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Baptists. South Carolina. Bethel Association, 1795.

Minutes ... of James Creek ... 1795.

[Charleston, 1795.]

JCB copy.

M I N U T E S

OF THE

BETHEL ASSOCIATION,

*Met at the Baptist Church on Jany's Creek, Spartanburg County, South Carolina,
on Saturday the 8th of August, 1795.*

- O**N Saturday, 11 o'clock, A. M. the discourse *How to the business, was delivered by brother Joshua Palmer, from Rom. 12. 5. So we being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.*
- Letters from 40 churches were read, and the names of their delegates enrolled.
- Brother James Fowler was chosen moderator, and Brother William Ford clerk.
- Three churches applied by letters and delegates, for admission into our union, and, on satisfaction obtained, respecting their faith and practice, were received. The ministering brethren occasionally present, (not delegates) were invited to a seat.
- Brother Jesse Mercer attended as messenger from the Georgia association, presented a letter, and took his seat accordingly. Minutes and a letter were handed by Brother Fowler from the Charleston association, and minutes from the Warren association, which being severally read, inform, that love and unity abound in general among the churches, but they complain of too much inattention to the public interest of christianity. The messenger appointed to us by the Charleston association, did not attend.
- Agreed, That Brother Fowler prepare a letter to the Charleston, Brother Shackelford to the Georgia, Brother Bulger to the Hephzibah associations, and Brother Waller to the general committee in Virginia.
- Agreed, That John Waller, Richard Shackelford, Joshua Palmer, Joseph Camp, Moses Holland, James Fowler, and William Ford, be a committee to make up the queries which appear in letters addressed to the present meeting, and give their opinion on them to the association. Adjourned to Monday 10 o'clock. The Sabbath

Sabbath was employed in public exercise of devotion, several sermons being delivered to a numerous audience; the whole concluded in the evening with the administration of the Lord's supper, and a sermon suitable to so solemn an institution.

8. Monday, 10 o'clock. The committee appointed at our last meeting to enquire into a matter of grief subsisting between Middle Fork of Saluda, and head of Enoree churches, report, they were providentially hindered attending the appointment. Agreed, that brethren Joseph Camp, Richard Shackelford, Benjamin Northcut, James Chastain, and Moses Holland, or any three of them, be a committee to attend the aforesaid churches on the occasion, and report their proceedings to our next association.

9. The committee appointed to arrange the business which might appear from the letters to this meeting, report, they think it advisable the association should take up the consideration of five queries.

10. Query from Jamey's creek church. Do the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, forbid a man to marry the sister of his deceased wife? Answer, we do not know that the scriptures forbid such a marriage, but for certain prudential reasons, we think it unadvisable.

11. Query from Little-Horse creek church. Can five members be considered a church? Answer, it has been thought that the essence of a church may be found among a smaller number; but it appears to us, that the constituting or continuance of a church must greatly depend on its well-being, or ability to support worship and discipline, which ought to decide in this case.

12. Query from Bruth creek church. Is it disorderly in members of our churches, to commune with churches of different denominations? Answer, we think what is commonly called *mixed communion*, is incompatible with the happiness and purity of a gospel church.

13. Query from the Cedar Spring church. Is it necessary to print our minutes annually? Answered in the affirmative.

14. Query from Mountain creek church. Would it not be more convenient for the churches which compose this association to be divided into two distinct associations? This question being debated, was, on motion, referred to a committee, who were directed to take up the query, and bring in their opinion thereon. The following brethren were chosen: John Waller, James Fowler, Joseph Camp, Perminter Morgan, John Rowland, Richard Shackelford, and James Chastain, who having first withdrawn, reported, that they find themselves unable satisfactorily to determine on the subject at present. There appears but one reason of weight in favor of the motion; which is the convenience of a few of the most distant churches; on the other hand, the reasons for continuing together are numerous and weighty, particularly those which respect union of sentiment,

sentiment, and the promotion of common interests. They therefore recommend that the subject be laid over to the next meeting for serious consideration. But should a division be finally thought adviseable, they would recommend Enoree as the line between the churches forming the different bodies. This report was agreed to.

15. Agreed, unanimously, that a standing committee of correspondence be appointed to correspond with associations and churches abroad. Brethren Waller, Fowler, Shackelford and Morgan, were accordingly appointed.

16. The Circular Letter being read, as prepared by Brother Waller, was approved; but he was desired, with the assistance of Brother Fowler, to make some enlargement.

17. Brethren Fowler and Rooker were appointed messengers to the Charleston Association, Shackelford and Tilman to the Georgia, and Brother Bulger to the Hephzibah.

18. Supplies for the destitute churches. Bulltown, John Rowland, Benjamin Northcut. French Broad, Abraham Harges and David Forester.

19. Agreed, that our next meeting be held at this place, on the second Saturday in August next. That Brother Waller preach the sermon; in case of failure, Joseph Camp. That Brother Lilly write the Circular Letter; the subject, Good Works.

20. The money was collected for printing the minutes, and Brother Fowler requested to superintend this business, as usual. Concluded with an exhortation and prayer, by the moderator.

S T A T E

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

The Messengers are in capitals; Licensed Preachers in Italics; Churches distinguished with asterisks (*) were had no account from, their numbers stand as they did last year; a dash (—) affixed to churches, denotes a vacancy.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec. by Letter.	Dismiss'd.	Excommun.	Dead.	Numbers.
Buffalo,	JOSEPH CAMP, James Collins, William M. Brayer.		1	4	4		55
Tyger River,	JOHN WILLIAMS, William Ferd.	10	2	3	1	2	67
Green River,	Samuel M. Brayer, John Blakewell.	7					43
Bills Creek, ———	John Owinby, Maversal Elliott.					1	70
Buck Creek,	William Garret, Laurence Banks ton, Joel Blakewell.	27	10	11	1		137
Head of Enoree,	ABRAHAM HARGESS, DA- NIEL FLANNERY.	2	6	2	2		110
Sandy Run, ———	Howfen Marril, John Irvine.			10	5		67
Fair Forest,	Williamm Buckhannan, Joshua Wilburn.	1	1			2	40
Padget's Creek,	JOHN PUTMAN, <i>Spencer Bobo.</i>	1	1	3		2	63
Mountain Creek, N. C.	PERMINTER MORGAN, William Hill, William Green.	1	4	2	2	1	112
Bigg Creek,	MOSES HOLLAND, Joseph Jolly, William King.		7	8	1	1	80
Horse Creek, ———	Jacob Mainer, Jesse Ford.			4		1	21
Cedar Spring, ———	Joroyal Barnet, Wm. Lancaster.	3	2	1	1		22
Upper Duncan's Creek,	JOSHUA PALMER, Roger Brown, Nelson Kelly.	1	5	4	1	3	57
Pacolet, ———	John Cole, John Palmer.	1		19			30
Lower Duncan's Creek,	<i>Reuben Rowland.</i>	3		1	2	1	59
Jamey's Creek, —	RICHARD SHACKLEFORD, Joseph Woodruff, Tyrie Glen.	12	4			3	182
Sandy River,	JAMES FOWLER.		2	2	3	1	72
Buth River,	<i>Jesse Brooks</i> , Providence Willi- ams, William Cole.		2	5	1		99
Secona,*	WILLIAM MURPHY, Joseph Price.						16
Rockey Creek, Catawba,*	EDWARD PIGG.						26
Big Branch, Enoree,	DRURY SIMMS, Hudson Berry.			6	1		15
Middle Saluda,	Archibald Harris.						126
		70	47	82	25	18	1735

Little

