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1817

MINUTES

OF THE

North District Association

OF

BAPTISTS,

HELD AT

Bald Eagle Meeting-House,

IN

Bath County, State of Kentucky,

ON THE

4th Saturday in July,

In the Year of our Lord

1817.

LEXINGTON, KY

Printed by Thomas T. Slayman.

250

MINUTES, &c.

BROTHER EDWARD KINDRED preached the Introductory Sermon, from 2d Corinthians, 3d chapter, and 7th and 8th verses.

1st. After sermon, business was opened with prayer, and letters from the churches were read, and the names of the members enrolled agreeably to the following table. N. B. Ministers' names are in capitals.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers Names.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Received by letter.</i>	<i>Dismiss'd by left.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Spencer's Creek	James Rice, John Coons, David Rice,	2	4				30
Lulbegrud	Two letters were presented, and ordered to lie on the table indefinitely.	1	7	12	2		170
Providence	ROBERT ELKIN, Robert Dillick, Thomas Berry.	8	2				35
Bald Eagle	Robert Stone, John Penix, Robert M. Frier.	1	1	1			59
Red River	Thomas Knox, David Snoden, EDWARD KINDRED, William Shull, Jesse Hampton, Harvey Vivion.	7	5	7			35
Howard's Upper Creek	THOMAS WHITE, Jesse Nolin, Moses Dougherty.	6	4	2	1		133
Mount Tabor	THOMAS WHITE, Jesse Nolin, Moses Dougherty.	5	3				30
Slate Union	From this church no communication.						
Sycamore	Robert Dekey, David Trimble, William Lay.	2	4				52
Cane Spring	DAVID CHINAULT, William Nob, Nathan Lipscombe, Isaac Ternburg.	4	2	16	5	1	166

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<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Messengers Names.</i>	<i>Baptized.</i>	<i>Rec'd before ten.</i>	<i>Business'd by letter.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Deceased.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<i>Goshen</i>	John Christopher, Charles Tracey.	3	4	1	1	1	22
<i>Grassy Lick</i>	James Sims, Reuben McDonald, James Mason.	3	5	2	3	1	199
<i>Friendship</i>	William Rash, jun. Ransdale Petty, Joseph Kelly, Ninian Ridgway.	4	12	9	1	1	18
<i>Log Lick</i>	THOMAS BOON, Enoch Lowry.	1	6	7	1		33
<i>Cane Creek</i>	WINGATE JACKSON, Thomas Cassidy.			2			41
<i>Unity</i>	Isham Baber, Anderson Piggs.	1	2	9	1	1	41
<i>Beaver Pond</i>	James Johnson.			5			12
<i>Mount Gilead</i>	George Baker.	4	12	2	1		45
<i>Licken Providence</i>	CHARLES HARPER, Peter Cassidy.				2		27
<i>Drowning Creek</i>	SAMUEL KELLY, Samuel Davison, Charles Epperson, Joseph Eastes.						40

The last mentioned church applied for admittance at this association, and was received.

2nd. The Association then chose brother David Chinault Moderator, and brother James Mason Clerk.

3rd. A letter was presented from the Union Association, requesting a correspondence with us, which being read was agreed to, and their messengers, brethren Geo. Nesbitt and Gresham Forrest, were invited to seats.

4th. The following brethren were appointed to write to the different Associations in correspondence with us: to Elkhorn, brother James Sims; to Tate's creek, brother William Rash; to Long Run, brother John Jameson; to Burning Spring, brother Thomas Whites; to South District, brother Isaac Thornburg; to Tayse's Valley, brother Thomas Boon; to Bracken, brother Nathan Lipcomb; to Franklin, brother Ransdale Petty; to Union, brother Harvey Vivion.

5th. Brethren David Chinault, Thomas Moseley, and James Mason, were appointed a committee to arrange

The business of the Association, and make report on Monday next.

6th. Brethren David Chinault, Robert Elkin, and Edward Kindred, were appointed to preach to-morrow, and then the Association adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

Monday morning, July 28th, the Association met according to adjournment, and the committee of arrangements made the following report, to wit:

To letters having been sent from the Church at Lulbegrud, this committee is of opinion that an enquiry into their standing is expedient.

2nd. The following Churches request next Association to be held at their Meeting House, to wit: Spencer's Creek, Upper Howard's Creek, Unity, Providence, Friendship, and Grassy Lick.

3rd. The following Churches, (to wit:) Providence, Friendship, Upper Howard's Creek, Unity, Log Lick, Mount Tabor and Goshen, by their letters, oppose a correspondence with the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions.

4th. Call for and examine the Circular Letter.

5th. Call for and examine the letters of correspondence, and appoint messengers to bear them.

6th. Appoint some person to write next Circular Letter.

7th. Some person to preach next Introductory Sermon.

8th. Appoint an agent to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

On motion, it was agreed to take up the business as arranged by the committee, and the case of Lulbegrud being the first, a question was taken—Has that Church acceded to the advice given her last Association? and decided in the affirmative.

The question was then taken—Is she now in order? and it was decided in the negative.

It was then agreed that this Association advise that Church to labour together for peace; and in order to aid

them in so good a work, they have appointed a committee to consist of the following brethren, (to wit;) Harvey Vivion, Thomas Berry, Robert Didlick, Thomas White, Moses Dougherty, Enoch Lowry, Henry Bunch, Anderson Piggs, James Rice, Jesse Hampton, William Rash, Samuel Kelly, Wingate Jackson, John Coons, George Baker, David Trimble, William Nolin, John Christopher, Joel Eastes, Charles Tracy, and David SnoJen, who, or a majority of them, are authorised to act, at the request of either a majority or a minority of that Church.

Next Association to be held at Upper Howard's Creek, in Clarke County, fourth Saturday in July, 1818.

From the dissatisfaction expressed by a number of the Churches composing this Association, at her having entered into a correspondence with the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, it is therefore resolved, that all correspondence with the said Board do cease.

Circular Letter read and approved, and ordered to be printed with the Minutes.

Corresponding letters read and approved, and messengers appointed to bear them to each of the following Associations, (viz.) To Elkhorn, James Sims and James Mason; to Tate's Creek, Robert Elkin, Thomas Boon and Thomas Berry; to Long Run, James Sims; to Burning Spring, George Baker; to South District, Thomas Boon, David Rice, and Ninian Ridgeway; to Tayse's Valley, Thomas Moseley; to Bracken, Wingate Jackson and Thomas Cassidy; to Union, Ninian Ridgeway, Ransdale Petty, Joseph Kelly and Wingate Jackson; to Franklin, Robert Elkin and William Rash.

Brother James Mason appointed to write a Circular Letter for the next Association.

Brother Thomas Boon appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at next Association, and in case of failure, brother Thomas White.

Brother James Mason to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

On motion, agreed to address a Letter to our sister Church at Slate Union, and enquire into the cause of her absence, and that brethren James Mason, Thomas Moseley, Thomas White, and Edward Kindred, be appointed to bear the same, and report to next Association.

And then the Association adjourned.

DAVID CHINAULT, Moderator.
JAMES MASON, Clerk.

Circular Letter.

THE North District Association of Baptists, convened at Bald Eagle Meeting House, in Bath County, July the 26th, 1817—to the several Churches thereunto belonging, send the christian salutations.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

THE long suffering forbearance of our kind and indulgent heavenly Father, has afforded us another opportunity of assembling together as an Association, the result of which, together with the state of the Church you will find exhibited in the foregoing pages. Our solemn assembly has been interesting, and we humbly trust not without the presence of the God of Israel—but we lament that we have not the satisfaction to announce, as in years past, the great ingathering of souls, and accession of numbers to the Redeemer's standard, since our last meeting; which seems to indicate to us, that a night season prevails among you, and that the love of many is waxing cold. From some of the Churches we hear that there are splits and divisions among them, and brethren at variance with each other; while others complain of being destitute of ministerial aid, having none to administer to them the ordinances of Christ. These calamities, these distresses, brethren, are of but little importance to the carnal professor, who only has a name to live, and is dead; and who can scarcely be distinguished from the vain and profligate men of the world. But we have no hesita-

tion in saying, that every real christian, and every true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, will mourn and lament whenever he sees Zion languish, and her precious sons, which are comparable to fine gold, esteemed but as earthen pitchers—the work of the hands of the potter. These visitations of divine Providence, and these afflictions of our heavenly Father, we have no doubt, are sent as chastisements on his children, for their disobedience, and for a neglect of those duties, and a disobedience of those commands, which our Lord has enjoined on his disciples to observe, and which he has left on record in the scriptures of divine truth for our instruction. To this sacred book then, let us repair and search for our duty, and enquire of the Lord by prayer and supplication, what is his will concerning us; for he has said that he will be sought unto by the house of Israel, and his ear is ever open to their cry. And although there may be among you some who seemed to run well for a season, and made great professions, who may be now turning aside, being filled with the love of the world, and eagerly pursuing those phantoms which allure the unregenerate heart; and the prospect around us wears a gloomy aspect; yet let us not be cast down, brethren, nor be discouraged, but trust in the arm of the living God, for we hear tidings of glorious things from abroad, not only of the outpouring of the ever blessed spirit of God on the hearts of poor sinners, in many parts of our country, but of the rapid march of truth, and of the spread of the glorious gospel of peace and salvation in our fallen world. Bible and Missionary Societies have been formed, and are yet forming in almost every nation in christendom, through the means of which the Lord is carrying on his gracious designs towards the poor brethren, and sending among them the light of revelation. The stone cut out of the mountain without hands is waxing great, and rapidly filling the whole earth. Vast means are in operation, funds are collecting, the number of those who publish the glad tidings are increasing, while the prayers of the saints are ascending, and the spirit of God is giving efficacy to these.

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exertions, and multiplying converts to righteousness. And even where the sound of the tramp of war was lately heard, rallying embattled hosts to the bloody conflict, there, even there, the sweet songs of Zion are chanted forth in praise to God—and those contending nations, so lately engaged in spilling each other's blood, are now employed, and vieing with each other, in sending the gospel of peace and love to those of their fellow-men who have long sat in the region and valley of the shadow of death.

Dear Brethren and Sisters—Let us join to pray together for the prosperity of Zion, and while the attention of the christian world is directed to the enlargement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the light of revealed truth finding its way throughout the habitable earth, let not us, who in this highly favored land have shared so largely in heaven's richest gifts, both in a civil and religious point of view, act the part of idlers in the vineyard of Christ, and neglect to improve those talents, and to use those means, which a gracious God has bountifully bestowed upon us in rich profusion—lest our blessings be turned into curses, and the Lord deal with us as unprofitable servants, and cumberers of the ground.

O! brethren! let us who have named the name of Jesus, rally round his standard—let us come forth to the help of the Lord against the mighty, using every means within our reach, and the conquest shall be sure—you shall be conquerors all ere long, and more than conquerors too—you shall behold in the climes of never-fading bliss, at one comprehensive glance, all the happy fruits of yours, as well as the labours of prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and join in the song of those converted to God through their instrumentality, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive kingdom, power, and glory, forever and ever. Amen.