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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1793.
Minutes . . . at the High Hills of Santee, the 2nd of November, 1793.

[Charleston, 1793.] 8 pp.

AAS copy.

M I N U T E S

O F T H E

CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION,

Held at the HIGH HILLS OF SANTEE, the 2d of November, 1793.

1st. **T**HE two first days were employed, as usual, in the public exercises of devotion : concluding on the Sabbath afternoon with the administration of the Lord's supper.

2d. On Monday, 11 o'clock A. M. the introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Richard Furman, from Ephes. 3. *Endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.*

3d. Letters from nineteen churches were read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

4th. Rev. Richard Furman was chosen moderator, and Mr. Frame Woods, clerk.

5th. Letters and minutes, for 1792, from the Philadelphia, Warren, and Kent and Suffex associations, were received and read ; likewise from the Bethel, for the present year. Rev. James Fowler appeared as the messenger of the latter, and was accordingly received. The ministering brethren, Davis Collins and John Aspland, being present, were also invited to a seat.

6. The church at Enon, consisting of 16 members, applied for admission into this association, and on satisfactory information of their faith and practice were received, by their delegate. This church originated from that at Great Saltcatcher, and was constituted the 7th of May, 1793 ; Rev. Messrs. Alexander Scott and James Sweat being present and assisting.

7th. Rev. Messrs. Scott and Sweat having been appointed at the last meeting of association to inquire respecting the state of the church at the Three Runs, so far as affected by a report respecting their pastor ; Mr. Sweat reported : That they had attended and made inquiries, and were satisfied the church had done their duty with respect to the report. The asso-
ciation

ciation, therefore, agreed to receive said church into union, when they shall attend by their delegates.

8th. Received a letter from Rev. Benjamin Mosely, signifying his intention of moving to the state of Georgia; and giving his sentiments for the information of the general committee, in favor of Mr. John M. Roberts, as an object of the churches bounty; or as a candidate for the ministry.

9th. Mr. Botsford having been prevented by sickness, from compleating the circular letter, on the subject proposed at the last meeting, he is requested to have it prepared for the next year. The moderator was desired to prepare one for the present occasion. The following brethren were appointed to write to the corresponding associations: Mr. Stoll to the Philadelphia, Mr. Roberts to the Warren, Mr. J. Cook to the Kent and Suffex, Mr. Fowler to the general committee in Virginia, Mr. Gerrald to the Bethel, and Mr. Nixon to the Georgia. Rev. Messrs. Botsford and Lewis are appointed our messengers to the Bethel, Rev. Messrs. Holcombe and Sweat to the Georgia association.

10th. The association being informed that the collection for reprinting the Confession of Faith, &c. had never been compleated, agreed: That the system of discipline be put to the press without delay; and request the churches to make up what is deficient for compleating the first design. But should this fail in the execution, and any money be on hand beside what is necessary for printing the discipline; Mr. Firman, to whom the superintendance of this business is committed; is requested to import confessions of faith and catechisms as far as said money will go.

11th. Agreed that it be recommended to all the churches in union to observe the 3d Wednesday in December next, as a day of solemn fasting and prayer to Almighty God, to implore his mercy on all our churches, and on our country at large; to pray for the peace and security of these United States, for a general reformation among our people, and for the direction and preservation of our government: That we may have a sanctified use of the afflicting dispensations of divine providence, and particularly of that awful dispensation with which the city of Philadelphia has been visited; and, should the affliction be continued till that time, that their fervent intercessions, in behalf of our distressed brethren and fellow citizens in that city, be presented at the throne of grace.

Agreed also, that a day in every month, at the discretion of each church, be held throughout the year, as a day of united and fervent prayer, for a revival in religion.

12th. The

12th. The several letters, appointed to be written, were read and approved.

13th. Agreed that our next session of association be at the Upper Fork of Lynch's Creek (Flat Creek meeting house) on Saturday before the first Lord's day in November next. The sermon to be delivered by Rev. Henry Holcombe, in case of failure by Rev. Joshua Lewis.

14th. Made collection for printing the minutes, and requested Mr. Furman to superintend the business as usual. An unanimous request was also presented to him, to furnish a copy of the introductory sermon for the press.

Concluded with solemn prayer.

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

The Ministers names are in capitals; licensed Preachers in Italics; Churches distinguished with an asterisk (*) we had no account from, their numbers stand as they did the last year; Pastors and Messengers, to whose names an obelisk (†) is affixed, were absent; a Dash (—) denotes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec. by L.	Dismissed.	Excom.	Dead.	Number.
Charleston,	RICHARD FURMAN	24	0	1	0	2	265
Euhaw,	HENRY HOLCOMBE†, David D. Stoll	5	0	0	0	3	126
Welch Neck,	{ EDMUND BOTSFORD†, Enoch Evans, Joseph B. Cook	6	3	1	2	1	172
Mount Pleasant,	EVAN PUGH†	5	0	0	0	0	38
Coofawhatchie,	JAMES SWEAT, James Smart	4	0	3	0	0	69
Pipe creek,	—————, William Cauley	0	2	4	3	0	79
Ebenezer,	{ BENJAMIN MOSELY†, John M. Roberts	2	2	3	1	2	57
High Hills of Santee,	{ —————, GABRIEL GERRALD, Stephen Nixon, William Hampton	0	0	0	0	2	96
Lynch's Creek,*	—————	0	0	0	0	0	14
Cheraw Hill,	{ JOSHUA LEWIS†, honorable Tristram Thomas, Esq. Brian Connor	18	4	1	2	7	94
Beauty Spot,*	—————	0	0	0	0	0	66
Bethel, Black River,	{ SOLOMON THOMSON, Jesse Nettles, Esq. Daniel Norton	0	4	2	1	0	86
Black Swamp,	ALEXANDER SCOTT†	2	0	16	1	1	60
Edisto,*	NATHANIEL WALKER†	0	0	0	0	0	142
Little Saltcatcher,*	—————	0	0	0	0	0	96
Upper F. Lynch's Creek,	{ WILLIAM DENMAN, Jacob Morris, James Ferguson	6	3	8	4	1	104
Swift Creek,	{ LEWIS COLLINS, Thomas Elliot, Joseph Thomson	2	3	4	1	1	72
Lower F. Lynch's Creek,	{ —————, William Witherington, William Chancellor	0	0	15	1	2	30
Rocky River,	SAMUEL BONDS†, Brian Lee,	0	0	3	9	5	141
Anson County,	CHARLES COOK, John Sibley	9	3	2	2	0	49
Great Saltcatcher,	{ —————, Major Richard Creech, Kellis Halford†	0	7	10	2	0	40
Deep Creek,	—————, Frame Woods, Thomas Vining	0	2	1	0	1	49
Little Pedee,	JEREMIAH RHAMF†, Bradley Rhame	1	1	0	0	1	26
Enon,	—————, John Williams	0	0	0	0	0	16
Increase this year, Two.		34	14	74	29	29	1987

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

*For the Charleston Baptist Association Fund, met at the High Hills of Santee,
November 5th, 1793.*

1st. The following gentlemen appeared as delegates from the churches to which they respectively belong: Rev. Messrs. Richard Furman and Solomon Thomson; Messrs. Stephen Nixon, David D. Stoll, Enoch Evans and John M. Roberts.

2d. Re-elected Rev. Richard Furman, president; Col. Thomas Screven, treasurer; Rev. Henry Holcombe, secretary; Messrs. Thomas Rivers and John Gourlay, assistants.

3d. Gave in the money collected by the several churches; when it appeared that Charleston had collected 62l. 4s. 10 1-2d. Euhaw 15l. 1s 2d. Welch Neck —* ; High Hills of Santee 4l. 1s. 8d. Ebenezer, 1l. Bethel, Black River, 1l. Rev. Lewis Collins presented 9s. 4d. Amounting to 83l. 17s. 0. 1-2d. exclusive of what may have been collected at the Welch Neck.

4th. Agreed unanimously, to furnish Mr. Mercer, of Georgia, with the books he needs this year, for prosecuting his studies.

5th. Mr. Roberts appearing as a candidate for the churches bounty, underwent an examination, and was approved.

6th. Agreed that whatever may be requisite in the well ordering of the affairs of the students now under the care of the General Committee, in the course of the year, be entrusted to the direction of the Special Committee.

United in prayer and adjourned.

RICHARD FURMAN, *President.*

DAVID D. STOLL, *Secretary pro tem.*

* The death of Mr. Edwards, and the severe illness of Mr. Botsford, prevented the collection at the Welch Neck from coming to hand; but it is to be forwarded to the treasurer, and there is reason to think it is an handsome collection.

The Charleston Baptist Association met at the High Hills of Santee, the 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th of November, 1793, to the several Churches they represent, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

BEING convened in our associated capacity, under the smiles of divine providence, we have enjoyed much satisfaction in the accounts transmitted by your respective letters and delegates; as well as from various associations of sister churches, with whom we enjoy a friendly and pleasing correspondence. Our present meeting furnishes a new instance of that intimate union and exalted fellowship into which the saints are called, and of the dear uniting love by which their hearts are cemented together in Christ: our consultations have been calm and temperate, our interview peaceful and affectionate.

We are, however, sensibly affected with the afflictions by which, in the course of a sovereign and wise providence, several of our much respected and most useful brethren in the ministry, have been prevented from assembling with us. And we sympathize, in a particular manner, with one of our churches in the loss of a truly pious member and excellent deacon, Mr. Abel Edwards, who had "used the office of a deacon well, and purchased to himself a good degree, and great boldness, in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." The loss of such men must be severely felt in the churches, and for them, Zion is constrained to appear in mourning attire.

Being disappointed in our expectation of addressing you on the subject proposed the last year, by the affliction our worthy brother, who was appointed to write, has suffered, which has both prevented his executing that appointment and attending at our meeting; we shall just present to your view a few considerations which arise from the circumstances of the day, or signs of the times:

Two subjects of this nature particularly claim our attention: *The threatening, or warning dispensations of providence; and the declension in religion*, so apparent among churches and individual professors. Though we should pass over the calamities of war and internal commotion, which ravage the fertile fields, desolate the cities, and convulse the nations of Europe (which yet we cannot behold with an eye of indifferency;) we surely must feel the most poignant sensations when we contemplate the situation of the most noted, and, lately, the most populous, opulent, and flourishing city in the American Union, now almost desolated by the flight and death of her inhabitants, nearly excluded from intercourse with the rest of our citizens, and covered with a deep and melancholy gloom,
by

By the prevalence of an inveterate and pestilential fever : which, as “ the Lord’s voice crieth unto the city ! ” and, by it, to the country at large. To which has been added, very general and distressing sickness, through the body of the southern states, even in the most healthy parts ; while the inroads of a savage foe, on our western frontiers, have marked their progress in blood.

How many families have been bereaved, and larger communities lost their most valuable members ! These are calls to repentance, and calculated to rouse the mind into the most serious contemplation of eternal things. The hand of God is thus operating ; and though his *judgment is evident, yet his mercy also doth conspicuously appear* :—Why has not the fatal contagion, which has swept off thousands in Philadelphia, spread to other cities, or depopulated the whole country ? Why has the late alarm, from a different cause, only awakened our apprehension, and left us unhurt ? And, why amid the intrigues of foreign influence, and the exertion of the restless spirit of faction at home, are we preserved from those wars which have been kindled beyond the Atlantic ? The answer is obvious : However wise measures may have been adopted, and men of prudence and virtue, with our beloved President at their head, been instrumental in securing the blessings of safety and peace ; it is that Almighty hand, which reins the furious wind, and stills the raging waves, that has been, and still is, our security and defence.

That religion is in a low and languishing state throughout the continent, admitting a few exceptions, and that it is greatly so with us, is evident from the best testimony and our own observation. This must be the consequence of leaving our first love, of grieving the holy spirit of God, and becoming luke-warm and remiss in our temper and religious conduct. And, if these evils are found among the people of God, who are considered as “ the salt of the earth ; ” what may be looked for among those who are strangers to vital religion ! And how may it be apprehended, that the nation at large is ripening for divine judgments, by *dissipation, folly and vice* ; which a number of serious minds, for a considerable time, have beheld with deep concern, making gigantic strides in the manners of the people.

Suffer then, brethren, the word of exhortation ! Remember from whence you have fallen ; repent and do the first works. Oppose the torrent of vice and folly, which is rising like an overflowing flood, by determined, genuine, and rational piety : Be fervent and constant in prayer, both individually and united ; strengthen your resolutions, and renew your engagements to God ; seek an enlargement of heart, in divine knowledge,

knowledge, generosity, charity, and every ennobling virtue, and be exemplary as well as sincere in all your conduct. Above all, live by faith in the once crucified, but now exalted Immanuel, and let your hearts glow with love toward him, and with zeal for the honor of his name and interests of his kingdom; labour to bring your hearts under daily impressions of his love, that you may feel its constraining influence; aspire after the high privilege of communion and fellowship with the Three-One God, and grieve not the Holy Spirit, by which ye are sealed to the day of redemption.

Thus may you advance in the divine life, enjoy the smiles of Jehovah's countenance, and receive a refreshing from his presence, which may make the waste places of Zion to be inhabited, and her desert to bud and blossom as the rose: thus may you, with all the truly pious in our favored country of liberty, stand as the bulwark of the land; thus may your prayers, united with theirs, be successful to avert divine judgments, to produce reformation, and to bring down abundant blessings from the father of mercies, on all our people and the churches of his saints. And thus, finally, may you be prepared for, and admitted to his heavenly kingdom.

Requesting an interest in your prayers, we remain,
Beloved brethren,

Yours affectionately in gospel bonds.

RICHARD FURMAN, Moderator.

FRAME WOODS, Clerk.

