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Baptists. South Carolina. Bethel Association.

Minutes ... at the Baptist Church, on James Creek ...

August 13, 1791.

Charleston, 1791.

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# MINUTES

OF THE

## BETHEL ASSOCIATION,

*Held at the Baptist Church, on Jamey's Creek, Spartanburgh County,  
South-Carolina, begun on Saturday, August 15th, 1791.*

1. **T**WO first days were spent in public devotion.

*MONDAY, August 15th.*

2. Rev. Henry Holcombe delivered an introductory discourse from John, Chap. III. V. 17.

3. Letters from eighteen churches were read, and the names of their delegates enrolled.

4. Rev. Joseph Camp, was chosen moderator, and Mr. William Ford, clerk.

5. Rev. Messrs. Henry Holcombe, Joshua Palmer, and Gabriel Gerrald, attended as messengers from the Charleiton Association, and delivered a letter and the minutes of their last meeting, which were severally read. In consequence of a request made by this association to that of Charleiton, these gentlemen were unanimously and affectionately received into union and communion with us, and took their seats accordingly.

6. Six churches applied for admission into this association, and satisfactory information being given by their delegates, of their faith and order, they were received into our union.

*Adjourned till to-morrow, at 9 o'clock.*

*TUESDAY, August 16th.*

*Met according to adjournment.*

7. The committee appointed at the last association, to enquire into the state of the church at Dirty creek, reported, that the said church had dissolved itself in a very disorderly manner, and they had recommended the minority, or orderly members, to become members of some regular church:

8. Rev.

8. Mr. Jacob Roberts, at the request of some of the members of his church, was introduced, and desired a revival of the proceedings of this association, held at Cedar Spring in 1789, respecting his case. The association taking the same into consideration, proposed, that the members present, who were principally concerned in bringing forward allegations against Mr. Roberts should withdraw, and a second hearing be given; provided, he would resign himself to the counsel and admonition of the association. Mr. Roberts refused to acquiesce in the proposal, it was therefore agreed, that he be considered out of our union, and that our brethern be recommended not to attend his ministry.

9. It being represented, that a certain Mr. William Bennet, under sentence of excommunication, by an orderly church in North-Carolina, is now preaching in this vicinity, we hereby warn our churches against him.

10. The association having received information, that some transactions had taken place in the church at Horn's creek, respecting Mr. Hezekiah Walker, of which he is a member, which are said to have produced satisfaction respecting the charges brought against him, of which they had not received information at the last meeting, they think proper to desist from any farther proceedings in the business respecting him.

11. Appointed Rev. James Fowler to prepare the circular letter, and Rev. Alexander M'Dougal to write to the Charleston Association.

Adjourned till to morrow, 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, August 17th.

Met according to adjournment.

12. Resolved, that Rev. Messrs. Joseph Camp, William Woodward, Richard Shackelford, Alexander M'Dougal, John Hightower, and Alexander Davidson, or any three of them, be a committee, to meet the second Saturday in October next, at Middle Fork church, Saluda, to enquire into some disorders now existing in that church—to use their influence to remove them, and report their proceedings at the next meeting.

13. Quere, by Sandy Run church. May a person who has been a minister, and has fallen into gross and scandalous crimes, for which he has been excommunicated, after professing repentance, and restoration to fellowship with the church as a private member, be permitted to pray, exhort and publicly lecture in the church? Answer. It is the opinion of the association, that he should be silent, unless he is fully restored to the ministerial office; which restoration should never take place but with great caution, and in a manner that should give the most public and general satisfaction to the churches and ministers in union.

14. Quere. Is it agreeable to gospel order, to ordain a minister to the pastoral charge only? Answer. We conceive the ordination on ministers to the

the charge of particular churches may be the ordinary method designed in the gospel; but in extraordinary cases, we think they may be otherwise ordained: eminent abilities and great prudence, with the particular call of providence, seem necessary qualifications in the subjects of such ordination.

15. **Quere.** Has a church the power of imposing restrictions or giving particular instructions to a licensed minister, who is a member thereof, respecting his going out to preach; or does that power properly belong to the association? **Answer.** The church of which he is a member, hath the power; but it is highly advisable, that in sending out persons as licensed preachers, the church should consult neighbouring churches and ministers of ability and reputation.

16. On motion, That a committee be appointed for the ordination of ministers, it was agreed, that the consideration thereof lay over until next meeting.

17. On motion, That a day of thanksgiving be appointed for the blessings of peace, harmony and concord, enjoyed among ourselves, and for the union and good correspondence subsisting between us and the Charleston Association; it was voted, that the first day of January next, be observed by all our churches, as a day to be devoted to this important purpose.

18. On motion, That a person be appointed to receive such moneys as may be collected for the use of the association, and keep an account of the receipts and disbursements; it was agreed to, and Mr. William Ford was accordingly elected.

19. Rev. James Fowler and Mr. David Lilly are appointed our messengers to Charleston Association, which is to assemble at the Welch Neck, Pedee, on the Saturday preceding the first Sunday in November next.

20. Agreed to the following supplies, Padget's creek church, Rev. Messrs. William Woodward and Reuben Rowland. Cedar Spring, Rev. Messrs. Alexander M'Dougal and Richard Wood. Bill's creek, Rev. Perimter Morgan. To attend discretionally.

21. Money was collected for printing the minutes. Rev. James Fowler is requested to superintend this business, and to distribute them when printed.

22. Agreed to hold our next association at the place of our present meeting, to begin the Saturday before the second Sunday of August next.

