

MINUTES

OF THE

North District Association of

BAPTISTS,

Held at Bethel Meeting House, in Montgomery County, State of Kentucky, first, second, and third day's of October, 1803.

Saturday, October 1.

BROTHER Robert Elkin, preached the introductory sermon from Gal. iii. chap. 29, v. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." After sermon, letters from the churches were read, and Brother ROBERT ELKIN, was chosen Moderator, Brother MOSES BLEDSOE, Clerk, and Brother James French, Assistant Clerk.

Ministers' names in CAPITALS, Licensed Preachers in *Italics*.

Churches.

Messengers.

Churches.	Messengers.	Dead.	Rec. by Lett.	Rec. by bap.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Present No.
Spencer Creek,	JOSEPH RICE, James Rice, Benjamin Cave, Dawson Wade,		1		3		70
Lulburgud,	James French, Jilson Payne, William Orcat,		5		4	1	51
Boon's Creek,	William Finley, David Watts,	1	1		2	5	36
Salt Lick,	DAVID SCOTT, Anthony Cummins, William Carr,		19	2	6	4	86
Providence,	ROBERT ELKIN, JAMES HAGGARD, Thomas Berry,	3	2	2	25	7	173
Unity,	JAMES QUESENBERRY, John Haggard, Daniel Rout, Josiah Fugate, Moses Shark,		4	15	8	1	158
Bald Eagle,			1	6	9	2	56
Locust Creek,	MAHALALREEL SHACKLE, Archibald Glen,		1	2	4	5	33
Bethel,	MOSES BLEDSOE, Thomas Mosely Thomas Jamison, Francis Taylor,		1	5	2	1	109
Log Meeting-house,	William Green, David Bruton, Thomas White,		2	2	16	4	53
Salem,	CHARLES FINNEL, Aaron King, William Blaluck, Joseph Pond,		1	4	7	6	124
Johnson's Fork,	WILLIAM MOSS, Daniel Moss, LEONARD TURLEY,				2	1	22
Red River,	Nicholas Burgar, Cornelius Newkirk,			5	3	1	53
Jessamine,	John Chiles,				5	2	69
Greer's Creek,	ROBERT ASHURST, Daniel Johnson,			3			32
Howard's Upper Creek,	EDWARD KINDRED, James Elkin, William Haggard,		4	8	2	4	44
Red Lick,	Edward Kindred, Moses Maupin,			3			15
Hopewell,	ISAAC CRUCHER, John Brown, Thornton Farrow, Henry Brown,		1	1	5	5	130
Long Branch,	Jonathan Mufick, James Prather,		1	5	2	3	35
Slate Union,	Jacob Williams, Edward Parker, Thomas Maxey,		1		3	1	43
East Fork 4 mile,	David Brandenburg,			2	3	1	19
Mount Pleasant,	JOSEPH CRAIG, Daniel James, Alexander Macy,	3	5	1	1	3	183
Sycamore,	Ambrose Jones, Wm. Hopper, DANIEL WILLIAMS,						121
Cane Spring,	Jonathan Floyd, William Noland,						41

Total.

1048 68 115 69 1745

Cane Spring Church petitioned for admission, and was received. Brush Creek Church dismissed, having joined another association.

Letters of correspondence from the following associations were received, and their messengers invited to seats—From Elkhorn, by brethren DAVID BARROW, and WILLIAM MORRIS—From Tate's Creek, by brethren PETER WOOD, WILLIAM THARP, and Archibald Woods, from South District, by brother JOHN RICE. A letter from Green River, but no messenger.

A committee to arrange the business of the association, and make report on Monday, was appointed of brethren ROBERT ELKIN, MOSES BLEDSOE, Jilson Payne, DAVID BARROW, and James French.

The following brethren were appointed to write letters of correspondence to other associations, and report on Monday—William Orear to Elkhorn, ISAAC CRUTCHER, to Green River, Thomas Mosely to Tate's Creek, JAMES QUESSENBERRY to South District, and MOSES BLEDSOE to Bracken—The last not to be reported.

Brethren, JACOB KRETH, MOSES BLEDSOE, and JOHN RICE, appointed to preach on the ensuing day, being Sunday—Then adjourned until Monday morning, eight o'clock.

Monday, October 3.

The committee to arrange the business of the association, made report. The brethren appointed to write letters of correspondence to other associations, reported the same, which were read, amended, and approved. Brethren, ISAAC CRUTCHER, and Jilson Payne, appointed messengers to Elkhorn—*Daniel Johnson*, and Edward Tribue to Green River—ROBERT ELKIN, and JAMES QUESSENBERRY to Tate's Creek—ROBERT ELKIN and JOSEPH RICE, to South District; and MAHALALEEL SHACKLE to Bracken.

Brethren, JOHN PRICE, PETER WOODS, Archibald Woods, ROBERT ELKIN, Henry Payne, and WILLIAM THARP, appointed a committee to examine into the difficulty in the church at Sycamore, and report to next association.

Agreeable to the request of Hopewell church, brother ISAAC CRUTCHER, with such ministerial aid as he shall call, is appointed to examine into the qualifications of brother *Thornton Farrow* for the ministry, and if they judge it expedient, ordain him.

The association recommends it to the ministers to visit Log-Meeting House, Boone's Creek, Red River, and Longbranch churches, agreeable to their request.

Brethren, MOSES BLEDSOE, and Jilson Payne, appointed to prepare a circular letter, for the examination of next association.

A yearly meeting appointed at Hopewell, the fourth Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, in June next; and brethren, MOSES BLEDSOE, JOHN PRICE, JAMES QUESSENBERRY, DAVID BARROW, and JACOB KRETH, to attend the same.—Also, a yearly meeting appointed at Johnson's Fork, on the second Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, in April next; and brethren MOSES BLEDSOE, JOSEPH RICE, EDWARD KINDRED, and RICHARD THOMAS, to attend the same.

Circular letter read and approved, and ordered to be printed with the minutes.

Next association appointed at Providence on Howard's creek, and to commence on the first Saturday in October 1804—Brother ISAAC CRUTCHER, to preach the introductory sermon, and in case of failure, brother MOSES BLEDSOE, to supply his place.

Query From Slate Union.—How many members ought a church to send to the association? *Answer*—any number they think proper, not exceeding four.

Brethren MOSES BLEDSOE, and James French, appointed to superintend printing the minutes and circular letter of the association.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,

FOR two associations past, you have not been addressed with a circular letter, a matter which we deem at all times necessary, or perhaps important to the sister churches composing our association; but more especially at a time, when Christian Fellowship is meeting with so many conflicts and discords; which must be known and felt by the most of us.

Dear brethren, since the enemy seems to be so industriously engaged in sowing discord among the churches, we know of no subject more suitable to address you on, than that of Christian Fellowship. For although many among mankind, have entered into societies of different names (yet all say) with a design to serve the same God, and not being able to see eye to eye, affords matter of lamentation, but should never awaken a spirit of persecution, even between sects of different denominations. How fatal then to the cause of God and Christian Fellowship, must the wound be, when those of the same society lift up the heel against each other, and bite and devour more like wolves than sheep, and endeavor to consume one another. Remember our Lord's words—A house divided against itself cannot stand. O look back to the time when you first put on the Lord Jesus. What zeal; what love, what fellowship and forbearance with each other; and behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity—Then like a city set on a hill, whose light was not hid, you were terrible as an army with banners; and thus going on hand in hand, even the enemies of God and Zion, were constrained to say, behold how those people called Christians love.—Again, we wish you to compare your own feelings, when in a state of discord, with those you enjoy while in sweet fellowship, and see how much your own happiness is interested. As much therefore as in you lieth, live peaceably with all men; consider what a stumbling block discord must be, in the way of poor blind sinners; how much in the way of your neighbors; how much in the way of your own families; being convinced of the truth of religion—how much young professors, the tender lambs of Christ are wounded thereby, and even the gracious Redeemer himself in the house of his friends.

For remedy against the foregoing evils, be diligent in all Christian duties, particular, that of prayer, which though very feeble in appearance, and as coming from sinful worms, yet when answered by the Lord God of Sabaoth, proves irresistible in destroying enemies more terrible than him who of old, defied the armies of the living God. Labor as much as possible, to cultivate friendship with all societies of people professing Christ; being convinced, that they cannot believe what they please; and that love mixed with truth, is more likely to conciliate the mind, than a contrary conduct. All men entering into society, must give up something for the good of the whole. We have reason to thank God for as much peace and harmony as we see in the present association, and conclude by praying, that the peace of God which passeth all knowledge, may be multiplied throughout all the churches.—Amen.

MOSES BLEDSOE, *Clerk.*ROBERT ELKIN,
*Moderator.*JAMES FRENCH, *Assistant Clk.*

Printed by *Daniel Bradford.*

1st. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the infallible word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.

2d. That there is one only true God, and in the God head or Divine essence, there are Father Son and Holy Ghost.

3d. That by nature we are fallen and depraved creatures.

4th. That salvation, regeneration, sanctification and justification. are by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

5th. That the Saints will finally persevere through grace to glory,

6th. That believers' baptism, by immersion, is necessary, to the receiving of the Lords Supper.

7th. That the salvation of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, will be eternal.

8th. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to each other, and study the happiness of the children of God in general, and to be engaged singly to promote the honor of God.

9th. And the preaching Christ tasted death for every man, shall be no bar to communion.

10th. And that each may keep up their association Church government as to them may seem best.

11th. That a free correspondence and communion be kept up between the Churches thus united

12th. And that a convention of the Churches be called, at Howards Creek Meeting house the second saturday in October next—that the Churches send two members to said convention to carry said union fully into effect.

August 22d. 1801.

Unanimously assigned to by the joint committee.

AMBROSE DUDLEY,
JOHN PRICE,
ROBERT ELKIN,
DANIEL RAMEY,
THOS. I. CHILTON,
JOSEPH REDDIN,
DAVID BARROW,
MOSES BLEDSOE,
SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Beloved Brethren and Sisters—The vast importance of the subject of this address to the peace and harmony of the Churches and members is our apology for its unusual length. And may it please the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, to grant to the Churches, and members of North District, long to experience the felicity, which the Psalmist so feelingly describes, when he says, Behold, how good, and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.—Amen.