

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixteenth Annual Meeting

OF THE

Columbia Baptist Association,

MAINTAINING

"The unity of God ; the existence of three equal persons in the God-head ; 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 practice 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

BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE,

IN THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA, D. C.

AUGUST 20, 21, & 22,

1835.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST
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Wake Forest, North Carolina

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Fredericksbu

1792	1793	1802	1803	1812
Fryingpan,	Nanjemoy,	1st Washington,	Alexandria,	Bethlehem,
		Wa	Alexan	Prince

THURSDAY, August 20, 1835.

1. Brother S. Trott preached the introductory Sermon from Matthew 19th chapter, 28th verse. "And Jesus said unto them, verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration, when the son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

2. After Sermon the Association was opened by praise and prayer, the letters from the Churches read, and the names of the Messengers enrolled as follows:

CHURCHES.	LOCATIONS.	MESENTERS.	MINISTERS.	Days of Preaching	Baptized.	Received by Letter	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total numbers
Chappawamsic,	1767 Stafford County, Va,	{ Benj. Wamsley,* Henry Fairfax, Jno. M. Young, Wm. Beatty,	ALEX ^r H. BENNETT.	4th	6	0	0	4	0	0	189
Little River,	1769 Loudoun do.	{ No Letter, George Honey,* J. E. Coakley, H. Harrovet, J. Clark, S. Trott, C. Gullatt,	JOHN OGILVIE.	1st	1	1	0	5	0	0	135
Occoquan,	1778 Prince William do.	{ Jno. B B Perry, J. H. Posey, O B. Brown, Jos. Thaw,	JOHN CLARK.	1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Hartwood,	1786 Stafford County,	{ H. Harrovet, J. Clark, S. Trott, C. Gullatt,	JOHN CLARK.	3d	0	1	0	0	0	5	113
Back Lick,	1791 Fairfax do.	{ Jno. B B Perry, J. H. Posey, O B. Brown, Jos. Thaw,	S. CORNELIUS.	2d	0	0	0	0	0	2	64
Fryingpan,	1792 Loudoun do.	{ T. D. Herndon, F. M. Lewis, Jesse Corkrell,	S. TROTT.	every	47	0	0	1	1	1	122
Naujemoj,	1793 Charles County, Md.	{ H. Simpson.	T. CONDUIT.	every	1	9	0	1	5	4	148
1st Washington,	1802 Washington City, D. C.	{ F. M. Lewis, Jesse Corkrell,	O. B. BROWN.	every	5	2	0	6	5	2	231
Alexandria,	1803 Alexandria, D. C.		S. TROTT.	1st	1	0	0	2	0	1	67
Bethlehem,	1812 Prince Wm. County,			Carried over,	64	13	0	22	12	15	1146

CHURCHES.	When constituted	LOCATIONS.	MESSENGERS.	MINISTERS.	Days of Preaching	Baptized.	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total numbers.
Grove,	1812	Fauquier county,	{ John Prim, { Daniel Hall, { A. H. Bennett, { John A. Stark, { Wm. Kidwell, { Noah Martin, { William Bowers, { Jesse Peters, { S. Lynn, { S. Carter. { John Clark,* { J. G. Rowe,* { G. Rowe, { U. H. Bradshaw,	Bro't forward,		64	13	0	22	12	15	1146
Rock Hill,	1812	Stafford do.		T. STRINGFELLOW.		14	0	0	3	0	1	104
Mount Pleasant,	1819	Fairfax do.		A. H. BENNETT.	3d	0	0	0	2	1	2	103
Elk Run,	1822	Fauquier do.		S. TROTT.	4th	0	0	0	0	1	0	86
Brent Town,	1830	Prince Wm. do.		A. H. BENNETT.	1st	18	0	1	2	2	6	104
White Oak,	1789	Stafford do.		A. H. BENNETT.	2d	0	0	1	4	0	0	51
Fredericksburg	1825	Fredericksburg,		J. CLARK.	2d	7	1	0	2	1	8	165
					every	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
					Total,	103	14	2	35	18	32	1759

NOTE.—Ordained Ministers' names are in SMALL CAPITALS. A dash ——— denotes no settled Pastor. Messengers not present marked thus, *.

3. Brother Alexander H. Bennett was chosen Moderator.

4. Brother John Clark chosen Clerk.

5. Whereas the Churches of Alexandria and Fredericksburg, have each appeared before this Association, in a divided state—the respective parties from each having sent up letters and Messengers: First, a letter having been read, purporting to be from the Church in Alexandria, and another submitted to the Association, purporting to be from the *majority* of said Church; and, as in the investigation of the affairs of those Churches we shall want all the aid, wisdom, and counsel, which the Messengers from Corresponding Associations, and visiting brethren may afford us; Therefore, *Resolved*, That those Messengers be received, and with visiting brethren in the ministry, invited to seats with us in council.

Whereupon communications were received from the following Associations:

Baltimore—Elders Eli Scott and J. Reis, with 25 copies of their Minutes.

Ketocton—Elders J. Baker, and J. Oglevy.

Hudson River—17 copies of their Minutes.

New Jersey—3 copies of their Minutes.

6. Ministering Brethren present, Charles Polkinhorn, James J. B. Bowen, Samuel Cornelius, Cumberland George and Thomas Conduit, were affectionately invited to seats among us.

7. A letter was received and read to the Association, purporting to be from the Minister of the Methodist Protestant Church, and a verbal communication from the Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, each tendering their houses of worship to the Association.

8. On motion, it was *resolved*, That the Association meet for business to-morrow, in the Mechanics' Hall, and that the Baptist Meeting House be occupied by preaching the Gospel.

9. The letter purporting to be from the majority of the Church in Alexandria, was read to the Association, and after some little discussion, the case was referred to a Committee of five Brethren, to report to the Association to-morrow, which party, in their judgment, is the Church in Alexandria, viz: Alexander H. Bennett, John Clark, Henry Fairfax, Jesse Peters and Samuel Trott.

10. Brethren S. Lynn, J. M. Young and F. M. Lewis, were appointed a committee to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations, and report to-morrow.

11. Brethren O. B. Brown, J. Prim and J. A. Stark, were appointed a committee to examine the letters from the churches, and report to-morrow.

12. Brethren J. Clark and J. Thaw, to examine the Treasurer's account.

13. A Committee of five were appointed to examine the letters from the parties in the Church of Fredericksburg, and report to-morrow, viz: O. B. Brown, S. Lynn, D. Hall, J. M. Young and C. Gulatt.

14. Adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Brother O. B. Brown.

FRIDAY MORNING, 21st August, 1835.

Met pursuant to adjournment, and after praise and prayer by Brother Baker, proceeded to business.

15. The references being called up, the committee appointed to examine into the difficulty in the Alexandria Church, presented a report, the substance of which was a proposition to the Association to suffer a member from each party to take a seat as the representatives of the Church, and for the Association to appoint a committee, or for the parties to unite in the choice of a committee, whose business shall be, if possible, to effect a reconciliation, and if a failure in this, to examine into the affair and report to the next Association which party in their judgment is the Church.

16. As this report does not accord with the design of the Association, therefore, *resolved*, That it be resubmitted to the committee, with the request that they pursue the object of the Association, which is to identify the Church.

17. Some of the members of this committee expressing feelings of delicacy and seeming reluctance to enter into the investigation, the committee was discharged.

18. On motion, *resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Moderator, of Ministering Brethren of the Messengers of Corresponding Associations, and those invited to seats with us— with liberty to call for persons and papers, by which to identify the Baptist Church in Alexandria: Whereupon, Brethren Eli Scott, J. Baker, J. B. Bowen, C. George and Thomas Conduit, were appointed.

19. Brethren Thaw, Harrover and Kidwell, were appointed to arrange the preaching.

20. The committee appointed to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations, recommend that the 20th Article of the Minutes of the Baltimore Association, be inserted in our Minutes, which is as follows:

“The Churches are warned against John H. Strumfer, who is published in the Minutes of the Delaware Association, as excluded from fellowship.”

21. The committee appointed to examine the letters from the Churches, presented their report, which, after slight alteration was received, and is as follows: “The committee appointed to examine the letters from the Churches, report:

1st. That the Church at Nanjemoy, gratefully acknowledges the benefit derived from the attention of the Association, in sending Preachers to them, and solicits a continuance of the favor. The Lord having graciously smiled upon that Church in raising it from

a very low estate, the committee recommend that the Association unite in thanksgiving to God for the blessing, and in conformity with the request of the Church, appoint visitation meetings to be held there within the ensuing year."

2d. "The Churches at Nanjemoy, and 1st Washington, ask for the next meeting of the Association with them.

3d. "The Church at Fryingpan, have sent a query to the Association. According to our Constitution, no query can be discussed, unless the Church by which it is presented shall have had it under consideration, and shall have been unable to come to any satisfactory conclusion. Whether this has been the case with the Church at Fryingpan, in regard to the subject of the query presented, does not appear."

4th. "The Churches at Hartwood and White Oak, recommend to the consideration of the Association, what is called the minority of the Church at Fredericksburg. It appears that these two Churches, at the request of the minority, sent a council to that Church, to confer with others, in like manner, invited to attend, but the majority of the brethren invited as the council did not meet, and the council therefore did not organize. Whatever may have been the measures of that Church in dealing with any of its members, the Association have not, either by its Constitution or by Divine authority, any right to interfere with its discipline."

22. On motion, Brother Prim was appointed to fill the vacancy in the committee on the Fredericksburg question, occasioned by the withdrawal of Brother Gulatt.

23. *Resolved*, That a committee of three Brethren, S. Lynn, J. M. Young and J. Thaw, be appointed to receive the contributions from the Churches, and settle with the Messengers to Corresponding Associations.

24. The Committee appointed to receive the Contributions, &c., presented their report, which is as follows :

The Committee appointed to receive the Contributions from the Churches, and pay the Messengers to Corresponding Associations, for their expenses, report, that they have received from the several Churches, as follows: Chappawamsic, \$3; Little River, \$4; Hartwood, \$2; Backlick, \$3; Fryingpan, \$3; Nanjemoy, \$3; 1st Washington, \$5; Bethlehem, \$2; Grove, \$3; Rock Hill, \$3; Mount Pleasant, \$3; Elk Run, \$4; Brent Town, \$2; White Oak, \$2. Total \$42. And that they have paid to the following Brethren, viz :

Brother S. Cornelius, for attending the Dover Association, \$10; Brother S. Trott, for attending the Baltimore and Kectocon Associations, \$6 50 cents, which leaves a balance of \$25 50 cents.

25. Adjourned until 5 o'clock this evening; Prayer by Brother Trott.

Met agreeable to appointment.—Prayer by Brother Reis.

26. Ministering Brethren present; Elders Cooper and Braybrook were invited to seats.

27. The Circular Letter being called for, and it appearing that Brother E. Hansborough, who was appointed to write it, having, in consequence of indisposition, failed to do so; and Brother O. B. Brown his alternate, not being informed thereof, has not prepared one.

Therefore, *resolved*, That the Constitution and Rules of Decorum of this Association, be published in lieu thereof.

28. The following Brethren were appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations:

Ketocton—Brethren Bennett and Clark, to be held at Winchester, Frederick county, Virginia.

Dover—Brother S. Cornelius.

Goshen—Ordered ten copies of Minutes.

Baltimore—Brethren O. B. Brown and J. Clark, to be held at Black Rock Meeting House, Maryland.

Patterson's Creek—Ten copies of Minutes.

Hudson River—Ten copies of Minutes.

29. The next Association to be held with the Church at Grove, Fauquier county, about 16 miles north west of Fredericksburg.

30. Brother O. B. Brown was chosen to preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Brother S. Trott, his alternate.

31. Brother Bennett was chosen to write the next Circular Letter, and Brother Clark, in case of failure.

32. Brother Clark was chosen to write the next Corresponding Letter, and in case of failure, Brother Brown.

33. On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning; Brother Clark prayed.

SATURDAY MORNING, 22d August.

Met pursuant to adjournment; Prayer by Brother Trott.

34. The following resolution was offered by Brother S. Trott, which passed *unanimously*: On motion, that as the query contained in the letter from the Fryingpan Church was not considered in order to come before the Association according to the Constitution, *Resolved*, That said query be inserted in our Minutes, and submitted to the consideration of the Churches, with a request that they should express their views on the same, in their Letters to the Association, at its next session.

35. *The query from the Fryingpan Church.* "This Association, having at Rock Hill, refused to recognize Elder Wm. F. Broadus, as a Messenger from the Shiloh Association, by which act we sustained the Elk Run Church, and united with her in her declaration of non-fellowship for the said Elder, is it consistent with such declaration, whilst it remains unrecalled, and with a

becoming regard to the feelings of a majority of this Association as thus expressed, for Churches or Preachers connected with it, to manifest by their public acts a fellowship for him as a Preacher, and for the Churches with him which have declared non fellowship for this Association : Those acts being such as inviting him to sit in Council on Church Difficulties ; uniting with him in Ordaining Preachers coming out under him ; inviting their converts to baptism ; to commune at the Lord's table, &c. ?”

36. The Committee to examine the Letters from the Church at Fredericksburg, presented the following report, which, after much discussion, was received by a vote of 12 to 11, whereupon, their Messengers took seats.

The Committee to whom were referred the Letter from Fredericksburg, Report :

That a letter was received, directed to the Association, purporting to be from the Baptist Church, at Fredericksburg, containing the usual report made annually by a Church to the Association. It was admitted that this letter was sent by what purported to be the Church, composed of a decided majority of the whole Church. At the same time, another letter was received, from a body calling themselves the minority of the said Church, but claiming to be “the true, identical, regular Baptist Church, in Fredericksburg.” The total number of members reported to be in the communion of that Church last year, was 427. The number of names given in the letter of the minority, as identified with them, is 3 males, and 14 females; making together 17. This minority ground their claim to be “the true, identical Church,” on the allegation that the majority of the Church have abandoned the principles, or doctrines on which both their Church and this Association were constituted. It appears that one of the brethren constituting this minority, was, in the course of this excitement which existed among them, excluded by the majority, and that by the minority, five of the members composing the majority were excluded. The charges and recriminations which led to these measures, the committee have regarded as irrelevant to the subject ; the only legitimate subject of inquiry being, whether the majority of said Church have departed from the faith on which the Association is constituted. The 2d Article of the Constitution provides, that “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.” This article precludes all investigation by the Association into the correctness of the Church in its acts of discipline with its own members. The 4th Article of the Constitution provides, “that any Church dissenting from the articles of

faith expressed in this Constitution, shall be excluded from the privileges of the Association." The articles are contained in the preceding article, and are the same as are published annually on the first page of our Minutes. The Messengers appointed by the Church, composed of the majority, avow the belief of themselves and of their Church, in all and severally of these articles; and from all the testimony which has been adduced, it does not appear, in evidence, that the said Church composed of the majority of its nominal members, "has departed from the articles of faith, expressed in this Constitution." We are, therefore, of opinion, that the said Church is still entitled to the privileges of this Association, and that her Messengers, Brother George Row and U. H. Bradshaw, ought therefore, to take their seats with us.

37. The Committee in the case of the Alexandria Church, presented the following report, which was received, and their Messengers invited to seats.

Your Committee having carefully examined the causes of difference in the Alexandria Church, so far as to enable them to identify the church, beg leave to report the following:

We cannot discover any formal division of the members, or any reason why we should consider either party the church to the exclusion of the other party. We, therefore, are of opinion that there is but one church, and that both parties are members of that church; but, because that party, which purports to be the church, have regularly maintained the discipline and ordinances thereof, we are of opinion that the Letter and Messengers of that party, purporting to be the church, should be recognized by this Association; and your committee, furthermore, beg leave to recommend to the Association, the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association do most affectionately and respectfully beseech the brethren no longer to be separated, but regarding themselves as members of the church, to co-operate with each other in restoring harmony and peace to the bleeding bosom of the church.

ELI SCOTT, *Chairman*.

38. The Corresponding Letter, written by brother O. B. Brown, was read and received by the Association.

39. On motion, *resolved*, That the Association elect a Treasurer:—whereupon brother Seymer Lynn was elected.

40. "The committee appointed to receive the contributions from the churches, beg leave to further report, that they have received from the church at Fredericksburg, \$3; Alexandria, \$3;

and, an individual, \$2; making in all \$8." The report was received, and the committee requested to pay over the amount of funds (in all \$33 50) into the hands of the Treasurer.

41. The committee appointed to audit Treasurer's accounts, report,

That the late Treasurer has removed to the State of Indiana, since the last meeting of the Association; and though it is probable he has left his account in the hands of some individual, with any balance, if any, which may have been in his hand, yet such individual is not known to the committee. We are, therefore, able to report but in part. It appears from the Minutes of last year, that there was in his hand a balance of \$47 50
The committee have ascertained that he has paid

out of that sum, for printing the Minutes of 1834,	\$30	} 40
To the Clerk for services in 1834,	10	

Leaving unaccounted for \$7 50 cents.

It is probable that this balance has been in part, if not wholly disbursed on account of the Association; but the committee will learn the fact by correspondence with brother Cooper, and a brother who is a friend of brother Cooper, is ready, as his agent, to pay over to the Treasurer elect, any balance remaining in his hand, as soon as it shall be ascertained.

42. In conformity with the request of the Church at Nanjemo, the Association appoint a Visitation Meeting, to be held with that Church, on the 5th Lord's day in November, and Saturday preceding, attended by brethren Trott, Scott and Bennett.

43. On motion, *resolved*, That the Treasurer pay to the Clerk ten dollars for his services.

44. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to wait on Occoquan Church, and inquire into the occasion of their not having been represented in the Association for the two years past, and if difficulties exist among them, to use their exertions to heal such: Whereupon, brethren Trott, Brown, Bennett, J. Prim, F. M. Lewis and J. Peters, were appointed to meet that Church on Monday, after the 2d Lord's day in October next.

45. Adjourned until 3 o'clock this evening: Brother Trott prayed.

Met pursuant to adjournment: Prayer by brother Reis.

46. *Ordered*, That the Clerk, with the Moderator, superintend the printing and distribution of 1,000 copies of the Minutes.

48. On motion, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That the sincere thanks of this Association be presented to the brethren and friends of Alexandria, for their great kindness and hospitality with which we have been entertained during the present session.

48. On motion, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be presented to the societies of the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the services of their respective Houses of Worship, during this Assoc-

ciation. Also, to the Mechanic Relief Society, for the use of their Hall, for this Association.

49. On motion, Adjourned until the next Association. Praise and prayer by brother Bennett.

ALEX. H. BENNETT, *Moderator.*

JOHN CLARK, *Clerk.*

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, to Corresponding Associations.

BELLOVED BRETHREN :

By the mercy of our common Lord, we have been favored with another anniversary meeting, in which peace and harmony have, in a good degree, characterized our deliberations.

If the day in which we live is pregnant with great events for Zion, it is equally marked as a day of division and strife among those who assume the name of Christ. All denominations of professing Christians, with but few, if any exceptions, are dividing asunder, and without separating from their denominational errors. In our denomination, and in some instances, with this Association, discords and divisions are destroying the harmony of our Churches. In this state of things, we would call to recollection the admonitions of our Saviour, to cultivate brotherly love, and to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. While, on this point, we would stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, we earnestly solicit an interest in your supplications, that the God of peace and love may be with us, in common with all his Churches.

We have been gratified in the attendance of your Messengers, and we hope you will continue the intercourse. Our next meeting will be held, if God permit, with the Church at Grove, in Fauquier county, Virginia, about sixteen miles northwest of Fred-

Richsburg, on the Thursday preceding the fourth Lord's day in August, 1836.

May the Divine presence attend you, and his good spirit direct and comfort you.

ALEX. H. BENNETT, *Moderator*.

JOHN CLARK, *Clerk*.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

AS AMENDED.

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; believer's 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.

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 the 18th chapter of Matthew, with regard to individual members.

ART. 6. The Association shall meet on Thursday 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