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Thomas J. L. Boyd

OF A

CONVENTION OF DELEGATES

FROM

UNITED BAPTIST CHURCHES,

HELD IN

GLASGOW, KENTUCKY,

ON THE

12TH AND 13TH OF JUNE, 1840,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING

AN ASSOCIATION.

A. R. MACEY, GAZETTE OFFICE,
BOWLING-GREEN, KY.

.....
1840.

The Convention met, and after sermon, proceeded to organize by appointing Jacob Lock Moderator, and Richard Garnett, Clerk.

On motion, agreed to call for letters and messengers from all the Churches named in the minutes of the Green River Association, for 1839—whereupon it was found that the following Churches had appointed delegates, to wit:

Mt. Tabor, Jacob Lock, James Lock and Andrew Chapman.

Bowling-Green, J. M. Pendleton, U. L. Sutherland and A. D. Webb.

New Hope, Letter, but no messenger.

Three Springs, E. W. Lewis.

Salem, R. W. Garnett and B. Hatcher.

Mt. Olive, Jonathan Baker and Saml Sheets.

Glasgow, W. B. Wiggin, Wm. R. McFerran and R. Garnett.

Liberty Hill, R. W. Thomas, Peyton Cook and J. W. Anderson. Visiting brethren being invited to take seats with us, Brother Graham, of Russell's Creek Association, accepted the invitation.

The following preamble and resolutions were then adopted:

Whereas,—we have for several years past witnessed in the Green River Association, a departure from the former usages of that body, and a culpable opposition to the missionary enterprize—an enterprize not only authorized, but made obligatory by the Saviour's last command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

And whereas,—said Association, by arrainging at its last session, Bowling-Green, Glasgow and Mt. Olive churches, for representing themselves in a missionary body, (the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky,) invaded the sacred precincts of church sovereignty, and interferred with liberty of conscience in religious matters; therefore,

Resolved, That we decidedly disapprove and sincerely regret the course pursued by the Green River Association.

Resolved also, That we, in the name of the churches we represent, withdraw from said Association, that we may worship God and labor for the extension of the kingdom of Christ, according to the dictates of our consciences.

Resolved further, That it is expedient now to organize a new Association, on principles securing the invaluable privilege of serving God agreeably to the requisitions of his word.

On motion, appointed a committee consisting of Brethren Chapmam, Pendleton, Lewis, Cook, Anderson, with the moderator and clerk, to prepare a constitution, articles of faith, and rules of decorum for the association referred to in the last resolution.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning half past 9 o'clock.

June 13th, 1840.

Met according to adjournment. Praise and prayer by the moderator. The committee appointed on yesterday reported the following con-

stitution, articles of faith, and rules of decorum, which were unanimously adopted,

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This body shall be called the Liberty Association of United Baptists.

Art. 2. It shall be composed of delegates from the churches belonging to the body.

Art. 3. Every church shall be entitled to three delegates, who shall furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment.

Art. 4. Every church in its annual letter shall give an account of the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, and dead since the last session of the body, with its total.

Art. 5. This association shall have no ecclesiastical authority over the churches, but shall have the right to drop from her connection (after gospel measures have been taken) any church that may be heretical in doctrine or immoral in practice.

Art. 6. The officers of this body shall be a moderator and clerk, who shall be elected annually by ballot, and shall hold their offices until their successors are appointed.

Art. 7. A majority of this body shall govern in all cases with the following exceptions: unanimity shall be required in the reception of churches—a vote of two-thirds shall be required in the exclusion of churches, and in altering the constitution, articles of faith or rules of decorum.

Art. 8. Every church and individual member shall be at liberty to give to, or withhold from the

benevolent institutions of the day; and giving or withholding, or joining any of those institutions, shall be no bar to fellowship.

Art. 9. This body shall hold an annual meeting, the time and place to be appointed at the previous session.

Art. 10. This constitution (the first clause of the 5th article excepted) may be altered at any regular meeting, two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

We believe that the Holy Bible is the word of God; that it was written by men divinely inspired; that it is the only sufficient and perfect rule of faith and practice; and that among others, it teaches the following important truths:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. That there is only one living and true God, infinite in every perfection, and that he has revealed himself as the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit.

2. That man was created holy, but by wilfully violating the law of his maker, he fell from that state: that by nature ~~then~~ there is in us no holiness: we are all inclined to evil; and as all have sinned, all are children of wrath, justly exposed to death, temporal, spiritual, and eternal.

3. That the only deliverance from this state of guilt and condemnation is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who assumed our nature, (sin excepted,) and "whom God hath set forth to be a propitiator through faith in his blood, having so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that

whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

4. That **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper** are ordinances of **Jesus Christ**—that **Christian Baptism** is immersion in water, in the name of the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**—and that none have a right to the **Lord's Supper** until they are baptised.

5. That according to the examples of the **Apostles** and earliest **Christians**, sanctioned by the repeated presence of **Christ** himself, after his resurrection, the first day of the week is to be observed as the **Lord's Day**, or **Christian Sabbath**.

6. That **Jesus Christ** has established the ministry of the word—that it is the duty of ministers, so far as they have opportunity, to preach the gospel to every creature, and that they should be sustained in their labors by the churches—“for the laborer is worthy of his hire.”

7. That there will be a general resurrection and a final judgment, and that the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. All meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator.

3. All persons speaking shall strictly adhere to the subject, and shall not reflect on those who may have spoken before.

4. No person shall speak more than three times

on any subject without leave from the association.

5. The moderator shall have the same liberty of speech as another member, provided, the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the association be equally divided.

6. Every motion made and seconded, shall be acted on by the association, except it be withdrawn by the person who made it.

7. The moderator shall decide all points of order, but an appeal may be taken from his decision to the body.

8. These rules may be altered at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

On motion of Brother McFarran the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to the churches comprising this body, to hold an Association at Mt. Tabor, on Friday before the first Saturday in August, 1840, and that we invite our sister churches, that agree with us in doctrine and practice, to meet the association by letter and messengers at that time and place.

Resolved, That 400 copies of the proceedings of this Convention, with the Constitution, articles of faith, and rules of decorum be printed, and a copy thereof be sent to each church in the Green River Association, and to each association in correspondence with the same—also, to Bethel and Gasper River Association, and that the editors of the Baptist Banner be requested to publish them in their paper.

On motion, Brother Sutherland was appointed to superintend the printing and distribution of these minutes. \$15 contributed to defray the expense.

Appointed Br. Pendleton to prepare an address to the churches to be published with these minutes.

Appointed Br. Wiggin to write a circular letter for the association to be held at Mt. Tabor.

Appointed Br. Pendleton to preach the introductory sermon, and Br. Jas. Lock his alternate.

Appointed Brs. Pendleton and Wiggin to preach to-morrow.

Resolved, unanimously, That the thanks of this body be presented to our Methodist brethren for the use of their house of worship on this occasion. The Convention then adjourned.

JACOB LOCK, *Moderator,*
RICHARD GARNETT, *Clerk.*

To the Churches represented in the Convention:

DEAR BRETHREN—From the foregoing Minutes you will learn what your delegates have done. Our proceedings will, we doubt not, meet with your cordial approbation. We know you highly appreciate liberty of conscience in the service of God. This privilege the Green River Association is unwilling to accord to its members; hence we have left it; and hence we present for your examination a Constitution for a new Association—a Constitution which secures religious liberty. Hoping to receive favorable intelligence from you at Tabor. We bid you an affectionate farewell in the name of the Lord.