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# MINUTES

— OF —

## THE ANNUAL MEETING

— OF —

# **SOUTH DISTRICT ASSOCIATION,**

Held with the Church at Friendship, Mercer Co., Ky.,

21st and 22d days of August, 1866.

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ADVOCATE JOB OFFICE PRINT:  
DANVILLE, KY.



An Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder T. J. Stevenson from 3d chapter of John and 3d verse—after which letters from the Churches were read, and Messenger's names enrolled as follows:

CHURCHES.	MESSENGER'S NAMES.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Colored.	Total.
Bethlehem.	J. H. Froman, J. S. Stalings, - - - - -	12	3	1	8	1	3	20
Beech Grove.	G. P. Campbell, H. Lawson, A. J. Cacanongher, W. H. Whitehead, - - - - -	9				1	2	95
Deep Creek.	E. Lester, M. Cummings, L. Rice, - - - - -	36		1	2	3	3	206
Doctor's Fork.	T. J. Montgomery, J. M. Gray, - - - - -	8					2	37
Danville.	Elders H. McDonald and D. H. Selph, J. Stodghill, R. W. Graham, Allen Cook, F. S. Fisher, - - - - -	13	9	1	18	2	1	118
Forks of Dix River.	Elder B. Kemper, A. Allen, (Licentiate), M. Kemper, G. E. Hackly, W. D. Marksberry, B. Sutton, J. T. H. Kemper, - - - - -	21	5		12		6	30
Friendship.	Elder S. Cook, J. H. Proctor, G. Cook, W. J. Sally, J. D. Proctor, J. Stone, - - - - -	3	1		4	7	2	70
Gilbert's Creek.	H. Hiatt, H. Deatherage, H. Miller, - - - - -							42
Harrodsburg.	Elder H. H. Tilford, H. J. Lyon, - - - - - Wm. Hutchison, A. J. Stagg, (colored), - - - - -	1	3		1	9	1	75
Lancaster.	Elder J. L. Tichenor, J. Burnside, J. Doers, - - - - -	6		5	2		3	32
Lebanon.	J. R. Howard, F. M. Chandler, - - - - -	2	5					39
New Providence.	Elder J. E. Carter, Thos. Cecil, R. Hicks, J. Pope, - - - - -	4		3				38
Perryville.	S. Figg, M. Scott, J. West, - - - - -	1	4	1	1	1	3	25
Pleasant Run.	T. W. Hall, - - - - -	10	1	1	1	2	6	80
Shawnee Run.	J. Curd, John Curd, J. Balard, T. M. Curd, S. L. Bradshaw, - - - - -	28	1	3	2	3	2	83
Sugar Grove.	E. G. Shirley, J. H. Adams, W. Vanfleet, - - - - -	6	4					154
Sugar Creek.	Walton Eason, - - - - -						2	27
Salt River.	H. Vermillion, J. Wigham, T. Severe, - - - - -	2			2	1	2	44
Hillsborough.	J. W. Hanly, - - - - -	21						64

Adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

Met according to adjournment.

Elder B. Kemper was elected Moderator, and R. W. Graham Clerk.

Prayer by Elder J. E. Carter.

Letters from corresponding associations called for and their Messengers invited to seats.

*Baptist*—Letter and Messenger, Jas. Smith; *Nelson*—No Letter or Messenger; *South Kentucky*—Letter and Messenger, T. H. Coleman; *Elkhorn*—No Letter or Messenger; *Tates' Creek*—Letter and Messengers, G. R. Waters, W. B. Arvin, J. Waters, Elder T. J. Stevenson, and Elder J. S. Higgins; *Middle District*—Letter and Messenger, Bro. Jesse Robison; *Boones' Creek*—No Letter or Messenger.

Correspondence renewed with the Cumberland River Association, and Messenger, (Elder Reynolds), invited to a seat.

Brother Coleman appointed to occupy the stand.

On motion, the Association elected three brethren to preach to-mor-

row, and three next day, which resulted in the election of brothers H. McDonald, King, and D. H. Selph to occupy the stand to-morrow, and brothers J. E. Carter, J. S. Higgins, and T. J. Stevenson next day.

☞Circular Letter called for, none being prepared, brother H. Tilford, who was charged with the duty of writing it, was requested to prepare one by to-morrow morning.

*Resolved*, That the Moderator now appoint Committees to report to this body on the following subjects, viz: Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Sabbath Schools, and Education; whereupon brethren J. E. Carter, A. Cook, and Howard were appointed upon Home Missions, and S. Cook, Tichenor, and Graham on Foreign Missions; on Sabbath Schools, Tilford, B. Kemper, and A. Cook; on Education, McDonald, J. T. H. Kemper, and Selph.

*Resolved*, That Committees be appointed to report on these subjects next year.

Committee of Arrangement, the Moderator and Clerk, and brethren Tichenor and Selph.

Brethren Luther Rice and George Cook appointed to write Corresponding Letters.

The next Association to be held with the Church at Lebanon, Marion county, Tuesday after the 3d Saturday in August, 1867.

Elder H. McDonald appointed to preach the next introductory sermon; brother D. H. Selph his alternate.

Adjourned to meet at 8½ o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by brother H. McDonald.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, Aug. 22d.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by brother J. S. Higgins.

Report of Committee of Arrangements called for, read and adopted.

Brother J. L. Tichenor appointed to write the next Circular Letter.

Corresponding Letter called for, and Messenger's names enrolled as follows:

*Baptist Association*—Elder H. Tilford, H. J. Lyon, Elder T. G. Shirley, A. H. Parrish, J. H. Adams, Strauther Cook; *Nelson*—J. S. Stallings; *South Kentucky*—Elder H. McDonald, Elder J. L. Tichenor; *Elkhorn*—Joseph Curd. Sr., Elder D. H. Selph, Elder H. McDonald, Elder J. L. Tichenor; *Tates' Creek*—R. W. Graham, Elder B. Kemper, Josiah Burnsides, B. Sutton, J. L. Tichenor; *Boones' Creek*—A. Cook; *Middle District*—J. W. Hanley, Luther Rice, M. Cummings; *Long Run*—W. H. Whitehead, James Matherly, and E. Lester; *Russell's Creek*—Elder H. McDonald, F. H. Chandler, D. R. Howard, Elder D. H. Selph; *Cumberland River*—Elder S. Cook, Elder D. H. Selph, Elder B. Kemper.

Report on Foreign Missions called for and read by the Chairman, (J. L. Tichenor). An amendment from brother H. McDonald was accepted that all the Churches proceed immediately to take up collections for Foreign Missions. It was then adopted.

Circular Letter called for, read and adopted. See A.

Report on Home Missions called for and read by the Chairman, (J. E. Carter), and adopted.

Report on Sabbath Schools called for and read by the Chairman, (H. Tilford), and adopted.

Brethren H. McDonald, F. S. Fisher, and R. W. Graham appointed an Executive Board of S. D. A., to be located at Danville.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the Chair.

Prayer by brother Selph.

Met pursuant to adjournment, at 2, P. M.

Prayer by brother Hanley.

Brethren J. E. Carter, F. S. Fisher, and R. W. Graham appointed a Committee on Home Missions, to report at our next Association.

Brethren Rev. H. McDonald, Rev. S. Cook, and T. H. Kemper appointed a Committee on Foreign Missions, to report at our next Association.

Brethren Rev. J. L. Tichenor, Rev. B. Kemper, and Josiah Burnsides appointed a Committee on Sabbath Schools, to report at our next Association.

Brethren Rev. D. H. Selph, Rev. H. H. Tilford, and Allen Cook appointed a Committee on Education, to report at our next Association.

Report on Education called for and read by the Chairman, (Rev. H. McDonald), and adopted.

*Resolved*, That no delegate shall leave the Association without permission of the Moderator—under the penalty of his name being erased from the Minutes.

Adjourned to meet with the Church at Lebanon, Marion county, Ky., Tuesday after the 3d Saturday in August, 1867.

Prayer by brother McDonald.

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## RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Board of the General Association are desirous of appointing a Missionary in the bounds of each District Association, and, whereas, we need an efficient minister to labor in this; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend to their favorable consideration, the Rev. Joseph E. Carter and Rev. J. L. Tichenor, as suitable men for that useful field of Christian labor, and pledge to do what we can to raise the necessary funds to sustain them a part or the whole of their time.

*Resolved*, 2d, That we request the Churches in preparing for the As-

sociation their letters, the amount contributed for Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Sabbath Schools, Church Expenses and General Benevolence.

*Resolved, 3d,* That the Churches are hereby requested to take up collections for the employment of a Missionary or Missionaries in the bounds of the South District Association, and forward immediately to R. W. Graham, Danville, Ky., Treasurer of the Executive Board of the Association.

*Resolved, 4th,* That the Churches, through their pastors, report to J. L. Tichenor, Lancaster, Ky., all the facts connected with their several Sabbath Schools so as to be incorporated in his report to the Association next year.

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### CIRCULAR LETTER. (A.)

#### SYSTEMATIC BENEVOLENCE.

God is love, and love is active. It is as natural for it to act beneficently as it is for water to flow, or a star to glow, and it is ungrudging and untiring in its actions, delighting to labor for the object beloved; and can love to God and man possess the heart, and no fruit of it appear in the life? Religion is eminently practical in its nature; it is intended for every day's use; hence, says Christ, men do not light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candle-stick, and it giveth light to all in the room. Let your light shine before men, that they seeing your good works may be constrained to glorify your Father in heaven. The great object of religion is to make man pure in heart, and as a consequence, pure and benevolent in action. There is but little disinterested benevolence in the world, and he who has lived in it only for a short time, has learned from experience that the principle which governs most men is that of selfishness. This is productive of much mischief; it effectually shuts up the heart, and dries up all the sensibilities of the soul. It causes men to lose sight of every thing but self, and what tends to the promotion of self. It is the office of religion to counteract this unholy principle; to melt down the heart with love; to open the fountains of the soul, and cause streams of benevolence to spring forth. Love to God and man is the sum and substance of religion, the centre around which revolves the whole system of christianity, the centre in which is erected the cross of Christ. It was necessary in a world so completely selfish as ours, that the cross of the Great Redeemer offering himself for the sins of the world should be planted in the centre of the plan of salvation, the first object to greet the eye of the young convert, the last to cheer the dying saint, the joy of his earthly pilgrimage, his hope in death, and the theme of his anticipated song in heaven; that the great lesson of self-denying love might be impressed indelibly upon the heart. It appears from the testimony and experience of us all, that the power to give when cultivated is one of the greatest blessings that God has bestowed upon us, and is pro-

ductive of happiness the most pure and satisfactory. God is perfectly happy, he is happiness itself, but His happiness does not consist of accumulating, but in communicating, and he whose object is to get good and communicate it to others, is the happy man. He who is in the habit of imparting to the wants of others, enjoys happiness of which the selfish are not only ignorant but are incapable of enjoying. Says the benevolent Son of God, "Whosoever giveth a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple unto one of these little ones who believe in me, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward." Now that reward, whatever it may be, is certainly worth having: It was the happiness of the Saviour to do the will of his Father, "Not mine but thy will be done." To labor for one's own happiness is selfishness, and is productive of misery; but to labor for the good of others is benevolence, and is productive of happiness the most satisfactory. This is laying up treasure in heaven, "where moth doth not corrupt nor thieves break through and steal." The whole life of Christ was exactly adapted to prove to us that the society of heaven will be composed of those who, coming out of self, have labored for the good of others. Let us all take Him as our example, and may our great object be to get good, and communicate it unto others. Let us all earnestly beseech a throne of grace for an enlarged benevolence.

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#### CORRESPONDING LETTER. (B.)

The South District Association, now in session with Friendship Church, Mercer County, Kentucky, to the Associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth Christian salutation:

We hail with pleasure the return of our anniversary when we are permitted, in the providence of God, to meet your delegates. Our Churches this year are generally represented. The letters indicate peace and harmony, for which we feel profoundly thankful to our Heavenly Father. Some complain of coldness and barrenness in religion, while others have enjoyed times of refreshing from the Lord.

We regret that so few of your delegates are with us. May we not hope in the future to meet you more generally, and thus cultivate that friendship which twines around the heart on earth and unites to one in Heaven. We are doing but little in the work of missions—are trying to establish Sabbath Schools in all our Churches. We are endeavoring to establish a school for the education of the daughters of our ministers, orphans, and other young ladies not able to educate themselves for teachers, and thus prepare them for greater usefulness. We solicit your co-operation in this noble work.

Our next Association meets with the Church in Lebanon, Marion county, Kentucky, on Tuesday after the 3d Saturday in August, 1867—at which time we hope to meet your delegates. We appoint, (see Minutes,) to bear this to your body.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, amen.