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Baptists. South Carolina. Bethel Association, 1800.
Minutes ... at Bethlehem Meetinghouse, August 9, 1800.
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MINUTES

OF THE

BETHEL ASSOCIATION,

OF BAPTIST CHURCHES,

Met at BETHLEHEM MEETING-HOUSE, August 9, 1800, in Spartanburgh District, SOUTH-CAROLINA.

I. **B**ROTHER DAVIES COLLINS, who was appointed, positively. Brother David Lilly, provisionally, to preach the introductory sermon for this year, both failing to attend; a sermon was delivered by brother Elnathan Davies, from II. COR. iv. 5. "*For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants, for Jesus sake.*"

II. Lettets from fifty churches were read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

III. Brother Richard Shackelford was chosen Moderator, and brother William Lancaster, Clerk.

IV. Brethren Richard Shackelford, William Lancaster, John Rooker, Abr. Hargrefs and Joseph Camp, were appointed, to arrange the business that may come before the association, from the respective churches, by their letters, &c. and make report on Monday morning ensuing.

V. Agreed, that on to-morrow, being Lord's day, brethren Benjamin Mosley, and Francis Ross, messengers from Georgia; and Joseph Baker and Joseph Buson, from the Hephzebah associations, will please to preach to the congregation.

VI. The Sabbath was employed in the public exercise of devotion; six sermons were delivered in two seperate congregations, at a convenient distance; by computation nearly 3,500 persons.

VII. Monday the reverend James Templeton, of the Presbyterian church, and other ministers, present, (not delegates) were invited to a seat with us. A letter and minutes were handed by the messengers of Georgia, and Hephzebah associations. A letter and a packet of minutes for the respective churches, of this association were forwarded by brother Fowler, from the Charleston association for last year, their messengers not attending. A letter and minutes from Neuse, and a letter from Holstein associations; and also minutes from the Philadelphia, for the years 1798 and 1799; minutes from the Baltimore, Kentucky, Shaftelberry, New-Hampshire, Warren, Woodstock, and Flat River associations, being also forwarded by brother Fowler; were severally read, and gave general satisfaction.

VIII. Three churches applied by letters, and delegates for admission into our union; and were accordingly admitted, upon satisfaction being obtained respecting their faith, and order.

IX. A non-fellow-ship having existed, between the church at **Dervin's creek,**

creek, of which Mr. Jacob Roberts is pastor, and this association, from the year 1791; at this meeting satisfaction was given, and fellowship declared between this church and this association.

X. Appointed brother M. Dougal, to write to the Nephzebah Association, and Messrs. Spencer Bobo and William Goram be our messengers. Brother Shackelford to write to the Charleston association, and Messrs. James Fowler and John Rooker, to be our messengers. Brother Bayli Earle, to write to the Georgia association, and Messrs. Jesse Owen and Austin Clayton to be our messengers. Brother Johnson to write to the Holstein, and brother Rooker, to the Neuse associations.

TUESDAY.

XI. Query from Catabaw church. Are the books that compose the old and new testaments, all of Divine revelation? Answered in the affirmative.

XII. Query from Mountain Creek church, N. C. Does the Gospel in its divine precepts, enjoin on its professors, the same care and faithfulness, in ruling their children and servants, by the principles of moral virtue, as were required under the Mosaic dispensation? Answered, beyond all doubt, and masters and mistresses, of families, as professors of the Gospel, are under peculiar obligation to bring up their children, and govern their servants, in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

XIII. The letters to the corresponding associations, and circular letter for this year, were presented, read and approved.

XIV. Fourteen churches, viz. those at Tyger River, Boiling Spring, Green's Creek, Goshen, Sandy Run, Green River, Cedar Spring, French Broad River, Mountain Creek, N. C. Bill's Creek, State Line, Buck Creek, Long Creek and Buffalo; requested a dismission from this body, that they may be formed into an other association, which was agreed to. Ebenezer, and Shockley Ferry churches, desired a dismission from this association, to join another, more convenient to them; which was agreed to.

XV. On motion, agreed; that the second Saturday in November next, be kept in prayer and fasting, that God may please to bless the preachers of his gospel, and that we may enjoy a revival of religion in our churches.

XVI. The committee appointed to examine brother Cantrel's credentials of ordination, report, they find them valid.

XVII. Concord, and the church at Long-creek, as vacant churches, requesting supplies; agreed, that brethren Thomas Burgess, Austin Clayton, John Blackwell and William King, attend the former; and brethren John Rooker, Davies Collins, and Joseph Camp, the latter, discretionally.

XVIII. Lower Duncan's creek church, requests a committee to attend them, to assist in settling some matters of difference, now existing in the church. Agreed, that brethren Richard Shackelford, Jesse Owens, Joshua Palmer, John Rowland, and Joseph Camp, attend, and make report at our next association.

XIX. On motion, by the Bethlehem church, the subject for the next years Circular letter, be "what is the proper connection between civil government, and the government of the church, as established by the authority and laws of Christ?" Which was agreed to; and brother James Fowler is requested to prepare it.

XX. The money was collected for printing the minutes, and brother Fowler appointed to superintend their printing, and distribute them as usual.

On

