith and Luther's smaller catechism, as writings in which the doctrines of the word of God are set forth in a manner substantially correct—and adopting the "Formula for the government and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church" set forth by the Evangelical Lutheran General Synod of the United States of North America, subject to such minor alterations as the circumstances of individual congregations, or of this Synod may require—acknowledging Jesus Christ as the *Supreme* and *Only* Head of the Church, and trusting in the protection of Almighty God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, do in convention assembled at Indianapolis, Indiana, October 28, 1848, adopt for our government as a Synod, the following Constitution:

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. It was found necessary and profitable in the primitive church, to have an occasional meeting of different individual churches, for the purpose of consultation and mutual encouragement, in preserving their purity and promoting their welfare.* This apostolical custom is retained in the Lutheran Church, under the name of Synod.

SEC. 2. This Synod shall be known by the title of "The Olive Branch Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the State of Indiana," and shall be composed of ordained ministers, of licentiates, and of lay delegates, who shall subscribe this Constitution, and of all others who may be hereafter received.

SEC. 3. Each pastoral district shall be entitled to one lay delegate to Synod, who shall have a seat and the liberty of speech; and when said district is likewise represented by the pastor the lay delegate shall also have a vote.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of this Synod to see that the rules of government and discipline adopted by it, are observed by all the congregations and ministers within their bounds; to receive appeals from opinions of church councils, and of special conferences, when regularly brought before them, and review and reverse or confirm the decisions to which they refer; to examine and decide on all charges against ministers and licentiates, that of heterodoxy alone excepted, (this being the duty of the Ministerium;) to form and change ministerial districts; to attend to any business relating to their churches, which is regularly brought before them; to provide supplies for destitute congregations, and to devise and execute all suitable measures for the promotion of piety and the general prosperity of the church, not otherwise disposed of in the Formula.

SEC. 4. To this end the Synod and Ministerium shall have power to cite any church members within their bounds to appear before them, and to endeavor to obtain other witnesses, when the case may require it.

SEC. 6. If any congregation, hitherto in connection with this Synod, should refuse to observe the Constitution of this Synod and the Formula, it shall be excluded from connexion with said Synod during the time of its refusal; nor shall any minister or licentiate belonging to this Synod, take charge of it without special permission of the President. Provided, however, that if the charter of an incorporated congregation be at variance with any article of the Formula, said charter shall have precedence of those articles with which it is in conflict. If the charter be not in violation of the spirit of the Formula, in which case, when any such violation is so declared by the Synod, such congregation shall take all suitable measures to effect, if possible, the necessary alteration in the charter.

SEC. 7. Any congregation situated within the bounds of this Synod, may become connected with it, by acceding to the provisions of the Constitution, and making some annual contribution towards defraying the necessary expenses of the Synod. For this purpose an annual collection shall be held in each congregation.

SEC. 8. At least one meeting of Synod shall be held annually at such time

* Acts xv. 2, 6, 22, 23-28. Acts xi. 22, 30; xxi. 17, 18. Acts xi.

and place as may have been determined on; and special meetings may at any time be called by the President with the consent of one-third of the ordained ministers; care shall be taken, however, that reasonable notice be given to the ministers and congregations connected with this Synod.

SEC. 9. No minister or licentiate shall be absent from the meeting of the Synod without the most urgent necessity. In case of his absence he shall, if possible, send to the Synod a written apology for his absence. Voluntary ministerial engagements shall not be regarded as a sufficient excuse. Any minister or licentiate violating the provisions of this section, shall be called to account by the President at the next meeting. Each pastoral district shall continue its lay representation at the annual meetings of this body.

SEC. 10. The written apologies for absence, as well as all other letters and papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium, ought to be addressed to the President.

SEC. 11. The minister of the place in which the Synod is held, with the church council, shall endeavor to provide for the entertainment of the ministers, candidates, and lay delegates, by Christian friends.

SEC. 12. All the members of the Synod shall endeavor to assemble on the evening preceding the day appointed.

SEC. 13. Divine worship shall be held, during the meeting of the Synod, as often as may be convenient, and consistent with the business of the Synod.

SEC. 14. Ministers in good standing in other Synods, or in any sister churches, who may be present, may be received as advisory members.

SEC. 15. A delegate from any other Evangelical Lutheran Synod, shall have all the privileges of a regular member of this body, at the meeting at which he is appointed by his Synod to appear as its representative.

SEC. 16. If any congregation in connection with this Synod, shall, without the consent of this body, receive as its pastor, a minister who has been expelled from any regular ecclesiastical body, or who is not acknowledged by this body, and shall refuse to dismiss said individual, when advised to do so by the Synod or the President, shall be excluded from our connexion.

ARTICLE II.

OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Synod shall be a President, Secretary, and Treasurer; the two former shall also be the officers of the Ministerium.

SEC. 2. All these officers shall be annually chosen by ballot, by a majority of the whole of the votes of the ordained ministers, licentiates and lay delegates present. The President and Secretary shall be ordained ministers regularly belonging to this Synod; the Treasurer may be either an ordained minister, or any one of the members of a congregation connected with this Synod. The President and Secretary shall not be eligible for more than two successive years, but the Treasurer may be re-elected at any time.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE PRESIDENT.

SECTION 1. The President shall deliver a synodical discourse at each annual meeting of the Synod, and he shall, in connection with the pastor of the place, appoint the other individuals who are to preach during the session.

SEC. 2. He shall present to Synod at each annual meeting, just before the election of officers takes place, a written report of all his official acts during the interim, which should embrace an account—1. Of all newly organized congregations. 2. Of all ministerial changes. 3. Of the building of new churches. 4. Of the outpouring of God's spirit upon any of our congregations, and of any other important events that may have transpired. 5. He may also recommend any measures which in his judgment are calculated to promote the cause of God. His report shall be laid on the table and disposed of as the Synod may direct.

SEC. 3. He presides at all the meetings of the Synod and Ministerium.

SEC. 4. The President has a right to take part in the discussions as well as any other member. When the house is equally divided on any question, he has the casting vote. In all other cases he has no suffrage, except when an election is made by ballot, and then he has not the casting vote.

SEC. 5. The President shall preserve order, not suffer more than one member to speak at a time, secure to each person liberty to speak without interruption from others, and shall prevent a speaker from deviating from the subject before the house.

SEC. 6. The President shall take care that each subject be duly considered before a decision be made. He shall distinctly rehearse each motion, when no one has any further observations to offer, and take the votes of the house on the same.

SEC. 7. When the votes are called for, they are to be given simply by yea and nay, and no further observations are then admissible.

SEC. 8. The President has the appointment of all committees which are not to be elected by ballot, or otherwise; and every motion for the formation of a committee shall specify in what way it is to be formed.

SEC. 9. It is an important part of his duty to give counsel to every member of the Synod when he deems it expedient, and particularly to admonish and advise every erring brother. If accusation has been lodged against any member of this body according to chap. III. sec. v. of the Formula, or if he has sufficient reason to believe that any minister or licentiate is living in any material violation of the rules of the Formula, it shall be his duty to call upon the individual to relieve his character from said imputation, before the Synod or Ministerium.

SEC. 10. Should the President remove from the limits of the Synod or depart this life, then the Secretary shall succeed him, and discharge the duties of the President, until the next Synod.

SEC. 11. The President shall be authorized, until within four months of the

ynodical meeting, to grant licenses to persons, who are recommended by three ordained ministers, members of this body. But he shall not, at any time, during the recess of Synod, grant licenses to applicants who are members of other denominations.

SEC. 12. It shall be the duty of the President to appoint supplies for all vacant congregations during the recess of Synod.

ARTICLE IV.

OF THE SECRETARY.

SECTION 1. The Secretary shall keep a faithful and accurate account of all the proceedings of the Synod and Ministerium; carefully preserve all the papers, the seal, &c., of the Synod, subject to their direction, and shall do all the official writing of the Synod not otherwise provided for.

SEC. 2. He shall give notice (either by circular or in the religious papers of our church, as each synod may direct) to each minister and licentiate belonging to the Synod, of the time and place of the synodical meeting, at least six weeks previous to the time appointed.

SEC. 3. He is to keep a register of the names of all the ministers and licentiates, arranged according to their age in office, and also of the congregations, whether vacant or not, connected with the Synod.

SEC. 4. If the accumulation of business should render it necessary, the President may appoint an assistant Secretary, whose office shall expire at the close of the meeting of the Synod.

SEC. 5. He shall attest the manuscript records and printed minutes of each Convention, and in common with the President, authenticate the certificates of ordination and licensure.

SEC. 6. If in the recess of the Synod, the Secretary should remove into the bounds of another Synod, or should depart this life, the President shall require the archives, the seal, and all other property of the Synod to be delivered to him, and shall retain the charge of them until the next session of the Synod, when he shall appoint a Secretary *pro tem*.

SEC. 7. Unless the archives are otherwise disposed of by the Synod, they shall be in the charge and custody of the Secretary. Any minister or delegate of a congregation connected with said Synod shall have free access to them; but no part of them shall be allowed to be taken away or destroyed.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE TREASURER.

SECTION 1. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the moneys belonging to the Synod, and shall keep them subject to its order. He shall keep and present to each annual meeting, a detailed and faithful account of the state of the treasury. An order from the President, attested by the Secretary, shall be a sufficient voucher for money paid by him out of the treasury.

SEC. 2. He shall give bond and security in such sum as Synod may require.

SEC. 3. Should the Treasurer, during the recess of Synod, become unqualified for the discharge of his official duties, remove out of the bounds of the Synod, or be removed by death, the President shall have all the moneys, certificates, bonds and documents belonging to the Synod, delivered to him, and shall have charge of them until the next synodical session.

ARTICLE VI.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD.

SECTION 1. It is the duty of every ordained minister, licentiate, and lay delegate of this Synod, not only to observe the provisions of this Constitution himself, but also, as far as is in his power, see that it is obeyed by all connected with it.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES OR CANDIDATES.

SEC. 2. It is recommended to every ordained minister and licentiate, to aid in circulating among the members of his charge, the books proposed by this Synod and General Synod for use.

SEC. 3. No minister or licentiate shall interfere with the congregation of another, by preaching or performing other ministerial duties in them, except by his request or consent, or except with the consent of Synod, or the advice of a prudential committee, consisting of three ordained pastors, annually elected by ballot from the members of this body, for such purpose.

SEC. 4. Any minister or licentiate in good standing, who removes from the bounds of this Synod into those of another, shall, on application to the President, receive a certificate, under his signature, of his honorable dismissal, and such a certificate shall be required of this Synod of every member of any other Synod who applies for admission.

SEC. 5. Every ordained minister has the right to leave his charge and move to another whenever he believes it his duty to do so; yet he must give the President timely notice of his intended removal.

SEC. 6. A licentiate shall have liberty to visit vacant congregations, either upon receiving an invitation from them, or upon the advice of the Synod or President.

SEC. 7. After a licentiate has a stated charge he shall be restricted to it, and shall not resign it without the consent of the Ministerium, or, in its recess, of the President.

SEC. 8. A licentiate has power to perform all the ministerial functions during the time specified in his license.

SEC. 9. In addition to the obligations of ministers specified, chap. III. of the Formula, it is the duty of licentiates particularly to devote all their leisure time to their personal improvement, in knowledge and grace, to receive counsel from the President, and to apply to him for advice in cases of difficulty.

SEC. 10. Every licentiate must keep a general journal of his ministerial acts,

which, with a few sermons of his own composition, he must deliver or send annually for the inspection of the Ministerium.* He shall also present at every annual meeting of this body, previous to his ordination, a certificate of his conduct and doctrine, signed by the elders and deacons of his charge.

ARTICLE VII.

OF CHURCHES AND LAY DELEGATES.

SECTION 1. Every church, which shall hereafter make application for admission into this body, shall be required to forward to Synod a copy of its Constitution and discipline for their inspection, and if such Constitution does not conflict with the Scriptures of God, it may be received as an integral part of this body.

SEC. 2. Every church thus connected with this Synod is entitled to the prayerful oversight of this body, and shall make an annual contribution according to its ability, towards defraying its necessary expenses: and it shall be deemed irregular for any church to withdraw from Synod, without a regular dismissal therefrom, signed by the President.

SEC. 3. Every delegate from the churches shall be required to bring with him a written certificate of his election, duly authenticated by the church council or councils of the pastoral district represented by him.

SEC. 4. Vacant churches are affectionately recommended and urged to appoint a commissioner to the meetings of Synod; and such commissioner shall, on presenting the certificate of his appointment, be entitled to a seat and a voice in all the deliberations of Synod, but shall have no vote.

ARTICLE VIII.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The transactions of the Synod shall be conducted as follows:

SECTION 1. At the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall assemble, and if four ordained ministers and two lay delegates be present, they shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 2. The President shall open the first session by a prayer, after the brethren have unitedly sung a hymn. And every session of the Synod and Ministerium shall be opened and closed with prayer. In the absence of the President, the first prayer shall be made by the Secretary, and if he also be absent, by one of the elder ministers present.

SEC. 3. After prayer, the Secretary shall call the names of all the ordained ministers and licentiates belonging to the Synod, and note the absentees.

SEC. 4. The lay delegates shall then exhibit the certificates of their appointment, and their names be registered by the Secretary as members of the Synod.

SEC. 5. The President shall make his report as the last official act of his office, and then inform the members that

SEC. 6. The election of officers for the ensuing year shall be held.

SEC. 7. Admission of delegates or ministers from other ecclesiastical bodies.

SEC. 8. The minutes of the last Synod shall either be read or placed in the hands of a special committee, who shall report on unfinished business of the preceding year, at the earliest possible hour.

SEC. 9. All papers intended for the Synod or Ministerium are to be handed in, and verbal notice may be given of any important business intended to be brought before the Synod.

SEC. 10. The Secretary shall then number the papers as arranged by the President, after which they shall be taken up and discussed before the whole house in numerical order, or be first referred to committees, as the house may direct. The reports of committees may be heard and acted on at any time, and the intervals filled up by the succeeding items.

SEC. 11. Each minister shall be called on by the Secretary for the record of persons baptized and confirmed, as well as of the regular communing members belonging to his churches, (chap. iv. § xi. of the Formula,) as also of the number of schools; other items in the parochial reports may be from time to time added by the Synod.

SEC. 12. The Treasurer's account shall be audited.

SEC. 13. The number of vacant congregations be inquired into, and provisions made for them.

SEC. 14. Missionary business.

SEC. 15. Beneficiary and Education business.

SEC. 16. Promiscuous business.

SEC. 17. Election of Delegates to the General Synod or to other ecclesiastical bodies, and of Directors of the Literary and Theological Institution with which this Synod is connected.

SEC. 18. Choice of the time and place for the next meeting of Synod.

SEC. 19. Dissolution of the Synod, and annunciation of the time of the Ministerial session.

SEC. 20. Should the President or Secretary be absent at the proper time for opening a session, the members present may elect others *pro tempore*.

ARTICLE IX.

PROCESS AGAINST A MINISTER.

SECTION 1. As the honor and success of the gospel depend very much on the character of its ministers, every Synod ought to guard with the utmost care and impartiality the conduct of its members.

SEC. 2. All Christians should be very cautious in giving credit or circulation to an ill report of any man, and especially of a minister of the gospel; if any man knows a minister to be guilty of a private censurable fault, he should warn him in private. If this prove fruitless, he should apply to the church council, who shall proceed as specified in chap. iii. § 5 of the Formula.

SEC. 3. If accusation be lodged according to chap. iii. § 5, with the President, within four months of the time of the next synodical meeting, he shall defer the matter to said meeting; yet if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental errors in doctrine, or a higher crime, he shall immediately

direct the accused to suspend all his ministerial duties until his case is decided. If such accusation is lodged with the President at an earlier date, he shall, if the charge be one of drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine, or higher crime, immediately give notice to all the members of the Conference district to which the accused belongs, to meet without delay at a suitable place, and institute a formal investigation of the case, according to the principles of this Formula. The chairman of said conference district shall immediately fix the time and place of the meeting, and give at least fifteen days' notice of the same to each minister in the district, and also to the parties concerned.

SEC. 4. If the Synod is not divided into Conference districts, the President shall appoint a committee of three ordained ministers, shall fix the time and place of their meeting, and give all the notice as above required of the chairman of the Conference district.

SEC. 5. Any three members of the Conference or of the committee above named, shall have power to proceed and hold a fair and impartial investigation of the case, and to take all such measures as may be just and necessary to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused.

SEC. 6. If the accused confess, and the matter be base and flagitious, such as drunkenness, lewdness, circulating fundamental error in doctrine, or a higher crime, however penitent he may be, he must immediately be suspended from the exercise of his office, and, if thought expedient, a time be appointed for him publicly to confess to the congregation and the world, his guilt and penitence.

SEC. 7. If a minister accused of atrocious crimes, being duly notified, refuses to attend the investigation, he shall still be immediately suspended from office.

SEC. 8. If the accused deny the charge, and yet on examination of the evidence, is found guilty, the Conference or Committee shall nevertheless proceed to pass sentence on him.

SEC. 9. The highest punishment which can be inflicted by a Special Conference or Committee appointed as above specified, is suspension from clerical functions; and this sentence is to be reported to the next meeting of the Synod, and remains in force until reversed by the Synod or Ministerium, as the case may be.

SEC. 10. Any minister intending to appeal from the decision of a Conference or Committee, shall give notice of it to his accusers within three weeks of the time when the decision was made, that both parties may be prepared for a new trial.

SEC. 11. Special Conferences not specially convened for the purpose, may attend to any charges of importance against a minister within their bounds, if all the parties concerned are prepared and willing to proceed.

SEC. 12. If, at any time, accusation be lodged with the President, according to chapter III. § 5, for a less crime than those above specified, § 3, he shall take no other steps in the case than to write a letter to the accused and accusers, exhorting them to mutual forbearance, and referring them to the next Synod.

SEC. 13. If accusation against a minister be made immediately to the Synod, and the Synod believe themselves in possession of all the evidence necessary to a just decision, the case may be immediately examined and sentence passed. But

if the necessary evidence be not before them, and the crime be such as is specified in § 3, they shall appoint a meeting of the Conference to which the accused belongs, or, if there be no Conference district, of a Committee, who shall proceed as above specified.

SEC. 14. If a minister be found guilty of drunkenness, fundamental heresy, lewdness, or higher crimes, his sentence of suspension shall not be removed until after some time of penitent, humble, and edifying conduct. And he cannot be restored by any other judicatory than the Synod, or by the Ministerium, if his case was one of fundamental heresy.

SEC. 15. If the common report of a minister's guilt of any of the charges above specified, be such as seriously to injure the cause of religion, and his own churches do not proceed against him, it shall be the duty of any other minister or layman, having obtained two other signatures of credible men, to report the case to the President.

ARTICLE IX.

SPECIAL CONFERENCES.

SECTION I. This Synod shall be divided into two or more districts, for the purpose of holding Special Conferences.

SEC. 2. Two Conferences shall be held annually in each district, in case the residences of the members are not too remote to allow frequent meetings; and they shall be continued at least two days. Their chief object, in addition to the transaction of such ecclesiastical business as may properly come before them, is to labor for the conversion of sinners, and the edification of believers by the faithful preaching of the gospel.

SEC. 3. The state of religion in the churches of the district shall be inquired into, and at least an hour be spent by the Conference alone in conversation on subjects relating to pastoral experience.

SEC. 4. These districts shall contain from three to ten ministers, and when the number becomes greater, a new district ought to be formed.

SEC. 5. These Conferences may be held alternately, in some congregation of each minister and licentiate belonging to the district.

SEC. 6. Special Conferences may examine into any business of congregations, which is regularly referred to them, and give their advice; but no Conference shall, under any pretext whatever, perform any business connected with the licensure or ordination of candidates for the ministry, unless previously authorized by a special resolution of Synod.

SEC. 7. Lay delegates may also be sent to these Conferences, under the same regulations as to Synods, if it is thought advisable by the Synod.

ARTICLE X.

MINISTERIAL SESSION.

SECTION I. A meeting shall be held consisting exclusively of ministers or bishops, for the purpose of attending to those duties which Christ and his

apostles enjoined upon them alone, viz: Examination, Licensure, and Ordination of candidates for the ministry. This meeting is called the Ministerium, or Presbytery,* by which, in Scripture, is meant ministers alone.

SEC. 2. Licentiate shall have no vote in the Ministerial session, and shall withdraw whenever requested by the ordained ministers.

SEC. 3. The Ministerium shall also be the proper body by whom all charges of heresy against a minister are to be examined and decided; as also, all appeals from the decisions of a church council, on a charge of heresy against a layman, or from the decision of a Special Conference, on a similar charge against a minister.

SEC. 4. When ordained ministers of other religious denominations make application for admission into connection with this Synod, the Ministerium shall be the body to decide on the case.

SEC. 5. A majority of two-thirds of the ordained ministers shall be required, either for the licensure of an applicant, as well as the renewal of his license, or the ordination of a licentiate, or the admission of an ordained minister of another denomination.

SEC. 6. All business not specifically intrusted to the ministerium in this Constitution, shall belong to the Synod.

SEC. 7. The order of business in the Ministerium may be as follows:

1. After the session has been opened with prayer, the President shall communicate any business which he may have to report or propose.

2. The licentiate shall hand in their licenses, sermons, and journals, which ought, if possible, to be read by the licentiate before the whole body. If want of time renders this inconvenient, Committees shall then be appointed to examine and report on them.

3. Applicants for licensure are examined.

4. After the examination of the applicants, and of the sermons and journals of licentiate, the applicants and licentiate shall be desired to withdraw, and the question of their licensure, and renewal of license, or ordination, be discussed and decided.

5. The licensure and ordination may be performed either in the Ministerium, or at an appointed hour, before a promiscuous assembly, provided that the ordination of a licentiate is not directed by the Synod to take place in his own congregation, agreeably to article XII. § 1.

6. Promiscuous matters relative to Ministerial business may then be attended to.

7. Some time may then be spent in conversation on pastoral experience.

8. The session closed with prayer.

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ARTICLE XII.

EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE OF CANDIDATES.

SECTION 1. The examination shall be conducted by an examining Committee of two or more ordained ministers, appointed for the purpose at the meeting

* 1 Tim. iv. 14.

of the previous year, or by a Committee appointed at the time. As these examinations may be highly interesting and useful to the whole Ministerium, and will be more faithfully performed if public, it is earnestly recommended that they be performed before the whole body or Synod.

SEC. 2. After the examination by the Committee is ended, every member of the Ministerium has the right to ask the applicant any additional questions.

SEC. 3. The examination shall embrace at least the following subjects, viz: Personal piety, and the motives of the applicant for seeking the holy office, the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures, the Evidences of Christianity, Natural and Revealed Theology, Church History, Pastoral Theology, the Rules of Sermonizing, and Church Government.

SEC. 4. The Ministerium shall not, in any case whatever, license an individual whom they do not believe to be hopefully pious. Nor shall any applicant, extraordinary cases excepted, be licensed, whom the Ministerium do not find possessed of a competent acquaintance with the subjects named in § 3, the Hebrew language alone excepted.

SEC. 5. The ceremony of Licensure shall be performed according to the Liturgy of the church.

ARTICLE XIII.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION.

SECTION 1. Whenever the Ministerium has decided that an individual shall be ordained, the ceremony may be performed, either at the time by the assembled Ministerium, or if preferred, in the church by which he has been called, by the Special Conference, or by a Committee appointed for the purpose by the President, agreeably to a special resolution adopted by the Ministerium.

SEC. 2. The ceremony of ordination shall be performed according to the Liturgy of the church.

SEC. 8. But if the ordination was performed in a church to which he is called, the presiding minister shall proceed, without any interruption, with the ceremony of installation.

SEC. 4. Pastors may be installed according to the Liturgy of the church, by a committee appointed for that purpose by the President at any time; said committee may be nominated by the pastor to be installed.

ARTICLE XIV.

OF VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

SECTION 1. Vacant congregations which cannot be immediately supplied with a minister, are advised to assemble on the Lord's day, to select some member of the church, of suitable capacities and character to conduct the exercises, and engage in the worship of God, as recommended in chapter VII. § 1.

SEC. 2. It is also recommended that, at these meetings, a portion of the Scriptures, prayers from the Liturgy, and some select sermon, such as are approved by the President of Synod, be read.

ARTICLE XV.

OF MISSIONS AND BENEFICIARY EDUCATION.

SECTION 1. Vacant congregations which cannot be immediately supplied with a minister, are, and shall regard it as a solemn duty, to extend the Redeemer's kingdom, by aiding in the education of men of suitable abilities and reputable character, for the Gospel ministry; and supporting Home and Foreign Missions.

SEC. 2. It shall therefore be the duty of every member of this Synod to instruct his people on this important subject, seek and put in a course of preparation proper candidates for the sacred office, and collect funds for Missions and beneficiary education.

SEC. 3. At each convention of Synod, the pastors shall be requested to specify a certain sum which they will endeavor to collect during the ensuing year for the above object. A public meeting shall also be held to awaken an interest, and collect funds for the work; speakers shall be appointed for such meeting by the President.

SEC. 4. A committee, consisting of three pastors and two laymen shall be annually appointed to receive and appropriate all funds for beneficiary education, to receive applicants, and to direct their education according to the principles of the parent education society, and their own discretion, where not otherwise directed by Synod. The chairman of this committee shall also be the treasurer.

SEC. 5. The officers of Synod shall be a committee on Missions, receive and appropriate all missionary funds, and transact all missionary business in the recess of Synod, according to their own discretion, when no specific instructions have been given by Synod.

SEC. 6. The above committee shall make annual and detailed reports to Synod of their transactions, and propose such plans for future operations as they may deem expedient.

ARTICLE XVI.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND DIRECTORS.

SECTION 1. The election of delegates to the General Synod and of clerical delegates to any literary or theological institution, or both, shall always be held by ballot, and a licentiate shall not be eligible to either of these offices.

ARTICLE XVII.

BY-LAWS AND ALTERATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

SECTION 1. This Synod may, at any regular meeting, adopt such by-laws as circumstances require, provided that they are not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution.

SEC. 2. Any alteration of any portion of this Constitution, or any addition of a new chapter or section may be made, or any portion may be omitted, provided that such alteration, addition or omission be set forth in writing at our annual

meeting of Synod, in the precise words which are to be altered, added or omitted, and be incorporated in the minutes; and provided, that at the next annual meeting of the Synod, two-thirds of all the members present agree to the proposed change.

