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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1789.

Minutes ... at Black Swamp, December 12th, 1789.

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LOC copy.

M I N U T E S

O F T H E

CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION,

Held at BLACK SWAMP, December 12th, 1789.

THE two first days being employed in public exercises of devotion; on Monday the 14th, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

1st. The introductory discourse was delivered by Rev. Richard Furman, from Ephesians, 4th chapter, 11, 12 and 13th verses.

2d. Letters from fifteen churches were read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

3d. Rev. Joseph Cook was chosen Moderator; Mr. Peter Bainbridge, Clerk.

4th. A letter from a church in the lower fork of Lynch's creek, constituted by Rev. Messrs. Evan Pugh and Edmund Botsford in the course of the present year, was received, praying to be admitted a church of the union, which was agreed to.

5th. Letters and minutes from the Philadelphia and Warren associations were read, also a letter from the Kestockton and several circular letters and breviates of Associations in England, which were forwarded by Rev. Mr. Rippon, of London.

6th. A letter and minutes were received from the Bethel association, lately formed in the back parts of this State, by their messenger Rev. James Fowler; requesting correspondence and union with us. This Association consists of sixteen churches. Appointed the Rev. Messrs. James Fowler, Henry Holcom, Gabriel Gerrald and Mr. Peter Bainbridge to attend their next meeting, the second Saturday in August 1790, to endeavour an union of the two associations into one.

7th. Appointed Rev. Joseph Cook to write the circular letter, Rev. Richard Furman to write to the Warren, Philadelphia and Bethel, Rev. Henry Holcom to the Kettocton, and Rev. Alexander Scot to the Georgia associations. The committee of correspondence, appointed last year, to continue, and they are requested to write to our correspondents in Europe.

8th. The letter from the church on the upper fork of Lynch's creek, relating an unhappy division which has taken place amongst them, and requesting the direction and assistance of the association:—After a candid enquiry into the subject, and hearing a variety of evidence, we are of opinion, that the body of members who have stood opposed to their pastor have acted disorderly; yet as it appears highly probable a great part of those members are pious persons and in good stead, and as it is not unlikely there may have been some cause of offence on each side, we recommend union, by such mutual concessions as the gospel and the reason of things direct. To effect so desirable a purpose, Resolved, that Rev. Messrs. Furman and Cook, col. Screven, and Dr. Mosse, be a committee to write a letter to both parties, expressive of the sense of the association; and that the Rev. Messrs. Botsford, Moseley and Palm be requested to visit them and use their endeavours for an accommodation.

9th. Query from the Coosawhatchie church: Is it consistent with gospel-order for a minister to have the pastoral care of two distinct constituted churches at the same time? Answered in the negative; yet we are of opinion, that the pastor of one church, may occasionally administer the ordinances, and assist in another which is destitute.

10th. The church at Turkey-Creek requesting to be dismissed, in order to join the Georgia association; agreed, that if they find on farther consideration their interests require it, they have our consent; but as it is probable our meetings hereafter will generally be held much nearer to them, and as there are some real advantages consequent on the churches being united in the state where they reside, we would wish their continuance.

11th. The association expressing a general approbation of the sermon delivered by Mr. Furman, at the opening of the session, Mr. Moderator was desired to signify it to him, and request a copy for the press; which was accordingly done.

12th. Agreed to recommend to the several churches a collection, for the purpose of re-printing our confession of faith, church discipline, and catechism. It is thought three pounds at least, from each church, will be requisite for this end. The money to be transmitted to col. Screven in

Charleston; or in his absence to Rev. Mr. Furman. A proposition was also brought forward, to recommend a mode for forming funds in the several churches, in order to assist pious young men in their studies for the ministry, and other things of a public nature; which met with the unanimous approbation of the association: agreed to recommend these things to the churches and to mature a plan for general adoption at another meeting.

12th. The standing committee to continue as last year, except Mr. Redding, who has moved away.

14th. Agreed to hold the next meeting at the High Hills of Santee, the last Saturday in October next. The Rev. Evan Pugh to preach the sermon; in case of failure, Rev. Joseph Cook.

15th. The several letters were produced and signed; and the collection made for printing the minutes: Rev. Richard Furman is desired to superintend this business.



STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Ministers Names in Capitals; licensed Preachers in Italics; Churches marked with an asterisk * we had no account from, their numbers stand as last year. Ministers marked with an obelisk † were absent. A dash — denotes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Added by L.	Dismissed.	Excommunic.	Dead.	Total.
Charleston.	RICHARD FURMAN						
	Col. Thomas Screven <i>Peter Bainbridge</i>	31	0	0	0	5	204
Ewhaw	JOSEPH COOK						
	<i>John Goldwire</i>	27	0	0	0	2	89
	D. George Mosse Charles Bealer						
Welch Neck	EDMUND BOTSFORD †						
	John Bennet	5	1	1	1	2	147
Cathaway *	EVAN PUGH †	5	0	0	0	0	47
Catfish * thought to be extinct; the last return they were							32
Coolawhatchie	Thomas Night, Esq;						
	Zachariah Night	3	0	0	0	2	67
	Nathan Smart						
Savannah River, Georgia *							146
Pipe Creek	HENRY HOLCOM						
	<i>James Sweat</i>						
	David Loper	14	1	0	2	1	115
	Joshua Loper Joseph Garnet						
Ebenezer, Jeffers's Creek	BENJAMIN MOSELY	12	2	0	0	0	54
High Hills of Santee	GABRIEL GERRALD	19	0	0	1	1	108
Lynch's Creek *							41
Cheraw Hill	JOSHUA LEWIS †	3	6	5	1	5	61
Beauty Spot *	HENRY EASTERLING †						52
Bethel, Black River	SOLOMON THOMSON †	11	21	3	6	2	82
Black Swamp	ALEXANDER SCOTT						
	<i>William Cone</i>						
	Joseph Lawton						
	William Cheney	59	13	1	0	0	125
	John Robert, Esq;						
Elias Robert							
John Night							
Turkey Creek, Saluda		5	16	14	0	1	85

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Present.	absent by C.	Transfers.	Excommunicated.	Dead.	Total.
Edisto	{ NATHANIEL WALKER † Capt. Richard Creech	65	3	0	0	0	142
Little Saltcatcher	{ John Patrick John Prescott	48	17	0	0	0	83
Fork of Lynches Creek	{ CHARLES COCK Ruel Evans		2	0	1	0	105
Swift Creek	{ LEWIS COLLINS † Davis Collins	9	0	0	3	0	73
Lower fork of Lynch's Creek	JOSHUA PALMER						39
		1270	82	24	15	21	1895

Increase this year, 331.



The CIRCULAR LETTER. *Sept 21 1789*

The Charleston Association, met at Black Swamp, the 14th, and continued to the 16th of December, Anno Domini, 1789; to the churches they have the honor to represent, send christian salutation:

BELOVED BRETHREN,

IT exhilarates every benevolent breast, engaged in the fertile fields of the gospel, to have an opportunity of promoting the felicity of those over whom the holy ghost has made them overseers.

Through the tender mercy of an indulgent providence, we have been favored, as your advisory council, to convene at the time appointed; and have transacted the business which came before us with unity and much affection.

What we have done our minutes will manifest, and hope we shall meet with your approbation and concurrence, in our assiduity to promote your happiness and Immanuel's glory.

It is with painful sensations we behold profaneness and infidelity spreading their baneful influence among most classes of people.

The discouragement the assiduous labourers of Christ have to struggle with, is another cause of grief, which calls aloud for your ardent prayers, that a stop may be put to the torrent of iniquity which is rushing on with impetuous fury, and that the rod of the wicked may not rest upon the lot of the righteous.

While we deplore the state of mankind in general, we have reason to rejoice that the Lord has not left himself without witnesses: It is with pleasure we observe that there are a few names, even in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments; and that the lord of the harvest is gathering in his elect, and spreading the triumphs of his grace, with great rapidity; which is apparent by the pleasing accounts received from various parts of this continent, and the churches in Great Britain. And as we have, by your representatives, furnished you with several copies of their respective minutes and letters, we recommend them to your serious perusal for information and practice; praying that the same evangelical spirit of piety, love, zeal and unity, that breathes throughout the whole, may be permanently established among you.

In a most pressing manner, we recommend to your attention, the circular letter of the Warren association; as it respects and displays fully your indispensable duty, both by scripture and sound reason, to make ample provision for the honorable support of your ministers and pastors, not by way of gratuity, but as their legal right.

To proceed, think it not strange, brethren, that after such a delightful appearance of the approaching glory of Christ's kingdom in the conversion of souls by the word of truth, which hath been seen of late in this and other nations, the enemy, Satan, as a spirit of error and delusion, should be let loose, to try many, and to overthrow the faith of some; for thus it was in the apostolic age, even after that great and plentiful effusion of the holy ghost at the day of Pentecost, with which the apostles and the first christian church for some time was so highly favored. And evident it is, from the writings of all the apostles, that several great errors were sprung up among the saints and churches which they wrote to, which obliged them to write, for the vindication and further manifestation of the truth, for the discovery of error, and for the confirmation of weak believers. Go on, therefore, and contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, and be not like children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, that may be propagated by men of cunning craftiness. Let us mourn for the opposition made against Christ and his truth by corrupt teachers, who obscure the brightness of the glorious gospel, to stop its progress and obstruct its efficacy. We exhort you, therefore, to watchfulness, and to stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. And as the proposal for reprinting of our confession of faith, church discipline and catechism, met with unanimous approbation, we

hope, each church will, as soon as possible, send their quota to the persons appointed to receive it, that the laudable design may be committed to the press. To conclude, go forward in the way of every duty, walking in, and bearing witness for the truth as it is in Jesus. Requesting your prayers, and wishing you all increase of grace here, and a weighty crown of glory at Christ's appearing; we now commit you to him on whom you have believed; and are, dear brethrer., yours most affectionate, in gospel bonds.

Signed in behalf of the association, by

JOSEPH COOK, *Moderator.*

PETER BAINBRIDGE, *Clerk.*

