

25169

**Baptists. South Carolina. Bethel Association.
Minutes ... at Jemmy's Creek. August 11, 1792.
Charleston, 1792.**

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8 The
Item

Evans 25169

MINUTES

OF THE

BETHEL ASSOCIATION.

*Held at the Baptist Church, on Jamey's Creek, Spartanburg County,
South-Carolina, begun on Saturday, August 11th, 1792.*

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

MONDAY, August 13.

2. Rev. Saunders Walker delivered an introductory discourse from
1 Sam. 4. 3.

3. Letters from 24 churches being read, the names of their delegates
were enrolled.

4. Rev. James Fowler, was elected moderator, and Mr. William Ford,
clerk.

5. The delegates of the Charleston Association not attending, the letter
and minutes of their last meeting, together with the letter and minutes of
the General Committee of Baptists in Virginia, and a letter from the Rev.
Oliver Hart, of Hopewell, New-Jersey, (handed by the Rev. J. Fowler)
were severally read, and gave general satisfaction.

6. The letter and minutes of the Georgia Association, delivered by the
Rev. Saunders Walker, being severally read; he was, as the messenger,
received into union and communion with us, and took his seat accordingly.

7. Five churches applied for admission into this association, and satis-
factory information being given by their delegates, of their faith and good
order, they were received into our union.

8. The committee appointed last meeting, to visit the church on Middle
Fork, Saluda, reported, that the grievances there, are happily removed.

A motion made at our last meeting respecting the ordination of
ministers, was now taken into consideration. It is held as most adviseable,
that the churches be careful not to admit any one to that office, but such as
manifest

manifest real piety and promising gifts, and shall use every prudent measure for improvement in gospel knowledge. And that in order to their ordination, we advise, the church to which the candidate for the ministry belongs, to call the assistance of three (or at least two) of such ministers in union, as they esteem men of repute and ministerial ability for such a business.

[Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow.]

T U R S D A Y, 9 o'clock.

10. The Association took into consideration the case of Jacob Roberts and his church (at their own request) and proposed to hear all things they alleged against the churches of our union; provided, that they would subject themselves to the determination of the Association respecting them. They refused. We then called upon those members of our churches that had the most perfect knowledge of the transactions of the said Roberts and his church, to give a full relation thereof; upon which information, we approve of the conduct of our churches with them, and consider them in a state of disorder.

11. Agreed, that Rev Messrs. Joseph Camp, John Hightower, William Woodward, and Joseph Logan, and Messrs. Abraham Hargis and William Murphey, or any three of them, be a committee to settle a difference subsisting between Genesie and Shackle-ferry churches; and make report of their proceedings at our next meeting.

12. Reedy Fork Church extinct.

13. Agreed, that Rev. Mr. Fowler write to Mr. Hart, Mr. Alexander M'Dougal to the Georgia Association, Mr. Baylis Earle to the Charleiton Association; also, on motion of the moderator, that Mr. Richard Shackelford abridge Mr. Hart's letter, and that it be our circular letter for this time; and that Rev. David Lilly write to the general committee of Virginia.

14. Being informed that a certain Jos. Williams is preaching as a Baptist minister in our vicinity: We warn all our churches to discourage him as a disorderly person.

15. Mr. John Webb applied for restoration to the ministry; but could not be admitted.

16. Quere. Can persons excommunicated by one church, be admitted with propriety into fellowship with any other, before they have given satisfaction to that particular church, which they, as members thereof, have offended?

Ans. In case of two great distance from that particular church, to apply for re-admission; we think they may be admitted, on a confession of true repentance and sorrow for their offence: though we advise, that information be particularly given to the church from which they have been excommunicated.

17. The

17. The letter to Mr. Hart, together with the letters to the different Associations, and the circular letter, were brought forward, read and approved.

18. That the Rev. James Fowler be our messenger to the Charleston Association, to be held at Coofawhatchie on the Saturday before the first Sunday in November; and the Rev. Messrs. William Woodward and John Chaistain, be our messengers to the Georgia Association, to be held the 3d Sunday in October.

19. Supplies. Cedar Spring, discretionally, Alexander M Dougal and Richard Wood. Bill's Creek, John Hightower, Richard Newport, Perimeter Morgan. Turkey Creek, Richard Shackleford, David Lilly, George Tilghman. Paget's Creek, discretionally, William Woodward, Reuben Rowland.

20. Money was collected for printing the minutes. Rev James Fowler appointed to superintend the business, and distribute them when printed.

21. That our next Association be held at the place of our present meeting, to begin the second Saturday in August.

Adjourned.

JAMES FOWLER, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM FORD, *Clerk.*

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Ministers names in capitals; licensed preachers in Italics; churches marked with an asterisk * we had no account from, their numbers stand as last year; a dash — d. notes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS.	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872
Buffalo,	J ^S SEPH CAMP, Joseph Collins	5	7	2		69
Tyger River,	William McDaniel, William Ford	1	2	2	1	48
White Oak, N. C.*	<i>Edward Williams</i>	5	9			82
Bill's Creek,	Joel Shelton, John Overby				1	35
Buck Creek,	J ^H HN HIGHTOWER					
	William Greer, Sampson Bethel	7	1			72
Head Enoree,	T ^H OMAS MUSICK					
	John Tubb	45	5	2	2	122
Sandy Run,	Alexander Davidson, Wm. Street	2	9	2	1	92
Fairforest,	I ^S AAC EDWARDS					
	William Buchanan		5	1	1	32
Paget's Creek,	John Putman, William Woolbanks					
	Thomas Greer	6	1	1		66
Mountain Creek,	P ^E RMINTE ^R MORGAN					
	West Walker	44	1	2	1	106
Big Creek,	M ^O SES HOLLAND					
	John Nicholson	1	1	1	1	41
Genesie,	J ^A MES CHASTAIN					
	James Edens	1	3			30
Horle Creek,	Thomas Camp and Jeffe Ford			2		26
Cedar Spring,	Joroyal Barnett, Charles Smith					19
Upper Duncan's Creek,	John Brown, sen. Jeffe Holder					21
Pacolet,	R ^I CHARD WOOD					
	Samuel M. Cray					39
Lower Duncan's Creek,	M ^I CAJAH BENNETT					
	<i>Reuben Rowland</i>	1	4	2		55
Jamey's Creek,	R ^I CHARD SHACKLEFORD					
	DAVID LILLY	28	3		3	204
	Joseph Woodruff					

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CHURCHES	MESSENGERS.	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880
Brought forward		169	92	56	16	81	64				
Sandy River,	{ JAMES F. WELER. WILLIAM WOODWARD		5			1					84
Bull River,*	{ JOHN COLE		6								80
Sironna,	{ <i>William Martin, Jos. Price</i>				2	1					16
Rocky Creek, Catawba,*	{ EDWARD PING										26
Reedy River,	{ EDMUND BEARDEN Robert Smith		11		11	2			1		55
Big Branch, Enoree.	{ DRUAY SIMS Hudson Berry,					4					19
Green River,	{ Samuel M'Bryer, John Blackwell	2		15		1					66
Middle Saluda,	{ JOHN CHAS. BIN Benjamin Stuart Joseph Harden Bartholomew Wood										119
Little River,	{ JOHN TILGHMAN John Graham				11	4	2	2			28
Enoree,	{ JACOB KING Edward Kelly Malone										80
French Broad,	{ RICHARD NEAPORT	1	1								18
Rocky Creek,	{ _____ Henry Robertson & Tho. Burns										77
Turkey Creek,	{ _____ Ben. Northcut & Arthur Durham										50
Increase since last year 521.		[307] [121] [76] [18] [12] [188]									

C I R C U L A R L E T T E R.

The B. Abel Association, convened the 11th of August, 1792, to the several churches we are connected with, greeting.

DEAR BRETHREN,

WE have by divine providence had a comfortable interview for a few days past in much love and harmony; we have considered what came before us which appeared necessary at this time respecting the cause of Christ in general, especially the churches we represent. You will find an account of those things in our minutes; we are happy to find that peace and harmony subsist in our churches in general.

We

We have lately received a letter from our esteemed friend and brother in the gospel, the Rev. Oliver Hart,* of Hopewell, in New-Jersey, addressed to our association, which contains some excellent advice and instructions on the doctrine and discipline of the church, and we think we cannot do better at present, than offer you a few extracts therefrom.

Brethren, permit us first to observe to you as individual saints often to call to mind the rock from which you were hewn, and the hole of the pit whence you were digged; consider what a miserable, wretched, lost and undone estate you were in by nature; guilty, filthy, condemned, on the verge of eternal misery, and altogether unable to help yourselves; this may serve to keep you humble and adore that sovereign, that distinguishing grace which laid hold on your souls to bring you into the marvelous light of the gospel of peace. Second, we would address a word to you as members of the churches of Christ. "On this vine you have been baptized into Christ, and have put on Christ; you have enlisted under Christ's banner, and are bound to fight all his battles with the world, flesh and the Devil; those potent adversaries, and all their combined forces, you have to maintain a daily combat with, our grand enemy, &c. &c." "Yet fear not, victory in the end will declare in your favor, be faithful unto death and Christ will give you a crown of life, you have a name and a place in God's house. O fill up your place therein, whenever the church assembles for public worship or private business, let each make one of the party. Above all, guard against absenting from the Lord's table; may love to the precious, the suffering Jesus ever constrain you to partake of the symbols of his mangled body and streaming blood. To neglect divine institutions deeply wounds religion and argues a sickly soul; therefore, neglect not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some unworthy professors is." So hoping you will pay attention to those things as aforesaid, craving an interest in your prayers, we subscribe ourselves your affectionate brethren in the gospel,

JAMES FOWLER, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM FORD, *clerk.*

* The Rev. Oliver Hart, A. M. was born July 5th, 1722, made profession of religion, and was baptized, April the 3d, 1741; was called to the ministry, December 20th, 1745, and ordained October 18th, 1749. He resided thirty years in Charleston.

Endless

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