

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING**  
OF THE  
**COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,**  
MAINTAINING

"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 our 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 baptized 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;"

HELD, BY APPOINTMENT, AT  
**THE MEETING-HOUSE OF THE FIRST CHURCH**  
*IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,*  
AUGUST 19, 20, & 21.  
1830.

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WASHINGTON D.C.  
PRINTED BY STEPHEN C. USPICK,  
1830.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY  
Wake Forest, North Carolina



MINUTES  
OF THE  
COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1830.

1. At 11 o'clock, A. M. brother Samuel Cornelius preached the Introductory Sermon from 1 John ii. 7, 8. "*Brethren, I write no new commandment, but an old commandment, which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which we have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you; which thing is true in him and in you, because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.*"

2. The business of the Association was opened with singing, and prayer by brother Robert Latham; when the letters from the Churches were read, and the Messengers' names enrolled as follow:



CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	MINISTERS.	Days of Preaching.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total number.	When constituted.
Chappawam-sick,	{ Benjamin Cole, John G. Rubleman.	— — — —	—	6	-	-	7	1	7	178	1767
Little River,	{ James Hixon, John M. Young.	JOHN OGILVIE.	1st	8	-	-	-	2	1	131	1769
Occoquan,	{ William Jacobs, George Selectman.	— — — —	2d	1	-	-	14	-	2	79	1778
Hartwood,	Harvey Bradshaw,*	A. H. BENNET.	4th	6	4	-	2	-	1	36	1786
Long Branch,	{ George Love, John C. Herndon.	W. F. BROADUS.*	4th	30	-	1	1	-	-	172	1787
Back Lick,	{ Henry S. Halley, Benedict Jones.	S. CORNELIUS.	2d	3	2	1	1	2	6	123	1791
Fryingpan,	Charles Gulatt.	JOSEPH BAKER.	4th	11	3	1	-	4	1	70	1792
Nanjemoy,	(No Messenger.)	— — — —	—	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	1793
1st Washington,	{ O. B. BROWN, Enoch Reynolds.	O. B. BROWN.	ev'y	3	10	-	-	1	1	163	1802
Alexandria,	{ SAMUEL CORNELIUS, Hanson Simpson.	S. CORNELIUS.	ev'y	12	2	1	4	2	5	235	1803
Bethlehem,	{ ROBERT LATHAM, Benjamin Pridmore.*	R. LATHAM.	4th	5	1	-	-	-	1	61	1812
Grove,	{ TH'N STRINGFELLOW, John Prim.	TH'N. STRING-FELLOW.*	2d	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	1812
Rock Hill,	{ A. H. BENNET, William Stark.	A. H. BENNET.	3d	4	2	-	3	-	1	40	1812
Mount Pleasant,	{ Noah Martin, William Kidwell.	— — — —	4th	3	1	2	2	1	1	92	1819
Elk Run,	{ JOHN NEALE, Elijah Hansborough.	A. H. BENNET.	—	31	3	-	-	2	1	73	1822
Enon,	(No Messenger.)	— — — —	—	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	1824
Fredericksb'g,	{ ROBERT B. SEMPLE, Robert Clark.	R. B. SEMPLE. G. F. ADAMS.	ev'y	15	10	-	1	3	2	143	1825
Pohick,	{ Thompson Clark. Leonard Barker. X	— — — —	—	-	-	-	-	-	1	19	1827
				138	38	635	18	51	1615		

NOTE. Ordained ministers' names are in SMALL CAPITALS; a dash — denotes no settled Pastor. \* Not present.

☞ From the Churches at Nanjemoy, Grove and Enon, no returns were received; their total numbers are therefore stated as last year.

+ Grand Father of B. W. Barker  
of Washington D. C.



3. Brother Samuel Cornelius was chosen Moderator.

4. Communications were received from the following Associations, and their Messengers affectionately invited to seats with us:

KETOCTON; Letter and Messengers, Elder Joseph Baker and brother Thomas Buck.

DOVER; Messenger, Elder Philip T. Montague, with 11 copies of their Minutes.

BALTIMORE; Messenger, Elder Charles Polkinhorn.

ALBEMARLE; no Messenger: 16 copies of their Minutes and letter.

PATTERSON'S CREEK; no Messenger.

SHILOH; no Messenger: 25 copies of their Minutes and letter.

5. Brethren Latham and Brown were appointed a committee to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations, and others, and report in writing.

6. Brethren Semple and Bennet, with the Moderator and Clerk, were appointed to arrange the business of the Association, examine the letters from the several Churches to this Association, and report in writing.

7. Brethren Thaw, Cooper, and Simpson were appointed a committee to arrange the preaching.

8. Brethren James Hixon, Simpson, and Halley were appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts and report.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Prayer by brother Semple.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The Association was opened by the Moderator.

9. The committee appointed to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations, &c. made report as follows:

"We find, upon examination of the Baltimore Minutes, the Churches are warned against Luke Forrest and Joseph Trappall, who have both been excluded from the Church at Frederick Town for corruption in doctrine; and it is said they are now preaching in the character of Baptist ministers: also, Caleb Wilson, who has been excluded from the Baptist Church at Armenia, Dutchess County, New York, and is imposing himself upon the Churches as a minister of the Gospel.

10. The committee appointed to arrange the business of the Association, &c. made report, as follows: "The committee appointed to examine the letters from the Churches,



and to arrange the business of the Association, report, That they find six of the Churches destitute of Pastors, viz. Chap-pawamsick, Occoquan, Nanjemoy, Pohick, Mount Pleasant, and Enon; and recommend to the Association to consider whether we can do any thing to aid them in their destitute situation. Might we not at least urge upon the consideration of all our Churches the importance of looking out for suitable gifts, among their own members, for usefulness in the work of the Gospel Ministry? The Church at Little River is the only one which requests a Visitation Meeting. It remains for the Association to say whether one shall be appointed there, and whether one only shall be appointed. Two Churches, viz. Grove and Mount Pleasant, ask that the next session of your body may be held with them. Elk Run desires the Union meeting to be appointed at their Meeting-House.

"We are happy to find that the Church of Alexandria have nearly completed their new place of worship, and hope they may find kindness still among our brethren to enable them to liquidate the remaining debt.

"The query from the Fredricksburg Church is recommended to the attention of the Association."

11. The foregoing report, and the reports of the same committee arranging the order of the business of the Association, were adopted.

12. Brethren Halley, Scott, Adams, Marders, and Burdick, were affectionately invited to seats with us:

13. The committee on the Treasurer's account made the following report; which was adopted: "The Committee on the Treasurer's Account report, that they have discharged the duty assigned them; that they find the account correctly stated, the disbursements supported by proper vouchers, and that the balance in the Treasurer's hands is seventeen dollars and seventy-five cents.

JAMES HIXSON,

HENRY S. HALLEY."

The same committee directed to settle the accounts of the Delegates to Corresponding Associations and other financial business.

14. Brother E. Reynolds, the Treasurer, resigned his office, and Brother Joseph Cooper was duly appointed as the Treasurer: Whereupon, the following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be given to our late Treasurer for the able and faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of the office; and that he be requested to pay over the funds in his hands to Brother Joseph Cooper, appointed in his place.

15. The Circular Letter, written by Brother Samuel Cornelius, was called for, read, and referred to brethren Brown,



Simple, and the author, who were authorized to examine and cause it to be printed with the Minutes.

16. The Corresponding Letter was referred to brethren Cornelius, Brown, and the author, to report to-morrow morning.

17. The next Association to be held at Mount Pleasant, in Fairfax County, three miles South from the Court-House, commencing on the Thursday before the 4th Lords-day in August, 1831, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; brother O. B. Brown to preach the Introductory Sermon, and in case of failure, brother Alexander H. Bennet.

18. The next GENERAL UNION MEETING is appointed to be held at Elk Run Meeting House, in Fauquier County, Va. to commence on the Friday before the 5th Lord's-day in May, 1831; to continue Friday, Saturday, and Lords'-day; and the Lord's Supper to be administered, if the Church at which said meeting is held shall deem it expedient.

19. Brethren Hansborough and Herndon were appointed as a committee to arrange the Visitation Meetings.

20. The Messengers appointed to Corresponding Associations last year, and who failed to attend, gave satisfactory reasons for their failure.

21. Messengers were appointed to the following Associations, viz :

*Kelockton*, to be held at Bethel Meeting-House, in Frederick County, Va. on the Thursday preceding the 3d Lord's-day in August, 1831, brethren O. B. Brown, Samuel Cornelius, Robert B. Semple, John C. Herndon, and George Love;

*Dover*, to be held at Salem Meeting-House, in Caroline County, about 14 miles from Bowling-Green, commencing on the second Saturday in October next, brethren Alexander H. Bennet, Robert Latham, and John Neale;

*Shiloh*, to be held at Pleasant Grove, in Orange County, Virginia, commencing on Friday before the 1st Lord's-day in September, 1830, brethren Robert Latham, William Jacobs, and George Love;

*Baltimore*, to be held in Frederick-Town, Maryland, commencing on Thursday preceding the 3d Lord's-day in May, 1831, brethren Brown, Latham, Hixson, and Gulatt;

*Albemarle*, to commence on the Saturday before the 3d Lord's day in August, 1831, brother John M. Young;

*Patterson's Creek*, to commence on the Friday before the 2d Lord's-day in September next, brother A. H. Bennet;

GENERAL ASSOCIATION, to be held in the town of Lynchburg, Va. on the Saturday before the 1st Lord's-day in June next, brethren Samuel Cornelius and George Love appointed Messengers, who are requested to make collections and obtain



donations, at such times and places as they may deem expedient, to be paid over to the General Association, and reported to our next Association.

22. The following preamble and resolution were adopted:

"Whereas it appears to this Association that the Church at Nanjemoy is wholly destitute of a stated ministry; and whereas a large district of country in its vicinity is also wholly without any Baptist preaching; and whereas the Foreign and Domestic Missionary Society, in Virginia, has proposed a plan, through a committee, for supplying the said places: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That brethren *Hanson Simpson* and *Enoch Reynolds* be appointed by this Association to confer with said committee for said purpose, and that a collection be made to-morrow, to be appropriated to this object: And we further recommend to our brethren to aid by private contributions, and in any other way which in the openings of Providence may be suggested.

23. The following contributions were made by the churches to the fund of this Association, viz: Chappawamsick, \$2 50; Little River, \$3 25; Occoquan, 2 50; Hartwood, 50 cents; Long Branch, \$3; Back Lick, \$3 50; Fryingpan, \$2 50; Nanjemoy, \$2; 1st Washington, \$5; Alexandria, \$5; Bethlehem, \$2 50; Grove, 2 50; Rock Hill, \$2 37½; Mount-Pleasant, 3 50; Elk Run, \$2 50; Fredericksburg, \$2 50; Pohick, \$2—amounting in all to \$47 62½; which was paid over to brother Joseph Cooper, the Treasurer.

24. Ordered that 1000 copies of the Minutes be printed, and that brethren Cornelius and Reynolds be appointed to superintend their printing and distribution.

25. The following resolution was adopted;

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Churches to be more liberal in their contributions to the Association Fund next year, as it appears that our funds are now scarcely sufficient to defray the usual expenses.

26. Ordered, that the Treasurer pay the following sums, viz: to brother Cornelius, \$8 50, for his expenses as Messenger to the Ketockton Association; to brother Love, \$5, for his expenses as a Messenger to the Shiloh, Goshen, and General Associations; to the Clerk, \$10, for his services, and for stationary, postage, &c.

27. VISITATION MEETINGS were appointed, as follow:

At *Little River*, on Saturday before and 5th Lords-day in October; brethren Cornelius and Bennet to attend:

*Chappawamsick*, at the same time; brethren Latham and Polkiahorn to attend:

*Enon*, on the 5th Lords-day and Saturday before, in January; brethren Latham and Cornelius to attend:



*Pohick*, same time, brethren Marders and Jacobs to attend.  
*accoquan*, on Saturday before and 5th Lord's-day in July;  
brethren Latham and Bennet to attend:

*Nanjemoy*, at the same time; brethren Brown, Cornelius,  
Reynolds, and Thaw to attend:

*Mount Pleasant*, on the *Fourth* Lord's-day, and Saturday  
before, in October; brethren Bennet and Jacobs to attend.

28. The query from *Pohick*, laid over at the last Association, was referred to the following committee: brethren Brown, Cornelius, Semple, Latham, and Bennet; to report to-morrow morning.

29. The query from Fredericksburg was referred to the same committee; to report at the same time.

30. Having been informed by our venerable brother, Thomas Buck, that the Meeting-House near Front Royal was consumed by fire, on the 25th of February last, we recommend to the brethren and friends in the bounds of this Association to aid in building another, and to send on their contributions to brother Thomas Buck, directed to Front Royal, Frederick County, Virginia.

Adjourned until 10 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Brother Scott prayed.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 21.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

31. Brother O. B. Brown was appointed to write the next Circular.

32. Brother Bennet was appointed to write the next Corresponding letter.

33. The committee on the Corresponding Letter reported the same without amendment; which was adopted.

34. The committee to whom the following query from *Pohick* was referred, reported as follows:

*"How far may the Baptists consistently unite with professing Christians of other denominations in religious exercises?"*

ANSWER. 'We regard Christians of all denominations, who bear the image of Christ, as brethren of the same spirit. So far as they walk with Christ, we may walk with them. If they preach the truth, we may hear and receive it from them. If they draw nigh to God in prayer, we may unite with them in the exercise. If they speak the language of Canaan, we may have our conversation with them; but unbaptized persons not having put on the profession of Christ in the way required preparatory to the constitution of a regular and orderly



Christian Church—there being no authority in the New Testament for receiving an unbaptized person into the Church—we are of opinion that, in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, and in all the privileges peculiar to the Church of Christ, we cannot consistently unite with professing Christians of other denominations. The answer was unanimously adopted.

35. The Corresponding Letter from the Ketockton Association, in manuscript, was received, and read with pleasure; and this Association is highly gratified at the promptness of that Association, in sending a manuscript letter when there was not sufficient time for their Minutes and letter to be printed, as usual.

36. The committee to whom the query from Fredericksburg Church was referred, reported as follows:

QUERE: "In most of our Churches, frequent difficulties arise respecting the marriages of our colored members: Would the Association recommend some standing rule, which might be adopted, upon this subject; particularly as to man and wife being separated, so as to make it probable that they will not be again sufficiently convenient to discharge their duties to each other?"

ANSWER: "It is indeed a fact much to be regretted, that the marriages of our colored members are regarded in too loose a point of view, and that they are often voluntarily violated; yet it cannot be denied that many cases occur in which they are involuntarily separated, at distances too great for them to discharge the mutual duties of husband and wife. In such cases, we recommend to the Churches to establish it as a rule, that no second marriages shall be allowed until the party shall first make application to the Church; and if, after learning all the circumstances of the case, the Church shall be of opinion that, consistently with the Christian character, they may be united to another husband or wife, they allow them so to do. Any who may contract new marriages without previously taking the above steps, should be strictly dealt with as transgressors;" which answer, as reported by the committee, was adopted.

37. On motion of Brother Brown, the following article was unanimously ordered to be entered on the Minutes, as expressive of the sentiments entertained by this Association:

"It becomes the painful duty of the Association to record the loss which we have sustained in the death of our worthy and lamented brother, ELDER JAMES REID, who departed this life on the 3d day of this present month, in the 43d year of his age. He was a faithful and laborious Minister of Christ. Three of the Churches composing this Association were raised up and constituted through his instrumentality. He both



planted and watered, and the Lord succeeded his labors with a divine blessing. A life devoted entirely to the service of the Sanctuary is cut off in the midst of usefulness; and while the Churches to whom he so faithfully administered the pastoral duties are bereft of a beloved minister, our whole Association feels deeply the loss which the cause of God sustains. But we trust our loss is his gain. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

38. Brother Reynolds, from the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the "Foreign and Domestic Missionary Society" in Virginia, reported; which report was received, and the following resolution adopted:

*Resolved*, That it is expedient for this Association to unite with the Virginia Baptist Missionary Society, in their efforts to send a faithful minister of the gospel to reside in the southern counties of the Western Shore of Maryland; and that it be earnestly recommended to the ministers and brethren composing this body, to use all lawful means for raising the funds necessary to carry this object into effect.

39. *Resolved, unanimously*, That it be recommended to the Ministers and Churches of this Association, that a chapter or larger portion of the Holy Scriptures, be read publicly at every meeting for public worship; and that it also be recommended to the Churches to keep a Bible and Hymn Book in their Meeting-Houses, for the use of their ministers and members.

40. *Resolved*, That this Association *unanimously* recommend to their Churches and the Public, the patronage of the Baptist General Tract Society, a depository of which is kept by Brother Samuel Cornelius in Alexandria, where a variety of Tracts can be obtained at the rate of 12 pages for one cent.

41. The following article was unanimously ordered to be entered on the face of the Minutes: "Distant Churches are hereby notified that John Johnson, formerly Pastor of the Baptist Church at New Brunswick, in New Jersey, and for some years past a member and Pastor of the Church at Fryingpan, in Fairfax County, Virginia, one of the Churches composing this Association, was, more than a year since, excluded from said Church for gross immorality. The Association having heard that said Johnson obtained from the Church at Fryingpan a letter of high recommendation before his immoralities were known, it is desirable that this notice may obtain a circulation sufficient to counteract its effect.

The Session then closed with an affectionate address by the Moderator, and prayer and praise.

S. CORNELIUS, Moderator.

GEO. LOVE, Clerk.



## CIRCULAR LETTER.

## THE COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

*To the Churches of which it is composed, sendeth love in the  
Lord Jesus.*

DEARLY BELOVED,

Another opportunity offering for expressing our esteem, and giving, as you desire, a few words of advice; we invite your attention to some of the duties growing out of the relations which Christians sustain to each other.

The great duty of Christians towards each other is the exercise of pure, fervent, undissembled love. We call this the Christian's duty, because it is commanded by his Prince and his Saviour: "This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you."

It is, indeed, the duty of all men to love their neighbors as themselves; and it is the Christian's duty to love all men, even his enemies. "But I say unto you, love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you." But we design to speak here of the love which Christians owe to one another as such, irrespective of the responsibilities resulting from their natural, moral, and political relations, as men.

Christians are to love one another because they are Christians, or belong to Christ; because they are the objects of his everlasting love, redeemed by his precious blood, renewed into his holy image, sanctified by his Spirit, and devoted to his glory.

"The disciple whom Jesus loved" speaks with singular beauty and affection upon this subject in all his epistles. One passage we may be allowed to copy, and comment upon very briefly: "Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning." The precept of love must be as old as human nature; but it might admit of divers enactments, enforcements, and motives. To love God and his creatures is plainly the duty of every rational being—was always the duty of all such beings; but we can easily apprehend, that new motives and reasons may continually arise to urge to the performance of this duty. The descendants of Abraham were bound, in common with other men, to love God as their Creator and preserver, with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength: but when the Lord their God brought them up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of



a principal part of true and undefiled religion consists in "visiting the widows and the fatherless in their affliction." The Christian, wherever found, has experienced the subjugation of the selfish principle. He lives not to himself, but to his GOD, and for his brethren. His obligations to Divine love are infinite: yet his goodness cannot extend to GOD—cannot add to his essential glory or felicity. How then shall he express his gratitude? He finds good men in affliction; they are the representatives of Christ upon earth; "in them He may be fed and clothed, and comforted and cheered." Are they hungry? He gives them meat. Thirsty? He gives them drink. Naked? He clothes them. Sick, and in prison? He visits them. And at the last, he shall hear from his Saviour's lips the gladdening approbation, "Forasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."

Another consequence of love to the brethren will be—

4. *Forbearing them in love.* Among Christians we shall find a great diversity of character. "There are all the gradations of intellect, and all the varieties of temper. Some have a forward and obtrusive manner: some are talkative: others indulge a complaining, whining, begging disposition: others are abrupt, almost to rudeness, in their address. These and many more are the spots of God's children, with which we are sometimes so much displeas'd as to feel an alienation of heart from them, although we have no doubt of their real piety. Now, here is room for the exercise of love. These are the cases in which we are to employ that charity which hopeth all things, and hideth a multitude of faults. Are we to love only amiable Christians? Perhaps, after all, in the substantial parts of religion these rough characters far excel others, whom courteous manners and amiableness of temper have carried to the highest degree of polish. We do not say you are to love these individuals *for* their peculiarities, but *in spite* of them; not on their own account, but for Christ's sake, to whom they belong. And what can be greater proof of our affection to Him, than to love an unlovely individual on his account?"

Again: If this love rule in our hearts, we shall—

5. *Watch over, admonish, and restore our brethren.* In this world all are exposed to temptations, and the most faithful and beloved are sometimes off their guard. Satan, like a roaring lion, goeth about seeking whom he may devour. Let us watch with, for, and over our brethren. Do we see danger approaching them? Warn them with tears. Have they fallen into sin? Admonish them in all faithfulness and affection.—True, we are not to be busy-bodies in other men's matters—we are not to pry into the secrets of families or individuals; much less are we to assume authority over our brethren. But