

MIN

AS.
OF THE

Days of teaching
Baptised
Rec'd by letter
Restored
Dismissed
Excluded
Deceased
Total number
When constitu- ted

COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD BY AGREEMENT,

AT THE

Grove Meeting-house, Fauquier county, Va.

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 8TH & 9TH,

1820.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Alexandria :

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.....
1820.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7th, 1820.

1. At 12 o'clock, brother Cone preached at the stand, the introductory sermon, from 1 Peter 1st chap. 16th ver.—“*Because it is written, be ye holy, for I am holy.*”

2. After preaching, the messengers of the churches which had obtained letters of dismission from the Ketchton and Baltimore associations, for the purpose of forming a new association, assembled in the meeting-house, and appointed brother Robert Latham, moderator, and brother John Fox, clerk.

3. The business of the association was opened by prayer, by the moderator, when the letters of dismission from the Ketchton and Baltimore associations, and the letters from the several churches constituting this association were read, and the messengers' names enrolled.

CHURCHES AND MESSENGERS.	MINISTERS.	Days of Preaching	Baptised	Rec'd by letter	Restored	Dismissed	Excluded	Deceased	Total number	When constitu- ted	
Chappa- wamsic	{ <i>Wm. Jacobs,</i> Benj. Cole, Jas. B. Starke.	JNO. L. DAGG. <i>Wm. Jacobs.</i>	1st	39					174	1767	
Little River	{ R. LATHAM, Jas. Hickson,	R. LATHAM.	1st						58	1769	
New-Brent- town.	{ *Jno. Edrington, John Fox, David Jameson.	C. GEORGE.	2d	15		1		1	97	1773	
Occoquan	{ Geo. Carney, Geo. Selectman.	*P. SPILLER.	3d	10		2	2	2	78	1778	
Hartwood	{ L. Patterson, Jas. Brummell.	C. GEORGE.	4th						46	1786	
Long Branch	{ J. C. Herndon, Geo. Love.	R. LATHAM.	4th						65	1787	
Backlick	{ JAS. REID, Jas. Burke, Sam'l Martin,	JAS. REID.	2d	16	4	2	8	5	9	225	1791
Fryingpan	{ JNO. L. DAGG, *Nath'l Barker, *John Dawson.	JNO. L. DAGG.	3d						53	1792	
Nanjemoy	{ J.P. Dunnington W. Dunnington.								61	1793	
1st Wash- ington	{ O. B. BROWN, Charles Bell.	O. B. BROWN.	ev'y	7	1	3	1		114	1802	
Alexandria	{ S. H. CONE, J. B. Blunt.	S. H. CONE, <i>*Ch. P. Pollard.</i>	ev'y						229	1803	
Bethlehem	{ Moses Cockrell, J.W. Wigginton.	R. LATHAM.	2d						55	1812	
Grove	{ T. STRING- FELLOW, <i>Wm. George.</i>	T. STRING- FELLOW, <i>Wm. George.</i>	2d	7	2	2	2		100	1812	
Rock Hill	{ Wm. Starke, Robt. Beatty, Thos. Pilcher.	T. STRING- FELLOW.	4th						35	1812	
Shiloh-Fre- dericksbg.	{ WM. JAMES, JNO. BRYCE, C. GEORGE, A. Walker, J. G. Hedgeman.	WM. JAMES.	ev'y	6					72	1818	
Mount- Pleasant	{ Wm. F. Coffer, Noah Martin.	JAS. REID.	4th	20	14				49	1819	
				120	21	2	16	10	12	1511	

N. B. Ministers' names are in CAPITALS, and Licentiates' in *italics*. Those marked with an * were not present. A — denotes no settled minister.

4. The constitution and rules of decorum, drafted by brethren Latham, Cone, and Dagg, were read and referred to a committee of the whole, to-morrow.

5. Brethren Cone, Brown, and Stringfellow, with the moderator and clerk, were appointed a committee to arrange the business of the association and report to-morrow morning.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Brown prayed.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8th, 1820.

Met according to adjournment. The moderator prayed.

6. The ministering brethren Conner, Mason, and Gordon, being present, were affectionately invited to a seat with us.

7. Brother Cone, from the committee of arrangement, made a report which was adopted.

8. The association, according to order, went into committee of the whole, on the *constitution and rules of decorum*; brother Bryce in the chair; and after some time spent therein, the committee rose, and reported the same, with amendments.

9. The constitution and rules of decorum, as reported, were *unanimously adopted*.

10. Brother Dagg was selected to write the circular letter.

11. Brother Cone was appointed to write the corresponding letter.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Brother Cone prayed.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9th, 1820.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Brother Bryce prayed.

12. The circular letter written by brother Dagg, was read and adopted.

13. The corresponding letter written by brother Cone, was read and approved.

14. *Resolved*, To open a correspondence with the following sister associations, viz:—Ketockton, Baltimore, Dover, Shiloh, Goshen, Albemarle, and Delaware; and the following messengers were appointed, respectively, to visit them:—

Ketockton; brethren Brown, Bryce, and Cone.
 Baltimore; brethren Latham and Stringfellow.
 Dover; brethren James and C. George.
 Goshen; brethren Stringfellow and Reid.
 Albemarle; brethren Bryce and James.
 Delaware; brother Cone.

15. *Resolved*, That we correspond, by letter and minutes, with the Philadelphia, Hudson, Warren and Charleston associations.

16. Brother Stringfellow was appointed to correspond with the general board of Foreign and Domestic Missions.

17. Brethren Cone, Reid, Stringfellow and Bryce, were appointed messengers to the *General Meeting of Correspondence of Virginia*; and were directed to procure the constitution of that meeting, and collect all the information they can relative to the nature of that body; and report the same to the next association; in order to determine whether it will be expedient to correspond with them or not.

18. The association will convene, next year, at Bethlehem meeting house, Prince William county, Virginia, on Friday preceding the 4th Lord's day in August, 1821, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

19. Brother Stringfellow was appointed to preach the introductory sermon next year; and in case of failure, brother Brown.

20. *Resolved*, That a general letter of correspondence be printed annually with our minutes; and that brethren be appointed at a previous meeting, to write the circular and corresponding letters for the ensuing year.

21. Brother Cone was appointed to write the circular letter for next year; and in case of failure, brother Brown.

22. Brother Bryce was chosen to write the corresponding letter for next year; and in case of failure, brother Stringfellow.

23. *Four visitation meetings were appointed.*

1st. At Nanjemoy, on the last Lord's day of October, 1820, and the Saturday preceding—brethren Brown and Bryce to attend it.

- 2d. At Occoquan, on the 3d Lord's day in April, 1821, and the Saturday preceding—brethren James and Cone to attend it.
- 3d. At New-Brent town, on the 3d Lord's day in June, 1821, and the Saturday preceding—brethren Brown and James to attend it.
- 4th. At Hartwood, on the 5th Lord's day in July, 1821, and the Saturday preceding—brethren James and Reid to attend it.
24. Brother John Fox was unanimously elected standing clerk, and brother S. H. Cone, treasurer of the association.
25. Eight hundred copies of the minutes were ordered, and brethren Cone and Fox directed to superintend their printing and distribution.
26. *Resolved*, That the minutes of the association be annually printed of an uniform size, and that the clerk preserve a copy of them for the use of the association.

27. Brethren Stringfellow and Fox were appointed to draft a petition to the next general assembly of Virginia, for the passage of a law, more effectually to prevent disturbance at or near places of religious worship; by retailers of spirituous and other intoxicating liquors, &c.—which petition is to be signed by the moderator and clerk.

28. Collected for an *association fund*; from Chappawamsic \$2; Little River \$2; New-Brent town \$2; Occoquan \$2; Hartwood \$2; Long Branch \$3; Backlick \$2; Fryingpan \$1 37½; Nanjemoy \$1; 1st Washington \$5; Alexandria \$5; Bethlehem \$2; Grove \$2; Rock Hill \$2; Shiloh \$5; Mount Pleasant \$2.—Amount \$40 37½; which was deposited in the hands of the treasurer.

Having finished our business, the session was closed by prayer by brother Stringfellow.

ROBERT LATHAM, *Moderator*.

JOHN FOX, *Clerk*.

PUBLIC WORSHIP...AT THE STAND.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8th, 1820.

Brother James preached from 1 Corinthians iii. 23.
 Brother Conner do. Romans x. 3, 4.
 Brother Gordon do. Matthew v. 8.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9th, 1820.

Brother Cone preached from Ephesians ii. 18.
 Brother Dagg do. Hebrews vii. 26.

LORD'S DAY, SEPT. 10th, 1820.

Brother Bryce preached from 1 Corinthians xiii. 13.
 Brother Brown do. 2 Samuel xxiii. 5.
 Brother Mason do. 1 Thessalonians i. 5.



CONSTITUTION

OF THE

COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The churches composing this association do agree to the following constitution,
 to wit:—

Art. 1. This association shall be known by the name of *The Columbia Baptist Association*.

Art. 2. As an association is a body unknown in the Scriptures, but is formed in the exercise of christian prudence, for the purpose of obtaining a more general acquaintance with the state of the churches...maintaining a friendly intercourse with each other...giving advice in cases of difficulty...supplying destitute churches...guarding against innovations, &c. this association shall exercise no authority over the several churches; but shall regard them as entirely independent—shall give full credit

to their acts—and shall never pass any censure or animadversion thereon.

Art. 3. The churches belonging to this association shall be such as hold the following doctrines, viz. :—*the unity of God ; the existence of three equal persons in the Godhead ; the just condemnation and total depravity of all mankind by the fall of our first parents ; eternal, personal, and unconditional election ; the proper divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ ; the necessity of his atonement, and its special relation to the sins of the elect only ; justification by the imputed righteousness of Christ alone ; effectual calling ; perseverance of the saints ; believers baptism by immersion only ; the Lord's Supper a privilege peculiar to baptised believers, regularly admitted to church fellowship ; the resurrection of the body, and general judgment ; the final happiness of the saints, and misery of the wicked, alike interminable ; the obligation of every intelligent creature to love God supremely, to believe what God says, and practise what God commands ; and the divine inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as the complete and infallible rule of faith and practice.*

Art. 4. Any church desirous of being received into this association, shall make application by letter, and give an explicit and satisfactory declaration of her faith and practice ; and any church departing from the articles of faith expressed in this constitution, shall be excluded from the privileges of the association.

Art. 5. The association shall receive no charge brought by one church against a sister church, unless the church bringing such charge, shall have pursued a course of conduct towards the other, similar to that commanded in 18th chapter of Matthew, with regard to individual members.

Art. 6. The association shall meet on Friday preceding the 4th Lord's day of August, in each year, at such place as shall have been designated by the association at the preceding meeting. Every church shall have the privilege of sending two messengers, who shall be entitled to vote in all cases ; but no proxies shall ever be received. It is expected that each church

will send a letter to the association, containing the names of the messengers appointed; her numbers baptised; received by letter; restored; dismissed by letter; excluded; deceased, and the total number belonging to her communion.

Art. 7. The officers of the association shall be a moderator, clerk, and treasurer; all of whom, shall be chosen by ballot; the first annually, and to continue in office until a new election; the others to remain in office during the pleasure of the association.

Art. 8. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside in the association during its session; to preserve order; propose questions, and announce the decisions of the association; but except on questions of order, he shall never speak himself upon subjects before the association, unless he shall call some other member to fill the chair for the time; and then he shall be governed by the same rules and restrictions as other members.

Art. 9. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a true minute of all the proceedings of the association, and prepare the same for publication, as the association shall direct.

Art. 10. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to take charge of all the moneys of the association, to pay the same, or any part thereof, at any and all times to the order of the association, which order shall always be furnished him in writing, signed by the clerk; to keep a regular account of all receipts, and disbursements, and present it for examination annually to the association.

Art. 11. Whenever any church shall desire counsel from the association, it is expected that she will state the case by way of query, in her letter; and the association may give the best advice in her power thereon, provided such advice shall not be considered in the least degree binding upon any church: Nevertheless, no query shall be acted upon by the association which has not first been deliberately considered by the church from which it comes, without her being able to obtain satisfaction thereon.

Art. 12. Alterations and amendments to this constitution, may be made by a proposition agreed to by a majority of the

members present at one meeting, and confirmed by two thirds of the members present at the next annual meeting, subsequent to that at which the proposition was made.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Art. 1. When the association convenes for business, it shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Art. 2. The constitution and rules of decorum, shall be read by the clerk at the opening of the association, and lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

Art. 3. The clerk shall call over the names of the members as often as the association may require.

Art. 4. Each speaker shall rise from his seat and address the moderator; he shall strictly adhere to the subject under immediate consideration, and shall not be allowed to speak more than three times to one subject, without permission from the association.

Art. 5. Every motion, made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the association, unless it be withdrawn by the mover.

Art. 6. Every query sent to the association shall be twice read; and if it be decided by a majority of votes to consider the same, it shall be discussed; if not, it shall be withdrawn.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at a time—and when two or more members rise to speak, at nearly the same moment, the moderator shall decide who is entitled to the preference.

Art. 8. When a member in speaking has occasion to mention the name of another member, he shall use the appellation of brother.

Art. 9. The moderator shall not interrupt any member in, or prohibit him from, speaking, unless he break these rules.

Art. 10. Any thing debated in this assembly, which may not be thought proper to appear on the minutes, may be expunged by a majority of two thirds of the members present.

Art. 11. Alterations, additions, or amendments, may be made at any time to the foregoing rules, by a majority of the members present.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

THE COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

To the churches in her connexion, sendeth Christian salutation.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

We have had a happy meeting. The business which has come before us, has been discussed with that spirit and temper which indicate, as we hope, hearts filled with sentiments of brotherly love. Our decisions have been made with great harmony, and we fervently pray that they may redound to the glory of God.

At this our first meeting, we have adopted for the future regulation of the association, a constitution which you will find in the minutes accompanying this letter. While this subject was before us, it was truly delightful to observe that harmony of sentiment on the great fundamental truths of the Gospel which appeared among us, and that jealousy of unscriptural usurpations of power, by the association, to the injury of the respective churches, to which every breast seemed alive. Your interests and your independence shall be ever dear to us; and we trust that, while you attend to the summary of Gospel doctrine in which we have thought it necessary that every church received into the association should agree, you will perceive that divine truth is no less dear to us. *Permit us, brethren, to request of you, in your next communications to our body, an intimation of your assent to these articles of faith.*

It is natural for us, brethren, in making this our first address to you, to advert to the cause of our existence as an association. Scarcely fifty years have passed away since the Ketockton association, from which most of our churches have been dismissed, was a small body consisting of but four churches. How great, in the goodness of God, has been the increase.—To this small body, churches have been added, until several associations have been formed out of it. While our minds dwell on the enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom; while

we rejoice at what he has already done in extending his reign among the children of men. We are animated by the assurance that the *uttermost parts of the earth are given to him for a possession*—and we pray “*thy kingdom come.*” And may you, dear brethren, share in the happy effects of his reign; may your souls be under the special influences of his spirit; and may trophies of his victorious grace appear around you on every hand.

What, may we ask, are the weapons of this glorious warfare, which the Redeemer uses in gaining conquests to himself? What are these weapons, that are mighty to the pulling down of strong holds? What are the battering rams which beat down the gates of hell, and break in upon the kingdom of the God of this world? *The weapons of our warfare are not carnal.* Upon his accession to the throne, our exalted Jesus sent forth his Spirit, and thus armed the champions of the cross with power from on high, that they might go forth in his name, *conquering and to conquer.*—*The sword of the spirit is the word of God.*—It hath pleased God by the foolishness of preaching, the preaching of divine truth, to save them that believe.—Be it yours then, brethren, each one of you in his sphere, to go forth as soldiers under the captain of salvation, wielding this sword of the spirit, and having in view conquests for your Redeemer. Tell perishing sinners the glory of his character; the perfection of his work; and his ability to save to the uttermost. Tell them of their awful condition, if they live and die under the wrath of God. Tell them they need this Saviour, and without him they must perish forever. Who knows which one of your earnest and affectionate addresses may be accompanied by the divine spirit, and be an arrow in their hearts making them fall under the great conquerer?

We have much to say about the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, which would exceed the limits of a circular letter. Let your own reflections and inquiries and prayers supply what we shall leave unsaid. “*Seek first the kingdom of God.*” And while you are engaged for the success of the gospel in general, we thank God, brethren, for our confidence that you will have

us in remembrance at the throne of grace; praying that our association may be blessed with all spiritual blessings; and that this attempt of ours to advance the welfare of Zion may be crowned with abundant success.

We are yours, brethren,

In the dear Redeemer,

ROBERT LATHAM, *Moderator.*

JOHN FOX, *Clerk.*



CORRESPONDING LETTER.

THE COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

*Convened in Grove meeting-house, Fauquier county, Virginia,
September 9th, 1820,*

TO THE SISTER ASSOCIATIONS WITH WHOM WE CORRESPOND.

BELOVED IN THE LORD,

We enjoy for the first time, as an associated body, the privilege of addressing you; and we embrace it with pleasing alacrity, animated with the hope that this, our introductory epistle, will be followed by an affectionate, edifying, and long-continued correspondence.

In the constitution printed with our minutes, we have briefly set forth the leading and most important articles of our faith; and we would esteem it not only our duty, but highest honor, earnestly to contend for the DOCTRINE OF SALVATION BY FREE GRACE ALONE. Here all the lines of our confession meet; here all the attributes of Deity are harmoniously displayed; here all the hopes of the experimental christian happily centre.— This doctrine, 'tis true, has encountered much opposition, and a great variety of stratagems have been employed to sap, if it were possible, its very foundation. At one time, an appeal is made to the passions; at another, we are vauntingly brought to the bar of unhallowed reason; and sometimes, reference is had

to isolated and dismembered passages of Holy Writ. But, brethren, against all these attacks, the Lord of Hosts hath armed us; and we can say with an apostle, "*The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strong holds;*" and again, "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*"

We look around us, brethren, and on every hand discover strong motives to activity and exertion. The Lord we serve, is good and gracious; we are engaged in the best of causes; the bright day, when the light of evangelical truth shall be diffused from the rising to the setting sun, is rapidly approaching; and we are assured that a crown of righteousness is laid up in store for all them that love the appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. If men, in support of an earthly cause, have enthusiastically pledged upon the altar of liberty, "*their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honour;*" ought we not, in the cause of God and truth, cheerfully to *render unto the Lord our bodies and our spirits which are his?*

May the Redeemer inspire us with holy zeal to promote, as far as in us lies, the glorious interests of his kingdom! Amen.

We have been favoured at the present meeting, with but few ministering brethren from neighbouring associations—a circumstance, the recurrence of which we hope it will not soon again be our lot to deplore.

Our next association will be held at Bethlehem meeting house, Prince William county, Virginia, on the Friday preceding the fourth Lord's day in August 1821; where we affectionately invite you to meet us, both by letter and messengers.

We remain, dear Brethren,

Yours in gospel bonds,

ROBERT LATHAM, *Moderator.*

JOHN FOX, *Clerk.*

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