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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.

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

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September last; all of whom, upon satisfaction being obtained of their health 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 Hollin. 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 Eccles 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 Lamb 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, 29, 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 possible.

