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Baptists. Virginia. Middle District Association.

Minutes ... the Last Saturday in August, 1819.

Richmond, Va., Shepherd & Pollard, [1819]. 8 pp.

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Sutter Price

MINUTES

OF THE

BAPTIST

MIDDLE DISTRICT

ASSOCIATION,

HOLDEN AT TOMAHAWK MEETING HOUSE,

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY,

THE LAST SATURDAY OF AUGUST, 1819.

RICHMOND:

Printed by Shepherd and Pollard.

MINUTES

OF THE

BAPTIST MIDDLE DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,

Holden at Tomahawk Meeting-house, Chesterfield County, the last Saturday in August, 1819.

Elder Charles Forsee, preached the introductory Sermon, from the 1st chapter of St. John's Gospel, and verse 12. After divine service, proceeded to business by reading the letters, to see who composed the Association.

Those names, which have an (*) affixed, were absent.

No. Churches.

Messengers' Names.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Muddy Creek. | } Samuel Woodfin, John H. Steger. |
| 2. Salem. | } L. Nunnally,* D. Hatcher, J. Megee. |
| 3. Powhatan. | } John Woodridge, P. Porter, Horatio Turpin. |
| 4. Bethel. | } Daniel Hudson, A. Johnson, B. Watkins, R. Martin. |
| 5. Tomahawk. | } Jordan Martin, R. Winfree, E. Lockett, J. Flournoy. |
| 6. Spring Creek. | } B. Watkins, P. M. Cary, P. Turpin, M. Winfree. |
| 7. Chesterfield. | } Eleazer Clay, T. Burfort, P. Vest. |
| 8. Skinquarter. | } Charles Forsee, E. Goode, J. Goode, W. Goode. |
| 9. Nottoway. | } *J. Dupuy, J. A. Hatchett, *E. Carter. |

1. After reading the letters, chose elder Eleazer Clay, moderator, elder B. Watkins, clerk; and elder Jordan Martin, assistant.

2. On motion, agreed, that the moderator, clerk and assistant, be a committee, to arrange the business of the Association, and make report on Monday morning.

3. On motion, brethren Lockett and Porter, chosen to receive the churches' bounty, settle with the treasurer, and make report on Monday.

4. On motion, brethren John H. Steger and Matthew Winfree, were chosen to write and prepare a circular letter to be annexed to the minutes, and make report on Monday.

5. On motion, agreed, that we postpone appointing ministers to preach on the morrow, (being rainy weather) and that we meet at 10 o'clock for the above purpose, and the public worship of God to commence between 10 and 11 o'clock, A. M.

6. Agreed, to adjourn 'till Monday morning 9 o'clock. On motion, and were dismissed in order.

LORD'S DAY.

The members of the Association convened together at the Meeting-house, at 10 o'clock, and the following ministers were nominated to preach, John Courtney, Samuel Woodfin and John Wooldridge; who preached to a large audience, and we hope and trust, that the good word of God had a salutary effect on the minds of many.

Monday Morning, August 30, 1819.

Met agreeably to adjournment; and, after divine worship, proceeded to business. Ordered, that the messengers' names be called over.

The committee chosen to arrange the business of the Association, do make the following report: viz.

1. To call on the messengers chosen to visit the Meherrin Association to report. Also the messengers chosen to visit the Appomattox Association to report.

2. Again to appoint messengers to the above Associations.

3. The missionaries chosen to travel in our own district, to report; and to say what shall be done in future, respecting the above said business.

4. The committee chosen to receive the churches' bounty, and settle with the treasurer, to report.

5. The committee chosen to write the circular letter to be annexed to our minutes, to report.

6. To appoint two Union meetings in the district.

7. The letter from Chesterfield church to be considered.

8. Query from the above said church. "If those in one church shall be grieved with those of another in the said district, about doctrine, discipline, or immoral conduct; what is to be done, believing in the independence of churches as we do?"

9. The time and place of the next Association.

The above report was received, and committee dissolved.

The messengers who were appointed to visit the Meherrin Association, reported, which was satisfactory. Elder John Wooldridge, and brother William Goode chosen as corresponding messengers to the next above Association.

2. The messengers who were chosen to visit the Appomattox Association, reported, which was satisfactory. Elder Jordan Martin, and brother Peter Porter, are appointed corresponding messengers to the next above Association.

3. The missionaries chosen to travel and preach in our district, reported, that they had travelled and preached thro' several counties, and there were some favorable symptoms of God's favor in some places: and in some other parts, the preaching of the Gospel appeared not to have a very salutary effect. The report satisfactory, and so were discharged. Agreed, that the money which had been deposited in the hands of the treasurer for that purpose, should be equally divided to said missionaries.

4. The committee chosen to receive the bounty, and settle with the treasurer, reported, that they find in the hands of the treasurer, after the necessary appropriations, the sum of \$9 51½. Also received from Nottoway church for domestic missions \$4; and from Skinquarter for do. \$9. The report was received, and committee discharged.

5. The committee chosen to write the circular produced the same, which was read and received, and the committee discharged.

6. Elder John Courtney, from the city of Richmond, being present, was invited to a seat.

7. The letter received from Chesterfield church, not taken into consideration.

8. The query from the above church was taken up and after being discussed on, agreed, that it be postponed for the consideration of the churches, till the next Association.

9. Agreed, that the first Union meeting be at Spring Creek meeting-house, on the last Saturday and Sunday in May; and the second to be at Skinquarter meeting-house, on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in July next.

10. On motion, it is agreed, that a select committee be composed of the following brethren; Clay, Watkins, Woodfin, Forsee, Wooldridge, Lockett, Stogary, M. Winfree, Cary, Burfort and Martin, who are to frame and bring into the next Association, a plan for the disseminating the Gospel in the district by missionaries.

11. Agreed, that we have 200 copies of our minutes printed, and be distributed amongst the churches as formerly.

12. Agreed, that the next Association be holden at Hephzibah meeting-house, Chesterfield county, near Manchester, on the last Saturday in August next. On motion, and were dismissed in order.

ELEAZER CLAY, Moderator.
BENJAMIN WATKINS, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

Having been appointed to write and prepare a circular letter to be annexed to our minutes, suffer us to call your attention to the subject of brotherly love and union, a christian grace which evinces the world that we have passed from death unto life. It is a fact much to be lamented, that a difference of opinion on

subjects in themselves of little importance, too often produce feelings among brethren not warranted by that sacred word, which teaches us to bear one another's burthens, that the strong should bear the infirmities of the weak. This is my commandment, said the divine Saviour; *that ye love one another, as I have loved you.* What says that eminent apostle of the gentiles on this subject? *Be ye kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.* And again, *Be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* And of such importance did he consider this Heavenly Grace, that he prayed, that their love might abound yet more and more. The apostle Peter says, *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.* The beloved disciple says on the same subject, *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.* And again, if a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother, whom he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? So fully is this duty enjoined in the Holy Scriptures, (above quoted,) that we deem it unnecessary to add but little on the subject. We would however suggest, whether it be proper to view at a distance our brethren engaged in laudable exertions to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, (although by the use of means not entirely such as we approve,) without contributing our aid. In every measure, the probable result of which will be the Glory of God, and the promotion of peace and harmony among the Churches; should we not most cordially unite in helping each other on in the ways of holiness; mingling our voices with the thousands of

our brethren, whose daily prayer is, let thy kingdom come? Recollecting at the same time, that if we do nothing for the cause of Christ our Saviour till we can reach that point from which we cannot possibly err, we shall remain with our arms folded in careless indifference, whilst thousands are crowding the road to endless death.

Now may the Great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, make us of one heart and one mind in all things appertaining to his Glory; and enable us to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.—Amen.