

VOLUME I  
1797-1834

1834

1.

Minutes  
of the  
Presbytery of Hopewell. Volume I.

At a Session of the Synod of the Carolinas begun & holden at Morganton, North Carolina on Thursday, 3d day of November, 1796, an Overture was laid before the Synod, by the Presbytery of South Carolina, praying a Division; and that a Presbytery should be laid off on the Southwest side of Savannah river, to be known by the name of the Presbytery of Hopewell - that the Rev. John Newton, John Springer, Robert M. Cunningham, Moses Waddel and William Montgomery be the members composing that Presbytery. Which Overture being granted it was Ordered, That the Presbytery of Hopewell meet at Liberty Church on the third Thursday in March, 1797, & that the Rev. John Springer open the Presbytery & preside until a Moderator be chosen.

Liberty Church, Wilkes county, Georgia.

16 March, 1797.

1<sup>st</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met according to appointment. Members present, the Reverend

John Newton

Elders.

John Springer,

Ezekiel Gillam,

Robert M. Cunningham,

Ministers. James Darrach,

William Montgomery,

Lodowick Tuggle.

Moses Waddel

Presbytery was opened by the Rev. Mr. Springer with a sermon on Luke 4: 18 & constituted with prayer.

Mr. Springer was then chosen Moderator & Mr. Waddel, Clerk.

Ordered, that calls, Supplications &c. be presented, if there be any.

A Supplication was presented by a number of people residing in Franklin county, expressing a desire to be placed under the care of this Presbytery, to be known by the name of Hebron, & praying for supplies.

A petition was also presented by a number of people living on the North fork of the Oconee river, Jackson county, praying for supplies.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Liberty, Friday, 17 March, 1797.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as above. Constituted with prayer.

The Rev. Jesse Mercer, a Clergyman of the Baptist Church, being present, was invited to take a seat in Presbytery, which invitation he accepted.

Mr Newton was directed to supply one Sabbath at Hebron, one on the North fork of the Oconee, & one at discretion before our next Sessions.

Mr Springer, one at Joppa & one at discretion.

Mr Cunningham, one at New-hope & one at discretion.

Mr Waddel, one at Joppa, & one at discretion.

Mr Montgomery, one at North fork of the Oconee, one at Hebron, and one at discretion.

Mr William Calahan, an Elder from the Church

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of Little Britain, being present, took his seat in Presbytery. Mr Newton, during his connexion with the Presbytery of South Carolina, having been appointed to travel as a Missionary on the frontier parts of this State, was called upon to report his progress in that tour; upon which it appeared that he had fulfilled his appointment in part - had been providentially prevented from completing it; but hoped to be able to accomplish it before our next stated Sessions.

The Presbytery, having taken into view the degeneracy of Manners & the declension in Religion, which so awfully prevail, in co-incidence with several religious Indicators in these States, do earnestly recommend that the first Tuesday in January, April, July & October, be hereafter observed as days of humiliation, fasting & prayer throughout the Churches under their care; and that each of the members of this Presbytery inform the people of their respective charges of this Recommendation, & meet with them on those days for the purpose of public worship.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Bethany, in Greene county, on the second Thursday in October next. Concluded with prayer.

## Second Sessions.

Bethany, Greene county, 12th October, 1797.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present

the Rev. John Springer	Elders.
Robert Cunningham,	James Daniel,
Moses Waddel,	James Orr,
William Montgomery.	Adam Hayes.

The Rev. John Newton departed this life since our last Sessions. Presbytery was opened with a sermon by Mr Barton W. Stone, a Licentiate of Orange Presbytery, on John 3: 18.

Constituted with prayer.

Mr Cunningham was then chosen Moderator, & Mr Waddel, Clerk. Ordered, that Calls, Supplications, &c. be brought forward, if there be any.

A petition from Bethsalem & New Hope was presented, praying to be supplied with so much of Mr

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Montgomery's labors, as may be in his power, in the interval between our present & next Sessions.

A petition for supplies was also presented from Bethsaida, in Jackson county.

A petition was presented from a number of people on Richland Creek, desirous to be organized as a Church & to receive supplies.

A Certificate was produced, signed by the Executors of the late Rev. John Newton, shewing that a final settlement to have been made with them by the Congregation of New-Hope, entitling that Congregation to the privileges of other vacancies.

A Resolution of the Synod of the Carolinas at their last Sessions was received and read, requiring the punctual attendance of four ministers & as many Elders from this Presbytery at the next Sessions of Synod at Mount Bethel Church in the State of Tennessee, on the third Tuesday in November next.

Ordered, that the Minutes of our last Sessions be read. They were read accordingly.

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The members appeared generally to have fulfilled their appointments. Excuses for some failures were sustained.

The consideration of Mr Newton's Missionary tour was deferred.

Presbytery adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethany, 13 October, 1797.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above, except Elder James Daniel. Constituted with prayer. The minutes of yesterday's Session were read.

The petition of Bethsalem & New Hope, for a part of Mr Montgomery's labors, was then considered. Whereupon it appeared necessary & was ordered that the farther consideration of the petition be deferred until our next Stated Sessions.

Presbytery adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethany, 14 October, 1797.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

A petition was presented from a number of the inhabitants of Sparta & its vicinity, requesting supplies, particularly by the Rev. Mr. Cunningham.

In consequence of the Resolution of the Synod of the Carolinas of the 16th August last, it is Resolved, that as many members of this Presbytery, as may have it in their power, shall attend the next Sessions of Synod, at Morent Bethel Church, in the State of Tennessee on the third Tuesday in November next.

The consideration of Mr. Newton's missionary tour is deferred till our next Sessions, at which time it is hoped we shall have satisfactory documents before us respecting that business.

Ordered, that the members of this Presbytery do endeavor to raise contributions in their respective congregations, to form a fund for answering such contingencies as may arise in the churches under their care; & bring forward such contributions at our next stated Sessions.

Mr Springer was appointed to supply, one Sabbath at Sharon & one at Discretion before our next Sessions.

Mr Cunningham, one at Sparta & one at discretion.

Mr Waddel, one at Toppa & one at discretion.

Mr Montgomery, two Sabbaths at Bethsalem, two, at New Hope; one at Bethsaida, & one, at Richland creek.

Mr Montgomery petitioned for a dismissal from the Congregations of Siloam & Little Britain, with whom he is connected in a pastoral relation. Whereupon it was Ordered that an intermediate Presbytery meet on the second Thursday in January next for the purpose of considering Mr. Montgomery's petition.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at the time & place above mentioned.

Concluded with prayer.

Robert M. Cunningham, Mod.

Moses Waddel, Clerk.

## Third Session.

Siloam Church, 11th January, 1798.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment. Members present

## Ministers.

John Springer

Robert Cunningham

William Montgomery.

Absent. Moses Waddel.

## Elders.

James Daniel.

John Bailey.

John Armor.

William Calahan.

Presbytery was opened by the Rev. Mr Cunningham with a sermon on Psal. 122: 1. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Cunningham was chosen Moderator and Mr Montgomery, Clerk. The minutes of the last stated Sessions were read.

Mr Montgomery's petition for a dismissal from his congregations was then taken up. After sometime spent in serious consideration of the subscription, it was determined that the petition be granted, and Siloam & Little Britain in union were declared to be vacant congregations under the care of this Presbytery.

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A petition was then presented to the Presbytery for supplies. Whereupon Mr Waddel & Mr Montgomery were appointed, each to preach one Sabbath at Siloam before our next Sessions.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Smyrna Church on the second Thursday in March next.

Concluded with prayer.

Robert M. Cunningham, Moderator.

William Montgomery, Clerk.

4th Sessions.

Smyrna, Wilkes county, 8 March, 1798.

The Presbytery met according to adjournment. A

Ministers present	Elders
Robert Cunningham	William Appleby
Moses Waddel	and
William Montgomery.	John Wingfield.

Absent. John Springer.

Presbytery was opened by Mr Cunningham with a sermon on Psal. 119: 59. 60. Constituted with prayer.

12. Mr Waddel was then chosen Moderator & Mr Montgomery, Clerk. Ordered that Calls, Supplications &c. be brought forward.

A Call was presented by the Congregation of New-Hope for one half of the ministerial labors of Mr Montgomery; which was tendered to him for his acceptance.

A petition was presented by Bethsaida Congregation for the fifth part of Mr Montgomery's labors for one year.

Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Smymna, 9 March, 1798.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of our last stated Sessions were read. The consideration of the late Mr Newton's Missionary tour was resumed; and as Presbytery was not furnished with sufficient documents on that subject, Presbytery thought proper to decline any

farther investigation of it, & appointed Mr Cunningham to write a letter to Bethesda congregation, informing them of the propriety of contributing something for the support of Missionaries

Enquiry being made whether the members had complied with an Order of Synod requiring four ministers & four Elders of this Presbytery to attend at Mount Bethel Church on the third Tuesday in November, 1797, it appeared that none, except Mr Montgomery had complied. The reasons of the others' failure were sustained.

On enquiry whether the members had raised any contributions for establishing a Presbyterial fund, it appeared that none had complied but Mr Montgomery. Apologies for failure on the part of the other members were offered and sustained.

The minutes of the intermediate Presbytery which met at Silsah in January last were then read, and Presbytery adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Smyrna, 10 March, 1798.

Mr. Montgomery having considered the Call presented to him thro' Presbytery from the Congregation of New Hope, agreed to accept it.

Mr. Waddel & Mr. Springer were appointed Commissioners to represent this Presbytery in the General Assembly, to meet in Philadelphia in May next.

Thomas Newton, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Concord, having produced satisfactory testimonials of his regular dismissal from that Body, and expressing a desire to be received under the care of this Presbytery, was unanimously received as a Licentiate under our care.

Adjourned to meet at this place on Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Smyrna, 12 March, 1798.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above, except Elder Appleby, who was absent by permission.

A petition from Hebron Congregation was pre-

sented to Presbytery for the third part of Mr Newton's ministerial labors, for the term of one year.

Ordered that the members of this Presbytery endeavor to raise contributions towards establishing a Presbyterial fund, & bring them forward at our next stated Sessions.

Mr Montgomery having produced six Dollars and fifty cents, by order delivered the same into the hands of Mr John Wingfield, Treasurer.

Mr Waddel applied for a dismissal from the congregation of Carmel, to whom he stands related in a pastoral capacity. Whereupon it was Ordered that he appear at our next stated Sessions prepared to shew his reasons for desiring a dismissal.

Mr Springer was appointed to supply one Sabbath at discretion, before our next stated Sessions. Mr Cunningham, one at Sparta, one at Richland Creek & one at discretion. Mr Waddel, one at Toppa, one at Bethsaida & one at discretion. Mr Montgomery, one at Siloam, one at Sharon & one at discretion. Mr Newton, one at Bethsaida, one at Sharon; the rest, at discretion.

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Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Bethsalem Church on the first Thursday in September next.

Concluded with prayer.

Moses Waddel, Moderator.

William Montgomery, Clerk.

### 5th Sessions.

Bethsalem Church, 21st September, 1798.

Presbytery met according to adjournment & was opened by Mr Waddel with a sermon on Psal. 42: 2.

Constituted with prayer.

Ministers present

Elders.

Robert M. Cunningham,

Samuel Mackay,

Moses Waddel,

and

William Montgomery.

Ezekiel Gillam.

The Rev. John Springer has deceased since our last Sessions. Mr Montgomery was chosen Moderator, and Mr Waddel, Clerk.

Ordered, that Calls, Supplications &c. be brought forward. A petition was presented from the Inhabitants

of Carnesville & its vicinity for supplies; particularly for the third part of Mr Newton's ministerial labors, during the term of one year.

By the decease of the Rev. John Springer, the congregations of Liberty, Smyrna & Providence are become vacant & petition for supplies.

A number of people residing in Greene county, in the fork of the Oconee, desirous of being known by the name of Beersheba congregation, petition for supplies.

Sharon congregation petitioned for supplies.

A number of people residing near the confluence of Cedar creek with the Oconee, desirous of being organized as a Church, petition for supplies.

The minutes of our last Sessions were read.

On enquiry whether the members had complied with an Order continued at our last Sessions, relative to collecting contributions for the purpose of forming a Presbyterial fund, it appeared that the order had not been fully complied with, for reasons which were sustained. The Order, however, was continued,

and extended not only to Churches which have settled pastors, but to those vacancies which have expressed a desire to be considered as under our care.

Pursuant to an Order of the General Assembly at their last Sessions, the Presbytery enjoin upon every member appointed to supply in vacant churches, to catechise at least one day in as many of those vacancies as he may find practicable, consistently with his other duties; & render an account of his fidelity & attention to this particular at our next stated Sessions.

A Call was presented for the third part of the labors of Mr Thomas Newton. by the Congregation of Hebron. Another call was presented for the third part of Mr Newton's labors by the Congregation of Concord; which Calls Mr Newton took under consideration until tomorrow.

Adjourned to meet at Mrs Newton's this evening at six o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Mrs Newton's 6 o'clock P. M.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The consideration of Mr Waddel's petition presented at our last stated Sessions for a dismissal from his pastoral charge, was deferred until our next stated Sessions.

Mr Cunningham having failed to write to Bethesda congregation on the subject of contributions for the support of Missionaries, agreeably to an order at our last sessions, & his excuse for failure being sustained, the order was continued.

Mr Cunningham was directed to supply one Sabbath at Sparta, one at Richland creek, & one at Siloam before our next Sessions.

Mr Waddel, one at Smyrna, one at Liberty, and one at Beersheba.

Mr Montgomery, one at Sharon, one at Carnesville & one at the mouth of Cedar-Creek.

Mr Newton, one at Sharon & the rest at discretion.

Adjourned to meet at Bethsalem tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, 22 September, 1798.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The consideration of the Calls preferred to Mr Newton was resumed; & he being asked by Presbytery whether he would accept them, signified his willingness & acceptance. The following subjects were then appointed to Mr Newton, viz. 2 Pet. 3:1-7 as the foundation of a Lecture, & Heb. 10:38. as the foundation of a sermon, to be delivered by him as trials previous to ordination, which is appointed to take place at Hebron on the second Thursday in March next. Mr Cunningham was appointed to preach the ordination sermon, & Mr Waddel, to preside & deliver the Charge.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Hebron on the second Thursday in next March.

Concluded with prayer. M. Waddel, Clerk.

## 6th Sessions.

Hebron church, Franklin county, 14 March, 1799.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment, & was opened by Mr Thomas Newton with a Lecture founded on 2 Pet. 3: 1-7, & a sermon on Heb. 10: 38. as trials previous to his Ordination.

Ministers	Present.	Elders.
Robert M. Cunningham,		John Willis,
Moses Waddel,		William <sup>Fergus</sup> Forgey, &
William Montgomery.		John M. Intire.

Constituted with prayer.

Mr Waddel was chosen Moderator, & Mr Montgomery Clerk. Ordered that Calls, Supplications &c. be brought forward.

Liberty & Providence congregations petition for supplies & for the administration of the Lords Supper.

Adjourned to meet at Mr Samuel Mackay's this evening at 7 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Mr Mackay's, 7 o'clock, P.M. Presbytery met. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of our last stated Sessions were read. On enquiry whether the members had attended to an Order continued at our last stated Sessions, relative to soliciting contributions for raising a Presbyterial fund, it appeared that attention had been paid to the Order.

Mr Cunningham produced from Bethany, \$ 3.00

and from Ebenezer Church . . . . . 3.00

Mr Waddel produced from Carmel - - 4.50

from Smyrna - 4.25

from Toppa - 1.00

Mr Montgomery produced from New Hope 1.00

from Bethsalem - 1.00

from Bethsaida - 1.00

18.75

which monies Mr Waddel is directed to pay into the hands of Mr John Wingfield, Treasurer of this Presbytery.

On enquiry relative to the catechising of vacancies enjoined at our last stated Sessions, it appeared that it had been commenced, & a continued attention to the Order was recommended & enjoined upon each

member of this Presbytery.

The consideration of Mr Waddell's petition for a dismissal from his Charge was indefinitely postponed at his request.

On enquiry, Mr Cunningham stated that he had written a letter to the Church of Bethesda in compliance with the order of Presbytery at our last Sessions.

It also appeared that the members had generally fulfilled their last presbyterial appointments. Some instances of failure were excused for reasons assigned.

Adjourned to meet at Hebron tomorrow at 9 o'clock A. M. Concluded with prayer.

Hebron, 15 March, 1799.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer. The minutes of yesterday were read.

Sharon & Unity Congregations petitioned for supplies. Presbytery then examined Mr Newton on experimental Religion, Theology, Natural & Moral Philosophy, Chronology &c. on all of which, his examination was sustained.

Mr Cunningham was appointed to supply one Sabbath at Sharon, one at Liberty & one at Providence, before our next Sessions.

Mr Waddel, one at Toppa, one at Liberty & one at Providence.

Mr Montgomery, one at Bethsalem, one at Sharon, and one at Unity.

Mr Newton, one at Sharon, & one, at Unity.

Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Hebron, 16 March, 1799.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present, as above. Constituted with prayer.

Ordered that Presbytery proceed to the ordination of Mr. Newton. After a suitable sermon delivered by Mr. Cunningham & a charge delivered by Mr. Waddel, Presbytery did, by solemn prayer & imposition of hands, set apart Mr. Newton to the sacred Office of the Gospel-ministry.

Mr. Cunningham applied for a dismissal from Ebenezer congregation.

On a petition of Mr Robert M. Alpin, Ordered, that a special Session be appointed to meet at Siloam, on the last Friday in June, to consider a charge of slander brought against him; that Mr Cunningham & Mr Montgomery be appointed to preside; & that Messrs. William Smith, & William Greer, from Bethany, James Espey & William Carrigan, from Bethsalem, Robert Cowden, George Gathoun & Adam Hayes, from Siloam, compose that Session.

Ordered, that Mr John Wingfield, our treasurer, be directed to pay to Mr Waddel twenty Dollars out of the Presbyterial fund, to compensate him for his services as a Commissioner to the General Assembly at Philadelphia in May, 1798.

Adjourned to meet at Providence on the last Thursday in September next.

Concluded with prayer.

Moses Waddel, Mod.<sup>r</sup>

William Montgomery, Clerk.

26. Providence, 26 September, 1799.

This being the day to which the Presbytery of Hopewell stood adjourned, two members only attended, the rest being prevented by the inclemency of the weather. The number present being incompetent to form a Presbytery, after worshipping God with the people who attended, they retired to their lodgings, after appointing to meet tomorrow at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Providence, 27 September, 1799.

Presbytery met.

Ministers	Present	Elders.
Robert M. Cunningham.		John Cain
Moses Waddel,		and
William Montgomery.		John Wingfield.
Absent. Thomas Newton.		

Mr Montgomery opened Presbytery with a sermon on Ephes. 2: 13. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Montgomery was chosen Moderator and Mr Waddel, Clerk. Presbytery adjourned to meet here tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Providence, 28 September, 1799.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Mr Newton, & Mr Adams, an Elder from Hebron, appeared and took their seats.

Ordered, that Calls, Supplications &c. be presented. The Congregations of Richland creek, and Liberty petitioned for supplies. The Church of Smyrna also petitioned for supplies; particularly for so much of Mr Waddell's time as can be conveniently devoted to their service.

A number of people living in the Walnut-Branch settlement, Burke county, petitioned for supplies. Also, a Congregation below Waynesboro' called the Old Church, petitioned for supplies.

A congregation, called Curry's Creek, in Jackson county, & Unity, at the mouth of Cedar Creek, also Sharon, petitioned for supplies.

The minutes of our last Sessions were read. An enquiry, it appeared that the members had generally fulfilled their appointments.

It appeared that Catechising of vacancies had been attended to by all the members, who had it in their power.

The consideration of Mr Cunningham's petition for a dismissal from his pastoral relation to Ebenezer Church, was taken up. After hearing his reasons, which appeared sufficiently weighty, Presbytery did release him from his pastoral Relation to that Church, & declared Ebenezer to be a vacancy under our care.

On enquiry, it appeared that the special Session appointed to meet at Siloam in June last, to consider a charge of slander against Robert M. Alpin, did meet according to appointment; & having duly heard the testimony & considered the matter, did form the following Judgement; viz. That the Charge against Mr M. Alpin is both groundless & malicious; & would sooner have appeared so to the world, but for the following reasons, viz. 1<sup>st</sup> from a misunderstanding having taken place between the Accused & the Session, respecting the mode of

treating the Accusers. 2.<sup>d</sup> From a long series of illnesses under which the Accused labored, & 3.<sup>d</sup> From the removal of some of the principal members of the Session of Siloam. Whereupon the said Robert M. Alpin is released from that suspension, & restored to his former privileges in the church of Christ.

Mr Wingfield requested & obtained leave of absence during the remainder of this Session.

Adjourned to meet this evening at Mrs Springer's at 7 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Mrs Springer's, 7 o'clock, P. M.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Montgomery produced from the Congregation of New Hope \$5.32½ Cents towards the establishment of a presbyterial fund. Mr Newton produced six Dollars, six & ¼ cents from the congregation of Hebron & two Dollars, six & ¾ Cents from Concord for the same purpose, which monies were put into the hands of Mr Wingfield, our treasurer.

Mr Cunningham was directed to supply one Sabbath at Liberty, one at Richland Creek, & one at discretion before our next Sessions.

Mr Waddel, one at Walnut Branch, & one, at the old Church below Waynesborough.

Mr Montgomery, one at Sharon, one, at Providence, and one at Unity.

Mr Newton, one at Sharon, & two, at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned to meet at Liberty on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

William Montgomery, Mod.?"

M. Waddel, Clerk.

Owing to some unaccountable cause, the minutes of the four succeeding Sessions were lost, and never came into the hands of the Stated Clerk.

no minutes for 1800  
Spring 1801

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12th Sessions.

24 December, 1801.

met according to adjourn-  
ed Pharr, a candidate for  
in Mal. 3: 16. to the end, and a  
the parts of trial for Ordina-  
last stated Sessions.  
prayer.

Elders.

Robert M. Cord

Moses Waddel,

and

William Montgomery,

William Burns.

Thomas Newton.

The minutes of our last stated Sessions were read.  
Presbytery then adjourned to meet at the house  
of Mr Orr this evening at 7 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Mr Orr's, 7 o'clock, P. M.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Mem-  
bers present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Pharr was then examined on the Languages, Theology,

## 12th Sessions.

Curry's Creek, (alias Thyatira) 24 December, 1801.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, & was opened by Mr Edward Pharr, a candidate for Ordination, with a Lecture from Mal. 3: 16. to the end, and a sermon on Rom. 5: 9. 10. being the parts of trial for Ordination, assigned to him at our last stated Sessions.

Constituted with prayer.

Ministers.	Present	Elders.
Robert M. Cunningham,		Robert M. Cord
Moses Waddel,		and
William Montgomery,		William Burns.
Thomas Newton.		

The minutes of our last stated Sessions were read. Presbytery then adjourned to meet at the house of Mr Orr this evening at 7 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Mr Orr's, 7 o'clock, P. M.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Mr Pharr was then examined on the Languages, Theology,

Church History & Chronology, and the Presbytery, having considered his popular discourses delivered yesterday, did agree to sustain the whole as parts of trial previous to Ordination. Adjourned to meet at Curry's Creek meeting-house tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Friday, 25 December, 1801.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

An ordination sermon having been delivered by the Rev. Moses Waddel, the Presbytery did then set apart Mr Pharr by solemn prayer & the imposition of hands to the sacred Office of the Gospel-ministry. A charge suitable to the occasion was then delivered by Mr Cunningham.

A Call was presented by the Congregation of Hopewell in South Carolina, in a regular manner for the ministerial labors of Mr Waddel. This Call was accepted by him; & he was then regularly dismissed from this Presbytery to join the Second Presbytery of South Carolina.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Bethsalem on the second Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

Robert M. Cunningham, Mod<sup>r</sup>

William Montgomery, Clerk.

Bethsalem, 8 April, 1802.

13th Sessions.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, & was opened with a sermon by Mr Newton on Luke 10: 42. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers.	Present.	Elders.
Robert M. Cunningham,		William Fergus,
William Montgomery,		John M. Entire,
Thomas Newton &		William Appleby, &
Edward Pharr.		John Espy.

Mr Cunningham was chosen Moderator, and Mr Newton, Clerk. Adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Friday, 9 April, 1802.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Ordered, that Calls, Supplications &c. be presented.

The minutes of our last stated Sessions were read. On enquiry, it appeared that the members had generally fulfilled the presbyterial appointments assigned them at our last Sessions.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at this place tomorrow morning, at 8 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Saturday, 10 April, 1802.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The following Charges were presented to Presbytery. Susannah Ewing charges the Rev. William Montgomery with unchaste intentions. Marked N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Mr Montgomery charges Susannah Ewing, Thomas Ewing & Samuel Barnett with slander; & the latter with an attempt upon his life. N<sup>o</sup> 2.

Presbytery having viewed these Charges with sorrow, & seeing that the interest of religion is deeply involved in the event, unanimously agreed to solicit the aid of one or two members of the second Presbytery of South Carolina.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cunningham & Newton were appointed to draft a letter to the Rev. Francis Cummins & Robert Wilson of that Body, inviting them to attend a Presbytery at New Hope church on the 20th May next, for the purpose of hearing & deciding on the said charges.

Mr Cunningham was directed to supply one Sabbath at Smyrna & two, at discretion.

Mr Newton, one, at Concord and two at discretion.

Mr Pharr, one at Rose Creek and two at discretion.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet at New Hope on the third Thursday in May. Concluded with prayer.

Robert Cunningham, Mod<sup>r</sup>

Thomas Newton, Clerk.

14th Sessions.

New Hope, 20 May, 1802.

Presbytery met according to adjournment, & by the request of the Moderator, was opened by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, a correspondent member from South Carolina, who was present, with a sermon on John 3:36.

Constituted with prayer.

Ministers.	Present.	Elders.
Robert M. Cunningham,		John Cain,
William Montgomery,		William Fergus,
Thomas Newton &		John M. Entire,
Edward Pratt.		John Orr, and
		James Espie.

The Rev. Francis Cummins & Robert Wilson, members of the second Presbytery of South Carolina, being present, were invited to sit as corresponding and helping members; which they did accordingly.

Presbytery proceeded to consider the charges laid in at our last stated Sessions.

First, the Charge of Susannah Ewing against Mr Montgomery. (See page 34 supra.) which being read in the hearing of the parties, Mrs Ewing declared that she brought forward this charge with a view to the glory of God, from a sense of duty & not from malice or ill-will.

Mr Montgomery objected against Mrs Ewing's being sworn as a witness, alleging that she had stated the par-

particulars of the charge differently, in proof of which he adduced the testimony of Miss Nancy Murdock; who, being sworn, said that Mrs Ewing told her, that Mr Montgomery came there one evening when she was alone and in the kitchen ironing clothes, & used such freedoms as made her afraid. — that she went into the house, whither he followed her, & there also laid hold of her, dragging her to the stairs; but she, struggling, got loose from him: and that this conversation happened when he (Mr Montgomery) was at Natchez. — and that the fact occurred before the Sacrament which immediately preceded his departure.

Read and approved by the witness.

Presbytery adjourned to meet here tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

New Hope, 21 May, 1802.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Samuel Woods Esq., being sworn as a Witness, saith that when some things were compromised between Mr Montgomery & Mrs Ewing in the presence of some members of the Session of New Hope, Mr Montgom-

ery said, from Mrs Ewing's conduct, he thought she had evil intentions, & that he would lead her on in order to give her a reproof — that perhaps he had gone too far; & if so, he was willing to confess his fault before God and man. In private Mrs Ewing said, she had nothing to acknowledge but that she was not as sharp upon him as she ought to have been, or as she would have been upon another; but that no other man had ever made her such offers. Approved by the witness.

Mr James Leeper, being sworn, said, that when the difference betwixt Mr Montgomery & Mrs Ewing was compromised, he does not recollect that Mrs Ewing said that Mr M. laid her upon the bed — that he never conversed with her on the subject. Mr M. acknowledged that he kissed her — that his intention was to try her — to bring her to the point, then disappoint her & give her a reproof. In private conversation, Mr M. said, he did not know how it might have been; but he believed, if he had been intent upon it, he could have gone through with it. Approved by the witness.

Allen Soper Esq. being sworn, said, that when the difference between Mr Montgomery & Mrs Ewing was known to the Session & they were talking about it, Mr M. was called, & he said he acted independently - that he thought she made too free - that he meant to bring her on to the point - then disappoint her & give a reproof. That Mr M. had told him before Thomas Ewing's marriage that Sally Barnett (now S. Ewing) was a girl of a very worthy character & of respectable parents. Approved by the witness.

David Ewing, being sworn, said, that when some members of the Session had met to settle some difference between Mr Montgomery & Mrs Ewing, Mr M. acknowledged he acted imprudently in some things - that he was sorry for it; and the reason of his conduct was, he thought she conducted imprudently - that he meant to lead her on & then reprove her. Mrs Ewing said, she did not think much of what happened in the evening till she saw his conduct in the morning.

Mr David Ewing also said upon oath, that when he carried the citation to a certain witness, she told him that Mr

Montgomery said, if she came forward, she would be sorry for it. Approved by the witnesses.

Mary Coffee being sworn, said, that about three years ago, on a certain morning, Mr. Montgomery called her to his bedside, at her father's, — she came near — he took her by the hand, drew her near to him & asked her to kiss him. Afterwards on the same morning, he told her not to take amiss what he had done; for he had no ill design.

Again, shortly before Presbytery met at Bethsalem in April last, he was at her house — he pushed himself against her, as she thought in an indecent manner. That night after they went to bed, he had a good deal of talk which dissatisfied her & disposed her to awake her husband. And tho' his conversation next morning was not lewd, he came near to her where she sat, & pushed his knees against hers in a manner which she thought indecent & unbecoming. Approved by the witnesses.

Mr. William Appleby, being sworn, said, that when the difference between Mr. Montgomery & Susanna Ewing

was talked of in the Session, he went to Mr Thomas Ewing's to talk with Mrs Ewing about it. He also heard Mr. Montgomery acknowledge what he did acknowledge. He remembers, he denied taking her by the hand & dragging her chair into the room.

Approved by the witness.

Miss Peggy Stay being sworn, said, that she heard Mrs Ewing say, she did not like Mr Montgomery - she did not think he had a right to preach - she would not go the length of her foot to hear him - she believed she had lost a little one by a scare which he gave her, or by lifting a pot, which she did a few days after. She heard her say, other men had made indecent overtures to her. The first of these chats happened while Mr M. was at Natchez; the other, later.

Approved by the witness.

Miss Margaret Elliott, being sworn, said, Mrs Ewing told her, she had lost a child by lifting a pot. She likewise told her of Mr Montgomery's conduct towards her - that she was afraid of a Mr Griffin, whom she believed to be a bad man or evil disposed. Told in February, 1801.

Approved by the witness.

Mrs. M. Cleary being sworn, said, that she went to Thomas Ewing's when his wife was sick - that she did not know of her losing a child, nor was she told by the said S. Ewing that it was the case. Approved by witness.

Mr Robert M. Cord being sworn, said, that S. Ewing told the Session she was scared & disturbed so that she did not know what she was about, when Mr Montgomery treated her, as in the Charge. She said, she did not know whether he had any evil intentions or not. Approved by the witness.

M<sup>rs</sup> Samuel Park, being sworn, said, that M<sup>rs</sup> Ewing testified in session, she did not know whether M<sup>rs</sup> Montgomery had any evil intention in the conduct stated in the charge. Approved by the witness.

Presbytery took up the charges of M<sup>rs</sup> Montgomery against Samuel Barnett, Thomas Ewing, & Susanna Ewing, which are as follow, viz  
See N<sup>o</sup> 2.

Robert M. Cord being sworn, said, that Samuel Barnett, after the compromise at New Hope, told him he wanted to be clear of the church and congregational paper. He asked what was the matter: M<sup>rs</sup> Barnett was unwilling to declare it, but let him know there

was something. On the way to Mr. Pharris's ordination, he introduced  
 the conversation with Mr. Barnett, who was still unhappy & desired  
 to be off, but would not tell the reason. Some time after, Mr. Bar-  
 nett met the session of Bethesda & desired to be off; he appeared  
 to be unfriendly to Mr. Montgomery & would not talk with him  
 in private. However, being urged, he declared to the deponent & Mr.  
 Espie, the reason, & desired a hearing. Accordingly the session met,  
 & the accusation which is now brought against Mr. Montgomery was  
 read; to which he replied, it was an infernal lie, or a pack of in-  
 fernal lies. Mr. Ewing said, you mean then to establish your  
 character at the expense of mine. He said he did: which threw Mr.  
 Barnett into a passion, and made some attempts to strike Mr.  
 Montgomery with a stick, but was prevented by Mr. Espie & the  
 deponent. Mr. Barnett's language was unfriendly to Mr. Montgom-  
 ery. The accusation, mentioned above, Mr. Montgomery said, did  
 not agree with the statement laid before New Hope session. Mr.  
 Ewing was desired to give up the accusation, but Mr. Barnett  
 made some opposition, and it was not given up. Approved  
 by the witness.

Samuel Park being sworn, said, that he was at Bethesda session. Mr. Barnett appeared to be angry. He does not remember what he said particularly. Mr. Barnett acknowledged he refused to talk with Mr. Montgomery in private. The deponent said he did not fully know the nature of Mr. Barnett's offence before that day. That when the accusation was read, Mr. Montgomery said it was a pack of infernal lies. Mr. Ewing said, then you mean to establish your character at the expense of mine; and he said I will do it. Mr. Barnett then took up a large stick to strike Mr. Montgomery, with which he might have killed him, but was prevented. With regard to the accusation, Mr. Montgomery said it was a pack of lies, not all lies, for some of it was true. Then Mr. Ewing was asked for the accusation. Mr. Barnett said it was not best to give it up now, but keep it till the next meeting. Approved by the witness.

Joseph Ratchford being sworn, said, that Mr. Barnett did not attend meeting after the sacrament at Sandy creek last fall; that some time after, Mr. Barnett told him he was in trouble, and being asked the reason, he related some things which happened between his daughter S. Ewing & Mr. Montgomery, viz: That Mr.

Ewing had invited Mr. Montgomery to visit them. Mr. Montgomery came, found Mrs. Ewing washing or otherwise employed. She went to ironing, & Mr. Montgomery asked her if he was not prettier or better accomplished than Thomas Ewing. She said he was not. That night, Mr. & Mrs. Ewing wanted bed clothes, for which Mrs. Ewing went & opened a chest, which waked Mr. Montgomery; he raised himself in the bed or got out of it, which frightened the woman. She went out & communicated the matter to her husband, who hooted at her. The next day Mr. Ewing being from home, Mr. Montgomery attempted to take her into the room. Mr. Barnett said, he did not tell it to injure Mr. Montgomery's character and enjoined secrecy upon him. This relation was given by Mr. Barnett before the session was made acquainted with it, and the deponent was desired to make it known to the session. That Mr. Barnett wanted an opportunity of disclosing his mind to them. Approved by the witness.

Presbytery adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

New Hope, May 22<sup>d</sup>. 1802.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read, and the unfinished business resumed. The parties being present.

Mr John Espie being sworn, said, that one day at his house, Mr Barnett asked him if he knew who had the subscription paper, he wished to take his name off of it - he never meant to pay Mr Montgomery one farthing. Being asked what was the matter, he said he could not tell it. Afterwards at a meeting of the session, Mr Barnett came and spoke to the members, except Mr Montgomery; the matter was talked of among them. Mr Barnett appeared angry, and Mr Montgomery was agitated. Mr Barnett refused to talk with Mr Montgomery, & Mr Montgomery told Mr Barnett not to ask any questions respecting his character in public at his peril. Some time afterwards, Mr Barnett told him the ground of his dissatisfaction, saying he did not care if the world knew it, and related it to him, and said, Mr Montgomery, I am afraid you are a hardened little fellow. In private conversation with Mr Montgomery the deponent said that Mrs Ewing must be a very bad woman. Mr Montgomery answered, she tried her best to make me commit adultery with her. Mr Montgomery told me some particulars of the difference

between him & M<sup>rs</sup> Ewing. M<sup>r</sup> Barnett had said before this, that it was not words, but the proposal of an act, &c. Approved by the witness.

M<sup>rs</sup> C. Newton, widow of the rev<sup>d</sup> John Newton, dec<sup>d</sup> was introduced as a witness, and was indulged to give her testimony in writing, which is as follows, viz: "One night before M<sup>r</sup> Montgomery went to the Natchez, he came to my house, and after the family were gone to bed, he arose out of his bed and came to mine, and without asking leave, came into it. I asked what he came for. He asked if I did not want him. I told him I did not. He said I thought you loved me. I said, not more than I ought to do. All this time, M<sup>r</sup> M. handled me in a very indecent manner. He came a second time, not long before Christmas last; he then came to my bed as before, and used me still more rudely, so that I was obliged to resist him with my whole strength - threaten to awake all about the house, and finally to leave the bed & go to another." To which, M<sup>rs</sup> Newton was sworn in open Presbytery, and also to answer such questions as might be proposed to her by the Presbytery, or the parties.

1<sup>st</sup> Quest: M<sup>r</sup> Montgomery asked, did you not come to bed

to me and say you loved me? Answer. One night you asked me for a drink, I gave you one - you caught my hand, drew me to you. I lay down a few minutes. As to saying I loved you, I never did.

2.<sup>d</sup> Quest: Did you really believe I had carnal intentions towards you? Answer. Your conduct was unjustifiable.

M.<sup>rs</sup> Newton being asked if M<sup>r</sup>. Montgomery had dissuaded her from giving her attendance at Presbytery? Answered, M<sup>r</sup>. M. requested her not to attend as a witness against him, saying she need not come if she chose, & if she did, she might repent.

Presbytery, at the commencement of the prosecution, deferred taking the oath of M.<sup>rs</sup> Ewing, to see whether any thing in the course of the testimony would make it improper, as was alleged by the defendant. And now although nothing before us, can be considered as a sufficient objection against it, yet it is thought unnecessary.

No more testimony being adduced, and the parties being heard in their defence. Presbytery proceeded to the consideration of the testimony. And after solemn deliberation, do adjudge that (though for reasons of prudence M.<sup>rs</sup> Ewing was not sworn)

The charge preferred by her is, as to substance, proved by confes-  
 sions made by Mr. Montgomery, in presence of some Elders, and  
 by the testimony of two other women, as regards his conduct  
 of a similar nature and complexion towards them, especially  
 Mrs. Newton. On the whole, Presbytery adjudges that sufficient  
 evidence has appeared to substantiate the fact, that Mr. Mont-  
 gomery has behaved with great imprudence, thereby rendering  
 him plainly and justly liable to the strong suspicion of impure  
 and unchaste propensities and intentions. Therefore, for the  
 satisfaction of the aggrieved, the honour of religion & the holy  
 ministry, and the ultimate benefit of Mr. Montgomery himself,  
 it appears necessary to adjudge, - And Presbytery does accord-  
 ingly adjudge, - That the said William Montgomery be censured;  
 and that the present pastoral relationship subsisting between him  
 and the congregations of New Hope & Bethesda be dissolved;  
 and also, that he be suspended from the communion of our  
 church, and the exercise of his ministerial office, until Presbytery  
 may have cause to restore him.

The Presbytery on taking into consideration the charges  
 against Samuel Barnett, Thomas Ewing & Susanna Ewing; and duly

and seriously deliberating on the testimony, doth adjudge, that although M<sup>r</sup>. Barnett's conduct in some things has been blameable, particularly in not governing his passions, which he voluntarily confesses, yet upon the whole, he has conducted as uprightly as is usually to be expected of a pious man, in similar circumstances.

In the conduct of Thomas Ewing, Presbytery doth adjudge, that nothing improper had appeared in testimony except his communing, in a state of alienation, forbidden in the word of God.

With regard to M<sup>rs</sup>. Susanna Ewing, Presbytery does adjudge, that she has acted imprudently in divulging the conduct of M<sup>r</sup>. Montgomery, toward her, to some persons who were not members of the church judicatory.

Ordered, That these several judgments be read in the audience of the parties. Whereupon, they were accordingly read, and were submitted to by them.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at <sup>Bethsaida?</sup> Bethsalem Church on the second Thursday in September next.

Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, September 9<sup>th</sup> 1802. 15<sup>th</sup> Session.

Presbytery of Hopewell, met agreeably to adjournment, & was opened by a sermon, by the rev. & Robert M. Cunningham, from

Col. 1. 26. 27.

Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,

present,

Elders,

Robert M. Cunningham,

William Smith, John

Thomas Newton, &

M<sup>c</sup>Intire, John Orr, &

Edward Pharr.

John Espie.

Presbytery proceeded to the choice of a moderator & clerk. Mr. Pharr, was chosen moderator, & Mr. Newton, clerk.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Enquiry having been made of the members respectively, if they had fulfilled their presbyterial appointments; and it appeared they were generally fulfilled; reasons, for failures, were sustained.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

A petition was laid before Presbytery from the congregation of New Hope, praying that Mr. Montgomery, their former pastor, may be restored to his ministerial office.

Presbytery adjourned to 7 o'clock, tomorrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, September 10.<sup>th</sup> 1802.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The petition from the congregation of New-Hope, was taken into consideration.

Ordered, That the rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham lay the above petition before the next Synod, for their advice and direction.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at 5 o'clock, p.m.

5 o'clock, p.m. Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Ordered, That Mr. Cunningham supply one sabbath at Smyrna, and one at discretion; Mr. Newton, two sabbaths at discretion; and Mr. Pharr, two sabbaths at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethsalem 12.<sup>th</sup> November next. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, November 12.<sup>th</sup> 1802. 16.<sup>th</sup> Session.

Presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened by a sermon delivered by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Pharr, from

Col. 3<sup>d</sup> 4. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers, present, Elders,

Robert M. Cunningham,

John M. McIntire, George Camp-

Thomas Newton, &

Bell, William Appleby, W<sup>m</sup>

Edward Pharr.

Fergus, & James Espey.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Enquiry being made of Mr. Cunningham, who was appointed to lay the petition from the congregation of New-Hope before Synod for advice; and it appearing that no information had been received from Synod, relative thereto, by reason of sickness & non attendance. Presbytery resumed the consideration thereof; and after due examination of the whole matter; from the submission of Mr. Montgomery to the judgment of Presbytery, 22<sup>d</sup> May last, at New-Hope; and from his subsequent confessions of sorrow and signs of repentance for imprudencies with which he was charged: It is adjudged by Presbytery to be right & proper to restore him to the full exercise of his ministerial office. And he is hereby accordingly restored.

Ordered, That the moderator read the minutes respecting the restoration of the rev. Mr. Montgomery to the congregations of New-Hope

† Bethesda.

Ordered, That Mr. Montgomery supply one sabbath at New-Hope, one at Bethesda, and one at Shields?

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Liberty, 2.<sup>d</sup> Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

Liberty, April 13.<sup>th</sup> 1803. 17.<sup>th</sup> Session.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment & was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Edward Pharr, from Isaiah, 21. 12.

Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders.
Robert M. Cunningham,		William Smith,
William Montgomery,		William Burns,
Thomas Newton, †		and
Edward Pharr.		James Finley.

Mr. Cunningham, was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Montgomery, clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

Bethsalem congregation, petitions for the administration of the Lord's Supper.

Adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning, 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Liberty, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 1803.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

On enquiry, it appeared that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failures, sustained.

Mr Jones, a licentiate under the care of the Congregational denomination of christians, expressing a desire to be admitted to the same standing under the care and direction of this presbytery, & having produced sufficient testimonials of his good moral character, literary attainments, regular licensure, and aptness to teach in the churches; and having adopted the Confession of faith of the presbyterian church in the United States of America, as containing the system of Divinity taught in the Holy scriptures: Presbytery thinks it proper to comply with the request of the petitioner; and he is therefore received and considered as a licentiate in good standing, under the care of this presbytery.

Adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow morning 7 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Liberty, Saturday 15.<sup>th</sup> April 1803.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Mr. Cunningham, is appointed to supply one sabbath at Smyrna, one week day at Flat rock, one at Bethesda, one at Greenesborough, and two at discretion.

Mr. Montgomery, one sabbath at Coldwater, one week day at Briar creek, one at Jackson old Court house, & two at discretion.

Mr. Newton, one sabbath at Bethesda, and five week days at discretion.

Mr. Jones, being providentially called to travel in the Eastern states, with a view to spend the greater part of the summer, presbytery thinks proper to make for him no special appointments.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethesda, on the second Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

W<sup>m</sup> Montgomery, Clerk.

Bethsalem, September 9<sup>th</sup> 1803.

57.  
18<sup>th</sup> Session.

Presbytery of Hopewell, being providentially prevented from constituting on the day to which it stood adjourned, met on the succeeding day, and was opened with a sermon by the rev<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham, from Esther 4. 16. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,

present,

Elders.

Robert M. Cunningham,

William Grier

William Montgomery,

and

Thomas Newton, &

John Espie.

Edward Pharr.

Mr. Newton, was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Montgomery, Clerk.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

Shiloh Congregation, petitions for supplies.

A settlement of people near Foster's meetinghouse, petition for supplies.

On enquiry, it appeared that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failures, sustained.

Ordered, That the presbyterial order, for procuring monies for the purpose of establishing a presbyterial fund, be continued.

Mr. William Appleby, elder, being present, took a seat.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethesda, September 11<sup>th</sup> 1803.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Mr. John Forbis, layman, applies to presbytery & offers himself as a candidate for the gospel ministry.

Presbytery considers the matter of such importance as to require the interference and advice of Synod. Therefore, Messrs. Montgomery & Newton were appointed a committee to write a letter to Synod, in which they are directed to make a just and full statement of Mr. Forbis' case, as it appeared before presbytery.

Ordered, That supplies be made out.

Mr. Cunningham is appointed to supply one Sabbath at Athens, & one week day at Shiloh, and three week days at discretion.

Mr. Montgomery, one Sabbath at Athens, one week day at Concord, & three at discretion.

Mr. Newton, one Sabbath at Athens, one week day at Fos-

ter's Meeting house, and three at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethany on the third Thursday of March next. Concluded with prayer.

Bethany, March 15<sup>th</sup> 1804. 19<sup>th</sup> Session.

Presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, & was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Thomas Newton, from Ec: 33. 11.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Robert M. Cunningham,		William Smith
William Montgomery,		and
Thomas Newton, &		William Fleming.
Edward Pharr.		

Mr. Pharr was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Cunningham, Clerk.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

Bethlehem church petitions for the administration of the Lord's Supper, in the course of the ensuing summer.

On enquiry, it appeared that the committee appointed to write to Synod for direction on the petition of Mr. Forbis, had done so; and that the Synod directs the presbytery to the book of discipline,

in the above case.

Ordered, That each member of presbytery use his influence to comply with the Synodical order in raising contributions for the support of missionaries.

Adjourned, to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Bethany, March 16<sup>th</sup> 1804.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Mr. John Forbis, who at our last stated session, petitioned to be taken under our care, as a candidate for the gospel ministry, not being present, presbytery defers the consideration of his case.

Mr. John Hodge, a licentiate from the Cumberland presbytery, having been regularly dismissed, and signifying his desire to be taken under the care of this presbytery; he is hereby received accordingly.

Ordered, That supplies be made out.

Mr. Cunningham is requested to supply one Sabbath at Bethsalem, and three week days at discretion.

Mr. Montgomery, one sabbath at Shiloh, and three week days at discretion.

Mr. Newton, one sabbath at Sharon, and three week days at discretion.

Mr. Pharr, one sabbath at Foster's meetinghouse, and three week days at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Hebron, on the second Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

Hebron, September 13.<sup>th</sup> 1804.

It being ascertained, that a sufficient number of members cannot conveniently attend the present appointment for the meeting of presbytery, the Moderator thought proper to appoint the next meeting of presbytery at Union Congregation on the fourth Thursday in October next.

Union Congregation, October 25.<sup>th</sup> 1804. 20.<sup>th</sup> Session.

A sufficient number not being present on the day appointed, Presbytery met on the day following, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Montgomery from Mat. 18. 20. Con-

stituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
William Montgomery,		Robert Cowden
Thomas Newton, &		John Orr, &
Edward Pharr.		Allen Leeper.

Mr. Montgomery was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Pharr, Clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

Shiloh & Bethsalem congregations, petition for supplies.

Mr. John Forbis petitions for a dismissal from the care of this presbytery, and also for a statement of our proceedings respecting him. Presbytery is ready to comply with Mr. Forbis' petition, so far as to give a just statement of our procedure towards him, and forward it on to the presbytery of Pennsylvania, for their mutual satisfaction. And the Moderator is appointed to make the above statement.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

On enquiry being made of the members if they had complied with the order respecting contributions for the Synodical fund. It appeared that they had made some progress.

On enquiry, it appeared that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failures, were sustained.

Adjourned, to meet this evening 7 o'clock, at Jonathan Pharr's.

Jonathan Pharr's, 7 o'clock p.m.

Members present as above, except Mr. Cowden, absent with leave.

Presbytery proceeded to read and examine the alterations proposed by the General Assembly to be made in the book of Discipline; and after serious deliberation, unanimously approve the same.

Ordered, That supplies be made out.

Mr. Cunningham is requested to supply one sabbath at Sparta, and three, week days at discretion; Mr. Montgomery, one sabbath at Shiloh, and three, week days at discretion. Mr.

Newton, one sabbath in Mr. Montgomery's settlement, between the Hudson & the Grove rivers, and three, week days at discretion.

Mr. Pharr, one sabbath at Bethsalem, and three, week days at discretion. Mr. Hodge, one sabbath at Bethsalem, one at Foster's meeting house, one at Sharon, & the rest at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethsalem, on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

64. Bethsalem, April 4<sup>th</sup> 1805. 21<sup>st</sup> Session.

Presbytery of Hopewell met according to appointment, & was opened with a lecture from Ephes: 2<sup>d</sup>. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5 by Mr. John Hodge as a part of trials previous to ordination. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Robert M. Cunningham,		William Greer,
William Montgomery,		Robert Cowden
Thomas Newton, &		and
Edward Sharr.		James Espie.

Mr. Cunningham was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Newton, Clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

A petition from the congregations of Bethsalem & Shiloh was presented, praying the advice of presbytery on the subject of lay exhorters.

Adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning, 8 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1805.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Ordered, That the petitions from Bethsalem & Shiloh be deferred.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

On enquiry, it appeared that Mr. Montgomery had complied with the order of our last stated sessions, respecting Mr. Forbis' petition.

Mr. Cunningham, having been absent at our last stated sessions, on enquiry, gave reasons, which were sustained.

On enquiry, it appeared that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failure, were sustained.

In consequence of some information communicated by the Moderator of the Hebron session respecting difficulties attending the adjusting & settling some differences existing between Richard Special Kain and Elizabeth his wife which have arisen to such a degree as to cause a separation, Presbytery have thought fit to appoint a special session, consisting of the following members, to wit: William Montgomery, Thomas Newton, John Espie, Robert Cowden, William Fergus, John M. Entire, & Samuel Mackey, Elders, fully to consider those differences & to determine on the case: which

session, is ordered to meet on the second Thursday in August next.

Mr. John Espie, an elder, appeared & took his seat.

A sermon was delivered by Mr. John Hodge, who has been employed by a society in Medway as a missionary, upwards of two years in this state, and travelling through many places destitute of a stated ministry to dispense the ordinances of the Gospel: The above society, with others, pray that Mr. Hodge may receive ordination, in order that his mission may be more extensively useful. Presbytery, perceiving the propriety of the measure, proceeded to the examination of Mr. Hodge on the necessary parts of trial, previous to his ordination, and agree to sustain them.

Ordered, That Mr. Hodge be ordained tomorrow morning; and that Mr. Montgomery preach the ordination sermon, & Mr. Cunningham preside and give the charge.

Presbytery, having taken into consideration the petitions from Beth-  
Lay & Salem & Shiloh, respecting lay exhorters, recommend where it appears  
horters necessary that they do elect such men as they may think proper, and  
that the persons thus chosen, attend our next session, for examination  
and further direction.

Adjourned, to meet tomorrow morning. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, April 6.<sup>th</sup> 1805.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Agreeably to the order of yesterday, an ordination sermon was delivered by Mr. Montgomery, from Mark 16. 15.

Presbytery, then proceeded by prayer and the imposition of hands to set apart Mr. John Hodge to the sacred office of the gospel ministry; and a charge suitable to the occasion, was given by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham.

Resolved, on motion being made, That the rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham be appointed a commissioner to the next General Assembly.

Presbytery having received information, from the standing committee of the General Assembly, that a number of books, subject to our order, lie in their hands:

Ordered, That Mr. Cunningham, our commissioner to the next General Assembly, call upon the standing committee and receive the said books and receipt for them.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cunningham

is appointed to supply one sabbath at Fishing creek, & three week days at discretion. Mr. Montgomery, one sabbath in Foster's settlement, and three week days at discretion. Mr. Newton, one sabbath in Mr. Montgomery's settlement between the Hudson & the Grove, and three week days at discretion. Mr. Sharr, one sabbath near the Hog mountain, and three week days at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned to meet at Liberty on the 2<sup>d</sup>. Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

Thomas Newton, Clk.

Liberty, September 12.<sup>th</sup> 1805. 22<sup>d</sup> Session.

The Moderator and one member of the presbytery having met agreeably to adjournment, a sermon from Col. 1. 26. 27. was delivered by the Moderator.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning 11 o'clock, hoping that a sufficient number of members will then be present to form a presbytery.

Liberty, September 13.<sup>th</sup> 1805.

The ministers present yesterday attended to day to wit:

Robert M. Cunningham,  
and  
John Hodge

Elders, William Smith  
James Espie & John  
Wingfield.

Constituted with prayer. The former Moderator, Mr. Cunningham, was continued; and Mr. Hodge was chosen clerk.

And although there was not a sufficient number of clerical members present to form a constitutional quorum; yet from a probability that those absent may attend; and from the urgency and importance of the business to be transacted, the members conceived it to be their duty to proceed to business.

The rev. Francis Cummins, late a member of the second presbytery of South Carolina, being present, was invited to take a seat as a corresponding member, which he did accordingly.

Mr. John R. Thompson, from Augusta & late of New York, signified a desire to come under the care of this presbytery, as a candidate for the gospel ministry, and having produced satisfactory testimonials of his literary & moral character, & certifying that he is in full communion with our church: He was received accordingly. Presbytery, then proceeded to examine Mr. Thompson, as to his experimental acquaintance with religion, & his views and motives in wishing

to undertake the office of the gospel ministry, in which he gave the presbytery satisfaction. The candidate was then directed to prepare a lecture from 1. John, 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6, & a sermon from Psalms, 73. 25, to be delivered at parts of a trial, at our next session.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Liberty, Septem<sup>r</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup> 1805.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of our last sessions were read.

There being no members present, of the special session, appointed at our last session, to examine the difference between Richard Kain & his wife, and having received no official information respecting the case, the further consideration of it is deferred till our next session.

The further consideration of the petition from Bethesda & Shiloh, respecting lay-exhorters, is deferred till our next session.

M<sup>r</sup> Cunningham, according to appointment, attended the general assembly, & received from the committee of missions the

books alluded to in the minutes of our last session, and receipted for the same.

Ordered, That Mr. John Wingfield, treasurer for this presbytery be directed to pay to Mr. Cunningham, the presbyterial monies now in his hands, viz, thirteen dollars to assist in defraying the expense of his mission to the general assembly.

The rev. Francis Cummins signified his desire of becoming a member of this presbytery, and produced satisfactory testimonials of his good standing in, and regular dismissal from the second presbytery of South Carolina: He was received accordingly.

A call, from the united congregations of Smyrna & Providence was presented through this presbytery to the rev. Francis Cummins, for two thirds of his ministerial labours: which call, he accepted.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cummins is appointed to supply one sabbath at Belvidera, and one at Augusta. Mr. Cunningham, one sabbath at Greenesborough, one at Flat creek, one at Augusta, & three week days at discretion. Mr. Montgomery, one sabbath at Coldwater, one at Augusta, and three week days at discretion. Mr. Newton, one sabbath, and three week days at discretion. Mr. Pharr, one sabbath, and three week days at discretion.

Mr. Hodge, one sabbath at Augusta, and three week days at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Shiloh, on the second Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, Clerk.

Shiloh, April 10.<sup>th</sup> 1806.

23.<sup>d</sup>. session.

Presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, & was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham from Acts.

3. 19. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Robert M. Cunningham,		Thomas Tuggle,
Francis Cummins,		David Allan,
William Montgomery,		Thomas Mays,
Thomas Newton,		and
Edward Pharr, &		Robert Huie.
John Hodge.		

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge Clerk.

Ordered, That call'd. supplications, &c. be brought forward.

A settlement of people on Hudson's fork, petition for supplies.

The Church of Siloam at Greenestown, hand in a call for the fourth part of Mr. Cunningham's ministerial labours: Which, being presented to Mr. Cunningham, he took the same into consideration until our next session.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Mess.<sup>rs</sup> Montgomery, Newton, & Pharr, not being present at our last session, assigned reasons for their absence, which were sustained.

On enquiry, it appeared that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failures, were sustained.

Adjourned, to meet tomorrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Shiloh, April 11<sup>th</sup> 1806.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

On enquiry, it appeared that the members appointed, as a special session, to examine the differences subsisting between Richard Kain & his wife Elizabeth, have fully complied with our order; and a report was made by the Moderator of that session, that Mr. Kain appeared refractory, and unwilling to adopt any pacific measures; but his

wife seemed to possess a different spirit: She was restored to the communion and fellowship of the church.

A petition was presented from the church of St. Paul's in Augusta, by their commissioner & elder Mr. William Free, intimating a desire, among other things, to be taken under the care of this presbytery.

Mr. John R. Thompson delivered the sermon & lecture on the subjects assigned, at our last session; and upon consideration, it was agreed to sustain them as parts of trial.

Presbytery, then proceeded to examine Mr. Thompson, on Divinity; and after a partial examination, adjourned, to meet tomorrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Shiloh, April 12.<sup>th</sup> 1806.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Presbytery resumed the examination of Mr. Thompson on Divinity & other subjects; which, was sustained.

Mr. John R. Thompson, having delivered a popular discourse from Psalms 73. 25 & also the lecture, on the subject assigned him; and

he having undergone the usual examination; all which, were unanimously sustained, as parts of trial; and presbytery having received an urgent petition from the constituents of St. Paul's church in Augusta for his prompt licensure, for reasons of delicate & <sup>interesting</sup> importance to that church; & amounting to a request that this presbytery would dispense with some of the usual forms of trial or constitutional pre-requisites, in such cases; and also having satisfactory evidence that Mr. Thompson had regularly studied Divinity about one year, under the direction of approved divines, previous to his connexion with us. Presbytery, under these circumstances & all things considered, wishing to do for the best, adjudged it to be right to license him; and he was licensed accordingly.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cummins is appointed one sabbath at Liberty; Mr. Cunningham, one sabbath at Greensboro; Mr. Montgomery, one sabbath at Jefferson; Mr. Newton, one sabbath at Hudson's fork; Mr. Pharr one sabbath at discretion; Mr. Hodge, one sabbath at discretion; Mr. Thompson, at Augusta, & at discretion till our next session.

Adjourned, to meet at Smyrna on the third Thursday in October October next. Concluded with prayer. J. Cummins. Jas. Hodge, Clk.

Smyrna, October 21.<sup>st</sup> 1806.

24.<sup>th</sup> Session.

A sufficient number of members not being present, owing to the inclemency of the weather, an adjournment was made till tomorrow morning.

Smyrna, October 22.<sup>nd</sup> 1806.

The following members, viz: Francis Cummins, Robert M. Cunningham, & John Hodge, Ministers, being present, presbytery was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> John Hodge from Psalms, 84. 11. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, and Mr. Hodge, Clerk.

Adjourned, to meet this afternoon, 3 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Met at the house of Mr. Cummins, agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be presented.

A call, from the people of Augusta worshiping in the church of S.<sup>t</sup> Paul, was presented through the medium of D.<sup>r</sup> Murray for the ministerial labours of the rev.<sup>d</sup> John R. Thompson, accompanied with information that Mr. Thompson had accepted the call. And also, a petition from the said people of Augusta,

directed to this presbytery, praying the speedy ordination of Mr. Thompson, at St. Paul's.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

It appears, on enquiry, that the members present have fulfilled their presbyterial appointments.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham being asked whether he now accepted the call from the church of Siloam, which he had taken into consideration at our last session, requested leave to consider it until our next; which was granted.

Ordered, That the members of this presbytery use their best endeavors to carry into effect a plan recommended by the general assembly, at their session in May last, to raise money for the commissioners fund.

Ordered, That each congregation, whether supplied or vacant, under the care of this presbytery, make a report at our next meeting stating the number of communicants, and the number of persons baptized, and distinguishing both, agreeably to the form recommended for that purpose in the minutes of the general assembly at their last session: which report, shall hereafter be annually continued.

The minutes of the day were read.

The rev.<sup>d</sup> John R. Thompson is directed to prepare a lecture from 1 Cor: 15. 51, to the end inclusive, and a sermon from 1. Thes: 4. 17 to be delivered at our next stated sessions, as parts of trial, previous to ordination.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr<sup>r</sup> Cummins is appointed to preach one sabbath at Liberty. Mr<sup>r</sup> Cunningham, one sabbath, at discretion. Mr<sup>r</sup> Montgomery, one sabbath, at discretion. Mr<sup>r</sup> Newton, one sabbath at discretion. Mr<sup>r</sup> Pharr, one sabbath at discretion. Mr<sup>r</sup> Hodge, one sabbath at discretion. Mr<sup>r</sup> Thompson, two sabbaths at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethesda, on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

Francis Cummins, Mod<sup>r</sup>

John Hodge, clerk.

Bethesda, April 2.<sup>d</sup> 1807.

25.<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, from John 15. 5. last clause, "For without me ye can do nothing."

Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Francis Cummins,		James Espie,
William Montgomery,		and
Thomas Newton,		Thomas Fuggle.
Edward Pharr, &		
John Hodge.		

Mr. Montgomery was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, Clerk.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

A petition from St. Paul's church in Augusta was presented requesting the speedy ordination of John R. Thompson, and the ordination to be performed in St. Paul's church.

The minutes of the last stated sessions were read.

The members, who were absent at our last stated session, being called upon, gave such reasons as were satisfactory.

On enquiry, it appeared that appointments made at our last had been fulfilled.

Adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, April 3<sup>d</sup> 1807.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

Enquiry being made of the members present whether they had complied with an order of the general assembly, as enjoined at our last session, directing them to use their endeavors to raise contributions for the commissioner's fund; and it appeared that they had generally given some attention to that order, and with some prospect of being able to raise a moderate contribution. The churches of Shiloh and Bethsalem, handed in a contribution of \$8.18<sup>2</sup>/<sub>7</sub>; and Smyrna \$3.00: Which sums were transmitted through the medium of the rev.<sup>d</sup> J. Cummins to S. Wingfield, the presbytery's treasurer.

Enquiry was also made of the members, whether they had ascertained the number of communicants, and of baptized persons in their respective charges; and whether they were prepared to report on this subject. And it appeared, that they were generally unprepared.

On motion, Resolved unanimously, That all the members

of this presbytery be prepared to report on the above subject, at our next stated sessions. It is also ordered, that the members give special attention to the order of the general assembly respecting the raising of contributions for the commissioner's fund.

On enquiry, it appears that the members have distributed the books, transmitted to this presbytery, from the general assembly.

An address from the Synod of the Carolinas, was laid before presbytery enjoining a more punctual attendance of its members, at their Synodical stated sessions.

A letter from the rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham was presented, containing satisfactory reasons for his non-attendance at this meeting of presbytery.

Mr John Espie, an elder from Sandy creek being present, took a seat.

Mr Thompson delivered the sermon & lecture, on the subjects assigned him at our last session, as parts of trial previous to ordination; and they were sustained.

Resolved, That Mr Cummins, Mr Cunningham & Mr Hodge be appointed to constitute an intermediate presbytery, for the purpose of ordaining Mr Thompson; that the ordination take place in

S.<sup>t</sup> Paul's church, Augusta, on Saturday the 9.<sup>th</sup> of May next; that M.<sup>r</sup> Cunningham preach the ordination sermon, and M.<sup>r</sup> Cummins preside and give the charge.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. M.<sup>r</sup> Cummins is directed to preach one sabbath at Liberty, and one at discretion; M.<sup>r</sup> Cunningham, one sabbath, at discretion; M.<sup>r</sup> Montgomery, one sabbath, at discretion; M.<sup>r</sup> Newton, one sabbath, at discretion; M.<sup>r</sup> Pharr, one sabbath, at discretion; and M.<sup>r</sup> Hodge, one sabbath, at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at New Hope, on the second Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, clerk.

Augusta, M.<sup>r</sup> Hobby's, May 9.<sup>th</sup> 1807.

The presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to appointment at the last stated session.

Ministers, present, John Hodge,

Robert Cunningham, &

Francis Cummins.

Constituted with prayer.

Presbytery proceeded to examine Mr. Thompson on church history, and in some measure on Theology, especially of the practical kind. And his examination was sustained. After which, upon going to St. Paul's church, an ordination sermon was delivered by the rev. Robert M. Cunningham, from Acts 26. 18. And, Mr. Thompson having answered satisfactorily to the usual questions previous to ordination, and the congregation also; he was ordained and set apart to the sacred office of the gospel ministry, by solemn prayer & the imposition of hands. The rev. Francis Cummins, the presiding minister on the occasion, then gave to Mr. Thompson & the congregation, an appropriate charge. Concluded with prayer.

Francis Cummins, Pres.

New Hope, September 10.<sup>th</sup> 1807. 26.<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by Mr. Thomas Newton, at the request of the Moderator, from 1. John 3. 3.

Ministers, present, William Montgomery, Thomas Newton, John R. Thompson, & John Hodge. And Samuel Wood, Elder. Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Newton was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, Clerk.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow at 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

New-Hope, September 11.<sup>th</sup> 1807.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above, with the addition of John May, an elder.

Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of the last stated sessions were read.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c. be brought forward.

It was inquired of the members present, whether they had fulfilled their appointments; which was answered in the affirmative.

Enquiry being made, whether the members present had complied with an order of the general assembly, to use their exertions to raise contributions towards the commissioner's fund. And it appeared that a collection of \$4.25 had been made from the congregation of Jefferson; and \$4.50 from New-Hope, by Mr. Montgomery; and one dollar from Bethsalem, by Mr. Hodge; and reasons satisfactory to presbytery, were stated by Mr. Newton, for his present deficiency on this subject.

The intermediate presbytery, appointed at our last stated

sessions, reported that Mr. John R. Thompson was ordained in St. Paul's church, Augusta.

Whereupon, Mr. Thompson was regularly admitted to a seat in this presbytery.

On motion, Resolved, That inquiry be made, whether it be in the power of the members of presbytery to attend the next meeting of the Synod of the Carolinas. It was found, from the peculiar situation of the members at this period, to be impracticable. Yet as a testimony of respect and allegiance to the Synodical body, it was Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare a memorial, assigning the reasons of absence; and Messrs. Thompson & Hodge, were elected this committee.

Enquiry being made, whether the several members had ascertained the number of communicants & baptized persons in their charges. It was found that certain causes had prevented the completion of this design; and it was therefore deemed necessary to defer the report till next meeting of presbytery.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

New Hope, September 12.<sup>th</sup> 1807.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

On inquiry, it appeared that the committee appointed, have prepared a letter to the Synod of the Carolinas; which being presented & read in the hearing of presbytery, it was approved, and ordered to be transmitted to Synod, by Mr. Hodge.

Mr. John R. Thompson, having applied for dismissal from the congregation of St. Paul's in Augusta, on account of ill health, originating in his residence in that place, It was

Ordered, That the clerk convey to the Trustees of St. Paul's, a copy of this minute, that at the next meeting of presbytery, the congregation may appear, by their commissioners, to shew cause if any they have, why this dismissal should not be granted.

Ordered, That presbyterial appointments be made out.

One sabbath was allotted to each member of presbytery, at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Smyrna, on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer. J. Hodge, Clk.

Smyrna, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1808.

27<sup>th</sup> Session.

The presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, the last Moderator not being present, from John 15. 5. Constituted with prayer.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Francis Cummins,		William Green,
Robert M. Cunningham,		Thomas Cumming,
John R. Thompson, &		William Fergus, &
John Hodge.		John Wingfield.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, clerk.

Ordered, That call'd. supplications, &c. be brought forward.

The minutes of the last sessions were read.

On inquiry of the members present, it appeared that presbyterial appointments had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failures, were sustained.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place, tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

Smyrna, April 8.<sup>th</sup> 1808.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above, except M<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Cumming, who is necessarily absent. Constituted with prayer.

The contributions made at our last session, amounting to \$9.75 towards the Commissioner's fund, and left in the hands of the clerk, being called for, were produced to presbytery, and delivered to M<sup>r</sup>. John Wingfield, the treasurer.

It being inquired of the members present, whether they were now able to report the number of communicants & baptized persons in their respective charges; and it appeared that they were not yet prepared. Whereupon,

Resolved, That all the members of this presbytery give special attention to that subject, and make report at our next sessions.

M<sup>r</sup>. John R. Thompson, for reasons satisfactory to himself, has withdrawn his application for dismissal from his charge in St. Paul's church, which he made at our last session.

Calls from two congregations, one from the first presbyterian church in Lexington, Kentucky, & the other from Bethel, in its vicinity, soliciting the ministerial labors of the rev.<sup>d</sup> Robert M. Cunningham, were presented to presbytery. These calls, being executed agreeably

to our discipline on the part of those churches; and presbytery understanding from Mr. Cunningham that the health of himself and family makes it necessary to remove from his present charge at Bethany; and knowing, by satisfactory means, that his present charge, though duly respecting him, intend to make no objection; offered him those calls, which being accepted: Mr. Cunningham petitioned for a dismissal from his pastoral charge in Bethany, and from his connexion with this presbytery, which was granted.

Mr. Cummins petitioned for a dismissal from the operation of a call, which he accepted some time since, from the congregations of Smyrna and Providence; which, from the diminished state of those societies, and for other reasons satisfactory to presbytery, was granted.

Ordered, That the moderator transmit official information to the standing committee of missions of the general assembly respecting the reception and distribution of a parcel of books conveyed to this presbytery by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cunningham, for charitable distribution.

It was moved and agreed to, that a standing clerk be appointed. Whereupon, Mr. Hodge was chosen.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Each member is directed

ed to supply two sabbaths at discretion.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethesda, on the first Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, Clerk.

Bethesda, September 1<sup>st</sup> 1808. 28<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met agreeably to adjournment & was opened with a sermon by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Francis Cummins, from Heb. 11. 6.

Ministers,	present,	Elders,
Francis Cummins,		Samuel Mackay,
William Montgomery,		John Barnhill
Thomas Newton,		and
Edward Pharr, &		James Espey.
John Hodge.		

Constituted with prayer.

W<sup>t</sup> Montgomery was chosen Moderator, & W<sup>t</sup> Hodge Clerk.

The minutes of our last stated sessions were read.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c be brought forward.

On inquiry, of the members present, it appeared that the ap-

pointments assigned to them, had been generally fulfilled; and reasons for failures were sustained.

The members not present at our last stated sessions, rendered to presbytery such reasons for their absence as were satisfactory.

It appeared that Mr. Cummins, the Moderator at our last stated sessions, had performed the duty assigned him, of transmitting official information to the standing committee of missions of the general assembly, respecting the reception and distribution of a portion of books, conveyed to this presbytery by the rev.<sup>d</sup> Mr. Cunningham, for charitable distribution.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow morning 10 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsalem, September 2.<sup>d</sup> 1808.

Presbytery met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

It was inquired of the members present, whether they were now ready to report the number of communicants and of baptized persons in their respective charges, agreeably to the advice of the general assembly.

bly on that subject. And it appeared that they were not prepared to report correctly; the matter was deferred till our next session.

The following Query was submitted to the determination of Presbytery, viz: "Is it orderly in the presbyterian church, to admit to its communion, persons, who have apostatized from its communion, and joined others without ever rendering a reason, formally sustained by the proper presbyterial judicature?" It was the unanimous and decided opinion of presbytery, that it was not orderly.

Admission of apostates  
to communion.

Presbytery sincerely regrets their inability to attend, in whole or in part, the next stated sessions of Synod; and also laments the languid state of religion, the general prevalence of ignorance, and the small number of ministers within its bounds. It is,

Resolved, That a letter be addressed to Synod, expressive of a due sense of subordination, which this presbytery feels towards that body; offering reasons for their delinquency in this regard; & praying the Synod for missionary aid: And that Mr. Cummins be appointed to prepare and transmit the said letter.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cummins is

appointed to supply staidly at Greensboro and Bethany, as frequently as he conveniently can till our next session. Two sabbaths, & two week days at discretion, are appointed to each of the other members.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethsaida, Sandy creek, on the first Thursday in April next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, Clk.

Bethsaida, Sandy creek, April 6<sup>th</sup> 1809. 29<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Presbytery of Hopewell met according to adjournment, and was opened with a sermon by the rev<sup>d</sup> William Montgomery, from Gal. 6. 14.

Ministers	present,	Elders
Francis Cummins,		John King.
William Montgomery,		
Thomas Newton,		
Edward Pharr, &		
John Hodge.		

Constituted with prayer.

Mr. Cummins was chosen Moderator, & Mr. Hodge, Clerk.

The minutes of our last sessions were read.

Ordered, That calls, supplications, &c if there be any, be brought forward.

Mr. Thompson, having been absent at our last sessions, rendered such reasons as were satisfactory.

It appears that Mr. Cummins has addressed a letter to Synod, as directed at our last sessions.

On inquiry, it appeared that the members had fulfilled their presbyterial appointments.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at this place tomorrow at half past 9 A.M. Concluded with prayer.

Bethsaida, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1809.

Presbytery met according to adjournment. Members present as above. Constituted with prayer.

The minutes of yesterday were read.

On inquiry, relative to a previous order, enjoining on the members, to report the number of communicants & of baptized persons in their respective charges, it appeared that they had generally given some attention to it, and that some were ready to report, whilst others were not: And as all are now furnished

with blanks from the general assembly, suitable for the purpose, the members are directed to fill up and present them to presbytery at our next meeting. And it was also,

Resolved, That a letter be addressed to the general assembly, offering reasons for our failure on the above subject; and for our delinquency in sending commissioners to the stated session of the assembly; and that the moderator be directed to write and transmit the said letter.

Ordered, That supplies be made out. Mr. Cummins is appointed to supply statedly, as much as shall be convenient for him at Greensboro' and Bethany, until the next session. Two sabbaths & two week days, at discretion, are allotted to each of the other members.

Presbytery adjourned, to meet at Bethany on the first Thursday in September next. Concluded with prayer.

John Hodge, clk.

Poplar Tent, October 7.<sup>th</sup> 1809. 22.<sup>d</sup> Sessions of the Synod of the Carolinas, viz: This book has been examined thus far & approved.

Robert B. Walker, Moderator.