

Hopewell Meeting House March 16<sup>th</sup> 1840

The Session met and constituted with prayer

Members present Rev William Nesbitt, move to elect James Walker, Nathaniel Porter, Alexander Wright, Robert A Walker, William Porter, and George Montuth the following resolutions were laid before session and ratified

1<sup>st</sup> Resolve that we deeply deplore the wiles of intemperance which prevail in our land and while we rejoice in the success that has attended the transference reform we bewail the apathy that seems to prevail in our region of Country and we lament the discontinuance of those efforts which were hereafter attended with so much success and we would rejoice to see those measures resumed –

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolve that Slavery as it exists in the United States is a great national and moral evil and what is still more to be lamented it has greatly infested the church, this sin is a sentence with a host of evils which necessarily and legitimately flow from the system itself and mercy justly be stilled again for there are many, we think that the church should immediately purge herself from this crying sin and we think it is the duty of all and especially the ministers of the gospel to portray its evils in the brightest colors possible and we can never heartily patronize a minister of the gospel who refuses to spend a portion of his time in session there adding before the people the fearful abominations of this soul and Godly winning system -- The influence of Pulpit eloquence is great and if judiciously wielded against this giant sin we have no disbelief but that in a little time it would lay it far as we are also as merciful responsible to the judge of all the earth for the ramification of good we might have done as for committing of crime --

3<sup>rd</sup> Resolve that the opposition manifested both by church and state to the fair and full investigation of the evils of Slavery that worst of abomination manifests a consciousness that it cannot endure the light –

4<sup>th</sup> Resolved that the duty of the Slaveholder is nothing left than immediate and unconditional emancipation –

5<sup>th</sup> Resolved that when any two members of session can obtain an individual of good moral character and intelligence to deliver a temperance or anti-slavery lecture they are hereby authorized to employ them –

6<sup>th</sup> Resolved that these resolutions be used by our minister to the congregation on the first convenient opportunity and that they be presented before Presbytery at their next meeting for their approval –

Concluded with prayer—

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1840

We the undersigned subscribers, complain to the Presbytery of Beaver of the doings of the majority of the Session of Hopewell Congregation, on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> for adopting certain resolutions on the subject of temperance and Slavery for the following reasons –

1<sup>st</sup> We complain of the adoption of the resolutions in reference to the subject of temperance because they are taking them in connection with the other resort calculated to make an impression on the minds of those who may read them that the Pastor of Hopewell Congregation is opposed to the temperance reform which is not true, that the Pastor of Hopewell Congregation has used his efforts to sustain the views of the higher judications of the church on the subject of temperance is well known to his charge—

2<sup>nd</sup> We complain of the adoption of the resolutions on the subject of slavery because the adoption of them at this time is believed to be inexpedient. The congregation of Hopewell has been for some time in a high state of excitement on the subject of slavery and the adoption of the resolutions, already referred to, instead of appeasing the excitement will tend to increase the unhappy state of feeling that now exists –

3<sup>rd</sup> We complain because we believe the adoption of the aforesaid resolutions on slavery, were intended not only to produce a greater degree of excitement as declared by the person who offered them, but also give effect to their cause by making the jubilee believe that the congregation of which they are expecting entertain the same views though a large majority of the congregation are opposed to slavery yet they do not embrace the anthem of immediate unconditional emancipation—

4<sup>th</sup> We complain because the adoption of these resolutions in the present excited of the congregation is believed to be contrary to both the letter and spirit of the resolutions adopted by the Presbytery of Beaver on the subject of Slavery and also to those adopted by the Synod of Pittsburgh—

5<sup>th</sup> We complain because we believe the adoption of the aforementioned resolutions are not calculated to promote the glory of God and the peace and purity of the church over which they have been made overseers.

William Nesbitt

William Porter

Also certify the adjoining resolutions and also the complaint to the copies from the original

George Montuth, S Clerk of Session

Examined and approved in Presbytery thus far Sept 15 1840

H. Williams Mast