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Baptists. South Carolina. Charleston
Association, 1814.

Minutes ... at the Beulah Church ...
5th of Nov., 1814.

n.p., [1814]. 8 pp.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Charleston Baptist Association,

Convened at the Beulah Church, Richland District, S. C. on the 5th of Nov. 1814.

1. THE first two days were employed in Public Worship. Two Sermons were delivered on Saturday, and three on the Sabbath, the solemnities of which concluded with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. These Services were solemn and impressive, and the attention of the Congregation devout: Many were persuaded that the Lord was graciously present.

2. On Monday, 11 o'clock A. M. Rev. Prame Woods, delivered the Association Sermon, from *Math. xxiv. and 45. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made Ruler over his household, to give them Meat in due season?*

3. Rev. Joseph B Cook prayed, at the opening of business. Letters from 29 Churches were read, an account taken of their state as reported in the letters, and the names of the Delegates enrolled.

4. Elected Dr. Furman, Moderator, and Mr. John Good, Clerk.

5. Attended to the business of correspondence, with sister Associations. From the Philadelphia, Warren, New-Jersey and Edgefield, no accounts, From the Boston, Georgia, Hephzibah and Neuse, Letters and Minutes; some of them of a former year; From the Bethel; a Letter and Messengers, Rev. Messrs. John Booker and Samuel M'Creary; from the Cape Fear, a Letter, by their Messenger Rev. Benjamin Davis. These Messengers were received with cordial Affection and Respect.

6. The Circular Letter, prepared by Rev. John M. Roberts was read and approved, in its Matter and Spirit; but to meet the wishes of the author, the Moderator and Rev. Joseph B. Cook were appointed, with him, to revise it and make any verbal alterations they might think useful.

7. Appointed the Messrs. Cook, Woods, and M'Creary a Committee to inspect the Minutes of Corresponding Associations, with respect to subjects in which our co-operation, or concurrence would be proper: Our Brother Roberts, and those Brethren were also appointed to revise Letters which might be written in behalf of the Association.

8. Appointed the following Brethren to write to Corresponding Associations—Roberts, to the Philadelphia, Warren, Boston and New-Jersey; Woods to the Georgia; Cook to the Bethel; Todd to the Hephzibah; M'Kellar to the Savannah River; Dossey to the Edgefield; Pope to the Sandy Creek; G. Scott to the Neuse; and Hodges to the Cape Fear.

Rev. G. Scott prayed, and the Association adjourned to Tuesday Morning 9 o'clock.--Met pursuant to adjournment, Mr. Cook prayed.

9. Invited regular Ministering Brethren, occasionally present, to take a part in the Deliverations.

10. The newly constituted Church at High Hill Creek, Darlington District, applying by Letter and Messengers to become a Member of this Body, they were, on proper Evidence of their regular standing, cordially received.

11. The Moderator laid before the Association the Minutes of the late Convention in Philadelphia, held by the Baptists for Missionary Purposes, at which the Honorable Judge Tallmadge and himself had attended as Delegates, by the appointment of the Special Committee of the Churches; and, at the same time, he read the Constitution which the Convention had formed, their Address to the Publick, and the Minutes of the Board of Missions, founded on the aforesaid Constitution; requesting, that the Association would give a decided and public expression of their sentiments on these subjects. Whereupon it was declared, by an unanimous vote,--That this Association do approve of the said Constitution and Address, and of the Measures taken by the Board of Missions to bring the Constitution into operation; and that it is their wish, and request, that the Churches for which they are convened will give cordial and firm support to these measures; in order that, through the Blessing of God, the important object proposed, the conversion of the Heathen to the Faith

of Christ, may be obtained. They also expressed their approbation of the Special Committee's Appointment of Delegates, to attend the Convention, and agreed to bear, in their individual capacities, a part of the expense incurred by that attendance.

12. Agreed, that this Association are sensibly affected by the Death of three aged, pious and faithful Ministers of their connexion, who have finished their course during the present year; viz. James Coleman, William Bennet, and Aaron Wooton; and that they tenderly sympathise with the Churches who have sustained the loss of these venerable Pastors. They trust, however, that they are removed from the Church Militant, to the Church Triumphant.

13. Agreed, that the Association complies most heartily with the wish expressed by several of the Churches, in their Letters, of having this Body to call upon all the Churches in our connexion, to unite in solemn Acts of Humiliation and Prayer to Almighty God, in respect of our Country's present situation; involved, as it is, in the calamities and dangers of War; and to acknowledge with gratitude the interpositions of his goodness which we have experienced. For these purposes therefore, they, in concert with their Brethren of the Bethel Association, recommend the observance of the first day of December next, and the first Wednesday of March, as Days of Fasting and Prayer, and for devout acknowledgment of the Divine Goodness and Mercy towards us.

14. The Bethel Church having requested advice of the Association on a Case, in Discipline, which had proved embarrassing to them; our Brethren Roberts, Cook, Collins and Furman, were appointed a Committee to assist them in getting their Difficulty removed.

15. In consequence of the Representations made by the Churches at Muddy Creek, and Black Creek, of their destitute situation, and desire to have the visits of their Ministering Brethren; the Association earnestly request the neighboring Ministers, and all who can make it convenient, to visit these Churches, and afford them assistance by their Ministerial Labours.

16. Appointed the following Messengers to sister Associations—Cook, and G. Pope to the Bethel; Hodges and Layton to the Georgia; Cooke and Morris to the Savannah River; Roberts and Jessey Pope to the Edgefield; Good to the Neuse; Dossey and M'Kellar to the Cape Fear; and Hodges to the Hephzibah.

17. On enquiring into the state of the Catawba Indians, of the Missionary, it appeared, that nothing very encouraging had taken place among them in the course of this year, but that there were a few of them who manifested a degree of conscientious concern. Of the School they had been guilty of shameful neglect, by a very partial and irregular attendance of the Children and Youth. Whereupon, agreed, that the displeasure of the Association to this part of their conduct be manifested by a discontinuance of the School for the present; but that our Brother Rooker be requested to continue his Ministrations among them.

Mr. Woods prayed, and the Association adjourned to Wednesday half after 9 o'clock. Met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Roberts prayed.

18. Agreed, that the next Circular Letter be written in answer to the following question, viz In what sense, and to what extent are the Scriptures to be considered as forming a particular rule for religious conduct? also, appointed Dr. Furman to write the Letter.

19. Resolved, that the next annual meeting of this Body be held at the Calvary Church, in Sumter District, on the Saturday before the first Sabbath in November, 1815. Mr. Todd to begin the Service, in case of failure, Mr. Nixon: The Association Sermon to be delivered by Mr. Dossey, in case of failure, by Mr. Jesse Pope.

20. Agreed, that a Collection in aid of the Missionary Fund be made on the Sabbath, immediately after the Morning Service, at our next annual Meeting.

21. On motion, agreed, that the Association express, which they do with lively emotions, their grateful sense of obligations to their Brethren and Friends of this vicinity, for the hospitality and kindness they have experienced from them during the present session. They wish them, in return, every desirable Blessing, Spiritual and Temporal.

22. Collected Money for printing the Minutes, and committed this business with the distribution to the care of the Moderator: Who closed the session with Prayer, and a Benediction.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE. *November 8, 1814.*

1. The following Delegates appeared: Furman, Roberts, Cook, Dossey, Scott, Todd, Ellis, Jackson, McKellar, Woods, Gullede, Conn, Pope, and Knighten.

2. Elected officers: Richard Furman, President; David Adams, Treasurer; John M. Roberts, Recording Secretary; Wood Furman, Corresponding Secretary; James Harper, Henry Inglesby, Isaac Gill, and Edward Saxe, Assistants.

3. Took into consideration the Transaction of the Special Committee in appointing Delegates to the Missionary convention, which assembled at Philadelphia in May last, and declared an entire approbation of the measure.

4. Agreed to invest the Special Committee with full powers to transact all necessary business belonging to this body during the time of its recess, till the next annual meeting.

5. Mr. Darby Swinney, recommended by the Church at Mount Pleasant, appeared as a Candidate for the Churches' Bounty; underwent a strict examination, was approved, and taken under the care of the Committee to study for the Gospel Ministry.

6. Took an Account of the Collections, and the State of the Funds, and found them as exhibited below:

<i>Education Fund.</i>		<i>Missionary Fund.</i>	
Charleston Church,	\$149 87	Charleston Auxiliary M. Society,	\$232
High Hills Santee,	21	High Hills Church and do	52 50
Welsh Neck,	24	Society Hill, do	60
Columbia,	17	Columbia and Beulah, do	63 50
Three Creeks,	14	Marlborough, do	5
Amelia Township,	6	Amelia Township, do	26
Mount Pisgah,	8	Mount Pisgah Church, do	13.
Four Holes,	1	do	6 56
Cheraw Hill,	11	Deep Creek, do	20
Camden,	5	Wateree, do	4
Beulah,	5	Chesterfield C. House, do	9 10
Calvary,	3	Union Meeting, Darlington, A. M. S.	26
Sumterville Court House,	11 50	Wadmalaw and Edisto Mite Society,	45
	276 37	Rev. John Rooker's Collection,	3-50
Charleston collection included in Treasurer's account deducted,	149 87	Missionary to Catawba Indians and School Master's Salaries,	566 16 } 275
	126 50 or £29 10 4		\$291 16
Specialties, Accounts and Cash in hands of the Treasurer, as per his statement, to 1st November,	1329 15 6	{ Fifteen Dollars 25 Cents of this Money were given for the Translation of the Scriptures.	
	1359 5 10		
Monies paid at Meeting of the Com.	73 4 11		
	1286 0 9		
Expenditures of the present year,	£90 12 11		

RICHARD FURMAN, *President.*
JOHN M. ROBERTS, *Secretary.*

State of the Churches.

The Ordained Ministers' Names are in Capitals; Licensed Preachers, in Italics; from Churches distinguished by an asterisk (*) we had no accounts, and their numbers stand as they did last year. Pastors and Messengers to whose names an obelisk (†) is affixed, did not attend; a dash (—) denotes a Vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Recd by Let.	Dismissed.	Ex-commun.	Restored.	Dead.	Number of
Charleston,	RICHARD FURMAN,	32	2	1	7	3	8	538
Welsh Neck,	{ Wm. DOSSEY, J. ELLIS, Peter Ed- wards, John Kervin, Wm. Hale,	30	4			2	1	155
Ebenezer,	BENJAMIN MOSELY,†							83
High Hills Santee,	J. M. ROBERTS, J. Monk, W. Gaulden	23					1	274
Cheraw Hill,	—, Trist. Thomas,† Josiah David,†	23	3	2	4	4		153
Beauty Spot,	—, Daniel M ^r Koy,		3	3	1		1	43
U. F. L. Creek,	GEORGE POPE, Richard Holly,	9	3		6	2	3	298
Moun' Pisgah,	J. B. COOK, J. Peebles, Cason Scott,	3		2	2	2		52
L. F. L. Creek,*	—,							16
Rockey River,*	GEORGE WHITLEY,†							48
Deep Creek,	FRAME WOODS, J. GULLEDGE,	2	2	2				74
Little Pedee,*	SOLOMON REAVES,†							92
Georgetown,*	EDMUND BOTSFORD,†							86
Gapway,	—, H. W. Hodges, Thomas Collins,			2		2		46
Lane's Creek,	JESSE LEWELLIN,†	6	2		1			80
Congaree,	S. NIXON, Benjamin Rawlinson,	2		4	2		3	105
Black Creek,	—, Gillis Wright, John Saunders,	9	3	16	1	2	1	60
Three Creeks,	JAMES M ^r KELLAR,	10	1	1		2		38
Wassamsaw,	—, Thomas B ^r Wabge,	1		1		2		54
Wateree Creek,	R. JONES,† M. Knighten, J. Mickle,	10	1	2				60
Muddy Creek,	—, Richard Carlisle,							12
Catfish,*	—,							26
Terril's Bay,*	WILLIAM PALMER,†							50
Beulah,	GEORGE SCOTT, Wm. R. Tucker,	11			2	1	2	175
25 Mile Creek,	—, A. Crumpton, R. M ^r Lane,		2	3	1		3	76
Amelia Township,	J. THIGPEN,† T. Jackson, G. Butler,	4			4	2		204
Lynch's Creek,*	SAMUEL TIMMONS,†							40
Columbia,	R. M. TODD, John Good,	12	1		1		1	150
Camden,	JESSE POPE, Elisha Bell,	4	3	2		1		46
Calvary,	BRADLEY RHAME, James Tindle,	8	2	3	6			79
Piedmont,	J. KNIGHTEN, Thomas Woodward,				2	5		72
Bethel,	J. DENSON,† J. Pack, E. Wells,			18	1		1	86
Goose Creek,	MATTHEW M ^r CULLERS,†	9	1					43
Mount Olivet,*	—,							30
New Providence,	C. WILLIAMS,† Ephraim Fields,	1	2		2		1	43
Colonel's Creek,	J. B. HART,† W. Higgins, W. Harris,	3			1			36
Four Holes,	JACOB BAIR,† Jacob Smith,	7	1	1			1	116
Mount Pleasant,	—, Thomas Conn, Darby Swinney,	6		2			2	124
High Hill Creek,	George King, William Smith,							13
		225	35	65	44	30	29	3756

Increase this Year, 166.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

The CHARLESTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, assembled at the Beulah Church, on the Congaree, November 5th, 1814.

To the Churches they represent, send Christian Salutation.

Beloved Brethren,

THE object of our Circular Address this year, we presume you will esteem not only important but seasonable.

When the omnipotent arm of our gracious Redeemer is signally manifested in publishing the heavenly doctrines of the Gospel among the benighted nations of paganism, through the instrumentality of some of his zealous, faithful servants, is it not expedient for all to enquire and ascertain, What are the obligations of christians, to contribute their aid in the benevolent, godlike work of gospel missions? Though every christian may not be directly called to engage in promulgating the inspired oracles in the dark regions of idolatry, we cannot indulge the unwelcome idea, that any child of God would plead exemption from aiding in such a sacred, obvious, and delightful duty. With heartfelt pleasure and grateful emotions, we have frequently been witnesses to the generous promptitude of persons not claiming high rank in christian profession, contributing to the promotion of such a glorious cause. If those, who have not been savingly illuminated and rendered joyful by the healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness, are disposed to favor such a divinely excellent cause, can it require much ingenuity, or many arguments, to prove the obligation of pious christians to unite cordially and ardently in carrying into the most extensive operation, the grand, beneficent scheme?

Having made a few, we trust, not unappropriate preliminary remarks, permit us now, dear Brethren, to present to your serious consideration, in gradation, a number of obligations incumbent, in our opinion, on every christian to contribute in support of Gospel Missions. In the proposed gradation of obligations, we shall commence with reason. Does not the noble, innate principle of reason dictate our obligation to assist in the diffusion of celestial truth, not only among a few, but among millions of immortal souls, plunged in the gloomy horrors of barbarous superstition, brutal ignorance, and fatal error? Does not reason teach us the duty of eradicating baneful folly, inhumanity, and depravity; and of communicating the knowledge of piety and virtue? Is not this, undeniably, the voice, the instruction, the injunction of that imperial faculty, which presides over our other mental faculties? We conclude, therefore, that reason lays every christian under obligation to aid in supporting Gospel Missions. And does not conscience, the faithful witness, the moral Judge in our breasts, impose the same obligation? By the almighty power of Divine Grace, have our consciences been delivered from the despotic chains and painful burden of sin and guilt? Have the storms and billows of corrupt lusts and passions been commanded into holy peace and tranquillity by the sovereign voice of the Son of God? Have the accusations and torment of a guilty conscience been removed by the atoning blood of our immaculate Redeemer? Blessed with a rapturous transition from the wormwood and gall, to the sacred sweets of conscience, does not this internal monitor impel us to aid in imparting the same divine comforts to all the guilty, apostate race of Adam? The consciences of christians feasting on the delicious fruits of pardon and reconciliation, should feel bound to co-operate in spreading a savour of these precious fruits to the remotest and darkest corners of the earth. Therefore we conclude, that conscience concurs with reason in enjoining the same duty.

Benevolence, which should ever be a bright, prominent feature in the character of christians, requires them to assist in having the glad tidings of salva-

tion proclaimed in the regions of pagan darkness. Shall the ardors of christian benevolence be confined to the salvation of a comparatively small number of immortal souls in a land of light and vision, a land of Bibles, of sabbaths, of churches and preaching, and feel no solicitude to furnish means for evangelizing whole nations; who have never seen a Bible, never heard a sermon, nor known the adorable name of Jesus Christ? Shall her beneficent hand cheerfully feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and relieve the sick: And shall it not be vigorously stretched out and exerted in sending the bread of eternal life and the spotless robe of righteousness to unnumbered multitudes of miserable sinners, whose souls are starving and dying for the want of such divine blessings? My Brethren, does not godlike benevolence, decked with smiling majesty and lovely authority, command us to unite our efforts to have the glorious Gospel published to every human creature on the globe?

Let us now ascend the sacred Hill of Sion, and our horizon will be enlarged, our evidence will be more luminous, a cloud of immortal witnesses will encompass us: In the records of Inspiration, do not precepts command, do not promises encourage, do not examples excite us to labor unweariedly in aid of that blessed work, the spreading of heavenly Gospel light among the unenlightened nations of the earth? Are we not enjoined to be zealously affected in the good cause of the Lord, freely to impart the inestimable blessings of salvation, which we have freely received, and never to be weary in well-doing? Are there not great and precious promises for those who are instrumental in turning the ungodly from their unprofitable and fatal pursuits to the knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus? Yes, my brethren, such active, zealous, faithful christians shall ultimately shine in the kingdom of glory, like the sun in the firmament. Their labors of love shall not be in vain. In bright characters, do we not read the obligation of christians, to aid Gospel Missions, in the illustrious examples of the Apostles, Evangelists and all the primitive christians? Did not their holy hearts burn with unextinguishable ardor to propagate the glorious doctrines of redemption among all nations? Did they not magnanimously endure unexampled persecutions, perils, labors, privations, and even death, in disseminating the incorruptible seed of evangelic truth among the blind, deluded worshippers of false gods? Are we not bound to emulate such noble, such worthy, such godly examples? But, behold the example of *Him*, who is greater than prophets and apostles, who, though he is the brightness of the Father's Glory and the express image of his person—yet for the redemption, of our rebellious, guilty souls, assumed the form of a servant, labored and toiled, suffered indescribable agonies, and finally died on the ignominious cross! Was not our immaculate Saviour incessantly employed in doing good, in performing acts of beneficence to the souls and bodies of men, even of his ungrateful enemies? What christian can be insensible of his obligation to follow the example of the compassionate author and finisher of our salvation?

Lastly, Brethren, lift up with gratitude, your admiring eyes, and read your obligations, written with sun beams, in the propitious, crowning smiles of Almighty Grace on missionary institutions and exertions. Look towards the East, and behold the Sun of Righteousness dawning on the thick darkness of Asiatic ignorance, superstition, and barbarity. Hear the glad tidings of peace and holiness sounding melodiously, where the horrid groans and cries of cruelty outraged the tender feelings of humanity. See the bloody, abominable idol Juggernaut, falling before the influence of the Gospel, like Dagon, before the Ark of God. See the angelic hand of christianity extinguishing the fatal flames kindled by the hands of superstitious priests on the living bodies of infatuated frantic widows. And is it a fact which Faith can realize, evidenced by events of Providence, that Jehovah is, as it were, going before us, in a pillar of fire, to guide us in the path of duty, through the dismal night of pagan darkness, and to dispel the horrid gloom? Has he raised up, fitted, and sent forth, eminently faithful and zealous heralds of salvation, to blow the silver trumpet of the gospel in the dreary regions of misery and death? Has he made the rose blossom in the desert, and caused the wilderness to rejoice? Has He commissioned a Swartz, a Thomas, a Carey, and others, to prepare the way of his kingdom in lands polluted and darkened with abominations? By their assiduity and inde-

fatigable exertions have they established not only printing offices and seminaries for the diffusion of rational and divine knowledge, but erected temples for the worship of the Most High? Are Missionary and Bible Societies, composed of almost all denominations of christians, formed and forming in Europe and America? And are these benevolent societies cordially and actively engaged in supporting the glorious work already commenced and progressing? Are not these, dear Brethren, convincing indications, incontestable proofs of the Divine approbation and concurrence in such an infinitely laudable and useful plan? Surely then, we must be persuaded, that the voice of heaven commands us to cast our mites into the treasury of his temple, to assist in making the heathen his heritage and the uttermost parts of the earth, his possession? From the centre of his immortal splendors, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, where, by the merits of his atoning blood, he advocates our cause and intercedes for our souls, does not the blessed Jesus look down, with ineffable complacency, and seem to say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me?" Is he not now making the way of duty shine before our eyes by his gracious smiles in our own highly favored country? Has he not, within the space of a few months, kindled a generous flame for the patronage and encouragement of Gospel Missions among our brethren, from New-Hampshire to Georgia? In the most central situation has he not assembled a venerable body of our most devout, enlightened, experienced fathers and brethren in the ministry; who by their united counsels, have formed and put into operation, a plan admirably calculated to advance the interests of Zion and the glory of God, not only in this country, but in the remotest parts of the earth. And, is not the favoring hand of Providence strikingly exhibited in uniting to our churches two respectable, zealous ministers of the Gospel, from another denomination of christians, who are actively engaged in promoting the missionary scheme? One of whom is propagating the Gospel in India, and the other, who was there also, having returned to this country, has been much blessed in the United States, to the awakening of the public attention to this important object; and who has actually collected sums, to a considerable amount, to carry the missionary scheme into operation. As these things are correct and certain, dear brethren, does not the unerring, guiding hand of the Lord show us plainly, that it is our indispensable duty to contribute our aid in support of Gospel Missions, with heart, mind and strength, according to our means? Surely, brethren, in these circumstances our souls should glow and burn with love and zeal for the glory of our adorable Redeemer, and the salvation of sinners.

We should cheerfully, we should gratefully assist to convey a portion of the light we have derived from the Sun of Righteousness, to the dark corners of the world, where millions of souls are sitting under the shadow of spiritual death. What tongue can express, what language describe the feast, the luxury of being the honored instruments of making blind, guilty, wretched sinners wise unto salvation, and heirs of eternal felicity. Sceptres, thrones, empires, worlds, are dross, compared with such pure, spiritual, incorruptible enjoyments. May the Father of lights fire our souls with becoming zeal, and make it our delight to contribute liberal aid, in support of Gospel Missions! And to the ever blessed Trinity shall be ascribed everlasting praise and glory. Amen.

It has been our Mercy, while the Alarms of War agitate a considerable Part of our Country, to assemble and hold our friendly Interview free from Molestation. While the Blessed God has been kind to us in his providential Dispensations, we trust he has not withheld his Gracious Presence and the Blessings of his Salvation. We thank him for the Encouragement and Comfort we have received. Though there are many Things to lament in what respects our personal Concerns, and those of the Churches; we yet trust, that the cause of Religion and of God is upon the whole advancing in our Land.

It has afforded us Pleasure to find, that in a number of our Churches a Regard to the Missionary Interest has been exercised and suitably manifested this year. We wish it were more general, and we hope that those Churches who have begun to act so well will persevere with Christian Benevolence and Constancy in the Good Undertaking. But you will permit us to say, that we can

but lament to find that the Contributions to the Education Fund have been a few and small, while calls for Assistance, from its proper objects are urgent. Here the Interest of the Churches and the Cause of Christ among ourselves are vitally concerned.

We entreat, that you will bestow suitable attention on this interesting subject.

Requesting an Interest in your Prayers, and wishing you the best of Blessings, we remain,

Beloved Brethren,

Yours affectionately in Gospel Bonds.

RICHARD FURMAN, Moderator.

JOHN GOOD, Clerk.