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Baptists. Virginia. Middle District Association, 1801.

Minutes ... at Union Meeting-House ... May, 1801.

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MINUTES

OF THE

BAPTIST

Middle District Association,

HOLDEN AT

Union Meeting-House,

IN BUCKINGHAM COUNTY,

THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY,

1801.

RICHMOND:

PRINTED BY SAMUEL PLEASANTS, JUNIOR.

—1801—

MINUTES, &C.

SATURDAY, MAY 2d, 1851.

ELDER James Shelborne, sen. preached the introductory sermon, from Hebrews XII. *And let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.*

After divine service, proceeded to read the letters, to see who composed the association.

CHURCHES.

MESSENGERS.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Providence, | David Patterson, Leonard Bellow. |
| 2. Spring-Creek, | Benjamin Watkins. |
| 3. Sandy-Creek, | John Scurry. |
| 4. Powhatan, | George Smith, John Wooldridge. |
| 5. Cubb-Creek, | Bernard Todd, Zedekiah Vaughan. |
| 6. Appomattox, | James Saunders, Philip Matthews. |
| 7. Union, | Jacob L. Abram, John Gary. |
| 8. Buckingham, | Rane Chastain, Isaac Garrott. |
| 9. Sailor Creek, | Abner Watkins, Jacob Gaulding. |
| 10. Tomahawk, | William Flournoy. |
| 11. Reedy-Creek, | James Shelborne, sen. James Shelborne, jr |
| 12. Liberty, | James Doss, Littleberry Patterson. |
| 13. Skinquarter, | Charles Forsee, Robert Goode. |
| 14. Cedar-Creek, | William Sydnor. |
| 15. Tussockiah, | Joel Johns. |
| 16. Chesterfield, | A Letter only. |

The association then proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, brother Rane Chastain chosen, brother Benjamin Watkins Clerk, and brother Bernard Todd assistant.

Agreed, that the above brethren arrange the business of the association, and make report on Monday morning.

Received a letter of correspondence from the Roanoak association, as a token of their best love. Also received a letter from brother Wm. Brame, as a mark of his love.

Brother James Shelborne, sen. is appointed to attend the Roanoak association, and present six copies of our Minutes, as a token of our esteem.

Brethren Stephen Jones and Peter Wynne, chosen to attend the Portsmouth association, and to present them with several copies of our Minutes, as a token of our love.

Brethren Richard Poindexter and William Wallace invited to seats.

Brethren James Saunders, George Smith, James Shelborne, sen. and Abner Watkins, chosen to write the circular letter.

Brethren John Gary and William Sydnor, chosen to receive the church's bounty, and make any necessary appropriations.

Brethren chosen to preach on the Lord's Day, are Abner Watkins, George Smith, and Benjamin Watkins; worship to begin at 11 o'clock, A. M. Then adjourned to Monday morning 9 o'clock.

The LORD'S DAY was spent in public worship, a large audience attended the ministry of the word, and we hope there were evidences of the Lord's special favor.

Monday Morning, May 4th, 1801.

Met pursuant to adjournment, and after divine service proceeded to business.

Received Minutes from the following associations, Flat River, Nuese, Kehukee, Portsmouth and Dover, sent to us by brother William Brame, for which we kindly thank him, and the above associations.

We the committee appointed to arrange the business of the association, do make the following report, viz:

1. A report to be made by the committee chosen to visit Nottoway church.

2. A report to be made by the committee chosen to write the circular letter.

3. A report to be made by the committee chosen to receive the church's bounty, and make any necessary appropriations.

4. That examination be made from the respective churches, with regard to sending messengers to the general meeting of correspondence.

5. Query from Chesterfield Church: *What are the steps you advise to be taken with an association, when any are grieved with one?*

6. The time and place of the next association to be fixed on.

The committee chosen to visit Nottoway church, not having complied with the same, for satisfactory reasons offered; it is agreed that the appointment shall be continued, and make report to our next association.

The committee chosen to write the circular letter reported, and being read, was received without any amendment, and so were discharged.

The committee appointed to receive the bounty, and make any necessary appropriations, reported, that they had received from the several churches the sum of

£ 5:10

To allowing the clerk for transcribing the Minutes, and superintending the printing, &c.

1:10

£ 4:0

The above report being received, the committee was discharged.

Brethren George Smith, Abner Watkins, James Shelborne, sen. Moderator, the Clerk and his assistant, appointed a committee to examine the churches' letters respecting the general meeting of correspondence, who having withdrawn for a while, returned, & reported, & were discharged.

This association does not accede to the establishing of a general meeting of correspondence, it being contrary to the

ollective voices of their churches : yet to obviate any grievance that may arise, they have chosen the following brethren : James Saunders, George Smith, Rane Chastain, and Benjamin Watkins, to meet them at Dupuy's meeting-house, in Powhatan county, the 3d Saturday of this present month, May, 1801.

With regard to the query from Chesterfield church : Agreed, that we draw up an address as an answer to the query, and that it be directed or sent to the Chesterfield church, attested by the moderator and clerk. The committee chosen, are James Saunders, James Shelborne, George Smith, Abner Watkins, Bernard Todd, the Moderator and Clerk, who having withdrawn for a while, returned, and reported, which was received, and the committee discharged.

Agreed, that the next association be holden at Cedar-Creek Meeting-House, Lunenburg county, the second Saturday in October next.

Agreed, that the Minutes be printed under the same direction of last year, and that the clerk distribute them to the several churches at discretion. Dismissed, after divine service.

RANE CHASTAIN, *Moderator.*

BENJAMIN WATKINS, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

AFFECTIONATE BRETHREN,

THROUGH the goodness of our God, we have been indulged with another of our associations. We received and read letters from sixteen churches ; some are complaining of a great declension of religion, while others have been visited with a happy revival.

We have been favored several days with the public worship of God, and trust that we have had his royal presence

amongst us, and are encouraged to believe that such meetings tend for his glory and the good of the churches in general: We would therefore exhort you to forsake it not.

Permit us brethren to call your attention, by holding fast the profession of our faith. We live at a time when infidelity and vice abound, and the love of many wax cold: Let these considerations cause us to hold fast our holy religion, and to stand unshaken in the glorious doctrines of grace, to eye our great Redeemer, and to live in uniform obedience to all his precepts. Remember we have professed his name before many witnesses; we are numbered amongst the family of Christ, and have espoused his cause. May we remember the eyes of the Lord, angels and men are looking on us continually;—let these things excite us to watch unto prayer, both in public and private, and to make ourselves well acquainted with the word of God, by often perusing the same.

Dear brethren, let us not be discouraged, for the Lord reigneth, and the government is upon his shoulders: He is riding forth in various parts of the earth, conquering the hearts of numbers, causing them to fall like Balaam before the ark of the Lord. Let us then be engaged, for the work is the Lord's, and his cause is glorious. *“And when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”*