

# MINUTES

OF THE

## MULBERRY GAP ASSOCIATION OF UNITED BAPTISTS.

This Association convened at Little Sycamore meeting house, Claiborne county, Tennessee, on the first Friday in September, 1842, and following days.

Elder Jonathan Bishop, according to appointment, delivered the introductory sermon from Joel, the 2d chapter and 1st verse. Blow ye the Trumpet in Zion, sound an alarm in my holy mountain

Then letters from 12 Churches were read, and the following account taken :

Churches.	Delegates.	Experience.	Letter	Restored.	Re-accepting.	Dismissed.	Excommunicated.	Deceased.	Total.
Richardson's Creek	Jesse Cope and Thomas Madox	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	50
Deep Spring	Jonathan Bishop and John Zion	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	57
Mulberry Gap	Thos. Vandeventer, Wm. Edwards, and B. Bishop	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Zion	William Bloomer	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	13
Little Sycamore	Jos. Neill, John McNeil, Samuel Fleming, and Wm. McNeil	4	2	0	5	2	1	2	48
Head of Barren	Jas. Hodges, D. Huddleston, E. England, D. M. Hodges, and William W. Holensworth	59	1	0	2	3	1	0	97
Greasy Rock	Jan. Gilbert, A. Trent, and R. Trent	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	72
War Creek	J. Day, J. Davis and M. McGinnis	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	48
Beck Creek	B. Coffee, C. Hays, and Thos. Hays, jr.	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Hickory Cove	M. Rutledge and J. Rouse	11	1	0	0	2	1	0	48
Thompson's Settlement	James Bishop, Robert Clark, sr., Peter Parky, and Robert Clark, jr.	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	99
Black Water	George Ierd and Claiborne Roberts	7	1	1	0	2	0	0	41
		13	13	2	7	14	1	1	350

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1. Chose Elder James Gilbert moderator, and William McNiel clerk.

2. Received a corresponding letter and packet of minutes from Nolschucky Association, by her delegates Elders Hugh W. Taylor and James Lacy, and brother John Haun. We tendered the right hand of fellowship and invited them to sit with us. Their next Association will be held at Bethel South, to commence the fourth Friday in September next. We appoint Elder John Day to write to them. Elders Moses McGinnis, James Bishop, and John Day, and brother James Hodges to bear the same.

3. Received a corresponding letter and packet of minutes from the Holston Association, by her delegates M. R. Lyon, William Pearce, J. H. Crouch, and William A. Kean, to whom we gave the right hand of fellowship, and invited them to sit with us. Their next Association will be held at McPheters Bend, to commence the second Friday in August next. Brother Claiborne Roberts to write to them, and Elders James Gilbert, Jonathan Bishop, James Bishop, Moses McGinnis, John Day, and brother Robert Clark, jr., to bear the same.

4. Received a corresponding letter, but no minutes, from the Northern Association, by her delegate Elder Joel Aldridge, to whom we gave the right hand of fellowship, and invited him to sit with us. Their next Association will be held at Zion Hill, Knox county, to commence the Friday before the second Saturday in October next. Brother John McNiel to write to them. Brethren Samuel Fleming, James Hodges, William McNiel, and Elder Moses McGinnis to bear the same.

5. We invite all our preaching brethren who are present to take seats with us.

6. We appoint Elder James Bishop and brother David M. Hodges a committee of finance, who report as follows: \$11 53 and \$6 98 in the hands of the treasurer, making in all \$18 51.

7. We appoint brethren Robert Clark, sr., James Hodges, Elders Jonathan Bishop and Moses McGinnis, together with the moderator and clerk, a select committee to arrange the business to be attended to on to-morrow. We invite all the corresponding brethren to sit with us.—Then adjourned with prayer by the moderator till Saturday morning, 10 o'clock.

Saturday, met according to adjournment. Prayer by the moderator, then proceeded to business.

8. Ordered that the roll be called and the names of those delegates who are not present be erased.

9. Brother Joseph Neill, together with one member out of each Church composing this Association to appoint preaching brethren to fill the stand on to-day and to-morrow, who report as follows: Elders John Day, James Bishop, R. M. Lyon, and Moses McGinnis to fill the stand to-day. Elders Hughes W. Taylor, James Lacy, Joel Aldridge, and James Gilbert on Sabbath.

10. Called for the select committee's arrangement, which was read and received and the committee discharged.

11. Agreeable to the arrangement of the select committee we notice the request of Little Sycamore church relative to union meetings.

12. This Association, agreeable to the request of the above named church, agrees to effect a system of union meetings, and proceeded to



divide her bounds into two divisions, commencing near Thompson's Settlement Church, running south eastwardly so as to include Mulberry Gap and Greasy Rock in the western division, and those churches above to compose the eastern division.

13. The first union meeting to be held in the eastern division at Blackwater meeting house, Hawkins county, to commence the 3d Friday in May next. Preaching brethren to attend Elders James Bishop, Jonathan Bishop, and Manuel Rutledge.

14. The first union meeting to be held in the western division at War Creek meeting house, Hawkins county, to commence the 2nd Friday in June next. Preaching brethren to attend Elders John Day, Moses McGinnis and James Gilbert.

15. We notice the request of Deep Spring, Been Creek, and Richardson Creek, praying for the next Association to be with them, in answer to which we say our next Association will be held at Deep Spring meeting house, Lee county, Va., to commence the first Friday in September next, and three following days. Elder Moses McGinnis to preach the introductory sermon and James Gilbert his alternate.

16. Ordered, that 300 copies of our minutes be printed, and that the clerk superintend the printing and distributing them, and be allowed \$8 00 for his services.

17. A motion made by Elder Moses McGinnis in the form of a query, inquiring to know whether the 3rd, 7th, and 9th articles of our abstract of principles are in accordance with the word of God, deferred till Monday morning. Then adjourned with prayer by Elder Hughes W. Taylor, till Monday half past 9 o'clock.

18. Monday morning met according to adjournment, prayer by the moderator, then proceeded to business.

19. The Association considered the motion made by Elder Moses McGinnis, relative to the 3d, 7th, and 9th articles of our abstract of principles, and believing the 7th article not to be in accordance with the word of God, we continue the 3d and 9th, and unanimously agree to erase the 7th article from said abstract of principles.

20. The Association ordered our abstract of principles annexed to our minutes as amended by our Association.

21. Called for the corresponding letters which were read and received, and the signature of the moderator and clerk annexed to them.

22. A motion made by brother James Hodges to further extend the provision of the Association in 1841, article 16th, we advise the different churches that compose this Association to act for themselves in receiving members by relationship where they are in good standing and not satisfied where they belong, whether they have applied for letters of dismission or not.

23. In compliance with the request of our sister Association we agree to set apart the 4th day of July next, also the 25th day of December next for the purpose of fasting and prayer to Almighty God that he would wonderfully revive his work of grace in the hearts of all his adopted children throughout the universe, and Zion may travel in a wonderful manner and bring forth many sons and daughters to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

Signed by order of the Association.

JAMES GILBERT, Moderator.

WILLIAM MCNIEL, Clerk.



## REMARKS.

I beg leave to make some remarks for the sake of interesting the reader. We had a wonderful time, large and respectable congregations were in attendance from the commencement—a powerful excitement prevailed—the watchmen stood up in the walls of Zion, and being influenced by the divine spirit of God they proclaimed to all around the doctrines of free salvation to all in such a manner as no doubt will stand when heaven and earth shall pass away, and we have no doubt but the fruits of which will be realized in time and great eternity. A number of poor sinners pleading for mercy, and christians rejoicing in God our Saviour; several during our meeting rose shouting forth praises to God for redeeming grace. And in conclusion we are happy to announce that we believe God was in the midst.

WILLIAM McNIEL, Clerk.

## ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in one only true and living God as he is revealed to us in the scriptures, viz: by the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rule of all saving knowledge and obedience.
3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, and belief of the truth.
4. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.
5. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will or ability.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe that the saints will persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.
8. We believe of a truth that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him.
9. We believe in the revealed religion of Jesus Christ internally in the soul.
10. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and that the true mode of baptism is by immersion.
11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general Judgment.
12. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
13. We believe that no Minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as are regularly called, and comes under the imposition of hands by a Presbytery.
15. We believe it is necessary to associate in council, in order to give counsel to the respective Churches that compose this Association, and to maintain our Christian fellowship—not as a legislative body to impose laws, or exercise any supremacy, each Church being an independent body by her Delegates freely chosen.

Whereas, Churches are constituted externally by the parties entering into a mutual agreement in writing to maintain the worship of God, according to Gospel order—referring to the Articles of their faith, so Churches by their Delegates, constitute themselves an Association by the confession of their faith maintained to each other.