



MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

Held with the 1st African Baptist Church at Preston, on
Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, 6th, 8th
and 9th Sept., 1879.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Circular Letter.

HALIFAX:
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY.
1879.

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RULES OF ORDER.

I.—At each Annual Meeting the letters from the Churches shall be handed to the Clerk, after which the Roll of Delegates shall be formed and brought to the notice of the Chairman.

II.—From this list the Officers of the Association shall be chosen.

III.—The first letter read shall be from the Senior Church, and next accordingly.

IV.—No subject shall be discussed without a motion first made and seconded, and no person shall be allowed to speak on any subject more than twice, unless by consent of the Association, and must at all times address the Chairman first.

V.—When any Church is received in the Association, the Chairman will give to the Pastor of said Church the Right hand of Fellowship.

VI.—At the commencement of each Session the minutes of the preceding one shall be read and approved, and of the last before the final adjournment.

VII.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes, except ordered by the Association.

VIII.—All resolutions shall be presented in writing.

IX.—Each meeting of business shall be commenced and closed with prayer.

X.—No delegate shall leave the Association while in Session without permission of the same.

XI.—The Committee of Arrangements shall, in addition to the order of business, provide, recommend and devise means and plans for the promotion of the Association.

XII.—These Rules shall be read by the Secretary at the commencement of each Annual Session of the Association.

MINUTES.

FIRST SESSION.

Preston, N. S.,
September 6th, 1879. }

THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION assembled on Sept. 6th, 1879, at 3 o'clock, P. M., in the 26th Annual Session.

The Council having convened it was resolved, the Chairman elect being absent, that the Vice should preside, the meeting was then opened by the Rev. A. Bailey, by singing 2nd Hymn. Reading from 2nd Timothy, 1st Chap. Rev. George Carvery, Chairman, having arrived prayer was offered up by him.

After which the Roll of Delegates being prepared by the Secretary, the same was called, when the brethren from the various churches answered to their names.

CHURCHES—AND LIST OF DELEGATES.

Halifax—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacons, C. F. Biddle and R. Simons; S. Woods, Wm. Johnson, R. Smith, and P. E. McFerron.

1st Preston—Rev. George Carvery; Deacons, John Brooks and W. Carvery.

2nd Preston—Deacons, Jos. Smith and John Colly; James Colly and James Downey.

Hammond Plains—D. Anderson and A. Emerson.

Beech Hill—Rev. A. Bailey.

Digby Joggins—Not represented.

Campbell Road—Deacons, James Brown and Wm. Howe.

Dartmouth—Not represented.

Cornwallis—T. Powell, P. Smith, and J. Gibson.

Falmouth—Rev. John Smith; Deacon, B. Grey.

Horton—Not represented.

Owing to the absence of some of the Delegates the Chairman deemed it necessary to postpone the election of officers until Monday morning Session, which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Invited: Rev. N. Drayton and Bro. W. A. Jordan, to a seat in Council.

A Committee of Arrangements was then formed, consisting of Rev. A. Bailey, C. F. Biddle, Joseph Smith, William Carvery, and John Colly.

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Committee to Examine Letters, Deacon C. F. Biddle, Joseph Smith, and P. E. McKerrow.

Committee to Read Letters, A. Emmerson and P. E. McKerrow.

Committee on Finance, Revs. G. Carvery, A. Bailey, Deacon C. F. Biddle, Bro. A. Emmerson and Secretary.

Committee of Arrangements adjourned, and afterwards reported that the appointments for the Sabbath Services be as follows:—

11 A. M., Revs John Smith and N. Drayton.

3 P. M., Rev. A. Bailey and Bro. C. Roane, Lic.

7 P. M., Bro. Robert Smith and Bro. W. A. Jordan.

Resolved, That a collection be taken at each meeting for missionary purposes. Also prayer meeting each morning at 7 A. M.; morning Session 10 A. M., close at 1 P. M.; afternoon commences 2 o'clock, close 5 P. M.

Further resolved, That the fines on absent delegates be strictly enforced as usual.

Session closed with prayer by the Rev. G. Carvery.

SABBATH SERVICES.

11 A. M., preaching by Rev. John Smith and N. Drayton, St. John, xiv chap., verse 3; closing prayer by Bro. D. Goffigan.

3 P. M., Rev. A. Bailey and C. Roane, Lic., from St. John, x chap., verse 11; closing prayer by Bro. C. Roane.

7 P. M., Bros. R. Smith and W. A. Jordan, Heb., v chap., verse 12; followed by Bros. T. Jones, and D. Goffigan; prayer by Deacon R. Simons.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday, September 8th, 1879.

7 A. M., prayer meeting, led by Rev. A. Bailey, followed by several brethren, which lasted for one hour. Adjourned.

9 A. M., Morning Session commenced by singing 1142 Hymn, prayer by Rev. A. Bailey. Minutes of last Session read and approved.

Roll of Delegates called; absentees noted and fined. Election of officers for the year immediately took place.

CHAIRMAN.....	REV. GEORGE CARVERY.
".....	—ASSISTANT.....REV. A. BAILEY.
TREASURER.....	C. F. BIDDLE.
SECRETARY.....	P. E. MCKERROW.

After the election of officers the Chairman elect delivered an able address in remembrance of our late Chairman, Rev. James Thomas, who did all he could to build up the Association to its present healthy and respected condition, when he, by the assistance of Divine Providence, would do all that laid in his power to follow his footsteps in the right direction.

Committee on Letters reported their readiness of the letters, and recommended that the Circular Letter be read at the afternoon Session.

Committee of Arrangements reported, and recommended that the Association close finally with the New Church on the New Road Settlement. Adjourned fifteen minutes; prayer by Bro. C. Roane.

11 A. M., subsequent to adjournment, religious services commenced by singing Hymns 422 and 1146, prayer by Bro. James Downey, Association sermon by the Chairman, Rev. George Carvery, from St. Johns, xv chap., 11 verse, "*These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*" Service closed with prayer from Bro. Rev. N. Drayton.

Afternoon Session.

2 P. M., Session opened with prayer by Bro. Dea. John Colly, sung Hymn 835. Minutes of last Session read and approved.

Reading of letters was resumed and debated on, some of the Churches which shewed a certain amount of luke warmth, the Chairman promised to visit them; after which it was

Resolved, That the report of the Examining Committee be adopted.

The case of Rev. N. Drayton, of the Methodist Conference, in S. Carolina, was taken up and fully discussed, he having applied to the Halifax Church, at the Annual Council Meeting, which case was referred to this Association for further interrogation, when, after hearing his Christian experience, it was

Resolved, That he be admitted in our body, subject to the rules and order of the Baptist Denomination.

The various exhorting brethren that was commissioned by our late Chairman, reported verbally in accordance with their mission; with one or two exceptions, all of the duties had been performed.

Circular Letter was then called for by the Chairman, which was read and unanimously approved, and ordered to be printed in the Minutes as usual.

On motion of Bro. W. Johnson, it was

Resolved, That we annex an obituary list of the ministers.

The Session then adjourned with prayer by Bro. T. Jones.

EVENING SERVICES.

7 P. M., preaching by Rev. N. Drayton, from Isaiah 62; verse 10, "*Go through, go through the gates, prepare ye the way of the people;*" followed by Rev. John Smith, Bro. D. Goffigan, T. Jones and others. At the close of the sermon, the united voices of the brethren and sisters made the walls of the little Ship of Zion crash with their melodies, at this point there was room for the Logician to exclaim, "The wilderness with its barrenness is by magic turned into a scene of enchanting loveliness with its heavenly music, heart touching, soul reviving, although simple. After singing the doxology the meeting closed.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday Morning, September 9, 1879.

9 A. M., opened by singing Hymn 1114; prayer by Rev. A. Bailey; minutes of last session read and approved.

Committee on Finance reported that the Treasurer had accounted for all moneys received by him, wherein he was ordered to pay out the same in accordance with its distribution.

Voted that 250 copies of Minutes be printed.

A request was made by several of the Churches, for the Association to meet with them next year; a vote was taken, and resolved to meet with the Halifax Church, September, 1880.

A vote of thanks was passed to the members and congregation of this Church, for their extended kindness to the ministering brethren and visitors to the settlement.

Voted that the Secretary superintend printing the minutes.

Adjourned to meet with the New Road Church at 3 P. M. Prayer by Bro. Dec. R. Simons.

Afternoon Session.

Met at 2nd Preston Church, New Road Settlement, according to invitation.

Here we met warm hearts, with an entire new edifice, whose foundation had only been laid about a fortnight previous to the death of our late and much lamented Chairman, by himself, but the untiring zeal and love for their Pastor and Chairman, both young and old worked unitedly together to acquire means, with earnest solicitations they went forward, each one bearing their own portion of the burden, and completed it sufficiently for Divine Worship, when we opened by singing the 720th hymn. Prayer offered by Bro. T. Jones, with a short address by Rev. A. Bailey, followed by Bros. W. A. Jordan, D. Goffigan, James Jones, C. Roane and Rev. N. Drayton.

After which the Chairman made his appointments as follows, formed the Association Ring by joining hands together, and singing the Doxology.

APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. A. Bailey, Beech Hill, continues Campbell Road, twice; Preston, twice; Hammond Plains, three times; 2nd Preston, twice.

Rev. John Smith, Falmouth, three times; Horton, three times; Inglewood, three times; Bridgetown, once.

Rev. Drayton, Digby, twice; Yarmouth, once; Bear River, twice; Weymouth, twice; 1st Preston, twice; 2nd Preston, twice; Falmouth, once.

Bro. James Jones, 1st Preston, once; 2nd Preston, once; Campbell Road, once; Beech Hill, once.

Bro. W. B. Thomas, Hammond Plains, once; 1st Preston, once; 2nd Preston, once.

Bro. D. Goffigan, 1st Preston, once; 2nd Preston, once; 2nd Preston, once; Beech Hill, once; Campbell Road, once; Halifax, once.

Bro. James Downey, 1st Preston, once; Hammond Plains, twice; Campbell Road, once; Beech Hill, once.

Bro. Chas. Roane, 1st Preston, once; Hammond Plains, once; Campbell Road, once; Beech Hill, once.

Bro. R. Simons, Hammond Plains, twice; 1st and 2nd Preston, twice.

Also, requested the Secretary to renew Bro. Roane's License.
 Rev. John Smith to preach the Association Sermon, and Rev.
 A. Bailey to be his alternate.
 Meeting closed with prayer by Bro. Geo. Colly.

EVENING SERVICES.

7½ P. M., Missionary Meeting opened by Singing ; Prayer by
 Bro. W. A. Jordan, also read 2nd Psalm, wherein he delivered a
 very neat address in allusion to the Foreign Missionary Field,
 on which theme he dwelt at length, followed by Bros. D.
 Goffigan, R. Simons, H. Bailey, T. Jones, J. Saunders and
 others, all speaking short but to the point.

Rev. N. Drayton in the course of his remarks expressed a
 deep sorrow to think of a land like this, so blessed with Bibles
 and Bible truths, yet there were dozens of families on the route
 between Yarmouth and Halifax that knew nothing of the Saviour,
 he also expressed a willingness to work for his Master in the
 cause of saving souls, but tried to impress on the minds of the
 congregation that ships could not sail without sails, and that it
 was as necessary for the members of the various Churches to
 keep up a fund for that purpose as any other special service, the
 Rev. John Smith and Bro. W. A. Jordan endorsed his sentiments
 and spoke at considerable length.

The Chairman delivered a feeling address to the audience,
 again deploring the loss of our late Chairman, with whom he
 had been associated for over forty years, and with whom no
 anger, strife or malice had ever been enraged, but had always
 been on the best of Christian terms.

After Prayers by the Chairman the Association closed finally.

GEORGE CARVERY, *Chairman.*
 P. E. MCKERROW, *Secretary.*
 C. F. BIDDLE, *Treasurer.*

CHURCHES OF THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHAIRMAN.....REV. GEO. CARVERY.
SECRETARY.....PETER E. MCKERROW,
TREASURER.....C. F. BIDDLE.

MINISTERS, LICENTIATES, DEACONS AND COUNCILLORS.

HALIFAX—Without Pastor; Deacons—C. F. Biddle, R. Simons, D. Gross;
Councillors—W. Johnson, S. Woods, R. White, P. E. McKerrrow;
Doorkeeper—A. Brown; Clerk—E. Jacobs.

HAMMOND PLAINS—Without Pastor; Licentiates—T. Jones and D. Goffigan;
Deacons—G. David, W. Wilson; Councillors—D. Anderson, F. David,
J. Manigo; Clerk—A. Emmerson; Doorkeeper—J. Giggy.

PRESTON, 1st—Pastor—Rev. George Carvery; Deacons—J. Brooks, W.
Carvery; Councillor—R. Kempt; Clerk—Joseph Evans.

PRESTON, 2nd—New Road Settlement—Licentiates—J. Downey, C. Roane;
Deacons—James Smith, Joseph Smith, J. Colly; Councillors—James
Colly, D. Downey; Doorkeeper—S. Smith; Sexton—David Smith;
Clerk—T. Johnson.

BEECH HILL—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacon—Joseph Hamilton; Coun-
cillor—R. Hamilton.

DARTMOUTH—Not heard from.

BEAR RIVER— “ “

BRIDGETOWN— “ “

YAERMOUTH— “ “

LIVERPOOL— “ “

CAMPBELL ROAD—Deacon—James Brown; Councillor—W. Howe.

HORTON—Deacon—Dennis Doleman.

CORNWALLIS—Pastor—Rev. John A. Smith; Deacons—D. Taylor, J. Lindsay;
Councillors—T. Powell, P. Smith, John Gibson.

FALMOUTH—Pastor—Rev. John A. Smith; Deacon—Benjamin Gray.
Rev. N. Drayton, Missionary.

SABBATH SCHOOLS IN CONNECTION WITH CHURCHES.

HALIFAX—Superintendent—C. F. Biddle; Asst. and Bible Class Teacher—
P. E. McKerrrow; Female Teachers—M. Thomson, A. Joseph, L. Bailey,
R. C. Thomas; Secretary and Librarian—Thomas McDonald.

HAMMOND PLAINS—Superintendent—J. W. Skerrett.

PRESTON, 1st—Superintendent—Rev. G. Carvery.

PRESTON, 2nd—Superintendent—James Downey.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN,

Another year has just rolled away into eternity, and has pushed before it its multitudinous troubles and perplexities, of which the writer, and doubtless many of the brethren of this Association have had his share, also many of whom we have taken by the hand warmly and would feign let it go, until a tear or two were shed in love and affection for each other, and the cause of Christ. On such occasions would advance quite a percentage, and the question arises just here, why not after such a long absence in body, but not in mind, we are permitted by the blessings of the only true and living God to see each other face to face; we wonder not at the Royal Psalmist, when in his meditations he exclaimed, "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" but on the other hand if we are the sheep of His pasture, then the shepherd is mindful of his sheep. And by His teachings we have intellectual communion with Him. His precious utterances, His glorious revelation we believe, they are ours. All that He spake we receive as being true, so His mind becomes ours, and in this sense we have and love Him to. In my last letter to the Churches I confined myself solely to the Bible, and as I am left to select my own theme, I shall dwell on Temperance.

I have been actuated by more reasons than one, and if it lay in the power of Christian men and women to put it down, then do it. To the minister he must preach down the accursed cup, to the praying brother he must pray it down, and to the singing brother sing it down.

1st.—To our preaching brethren, do not defile the word of God with an inflamed breath, as you mount the pulpit steps, ask yourself the question: does my breath smell of the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley, or does it carry with it the fumes of Alcoholic stimulants? and if it does cry out remorse! remorse! The Apostle Paul, when addressing the Corinthians, he said, "Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel;" but on the other hand if he was one who indulged in that dreadful

cup, he could well say Woe, Woe, Woe; while the breath of his mouth would be to his audience, as the breathings of the pit is to the condemned sinner.

2nd.—To the praying brother, of which we have some of no mean abilities, what is more endearing to a child of God than a well conducted prayer meeting, the thoughts ascending to Heaven quicker even than the electric fluid, which is the world's messenger. When in our afflictions and perplexities we go to our Heavenly Father and tell him all of our troubles, and if we are truly in earnest in what we do or say, will he not help us? Yes, assuredly He will. He is omniscient.

The world had a strong conviction of the need of atonement for sin, and a vague conception of the reality of such atonement. The hills ran with sacrificial blood of beasts and men; the sky was dark with clouds of smoke, when on bended knees our Lord and Master knelt in agony, pleading for the whole world, and yet we treat him with such coolness and indifference. Oh! could we but make the hallowed exclamation and say as Solomon did when meditating on the future, surrounded by all comforts of an earthly king, prophesying on the excellent qualities of *Jesus*, he cries out "my beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphor from the vineyard of Engedi." Then let our breaths permeate with such sweetness as that, and our prayers will not return to us null and void.

The Apostle Paul was a cool Logician, with nerves unshaken in the Mediterranean shipwreck, a granatic nature; comfortable with the whole world against him, if *Jesus* is present, he could shake his fist in the face of the governments of earth and forces of darkness; yet the very thoughts of Christ thrilled him, transported him, and overwhelmed him.

Then let not the powers of darkness overrule us to such an extent as to make us think that we cannot speak well, pray well, or sing well, without the stimulating cup of Satan. For "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging. But let the Spirit of God stimulate us, and be drunken therewith, and the whole world will know and see that religion is more than a mere notion or a simple tale.

3rd.—To our singing brethren whose delight it is to charm the hearts of sincere worshippers, and to be the delight of the prayer meeting, remember when we prepare ourselves to go to the Holy Sanctum, we are going to meet with the Spirit of God,

our feet should be clean, our hands clean, and our hearts thoroughly cleansed from all vices and superfluities of life, our mouths which speak and give utterances of the heart should be also clean, washed and purified, smelling sweet and free from all defiling influences.

Remember the washings and purifications the high priests had to undergo before entering the Sanctum Sanctorum of the Holy Temple at Jerusalem; God's words are as rich, rare and precious to-day as then, mix not the Spirit of Peace and Holiness with that of Satan, but let the former suppress the latter. Let our songs of devotion be sweetened with Temperance, for to-day my brethren, intemperance is on the war path.

Make your visits in the city as well as in the country, and those of intemperate habits are poorly clad, their homes look miserable without and wretched within; ask the reason why, and at a glance the answer comes back, treacherous intemperance prevails in here. But on the contrary, visit the homes of temperate men, cleanliness prevails, industry is prominent, with an eager and earnest craving for knowledge. At this junction, brethren, erect your walls of defence and call on your *God* in songs of praise. "Have you tried to cast out devils and failed?" tell Jesus about it, ask him "Why?" Go forth again at his bidding shouting,

"Go children of your country go,
The day of glory dawns at last."

Believe in His power and willingness to give you the victory over all your passions, wield in the presence of all manner of devils, the potent name of Jesus and like the seventy you will soon return with joy, saying "even the devils are subjects unto us through His name." Finally, brethren, before I close my letter, a very melancholy and important matter I must call your attention to, the sudden call of our beloved President, the Rev. James Thomas, one whose death was unlooked for, for some time to come, and whose presence we so much feel the loss of, in this sad affliction, we can but wait on the Lord, and He will supply the need. We shall not meet with him any more at our Conference Meetings, nor at the Communion Table, or at the Baptismal Waters, nor at the Associations, but we shall meet him at the great Association of Prophets and Patriarchs, Saints and Angels, where our Saviour Himself presides; and not until then shall we know why he was taken away from us,

when we felt the need of him so much. For many years he was our Chairman, he enjoyed the unlimited confidence of his brethren, with whom he so earnestly labored with much success; as a man he won by his uniform courteous demeanor the estimation of all with whom he came in contact; as a Minister of the Gospel he was clear in doctrinal points, and was always ready to impart to any that came within his reach the value of the blessings that accrued from a Christian life. During his many years of Pastoral charge over the Churches, his labor was arduous and heavy, by no means always sunshine, yet with unflinching perseverance he worked to the last, and overcame some of the most difficult tasks, which was quite sufficient to brake down most men similarly situated; so fully consecrated to his maker, and the love for his church, that nothing could brake assunder that link, but death's cold icy hand touched that vital spark, and life took its flight to the region where all is day.

To this Association he was most dear, struggling to improvement and enlargement in Christian work he was an important member; about the last of his efforts in the ministry that he performed was to organise and consolidate a number of strayed sheep into the fold of Christ, on the New Road Settlement, Preston, where, with untiring zeal, they laid hold and erected a neat little church to the memory of their Pastor, and to the honor and glory of God.

The deceased has left a character which is a rich legacy, his Church and Association is enshrined by his meek and humble life, for which they deeply mourn his loss, to the bereaved family and brethren I would say there is comfort, could we hear his voice, we would hear him say, "Weep not, all is well, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven."

P. E. MCKERROW.

STATISTICS
OF THE
AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

NAME OF CHURCH.	Baptised.	Received.	By Letter.	Removed.	Expelled.	Experience.	Died.	Total.
Halifax	2	2					2	173
Hammond Plains	7	2			2		1	88
Preston (1st)		4						33
" (2nd)		29						45
Digby Joggins								12
Beech Hill							2	11
Horton								10
Cornwallis	4				1			27
Falmouth	1			3				8
Campbell Road								9
Dartmouth								4
Bear River								
Weymouth								
Yarmouth								
Liverpool								
Bridgetown								
Total								420

1879.—Financial Account of the African Baptist Association.—1879.

1878.			
Sep. 10.	Cash Balance in hand	\$7 31	
	Halifax Church Letter	9 66	
	" Home Mission	3 75	
	Preston, 1st, Letter	5 00	
	" Home Mission	2 25	
	Preston, 2nd, Letter	3 00	
	Hammond Plains, Letter	4 50	
	" Home Mission	1 79	
	Beech Hill, Letter	2 12	
	" Home Mission	1 08	
	Campbell Road, Letter	1 21	
	" Home Mission	1 00	
	Cornwallis, Letter	1 23	
	" Home Mission	1 22	
	Falmouth, Letter	1 00	
	Collections at Association	9 90	
	Fines of Delegates	1 30	
		\$57 32	
1878.			
Nov. 2.	Rev. Carvery, Travelling Expenses	\$1 00	
	Secretary, "	6 00	
	Rev. John Smith, "	3 00	
	Rev. Carvery, "	4 00	
	Bro. Jordan, "	1 00	
	Rev. N. Drayton, "	2 00	
	Bro. C. F. Biddle, "	1 75	
	Bro. A. Emmerson, "	1 75	
	Bro. T. Jones, "	1 00	
	Rev. Bailey, "	3 50	
	New Road Church	1 03	
	Stationery, Miscellaneous Correspondence	0 00	
	Stamps and Printing Minutes	20 00	
	Balance in hand	11 29	
		\$57 32	

In Memory of
REV. RICH'D PRESTON,
Who died July, 1861.

In Memory of
REV. HENRY JACKSON,
Who died — 1865.

In Memory of
REV. JOHN R. THOMAS,
Who died December, 1875.

In Memory of
REV. JAMES WILMOT,
Who died November, 1877.

In Memory of
REV. JAMES THOMAS,
Who died June, 1879.

*"They are sweeping through the gates of the New Jerusalem
washed in the Blood of the Lamb."*