2-11-1835

South Carolina Conference Journal 1835

Methodist Episcopal Church. South Carolina Conference

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Minutes

of the

South Carolina Annual Conference

of ministers of the

Methodist Episcopal Church

Feb. 11, 1835

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Spartanburg, South Carolina
MINUTES

OF THE 24TH SESSION

OF THE

SOUTH-CAROLINA CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

FOR THE YEAR 1834

FIELD AT COLUMBIA, S. C.

1835.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

THE CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

SEVERAL SOCIETIES AND TRUSTS

CONNECTED WITH THE CONFERENCE.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE

Charleston.

PRINTED BY J. S. BURGES, 18 BROAD-ST.

1835.
Who are admitted on trial?


Who remain on trial?


Who are admitted into full connexion?


Who are the Deacons?

William M. D. Moore, Jacob B. Anthony, Archibald B. McIlvray, Parley W. Clenney, Mark Russell, John K. Morse.—6. The following have been ordained at the present Conference: i.e. Whitefoord Smith, Bartlett Thomason, William R. Smith, George W. Huggins, Theophilus Huggins, John L. Smith.—6.—12.

Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year?

Who have located this year?
None.

Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?
None.

Who are the Superannuated or worn-out Preachers?
James Jenkins, Reddick Pierce, William Kennedy, Jas. Dannelly, Thomas C. Smith, Samuel Bozman.

Who have been expelled from the Connexion this year?
None.

Who have withdrawn from the Connexion this year?
None.

Were all the Preachers' characters examined?
This was carefully done by calling over their names before the Conference.

Who have died this year?
ISAAC SMITH.—He was one of the Fathers of our Church in this country; and one entitled to be had in everlasting remembrance. He entered the itineracy at a Conference in Virginia, his native State, April 30th, 1784; and travelled that year the Salisbury circuit, and the next year Tar River, both in North-Carolina. He was with Henry Willis in Charleston, 1786; Santee Circuit, 1787. In the minutes of 1788, his name is given in the list of Deacons, but not in that of the appointments—probably by an error of the press. It stands for Edisto Circuit, 1789; Charleston, 1790; Broad River, 1791; and Santee, 1792. For the year 1793, he was Presiding Elder of almost the entire of our present Conference District; in which, for 1794, he was succeeded by Philip Bruce, and divided his time between: Charleston and Edisto Circuit. He was again Presiding Elder, and over a still more extensive field than before, in 1795. This year's labors must have been beyond his strength; and for 1796, the minutes give his name to the question, “Who are under location through weakness of body, or family concerns.” In 1797, he was a Supernumerary; and afterwards, his name disappeared from the minutes till 1820; during which time he was located in Camden, S. C. He was re-admitted, at the Conference in Charleston, January 13, 1820, and appointed to Columbia for that year. In 1821, he was Presiding Elder of the Athens District, in Georgia. In 1822, he was appointed to the charge of the Asbury Mission among the Creek Indians; where he continued, a light in a dark place, till the infirmities of age obliged him to take a superannuated relation to the Conference, in 1827.

Of our venerable father, we cannot trust ourselves to speak fully. He was the oldest, and what was well becoming the father of the Conference, the most honored and beloved of all the Preachers. Believing every word of God, meek above the reach of provocation, and thoroughly imbued with the spirit of love and devotion, he was a saint indeed. After much suffering, he died of a cancer at the extremity of the spine, July 20, 1834, full of faith and the comfort of the Holy Ghost—aged 76 years, and more than half a century a Minister of the Gospel. We expect there will be published memoirs of his life written by himself.

JOSIAH FREEMAN.—He was born, October 5, 1797, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. He was admitted on trial in the itineracy in the year 1822, and that year, travelled the Sandy River Circuit. 1823, Black Mountain. 1824, Lincoln; where he labored two years. 1826, Wilmington. 1827, Camden. 1828, Tallahassee. 1829, Charleston. 1830, Columbia. 1831, Fayetteville. 1832, he was again appointed to Columbia. 1833, Rocky River Circuit. 1834, Yorkville; which concluded his labors upon earth. In all his appointments he sustained himself as a godly and useful minister; diligent in duty, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord with admirable simplicity and steadfastness. Early after he reached his circuit last year, his health failed him; but he kept on his appointments till the month of August. His strength now failed him utterly, and he left his circuit for Columbia; in which place, he died of Diarrhea, Nov. 27, 1834.

The affliction of our beloved brother was tedious, and extremely painful; but through it all, he found the grace of God sufficient for him. Patient, resigned, and happy, he often said “all is well,” and the last day of his mortal life was the brightest and the best. “Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace.”
What numbers are in Society?

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*The Publishing Committee regret their not being able to insert the Questions (15 and 16 in the order of the Discipline) of the amounts necessary for the Superannuated Preachers, and the widows and orphans of Preachers, and to make up the deficiencies of the Circuits? And, what has been collected, and how applied, on these accounts? The present omission is owing to the Stewards' Report not being to be found among the papers of the Conference, in the Conference's trunk. We hope a like omission will never again occur.
Where are the preachers stationed this year?

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT**—Nicholas Tally, P. E.

Charleston—William M. Kennedy, William Martin.

James J. Allison, Whatcoat Asbury Gamewell.

Robertville—Samuel Dunwody, George R. Wright.

Barnwell—Churchwell A. Crowell, Abraham Nettles.

Walterboro'—Thomas E. Leadbetter, Charles S. Walker.

Orangeburg—George W. Moore, John L. Smith.

Cypress—John H. Massey, Willis Haltom.

Cooper River—Christian G. Hill, Henry H. Durant.

Black Swamp Mission—Theophilus Huggins.

Beaufort and neighboring Islands—John R. Coburn.


Committee of the fourth year. Samuel Dunwody, (Chairman,) Summary review of Watson's Institutes. Nicholas Talley, on the organization of the M. E. Church. William Martin, on views of Church history, and Christian denominations, from Watson's Dictionary.

The members of the several committees, and all the preachers of the 1st, 3d, 3d and 4th years, will meet at the Parsonage in Charleston at 9 o'clock, A. M. Feb. 8th, 1836.

Extra Allowances.

The Committee of the Conference, (appointed under the 7th rule of the 4th section, and the 7th of the 5th of the Discipline, Part 2,) have reported, and the Conference passed, the following extra allowances; to be raised one sixth part on each of the Presiding Elder's Districts.

For the Orphan children of Rev. John Gamewell, $200.00.
For the Orphan children of Rev. Asbury Morgan, 100.00.
For the Orphan child of Rev. Thomas L. Winn, 100.00.

$400.00.

The Presiding Elders, and the preachers in charge of circuits and stations, are charged with the above.

Uniformity in the Administration of Discipline.

1. The Preachers in charge, are to converse or correspond freely with their respective Presiding Elders, on points of administration and discipline; to consult them in all cases of doubt or difficulty; and to report to them, in writing.
at their respective Quarterly Meetings, all official decisions made by themselves, on any disputed points of discipline.

2. The Presiding Elders, in case of doubt or difficulty, are to consult, by letter or otherwise, the most convenient Bishop; to keep a written record of all their own official decisions, and those of the Quarterly Meeting Conferences, they may attend, on any disputed points of discipline; and to report the same in writing, with an abstract of those made by the Preachers under their charge, to the Bishop who may preside at their next ensuing Annual Conference.

3. In cases in which time cannot be had for the consultations above mentioned, the respective officers will act according to their best judgment—but are still to report and consult on each case as before provided for, in order to any corrections of administration which may be judged necessary, or for the better understanding of future similar cases.


According to a report of the Board to the Conference, the Manual Labor School will not go into operation before January next. There is, however, a flourishing school, on the common plan of Country Academies, under the direction of the Board, at Cokesbury, (lately called Mt. Ariel,) in Abbeville District.

The following address, expresses the mind of the Conference on this subject.

The South-Carolina Conference earnestly invites the attention of the members and friends of the church, of this conference district, to the claims of Education.

There is no question any where, as to the importance of Education, considered in general. But the subject of concern is, as to the kind of education—its being moral as well as intellectual, and the guardianship and discipline with which it should be furnished. We hold that religious instruction forms the proper basis of Education, and should be interwoven with whatever is afforded for the improvement of youth. Education is for use—for its effect in fitting the Educated to fulfill the duties of life. Rightly considered, and should it be fully carried out, it should prepare the training and preparing the rising generation to act each his part to the best of his capacity in mature life. But how shall this be attained without the full force of moral principle? And whether shall we look for this indispensable qualification but to the Bible? The Bible then, as the text book duty both towards God and man, and for its awful sanctions and inspiring motives, we regard to be of paramount importance in any wise system of scholastic Education. But is it not painfully notorious, that in most of the schools of our country, this book of books is almost wholly overlooked, and in some, designedly set aside? What consequences to our children, may we not apprehend from having them thus Educated?

We rejoice to know that this vital interest has not escaped the observation of considerate men, generally. We are exceeding glad of the pains beginning to be taken by different denominations to bring Education back to sound Christian principles. We may not, we cannot, linger behind all others. Many thousands, especially in the South, have strong claims on us especially as a church. Our itinerant ministry has carried the gospel far and near through the land. The poor especially have received it. Religion has increased their store of temporal good, improved their taste, and quickened their desires after knowledge and learning; and now they cry to the church to furnish their children with the elements of a sound moral and intellectual Education. We echo it back to you. We cry, not for ourselves, not for peculiar benefits to the children of preachers, but for all, and all alike. We cannot but feel our obligation in this matter. If it is important to have Christian principles blended with literary instruction in schools, we owe it to our common Christianity to institute and patronize such schools. If the wants of the Methodist people challenge our regard, (as they imperatively do,) we owe it to them as Methodists to see to the Education of their child.
ven, and not leave them to be turned over into other hands. We may not be excused for imaginary difficulties; nor may even such as are real, hinder us from an attempt.

Urged by such considerations as the foregoing, and believing we might rely on your support, the Conference has resolved on the establishment of a school at Cokesbury, (lately called Mt. Ariel,) to be conducted as soon as practicable, on the plan of associating manual labor with scolastic studies. The Board of Trustees has contracted for the building of suitable houses, both for lodging and tuition; (which we hope will be fit for occupancy in January next;) and meanwhile a school of the usual kind, and deserving your regard, is in operation there.

At the unanimous request of the Conference, the Bishop has appointed an Agent (our esteemed brother Rev. Samuel W. Capers,) to travel at large among you to represent our views, and serve our wishes, in this matter. To him we refer you for further information; and we bespeak for him your prompt and liberal support of the cause in which he is employed.

Randolph Macon College.

The Conference renew its Resolutions in favor of this institution; and the agency of the Rev. William M. Wightman is continued. His report to the Conference exhibits subscriptions and donations to the amount of eight thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars; of which, two thousand five hundred and thirteen dollars have been collected. The whole sum wanted, is, twenty thousand dollars, to endow the Asbury professorship of Moral Science in this College; and in consideration of which endowment, when effected, the Conference will be entitled to the Education, perpetually of ten students, without charge of tuition.

Conference Institutions.

The Missionary Society of the S. C. Conference, Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church.


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

* The Report of the Board, and the Treasurer's report, which should be expected with the present minutes of the Conference, have we presume by some oversight, not come into the possession of the publishing Committee. We conclude they will be published in a separate pamphlet.
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 this Society, shall be signed by the President and 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, on the 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 Secretary, to keep a correct copy of all official letters and communications, and communicate the same to 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.

TRUST,

For the Relief of the Superannuated or Worn-out Preachers, and the Widows and Orphans of Preachers.

Board of Trustees—Malcom O'Pherson, Chairman, William M. Wightman, Secretary, Thomas E. Leadbetter, Treasurer; and Charles Betts, David Derrick, Hugh A.C. Walker, and Tracy R. Walsh.

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 16 or $24, 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 description 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; 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—Wm. M. Kennedy, President; Wm. Capers, Vice-President; Charles Betts, Treasurer; Wm. M. Wightman, Secretary; and Samuel Dunwody, Nicholas Talley, Henry Bass, Hartwell Spain, and Thomas E. Leadbetter, 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, to some considerable extent, not only by the yearly or life subscription 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 intended, and received, as the Constitution of the Society,) and paying two dollars yearly, or twenty 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.

FUND OF SPECIAL RELIEF.

Trustees—Wm. Capers, Chairman; Wm. M. Kennedy, Treasurer; Nicholas Talley, Secretary; Samuel Dunwoody, Henry Bass, Bond English, and Malcolm McPherson.

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 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 the 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 or-
phants of either travelling or local preachers, of either class, as shall have fallen into circumstances calling specially for relief—as by sickness, loss of crops, burning of houses, distress by 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, notwithstanding, 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 of which shall be published under its direction.

The Trustees of this fund, (the present capital of which is four thousand dollars,) reported to the Conference the following appropriations; which were confirmed.

Widow of Rev. John Gamewell $20.00
Widow of Rev. James Hill (a local preacher) 20,00
Widow of Rev. Asbury Morgan 20,00
Widow of Rev. D. Milrow, (a local preacher,) 10,00
Widowed mother of Rev. Isaac Heartly, deceased 20,00
Widowed mother of Rev. Hartwell Spain 20,00
Widow of Rev. John Schroebele (a local preacher) 15,00
Rev. Jordan Rana (a local preacher) 10,00
Rev. Samuel Bozeman 20,00
Rev. William Mullinix, (a local preacher) 10,00
Rev. Christian G. Hill 20,00

$185,00