

MINUTES

OF THE

STAUNTON RIVER DISTRICT

Baptist Association,

WITH THE

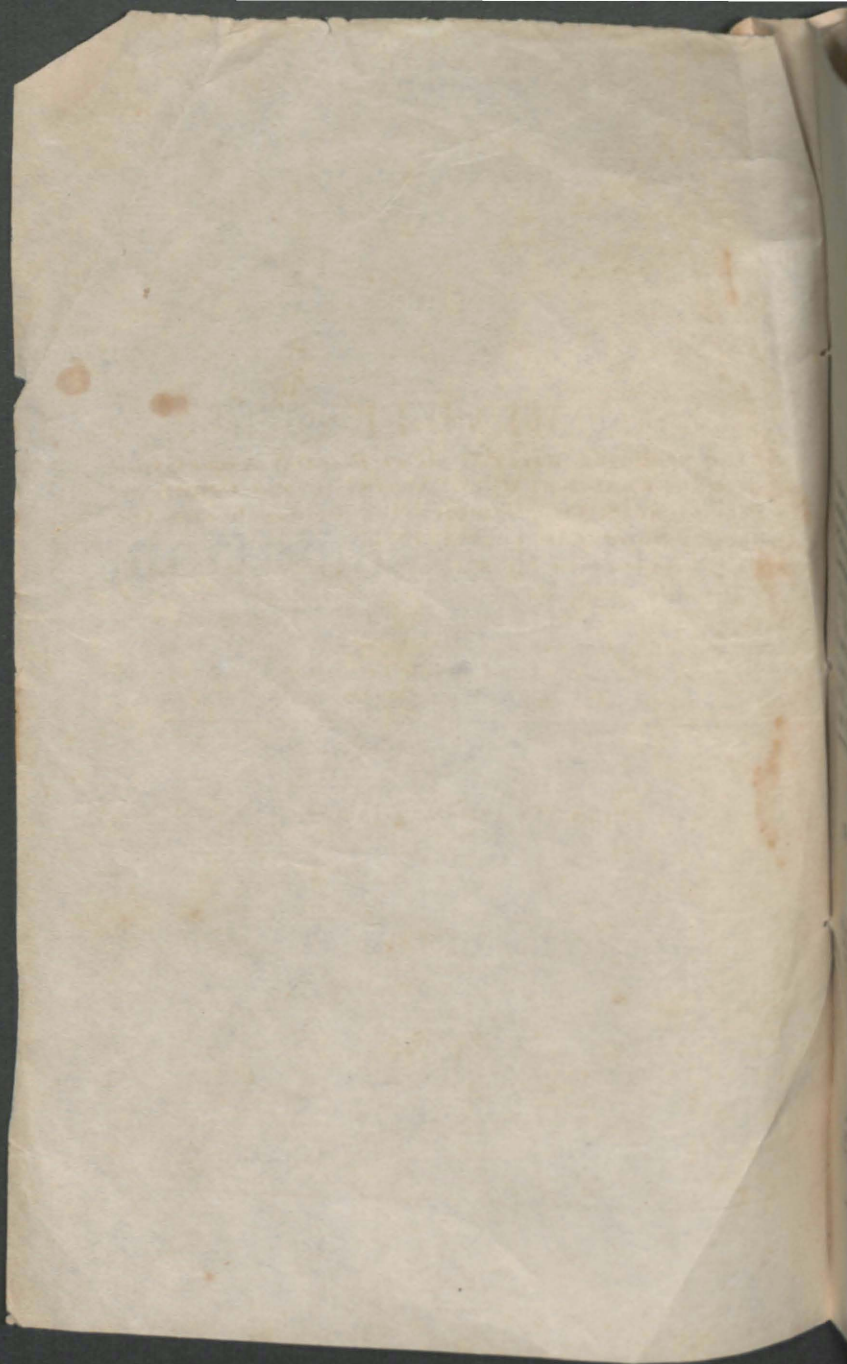
Church at Mount Ararat,

COMMENCING ON FRIDAY, THE 11TH OF AUGUST, 1876.

DANVILLE, VA.

DANVILLE "REGISTER" PRINT.

1876.



MINUTES

Of the Staunton River District Baptist Association with the Church at Mount Ararat in the County of Pittsylvania, Va., Commencing Friday before the Second Sunday in August, 1876.

THE INTRODUCTORY SERMON was preached by Elder J. R. RESSESS, from the 14th verse of the 2nd chapter of Hosea, "Therefore will I allure her, &c." Then the Association met and after singing, and prayer by Elder Robert W. Hill, proceeded to read and minute the letters from the several Churches, as shown by the following table :

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.	Received by Experience.	Dismissed by Letter.	Re. by Re-annation.	Excommunicated.	Deceased.	Total
WHITETHORN.—Wm. A. Thomas,* D. Owen, Jno. Hodnett.	1		1		2	18
MILL.—Eli J. Lewis, C. R. Lewis,* J. C. Chaney.	3		1	3	4	36
MT. ARARAT.—T. N. Walton, Wm. Soyars, G. W. Hundley.	5	1			2	33
UP. BANISTER.—A. Jackson, C. B. Williams, C. P. Williams.	2	1	1		4	27
STRAWBERRY.—Wm. S. McDowell, J. B. Okes, Hezekiah Boaze, S. Myers.	6	1				29
UNION.—William F. Jefferson, Cornelius George.						21
STAUNTON RIVER.—No letter or Messenger.						8
STONEWALL.—Joseph H. Stone.						9
SPRINGFIELD.—No letter or Messenger.						12
SENECA.—Littleberry Hughes, Edward Estis.*			1		2	20
CANE CREEK.—W. A. Dawson, J. A. Ferguson, E. C. Dodson.						43
STONE ROAD.—No Letter or Messenger.						12
BURTON'S CREEK.—No letter or Messenger.						47
SYCAMORE.—No letter or Messenger.						61
[Absentees marked thus.*]	17	2	2	3	3	14
Totals,						376

2nd. Correspondents and visiting brethren from sister Associations were invited, and Elders P. D. Gould, and C. C. Bland from the Contentna; and Elders James S. Dameron, J. A. Burch, D. R. Moore and brethren C. Terry, David Williams, J. M. Harris, from the Countryline; and Elders R. W. Hill, J. N. Bell and brethren F. J. Stone, George Griggs, Wm. Cox, A. J. Miles, from the Mayo; and Elder John R. Martin and brethren George Davidson, J. T. Fuller and Wm. Minter, from Pigg River reported and took seats with us. Also Elder J. R. Respass from Kehukee.

Appointed Elders Moore, Bland and Martin to preach Saturday, and Elders Gould, Respass and Hill on Sunday.

Appointed brother John B. Okes and Elders Gould and Respass with the Moderator and Clerk, to arrange the business for the Association to-morrow.

Preaching to commence each day at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 o'clock and the Association to meet the same time to-morrow.

SATURDAY, August 12th, 1876.

Met agreeably to appointment and after singing, and prayer by Elder J. A. Burch, proceeded to call the roll and cross absentees, and took up the business in the following order:

1st. Called for the Circular Letter, and Elder Ellison C. Dodson, who was appointed to prepare it, read it to the Association. It was received and ordered to be attached to these minutes.

2nd. Called on brethren that were appointed to sister Associations, they reported and were discharged.

3rd. Appointed brother Charles P. Williams to write our next Circular Letter.

4th. Appointed Correspondents to sister Associations:

To Pigg River—John Hodnett, Ellison C. Dodson.

To Countryline—Wm. S. McDowell, C. B. Williams, C. P. Williams, John L. Williams and Wm. A. Dawson

To Smith River—Ellison C. Dodson and T. W. Walton.

To Mayo—Wm. S. McDowell, J. A. Ferguson, C. B. Williams.

To Little River and New River—We correspond by Minutes.

5th. Agreed to have a Section or Union meeting at the church with Seneca, Friday before the 5th Sunday in Octo-

ber next and continue three days, to be attended by Elders McDowell and Dodson, with a request that as many ministering brethren from other Associations will join us as can.

6th. The Finance Committee reported \$20.60. The Clerk is ordered to have 300 copies of these Minutes printed and distributed to the Churches and to the Associations we correspond with, with the Circular Letter attached.

7th. Our next Association is to be with the Church at Upper Banister in Pittsylvania county, Va., four miles south of Chatham, to commence Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1877. Elder Ellison C. Dodson to preach the Introductory sermon and Elder Wm. S. McDowell his alternate. The stand was occupied while the Association was going on by Elders Moore, Bland and Martin on Saturday.

SUNDAY, August 14th.

The service was commenced by Elder R. W. Hill, from 6th chapter, 12th—16th verse of 1st Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith," &c. He was followed by Elder J. R. Respass from the book of Ruth, "Now it came to pass," &c., and the service was closed by Elder P. D. Gould, from 14th verse of the 6th chapter of Judges, "And the Lord looked upon him," &c.

WM. S. McDOWELL, Mod'r.

Thomas W. Walton, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN—I was appointed to write a letter for our next Association, commencing at Mt. Ararat Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1876. Brethren, the Scriptures say: "If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land, but if ye refuse and rebel ye shall be devoured with the sword, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Brethren, I think when we join Christ's Church the first and the most important of our duty is to try to follow Jesus through evil as well as good report. I can speak from experience, that I have been trying to learn to endure hardships as a good soldier for Jesus Christ, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift. When we look back at the

ancient saints that endured so much, to Jesus and the Apostles that as persecuted, hated and cast out as evil: how that for those tried servants and faithful, bonds and afflictions awaited them in every city. Ah! I would see Jesus as never faltering, never looking back, never smiling or enjoying this world, but enduring unto the end in death as smitten with reproach. Ah! these tried servants of the Lord, did they not learn to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. Again we learn that it is God that worketh in us both to will and do of his own good pleasure. Again we learn that they that feared the Lord spake often to one another.— This we should bear in mind, not to neglect assembling ourselves together and talking about the goodness and mercy of God. We should not forget that we are commanded in the Scriptures not to muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn, for the workman is worthy of his meat and the laborer is worthy of his hire. But whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? Brethren, I do not believe in hiring men to preach, because I read that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. I can't believe that a true servant of the Lord is for hire. Is it not our duty to look to their needs? I will answer yes, yes. I am bound to believe from my own short experience in the Ministry that some of our Brethren that have gone before were neglected, and had to stay away from the house of worship. Ah! Brethren, these things ought not to be so. You must remember that a Minister must go through the Winter's cold as well the Summer's heat. May God of mercies help you to think over these things carefully and prayerfully.— We read that the Lord God is a sun and shield, and he will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Ah! there is a heavy responsibility resting on the true servants of the Lord. They must learn to preach with their feet as well as the tongue. They must learn to let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify our Father which art in heaven. Remember that we are commanded to bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. James tells us that pure religion and undefiled before God, the Father, is this:

to visit the fatherless and the widows in their afflictions and to keep himself unspotted from the world. We should not forget to look after the poor, needy ones of the earth. Also, to make prayer and supplication for all men that we may live peaceably in all Godliness and honesty, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously and Godly in this present world. These things speak and exhort and rebuke, with all authority; let no man despise thee.

Brethren, we have been greatly blessed for the last two years in this part of the country, as the present Zion seems to be in a prosperous condition; nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his; and let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

For I am now ready to close this letter; let us try to fight the good fight of faith, looking unto Jesus. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord.

May heaven's blessings rest upon you.

Yours Truly,

ELLISON C. DODSON.

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