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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1774.

Minutes ... in Charleston ... February 7, 1774.

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MINUTES OF THE CHARLESTOWN ASSOCIATION, MET IN

CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH-CAROLINA,
FEBRUARY 7, 1774.

AT Ten o'Clock in the forenoon the Rev. Evan Pugh delivered a suitable sermon to the Association, from 1 Tim. i. 19.

2. Letters from four churches were read, and the names of the messengers enrolled, as follows, (*Note, the churches marked * sent neither messenger nor letters, and the messengers marked † did not appear*) viz. From the church in CHARLESTOWN, Rev. Oliver Hart, and Edmund Mathewes, and Messrs. Thomas Rivers and David Williams; EWHAW, Rev. Francis Pelot, and Messrs. Joseph Smith and † Edward Vinzant; * ASHLEY-RIVER; * WELCH-NECK; * CATFISH; * LINCH'S-CREEK; CASHAWAY, Rev. Evan Pugh; * COOSAWHATCHEE.

3. The Rev. Evan Pugh chosen Moderator, and Mr. David Williams clerk.

4. The church at NEW SAVANNA in GEORGIA sent Rev. Edmund Botsford and † Mr. James Brewer, with a letter petitioning to join this Association, and were accordingly received into union.

5. From the minutes of the Philadelphian Association, we are well pleased, to find they have adopted so useful a measure, as that of sending out yearly a travelling Minister; who also serves as their messenger, to the several Baptist Associations in America; in which laudable design we heartily concur.-- Resolved, that such messengers, properly recommended, shall be received into this Association as messengers thereof.

6. A letter was read from our sister Association in Philadelphia, dated October 14, 1773, by which the Rev. John Gano was appointed their messenger to us, and accordingly received. Agreed, that the Rev. Oliver Hart write an answer to the above letter; and that the Rev. Francis Pelot write the circular letter to the churches.

7. Mr.

7. Mr. Timothy Datgon, a member of the Congaree church, and Mr. Richard Fürman, a member of the church at the High Hills of Santee, being present, their company and advice was desired.

8. The accounts of the Linch's-Creek church being very confused, it is agreed that the Rev. Evan Pugh visit them, enquire into their state, and report their case at our next meeting: also that he be our messenger to the Association at the High Hills of Santee.

9. A plan was presented, by the Rev. Francis Pelot, for augmenting the fund of Rhode-Island College, which being deliberately considered, and its utility to the Baptist interest evident, concluded that the Rev. Francis Pelot, John Gano and Oliver Hart, be a committee to prepare a letter, for the purpose, addressed to the several Baptist Associations in America.

10. As the number of the Confession of Faith and Church-Discipline to be printed, hath not yet been ascertained, the Rev. Oliver Hart is now directed, to put the work to the press, the first day of July next, and to print only the number that may be subscribed for.

11. The Rev. Oliver Hart and Mr. David Williams, are appointed to receive the money that shall be sent them, from our churches, for Rhode-Island College, and to remit the same to the treasurer thereof.

12. The Association to meet in Charlestown on Monday after the first Sunday in February next: Rev. Oliver Hart to preach the sermon, but in case of failure Rev. Francis Pelot.

CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH-CAROLINA, Feb. 10, 1774.

The Ministers and Messengers of the Charlestown-Association, to their sister Associations in North-America,

SEND CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

Dear beloved Friends and Brethren,

IN imitation of the worthy example, set by the Philadelphian Association, we wish to cultivate union and a friendly correspondence, amongst all Baptist Associations. We therefore hope for your concurrence. This would promote Christian fellowship, and reciprocally strengthen each others hands, in the cause which, under our Redeemer, we are all engaged in.

We

We rejoice with you, at the goodness of God, in raising and sending forth a number of godly Ministers of the Gospel, who have been happy instruments, within a few years, of the conversion of thousands of souls, especially in the back parts of our provinces; yet this great work has met with many opposers.

It is also matter of joy to us, that the great God, who called a Paul from the feet of Gamaliel, to refute the errors of Alexander and others, has, in mercy to our cause, in his all wise providence, established by charter, a College at Providence, in Rhode-Island government; by which charter, the president and a majority of the fellows, are ever to be of the Baptist denomination. In this seminary several pious young men already have been, and no doubt many more will be educated, who may be able defenders of gospel doctrines and ordinances, against the errors which are continually propagated, by the enemies of gospel truths. And as this institution, in a more particular manner, claims countenance and assistance from us, we have resolved on the following plan. Namely, That each church nominate a proper person, to make a yearly collection, of Six Pence sterling from each member and other well disposed persons, to be continued for three years, and to send the money so collected to some suitable person or persons, who will remit the same to Col. Job Bennet, treasurer in Newport, Rhode-Island. Upon a moderate computation we find, that if all our Associations would adopt this plan, at least the sum of Three Hundred and Thirty Pounds sterling would be raised in one year, which, with the additions of other well disposed persons, would amount to upwards of One Thousand Pounds in three years. A plan in which we cannot but earnestly wish our sister Associations would unite. This bread thus cast on the waters, we doubt not, will be found a great blessing, even in succeeding ages of the church.

Providence favours us with an opportunity of forwarding this our first letter, by the Rev. John Gano (Messenger of the Philadelphian Association) who, at our request, will endeavour to explain any further particulars you may be desirous to know.---That God may bless and increase you abundantly is the earnest prayer of,

BELOVED BRETHREN,

Yours in a dear Redeemer,

EVAN PUGH, Moderator,

DAVID WILLIAMS, Clerk.

[A]

The Ministers and Messengers of the Baptist churches, met in Association in Charlestown, on Monday Feb 7th, and some following days; to the several churches in confederation,

SEND GREETING

Dearly beloved in Christ Jesus our Lord!

THIS will inform you, that through the mercies of our God, we have met and continued together in love, and that all our consultations have been attended with the greatest unanimity.

Our souls have been comforted at hearing of the glorious conquests of divine Grace in various places in this province and Georgia. But, alas! much deadness prevails in other places. --Brethren, lift up your hearts to God for success on the word preached, and that God would raise up many faithful Ministers of the Gospel: look out among your young men for such as have promising abilities, and encourage them to improve their talents for the service of the sanctuary.

Our minutes and a circular letter (of which a copy is to be transmitted to each church) will inform you of a plan which we have adopted for augmenting the fund of the College at Providence, in Rhode-Island. We cannot doubt but you will do your utmost to promote such a necessary service, and recommend it to all such who are friends to the cause of God and Religion.

We earnestly intreat you to keep the faith in the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. Strictly guard against all heretical principles and men; keep a close communion with God; endeavour to inculcate by instruction and promote by example the fear of God in your families.

Finally, Brethren, we commend you to God and the word of his grace, and remain,

Dear Brethren!

Your servants in the Gospel of Christ,

Charlestown, South-Carolina,
Feb. 10, 1774.

EVAN PUGH, Moderator.
DAVID WILLIAMS, Clerk.