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Baptists . South Carolina . Bethel Association .  
Minutes . . . 1806 .

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# MINUTES

OF THE

*Bethel Baptist Association,*

MET AT

New-Hope Meeting House,

SPARTANBURGH DISTRICT, (S. C.)

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 1806, AND CONTINUED  
UNTIL THE TUESDAY EVENING FOLLOWING.

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1. **B**ROTHER Henry King, who had been appointed to preach the introductory sermon, not appearing, it was delivered by Brother Samuel Marsh, from Romans v. 10.

2. Letters from forty-five churches were read, and the names of their messengers enrolled.

3. Chose Brother Shackelford, moderator, and Brother Eccles, clerk.

4. Appointed the moderator, clerk, and Brethren Rooker, McCreary, and Samuel Marsh, a committee to arrange the business of the association.

5. The association by a committee of all the ministering brethren present, appointed six ministers to preach on the Sabbath. Adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

6. The Sabbath, as usual, was employed in public worship, six sermons being delivered to a numerous congregation, in two divisions, at a convenient distance from each other, and we hope the word was attended with some good effect.

*MONDAY, October 6th, met according to adjournment.*

7. The ministering brethren present, who were not messengers, were invited, both of our own and other denominations, to take a seat with us.

8. Six churches petitioned for admission into our union, viz: Tinker Creek church in Union district, constituted of members from Fairforest and Padget's churches in August last; Unity church, constituted the 28th of June last; these people were formerly seventh Baptists, but upon the relinquishment of their former peculiarities, are now declared in order by the committee appointed last year to visit them; Seekwell, constituted the 19th of July last, of members from the Enoree church; Piedmont, constituted the 24th of March last, of members from the Catawba church; Sardis, constituted the 14th of June last, of members from Cloud's creek; and Fairfield church, constituted the 6th day of

~~September~~ 1st; all of whom, upon satisfaction being obtained of their ~~high~~ and order, were cordially received.

Received from the Georgia association a letter and minutes for last year, by their messengers, brethren Mercer and Rhodes; from the Sarepta association, a letter and minutes, by their messengers, brethren Johnston and Davis; from the Saluda association, a letter and minutes, by the hand of their messenger, brother Hollum. These brethren were all cordially received. We also received a letter and minutes from the Neuse association; a letter and minutes from the Charleston association; minutes from the Hephzibah association, and a letter and minutes from Broad river association.

10. Query from Bush river. Is it consistent with the law of God, or the gospel of Jesus Christ, for a member in fellowship, to purchase lottery tickets? Answered in the negative.

11. Query from Cloud's creek. Is it agreeable to the Scriptures for a man to put away his wife for the cause of adultery, and marry another? Answered in the negative.

12. Second Query from said church. What shall be done with a member who often falls into the practice of sin, and often makes confession of repentance? Answer. We advise that such a person, if he bring forth those fruits of repentance which the scriptures require, be restored; if not, excluded from the fellowship of the church.

13. Query from Mill Creek. What is implied in that passage of scripture James 5. 14, 15. was it only apostolical, or was it designed for all ages? Answer. We do not think it merely apostolical, but the privilege of all believers who feel it their duty to the present day.

14. Appointed the following brethren to write to corresponding associations; namely, brother Robt. ~~Marth~~ to the Charleston, brethren Rock and Eddins our messengers; brother Eddins to the Georgia, brethren Delaughter and Whaley the messengers; brother Rhodes to the Hephzibah, brethren Deloach and S. ~~Marth~~ the messengers; brother Lant to the Saluda, brethren Eddins and ~~Rowland~~ our messengers; brother McCreary to the Sarepta, brethren Bobo and Moore the messengers, and brother Johnston to the Neuse association.—Adjourned till tomorrow morning half past 7 o'clock.

*TUESDAY, 7th, met according to adjournment.*

15. Query from Little River church. What is the scripture work of a deacon? Answer. First as a steward to superintend the temporalities of the church; as, Acts 6. 1—6. chap. 11. 30. Secondly to take a part in the government of the church, Acts 14. 17, 20, 23, 28. 1 Tim. 5. 17. Which we conceive to consist in assisting the pastor when present; and, when absent, as they may be able, to open conference and take the lead in discipline; also when fellowship shall be broken between any of the members, and the persons required by the Gospel do not take proper disciplinary measures, to go and stir them up to

their duty, that fellowship may be regained, and unity in the church be preserved.—Note, *deacons* are, we judge, to be understood by *elders* in the above quotations.—Agreed that brother *Eccles* make this the subject for the circular letter next year.

16. A Query from Big Stephens's Creek, Salem, and Bethany churches was received; the purport of which was "would it not be more advantageous to the Redeemer's kingdom, for the churches belonging to the Bethel association on the south side of Saluda river, to form a separate association?" To which we returned the following answer. We are of opinion that it would be most to the advantage of this association to continue in one body without a division at present;— But brethren we do not undertake to lord it over you, as you are a free people.

17. Request from Hopewell church, desiring that the association would give them what advice and assistance they deem necessary, in order that they may be provided with a catechism suited to the capacities of children. Agreed that Brethren Rooker, Collins, Fant, McCreary and Eccles, be appointed to examine and bring forward such a catechism to our next association, as they may think will best answer the purpose.

18. The Little River church, at their own request, are dismissed to join the Saluda association.

19. In compliance with a request from Bethel church, appointed the following brethren as a committee to look into, and to assist in endeavoring to remove a certain difficulty existing in said church; namely, Brethren Lilly, Palmer, Bobo, S. Marth, Deloach, Holland and Thomas Greer; any three of whom shall be a quorum, and report at the next association.

20. The letters to the corresponding associations were brought forward, read and approved; the circular letter was also read and approved.

21. In compliance with the request from Bethel and Bush river churches, we agree, that our next association be held at the Cross Road meeting house, Newbury district, (S. C.) brother Eccles to preach the sermon, in case of failure brother Thomas Greer.

22. Collected money for printing the minutes, and appointed brother Lilly to superintend the business, but should his state of health prevent his attending to it, we request brother Robert Marth to take the charge thereof, and have them printed and distributed as soon as convenient.

# State of the Churches.

MINISTERS NAMES ARE IN SMALL CAPITALS, LICENSED PREACHERS IN ITALICS.  
THOSE MARKED THUS \* WERE NOT PRESENT.

CHURCHES.	MINISTERS AND MESSENGERS.	Baptized	Recd. by Let.	Dismissed	Restored	Encom.?	Dead	Total	Sums Contribu- ted.
FAIRFOREST,	Willis Walker, Robert Bullington, <i>Herrick M'Dugal.*</i>	2	1	9		9		108	2
PADGET'S CREEK,	THOMAS GREER, jun. THOMAS RAY, HOSEA HOLLCOMBE.*	2		59	1	4	5	256	2
PACKOLET,	Isaac M'Kiffick, Isaac Going.	1	4	3	2		2	49	1
UPPER DUNCAN'S CREEK,	{ JOSHUA PALMER,* REUBEN KELLY, <i>Richard Green,</i>	1	8	25		11	4	285	4 64
LOWER DUNCAN'S CREEK,	{ Henry Langston.							64	1 50
BETHEL,	HENRY B. ROWLAND.								
	{ RICHARD SHACKELFORD, Robert Page, James Allen,	3	3	8	1	6		366	4
	{ David Bofeman, Thomas Woodruff.								
SANDY RIVER,	William Robinson, Bryan Lee.	23	5	2		1		54	2
BUSH RIVER,	<i>Jas. Teague, Ch. Crowe, C. Griffin, Ab. Tague, J. COLL.*</i>	1	1	1	1	9	5	201	4
LITTLE RIVER,	Kader Gant, John Tyner.		2	3		2		58	1 50
ENOREE,	JACOB KING,* Robert Cates.	1	2	16				47	1
ROCKY CREEK, (S. R.)	ABNER FANT, John James.	1	2	1				31	1
TURKEY CREEK,	Robert Elgin, BENJAMIN NORTHCUTT.*		1	1			1	17	1 124
CLOUD'S CREEK,	THOMAS DELOACH, Obadiah Johns.	8	4	31			1	86	1 50
CATAWBA,	No return, their number stands as last year.							54	
SUGAR CREEK,	JOHN ROOKER, <i>Robert Murph,* Bennet Wood.*</i>		3					47	1 25
POPLAR SPRING,	Benjamin Neighbours,* Thomas Noeria.		1	2		2		15	1
CAMBRIDGE,	DAVID LILLY,* ROBERT MARSH.	2	3	1		2	3	74	3 75
MILL CREEK,	{ William Spraggins, James Hill, jun. CHEBLY DAVIS,*		1		1		2	57	1 564
	{ JOHN BOLGER,								
LITTLE STEPHEN'S CREEK,	Thomas Adams, Peter Head.	4	4	19			2	73	1 50
PROVIDENCE,	Joel Lipcomb, Stephen Jones.	1	2					27	1 50
BATHABARA,	HENRY MITT, John Sadler.	4		2		2		58	1 25
REDBANK,	Joseph Brown.	4	5	2	2	7	1	81	2 624
HOPEWELL,	SAMUEL ACLES, <i>Samuel M'Creary.</i>	2		1		1		59	2
BRUSHY CREEK,	LEWIS KETTER, <i>Joab League, TIRA GLEN.*</i>	2	12	10		4	1	99	2 564
SALEM,	George King, <i>Joseph King.*</i>	1		3		4	1	54	1 50
SILOAM,	Charles Foster.	1		1			1	26	1
BETHLEHAM,	THOMAS BOMER, Edward Bomer, Enoch Underwood.		4	12		7		175	4 124
LITTLE RIVER, (S. R.)	David Andrews, Samuel C.					1	1	30	1 50
HORN'S CREEK,	SAMUEL MARSH, Samuel W. W., JOHN LANDRUM.*							108	2
BIG STEPHENS'S CREEK,	Willis Whaley, John Sullivan.	1		9		4	1	103	2
PHILADELPHIA,	CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, Elijah Smith.	3	3			1		40	1
DERBIN'S CREEK,	SAMUEL BROWN, THOMAS GOODWIN.			2		3	1	83	2 124
LITTLE SANDY RIVER,	James Huey, JACOB HOLIFIELD.*	3		3			2	38	1 50
NEW-HOPE,	SPENCER SOBO, Mordacai Chandler.	2	4	5	1	7	1	72	1 75
GREEN POND,	William Hendricks.	2	3	5	1	5		45	1 25
HEAD CEDAR SHOAL,	Spencer Calvert, Joseph Barnett.	2	1		1	1		65	1
HOLLY SPRING,	JAMES RIDINGS, Thaddeus Owen.	3	3	3	1	1		37	1
GOOD HOPE,	Joseph Morris.	3	2		1			26	1
ANTIOCH,	Barkley Martin, John Robinson.	2	3	5			1	85	3 25
UNION,	JOHN FLYNAM, Elijah Wilburn, Thompson Browning.		7	15		1	2	109	2
DRY CREEK,	A letter.	4		2				72	1 50
SION,	JOHN ROWLAND, Edmund Strange.		1	1				18	50
BETHANY,	GEORGE DE LAUGHTER, Drury Adams.	5	3	2	1		1	42	1 50
STARNS'S CREEK,	Reuben Wilks, Frances Wilks.	2		3				31	1
CALLAHAM'S MILL,	No return, their number stands the same as last year.							75	
PLUMB BRANCH,	No return, their number stands the same as last year.							42	
MOUNTAIN CREEK,	WILLIAM EDDINS, John Eddins.	2	2	3				36	2 25
JOHN'S CREEK,	No return, their number stands the same as last year.							46	
GILEAD,	HUGH MOORE, John Stovall.		3	1		1		18	1 124
TINKER CREEK,	Overy Howard, Reps Edwards.							7	1
UNITY,	ELIAS MITCHELL, William Townsend.							0	1 75
SEEK-WELL,	Barber Hancock, Bartholomew Kelley.							16	50
PIEDMONT,	Valentine Horsley, William Youngblood.							12	1
SARDIS,	Shepherd Spencer, Jarratt Edwards.							24	1 25
FAIRFIELD,	Benjamin Owens.							13	1

A decrease of 62 Members.

Total.

98 103 208 14 175

267 6

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Bethel Baptist Association convened at Newhope Meeting-house, Spartanburg District, October 11th, 1806, to the Churches they represent, send christian salutation.*

## BELOVED BRETHREN,

**I**N compliance with the appointment of our last meeting, we now address you upon the expediency and real necessity of all men, (especially professors of christianity) **punctually paying their just debts.** The great apostle Paul, in his letter to the church at Rome, chap. 13. 6, 8, enjoins it as the indispensable duty of professors, to "owe no man any thing, but to love one another."

THE contracting of debts and not faithfully discharging them, is often attended with bad consequences.....It lays ground for suspicion of the debtors fidelity and honesty; cools the affections and hardens the heart of the creditor. We are again exhorted by the same apostle, Heb. 13. 1, to "let brotherly love continue." Again, "love worketh no ill to his neighbour." Again, "provide things honest in the sight of all men." And our adorable redeemer recommends it to all his followers, to "let their light so shine, that others beholding their good works, may glorify God." In order then to comply with those exhortations and injunctions, we should be very cautious of contracting debts without having wherewithal to discharge them: The professor acting incautiously in this matter, will give the enemies of God room to reproach the cause of religion, grieve his brethren, and must surely wound his own soul. By one person not complying with his contract in the discharge of a debt, may be a disappointment to many, and not only injure the feelings of punctual honest men, but may greatly hurt their property: Therefore, in order to avoid those things, with all their attendant evils and bad consequences, and to "owe no man any thing, but to love one another," and for the continuation of brotherly love....and providing things honest in the sight of all men....and to let our light shine before others....we would recommend to all with whom we are connected, to use care and industry, to honestly provide every necessary means, not only to discharge their public and private debts, to support government and trade, but the families committed to their care, and to entertain strangers. For our encouragement in this and every other duty, our all glorious creator and bountiful benefactor has promised to "withhold no good thing from him that walketh uprightly." We are exhorted in the word of God "to be diligent in every good work."—Again, to "maintain good works for necessary uses"—and we are fur-

they informed, that "the hand of the diligent maketh rich." It is surely a very good and necessary work to be found in the field or shop, with diligence and frugality to procure those temporal mercies that may enrich our houses and purses, to faithfully and conscientiously discharge the debts we owe to our families, government and creditors: Likewise the debt we so justly owe to maintain the worship of God. Again, it must doubtless be a very necessary work, diligently to attend to the duties of religion, in a public, private and family capacity; that our minds may be enriched with that heavenly and divine knowledge, which will assist us in the faithful discharge of the several duties we owe to God and to our fellow men, in the stations we are providentially placed.— Thus, by attending to these necessary works, we shall owe to man any thing, but to love one another; and continue to maintain that brotherly love, which is so desirable among the followers of the adorable Jesus, and so very necessary for the declarative glory of the incomprehensibly glorious God.

In the faithful discharge of the aforementioned religious and relative duties, with what tranquility of soul and holy boldness, does the humble follower of the dear Redeemer of sinners, approach the throne of his heavenly fathers grace, there in a filial frame, to implore his omnipotent aid, to enable him to persevere in holiness, and that he may add to his faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity; that he may fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold of eternal life. Again, by strictly attending to those reasonable and necessary duties, with what alacrity does the child of God meet his brethren and neighbours, and enjoy the sweets of social blessings, so necessary to constitute our happiness in this vale of tears.

BUT should it please God, by an act of his all-wise providence, to afflict any of his professing people, so that it is put out of their power to comply with their contracts in due time....we recommend it to the creditor, if he be a professor, and if in his power (without too great loss) to patiently wait with the afflicted brother, as the Lord directs. and not be too rigorous with him; but should the creditor not have it in his power to wait the necessary time with the afflicted debtor; we exhort the brethren, if in their power, to assist such a debtor; or should the creditor be a non professor of the christian religion, and insist on punctual payment from the poor afflicted debtor, that then the brethren of the afflicted assist him to discharge his debt. As it may be the mind of God to afflict his children, not only for a trial of their faith, but also for the trial of our sympathy and brotherly affection.

FINALLY brethren, we commend you to God, and the power of his divine grace, who is able to assist you to perform all the duties you are

(....8....)

to him and to one another, and give you an inheritance with all the  
sanctified in Christ Jesus....to whom, with the father and holy spirit be  
ending praises. Amen.

Our meeting has been conducted, we trust in the fear of God, in  
meekness and brotherly love. We have been highly favored, under the  
benignity of Heaven, with clemency of weather, and the visit of our  
ministering brethren from other associations, by whom we have been re-  
freshed, and also assisted in our council.

*RICHARD SHACKELFORD, Moderator.*

*SAMUEL EGGLEB, Clerk.*

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AUGUSTA:

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....1806....

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