South Carolina Conference 1832

Methodist Episcopal Church. South Carolina Conference

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Minutes
of the
South Carolina
Annual
Conference
of ministers of the
Methodist
Episcopal Church
Jan. 26, 1832

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Sir, presented to war in a

W. C. Conference 1851

126-1592

Bishop, Elder, Elderly

W. H. Whittemore

Rev. Eli Smith

Wm. W. Whitley

Wm. W. Wightman

Wm. W. Wightman

Warren Wigginton

Samuel Waring

Wm. W. Wightman

Rev. Eli Smith

Wm. W. Wightman

Wm. W. Wightman

Rev. Eli Smith

Wm. W. Wightman
MINUTES 
of the 
Forty-Sixth Session 

SOUTH-CAROLINA CONFERENCE 

OF THE 

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 

FOR THE YEAR 1832, 

Helena Newington, S.C. 
Jan 24, 1832, 

TO WHICH ARE ADDED, 


PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY. 

Charleston, S. C. 
PRINTED BY JAMES S. BURGES, 44 QUEEN-STREET. 1832.
Ques. 7. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?  
Ans. Reddick Pierce.

Ques. 8. Who are the Superannuated or worn out Preachers?  

Ques. 9. Who has been expelled the connexion this year?  
Ans. No one.

Ques. 10. Who has withdrawn from the connexion?  
Ans. No one.

Ques. 11. Who has died this year?  
Ans. No one of the members of the Conference.

Ques. 12. What numbers are in the Societies?  
Answer.

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<td>Hollow Creek,</td>
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<td>Charleston Dist.</td>
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Ques. 13. Where are the Preachers stationed this year?  
Answer.

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, Henry Bass, P. E.**

**SALUDA DISTRICT, Malcom McPherson, P. E.**
Saluda—Joel W. Townsend, Allen Hamby. Ab-
FAST DAYS.

The Conference has appointed, and recommend our brethren throughout the Conference District to observe the last Friday in April, and the first in October, as days of solemn fasting and prayer.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE,
Respecting the Bible, Tract and Sunday School Societies, and the Publishing Fund.

Whereas the circulation of popular essays, neatly prepared and adapted to the capacities of children and the unlearned, is a grand means of promoting any cause, and has been most happily and successfully applied to the spreading of Christian doctrine, both by our own Church and others;—And whereas it appears to us that the supply of such essays in the form of tracts, and Sunday School books, at the present time, falls short of the demand for them, and ought to be much increased;—And whereas it farther appears, that the very low rates at which such tracts and books have latterly been furnished in this country by the American Tract Society and Sunday School Union, supported as they are by large and numerous collections and donations for that purpose, puts it out of the power of our concern, with the limited means heretofore supplied, to furnish tracts and books at so low a rate, to the extent that is required—Therefore,

Resolved, 1st. That we recommend to the Bible, Tract, and Sunday School Societies within the bounds of this Conference District, so to modify their Constitutions as to contribute to the publishing fund, some part, not exceeding one third, of the monies raised by them.

Resolved, 2d. That we will use our best endeavors to form Bible, Tract, and Sunday School Societies on the plan of the preceding resolution: and that where
it may not be practicable, or is not judged expedient, to raise separate societies for these several objects, we will recommend the formation of such a society as shall embrace them altogether.

Resolved, 3d. That we will exert ourselves to increase the publishing fund by recommending it to the liberality of our brethren and friends generally, as being a most important interest, and one which, for Zion's sake, they should gladly serve.

RANDOLPH MACON COLLEGE.

A letter from the Board of Trustees, covering a resolution of the Board, by which this Conference was invited to participate with the Virginia Conference in the Randolph Macon College, having been referred to a Committee, the following resolutions were reported, and unanimously passed the Conference.

Resolved, 1st. That the establishment of a well endowed college, purely literary and scientific, in a desirable place in the Southern Atlantic States, and under the direction and control of a Faculty and Board of Trustees, consisting, and perpetually to consist, of members and friends of our Church, is an object of the first importance, vitally interesting to our Zion, and deserving of the best wishes and assistance of all our friends.

Resolved, 2d. That the Randolph Macon College, of Mecklenburg, Virginia, instituted under an ample charter from the State, by the Virginia Conference, and now shortly to be opened under the auspices of that Conference, possesses every reasonable prospect of soon becoming, in all respects, what the friends of religion and literature, and those of our own Church in particular, could desire; and is entitled to, and ought to receive the preference and patronage of this Conference.

Resolved, 3d. That we do earnestly recommend the Randolph Macon College, aforesaid, to all our brethren and friends of the South Carolina Conference District, and will cordially receive an Agent, and second his efforts, when such a one shall be sent to solicit aid for the College.

Resolved, 4th. That we accept of a share in the supervision of the College, as proposed by the Board of Trustees, and nominate six suitable persons, of the Ministry or membership of the Church, differently, within our Conference limits, to be elected into the Board of Trustees, on our behalf.

Agreeably to the last of these resolutions, the following brethren were nominated by the Conference as Trustees, on its part, of the College, viz: Col. Thomas Williams, Maj. Alexander Speer, Rev. William Capers, Rev. William M. Kennedy, Rev. William M. Wightman and Rev. William H. Ellison.

CONFERENCE INSTITUTIONS.

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE SOUTH-CAROLINA CONFERENCE, AUXILIARY TO THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Officers and Managers.—William Capers, President; William M. Kennedy, 1st Vice-President; Samuel Dunwody, 2d Vice-President; William M. Wightman, Secretary; Joseph Holmes, Treasurer, and Malcom McPherson, Hartwell Spain, Nicholas Talley, Henry Bass, James Jenkins, Joseph Moore, Bond English, Charles Betts, Daniel G. McDaniel, Managers.

The Annual meeting of the Society was held on the afternoon of the 28th January; the extreme severity of the weather having prevented a meeting on the previous evening. There was no sermon. After
reading the Holy Scriptures, singing, and prayer, by
the President, the Report was read by the Secretary.
A motion to adopt the report was made by the Rev.
Henry Bass, seconded by Rev. Malcom McPherson.
The following Resolutions were then proposed and
adopted:

By Rev. James O. Andrew, seconded by Rev. Wm.
Capers:—Resolved, That while we consider false
views of religion as being every way mischievous,
and judge from the past that much evil has resulted
from that cause among the slave population of this
country, we are fully persuaded that it is not only
safe, but highly expedient to society at large, to fur-
nish the slaves as fully as possible with the means of
true scriptural instruction, and the worship of God.

Martin P. Parks:—Resolved, That we consider the
general and great prosperity of Missions, in almost all
parts of the world, as calling for lively thanking to
God, and demanding of the friends of Zion every
where, and of our Zion in particular, increased efforts
to promote this blessed cause.

A collection was then taken up and the congregation
dismissed with the usual benediction.

The following is the report of the Board of Man-
ger.

The Board of Managers of the Missionary Society
of the South-Carolina Conference respectfully Re-
port:—

The cause of missions is one of wide and growing
interest, and the success which has hitherto marked
the enterprise, proves that God has sanctioned it; and
offers a cheering argument in favor of ultimate tri-
umph, and a strong inducement for increased exertion.
We rejoice in the general prosperity of this cause;
and in directing the attention of the Society to the
particular department of the work in which we are
engaged, the Board feel themselves called on, for a
special acknowledgment of thanks to God for his pro-
tection and blessing during the past year. Situated
as our Missions to the blacks are, in circumstances of
peculiar delicacy and difficulty—requiring a most
prudent and watchful regard, it is a matter of great
gratulation that the work has not been arrested or im-
peded; and it offers a strong inducement for enlarged
interest and effort, that compassed with danger as that
work has been during the past year, it has flourished
and improved.

We consider it important that the friends and ene-
mies (if enemies there be) to the missions among our
slave population, should alike understand the prin-
ciples which actuate us in this arduous undertaking, and
the policy which guides our efforts. And indeed we
regard it a sufficient vindication, and an irrefutable ar-
gument, just to state this policy and these principles.

The slave, degraded as may be his condition, dark
and untutored as may be his mind, is still a man, pos-
sessed of a soul, and gifted with the high capacities of
a moral nature. Religion of some kind, he must and
will have. And his religion must be either the sim-
ple, mighty, and purifying influences of the grace of
the Gospel, (which can alone be secured by a system
of plain and efficient religious instruction,) or it will
be a ruinous spirit of superstition, alike degrading to
the subject of it, and fearful in its aspect to society.
Now the object contemplated in your missions, is
both to crush and expel all improper teaching, to ban-
ish from among our slave population, all false and su-
perstitious instructors, and to substitute a system of
plain and catechetical instruction, and of direct awak-
ing preaching, from responsible teachers. And
withal, our design looks to the maintenance of a strict
moral discipline among the slaves. The missionary
enters in person into the field of his labor. He sits him down amidst groups of little negroes, and teaches them the simple but affecting truths which make up the first principles of religious instruction. He collects around him on the Sabbath, or at night, the negroes of the plantation, and presents in terms that all can understand, the important realities connected with their present and eternal happiness. He lifts his hands in supplication to the God "whose tender mercies are over all his works," and along with him and led by his example, "Ethiopia stretches out her hands unto God!" Mingling thus with them, and entering into the peculiarities of their feelings and circumstances, walking in the footsteps of "Jesus of Nazareth, who went about doing good," the missionary acquires a commanding influence over them, and is able to maintain a watchful oversight with respect to their moral conduct. The negro perceives that his preacher is interested in his welfare, and his heart is won; there is a cord of deep and latent feeling touched in his untutored soul; and what authority could not accomplish, what the threat of the overseer, and the driver's whip could not bring about, is effected through the instrumentality of a higher agency, through the energy of a more affecting power.

Your Board of Managers feel happy in saying that their appeal is not to any theory however well arranged in its principles, or plausible in its probabilities, but to plain and notorious matters of fact. The theory has been carried to the field of experiment, and its efficiency has been tested upon the slave population of our country, and the cheering result has been proclaimed by "living epistles, known and read of all men." The Board have now before them, from a highly talented and influential gentleman of this State, who has kindly interested himself in the cause of our missions, and has witnessed on a large plantation of his own, their successful results, a communication earnestly repeating a solicitation made last year, in behalf of a number of his friends in Beaufort District, that Missionaries be sent to them. There is likewise a great and effectual door opening before us among the slaves on Pee Dee and Black River. And we cannot but advert to the fact that a large and respectable meeting of gentlemen was lately held in St. Luke's Parish on the subject of the religious instruction of the blacks, where the missionary system was advocated and adopted. This affords a high evidence of the confidence with which the principles we advocate are received in South-Carolina, and is a cheering harbinger of final success to the cause of Missions among the blacks.

The three Missions under the immediate supervision of the Conference, are reported as follows:—

The Mission on Santee numbers upwards of 300 members of the church, in regular and good standing. A considerable number of the slaves have been baptized during the past year. There is an evident improvement among the negroes, both as regards the number who attend upon the means of grace, and as to the serious deportment and the solemn attention given to the word preached.

The negroes served in the Savannah River Mission, being found convenient to meeting-houses, it has been judged expedient to throw that Mission into the regular work of the circuit.

The Mission on Combahee, Pon Pon and Wappahunola, has had an increase the last year of 230 members, making the aggregate number of members 670. Upwards of 100 little negroes receive catechetical instruction; 128 have been baptized; and the Missionary expresses his conviction that the religious experience of the blacks, is deeper and more interesting, and their deportment more serious and becoming, every year.

Thus after years of delay on our part, the debt of
justice due to Afric's sons has begun to be considered. Guided by experience, and cheered by success, we come to bind ourselves afresh to this holy work, and to renew the solemn obligations which the enterprise of negro instruction and salvation imposes on us. In this long neglected field of danger, reproach and toil, we again go forth, bearing the precious seed of salvation. And to the protection and blessing of the God of Missions, our cause is confidently and devoutly commended.

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. This Society shall be denominated "The Missionary Society of the South-Carolina Conference, auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Art. 2. The object of this Society is to assist the several annual Conferences, more effectually to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere.

Art. 3. The business of this Society shall be conducted by a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and nine Managers, who shall be annually elected by the Society; all of whom shall be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Art. 4. At all meetings of the Board of Managers, it shall require five members to form a quorum.

Art. 5. The Board shall have authority to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings; and shall annually submit a report of its transactions and funds to the Society; and inform the Conference of the state of its funds.

Art. 6. The funds of this Society, after deducting the necessary incidental expenses, shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the parent institution for the purposes expressed in the second article of this Constitution.

Art. 7. Each subscriber paying one dollar annually, shall be a member of this Society; and the payment of ten dollars, shall constitute a member for life.

Art. 8. The annual meeting of this Society, shall be held sometime during the session of the Conference, at the discretion of the Board of Managers.

Art. 9. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Managers.

Art. 10. At all the meetings of the Society, the President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, or in the absence of both Vice-Presidents, such member as shall be appointed by the meeting, shall preside.

Art. 11. The minutes of each meeting of the Society shall be signed by the President and the Recording Secretary.

Art. 12. The Constitution shall not be altered, but by a vote of two-thirds of the annual Conference, at the recommendation of the Board of Managers.

BY-LAWS.

1. The Managers shall meet annually, at such place as may be appointed for the annual Conference, at the same hour of the second day previous to its sitting.

2. At all meetings of the Board, the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, or President pro tem. shall take the chair at the hour appointed; shall preserve order and appoint committees, and shall also have authority to appoint extra meetings of the Board.

3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a correct journal of the minutes and proceedings of the Board, and attend all its sittings when practicable, and in case of absence, transmit the records of the Board to the place of meeting.

4. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secre-
fary to keep a correct copy of all his official letters and communications, and communicate immediately after each meeting of the Board with the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church relative to the Society's funds, &c.; and also to communicate at least annually with each Presiding Elder of the South-Carolina Conference, on the subject of raising branch societies; and shall carefully file and preserve all communications to him, which shall be taken to the place of meeting, and be subject to the inspection of the Board.

5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a book, in which the names of all the subscribers and donors shall be recorded; to keep a correct account of receipts and expenditures, and he shall submit the same for inspection at each meeting.

6. It shall be the duty of each member of the Board to solicit donations and subscriptions for the Society, and to make a return at the annual meeting of the Board, placing at the time of making such return, all the funds which may have been received, into the Treasurer's hands.

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TRUST,

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE SUPERANNUATED OR WORN OUT PREACHERS, AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF PREACHERS.

Board of Trustees.—Malcom McPherson, Chairman; William M. Wightman, Secretary; Robert Adams, Treasurer; and Charles Betts, Elisha Calloway, William H. Ellison, and David Derrick.

CONSTITUTION.

Preamble.—Whereas there is no certain provision made for the support of the superannuated or worn out preachers and their families, or for the widows and orphans of preachers who have died in the work, beyond the annual allowance of $100 to each superannuated preacher, or wife, or widow of a preacher, and sixteen or twenty-four dollars, as the case may be, to each one of their children—and this insufficient annuity is not usually made up to them—the South-Carolina Conference deems it proper to constitute within itself a Society for the purpose, exclusively, of raising monies and applying them towards the relief of persons of the descriptions above mentioned, belonging to this Conference: Provided, That in all cases, the sums appropriated to an individual or family, shall not be more than so much, as, in addition to the sum or sums received by him, her, or them, from the Conference, shall raise his, her, or their whole allowance, to the amount of a fair average of the whole allowance of the members of the Conference, and their families, on the circuits and stations generally.

And in order to the accomplishment of these objects, the following regulations are adopted:

1. The Conference shall elect seven of its members, who, under the title of Trustees of the Superannuated Preacher's Fund, shall receive the contributions of the preachers and other benevolent persons aiding this interest; and shall have the management of all monies and other effects, given or bequeathed to the Conference for the relief of such persons as are herein contemplated: Provided, That no superannuated preacher shall be a Trustee; and that as often as there shall be a vacancy in the Board, by death or otherwise, the Conference shall fill such vacancy by election, as at first.

2. The Board of Trustees shall have regular meetings, either on a day shortly previous to the session of Conference, or early in the session; and shall report to Conference fully every year, the amount of money, or other means, in its possession; how such monies shall have been vested, and on what security
ity; and what appropriations, agreeably to the purpose of this trust, shall have been made.

3. A part of all monies given to this trust, (not forbidden by the giver,) and a part of the interest of all monies at interest, shall be annually divided among the superannuated or worn out preachers and their families, and the widows and orphans of deceased preachers. But the whole amount, either of monies contributed, or of the annual interest of the trust, shall not be so divided and applied, unless in the judgment of the Conference, expressed by vote, the capital of the trust shall have been increased to a sufficient amount to secure to the persons intended to be served, an allowance equal to that of the efficient members of the Conference generally, and their wives and children. Beyond which amount, the Conference is pledged not to suffer it to be increased.

The Society of the South-Carolina Conference for the Relief of the Children of Its Members,

Officers and Managers.—William M. Kennedy, President; William Capers, Vice-President; Charles Betts, Treasurer; William M. Wightman, Sec'y, and Samuel Dunwoody, Nicholas Talley, Henry Bass, Hartwell Spain, and Elisha Calloway, Managers.

CONSTITUTION.

Preamble.—The sole objects of the institution of this Society, the designation of which shall be, "The Society of the South-Carolina Conference for the relief of the children of its members," are, the education and comfortable subsistence of the children of living or deceased ministers of the South-Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Which objects the Society hopes to accomplish, not only by the yearly or life subscriptions of its members, but also, by the contributions of pious friends; there being provided in this Society, as we trust, a suitable medium for the communication of their charities.

And for the preservation, inviolate, of the design of the Society, and the exact appropriation of all its means, in conformity to this design as above expressed, the good faith of the members of the Society and its Board of Managers stands solemnly pledged, by their individually signing this instrument, with the Articles following:

Art. 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society, coincident with the meeting of the Conference, and on a day not later than the fourth after its commencement (the particular day to be fixed previously, and made known by the Board of Managers.) At which annual meeting the Board shall present a minute account of its transactions; and especially, the receipts and expenditures of the past year.

Art. 2. The Board of Managers shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and not fewer than three, nor more than seven other members of the Society, to be elected at each annual meeting. Which Board shall be entrusted with the entire management of the affairs of the Society during its recess, and be charged with making such regulations, subject to inspection and amendment by the Society, as shall secure the faithful performance of the duties and trusts of its officers—particularly the Treasurer.

Art. 3. Two thirds of the yearly interest of the funds of the Society, and a part of all donations or legacies in money, at the discretion of the Board of Managers, shall be applied to the immediate relief of such children as shall be selected by the Board—except as provided in the 5th Article.

Art. 4. Any person subscribing to the Preamble and Articles forming this instrument (which is in-
tended, and received, as the Constitution of the Society, and paying two dollars ninety-nine dollars at one time, shall be a member of the Society.

Art. 5. Any person making a donation or bequest to this Society, with the intention of benefiting some particular child or children of the description it proposes to serve, and designating such child or children, shall have the amount of such donation or bequest, strictly appropriated to such child or children only.

Art. 6. These Articles shall not be liable to alteration or change, unless on the recommendation of the Board of Managers at an annual meeting of the Society, and by a vote of two-thirds of the members composing such meeting.

BY-LAWS.

1. The President of the Society (or in his absence, the Vice-President,) when present in the Board, shall act as its President. And in like manner, the Secretary of the Society, shall be ex-officio Secretary of the Board of Managers.

2. The Treasurer shall have the care of all monies, papers, or other available effects of the Society; shall be the organ of the Board in putting out the monies of the Society on interest, and collecting the same; and shall keep a regular account, in a book provided for that purpose, of all contracts, receipts, and expenditures of the Board.

3. The Board of Managers may meet at any time during the recess of the Conference, either at the call of the President, or by previous adjournment; but the annual meeting of the Board, preparatory to the annual meeting of the Society, shall be on the evening of the first day of the session of Conference, and at the place of its session.

4. The Board shall make an annual exhibit, both to the Society, and to the Conference, of the full amount of its funds; in what they are invested, and on what securities; and of the amount of interest, and of donations or legacies, obtained during the year.

5. The Board shall present annually to the Society, and to the Conference, a list of the children who shall have been assisted, and the sums granted for each child during the year; and shall cause the same to be published previously to the adjournment of the Conference.

FUND OF SPECIAL RELIEF.

Trustees.—William Capers, Chairman; William M. Kennedy, Treasurer; Nicholas Talley, Sec'y. Samuel Dunwody, Henry Bass, Bond English and Josiah Freeman.

CONSTITUTION.

Preamble.—Whereas there are a number of widows and orphans, both of itinerant and local ministers, in very indigent circumstances; and among both these classes of ministers, there do so often occur cases of pressing pecuniary need; and whereas there has been no provision made by the General Conference for the relief of such cases; now therefore, it has seemed advisable to the South-Carolina Conference, with the advice of the venerable Bishop Asbury, to institute, and it does hereby institute, a Trust, for that special purpose, under the regulations following, to wit:

1. The Conference shall elect seven of its members for this Trust, who shall be designated by the title of the Board of Trustees of the Fund of Special Relief. And as often as there shall occur a vacancy in the Board, by death, resignation, or otherwise, such vacancy shall be filled by the Conference; so as to keep up the number of seven trustees perpetually.

2. The Board of Trustees shall have authority to receive contributions of any kind for this trust; and
to invest under full security, on interest, whatever they receive.

3. The Board shall not appropriate any thing from this fund, till it shall have amounted to a sum yielding an interest of one hundred dollars, or more, annually. It shall then be its duty to call for information, in the Conference, yearly, concerning the most necessitous widows and orphans of either travelling or local preachers within the Conference district: and such preachers, of either class, as shall have fallen into circumstances calling specially for relief—as by sickness, loss of crops, burning of houses, arrest for debt, and such like. And according to the interest of the fund, excepting two per centum, to increase the capital, such cases shall be relieved. The Board may also extend relief to needy parents of preachers; and on the recommendation of a Bishop, may make a donation to the necessitous of other Conferences: Provided, nevertheless, that no appropriation, or gift, by the Board, shall be made without the consent of the annual Conference.

4. The Board of Trustees, shall report to the Conference, from year to year, the amounts received for this fund, the amount of the interest it affords, the amount appropriated, and the persons to whom appropriations shall have been made, and on what accounts they each have been assisted; all which shall be published under its direction.