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MINUTES

OF THE

FRANKLIN ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS,

Held at the Twins Meeting House, in Owen County, on the first Friday in August, 1821.

AT 11 o'clock Elder A. Cook delivered a Sermon, introductory to the business of the Association, from the 6th verse, 8th chapter of Proverbs,

"Hear, for I will speak of excellent things, and the opening of my lips shall be right things"

Letters from twenty churches were received, read and the messengers names enrolled as follows :

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Baptised.			Present number.
		Rec'd. by letter.	Dis'm'd. by letter.	Excluded.	
South Benson,	W. Hickman Jr. J. Pattie, G. Brown, B. Taylor and J. Dudley.	4	1		107
Salt River,	J. Penny, P. Rigg and C. Lillard.	1	4	8	231
Twins,	J. Scott, R. Adams, W. Blanton, G. Titus, T. Brown and J. D. Alexander.	3	5	3	293
Hopewell,	J. Graddy and W. Darr.	1	6	3	88
M. Cool's Bottom.	J. Ellis W. Neill, R. Scanland and T. Craig.	1	10	14	100
Whites Run,	W. Fandy and H. Ramey.	1	1	5	92
Goshen,	W. W. Penny and J. Downey.	2		2	91
Frankfort,	S. M. Noel, P. S. Fall and J. W. Wooldridge, P. Clay and G. G. Brown.	5	7		54
Mo. of Cedar,	J. Thailkill, H. Hawkins & T. Wilhoit.	4	1	1	24
Grier's Creek,	J. Roper.	4	1		28
Mt. Pleasant,	J. Green, A. White, and R. Church.	1	7	6	63
Buck Run,	J. Taylor, T. Boulware, J. Price, and B. Taylor.	1	4	3	68
Beech Creek,	J. Basket and G. Morton.	1	4	2	74
Elkins Fork,	A. Cook, A. Bohannon, W. Christie and J. Christie.	1	1	4	67
Six Mile,	F. Ford, J. Miles, W. Ellis and J. Ford.	1	3	6	109
Buffalo Lick,	M. Basket, T. Lee, W. T. Webber and E. Thomson.	1	2		59
Four Creek,	B. Fewell.	3	6	2	51
Long Ridge,	J. Neill and W. Suiter.	4	5		20
Emucaus,	M. Baker, J. Arnold and W. Morgan.	1			31
Mo. Elkhorn.	J. Bartlett	1			16

Elder S. M. Noel was chosen moderator, and B. Taylor clerk.

Agreed that in the reception of churches into this association, the unanimous concurrence of all the messengers present is necessary.

Letters from associations with whom we correspond were received, read, and their messengers took their seats with us as follows :

From Elkhorn—J. Creath, J. Suggett, T. Craig, B. W. Riley and T. Alexander.

From Union—Gerard Riley.

From Long Run—J. H. Morris, Z. Carpenter and J. Metcalf.

From North Bend—W. Kendall, D. Lillard, & J. Dicken.

From Licking—S. Vanlandingham

The circular letter read, and referred to the committee of arrangement.

Members appointed to write letters of correspondence to associations as follows :

To Elkhorn—P. Fall.

To North Bend—J. Dudley.

To Long Run—Jas. Ford.

To North District—W. W. Penny.

To Licking—W. T. Webber.

To South District—J. W. Wooldridge.

To Union—T. Boulware.

And report to the association to-morrow.

The moderator and clerk appointed a committee to arrange the business for to-morrow.

Elders J. Taylor, Parker, and P. Clay, appointed to preach to-morrow.

Elders J. Suggett, J. Creath and T. Boulware, appointed to preach on Sunday.

Elder T. Boulware appointed to preach the introductory sermon next year, and in case of failure Elder S. M. Noel.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING—After prayer. The report of the committee of arrangement called for, read and approved.

Question from the Goshen Church—“Has not the Frankfort church violated our constitution, by interfering with the internal concerns of Fox Creek church?”

Answer—The association is of opinion, that the constitution has not been violated in the case alluded to.

Question from the Salt River church—“Will this association justify the Frankfort church in the course she has taken with Fox Creek church.

Answer—so far as the conduct of the Frankfort church on that subject, has been presented to this association, they approve it.

In answer to the request from Mount Pleasant, Frankfort and Mouth of Elkhorn churches,

We consider the subjects of constituting churches and ordaining ministers of vital importance to the churches of christ; as such, we recommend to the churches to observe great caution, and to refrain from either or both, except with the advice and counsel of one or more of the sister churches.

The next association to be held at the Salt River Meeting house, on the 1st Friday in August 1829.

Corresponding letters called for, read, and approved, and messengers appointed to bear them, to wit:

To Elkhorn—S. M. Noel, J. Taylor, J. W. Wooldridge P. Fall, P. Clay, and G. G. Brown.

To North Bend—J. Scott, J. D. Alexander, and W. Banton.

To Long Run—R. Adams, J. Taylor, M. Basket, S. M. Noel, P. Clay, A. Bohannon, A. Cook and J. Snell.

To North District—J. W. Wooldridge, J. Taylor, and B. Taylor.

To Licking—T. Boulware, J. Price, J. Dudley, J. W. Wooldridge, S. M. Noel and P. Clay.

To South District—J. Penny, E. Thomson, J. Downy, and W. W. Penny.

To Union—J. Taylor and J. Arnold.

P. Clay appointed to write the next circular letter.

The circular letter read and adopted.

The churches at M'Cools Bottom, Twins, Whites Run, Emmeaus and Long Ridge, at their request, are dismissed to form a new association.

In consequence of the weak and enfeebled situation of the church at the mouth of Elkhorn, as stated in their letter, agreed, that brethren S. M. Noel, J. Dudley, A. Cook, P. Clay, J. Taylor, T. Boulware, T. Wilhoit, J. W. Wooldridge, J. Scott, J. Grady, W. Hickman jr. and B. Taylor be appointed to visit that church on the 3d Friday in September next, to give them such aid and counsel as may be

in their power, and report thereon to the next association.
The Clerk and P. Clay to superintend the printing of
the minutes.

Agreed that the association now adjourn.

S. M. NOEL, *Mod'r.*

BEN. TAYLOR, *Clerk.*

CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The members composing the Franklin Baptist Association,
To the Churches they represent.*

BELoved BRETHREN,

AN indulgent Providence has permitted us to convene in an associate capacity ; our hearts should be solemnly impressed with gratitude to the giver of every good and perfect gift, for the harmony and brotherly love that has appeared to prevail among us. We trust, we have not been altogether denied the influence of the presence of the Lord during our present meeting. Our minutes will advise you of our proceedings, and the state of the churches that constitute our body. Peace and unanimity appear to be enjoyed by the most of them ; but with deep regret, we observe that their increase is generally small—many of them complain of coldness and barrenness. This state of lukewarm supineness that seems to be but too general among us, should awaken in our souls deep humiliation and fervent supplication for seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Our Heavenly Father, is more ready to give than we are to ask ; but have we not reason to lament, that our iniquities have separated between us and our God, and to fear that our sins have hid from us the light of his reconciled countenance ? The exhortation of the Apostle, “ as ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him ” appears at this time to be peculiarly seasonable—Let this form the subject of our present address.

Christians cannot too frequently recur to the time of

their first espousals to Christ—receiving Christ Jesus, embraces regeneration with all the doctrines of the new birth, a quickening from death unto eternal life—the crucifying the old man and becoming a new creature, by which is wrought a change of desires and affections, a hatred to sin and love of holiness, a delight in the whole will of God as revealed in the holy scriptures, and impressed on the hearts and consciences of his people. Let your minds dwell upon the manner of your receiving the Lord—You, a wretched, helpless, hell-deserving sinner, received him as an atoning free and full saviour; by grace are ye saved not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. This recollection will guard against the sin of legality, and enable the christian to rejoice in the rights and liberties of the children of God, but let not this liberty be abused to licentiousness. As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God; these were born, not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man; Christ Jesus is made unto them wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. As he then is made unto you wisdom, let none spoil you through philosophy, after the tradition of men and the rudiments of the world—Beware of the lo! here, or lo! there; vigilantly scrutinize any new doctrines of the present day; observe the will of Christ, his example was meek and lowly—he says, whosoever shall do the will of my father, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother; this equality among his followers induced him to say, whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and Son. We are exhorted to walk in Christ as we have received him, and having received him should be a most persuasive argument to so walk in him. Many are the commands and exhortations to this point. Whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. O house of Jacob, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord—he will teach us of his ways and we will walk in his paths. Jesus saith, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh to the Father but by me—Paul beseeches his brethren to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called—We are commanded to be followers

of God, as dear children, and to walk in love as Christ also hath loved us. That we may please God, we should abound more and more in the discharge of all those christian duties that have been taught by the holy spirit. Among these, the great duty of prayer so frequently urged by divine inspiration, its weighty importance; so constantly felt by the dependent followers of the Lamb, it cannot be neglected without grievous loss of much of the believers comfort; its neglect furnishes a sad doubt of the love of God having been shed abroad in the heart.

The narrow confines of a circular, preclude the enumeration of the general range of christian duties—We do not, dear brethren, consider it more necessary for you than ourselves—Let us diligently read the scriptures—Let us seek from Him whose instructions cannot err—Let us be sober, be vigilant, keep our garments clean—Let us give ourselves to each other in brotherly love, and by an upright life and Godly conversation testify to the world, that there is a reality in religion and sincerity in our professions. To this we are urged by the enlightening spirit of God, drawn by the captivating powers of redeeming love. The agonies of a bleeding saviour should move us to walk in the path that Christ has pointed out for us—his infinite compassion invites us to do the things that are well pleasing in his sight.

May the teachings of divine grace regulate our lives—
May the nations of the earth become fit subjects of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.