

THE
CONSTITUTION,

BY-LAWS, MINUTES,
CIRCULAR LETTER, ARTICLES OF FAITH, AND
THE COVENANT, OF

THE CANADIAN
ANTI-SLAVERY BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION.

W I N D S O R ;

PRINTED AT THE VOICE OF THE FUGITIVE OFFICE.

1854.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1.—This Association shall be called the Canadian Anti-Slavery Baptist Association.

ART. 2.—This Association shall be composed of orderly Baptist Churches of acknowledged Christian character, who sign this constitution, and who have *no union* with *Slaveholders*, but who treat the institution of Slavery as godless and Satanic : separating themselves for ever from all religious societies which are supported in common with Slaveholders or their Abettors.

ART. 3.—The object of this Association shall be to promote by correspondence and personal intercourse, unity and faith, and practice, fellowship, cordiality of feeling, and union of effort, in promoting the interest of the churches, and the furtherance of the cause of the Church of Christ throughout the world.

ART. 4.—This Association shall recognize the power and independence of the churches, and in no case exercise any authority or jurisdiction over them ; nevertheless it shall have power to drop from its connection any church which, in the opinion of the Association, may have essentially departed from the faith, either in principle or practice ; and to preclude from a seat in its meetings, any minister or delegate who is manifestly corrupt either in theory or practice ; and facts in either case may be ascertained in any way not inconsistent with the rules of the gospel.

ART. 5.—The meetings of this Association shall be held annually on the first Friday in September, at ten o'clock A. M., by their representatives, who are not to exceed five from each church, at such place as the Association shall appoint.

ART. 6.—The churches composing this Association are required to send letters to its annual meetings, expressing the names of their messengers, pastors, and clerks ; the state of the churches with their additions and present numbers.

ART. 7.—Churches may be received into this Association by letter, setting forth their desire to become admitted, their faith and willingness to conform to the rules of this Association, and on satisfaction and reception, the Moderator shall give the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8.—Any church connected with this Association which shall neglect to make an annual report at its meetings, for two years, shall be visited by a committee of this Association to inquire into the cause ; and if the same neglect be repeated the third year they shall be dropped from the minutes.

BY-LAWS.

1. The Officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. The Moderator shall preside at all the meetings of the Association, and see that order and decorum are observed by its members. The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of all the business transactions of the Association. The Treasurer shall receive and keep all moneys of the Association, and shall pay them out and over as the Association shall direct, and shall make a report of the state of the treasury at each annual meeting. The Corresponding Secretary shall take charge of the records, and do its correspondence.

2. The first business of the Association, after the delivery of the annual introductory sermon, shall be the calling of the Association to order by the minister who preached, and the election of the Moderator and Clerk.

3. After singing and prayer, a prudential committee of five shall be chosen to commence the business of the Association.

4. The letters from the churches shall be read, and the other business as it may be presented.

5. Visiting brethren may next be invited to a seat, and debate on all subjects, but vote on none.

6. Every speaker shall arise and address the Moderator, and shall have the liberty of moving or seconding any motion, or of speaking on any subject regularly laid before the body, without any interruption, except he depart from the subject, or some explanation be necessary to a right understanding of it.

7. The Moderator shall have the same right to speak as any other member, provided the chair be filled.

8. No subject shall be discussed till seconded ; if not seconded, it shall be considered as lost.

9. No speaker shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.

10. All personal reflections shall be particularly avoided in the debates of this body.

11. In time of session, all private conversation shall be dispensed with, and undivided attention given to the business of the Association.

12. All questions of order shall be decided by the Moderator.

13. These By-laws shall be read distinctly from the chair immediately after the election of officers at each session.

14. Any of the articles of this Constitution or By-laws may be altered (except Art. 2 of the Constitution) at any meeting of the Association, by the vote of two-thirds of the numbers present.

MINUTES

OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

ANTI-SLAVERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SEPT. 2, 1853.

Association met on first Friday in September, at ten o'clock A. M., with the Baptist Church of *Mount Pleasant*, C. W. By reason of the absence of Elders W. P. Newman and Daniel Turner, *Elder White* preached the introductory sermon, upon request, from Psalm cxxxiii. 1. : "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." After preaching, Association was called to order by Elder J. White, who was then chosen Moderator; James Hansborough, Clerk; and Elder Simpson, Assistant. Prayer by Elder S. White.

A prudential committee was then appointed, consisting of the following brethren : T. Terrell, D. Jackson, B. Debaum, Peter Marks, B. Hedgeman. Adjourned to three o'clock. Prayer by the Moderator.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Sermon by Brother Hansborough from 1 Peter, ii. 17 : "Honor all men, love the brotherhood." Letters from the several churches were then read, from which were taken the following statistics :—

Second Baptist Church, Chatham.—Peter Marks and T. Small, Deacons. Brothers Griffin and Hansborough, Local Preachers. C. H. Ramsay, Clerk. Peter Marks and T. Ferrell, Messengers. Members received by letter, 18 ; present number, 68 ; money for minutes, \$2.

Mount Pleasant Church.—Elder Gabriel H. Simpson, pastor; John Hedgeman, clerk; Thomas Gibson, Peter J. Jackson, John Hedgeman, Cornelius Debaum, Samuel Jones, messengers. Excluded, 7; present number, 18; money for the minutes, \$2.

Colchester Church.—Elder Gabriel H. Simpson, pastor; Benjamin Stewart, clerk; James Lyons and G. H. Simpson, messengers. Present number, 5; money for minutes, \$1.

Macedonia Church, Elgin.—Alfred Lewis, deacon; Elder S. White, messenger. Withdrawn, 2; present number, 5; money for minutes, 31 cents.

London Church.—No statistics. *Letter forwarded* by A. B. Jones, containing money for minutes, \$2.

Dawn Church.—No statistics. *Letter forwarded* by George Johnson. Number of members, 21; money for minutes, \$1.

Adjourned till seven o'clock. Prayer by Brother Marks.

Association met pursuant to adjournment, at 7 o'clock P. M.
• Sermon by Brother Marks from Thess. v. 19.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 3.

Sermon by Elder Simpson at 10 o'clock. After preaching proceeded to business. Prayer by the Moderator. Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read and approved. *Resolved* that the Treasurer be requested to bring in his report. Adjourned to three o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Listened to a sermon at 3 o'clock by Bro. Hansborough, pursuant to adjournment. Letter from *Detroit Union Church* laid on the table, read and received for examination, having been presented by Deacon French. *Resolved* that it be received for further investigation.

Resolved that Brothers Gibson and Lyons be a committee to wait on the *Malden Church*.

Resolved 1. that Brothers Hansborough and Terrell be the publishing committee, and that it be their duty to attend to the printing and distributing of the Minutes.

Resolved 2. That Elder White write the circular letter; and that Elder Simpson preach the introductory sermon, and Elder White be his alternate at the next annual meeting of the Association, to be held within the Second Baptist Church in Chatham, on the first Friday in September, A. D. 1854.

Resolved that the following Resolutions passed by the ^{last} annual meeting of the Association be adopted, with the *Constitution* and *By-laws*.

Resolved, that in view of the destitution prevailing among us, we most heartily desire, and would cordially welcome a Missionary to labor among us, sustained by the Western B. F. Mission Society

Resolved that those Churches, Associations, and Missionary Societies which fellowship, or stand connected with the unchristian and wicked oppressor and his abettors and apologists, do, by such connexion, forfeit Christian character, and are corrupt and corrupting influences in the work of Missions, and therefore unworthy of the sympathy and support of the true Christian.

Resolved, that so long as the Slaveholder is welcomed, or his money received by the Missionary Union, the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the American and Foreign Bible Society, and the Bible Union, and their auxiliaries,—these societies and their auxiliaries should be repugnant to every truth-loving Baptist, and forsaken until they are reformed.

Resolved that so long as the American Baptist Free Mission Society, and the Western Baptist Free Mission Convention, faithfully adhere to the principles laid down in their constitutions, they shall have our contributions, our prayers, and our confidence.

Resolved that this Association highly approve of the “American Baptist,” the organ of the A. B. F. M. Society; and that, as it is a religious and family newspaper of the right stamp, we also make it the organ of our Association, and seek to give it a wide-spread circulation.

Resolved, that in our judgment, it is the duty of all men, and especially of all Christians, to abstain entirely from the use of ardent spirits as a beverage, and from all traffic in it.

Resolved that we recommend the several churches of this Association to encourage the young ministers of their respective churches, to be more diligent in acquiring a greater knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, so that they may be prepared for the work of their ministry.

