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M I N U T E S

OF THE

CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION.

High Hills of Santee, October the 24th, 1785.

1st. **A**T eleven o'clock, A. M. Reverend Silas Mercer delivered a discourse from Rev. 15: 2: after which the Delegates convened, when letters from eight Churches were read, and the names of the Messengers enrolled.

2d. Rev. Evan Pugh was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Peter Brainbridge, Clerk.

3d. Received two letters from our Sister Association of Philadelphia, one of the year 1782, the other of 1784, with copies of their minutes; which were read, and gave great satisfaction.

4th. A letter and copy of minutes were received from an Association lately formed in Georgia, which were brought by the Reverend Messrs. Silas Mercer and Peter Smith, their Messengers to us, who were cordially received as such.

5th. The Reverend Messrs. Evan Pugh, Edmund Botsford, Richard Furman, and Joshua Palmer, or any two of them, were appointed our Messengers to our Sister Association in Georgia; and Mr. Archibald M'Bride to prepare a letter.

6th. Reverend Richard Furman appointed to prepare a letter to our Sister Association of Philadelphia, and Reverend Evan Pugh the circular letter.

7th. It appearing, upon enquiry, that the Ministers appointed at the last meeting of Association to visit the Bethel Church, had not executed the business of their appointment; and Reverend Evan Pugh (as one of them) requesting that other persons might be chosen for that purpose; our Brethren, Richard Furman, William M'Conies and William Hampton, were appointed accordingly.

8th. A covenant relating to the incorporating of this Association, was presented by Reverend Richard Furman, which being read, and the contents duly considered, was approved; but the carrying it into execution was referred till the next Meeting of Association.

9th. A letter from a Church at Stephen's Creek, requesting admission into this Association, was read. Upon a satisfactory account of their faith and practice, resolved, we are willing to receive them into union with us, when they shall appear by their Messengers.

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10th.

10th. Queries from the Charleston Church.—1st. How is a Church to consider a Member who has withdrawn from it without the Church's consent?

Answer: It is evident such a conduct is disorderly; yet we advise that circumstances be considered, and the person dealt with in the spirit of love, as the Gospel directs.

2d. In what manner ought the Church to proceed with a Member who joins the private meetings of the Methodists; yet still professes to be in fellowship with us?

Answer: If it be understood, that to join such society is becoming a Member of the Methodist Church, such a conduct is certainly disallowed; but if it be only to join in social exercises of devotion, on principles of liberality, without absenting from the worship of the Church to which the member belongs, it may suffice to caution such an one against embracing any thing contrary to the pure doctrine of the Gospel.

11th. Queries from the Church at Jeffer's Creek: 1st. How is a member to be received into a church, who is a member of a Sister Church, which is much dispersed, and does not uphold discipline?

Answer: We advise that a strict enquiry be made, if a few members may not be collected and a letter obtained; but if this cannot be done, the person should be received by a declaration of his faith and practice.

2d. Is it consistent with duty, for a person who holds eternal election, and the final perseverance of the Saints to practise hearing such preachers as deny those doctrines?

Answer. We consider those doctrines to be true and important principles of the christian faith, and apprehend, though it may not be inconsistent with duty, in some cases, for members of our churches to hear preachers who deny them; yet they ought to be very cautious lest they give up those truths, or leave room for others to suspect their indifferency to them.

12th. The church in Charleston requesting supplies: Agreed, that the following supplies be afforded them: Reverend Richard Furman, in December; Reverend Joshua Palmer, in February; Reverend Edmund Botsford in March; Reverend Evan Pugh, in May; and Reverend Joseph Cook, in July.

13th. Reverend Messrs. Edmund Botsford, Evan Pugh, Joseph Cook, Joshua Lewis, and Richard Furman, were appointed on the standing Committee of Association to continue till the next meeting.

14th. As we lament the backwardness of our churches in supporting their representation in association, we therefore earnestly request, as they wish to promote the interest of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the welfare of Zion, they will be more regular in attending for the future; especially the Ministers.

