

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

African Baptist Association

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

Held with the Halifax Church, on Saturday,
Monday and Tuesday, September
4th, 6th and 7th, 1880.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CIRCULAR LETTER.



HALIFAX:

Nova Scotia Printing Co. ay,
1880.

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MINUTES

1874-1875

RULES OF ORDER.

I.—The following Rules shall be read by the Secretary at the commencement of each Annual Session of the Association.

II.—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.

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

IV.—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 before the notice of the Chairman.

V.—From this list the Officers of the Association shall be formed.

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

VII.—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.

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

IX.—All resolutions shall be presented in writing.

X.—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.

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

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

MINUTES.

FIRST SESSION.

Saturday, Sept. 4th, 1830.

THE AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION assembled at 3 o'clock, P. M., in its Twenty-Seventh Annual Session.

The Rev. George Carvery, Chairman of last year, called the Association to order. After singing a hymn and reading 2d Ccrintians, v., prayer was offered up by the Rev. John A. Smith.

The Chairman delivered a short address of welcome to the brethren present, when the Pastor of the Church, Rev. Wilton R. Boone was introduced to the Association by Rev. A. Bailey.

CHURCHES AND DELEGATES PRESENT.

HALIFAX.—Rev. Wilton R. Boone, Rev. A. Bailey; Deacs. C. F. Biddle, R. Simons, D. Gross; Bros. Wm. Johnson, S. Woods, E. Flint, A. Brown, P. E. McKerrow, E. Jacobs.

1ST PRESTON.—Rev. G. Carvery; Deac. Wm. Carvery; Bro. — Glasgow.

2ND PRESTON.—Deacs. Joseph Smith, Daniel Downey; Bro. James Collie.

3RD PRESTON.—Rev. George Neal.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—Bros. D. Anderson, A. Emmerson.

BEECH HILL.—Rev. A. Bailey, R. Hamilton.

CORNWALLIS.—Rev. John A. Smith.

CAMPBELL ROAD.—Revs. E. Dixon, N. Drayton; Deac. James Brown; Bro. William Howe.

DIGBY JOGGINS.—Deac. Peter Butler.

DARTMOUTH.—Bro. James Cassidy.

FALMOUTH.—No Letter.

HORTON.—No Letter.

Invited to a seat in Council: Bros. T. Jones, W. B. Thomas, Lewis Charlton, Charles Roane.

The Officers were then elected:

<i>Chairman</i>	REV. WILTON R. BOONE.
<i>Assistant Chairman</i>	REV. A. BAILEY.
<i>Secretary</i>	P. E. MCKERROW.
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	A. EMMERSON.
<i>Treasurer</i>	C. F. BIDDLE.

The following Committees were appointed :

To Examine Letters—Bros. E. Jacobs, A. Emmerson, P. E. McKerrow.

To Read Letters—Bros. E. Jacobs, A. Emmerson. (Letters from the Churches were not read in full until Monday.)

Of Arrangements—Revs. A. Bailey, E. Dixon, N. Drayton, John A. Smith.

Of Finance—Decs. C. F. Biddle, James Brown, D. Anderson, A. Emmerson, Rev. A. Bailey, P. E. McKerrow, Joseph Smith.

Of Temperance—Revs. G. Carvery, N. Drayton, C. F. Biddle.

Committee of Arrangements recommended that there be a Morning Prayer Meeting, at 9 a. m., on Sabbath. Also Monday Morning Session from 9.30 to 12.30, and Afternoon from 2.30 to 5 o'clock. Evening to be devoted to Religious Services.

SABBATH APPOINTMENTS.

Morning Prayer Meeting at 9 a. m., Rev. John A. Smith.

11 a. m., Rev. George Neal and Bro. Thomas Jones, Lic.

3 p. m., Rev. E. Dixon.

Zion Methodist, by invitation, Rev. A. Bailey, at 3 p. m.

6.30 p. m., Praise Meeting conducted by Bro. P. E. McKerrow.

7 p. m., Rev. Wilton R. Boone.

The Committee recommend that a collection be taken at all meetings for missionary purposes ; that the Introductory Sermon be preached on Monday.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. Wilton R. Boone, Chairman.

SABBATH SERVICES.

9 a. m., Prayer Meeting conducted by Rev. John A. Smith.

11 a. m., Preaching by Rev. George Neal, from Exodus, xiv, 15, last clause, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward;" followed by several brethren, all speaking short. Closing Prayer by Rev. A. Bailey.

3 p. m., Preaching by Rev. Edward Dixon, from Revelations, xxi, 1, last clause, "And there was no more Sea." Prayer by Rev. N. Drayton.

6.30 p. m., Praise Meeting conducted by Bro. P. E. McKerrow.

7 p. m., Preaching by the Chairman, Rev. Wilton R. Boone, from 2nd Timothy, ii, 15, "Study to show thyself approved

unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Rev. George Neal made the closing prayer. After the sermon, a Praise Meeting was held for half an hour, and a special collection taken for mission purposes.

SECOND SESSION.

Monday, September 6th, 1880.

9.30 A. M. Meeting opened with prayer by Bro. Charles Roane, sung 767 Hymn, and read XXIII Psalm. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Letters from the Churches were then read and their contents properly disposed of. The case of Rev. George Neal and Church joining our Association was first taken up, and after full and deliberate debating on the same, he showing a unanimity of feeling by the members, which accorded with the letter from the church, it was unanimously voted that the Church be received, and Rev. G. Neal receive the right hand of fellowship.

Rev. A. Bailey accepts the Pastoral charge of the Hammond Plains Church.

Resolved, That it is wrong and decidedly opposed to Baptist principles, to allow unlicensed and unordained ministers, not approved of by the Church, in our pulpits. To stop this growing evil, we hereby resolve to deal with all such by expelling them from the Association whenever they commit this offence.

Adjourned for ten minutes, after which Rev. John A. Smith, appointed to preach the Association Sermon, took charge of the religious exercises, sung Hymn 423. Opening prayer by Rev. A. Bailey, Text, Luke, xxiv, 45, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Closing prayer by Rev. G. Neal.

Adjourned with Benediction from the Chairman.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2.30 P. M., Prayer by Bro. T. Jones; minutes of last meeting read and approved. Leave having been previously granted from the Association to the Chairman, Rev. W. R. Boone, he left this P. M. for the United States, with the prayers of the brethren for his safe arrival at his destination.

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Rev. A. Bailey took the Chair, pro. tem., and Rev. G. Neal acted as Assistant.

Resolved, That the request from the Hammond Plains Church be granted, and that the two brethren, Alfred Jenkins and Thomas Jones, for license, be permitted to preach at 7 P. M.

On motion, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, From time to time Churches in the Association have undertaken to discipline its members for insubordination, said member when so disciplined would leave our church and join another, without first paying his indebtedness at home;

Therefore Resolved, That in such case or cases, the Secretary of said church correspond immediately with the Secretary of the Association, and he to the various churches for their protection.

The invitation from the Hammond Plains Church for the Association to meet with said Church in September, 1881, was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Chas. Roane.

EVENING SERVICES.

Religious Services were commenced at 7½ o'clock, by Bro. James Jones, Lic., preaching his trial sermon from Heb. xi, 1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Prayer by Rev. G. Neal.

Bro. Alfred Jenkins, Lic., followed by taking his text from Romans, vii, 1. Closed with prayer by Rev. A. Bailey, and the soul-stirring hymns of the olden days, rendered by sisters, added much to the effect of sermons preached by the young brethren.

THIRD SESSION.

Tuesday, September 7th, 1880.

Opened with prayer by Bro. David Anderson; Roll of Delegates called; Absentees noted and fined; Minutes of last Session read and approved.

On motion of Bro. McKerrow, seconded by Bro. D. Anderson, that this Association make application by letter to join the Convention of the Maritime Provinces.

Said motion created a spirited discussion by almost every delegate present, when it was unanimously

Resolved, That the Secretary put himself in correspondence with the Secretary of the Convention, and gain all necessary information relative to the same, and report at our next Annual Session.

Voted that the Circular Letter be read.

Report of Missions: Rev. John A. Smith made a verbal statement, also Rev. A. Bailey, Rev. G. Carvery, Bros. James Downey, Lic., Charles Roane, R. Simons, W. B. Thomas.

Rev. N. Drayton, Missionary, brought in a written report as follows:—Preached 180 sermons, made 130 visits to families, delivered 4 lectures, performed 2 baptisms, buried 5, married 1, offered up 5 children; received in cash (\$80) eighty dollars, paid for travelling expenses (\$36) thirty-six dollars. The statement was received, and voted that the same be printed.

Voted that the Circular Letter be printed in the Minutes, and read by the Secretary or Pastor of each Church in the Association, and we procure 300 copies.

Moved that the Rev. Wilton R. Boone write the Circular Letter.

Moved that the Rev. Edward Dixon preach the Introductory Sermon, and Rev. Wilton R. Boone his alternate.

Voted that the Secretary superintend the printing of the minutes.

Voted that the members and congregation of the Halifax Church have a vote of thanks for the kind way in which they entertained the delegates and friends attending the Association.

Appointments of Visits to be made during the year.

That the Chairman, Rev. Wilton R. Boone, visit as many of the Churches in the Association as will be really convenient for him.

Rev. Geo. Carvery, Halifax, twice; Hammond Plains, once; Campbell Road, once; Beech Hill, once; 2nd and 3rd Preston, twice each.

Rev. A. Bailey, 1st Preston, twice; 3rd Preston, twice; Campbell Road, thrice; Pine Woods, Falmouth and Digby, once.

Rev. George Neal, Halifax, twice; Hammond Plans, Beech Hill, Campbell Road, 1st and 2nd Preston, twice each.

Rev. John A. Smith, Halifax, Hammond Plains, Campbell Road, Beech Hill, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Preston, once each.

Rev. E. Dixon, Hammond Plains, twice; Halifax, six times; Beech Hill, four times; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Preston, twice each; Kentville and Digby, once each.

Rev. N. Drayton, Missionary.

Bro. Charles Roane, Hammond Plains, once; Campbell Road, twice; Beech Hill, twice; 1st and 3rd Preston, three times each.

Bro. D. Goffigan, Campbell Road, twice; Beech Hill, Halifax, 1st 2nd and 3rd Preston, once each.

Bro. James Jones, Campbell Road and Beech Hill, twice; Halifax, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Preston, once.

Bro. Alfred Jenkins, Campbell Road and Beech Hill, twice; Halifax, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Preston, once each.

Bro. James Downey, Campbell Road and Beech Hill, twice; 1st and 3rd Preston, three times; Halifax once.

Preachers to bring in a written account of their various visits and labors performed during the year.

And a special collection to be taken at each place of worship to aid the brethren.

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CHURCHES

OF THE

AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHAIRMAN REV. WILTON R. BOONE.
 ASSISTANT REV. A. BAILEY.
 SECRETARY P. E. MCKERROW.
 TREASURER C. F. BIDDLE.

Ministers, Licentiates, Deacons and Councillors.

- HALIFAX.**—Pastor—Rev. W. R. Boone; Deacons—C. F. Biddle, D. Gross, R. Simons; Councillors—Wm. Johnson, S. Woods, B. White, P. E. McKerrow; Doorkeeper—A. Brown; Clerk—E. Jacobs.
- HAMMOND PLAINS.**—Pastor, Rev. A. Bailey; Licentiates—T. Jones, Senr., D. Goffigan, T. Jones, Junr., A. Jenkins; Deacons—G. David, W. Wilson; Councillors—D. Anderson, F. David, J. Manigo; Doorkeeper—J. Giggy; Clerk—A. Emmerson.
- PRESTON, FIRST.**—Pastor—Rev. G. Carvery; Deacons—J. Brooks, Wm. Carvery; Councillors—R. Kempt, Joseph Glasgow; Doorkeeper—G. Glasgow; Clerk—J. Evans.
- PRESTON, SECOND—*New Road Settlement.***—Licentiates—J. Downey, C. Roane; Deacons—Joseph Smith, John Colly, James Smith; Councillors—James Colly, D. Downey; Doorkeeper—S. Smith; Sexton—D. Smith; Clerk—T. Johnson.
- PRESTON, THIRD.**—Pastor—Rev. George R. Neal; Deacons—David Brown, T. Crawley, J. Dillivay; Councillors—John Thompson, Rich. Cooper, J. Williams; Doorkeeper and Sexton—Daniel Johnson; Clerk, James Thompson.
- BEECH HILL.**—Pastor—Rev. A. Bailey; Deacon—J. Hamilton; Councillor—R. Hamilton.
- CORNWALLIS.**—Pastor—Rev. Jno. A. Smith; Deacons—D. Taylor, J. Lindsay; Councillors—T. Powell, P. Smith, John Gibson.
- FALMOUTH.**—Pastor—Rev. John A. Smith; Deacon—Benjamin Gray.
- CAMPBELL ROAD.**—Pastor—Edward Dixon; Deacon—James Brown; Councillor—Wm. Howe.
- HORTON.**—Without Pastor; Deacon—Dennis Doleman.
- DARTMOUTH.**—Without Pastor; Deacon—James Cassidy.
- BEAR RIVER, BRIDGETOWN, YARMOUTH.**—unheard from.
 Missionary—Rev. Nathaniel Drayton.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

1880.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Through the wisdom and goodness of an all-wise Creator we are again permitted to form a chain of Christian Brotherhood; and whilst we rejoice over fond anticipations, let us not forget that we are all debtors. The Church is a holy brotherhood: every member is God's child, every member is Christ's brother. Alluding to each one that receives the word of God, and keeps it, the Apostle says,—“the same is my brother.” Brethren, here is equality,—not that there are no distinctions or differences, for there are babes, young men and fathers; there are different gifts and different administrations; some are in office, and some are not; some are to guide, others are to follow; some are to feed, others are to be fed; some rule, others are ruled,—but we have all the same nature, we all stand in the same relation to God and to each other, are all partakers of the same grace, and shall all meet in the same family mansion at the end of our journey. God having done so much for us, having conferred so much upon us, and having brought us into such a high and honorable connection with Himself, we are not at our own disposal: we are absolutely His property, for we have put ourselves into His hands, that He may use us and dispose of us as He pleases. Then we can use the words of the poet, “Let me then be always growing, never, never standing still: listening, learning, better knowing, Thee and Thy most holy will.”

Remember this parable,—When the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man who had not on his wedding garments; he had no excuse, for the king himself provided the garments, so he was to be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. All this shows our indebtedness to God.

To some this may seem very dry,—it would not seem dry if you knew you were soon going to be called to stand before God, and that you must either stand in filthy rags or in perfectly pure and spotless robes.

Brethren of this Association, this indebtedness to God becomes a mystery to many of us. The question here arises, What is a mystery? It is merely a fact or law, not now known to us, but known to some other mind, or capable of being known by our minds or those of others,—that is all there is of it; and you see the mystery is not in the thing studied, it is in you, it is in me, it is simply the limit of our knowledge. The science of religion no more stops than the science of nature. It is every man's duty to do all he can to extend the knowledge of mankind in both departments; it is thus that each man stands on the shoulders of him who went before, and the horizon of humanity is widened, so that the celebrated "Sankey" can sing as known what Isaiah and David harped as a mystery.

Brethren of this Association, we are living in an age of improvement and progress, and we must not be blind to these measures. Many a rule that had been adopted by this Association in its early formation, if carried out to-day, would be scouted at by the children of our day schools, and the intelligent co-religionists of the community in which we live. Shall we say that all progress in religion stopped when Moses went up into the wilderness to die, having given the moral law on tables of stone, or when David ceased to sing songs of holy praise to tunes of solemn sound, or when Isaiah's fire-touched lips shut themselves in the silence of death, or when Paul ceased writing what Peter never ceased to consider things hard to be understood, or when John's eyes beheld the Apocalyptic vision shining over the sea on Patmos?

The earth is the same and the Bible is the same in all ages, but science and religion, law and liberty must make progress. This is what Paul believed. We live eighteen centuries after Paul, and there are mysteries which still exist in religion. Shall they not be uncovered? Shall we cease to study them? We may make many mistakes, and our mistakes may appear as ridiculous to our descendants as the experiments of exploring the North Pole do now to us. But how useful were those then apparently fruitless efforts to discover the Philosopher's Stone which would transmute base metals into gold?

And now, dear Brethren, in conclusion, what must I further say for him who braved the mighty ocean and crossed to Mother England, that land whose laws have done so much for the African race in general and this Association in particular, which

laid the first foundation for us to build upon. We say, unanimously in loud voices exclaim, "God bless her! and protect her in all her troubles; defend her that she may overcome and vanquish her enemies." To Father Preston has been given his reward, not here but in glory. We miss Father Thomas's familiar countenance, his words of counsel are lost to us, but his memory we cherish.

As the year has been one of numerical gain to us, having had another church added, also an addition of about a hundred members, may we be enabled to cry out,—Illustrious conquest for christianity, glorious victory over Satan; may the memorial of our fathers be fresh and new to the latest generations; may the day of intellectual conflict be stamped in characters never to be cancelled or worn out from the records of time, but the words of the text that was preached from on last Sabbath morning, "go forward," be safely lodged in the sanctuary of the heart, never, never to be torn from thence, but with those everlasting clutches that grapple for life.

P. E. McKERROW.

STATISTICS
OF THE
AFRICAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

NAME OF CHURCH.	Baptised.	Received.	By Letter.	Removed.	Expelled.	Experience.	Died.	Total.
Halifax	3	5		1			1	179
Hammond Plains	0	1					2	48
Preston—1st	10	5						58
" 2nd	12	5			4			74
" 3rd	15	14						10
Beech Hill								4
Dartmouth								21
Campbell Road	7	5						27
Cornwallis								12
Digby Joggins								
Bear River								
Weymouth								
Yarmouth								
Liverpool								
Bridgetown								
Total								520

SABBATH SCHOOLS

IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCHES.

HALIFAX.—*Superintendent*, P. E. McKerrow; *Bible Class Teacher*, Rev. W. R. Boone; *Female Teachers*, M. Thomson, A. Joseph, L. Bailey, R. C. Thomas, C. Bowan; *Secretary and Librarian*, T. McDonald; *Treasurer*, C. F. Biddle.

HAMMOND PLAINS.—*Superintendent*, J. W. Skerritt.

PRESTON, FIRST.—*Superintendent*, Rev. G. Carvery.

PRESTON, SECOND.—*Superintendent*, Joseph Smith; *Bible Class Teacher*, _____; *Female Teacher*, Charlotte Downey.

1880.—Financial Account of the African Baptist Association.—1880.

1879. Sept. 7.	1880. Sept. 7.	Travelling Expenses allowed	
Cash Balance in hand.....	\$11.29	Rev. John A. Smith.....	\$4.00
Halifax Church Letter.....	12.78	George Carvery.....	2.00
Hammond Plains Church Letter.....	4.86	N. Drayton.....	2.00
Home Mission Tax.....	4.50	A. Bailey.....	2.00
Home Mis. Tax.....	2.05	E. Dixon.....	1.00
Preston, First, Church Letter.....	5.00	A. Emmerson.....	2.00
Home Mission Tax.....	2.50	T. Jones.....	1.00
Second, Church Letter.....	4.50	Wm. Smith.....	1.50
Home Mis. Tax.....	1.60	David Anderson.....	1.00
Third.....	0.00	Robert Hamilton.....	0.50
Beech Hill Church Letter.....	2.00	Wm. Howe.....	0.50
Home Mission Tax.....	0.60	Wm. Carvery.....	0.50
Dartmouth Church Letter.....	2.25	Peter Butler.....	2.00
Campbell Road Church Letter.....	2.60	James Brown.....	0.50
Home Mission Tax.....	1.50	C. F. Biddle.....	1.50
Cornwallis Church Letter.....	1.00	Chas. Roane.....	0.75
Home Mission Tax.....	3.30	E. Jacobs.....	0.75
Digby Joggins.....	1.00	J. Colly.....	0.75
Fines collected at Sessions.....	1.80	Joseph Glasgow.....	0.50
Sundry Collections.....	11.02	Printing Minutes and Miscellaneous Cor- respondence.....	20.00
		Secretary.....	6.00
		Balance.....	24.40
		Total.....	\$75.15