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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston Association, 1811.

Minutes of the ... at Columbia ... 2d Nov. 1811.

n.p., [ 1811 ]. 16 pp.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

## CHARLESTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

*Convened at Columbia, S. C. on Saturday, the 2d Nov. 1811.*

1. THE two first days having been employed in exercises of public devotion, in which both Baptism and the Lord's Supper were administered; on Monday, at 11 o'clock A. M. the Association Sermon was delivered by Reverend Dr. Furman, from Matthew v. 13. "*Ye are the Salt of the Earth: But if the Salt have lost his savour wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*"

2. Rev. Dr. Maxcy, President of the South-Carolina College, prayed at the opening of business. Letters from 27 Churches were then read, an account taken of their state, and the names of the Delegates they had sent minuted.

3. Elected Dr. Furman, Moderator, and Rev. Joseph B. Cook, Clerk.

4. Read the Letters received from corresponding Associations, and welcomed the messengers of those who appeared by delegation. From the Philadelphia, a letter and minutes of the last year. From the Warren, no accounts. From the Georgia, a letter and minutes; their messenger, Rev. H. A. Boyd. From the Bethel, a letter and minutes; messengers, Rev. Messrs. John Rooker and Samuel McCreary. From the Hephzibah, letters of the present and past year with minutes; messenger, Rev. Henry Hand. From the Sandy Creek, a letter; messengers, Rev. Messrs. William Dargan and John Muse. No account from the Savannah River. From the Edgefield, a letter and minutes; messengers, Rev. Messrs. Thomas Deoach and Henry King. From the Nouse, two letters and minutes. From the Cape Fear, a letter.

5. Rev. Dr. Maxcy and Rev. William T. Brantly, being present, their company, and assistance in deliberation were requested.

6. Appointed as a committee to revise the Circular Letter, and other letters which should be written in behalf of the Association, Dr. Maxcy, and Messrs. Roberts, Johnson, and Cook: Also, appointed them with the addition of the Moderator, to inspect the minutes of corresponding Associations, with a view of bringing forward any article contained in them, which might claim the particular attention of this body.

Mr. Rooker prayed, and the Association adjourned to Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment. Mr. McCreary prayed.

7. The committee appointed to visit the Anson Church, reported, that they had visited said church, but were unsuccessful respecting the object of their appointment; the spirit of party still running high among them. This also appeared by letters sent from each party, claiming the right of being considered as the church. Whereon it was moved, and agreed to unanimously—That as this body have been troubled for many years with the dis-

agreeable disputes of the Anson Church; and have been at unusual pains to reconcile and bring them into a state of regular order and peace, without effect; therefore, the said church be left out of the list of churches in this confederation, until they appear to have acquired a different spirit and better manner of acting; when, should this ultimately be the case, they will be again received into union.

8 Resumed the consideration of republishing the confession of faith, system of discipline, and catechism; and appointed Dr. Furman, with Messrs. Henry Inglesby, and James Harper agents to contract for the work, and to have proposals issued without delay.

9. The committee appointed to make enquiries respecting the practicability of establishing a Seminary of learning under the direction of this body, reported, that they consider the attempt ineligible at present. In which report the Association concurred.

10. The committee to whom was committed the business of inspecting the minutes of corresponding Associations, recommended, that this body unite with the Bethel Association in warning the public against a certain Leaford Paine, who is said to be a notorious impostor, assuming the character of a Baptist Minister. Also, that they recommend the Circular Letter of that Association for the present year to the particular attention of the public. The letter being read, it was resolved to concur in both articles of this report.

11. Appointed the following Brethren to write to corresponding Associations, viz.—Furman to the Philadelphia, Maxcy to the Warren, Roberts to the Georgia, Cook to the Savannah River, Johnson to the Bethel, Collins to the Hephzibah, Nixon to the Edgefield, Todd to the Neuse, Boyd to the Sandy Creek, and McKellar to the Cape Fear: Also, appointed the following Brethren messengers to Associations, viz.—Todd to the Georgia, Collins and Cook to the Bethel, Johnson to the Savannah River, Denson to the Hephzibah, Roberts and Nixon to the Edgefield, White to the Cape Fear, M Kellar and Ellis to the Sandy Creek.

Mr. Nixon prayed, and the Association adjourned to Wednesday, 9 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Cook prayed.

12. Read and approved the Circular Letter, prepared by the Moderator, as revised by the committee of revision.

13. Took into consideration the business respecting the Catawba Indians; and agreed to continue the Mission and School.

The Brethren, Johnson and Collins who had been appointed to visit the Nation, and to superintend the school, in conjunction with the Missionary, reported favorably concerning the state of the Nation, and of the progress made by the Indian youth in their learning: They also recommended, that the Teacher be permitted to take some of the neighbouring white children into the school, with a view of bringing the young Indians to a more ready acquaintance with the English language; that, to suit the convenience of the Indians, the school be held alternately on each side of the river, six months at a time; and (as in case of the death of the present Missionary, it would be desirable to have some other person employed in that character, who should be well acquainted with the Indians, and in whom they might have confidence,) that Mr. McCreary, who is not very distant from them, be requested to

visit the Nation occasionally, in company with Mr. Rooker. To which recommendations the Associations agreed.

14. Read and approved the letters addressed to corresponding Associations. Dr. Maxcy having been indisposed, Mr. Brantly had prepared the letter to the Warren Association.

15. Took into consideration the queries from the Churches: 1st From the Church in Charleston, "What are the Scriptural reasons and evidence for the difference of procedure recommended by our System of Discipline in cases of Excommunication, as public, or private?"

A few members expressing a doubt concerning the propriety of public Excommunication, in any case, agreed to leave this subject open for further consideration 'till our next meeting.

2d Query, from the Church at Jeffers' Creek, "When members of our Churches send their children to Dancing Schools, or Balls; or encourage their attendance on them, should their conduct be considered as disorderly?"

Answer, we believe that as Dancing Schools and Balls are generally conducted, they are both in principle and manner inconsistent with the Spirit of the Gospel, and that therefore, it is not consistent with good order to encourage them.

16. Agreed, that this Association are sensibly affected by the death of the Rev. Isaac Tucker, who died in the course of the present year. He was very useful during his short course in the Ministry, was a worthy man, and a respectable member of civil society: and, we are happy to learn, died in the lively exercise of Faith, and in the joyful hope of a happy Immortality.

17. Agreed to recommend to our Churches Dr. Staughton's Abridgment of Dr. Gill's Body of Divinity, which may be obtained in one volume for \$2.75 at first cost. They also inform the churches and the public, that the same author is now publishing a Greek and English Lexicon, which, it is believed on good authority, will be, at least, one of the best helps which have been yet furnished for persons who wish a just acquaintance with the New Testament, in its original language, to attain their object.

18. Agreed, that the subject of the next Circular Letter be, The nature and extent of Christian Liberty: and appointed Rev. John M. Roberts to write it.

19. Agreed, to renew the recommendation of last year to our Churches, of having days appointed, to suit their own convenience, for extraordinary Prayer, for the revival of Religion and progress of the Gospel: and appointed the 2d Wednesday in March next, as a day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, to be observed by all our churches, to deprecate the displeasure of Almighty God, and to implore his mercy and blessing on our land and nation, and upon all the Churches of his Saints.

20. That the Association might express in their minutes their sense of obligation and affectionate regard to the citizens of Columbia—

It was on motion, agreed, that this Association feel greatly obliged to a large part of the respectable inhabitants of Columbia, for their very friendly and hospitable conduct toward the members of their body during the time of its present session: and are greatly pleased with the behaviour of the citizens in general, on account of their serious, regular, and apparently devout attendance on public ordinances through the whole season. These obligations will be

held in grateful remembrance, and the Association's best wishes will ever attend the citizens of Columbia.

21. Agreed, that our next session be held at the High Hills of Santee, on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in November next. Rev. Joseph B. Cook to preach the Sermon; in case of failure Reverend Wm. B. Johnson.

22. Collected money for printing the Minutes, and directed their printing and distribution to be conducted in the usual manner.

Concluded with Prayer and Exhortation by the Moderator.

