

25286

Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1790.
Minutes ... at the High Hills of Santee, October 30th,
1790.

[Charleston, 1790.] 4 pp.

LOC copy.

Every where omit L I 10

MINUTES

OF THE

CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION.

Held at the High Hills of Santee, October 30th, [1790.] and continued to the 3rd of November 1790

THE two first days were employed in exercises of public devotion.

1. On Monday the 1st of November, (the Rev. Evan Pugh being absent by sickness, and Rev. Joseph Cook removed by death) Rev. James Fowler delivered a discourse introductory to the business, at eleven o'clock, A. M. from Isaiah ~~xxxiii~~, 16, 17.

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

3. Rev. Richard Furman was chosen Moderator, and Rev. Henry Holcombe, Clerk.

4. Rev. Messrs. Silas and Jesse Mercer, attended as messengers from the Georgia Association; and Rev. Messrs. James Fowler and Joseph Camp, from that of Bethel, and took their seats accordingly: From the latter a letter and minutes were presented; those from the former unfortunately miscarried.

5. Three Churches applied for admission into this Association: The first consisting of 162 Members, constituted in February 1787; the second of 32 Members, constituted last July: Both these being situated within the verge of North-Carolina; The third on Great Saltketcher, in this State, consisting of twenty members and constituted in January last. Satisfactory accounts of their faith and order being given, the two first being present by their delegates, were immediately received; the other will be received when their delegates attend.

6. Appointed Rev. Richard Furman to prepare letters to the corresponding associations; and one to the general committee of Baptist Associations in Virginia, in order to settle a correspondence with them; which hereafter will be considered as the medium of communication with the Hockton, as well as the other Associations in that State.—Rev. Henry Holcombe to write the circular letter.

7. The messengers from the Bethel Association, representing that obstacles were in the way of forming the two Associations into one, which that body considered as of some importance; agreed to discontinue this business for the present, until the subject be more fully considered by them: But the friendly correspondence began to be continued.

8. It appearing that several Churches have not made up their quotas for re-printing the Confession of Faith, &c. the Association request, that all such will execute this business as soon as possible.

James Car
Littell
Clerk

143. H

10th. Rev. Messrs. Richard Furman, Silas Mercer, Benjamin Mosely, and Henry Holcombe, were appointed a committee to bring in a plan for forming a fund, according to a resolve of the last year.

11th. The Association being informed that Mr. Philip Mulkey, formerly a minister of repute; but now under the awful sentence of excommunication, is preaching, and otherwise acting as a minister, among churches of their body; an enquiry into his true character was thought necessary. A variety of information and evidence were then received, by which it appeared he has been guilty of a number of enormous crimes: such as *adultery, perjury and falsehood*, which have been attended with very aggravating circumstances, often repeated and continued in for years; and, part of the time, united with his highest pretensions to zeal and piety. The Association, therefore, think it their duty, to warn all serious people respecting him, as a person degraded from the rank of a minister, acting in a state of notorious disorder, and of whose repentance there is reason to doubt.

12th. The committee to whom was referred the business respecting the fund, reported as follows; which report was agreed to, unanimously:

The following abstract be considered as a general plan for forming, supporting and applying the fund proposed.

First, that once a year a charity sermon be preached in each church, at which time collections be made from the congregation at large, to be brought into one common treasury, for the express purpose of assisting pious young men designed for the ministry, and destitute of other assistance, in obtaining education; together with such other religious and public uses as may be approved of by the churches, should it finally prove sufficient.

Secondly, A committee shall be formed, consisting of a delegate from each church, to convene at the time and place of the Association's meeting, who may be at the same time members of that body: They shall receive the collections, determine upon the manner of applying the fund according to the above rule, and examine candidates for the churches bounty. All applications to be made to them for this purpose. Delegates from nine churches to be a quorum, or capable of business.

Thirdly, Particular rules to be hereafter formed, to regulate the whole business, by the committee, subject to the inspection of the Association.

13th. The circular and other letters being read, were approved, and ordered to be signed.

14th. Appointed our Rev. Brethren Henry Holcombe, Joshua Palmer and Gabriel Gerald, messengers to the Bethel Association, to be held at Tyger River, the second Saturday in August next; the Rev. Messrs. Nathaniel Walker and Benjamin Mosely, to that of Georgia, to meet the third sabbath in October.

15th. Agreed to hold our next Association at the Welch Neck, Pedee, the Saturday before the first Sabbath in November next: Rev. Edmund Botsford to preach the sermon, in case of failure Rev. Henry Holcombe; Rev. Evan Pugh is requested to prepare a circular letter.

16th. The ministers are requested to pay regard to the destitute Churches, and visit them as often as possible; we particularly recommend to the attention of those adjacent, the Church on Lynch's-creek, which is greatly reduced, and has requested assistance.

17th. The money was collected for printing the minutes. Rev. Richard Furman is requested to superintend this business, and distribute them when printed.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

*Ministers names in capitals; licenced preachers in Italics; churches marked with @ after * we had no account from, their numbers stand as last year; ministers and others distinguished with an asterisk † were absent; a dash — denotes a vacancy.*

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Added by L.	Dismissed.	EXCOMMUN.	Dead.	Number of Members.
Charleston,	{ RICHARD FURMAN { John Hart †	1	2	2	C	2	219
Ewhaw,	—	15	C	2	C	2	108
Welch Neck,	{ EDMUND BOTSFORD † { Abel Edwards	30	C	4	2	3	167
Cashaway,	EVAN PUGH †	2	C	17	C	C	32
Coolawahatchie,	{ { <i>Less Teachers</i>	C	2	6	1	1	65
Pipe Creek,	HENRY HOLCOMBE	17	C	6	3	C	117
Ebenezer, Jeffers's Creek,	{ BENJAMIN MOSELY { Hardy Brian	1	—	C	C	C	58
High Hills Santee,	{ GABRIEL GERRALD { William M'Conico, Esq; { William Hampton	2	C	0	0	C	110
Lynch's Creek,	—	C	C	27	0	C	14
Cheraw Hill,	{ JOSHUA LEWIS † { Thomas Cochran	9	1	0	0	2	69
Beauty Spot,	HENRY EASTERLING	20	C	3	3	C	66
Bethel, Black River,	{ SOLOMON THOMSON { Jesse Nettles { Charles Skinner	11	1	2	3	2	83
Black Swamp,	ALEXANDER SCOT †	30	3	79	0	C	79
Turkey Creek, Saluda *	—	—	—	—	—	—	85
Edisto, *	NATHANIEL WALKER †	—	—	—	—	—	142
Little Saltcatcher,	{ { John Sutton	16	3	4	1	1	96
Upper Fork, Lynch's Creek,	{ <i>John Cato</i> { William Brewer { LEWIS COLLINS	11	2	25	—	—	92
Swift Creek,	{ <i>Davis Collins</i> { William Bonds	3	2	0	3	C	75
Lower Fork, Lynch's Creek,	{ JOSHUA PALMER { Richard Stratford	7	2	5	0	1	44
Rockey River,	{ SAMUEL BONDS { Simeon Marsh	—	—	—	—	—	162
Anson County,	CHARLES COOK	—	—	—	—	—	33

Increase this year, Ten.

185 20 173 17 17 1924

N. B. The church at Catfish is considered as extinct; that on Savannah river, Georgia, has formed different churches, which are comprehended in the Georgia association; their numbers are therefore taken out of the list.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

[The Charleston Association, met at the High Hills of Santee, on the 30th of October, and continued to the 3d of November, 1790, to the Churches in union, send Christian salutations:—]

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

DIVINE providence having once more convened us, as your delegates, we have been favored with a pleasing interview.

Your establishment in the doctrines of the gospel, peace among yourselves, and increase of numbers have furnished us much matter of thanksgiving: But our rejoicing has been attended with some painful sensations, occasioned by the departure of a worthy and useful member of our body, that faithful servant of JESUS CHRIST, and able minister of the New Testament, the late Rev. Joseph Coats: the loss of whom is very sensibly felt, and most sincerely lamented by this association.

But we hope this loss will give weight to the subject on which we are to address you: The execution of the plan we have adopted for the purpose of raising a fund to improve the minds of promising candidates for the ministry. You are not intenable of the palpable and almost innumerable disadvantages which our denomination have labored under for many years, on account of the little attention, that in various parts of the world, and especially in the interior, and back parts of these states, has been paid to the education of their ministers. Many have been, and perhaps some still are, strangely, and most unreasonably prejudiced against things of this nature; supposing literature not only unnecessary, but tending to elate and corrupt the mind; but through the diligence and evident usefulness of a few learned individuals, and the prevalence of gospel light, those delusive mists are in a good degree dispelled; the views of numbers expanded, and more rational and liberal sentiments inspired.

has

differe
place

We hope, therefore brethren, that the consideration of diffusing useful knowledge, capacitating your ministers to acquit themselves in the discharge of the important duties of their function with propriety and dignity, of adorning the christian profession, increasing the respectability of our order, and above all, glorifying our royal master, will engage you to make the necessary exertions for completing the proposed design, as manifestly tending to answer such truly valuable purposes.

The laws of reason and religion require it at your hands. We not only see, but feel the necessity of it; and beseech you by your obligations to promote the redeemer's honor, and your tender regards for the prosperity of Zion, to make it a matter of serious and religious concern. Were it not for swelling our letter to unusual dimensions, we should enlarge on this interesting subject; though we have great reason to hope and believe, we shall have your united and hearty concurrence. Wishing you an increase of all grace, under the enlightning and enriching influences of the divine spirit, and requesting an interest in your petitions, we conclude, dearly beloved brethren, yours, most affectionately in the best bonds.

RICHARD FURMAN, Moderator.
HENRY HOLCOMBE, Clerk.

2/