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 1806

MINUTES

OF THE

North-District Association of

BAPTISTS;

Held at County Lick Meeting-House, in the County of Montgomery, State of Kentucky, the first Saturday in October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six—and continued by public worship on the succeeding day, (being Sunday) and business on Monday until evening, then adjourned until the first Saturday in October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seven—to meet at Providence Meeting House on Howard's Lower Creek, in the County of Clarke, and State aforesaid.

BROTHER Robert Elkin preached the introductory sermon, from ii. Timothy, ii. chap. 15th verse—After sermon, Letters from the Churches were read, and Brother Jilson Payne chosen Moderator, and Brother James French Clerk.

State of the Churches

Churches.	Messengers.	Dec.	Ret. by Bap.	Transferred.	Returned.	Total
Spencer Creek,	Wm. Cave, Benj. Cave, D. Wade, J. Alexander.	1	1	13	2	49
Lulbergud,	Jilson Payne, Jas. French, John Treadway jr.	1	1	3	2	47
Salt Lick,	Thornton Farrow, J. Dean, J. Ragles, W. Carr.	1	1	3	3	55
Boon's Creek,	Samuel Boone, David Watts.	1	1	5	3	32
Providence,	Robt. Elkin, Jas. Haggard, Thos. Beary jr.	3	3	10	4	128
Unity,	James Ouessenberry, John Haggard.					140
Bald Eagle,	Charles Harper, Moses Sharpe.	4	2	2		56
Johnson's Fork,	Daniel Moss, William Moss.	1	1	2	2	27
Bethel,	M. Bledsoe, T. Mosely, T. Jamison, J. Jamison.	1	5	2		111
Red River,	Nichs. Burglar, Geo. Vanbuskirk, Jas. Fowler.	1	1	2		46
Chae's Creek,	Edward Tribble.					12
Howards Upper Creek,	Edward Kindred, James Elkin, William Haggard, Smith Vinton.	5	11	7	6	88
Red Lick,	David Gentry, John Kindred.	16				36
Hopewell,	Reuben Long, John Brown.	1		2	2	23
Long Branch,	James Prather, Jonathan Prather.			1	3	23
State-Union,	Jos. Carter, Thos. Maxey, Martin Chastein.			2		41
Mc Pleasant,	Thos. Hall, Lewis Nall, Daniel James.	4		2	4	6171
Sycamore,	Tobias James, Wm. Hopper, Robert Dicky.		3	3	3	4101
Cane Spring,	David Chisaut, Wm. Noland, Jonathan Floyd.					41
Gashen,	David Thompson, Samuel Tribble.	2		5	2	94

Miss Lick,	Joshua Yeats, Henry Sandford, Wm. Jeans.	5	8	7136
At Stirling,	David Barrow, William Smith, Enock Smith.	5	4	31
St. Paul's Station,	William Morris, Joseph Kelly.	16	13	31
Log Lick,	David Snowden, William M'Mahan.	1	2	28
E. F. F. Creek,	Leonard Turley, Henry Rice.	1	3	15
Cane Creek,	Wangate Jackson, George Coffer.	1	5	4
Ohio River,	Jno. Farquay, Moses Morrow, Samuel Jackson.	23	1	61
Jessamine,	Robert Hunt, John Chiles.	1	2	4
		1	2	4
		1	1	51

Lacust creek, Log meeting house, and Salem, three churches in this Association, sent neither letters nor messengers.

Brethren Ambrose Dudley and Richard Thomas, messengers from Elkhorn association (letter lost) invited to seats. From Brecken association, letter and brethren, William Payne and Thomas Young their messengers, invited to seats. From Tates' creek association, letter and their messengers, brethren Andrew Scribble and Joshua Hutson, invited to seats. From South District association, letter and messengers, brethren Jeremiah Vardeman and John Rice, invited to seats. Neither letter nor messenger from Green River association.

The committee of mediation, &c. appointed last association, made the following report:

Agreeable to your appointment last association we attended the South District conference, your letter was received by that body, and after some discussion on the letter, and recital of things, which brought them into their present situation; they took the question, Is it advisable to dismiss the business respecting the North District association? A large majority voted in the affirmative. Upon which we withdrew, concluding our mission was terminated. We also attended the South District association, and informed them of our failure at said conference, and that any call from them, upon us as a committee, would be unnecessary.

J. PAYNE,
ROB'T. ELKIN,
EDW'D. KINDRED.

October 4th, 1806.

Brethren Robert Elkin, Moses Bledsoe, Jilson Payne, James Queffenberry, and James French appointed a committee, to arrange the business of the association, and report on Monday.

The following brethren appointed to write associational corresponding letters, Henry Sandford to Elkhorn, Thos. Mosely to Brecken, Daniel James to Tates' creek, William Jeans to South District, and John Jamison to Green River associations, and report on Monday.

Brethren Jeremiah Vardeman, Ambrose Dudley, and John Rice appointed to preach to-morrow, being Sunday. The association then adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

MONDAY MORNING.

THE association met agreeable to adjournment. Brethren Robert Elkin, Moses Bledsoe, James Quessenberry, James Haggard, and Leonard Turly reported. That, agreeable to the provision made last association for the trial of ministers, they had been dealing with brother David Barrow, for preaching the doctrine of emancipation, to the hurt and injury of the feelings of the brotherhood. And the association, after considering the foregoing report, and hearing what brother Barrow had to say in justification of his conduct on that subject, and brother Barrow manifesting no disposition to alter his mode of preaching, as to the aforesaid doctrine, they proceeded to expel him from his seat in this association,—and appointed brethren Edward Kindred, Robert Elkin, Moses Bledsoe, Thos. Mosely, Leonard Turly, and James French, or a majority of them, a committee to deal with brother Barrow in the church at Mount Sterling at their next monthly meeting, and report to next association.

Rock Spring, a church newly constituted, applied for admission into this association; on a suggestion that said church was in disorder, their admission postponed, and brethren Jilson Payne, James Quessenberry, Robert Elkin, Moses Bledsoe, James Haggard, James French, and Leonard Turly, or a majority of them, be appointed a committee to attend any call made on them by said church, and make report to next association.

Query from Strode's church, and request from Goshen church desiring to be informed the scriptural authority for the mode adopted last association for the trial of ministers, dismissed.

Request from Greer's Creek church, to insert in the minutes, the monthly meeting days of the respective churches, dismissed.

On the request of Bethel church for the ordination of brother Francis Taylor, to the work of the ministry—the association advise the church to call for such ministerial aid, and at such time as she thinks proper to perform that service for her.

The following corresponding associational letters were read and approved, and the brethren whose names are annexed to each are appointed our messengers respectively to such associations. To Elkhorn, Robert Elkin, James Quessenberry; to Brackeen, Moses Bledsoe, Robert Elkin, Leonard Turly; to Tate's creek, David Chinault, Edward Kindred. To South District, Moses Bledsoe, Charles Harper. To Grason River, Leonard Turly, William Moss.

Circular letter read, and approved, and brother James French appointed to write a circular letter for next association—and to superintend the printing the minutes of this association.

Brother Moses Bledsoe to preach the introductory sermon,
next association and in case of failure, brother William Morris,

J. PAYNE Mod'r.

JAMES FRENCH Clk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN & SISTERS,

WE lament the situation of our Society, various roasts of bitterness springing up among us, and instead of a girdle of rent, evil speaking and the leaven of malice, instead of brotherly kindness and charity, and like the trembling and amazed enemies of ancient Israel before Jonathan and his Armour-bearer, we are melting away, and go on beating down one another.

Mournful too is the state of our ministry, some almost worn out with age and toil, labouring to fulfil the ministry they have received,—some falling in love with this present world, and neglecting the gift of God that is in them,—others through a fondness for their own notions, or from the prejudices of the age, much abridged in their usefulness in the house of God,—and few or none growing up in the ministry like young Cedars of Lebanon.

Our forebodings therefore are, that a time of famine is approaching; not a famine for bread, nor a thirst for water, which so lately stared us in the face, but a famine for hearing the word of the Lord, a famine for the preaching "of the gospel of Christ." The blessed Jesus we fear, is about to remove our candlestick out of his place, and walk no more in the midst of his golden candlesticks;—we fear that we shall no more see one of the days of the son of man, until we come to the general assembly, and church of the first born.—The crown has fallen from our head, wee unto us that we have sinned.

Forlaken of the Lord, and fallen as we are, we still hope the blessed God has to their number many sons and daughters among the Baptists, that will be his when he makes up his jewels. The holy Scriptures contain examples from the time of righteous Abel to the period when John, the beloved disciple, was in the life of Patmos for the testimony of Jesus Christ, of some who through faith and patience, walked in obedience to the commands and ordinances of the Lord. In the corrupt reign of Ahab, God had reserved seven thousand. In Sardis were a few names,—and so in the North District, we hope the Lord has a people also,

"whose names are written in Heaven," and whether such sleep or wake, are numbered with the dead or the living, they are the Lords.

"Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." Tribulation in this world is the common lot of the followers of the Lamb. The Believers of the present day are not all who have groaned, being burdened; Paul and others which had the first fruits of the Spirit, were of this burdened groaning family. Let as many then as love our Lord Jesus Christ "be sober and hope to the end, for yet a little while, and he that shall come will come and will not tarry." Death, which is just before, is the last enemy, all beyond is peace and joy, is life and immortality, to all them that believe in him who is "the resurrection and the life."

Let us then, in this our time of captivity and sorrow, take the Scriptures for the man of our council; they were written for our learning, and are able thoroughly to furnish the man of God unto every good work, and to make us wise unto salvation, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.—The Scriptures contain the sayings and examples of our blessed Lord, and of his Apostles, of the prophets, and the patriarchs.—The history too, of the church of the living God under different dispensations of his grace, and the foot steps of the flock of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. The glad tidings also, of the sufferings and death of our blessed Lord for our offences, who has abolished death, of his triumphant resurrection and glorious ascension to the right hand of the majesty on high;—Who has for us entered, by his own precious blood, into the holiest of all, into heaven itself, to appear in the presence of God for us.

The Scriptures are richly stored with exceeding great and precious promises, with the charming doctrines of the grace and love of God our heavenly father, to poor sinners, and of that life and immortality, brought to light by our dear Redeemer. Of the miraculous gifts, the saving work, and gracious fruits of the blessed Holy Ghost. The Scriptures reach forth also unto the world to come, and describes that holy city whose builder and maker is God, which was sought by the Saints of old, and which is the eternal home of all whose names are found written in the Lamb's book of life;—They contain the promise too of our Lord to come again; of his will to change our vile bodies, and fashion them like unto his own glorious body, and that he will receive to himself all his children; that he will receive them to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeeth not away.

"Wherefore beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless. Christians like Caesar's tribute money, should bear the image and superscription of the Lord Jesus. Christ has left us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever, Amen."

JAS. FRENCH, Clerk.

J. PAYNE, Modr.