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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1795.  
Minutes . . . at Jeffers's Creek, the 31st of October,  
1795.

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1795 - October meeting

# M I N U T E S

O F T H E

## CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION,

*Met at JEFFERS'S CREEK, the 31st of October, 1795.*

1st. **T**HE two first days were devoted to the usual exercises of public worship, which concluded on Sabbath evening with the administration of the Lord's supper.

2d. On Monday, 11 o'clock, A. M. the introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Evan Pugh, from 1st of John, 1 and 3. *And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ.*

3d. Letters from 17 churches were read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

4th. Rev. Mr. Pugh was chosen moderator, and Mr. John Waldo, clerk.

5th. Letters were received from the following associations: The Warren with minutes, both of 1794; the Georgia, Bethel and Hephzibah; the last is an association lately formed in Georgia. Rev. Messrs. James Fowler, John Rooker and Jesse Mercer, attended as messengers; the two first from the Bethel association, the last from the Georgia, who met with a cordial reception, and took their seats accordingly.

6th. The following brethren were appointed to write to corresponding associations. Mr. Furman to the Kent and Suffex, Mr. Botsford to the Philadelphia, Mr. Waldo to the Warren, Mr. Fowler to the Georgia, Mr. Woods to the Hephzibah, and Messrs. Pugh, Cooper and Nixon, to the Bethel. Mr. Holcombe not attending, and having failed to furnish the Circular Letter, it is requested he will have it prepared for the next year, and Mr. Furman is appointed to write a short letter for the present session.

7th. It having been concluded at the meeting held at the Euhaw, in May last, that the plan for holding two meetings of association in the course of the year, is for several reasons ineligible; and that holding the yearly meetings one year to the Southward, and the next to the Northward, by regular rotation, is

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more likely to promote the cause of Christ, and general interests of the churches: and this conclusion being formed by the Southern churches, for whose convenience the scheme of holding two meetings in the year was devised: Therefore agreed unanimously, that the plan proposed at the Euhaw be adopted; and if no objections are raised against it at our next meeting, by instructions from the churches, it be considered as permanently established for a constitutional rule.

8th. Took under consideration the subject proposed for investigation, at the Euhaw, respecting the right of a regular and well known pastor of a church in union, sitting as a representative in association, without his being specially appointed for that meeting, or producing a letter in proof of such appointment. The merits of the first part of the subject were not decided on, but it was universally agreed, that the regular method of sending pastors, as well as other delegates, to the association, is by *special* appointment and letter. Yet should a delegate fail to obtain his letter or be deprived of it in the course of providence, (an instance of which gave rise to this enquiry) it is thought he should not be prevented taking his seat, on producing proper evidence of the fact; and that, in such a case, a man's own word, if a person of known probity and worth, may be taken.

9th. The church at the Beauty Spot, requesting advice respecting difficulties which had arisen concerning a certain *Charles Pigg*, who had been among them under the character of a preacher. The subject was referred to Messrs. Botsford, Woods and Lewis, to consider and report thereon. After a short consultation, they reported: That they find by a variety of clear evidence, of which the church is in full possession, that the said Charles Pigg has committed many scandalous crimes too shameful to be mentioned; and that the churches principal difficulty arose from their having given him a letter of recommendation and dismissal previous to their being informed of his wicked conduct, he having also removed from among them, but without joining another church: whereupon resolved, By the rules of regular church government, the person accused remains a member of the Beauty Spot church, and it becomes their duty to deal with him as such, by enforcing the gospel discipline. We also advise, from what appears of the enormity of his crimes, and his present disposition, that the church do exclude him from membership, and bear publick testimony against him. And we do hereby give warning respecting him to all our churches.

10th. This association most cordially approving the scheme for a general concert in prayer, formed on the plan of President Edwards, do adopt it for serious observation among our churches, the public exercises of which we would wish to be conducted as agreed on by the American churches who have embarked in the laudable undertaking; and as published by their corresponding com-  
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mittee. By this plan the meetings are to be held quarterly, beginning with the first Tuesday in January in each year, during the term the scheme shall be supported. Preaching and exhortation to be united with prayer on these occasions, and the exercises to be in at two o'clock in the afternoon. The last article we conceive must in some measure yield to circumstances; and it is very desirable, that the part of the day which is not devoted to publick, may be employed in private devotion.

11th. Appointed our brethren Edmund Botsford and David Cooper, messengers to the Bethel Association, Alexander Scott and James Sweat, to the Georgia and Hephzibah.

12th. Our next meeting is to be held at Black Swamp, the Saturday before the last Lord's day in October next. Rev. Mr. Botsford to preach the sermon, in case of failure, Rev. John Goldwire.

13th. Read and approved the several letters directed to be written.

14th. Collected for printing the minutes, and desired Mr. Furman to superintend the business.

Concluded with prayer and exhortation by the moderator.

MINUTES.

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE for the Charleston Baptist Association Fund, met at Jaffers's Creek, November 3d, 1795.**

1st. Rev. Messrs. Richard Furman, Edmund Botsford, David Cooper, John Waldo and Stephen Nixon, appeared as delegates from the churches to which they respectively belong.

2d. Proceeded to the election of officers, when it appeared, Rev. Richard Furman was elected president, col. Thomas Screven treasurer; Mr. John Waldo secretary, Messrs. Thomas Rivers and John Gourlay, assistants.

3d. Accounts of the following collections were given in : In Charleston, 42l. 15s. paid into the hands of the treasurer ; Georgetown, 10l. 2s. 4d. Ebenezer, 1l. 14s. The two last collections were produced, and committed to the care of the president, to be delivered to the treasurer.

4th. The treasurer's accounts were inspected, by which it appears, that the expenditures this year, have amounted to 54l. 1s. 4d $\frac{1}{2}$ . which have gone towards supporting the young men at college.

5th. The special committee were directed to proceed on the plan adopted last year.

United in prayer, and adjourned.

RICHARD FURMAN, President.  
JOHN WALDO, Secretary.

S T A T E

## 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 last year; Pastors and Delegates, to whose names an obelisk (†) is affixed, were absent; a dash (—) denotes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec. by Letter.	Dismiss d.	Excommun.	Dead.	Numbers.
Charleston,	{ RICHARD FURMAN, Captain Jeremiah Brown.	6		6			242
Euhaw,*	HENRY HOLCOMBE †						130
Welch Neck,	{ EDMUND BOTSFORD, Evander M'Iver, John David.			4	1	2	168
Mount Pleasant,	{ ———, EVAN PUGH, James Coleman, S. King.						38
Coosawhatchie,*	AARON TISON. †						64
Pipe Creek,*	MOSES HADLEY. †						75
Ebenezer,	{ DAVID COOPER, Colonel Robert Ellifon, Solomon Morgan.	4	4				63
High Hills of Santee,	{ ———, Stephen Nixon, Wm. Hampton.		1				96
Lynch's Creek,	—————, Isham Nettles.					3	11
Cheraw Hill,	{ JOSHUA LEWIS, Gen. Tristram Thomas, Thomas Cochran.					3	86
Beauty Spot,	{ ———, Moses Parker, Ed- mund Brown, John Jones.	9	7		2	5	75
Bethel, Black River,*	SOLOMON THOMSON. †						87
Black Swamp,*	ALEXANDER SCOTT. †						56
Edisto,*	NATHANIEL WALKER. †						142
Little Saltcatcher,*	—————.						96
Upper F. Lynch's Creek,	{ WILLIAM DENMAN, † Richard Holly, James Rich.	2	8	3	1	1	87
Swift Creek,	LEWIS COLLINS.			8		2	62
Lower F. Lynch's Creek,	SAM. BONDS, James Hudson.	12	6			1	49
Rockey River,	—————, Briant Lee.						138
Anson County,	CHARLES COOK, † Tho. Griffin.					1	48
Great Saltcatcher,*	—————.						41
Deep Creek,	{ ———, FRAME WOODS, JERE- MIAH LEWIS, James Crocker.	12	1		3	2	57
Little Peedee,*	JEREMIAH RHEAM. †						26
Enon,*	—————.						16
Georgetown,	—————, John Waldo.						31
Gapway, Little Peedee,	{ DAVID OVEN, † David Davis, Wright Wall:				1	1	2

Increase this year, 19.

45 27 15 10 10 50

## THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Charleston Association, met at Ebenezer, Jeffers's Creek, the last day of October, and continued to the 4th of November, 1795, to the Churches they represent, send Christian Salutation.*

BELOVED BRETHREN,

**O**UR expectation having failed respecting the letter appointed at our last year's meeting to be written, we, of necessity, address you in a few hasty lines.

We are happy to find by the general purport of your letters, that peace and unity prevail throughout our connection, and that in some place (though few comparatively) there are pleasing evidences of God's power operating in the conversion of sinners. But we find great reason to lament with you that general declension which is so evident to observation, and so sensibly felt in the present day.

This situation of the church calls for deep humiliation before God, serious concern respecting the state of our souls, vigorous exertion in the cause of God, and diligent use of the appointed means of grace.

In vain do we acknowledge our imperfections, or professedly lament our leanness, if our hearts are not affected. And what blessing can we reasonably expect while the rational and most proper means which God has put within our power, and to which his word directs, are neglected? Permit us, dear brethren, to suggest our fears, that the duties of the closet and the discipline of the heart, are awfully neglected in the present day. We fear the views of even those who have made the most serious profession, are too much limited to the present life. Have we not almost forgot to consider ourselves as strangers and pilgrims on earth? Is not the spirit of ambition, pride and covetousness prevalent to a high degree? Who are they that feel anxiously concerned for the things which are Jesus Christ's? Who burn with zeal for the honor of Jehovah; mourn for the abominations of the land; and feel bowels of compassion for perishing immortal souls? Has not the gracious and holy spirit of God, the Comforter, been grieved, by our untender walk; by our unbelief, ingratitude, formality, and neglect or abuse of our privileges?

Have not the solemn meetings for prayer, repeatedly recommended, been either shamefully neglected, or attended with a coldness and indifferency unbecoming those who profess to know Jesus Christ, or to believe the awful realities of eternity?

Rouse! brethren, from your lethargy; reason, duty, obligation call; judgments threaten; mercies invite: all that is dear or sacred to the heart of a rational immortal creature require your activity, seriousness and diligence, in the cause of your God and Redeemer. Render to Jehovah his unquestionable  
and

and too long detained due; and prove him herewith, if he will not, in such a case, according to his word, open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there even shall not be room sufficient to receive it.

We earnestly recommend to your serious attention the plan for a general concert in prayer among christians of different denominations, for a revival of religion, and the increase of our Redeemer's kingdom among all nations. This pious design has been formed by many churches of different denominations, both in Europe and America. By the American churches, four days in the year have been set apart for the solemn exercise: to wit, the first Tuesday in January, April, July and October.

We request an affectionate remembrance in your prayers, and wishing you all the choice blessings of providence and grace, we remain,

Beloved Brethren,

Yours in the faith and fellowship of the gospel,

E V A N P U G H, *Moderator.*

J O H N W A L D O, *Clerk.*

