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MINUTES

Of the Green River United Baptist Association,

Holden at Smith's Grove, Warren County, Kentucky, on the 16th day of August, 1832.

The Green River Association, after the split took place, repaired to the Stand, when Bro. Ralph Petty delivered a short, though appropriate discourse, on the occasion; and after singing and prayer, proceeded to business.

Elder Ralph Petty was then chosen Moderator, and Peyton Cooke, Clerk.

It was then motioned and seconded, That all the Churches or parts of Churches, who dissent from the course pursued by the Association before the split took place, who are firm to the principles, usages and customs of the United Baptists, were invited to take seats with us.

Correspondent letters were called for.—Letter from Barren River Association, was read, and the Messengers Zachariah Emberson, Henry Collins and Andrew Nuckols, were invited to seats with us, to aid us according to the purport of said letter.

Agreed, That the Annual Green River Association, be holden at Smith's Grove Meeting House, on the 2d Saturday in August, 1832, and brother Ralph Petty appointed to preach the introductory sermon.

Agreed, That 300 copies of these Minutes be printed for the use of this Association, reserving 70 copies for Correspondent Associations—and that brother John White, distribute the same.

On motion and second,

Agreed, That the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were offered to the Association before the split took place, and rejected by them, we heartily concur in, and ordered to be inserted in these Minutes, viz :

Whereas, several Churches of this Association have divided, on account of the doctrines advocated by A. Campbell, and much altercation between the parties, has in each case been the unhappy consequence—whereby we fear that both parties, in several instances, have been more or less defiled; and whereas, both parties have presented themselves by letter and messengers to this Body, with lengthy documents in self-justification, involving much unpleasant matter, of a character pertaining to their own internal government, and the conduct of individuals among them, this Association therefore Resolve—

1st. That we have no jurisdiction over the internal government of any of the Churches, or any individual member among them, only so far as they stand related to us in the covenant or constitution in which we united—we therefore Resolve—

2d. That we have no fellowship for, and do hereby drop all religious intercourse with, such of these as have forfeited their membership among us, by departing from the doctrine and order of this Association, and the general union of Baptists, and have become advocates of all or any of the following heretical notions—

1st. That the scriptures are sufficient for the salvation of men, without the direct power and spirit of God to make them effectual.

2d. That the faith which unites the soul to Christ, is independent of, and previous to, the Holy Spirit's quickening and converting power, directly exerted on the human mind and heart, changing him from the love of sin to the love of holiness.

3d. That this faith exists previous to the justification of the soul, and the forgiveness of sins.

4th. That baptism is not the figurative, but the actual washing away of sins—that this baptism is the act of *procuring* a good or pure conscience; and not the *answer* of a conscience made good *previously*, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

5th. That the spirit of God exerted on human minds, or human spirits, consists in nothing else but words or arguments.

6th. That when God spoke the words of inspiration, all the power of the Holy Spirit which can operate on the human mind was spent !!

Connected with the foregoing, we regard the unqualified opposition of some to creeds, or articles of faith, as founded on imagination and dangerous, by which they impose on themselves and us. Such efforts tend to division and discord.—Resolved lastly—

That we advise each Church in this Association to discountenance the foregoing heretical notions, whether in preachers or lay members.

On motion and second—

Agreed, That the following address from the Smith's Grove Church, to the Green River Association, then sitting, and before the spilt took place, be inserted in these Minutes :

AUGUST 15th, 1831.

To the Association now sitting at the Smith's Grove Meeting House.

Having maturely considered the course pursued by you, as an Associate Body, we have determined to "come out from among you," for reasons herewith declared and made known:—

1st. For retaining in said Association the Mount Zion Church, who has abolished her constitution under which she was received into the Union, as is manifest from the face of her letter.

2d. For retaining and admitting to seats, in your body, the Campbellite party of the Green River Church, composed of A. G. Maxey and others.

3d. For retaining the Campbellite part of the Mount Pisgah Church, where it has been proven satisfactorily to us, that C. Dueese does preach the doctrines of A. Campbell—and if any of the others, who are of his (Dueese party) do not hold the same sentiments, they have and do sustain said Dueese in said doctrines.

Therefore we do in behalf of the Smith's Grove Church, and as organs for said Church, hereby declare non-fellowship with you, as the Green River Association—and do hereby claim the Constitution of the Green River Association and General Union; the terms of which we continue, as heretofore, heartily to agree to, (although by the Campbellites we are accused of opposition to those terms or articles) and as we conceive you have departed from the principles of the Union, usages and customs of the United Baptists, were you to retain us in your body as part of said Association, we could not remain with you.

Signed in behalf of the Smith's Grove Church,

PEYTON COOKE,
JOHN WHITE,
THS. FERGUSON, Sr. }

Managers.

Agreed, That friendly letters be prepared to send the following sister Associations, viz. Barren River, Stockton's Valley, Russell's Creek, Drake's Creek, Salem, Goshen and Gasper's River.

Letters were called for, read, approved, and messengers appointed to bear them, to wit: To Barren River, Ralph Petty, John White and Thornton Settle. To Stockton's Valley, Thornton Settle and Thomas James. To Russell's Creek, John Wilson and Ralph Petty. To Drake's Creek, John White, Thomas Petter and Peyton Cooke. To Salem, Ralph Petty, John White, John Wilson and William Amos. To Goshen, Thomas Ferguson, Green Rowntree and Elisha Gosway. To Gasper's River, Shadrach Hays.

An Address to the Churches composing the Green River Association was presented, read and adopted, and agreed to be inserted in the Minutes, viz :

To the Churches composing the Green River Association.

DEAR BRETHREN—

You will learn from our Minutes that the Green River Association have divided, and you will also perceive some of the causes—and many more could be cited : but you are well aware that before A. Campbell visited Kentucky, you were in harmony and peace; you heard but the one Gospel, and knew only the one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism. Your Church Constitutions were regarded, and their principles expounded by those whom we believe God has sent out to preach his everlasting Gospel. Thus you were respected by other denominations as a religious community, often were you favored with refreshing seasons from on High, and many of your neighbors & of your families were brought to a knowledge of the truth. How delightful were your morning and evening interviews, cheered by the Songs, prayers and exhortations of Brethren, and by the presence of Him who has promised that where two or three are gathered together in his name, there to be in the midst. Have not these days gone by? In place of preaching, you may hear your church covenants ridiculed, your faith as registered upon your church books, denounced, and in some instances made null and void—and yourselves traduced. If you would protect yourselves as Churches, make no compromise with errors—mark them who cause divisions, and divest yourselves of the last vestige of Campbellism.

As an Association, we deem it our duty to drop correspondence with any and every Association or Church, where heresy is tolerated. Those who say they are not Campbellites, and yet uphold and countenance those who teach the doctrine, are insincere—they should be avoided. You may have been told by them, that they have been persecuted because they would not accept of the Philadelphia confession of faith; believe it not—for no Church, as we believe, has called one of them in question on that point; but they wish to put down the Constitution on which each Church has been received into the Union, and establish their own creed upon the ruins thereof.

And now, dear brethren, we deem it our duty to invite all those that are firm in the principles, usages and customs of the United Baptists, whether by Churches or parts of Churches, to present yourselves by your Messengers, at our next Annual Association, and you will be received with open hearts and hands.

And the Association adjourned in order.

RALPH PETTY, Moderator,
PEYTON COOKE, Clerk.

~~04~~ Printed by G. A. Atchison, Bowling-Green, Ky. No. Copies 200. Price \$10.