

15

MINUTES

— OF THE —

FIRST SESSION

— OF THE —

Columbus Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

NEW HOPE,

COLUMBUS COUNTY N. C.

December 26th, 1888.

DR. G. H. MACON, Moderator.

ELD. HAYNES LENNON, Clerk.

*Second Session will be held with the Church in Whiteville,  
commencing on Friday, November 22, 1889.*

WELDON, N. C.  
HARRELL'S PRINTING HOUSE.  
1888.



## PROCEEDINGS.

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Elder Haynes Lennon called the messengers to order, and explained the object of the meeting.

On motion, Eld. A. G. Stocks was elected temporary Moderator, and Eld. Haynes Lennon, clerk *pro tem*. Brethren T. J. Stanley and N. W. Friar, reading clerks.

The Moderator read 1st. Psalm, and the congregation praised God with the use of 28th. Hymn of Baptist Hymn-book. Eld. D. J. Ray invoked the Divine direction.

Appointed brethren D. J. Ray and G. H. Macon a committee of Finance.

Called for and read the letters, enrolled names of messengers from the following churches:

New Hope—G. H. Macon, E. White, R. G. Butler,.....	\$ 1 50
Seven Creeks—A. G. Stocks, T. J. Stanley, M. J. Stephens,.....	1 20
Union Grove—D. J. Hinson, J. B. Skipper,.....	50
Union Valley—N. W. Friar, B. R. Bowen, James Bright,.....	80
Whiteville—Haynes Lennon, D. J. Ray, T. S. Memory,.....	2 65

Minute Fund,..... 6 65

Proceeded to permanent organization, whereupon Dr G. H. Macon was elected Moderator, and Eld. Haynes Lennon, Clerk and Treasurer.

The following brethren, Light Meary from Iron Hill X Roads Church, Thomas Bass, James Jolly, U. F. Boswell from Pleasant Hill Church, and D. McNeill from Pee Dee Association, N.C. were invited to seats to aid the Association in the work of organization.

On motion, appointed Elder Haynes Lennon and Brethren T. S. Memory and Edward White a committee to prepare a Constitution and Rules of Order for the government of this Association of Churches.

The committee retired, and Brother D. McNeill addressed the audience in quite a felicitous and edifying manner, while Eld J. W. Gore followed encouraging the churches in this important organization.

The committee on Constitution and Rules of Order reported—Report received and unanimously adopted. See Appendix.

Moderator announced a recess of thirty minutes.

Business resumed at half past one o'clock, p. m. Prayer by Eld. Haynes Lennon.

Committee of Finance reported \$6.65 for minutes. A collection of \$248 was added, making \$9.13. Ordered that the committee of Finance pay the same to the Treasurer.

Ordered that the Clerk procure the printing of as many minutes as the funds will justify.

Unanimously agreed that the next session of this body be held with the church in Whiteville commencing on Friday 11 o'clock A M. before ~~the~~ Sunday in Nov. 1889, and that Eld. Haynes Lennon preach the introductory sermon.

The messengers in attendance most cordially invited the entire ministry in the Association to visit and preach a series of days for their respective churches during the incoming year.

Agreed that the Clerk be paid \$5.00 for his services and that the several churches endeavor to raise the amount and deposit the same with Bro. T. S. Memory.

Agreed that this Association appoint messengers to, and to solicit correspondence with the following Associations; Robeson, Haynes Lennon; Cape Fear, D. J. Ray; South Atlantic, A. G. Stocks; Waccamaw, R. G. Butler.

Resolved, that the thanks of this body be tendered to this church and community for their very hospitable entertainment of the messengers and brethren.

Agreed that the churches of this Association observe Friday before the 3rd, Sunday in July 1889, as a day of



general thanksgiving to Almighty God for his blessings bestowed on us, both temporal and spiritual.

The clerk then read a carefully prepared paper on "The nature and power of Associations" which, on motion, was ordered to be appended to these Minutes for the consideration and observance of the churches of this Association.

Appointed Brethren Haynes Lennon, T. S. Memory, G. H. Macon, D. J. Ray, E. White an Executive Committee to whom all unfinished business shall be referred; also to superintend the spiritual interests of the Association for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to time and place above specified.

G. H. Macon, Moderator.

Haynes Lennon, Clerk.

## **APPENDIX.**

### CONSTITUTION

— OF —

### **Columbus Association.**

*Preamble.* From a long series of experience, we, the within named churches of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptized upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches, in order to perpetuate an union and communion amongst us, and preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other in our union: We therefore propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of an Association of Churches, according to the following plan and form of government.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be composed of messengers chosen by the different churches in our union, and duly authorized by a certificate officially executed to represent them in the Association; who shall be members whom they judge best qualified for the practical purposes contemplated by this body of churches.

ARTICLE II. In the letters from the several churches, shall be expressed their numbers baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, expelled, died during the past year and their number in full fellowship.

ARTICLE III. The messengers thus chosen and convened, shall be denominated the Columbus Association being composed of Sundry churches in Columbus County, and State of North Carolina as set forth in the minutes of our annual sessions, who shall have no authority to make laws for the churches, interfere with their discipline, nor in any manner to control them.



ARTICLE IV. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a parliamentary decorum.

ARTICLE V. The Association shall have a moderator, Clerk and Treasurer who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ARTICLE VI. The majority of the entire number of churches composing this body shall be a quorum for the holding the annual sessions of this Association.

ARTICLE VII. Every church in the union shall be entitled to representation in the Association; but shall have only three members from each church.

ARTICLE VIII. New churches, and such other churches as may have dismissal letters from other Associations may be admitted into this union, who shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination (if found orthodox and orderly) shall be received by the Association, and manifested by the moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ARTICLE IX. Every query presented by any church or member of this body, shall be twice read; and before it be debated the moderator shall put it to vote, and if there be a majority for its being debated, it shall be taken under consideration, and be disposed of as the Association shall deem most to the glory of God.

ARTICLE X. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it before being debated; but if after being debated, it must be by permission of the body under motion.

ARTICLE XI. This Association shall be auxiliary to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in all its benevolent enterprises.

ARTICLE XII. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of annual sessions of the Association.

ARTICLE XIII. This body shall have an Association Fund for defraying the expenses connected with the prosecution of its business. For the raising and supporting

of which, we think it the duty of each church in the union, to contribute voluntarily, such sums as they shall think proper, and send by the hands of their messengers to the Association; and those monies thus contributed by the churches, and received by the Association, shall be deposited in the hands of a Treasurer, by the Association elected, who shall be accountable to the Association for all monies by him received and paid out, according to the direction of the Association and that the Treasurer shall present vouchers in general settlement.

ARTICLE XIV. There shall be an Association book kept where in the proceedings of every Association shall be regularly recorded by a Secretary elected by the Association, who shall receive a compensation yearly, for his services.

ARTICLE XV. The minutes of the Association shall be read (and corrected if need be) and signed by the moderator and Clerk before the Association.

ARTICLE XVI. The Association shall have power:

1st. To provide for the general union of the churches.

2nd. To preserve inviolably a chair of communication amongst the churches.

3rd. To give the churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty.

4th. To inquire into the cause why the churches fail to represent themselves at any time in the Association.

5th. To appropriate those monies by the churches contributed for an Association Fund, to any purpose legitimately connected with the interests of the Association.

6th. To appoint any member or members, by and with their consent, to transact any business which the Association may deem necessary for the glory of God.

7th. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any church in this union, which shall violate the rules of this Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion.

8th. To admit any of the visiting ministry, and all corresponding brethren, as assistants, who may be present at the time of their sitting.

9th. To change this constitution by a vote of three fourths of all the churches.

10th. To adjourn to any place and time agreed on by the Association.



## RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ART. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the members present.

ART. 3. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he is about to make his speech.

ART. 4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any except the Moderator till he is done speaking.

ART 5 He shall strictly adhere to the subject, and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can, so as to convey his light or ideas.

ART. 6. No person shall abruptly break off, or absent himself from the Association, without liberty from the Association.

ART. 7. No member of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor whispering in the time of a public speech.

ART. 8. No member of the Association shall address another in any other terms or appellatives but the title of brother.

ART. 9. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member, nor prohibit him from speaking, till he gives his light on the subject, except he breaks the rules of this decorum.

ART. 10. The names of the several members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association requires.

ART. 11. The Moderator shall be the last person who shall speak to the subject, who may give his opinion if he pleases before he puts the matter to a vote, but shall have no vote himself unless the Association be equally divided.

ART. 12. That any member who shall willingly and knowingly break any of these rules, shall be reproved by the Association as they shall think proper.

## THE NATURE AND POWERS OF ASSOCIATIONS OF CHURCHES

As the communion of saints, so the communion of churches, is a desirable blessing, to obtain and promote which ought to be the study and pleasure of all the people or God.

Churches formed on the Gospel plan are independent of each other relative to *power*, but the reverse in regard to *communion*. For if saints in general have an indisputable right to participate in the gifts and graces of each other, so have churches in a joint capacity.

In order to obtain the blessing of communion more fully, there ought to be a coalescing of several churches into one body, so far as their local situation and other circumstances will admit, but as it is impracticable for all the individual members of the several churches thus associated to attend, the better way by experience has been found to be, to represent by a delegation of the most able and pious of said churches, particularly the Ministry, yet so as by no means to give the latter the ascendancy in point of <sup>the</sup> members. Such an assemblage should be held annually at such times and places as would be most conducive to the great end proposed by said confederacy.

Such delegation, when convened, should keep in view their covenant for the promotion of Christ's cause in general, and the interest of the Churches they represent in particular.

Although such a combination of churches is not expressly commanded in Scripture, yet it receives sufficient countenance and authority from the light of nature, and the general laws of society, as to leave without a doubt its propriety. There is one precedent established by *Apostolic authority* recorded in Acts, chapter XV.

An Association thus formed is a respectable body; it represents not a city, country or nation, but the Churches of Jesus Christ. It is by no means deemed a superior



judicature, vested with coercive power or authority over the churches; it presumes not to impose its sentiments on its constituents, under pain of excommunication; nor does it anathematize those who do not implicitly submit to its determinations, which would be nothing less than spiritual tyranny, and better comport with the arbitrary spirit of *Popish Councils*, than with that meekness which characterizes the humble followers of Christ. The *Apostles*, *Elders*, and *Brethren*, who composed the first Christian Council, presumed not to impose their decisions upon the churches in a Lordly manner, but prefaced their determinations with this modest introductory: *It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things.*" Baptist Associations assume no higher a title than that of *Advising Councils*; consistent with which epithet they ought always to act, when they act at all, without infringing upon the rights of independent congregational churches. Never-the-less, they have a natural and unalienable right to judge for themselves, what churches shall be admitted into confederacy with them, and to withdraw from all such churches as obstinately persist in holding corrupt principles, and doctrines incompatible with the New Testament, after proper and timely admonition has been given them.

The benefits arising from an Association of churches are many. In general, the truth, order, and discipline of the Gospel will be maintained.

More particularly:

1. The churches may have such doubts as arise amongst them removed, and avoid serious contentions.

2. They will invariably be furnished with salutary counsel.

3. Those churches which have no ministers, may be occasionally supplied with the word of life.

4. The churches will be more closely united in promoting the cause and interest of Christ.

—Art. 5. A sound and Evangelical Ministry will be encouraged, whilst that which is defective will be discountenanced.

—Art. 6. Any member aggrieved through partiality, or from any other cause may be reconciled.

—Art. 7. Wherein a large party may withdraw from

any church by means of any obtruding Ministry, or otherwise, the aggrieved may seek redress.

Art. 8. Churches having candidates for the Ministry, may have them properly examined upon their qualifications

These and numerous other advantages arising from such an union of Churches, must induce every Godly Church to desire a conjunction with such a body.

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#### ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.

Lennon, Haynes	Orton, Columbus Co. N. C.
Ray, David J.	Whiteville, " " "
Stocks, A. G.	Bug Hill " " "

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#### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Haynes Lennon, Tr. in acc't. with Columbus Asso.  
Dec. 26, 1888 To am't received of committee of Finance,  
\$ 9, 13.

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#### STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

	Males	Females	Total.
New Hope,	62	77	139
Seven Creeks,	54	80	134
Union Grove,	13	24	37
Union Valley,	23	29	52
Whiteville,			70
			432



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OBTAINED MASTERS AND THIRTY  
 POST OFFICE

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THE MASTER'S REPORT

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LIST OF THE CHIEFS

131	77	32	Low Hays
134	80	34	Green Cross
137	81	36	Green Cross
138	82	37	Green Cross
139	83	38	Green Cross
140	84	39	Green Cross
141	85	40	Green Cross