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Baptists. South Carolina. Bethel Association, 1804.

Minutes ... at Bethel ... August 11, 1804.

Augusta, Ga., Randolph, 1804. 14 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

MET AT

BETHEL MEETING-HOUSE,

SPARTANBURGH DISTRICT, (S. C.)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1804; AND CONTINUED UNTIL

THE TUESDAY FOLLOWING.

AUGUSTA, GEORGLA:
PRINTED BY GEORGE R. RANDOLPH.

1804.

MINUTES

OF THE

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY, August 11th, 1804.

1 **T**HE introductory sermon was preached agreeably to appointment, by Brother Lewis Rector, from St. John xviii. 36. "My Kingdom is not of this World."

2 Letters from thirty churches were read, and the names of their messengers enrolled.

3 Chose Brother Richard Shackelford, moderator, and Brother Samuel Eccles, clerk.

4 Chose Brethren Shackelford, Rooker, Eccles, Rowland and Eddins, to be a committee to arrange the business of the association. Adjourned 'till Monday 9 o'clock.

5 The Sabbath, as usual, was employed in the exercises of public worship; six sermons were delivered to a very numerous congregation, in two divisions at a convenient distance from each other.

MONDAY, 13th, 9 o'clock, A. M. met according to adjournment.

6 Invited the ministering brethren present, of our own and other denominations, to take a seat with us.

7 Nine churches petitioned for admission into our union; namely, one on Dry creek, Edgefield district, constituted of members from Cloud's creek;—one on Dean swamp, Orangeburgh district, under the pastoral care of Brother Isaac Dubose, constituted of members from the Upper Three Runs church; one called Union, in Union district, under the pastoral care of Brother John Putman, constituted of members principally from Padget's creek, and Fairforest, the 29th of October last; one called Antioch, Edgefield district, constituted the 20th January last, of members from Horn's creek; one called Good-Hope, Edgefield district, constituted the 4th of last February, of members from Redbank, Cambridge, Little Stephen's creek and Bethel churches; one called Holly Spring, Spartanburgh district, constituted of members from Bethlehem church; one called Head Cedar Shoal, constituted of members from Padget's creek; one called Green Pond, Spartanburgh district, and one by the name of Newhope, constituted of members from Padget's creek: All of which upon satisfaction being obtained of their faith and order were cordially received. Also, messengers with a letter presented themselves from a church under the care of Mr. Elias Mitchel, who had dissented sometime back from the Seven-day Baptists, but still retaining part of their ceremonies in the administration of the ordinance of baptism; and their minister having been ordained by ministers of their former persuasion, concluded for the present not to receive them, but advise them to call a presbytery of ministers of our order, to assist in regulating them according to the order of our churches.

8 Received a letter and minutes from the Saluda Association, by their messenger Brother Moses Holland—From the Neuse Association, a letter and minutes—From the Georgia Association, a letter and minutes, by Brother Enoch Braziel, their messenger—From the Broad River Association, a letter and minutes, by their messenger Brother George Bruton—From the Hephzibah Association, a letter and minutes, by Brother Henry Hand, their messenger—From the Sarepta Association, a letter and minutes, by their messenger, Brother Frederick Crouder. Minutes were received from the Charleston Association, forwarded by Doctor Furman. The letters and minutes above mentioned, were read and gave general satisfaction.

9 Received and read, the Circular Address of the general committee of correspondence appointed by the Philadelphia Baptist Association; requesting information with respect to the origin, growth, &c. of associations and churches of our order, and whatever other information may be deemed worthy of communicating—Therefore, appointed Brethren Putman, Shackelford, Palmer, Lilly, and Joseph Woodruff, and the committee of correspondence, to collect materials in order that we may take a general view of our own history; for our own, and the information of others; to be laid before us at our next association; that we may comply with the request in the above mentioned address.

10 Query from Sandy River church. Are we to observe the duty of washing of feet in connexion with the communion? And from Derbin's Creek church—Whether the washing of feet was instituted as an ordinance to be observed by ministers of the

gospel only, or by christians in general, and whether it is a duty which ought strictly to be observed? Answer. We find in sacred writ, that Jesus Christ, in the same night which he instituted the supper, did wash the Disciples' feet, and told them that he had given them an example, that they should do to one another, as he had done unto them. We find no command as to the particular time of practising this beautiful example of humility, nor penalty annexed to the omission of it. Therefore we recommend the churches to search the scriptures for instruction, and to act discretionally in the case.

11 Query from Cloud's creek church. Is it agreeable to the scriptures for a man appointed by a church as a deacon, to act in that office before he is ordained, or not? Answered in the negative.

12 Query from Enoree church. Does the general tenor of the word of God, hold forth, that preachers of the gospel should be learned men? Answer. We do not conceive that the essence of a minister's qualifications consists in what is generally called human learning; yet, we would recommend the lawful pursuit of it, to all our ministering brethren, according to the direction of St. Paul to Timothy. i. Tim. iv. 13. and ii. Tim. ii. 15.

13. Query from Salem Church. Suppose a member of a church get a letter of dismission, and live for several years in the vicinity of an orderly church of our union, and refuse to join, can such a person be looked upon as an orderly person? Answered in the negative.

14 Query from Philadelphia church. Would it be constitutional or expedient for a church to call a minister, belonging to another association, as a supply, or to take their pastoral care, without first applying to the association to which such a minister belongs? Answer. We think a minister must become a member of a church, in order to become regularly their pastor; yet, we think churches are free to call what ministers they please as supplies.

15 Appointed the following brethren to write to corresponding associations;—Rooker to the N. use, Eddins to the Georgia, and to be our messenger; Rector to the Broad River, Shackelford and Greer the messengers; Samuel Marsh to the Hephzibah, Delaughter to be our messenger; Henry King to the Sarepta, Palmer and Reuben Kelley the messengers; Rowland to the Charleston, Eccles and M'Creary to be our messengers. Adjourned 'till to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, 14th, met according to adjournment.

16 Query from Hopewell church. What is to be done with a minister or member of our order, who joins himself to and associates with a masonic lodge? Answer. We recommend to the church or churches so aggrieved, gently to admonish such a member to withdraw from such society; if he refuse, then we think the church may deal with him according to the discipline of the gospel; yet, we recommend tenderness and caution.

17 By request from Upper Duncan's creek church, we publish the excommunication of a certain Lewis Hunt, who has been legally expelled from said church, and who is endeavoring to impose upon people in the character of a preacher; therefore we warn our churches and members that they show him no countenance.

18 Appointed as supplies, for Little River, Brethren Arthur Williams and Benjamin Northcutt; for Sandy River, Hosea Holcomb, Robert M'Creary and Jeremiah Burns to attend discretionally.

19 By the request from Philadelphia, we alter the time of our Association to the Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, in every year.

20 The letters to the corresponding associations, were brought forward, read and approved, the circular letter was also read and received.

21 Appointed brother Eccles to write the Circular letter for next year, and agree that he be at liberty to choose his own subject.

22 Agreed that our next meeting of association be at Fellowship Meeting-House near Cambridge, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October 1805. Brother Henry King to preach the sermon; in case of failure Brother Shackelford.

23 Collected the money for printing the Minutes, and appointed Brother Lilly to superintend the business,

24 Agreed that this association acknowledge with thankfulness the liberality of Mr. George F. Randolph, printer in Augusta, in presenting them with between 2 and 300 copies of the last year's Minutes, neatly executed on good paper.

