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**Baptists. Virginia. General Committee, 1790.  
Minutes ... in ... Richmond ... May 8th, 1790.  
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# MINUTES

O F T H E

Baptist General Committee, &c.

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SATURDAY, *May 8,* 1790.

**T**HE Reverend Mr. William Frisloe delivered an introductory sermon from GAL. III, 29. *If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abram's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

After public worship, proceeded to business, and chose the Rev. Mr. Samuel Harris, Moderator, and Reuben Ford, Clerk.

Read the letters from the several district associations.

Ordered, that the associations and delegates which compose this committee be enrolled.

## ASSOCIATIONS, N. J. River DELEGATES.

1. *Orange.* John Leeland, John Waller, and George Fves.
2. *Dover.* Reuben Ford, William Webber, Lewis Luskford, and Henry Toler.
3. *Ketoion* William Frisloe.

## ASSOCIATIONS, S. J. River DELEGATES.

4. *Upper.* Robert Stogden, and William Johnson.
5. *Middle.* Renne Chaistian, James Saunders, Eleazer Clay, and George Smith.
6. *Ronoke* Samuel Harris, and Reuben Pickett.
7. *Kebuk-y* David Barrow, and Jesse Lee.
8. *S. Kentucky.* William Bledsoe.

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MINUTES

OF THE

Baptist General Committee,

AT THEIR

YEARLY MEETING,

HELD IN THE CITY OF

RICHMOND,

MAY 8th, 1790.

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RICHMOND: Printed by T. NICOLSON.

On a motion, Ordered, that a committee of inspection be appointed to prepare, and bring in order, the business that lies before the general committee. Accordingly

The Rev. Messrs Samuel Harris, John Waller, Robert Stogdon, Renne Chastain, Reuben Pieltz, Reuben Ford, William Fritoe, David Harrow, and William Beddie were appointed; who having taken into consideration the business to them referred — agreed to the following report.

Your committee having taken into consideration the several queries, references, and other matters to them referred, do find that the business which lies before the general committee is as follows:

1. **Query.** Doth the Baptist Constitution allow the violation of the table of affinity, in the case of marriages?
2. A remonstrance from the District association against the Union, as it now stands.
3. **Query.** What mode for the ordination of ministers, doth the general committee recommend to the churches?
4. A reference concerning the equity of hereditary slavery.
5. To receive the report of our Delegates who were appointed to wait on the General Assembly with a remonstrance and petition.
6. Whether it be advisable to renew the said petition.
7. To receive the reports of the Reverend Brethren appointed to collect materials for publishing a history of the rise and progress of the Baptists in Virginia, and also concerning seminaries of learning.
8. To inquire into the state of the fund.
9. To write a circular letter to the district associations, and letters of correspondence.
10. The appointment of persons to preach on the morrow, and the hour to begin public worship.
11. The appointment of the time and place for the next general committee.

On a motion, Ordered, that the Rev. Messrs Eleazer Clay, and John Courtney, be appointed to examine the state of the fund, and to make report.

Ordered, that the Rev. John Leeland, do prepare and bring in a circular letter to the district associations.

On a motion, agreed to make choice of three persons to preach to morrow, and that public worship begin at ten o'clock, A. M. accordingly the Rev. Messrs. John Leeland, Jonathan Barnes, and Lewis Lunsford, were chosen.

Then adjourned, 'till Monday morning 8 o'clock.

*Met Monday morning, May 10th,*

According to adjournment, and after divine worship proceeded to business.

Ordered, that the names of the delegates be called over.

On a motion, Resolved, that it be a standing rule of this committee, that every proposed resolution to a quere or proposition, shall be presented in writing.

On a motion, agreed to take into consideration, the remonstrances of the Ketoslon association, against the Union, as it now stands. After having debated some time thereon,-----

Ordered, that the Rev. Mr Leeland, do prepare and bring in a letter in answer thereto, and that the same be ready against to-morrow, to be laid before this committee.

On a motion, agreed to consider the above queries:

Quere, Doth the Baptist Constitution allow the violation of the table of affinity, in the case of marriages?

Resolved, that until the law intitled, "*An act concerning incestuous marriages,*" is found oppressive, we having nothing to do with it.

On a motion agreed to take under consideration the quere from the Orange association.

Quere, What mode for the ordination of ministers doth the general committee recommend to the churches?

Having spent some time in debating on this subject, agreed that it be referred till to-morrow.

On a motion, agreed to take into consideration the reference concerning the equity, of Hereditary Slavery.

After debating on this subject a considerable time, it was agreed that the moderator should appoint four persons to form a resolution to the quere, and that the same be laid before this committee to-morrow morning.

Accordingly the Rev. Messieurs William Fristoe, Reuben Pickett, John Waller, and David Barrow, were appointed.

Agreed that the minutes of this committee be printed. and that a circular letter be included. and that 350 copies be struck, and left in the care of the Rev Mr Courtney. to be delivered to the order of any one of the Delegates of this committee a sufficient number to supply each church with one, and that the overplus be deposited in the hands of the Rev Messieurs Fristoe, Williams, Leeland, and Clay, to be by them sent to each association of Baptists on the Continent, as a token of our respect, and that they be requested to send us copies of their minutes, from time, to time.

The Rev. Messieurs John Courtney, and Reuben Ford, are appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes, and that the same be paid for, out of the fund.

On a motion, it is desired that our Rev. Brethren who waited on the General Assembly last session, with a memorial and petition from the committee, praying for the sale of the Globe lands, that are public property, and the opening of the Churches for the different Societies, do make their report

Accordingly they reported that, agreeable to their instructions they waited on the Honourable Assembly; that the petition was presented to the House and received, but that the subject matter prayed for, was not granted.

On a motion, agreed that this committee will present a memorial and petition, of the same nature with the former, to the next General Assembly, and that they recommend that like petitions be presented from the different counties of this State; and it is desired that the Rev. Mr Courtney do give due notice thereof in the public papers, and that the expence thereof, be paid out of the fund.

On a motion, agreed to make choice of three persons to wait on the Assembly for the aforesaid purpose, and that they give their attendance, either alternately, or in conjunction, as they shall judge best. Accordingly the Rev. Messrs. Eleazer Clay, John Courtney, and William Webber, were chosen.

Agreed to write to the Methodist Conference, to the Presbyterian Presbytery, and to President Smith, acquainting them with our purpose in the said petitions, and soliciting their assistance, in obtaining subscribers.

The Rev. Messieurs Eleazer Clay, and George Smith; is desired to wait on the Methodist Conference, and the Rev. Robert Stogdon, and the Rev. John Anthony, on the Presbyterian Society.

The Rev. Messrs Henry Toler, Eleazer Clay, and Robert Stogdon, are desired to prepare and bring in the said letters.

Then adjourned till to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

*Met Tuesday morning, May 11th,*

According to adjournment, and after divine worship, proceeded to business.

The letter to the Ketchikan, and Champawamsick associations, being read, was approved

On a motion, agreed that the quere, respecting the ordination of Ministers, be referred, to the next General Committee.

The Rev. Brethren appointed to form, and bring in a resolution, to the quere, respecting Hereditary Slavery, reported.

that they could not agree in their opinions upon that subject, and therefore could present no resolution in which they could agree,—but agreed to lay the weight thereof, on the Reverend John Leeland who brought in a resolution which was agreed to, and is as followeth:

Resolved, That slavery, is a violent deprivation of the rights of nature, and inconsistent with a republican government; and therefore recommend it to our Brethren to make use of every legal measure, to extirpate the horrid evil from the land, and pray Almighty God, that our Honourable Legislature may have it in their power, to proclaim the general Jubilee, consistent with the principles of good policy

The Rev. Messrs Clay, and Courtney, who were appointed to examine the state of the fund, reported, that they find in the hands of the Treasurer at the last committee, the sum of

			£. 15 0 9
That the expences since are,	}		
to the Printer for advertisements		£. 0 9 0	
Ditto for printing the minutes,		4 10 0	
To the Clerk, per order of	}		
the committee,		2 2 0	
			9 1 0
Which leaves a balance of		• • •	£. 7 19 9
That they have received from	}		
the other district associations		£ 0 16 0	
S. River,			
From Roanoake,		1 16 0	
			2 12 0
			£ 10 11 9

That there appears in the hands of the Rev. John Williams, the sum of £ 2 7 3—which he is desired to deliver to the Treasurer of this committee.

Agreed that the Rev. Mr. Leeland be allowed the sum of £ 4 0 0—for eight days service, in waiting on the Assembly with our petition.

That the Rev. Mr. Webber be allowed the sum of £. 1 10—for three days like service.

Ordered. That the Treasurer receive for his service, the sum of twenty shillings, and the Clerk three dollars.

The letters to the Presbyterian Society, to the Methodist Conference, and to President Smith, being read, and amended, were approved, and desired to be delivered to the Brethren appointed to wait on them.

The circular letter, to the district associations being read, was approved.

The select committee appointed to collect materials for publishing a history, of the Rise, and Progress of the Baptist Society, in Virginia, reported, that they have proceeded so far therein, as encourages them to believe, that there is a foundation laid to enter on the said work.

Resolved Therefore that we recommend our Brethren, the Rev. Mr. Leeland, and the Rev. Mr. Williams, to engage in the publishing such history; and we desire our Brethren who are furnished with materials which they have collected for that purpose, to assist them therein

Agreed that the next committee be held at Nuckolds meeting house, in the county of Goochland, the 2d Saturday in May 1791.

## THE CIRCULAR LETTER.

The General Committee of Baptist Delegates, assembled in the City of Richmond, May 2th, 9th, 10th, and 11th, 1790; to the several District Associations, sendeth Christian Salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

When we consider, how cordially you have heretofore received our advice, we are emboldened, to continue our recommendations. If any plan of general intercourse, and energy, could be devised, better than the form of associations, and committees, we would gladly embrace it; but at this time no form appears so impartial, and advisable. Delegates from eight corresponding associations have assembled, and although we have not heard by them of so great a work of God in the land as heretofore, yet we have enjoyed tokens of divine approbation, in our conferences in that they have been conducted with so much love, and good order. We have agreed to make a vigorous exertion, for the sale of the glebes, and free occupation of the churches by all religious societies; and recommend it to you, to do your endeavours, to get as many subscribers therefor, as you can. And we also, solicit contributions for the committee fund, to defray the expences of those who are appointed to wait on the legislature with our memorial. What we have further done, our minutes will inform you of; and now, dear brethren, stand fast in the Lord, and in the power of his might; and the God of Peace, shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. *By order of the committee.*

SAMUEL HARRIS, *Moderator.*

REUBEN FORD, *Clerk.*