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M I N U T E S

O F T H E

C H A R L E S T O W N A S S O C I A T I O N .

CHARLESTOWN, FEB. 3, 1777.

AT Ten o'Clock, A. M. Rev. Evan Pugh, agreeable to Appointment, opened the Association with a suitable Discourse from *Rom. viii. 2.*

2. Letters from four Churches were read, and the Names of the Messengers enrolled, as follows,

Note, *Ministers with this † Mark did not attend. Churches with this * Mark we had no Account from; but their Numbers stand as it did last Association.*

Churches.	Messengers.	Baptized.	Added by I.	Dead.	Dismissed.	Excom.	Numb.
CHARLESTOWN,	{ Rev. Oliver Hart, Rev. Joseph Cook, Mr. Patrick Hinds.			2			72
EUHAW, *							67
ASHLEY RIVER, *							44
WELCH NECK,	{ Rev. Elh. Winchester, Col. George Hicks.	8					61
CASHAWAY,	{ Rev. Evan Pugh, Mr. Manuel Cox.					2	58
CATFISH, *							42
COOSAWHATCHEE,	Rev. James Smart, †						97
SAVANNAH-RIVER,	{ Rev. Edmund Botstord, Mr. John Davis.	28	4	5		1	94
		36	4	7	0	3	535

The Reason why Lynch's Creek Church is left out of the above Account is, that the first Church, in that Place, became extinct, and the Church now there has not joined this Association.

3. Chose Rev. Evan Pugh Moderator, and Rev. Oliver Hart Clerk.

4. Rev. John Newton being present, his Company and Assistance was desired.

5. Appointed Rev. Oliver Hart to prepare a Letter to the WARREN Association, Rev. Edmund Botsford to prepare a Letter to the KETOCTON Association, Rev. Joseph Cook to prepare a Letter to the PHILADELPHIAN Association, and Rev. Elhanan Winchester to prepare the Circular Letter to our Churches.

6. The Association, under Consideration of the present melancholy Situation of the American States, as being exposed to the Ravages and Devastations of War, with a cruel, unnatural, and unprovoked Enemy; the Growth of Vice and Immorality, among People of all Ranks, and especially considering the Declension of, and Disregard shewn to Religion, do recommend to all our Churches, to observe Four Days in this Year as Days of Fasting, Prayer, and Humiliation, or Thangsgiving, as the Circumstances of the Times may call for; and, which Days, we hope will be kept devoutly unto the Lord; with a View to deprecate his Judgments, and implore his Favour, on Behalf of ourselves, the Christian Church and our bleeding Country; and we appoint, for the above Purpose, Thursday the Sixth of *March*, being the Day appointed by Government, to which we would ever pay a suitable Deference, and the first Thursdays in *June, September and December*.

7. Appointed Rev. Evan Pugh to draw up a Letter to the CONGAREE and HIGH-HILLS Churches, inviting them to join this Association, as it appears to us that it would be for the Glory of God, and the Interest of Religion. Rev. Elhanan Winchester is appointed Messenger to said Churches, to treat on this Business.

8. Concluded, that the next Association be held in Charlestown, on Monday after the first Lord's Day in February next, unless Charlestown should then be invaded by the Enemy; in that Case, to be held at Welch-Neck, on Pee Dee; that Rev. Edmund Botsford preach the Sermon, and in Case of Failure Rev. Elhanan Winchester.

*The Elders and Messengers met in ASSOCIATION,
at Charlestown, Feb. 3d, 4th and 5th, 1777;*

To the several Churches we represent,

SEND CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

Dearly beloved Brethren, in the Lord,

WE would inform you that we met in Peace, and attended to the Business that came before us, with Unanimity, and although it is, in general, a low Time in Matters of Religion, yet, blessed be God, we have comfortable Accounts from some Parts, for which, help us to be thankful; and join with us in praying that his Work may be revived amongst us all.

We would inform you that, notwithstanding many Things look dark, and gloomy, yet there are others that give us no small Satisfaction; particularly these two, *viz.* 1st, That we are like to have a most excellent Civil Government established in this State; settled upon the most equitable Foundation, securing Liberty and Property to all well affected Subjects of the same. And, as this excellent Constitution is intended for our Safety and Happiness, in common with others, we recommend to you all to endeavour to support it, to the utmost of your Power. We are happy in being able to say, that there is not one in this Association, but heartily joins in the Measures taken by America in general, and this State in particular, to secure our Liberties. 2dly, We heartily congratulate you on the Prospect of obtaining universal Religious Liberty in this State; an Event which must cause every generous Mind to rejoice; as by that every one may sit down under his own Vine, and under his own Fig-Tree, and none to make him afraid, *i. e.* every Person may enjoy Ease, Liberty and Property, without Molestation, or Interruption.

The Terms, which we understand are proposed by the House of Assembly, to be complied with, by all who desire the Protection of the State, are reasonable and easy, and we recommend to you to conform thereto, as it will be of singular Advantage in many Instances.

We

We hope and trust you will endeavour to live near the Lord, in this Day of Evil; and constantly implore his Blessing upon yourselves, the Church in general, and our distressed Country.

And now commending you to God, and to the Word of his Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an Inheritance among them that are sanctified, we bid you farewell, remaining,

Yours in the best of Bonds,

EVAN PUGH, *Moderator.*
OLIVER HART, *Clerk.*

CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH-CAROLINA,
February 5th, 1777.

THE Baptist CONFESSION OF FAITH *and* CHURCH-DISCIPLINE, *to be disposed of, in Church-street,* Charlestown, *by*

OLIVER HART.