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Baptists . South Carolina . Charleston Association, 1778.

Minutes of the Charlestown Association Feb. 2, 1778.

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MINUTES of the CHARLESTOWN ASSOCIATION.

CHARLESTOWN, FEB. 2, 1778.

AT Ten o'Clock, A. M. Rev. *Edmund Botsford*, according to Appointment, opened the Association with a suitable Discourse from Heb. xiii. 1. *Let brotherly Love continue.*

2. Letters from five Churches were read. Rev. *Oliver Hart* chosen Moderator, and Rev. *Edmund Botsford* Clerk.

3. A Church on *Savannah River*, in this State, made Application, by Letter and three Messengers, for Admission into this Association, and was received. This Church originated principally from that of *Coosawhatchee*; was constituted on the first Day of *March* 1775, and consisted of about Sixteen Members.

4. A Church at *Jeffer's Creek* applied for Admission into this Association, by Letter and one Messenger, which was also received. This Church was constituted on *Jan.* 19, 1778, by Rev. Messrs. *Evan Pugh* and *Richard Furman*, consisting of Twenty-five Members; most of them lately converted and baptized.

5. The present State of the associated Churches. Note, Ministers with this * Mark did not attend. Churches with this † Mark we had no Account from; but their Numbers stand as last Year. A Dash denotes no Minister.

Churches.	Messengers.	Baptiz.	Added by L.	Dismissed.	Exp. 0. 7.	Dead	Numb.
CHARLESTOWN,	{ Rev. Oliver Hart, Mr. Patrick Hinds.	3				1	73
EUHAW, *	Rev. Joseph Cook. †						67
ASHLEY-RIVER	-----						44
WELCH-NECK,	{ Rev. Elh. Winchester, † Col. George Hicks.	33		3	3	2	86
CASHAWAY, *	Rev. Evan Pugh. †						58
CATFISH, *	Rev. Jeremiah Rheam, †						37
COOSAWHATCHEE,	{ Rev. James Smart, Mr. John Night.	12		24	2	4	60
SAVANNAH-RIVER, GEORGIA,	{ Rev. Edmund Botsford, Mr Robert Prior.	37	11	4		1	137
SAVANNAH-RIVER, CAROLINA,	{ Rev. Joshua Lewis, Mr. John Grimball, Mr. Joseph Lawton.						68
JEFFER'S CREEK,	{ ----- M. R. John Spivie.						25
Increase this Year 120.		85	11	31	5	8	655

6. The Rev. Messrs. *Joseph Rees* and *John Cowan*, and Mr. *Joshua Howel* being present, their Company and Assistance were desired,

7. A Letter from the *Warren Association* was read; by which it appears that the Baptists in some Parts of *New-England* are still labouring under Religious Oppressions; which they justly deem doubly gauling at such a Period as this, when they are equally engaged, with their Fellow-Citizens, in procuring and defending the civil Rights of *America*.

8. Appointed Rev. *Oliver Hart* to prepare a Letter to the *Warren Association*; Rev. *Joshua Lewis* to prepare a Letter to the *Ketocton Association*, and Rev. *Edmund Botsford* to prepare the Circular Letter to our Churches.

9. Inasmuch as the gloomy Prospect of our national Affairs, still calls aloud for personal Reformation; the Association advise our Churches to set apart the first *Thursday* in *April*, *July* and *October*, for Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer; or Thanksgiving and Praise, according to the Direction of Providence. At the same Time they advise, that due Notice be taken of Orders of Government, for the keeping of any particular Days, for the above Purposes, should any such Days be appointed.

10. The Church on *Savannah River, Georgia*, by their Letter, queried, "Whether it might not be for the Glory of God, and the Interest of Religion, for a Minister to employ Part of his Time in visiting our Churches, especially destitute Congregations?" The Association were of Opinion, that such an Undertaking would be advantageous; and requested the Rev. *Joshua Lewis* to engage in this Service, for the present Year; to which he agreed. And they hope that the Churches will contribute to his Support, while thus employed.

11. The same Church, in like Manner, queried, "Whether it would not tend to promote the Cause of Christ, and the Interest of the Churches, to hold the Association sometimes in the Country?" This Matter being calmly debated, it was unanimously concluded, that the Association shall, hereafter, be held alternately in *Charlestown* and the Country,---that it still retain the Name of *THE CHARLESTOWN ASSOCIATION*,---that the *Association-Book* remain in the Care of the *Charlestown Church*; and that every Church inclining hereafter to join the

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Association, shall be acquainted with this Conclusion, to prevent Debates and Uneasiness.

12. Concluded to hold the next Association at the Reverend *Richard Furman's* Church, on the *High Hills of Santee*, on *Monday* after the third *Sabbath* in *October* next; that the Rev. *Elbanan Winchester* preach the Sermon, and in Case of Failure, Rev. *Joshua Lewis*.

13. The CIRCULAR LETTER.

The ASSOCIATION of Ministers and Brethren, Delegates of several baptized Churches, held in Charlestown, Feb. 2d and 3d, 1778;

To the several Churches we are in Connexion with,

SEND OUR CHRISTIAN SALUTATION.

Dearly beloved, in Christ Jesus, our Lord;

THIS will inform you, that through the Mercy of our God, we met and continued together in Love. We trust the Lord hath been with us, comforting our Hearts and strengthening our Hands, for his Service. What we have done our Minutes will shew. We have Reason to be thankful to the great Head of the Church, that although the Troubles of the Times have a natural Tendency to retard the Work of the Lord, he continues to smile upon us; as appears from Numbers being converted, and Churches being constituted, in sundry Places, both in this and the adjoining States.

We esteem it as a signal Favour from the Lord, that but few of our Brethren were considerable Sufferers, by the late dreadful Conflagration in this Town; and that their Meeting House, although in imminent Danger, (having taken Fire three times) was preserved. O, that while the Judgments of God are abroad in the Land, the Inhabitants thereof would learn Righteousness.

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Permit us, dear Brethren, to recommend to your Consideration, a few necessary Things. 1. Be careful to promote brotherly Love, by admonishing and stirring up each other to the several Duties of Religion. 2. Endeavour to maintain good Government in your Churches, agreeable to the Word of God. Rules for which, are clearly pointed out in our *Summary of Church-Discipline*. 3. Labour to maintain the Life and Power of Godliness in your Souls, lest ye become unfruitful in the Work and Worship of the living God.

It gives us Pleasure to find that God has stirred up our Brethren at *Catfish*, to return to good Order and Discipline; we hope they will persevere, and that we shall meet their Messengers the next Session of the Association.

To conclude, we exhort you, Brethren, to be diligent in every good Word and Work, dying daily to Sin, and living unto God; that so you may be prepared for every Dispensation of Providence, and at last received up into Glory. So prays,

Yours in Gospel Bonds,

OLIVER HART, *Moderator.*

EDMUND BOTSFORD, *Clerk.*

Recd. at Middleboro'