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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1791.
Minutes ... at the Welch Neck, Pedee, November 5th,
1791.

[Charleston, 1791.] 6 pp.

LOC copy.

M I N U T E S
O F T H E
C H A R L E S T O N A S S O C I A T I O N ,

Held at the WELCH NECK, PEDEE, November 5th, 1791.

1st. **E**MPLOYED Saturday and the Sabbath in an attendance on the ordinances of public worship.

2d. On Monday the 7th instant, the introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Henry Holcombe, from Isaiah 53d, and 1, "Who hath believed our report?"

3d. Letters from eighteen churches were read, and the names of the messengers enrolled.

4th. Rev. Evan Pugh was chosen moderator and Rev. Richard Furman clerk. Rev. Messrs. Silas and Jesse Mercer being present, were requested to sit in the association, who took their seats accordingly.

5th. Letters and minutes were received and read, from the following corresponding associations: the Philadelphia, Warren and Bethel on the continent; and the Kent and Suffex Association in Great-Britain; also a letter and minutes from the general committee of united Baptist churches in Virginia, and a letter from the Rev. Lemuel Burkett, enclosing minutes of the Kehukee Association, and another packet with minutes of the Middle District Association, south of James River; the two last brought by Rev. Silas Mercer. Rev. James Fowler and Mr. David Lilly attended as messengers from the Bethel Association, and were received accordingly.

6th. The clerk presented the association with 50 copies of a sermon published by him, at their request; for which, on motion of Rev. Mr. Holcombe, he received the thanks of the association, presented by the moderator.

7th. Appointed the following Rev. Brethren to write to the corresponding associations, Mr. Botsford to the Philadelphia, Mr. Lewis to the Warren, Mr. Holcombe to the Kent and Suffex, Mr. Furman to the general committee of united Baptist churches in Virginia, Mr. Gerrald to the Georgia, and Mr. Mosely to the Bethel association.

8th.

8th. A church on Deep creek, consisting of 50 members, which was constituted about twelve years ago, made application, by letter and two messengers, for admission into this association; and on satisfaction being obtained, respecting their faith and order, were received. A church on Little Pedee likewise applied, but some doubts arising, respecting their state, Rev. Messrs. Botsford and Moseley were requested to visit them previous to any farther proceedings on the business.

9th. Query, from the church in the lower fork of Lynch's creek. Can any method be fallen upon, to regulate the ordination of ministers: so as to prevent the too hasty laying on of hands on candidates for that office? Answer, let the churches be careful in the first instance, to introduce no persons into this station, but such who afford good evidence that they are truly pious and of promising gifts: Let them use every rational and proper means for their improvement; and in bringing them to ordination, we advise they call in the assistance of at least two, but rather three, of the ministers in union, who are most generally esteemed in the churches for piety and abilities.

10th. A letter was received from Mr. Peter Bainbridge, late of this state, as a minister in our union, now in Maryland, making general acknowledgments of irregular conduct in sundry public transactions, which had disgraced his christian profession, and expressing great sorrow on the occasion.

11th. Mr. Furman as chairman to the committee of the churches for conducting the business of a fund, agreeable to a resolve of last year, reported: That the committee had a system of rules under consideration, which were not yet matured; that they had agreed, when the rules were completed, to apply to the legislature for incorporation; and that they conceived it might be proper for the churches to invest the committee, with power to recover and take into their possession all glebes or other property belonging to churches of this connection, which either are, or may become extinct, when liable to revert to the public, or become private property; and apply the same to the interests of the union; in which they desired the concurrence of the association. Also, that the collections from the churches presented at this meeting amounted to 57l. 16s. 11d. The association took up this subject, and after debate, agreed, unanimously, that the proposal has the approbation of this body, both with respect to the subject of incorporation, and enlarging the design of the committee. Agreed farther, that due care ought to be taken to have the business of the committee and their powers fully defined, and that they do not interfere with the reserved rights and privileges of the churches as independent bodies, either in things spiritual or temporal.

12th. The church at Cashaway having removed their seat of worship, their delegates requested that they may be in future known by the name of the church at Mount Pleasant; which was agreed to.

13th. The several letters directed to be written, were produced, read and approved.

14th. Mr. Moderator, at the request of several members, proposed: That this association do testify their approbation of the sermon delivered by Mr. Holcombe at the opening of business, and request a copy for the press, which was unanimously agreed to, and the request accordingly presented.

15th. Appointed Mr. Furman to write the circular letter for the ensuing year, and that the subject be an answer to the following question. In what relation do the children of church members stand to the church: And what method is most adviseable to be pursued with respect to them, both for their own spiritual benefit and the general interests of religion?

16th. Agreed, that the next session of association be at Coofawhatchie, the Saturday before the first Sabbath in November next; Rev. Edmund Botsford to preach the sermon, or, in case of failure, Rev. Alexander Scott.

17th. Collected the money for printing the minutes. Ordered, that the clerk superintend this business, and send the minutes when printed, to the several churches and corresponding associations.



SUBSCRIPTIONS for the BAPTIST ANNUAL REGISTER, published by Rev. John Rippon, of London, which will contain a general account of the Baptist churches in England and America, together with other interesting and important intelligence, and come at about three Shillings sterling a year, are received in Charleston, by

R I C H A R D F U R M A N.

S T A T E

S T A T E O F T H E C H U R C H E S .

Ministers names in small capitals ; licenced preachers in Italics ; churches distinguished with an asterisk (*) we had no account from, their numbers stand as they were last year ; ministers and others, to whose names an obelisk (†) is affixed were absent ; a dash (—) denotes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	apt. x. a	Rect by I.	Dia. Jo.	Ex. m	Deas	Number.
Charleston,	{ RICHARD FURMAN, William Cuttino, Itac D. Jefferson, Esq; †	16	1	1		6	229
Edisto,	HENRY HOLCOMBE	18	2	2		2	117
Witch Neck,	{ EDMUND BOTSFORD, Abe' Edwards, John David, Thos. Evans, Enoch Evans, Enoch Evans, Jun.	6		1	1	5	166
Mount Pleasant,	{ EVAN PUGH, Major Robert Lide, John Saunders †	1					33
Coosawhatchie,	JAMES SWEAT, †	3	10	7	2	1	64
Pipe Creek,	Matthew McCullers	1	2	21	6	2	92
Ebenezer,	{ BENJAMIN MOSELEY, Solomon Morgan, hon. Robert Ellison, Esq;	1			1	1	57
High Hills of Santee,	— GABRIEL GERRALD, Stephen Nixon					2	102
Lynch's Creek,	— John Cockfield						14
Cheraw Hill,	{ JOSHUA LEWIS, col. George Hicks, major Tristram Thomas, Thos. Cochran, James Crocker, James Bolton,	8	5				82
Beaty Spot,	{ HENRY EASTERLING, William Leggitt, Thomas Ammons	1	2	2	1		66
Bethel, Black River, *	SOLOMON THOMSON †						83
Black Swamp,	{ ALEXANDER SCOTT, † JOHN GOLDWIRE, Thomas Polhill, Esq;	8	3	7	2	3	78
Turkey Creek, Saluda. *	—						85
Edisto, *	NATHANIEL WALKER †						142
Little Saltcatcher, *	—						96
Upper F. Lynch's creek,	{ ——— John Cato, Daniel Monaghan, Joseph Baker	15	6		5		108
Swift Creek,	{ LEWIS COLLINS, † Joseph Coats, Joseph Knigheten		1	4	1		71
Lower F. Lynch's creek,	{ JOSHUA PALMER, Richard Stratford, Jeremiah Chancellor	1	3				48
Rockey River,	SAMUEL BONDS, † William Polk	7		3	5	1	158
Anson County,	CHARLES COCK, Thomas Griffin	8	3		2		41
Geat Saltcatcher,	—	1					21
Deep Creek,	{ ——— Frame Woods, Jeremiah Lewis						50

195 | 38 | 48 | 26 | 25 | 2008

Increase this year, one hundred and four.

THE

THE C I R C U L A R L E T T E R.

The association of delegates from several Baptist churches held at the Welch Neck, on Pelee, in the state of South-Carolina, Nov. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1791, to the several churches we are connected with, Greeting :

DEAR BRETHREN,

THROUGH the goodness of our gracious and merciful God, we have had a comfortable interview, and continued together for some days, in much love and harmony.

We have considered what came before us, which appeared necessary at this time, respecting the cause of Christ in general, and especially the good of those churches we represent. You will find an account of these things in our minutes; and we doubt not, but you will pay suitable attention to them. We are happy to find that peace, love and unanimity dwell in our churches in general.

Yet we have reason to fear and lament, that iniquity abounds in our land; and among many others, that God-provoking sin of ingratitude. This was one of those crimes that drew down the displeasure of God on the Jewish church and state, from time to time. They forgot God; were unthankful and became vain in their imaginations and conversations. And that soon after receiving singular favors from their kind deliverer and generous benefactor, as when they were delivered from Egyptian tyranny and bondage; also, at the Red Sea, and giving of the law, &c. Yea, through the whole history of that people to their final overthrow. We should remember that God is the same holy, just being, now, as he was then; jealous of his own glory; and we are as much under his inspection and government as they were. Consider we beseech you, and let it be deeply impressed on each of your minds, how greatly you have been, and still are favored, both in a temporal and spiritual way; delivered from all the horrors of war, placed in a land of plenty, enjoying a greater degree of liberty civil and religious, than any other nation in our world; having the gospel of Christ published among you; and what crowns all, you are, we hope, blest with the spirit and grace of God in your souls. O brethren! If after all this profusion of mercy and goodness that is showered down upon you; you should yet live unthankful to the great author of your being and giver of every good and perfect gift, what can you expect but to feel his awful displeasure in some way or other.

But dear brethren, we hope better things of you; though we thus speak, yet permit us to entreat you, to watch and pray, ~~lest you~~ should be led away with the errors of the wicked. We crave a share in your prayers, and subscribe ourselves, your affectionate brethren in the gospel.

E. VAN PUGH, *Moderator.*

RICHARD FURMAN, *Clerk.*

MINUTES of the General Committee of the Churches belonging to the Charleston Association, met at the Welch Neck, Peace, Nov 9th, 1701.

1st. The following gentlemen appeared as delegates from the churches to which they respectively belong; Rev. Messrs. Richard Furman, Henry Holcombe and Edmund Botsford, hon. Robert Elliton, Rev. Gabriel Gerrald, Mr. Josiah Cockfield, col. George Hicks, Rev. Messrs. John Goldwire and Joshua Palmer.

2d. Chose Mr. Furman chairman, and Mr. Holcombe, clerk.

3d. Gave in the monies collected by the several churches, when it appeared, that Charleston had collected 2l. 14s. 4d. Ewhaw 12l. os. 2d. Welch Neck, 12l. 15s. 9d. Ebenezer, 2l. 1s. Lynch's Creek, 3l. Black Swamp, 5l. 5s. 8d. amounting in the whole to 57l. 16s. 1d.

4th. Mr. Furman produced and read, a system of rules for regulating the business of the fund, and proceedings of the committee. Took the said rules under consideration, and made some amendments: Agreed to defer a ratification of them till the next session, and that in the mean time, the several members seriously consider the subject, and propose at our next meeting, such amendments or additions as may appear necessary.

5th. On motion, agreed, that when the system of rules shall be compleat, the committee will apply to the legislature of this state for legal incorporation: Also, agreed, that it would be highly proper, and apparently for the interest of the churches to have the plan enlarged; and they do therefore recommend to the churches, to invest the committee with full power to recover and take into their possession any property, real or personal, of churches belonging to the union, which either are, or may become extinct, when liable to revert to the public, or become private property, to be applied to the general interests of the union: And to treat with government on these subject in behalf of the churches. These resolutions to be reported to the association for their concurrence.

6th. Mr. Matthew McCullers was introduced by Mr. Holcombe, as a proper object for the churches bounty; who after examination, was approved. Mr. Furman is desired to contract for his education, and superintend the same. On motion of Mr. Furman, agreed, that should it be found necessary, a part of the money collected for this year, shall be applied toward the education of the son of the late Rev. Joseph Cook, who is hereafter to be examined whether he comes within the description of persons designed to be benefited by this institution.

7th. Desired Mr. Furman to apply to Mr. Cuttino, of Georgetown, to act as treasurer to this committee; and in case of his refusal, requested him to take charge of the money till the next meeting. The meeting concluded by prayer.

RICHARD FURMAN, *Chairman.*
HENRY HOLCOMBE, *Clerk.*