

Eugene Horton

ARKANSAS BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARKANSAS BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**Minutes**

OF THE  
Seventieth Session of the Old Organization  
AND THE  
Forty-Fifth Session of the New Organization  
OF THE

**White River Baptist  
Association**

HELD WITH  
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Marion County, Ark.  
August 30, 31, and September 1, 1912.

**OFFICERS:**

H. C. LAMB, Moderator	:	Yellville, Ark.
J. H. BAKER, Clerk,	:	Mountain Home, Ark.
GEO. BAYLESS, Treas.	:	Gassville, Ark.

# Minutes.

Pursuant to adjournment the White River Missionary Baptist Association met with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bruno, Marion county, Arkansas, August 30, 1912 at 10 a. m.

The Association opened with song and prayer.

The Introductory Sermon, a very able discourse, was delivered by Elder J. B. Smith.

In the absence of the Clerk the Moderator appointed John H. Baker temporary clerk.

The church letters were read by J. C. Copeland and Elder W. H. Jones appointed for that duty.

The Moderator appointed J. F. Baker, Elder Knox Belew and Eugene Horton to take the votes respectively for Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, and Association proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, resulting as follows: For Moderator, Elder H. C. Lamb; for Clerk, J. H. Baker; for Treasurer, Geo. Bayless.

Call for petitionary letters. Letter from Norfolk church was read and the church received. Then the Moderator gave the messenger the hand of fellowship.

Visiting brethren from other associations enrolled: J. W. Pardom and Jasper Cook from Crooked Creek Association, Elder Knox Belew from State Line, and J. F. Baker from Rocky Bayou Association.

Recess until 2 p. m.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order by the Moderator and led in prayer by Elder W. H. McCuiston.

The Moderator appointed Elder Jones to read the Constitution and J. C. Copeland to read the Declaration of Faith.

By order of the body the Clerk was instructed to strike out the word "discourage" in Article 9 of the Declaration of Faith and insert instead "encourage".

Announcement of Committees:—

Divine Service—The messengers of the Pleasant Hill church and R. F. Nanny.

Finance—James Randall, C. T. Stone and R. D. Cooper.

Resolutions—H. M. Horn, J. C. Copeland and Cab. Wolf.

Home Missions—Elders J. H. Marler, W. R. Jones and J. B. Smith.



Temperance—Elders J. G. Walker and J. B. Smith and T. J. Meredith.

Baptist Literature—Elders Eugene Horton and W. H. McCuistion, and B. M. Marler.

Education—Eld. R. F. Nanny, Lee Pinley and J. H. Mohney.

Woman's Work—Eld. J. B. Smith, and Mesdames A. D. Jordan, Ellet Daffron and L. E. Tucker.

Destitution—Elds. W. H. McCuistion, J. H. Marler and J. W. Hively.

Orphans' Home—Elder W. R. Jones, Talmage Stagg and Willie Casey.

Obituaries—Eld. R. L. Carson, A. D. Jordan, Geo. Pangle and S. F. Tucker.

By order of the body the Clerk was given till just before adjournment for 11 o'clock preaching to prepare the roll.

Reports of corresponding messengers. A number of brethren reported. Among others Eld. J. P. Lovelace and G. W. Anglin.

Appointment of messengers to corresponding bodies:

Rocky Bayou—Elds. J. P. Lovelace, W. H. McCuistion and J. W. Hively and Bro. A. D. Jordan and wife.

Blue Mountain—Elds. J. P. Lovelace and Eugene Horton.

Crooked Creek—G. W. Anglin, G. W. Casey, R. D. Cooper and W. R. Pierce.

County Line—C. M. Brantly.

Motion was made and carried that the regular order of business be suspended and place for next meeting be selected and some one elected to preach the introductory sermon.

Antioch was selected as the place of meeting and Eld. R. L. Carson was chosen to preach the sermon and Eld. Eugene Horton, alternate.

Committee on Divine Service made a partial report as follows: Eld. J. G. Walker preach tonight followed by J. H. Baker of Mountain Home.

Committee on Temperance reported and the report was adopted and the Clerk ordered to prepare a copy for each of the papers of the Association and the three Baptist papers at Little Rock for publication and forward same as soon as possible. (See Report 1).

Adjourned till 8 a. m., Saturday. Prayer by Eld. J. G. Walker.

## SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Call to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Eld. J. H. Marler.

The report on Baptist Literature was read and adopted. (See report 2).

Call for corresponding messengers renewed. In response Eld. Jno T. Christian, State convention secretary, and Eld. W. E. Sherrill, evangelist of State Association, came forward and were seated.

Report on State Missions was read and after some discussion was amended and adopted. (See Report 3.)

Moved and carried to defer the report on Sunday Schools till 9. a. m. Sunday.

Committee on deceased ministers reported one death, Eld. E. H. Goen. Report adopted.

Committee on destitution reported and the report was adopted. (See Report 4.)

Report on foreign missions was read and after discussion was adopted. (See Report 5.)

The roll was called and corrected, after which the Association adjourned for 11 o'clock preaching and listened to an interesting discourse from text Jno. 5:24, by Eld. J. H. Marler.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association was called to order by the Moderator at 2:30 p. m.

Prayer by Eld. J. W. Hivaly.

Report of committee on obituaries was read and adopted. (See Report 6.)

Report on associational missions was read and adopted. The missionary then read his report and same was adopted. (See Report 7 and 8.)

Elds. W. H. McCuiston and J. B. Smith were elected associational missionaries for six months during the year.

Pledges for associational missions: Antioch \$10, Blooming Grove \$5, Cotter \$20, Bethel \$5, Friendship \$2, Hopewell \$10, Mountain Home \$25, Mount Pleasant \$5, New Harmony \$5, New Hope \$35, New Prospect \$5, Oakland \$5, Pilgrim's Rest \$5, Pleasant Hill \$5, Whiteville \$6.50, Mt. Zion \$5, Wise's Chapel \$5, Norfolk \$5, North Yellville \$2.50—Total \$160.

Committee on finance made report which was adopted. (Re-



port 9.)

Committee on woman's work reported and the report was adopted. (See Report 10.)

Report on home missions was read and after discussion adopted. (See Report 11.)

Report on orphan's home was read and after some discussion was tabled until Sunday morning, 10 a. m.

Report on education was read and adopted. (Report 12.)

Report of committee on Mountain Home College and property reported. Report was received. By order of the body the Moderator appointed five trustees for Mountain Home College building, as follows: T. O. Horn, chairman; J. B. Smith, W. H. Douglass, J. L. Paul and A. D. Jordan.

Report on resolutions was read and adopted. (See Report 13.)

Motion prevailed that the Moderator appoint a committee to cooperate with the missionaries. The following were appointed: W. R. Jones, J. C. Copeland, T. O. Horn, G. W. Bayless, W. H. Douglass, Eugene Horton and Brice Marler.

Moved and carried that the missionaries be paid \$2.50 per day for services rendered.

The body voted to turn over the 11 o'clock collection on Sunday to W. H. McCuiston for services rendered as missionary.

Adjourned until 9 a. m. Sunday. Prayer by W. H. Douglass. Sermon at night by Eld. Sherill.

Called to order by Moderator 9. a. m. Prayer by Eld. John T. Christian.

Report on Sunday Schools was read and after a spirited discussion was amended and adopted. (Report 14.)

Report on orphan's home was again taken up and after discussion adopted. (Report 15.)

A collection of cash and pledges was taken as follows: Monticello, cash \$15.50, pledges \$14.50--Total \$30. Texarkana, cash \$11.55, pledges \$2.50--Total \$14.05.

At eleven o'clock the body listened to a very able discourse on "Go," Matt. 28:19, by Eld. John T. Christian.

At the close of the Sermon a collection was taken amounting to \$36.62.

The Association adjourned to meet with Antioch church, at Flippin, Ark., at 10 o'clock a. m. Friday before the 1st Sunday in September, 1913. Prayer by Eld. J. P. Lovelace.

JOHN H. BAKER, Clerk, H. C. LAMB, Moderator.

## Reports.

1.—We your committee on temperance report as follows: Realizing the evils of intemperance and its deadening influence on the cause of Christ, and believing that the influence of this Association would go far toward capturing this country of Christ, we would urge upon every member of this Association to take a positive stand for state wide prohibition individually and the Association collectively. We also recommend that our Baptist brethren vote against license as they have a right to do under local option. In other words we recommend that our brethren vote against saloons all along the line, not only in our counties but throughout our entire state. Also we would recommend the strict disciplining by the church of any member engaged in the sale, manufacture or intemperate use of alcoholic beverages. J.G. Walker, Chair.

2.—We, your committee on Baptist literature, beg leave to make the following report: Believing as we do that the growth and development of the Baptist cause prospers in proportion to the amount of knowledge diffused among the world, Therefore we recommend—First, to encourage the study of the sacred Word. Second, we further recommend the careful reading of some sound Baptist paper of your own choice. Eugene Horton, Chair.

3.—We, your committee on state missions, respectfully submit the following report: State missions are a vital part of our denominational work. The great unit from which all mission work is launched must forever be the local church. And the local churches of Jesus Christ must forever be left free to carry on God's missionary work as they see fit and proper, so long as they do no violence to New Testament principles. If the local churches desire to send forth one or more missionaries to proclaim the gospel to a lost world, it has a perfect right to do so. If two or more churches decide to affiliate themselves together into an associational capacity, they also have the right to send forth as many missionaries as they see proper, for the purpose of extending the boundaries of God's Kingdom, and of carrying out the great commission.

For the same reason, if two or more churches desire to affiliate together for the purpose of widening their missionary effort,



and of covering a whole state, they have the same right to do that. In fact, it is not only the right of the churches to extend their missionary efforts to the furthest bounds of the state in which they are situated, but it is their duty as well.

In the choice of executives for the purpose of carrying on state mission work the matter is entirely in the hands of the churches affiliating themselves together. They are sovereign in this matter and no association, convention or any other body of messengers fraternizing together, shall say them nay. Each local church must be left entirely free in this matter.

But we feel that it is the duty of every church to take an interest in the great work of saving the State of Arkansas for Jesus Christ, and we recommend that each church not only send messengers to some state gathering this fall, but that it contribute to carrying on state mission work as well. At the present there are three mediums through which the Missionary Baptists of this state are carrying on state mission work. One is designated as the State Convention. Another the State Association. Each of these is simply the executive of the will of the local churches, affiliating together. Then there is a third plan of doing state mission work—that is for the church to endorse the missionary in the field and for contributions to be sent direct to said missionary in the field.

Your committee regrets that we can not all agree to the same plan of doing state mission work, and urgently urge the brethren to investigate the different methods of carrying on God's work in our state.

But in the meantime we recommend that each church, and each individual of every church, be urged to support one of the plans of carrying on state mission work, leaving the method to be pursued to the best light the church may have on the subject, and to the honest Baptist hearts composing the church membership.

We recommend that this great work be carried on in a spirit of love and not of strife.

We recommend that all money collected for the purpose of carrying on state mission work through the Executive Board of the State Convention be sent to Eld. John T. Christain, Little Rock, and that all money collected for the purpose of doing state mission work through the Committee of the State Association be sent to O. H. Echols, Ft. Smith.

Trusting that God will, at his own proper time, lead us into a perfect spirit of unity, we are respectfully, W. R. Jones, Chair.

4—We, your committee on destitution beg leave to report as follows: We realize that there is still great destitution within the bounds of this Association and we recommend that the pastors and deacons of the various churches do all in their power to raise means for the support of a missionary. W. H. McCuiston, Chair.

5—We, your committee on foreign missions would report as follows: We realize that as Missionary Baptists it is our duty to help send the gospel into all the world. We find, however, that few of our churches are giving anything to this great work. We therefore urge upon our brethren to think, read and pray more over this question. And we would recommend that all Baptist churches be urged to take up a collection for this cause at least once a year, and send same through whatever channel the church may think best for the carrying of the gospel to the uttermost ends of the earth. W. R. Jones, Chair.

6—We, your committee on obituaries submit the following report: We find that since the last meeting of our Association that nine have been called from the churches below to the kingdom above. This Association expresses heartfelt sympathy to all the friends and loved ones of these. Resolved that we submit to the sovereign will, and that we bow in thanksgiving for the preservation of the remaining members within our bounds. R. L. Carson, Chair.

7—We, your committee on associational missions would respectfully submit the following: Whereas there is great destitution within the bounds of this Association, we recommend that this Association proceed to the election of a missionary to do missionary work within the bounds of this Association, beginning with November 1st, next year. And we urge upon all our churches to contribute liberally toward the support of this work. As to the past year's work we would say that, acting on your suggestion at last year's convocation, we employed Bro W. H. McCuiston for twelve months, from Nov. 1, 1911, to Nov. 1, 1912 agreeing with him to try to pay him \$200 for said year's work. There has been raised on the field and by private contribution \$132.71 of his salary. There is yet due him \$68. He expects to raise a part of this during his com-



ing two month's work, but we urge upon every messenger present, who can, to privately contribute to Bro. McCuiston whatever his conscience and purse may suggest, and that on his return to his home that he urge his church to take action on this matter. W. H. Douglass, Chair.

8—Miles traveled, 645; stations supplied regularly, 2; sermons preached, 121; other religious addresses, 18; religious services in homes, 11; conversions, 17; baptisms, 3; additions by letter, 5; collected by churches and on field, \$132.71; churches organized, 1, at Norfork. We have not been able to reach all the field but have met with some success and the call still comes from unreached fields and says to the Baptists of the White River Association in the name of our Savior go take the gospel to lost men. W. H. McCuiston, Missionary.

9—We, your committee on finance beg to make the following report: Received for minute fund, \$22.85; for Texarkana orphans home, \$2.30. J. M. Randall, Chair.

10—We, your committee on woman's work wish to submit the following: Realizing the fact the sisters of our churches wielded the greatest influence for good along financial, moral and spiritual lines, request that the brethren of this Association encourage and help the women in all their work for the uplifting and advancement of our Master's cause. Eld. J. B. Smith, Chair.

11—We, your committee on home missions submit the following report: Believing as we do in the preached word of God, and as the go-pel is the plans of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth and as men cannot hear without a preacher and the preacher must be sent, we therefore urge that the churches of Association give liberally of their means to supply the destitution of our home fields. J. H. Marler, Chair.

12—Without Christian education all of our Baptist work would come to a stand-still and soon die. We look to our Baptist schools for trained workers in pulpit and pew as well as on mission fields. God is distinctly on the side of education and against ignorance. He complains that his people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) and declares that ignorance alienates from God (Eph. 4:18).

Arkansas Baptists have two great Christian colleges—

Ouachita, for boys and girls, at Arkadelphia, R. G. Bowers, D. D., President; Central, for girls, at Conway, J. W. Conger, L. L. D., President. These schools have rendered a service to the Baptist cause in Arkansas the value of which can never be estimated. The atmosphere of the schools is religious and reverent, and many students who have gone to them strangers to God have gone forth from them consecrated to God.

The property of these schools is valued at \$300,000. During the past four years debts amounting to about \$125,000 have been paid. Ouachita has \$20,000 of interest bearing endowment and a campaign is now on to increase this to \$250,000. An effort is also being made to raise \$12,000 to pay deficit from last year for running expenses and necessary improvements, and it is hoped that every church that has not already done so will take collection at once for this and send to Rev. J. S. Rogers, Endowment Sec., Arkadelphia. These schools give much more than tuition fees will pay for. Last year they gave something like \$6,000 to the Baptists of the State in free tuition to the children of preachers and to preacher students and their wives.

The education of preachers is one great object in Christian education. The denomination that fails to provide for the education of its preachers will die as a denomination. Last year there were 51 young preachers in Ouachita College. The Baptists of the state gave something over \$4,800 for their support. They receive free tuition and some help on other expenses when it is necessary. Seventy-five dollars will keep a preacher in Ouachita a year. The Bible department is arranged with special reference to the preachers, but the classes are open to all, and Old Testament is required of all who graduate. The New Testament class numbered 72 last year.

Christian education is just as important as state missions or any other general interest of the kingdom and must be put on the same basis. We therefore recommend:

1. That each pastor in the Association preach at least once a year on Christian Education and our duty to support Baptist schools.
2. That regular collections be taken in every church every year for Christian education and for ministerial education.
3. That we patronize these schools for the education of our young people.

It is also well to take cognizance of the fact that the State Association has taken in charge a high school at Bodcan in this state, and are attempting to plant a good institution there. We



would recommend that those affiliating with the State Association, foster this institution in every possible way and help to make it one of the greatest institutions in the state. This school is under the supervision of J. V. Vermillion. It is further well to notice that the home board has taken in hand the building up of a christian college in the mountains west of the Mississippi which we heartily recommend. Eld. R. F. Nanny, Chair.

13—We, your committee on resolutions report as follows: Resolved that this body direct the Clerk to have the articles of faith, rules of decorum and the full proceedings of the body printed. That the Clerk of this body superintend the printing and distribution of same to the various churches and that he have five dollars for his fee, said money to be paid out of the minute fund. Resolved that this body return thanks to this church and community for their kindness that they have shown us while with them. H. M. Horn, Chair.

14—We, your committee on Sunday Schools find from the reading of the letters that there are few Sunday Schools in the churches of this Association, and the Bible teaches us to train our children in the way they should go, and we believe there is no better way than to organize Sunday Schools in each church, and not only send our children but go with them, and we further recommend that each superintendent and all the teachers be Baptists, and that the officers be elected by the church and that the superintendent appoint the teachers. W. H. Douglass, Chair.

15—We, your committee on orphan's home, beg leave to submit the following report: We now have two Baptist homes in Arkansas—one at Monticello and the other at Texarkana. The home at Monticello is under the management of the State Convention, and the one at Texarkana is under the management of the State Association. There are about 162 orphan children at Monticello and about 30 at Texarkana. Both are sadly in need of funds. We recommend therefore that this Association take an offering in cash and pledges at 10 o'clock tomorrow for these orphans, and we further recommend that each individual of the church be requested to give or pledge to the home of his choice. We further recommend that our churches and Sunday Schools take a public offering some time during the next Associational year, or the plan herein suggested. We further recommend that the Moderator appoint a board consisting of five sisters in this Association to assist in collecting funds and soliciting clothes for the orphan children of our two homes, and that it be sent to them as near as possible in proportion to the number of children in each home. W. R. Jones, Chair.

# MINISTERS, MESSENGERS AND CLERKS.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	PASTORS.	CLERKS	ADDRESSES.
Antioch	Ellet: Dafron G. W. Pongie, L. D. Burch	H. C. Lamb	A. Johnson	Flippin, Ark.
Blooming Grove	Joe Smith, Walter Smith, C. C. Wolf, Mervin Wolf	R. L. Carson	L. D. Wolf	Yellville, Ark.
Cotter	W. H. McCuiston, Jno. H. Baker, J. P. Lovelace, R. D. Cooper	J. P. Lovelace	W. B. Sherwin	Cotter, Ark.
Friendship	R. L. Burnett, J. M. Randall	J. H. Marler	M. L. Crownover	Benville, Ark.
Hopewell	J. C. Copeland, B. B. Borders, J. B. Crate, H. M. Horn		Earnest Crane	Mountain Home, Ark.
Mt. Grove	Represented by Letter		M. M. Jenkins	Oakland, Ark.
Mt. Pleasant	S. F. Tueker, Wesley Barnett Jr., Lee Pinley	B. L. Bayless	L. W. Barnett	Gassville, Ark.
Mountain Home	W. H. Doughlass, A. D. Jordan, Mrs. A. D. Jordan	R. L. Carson	J. L. Paul	Mountain Home, Ark.
Mt. Zion	J. B. Smith, J. L. Smith, J. L. Gillum	J. B. Smith	J. C. Casey	Arkana, Ark.
New Hope	H. C. Lamb, R. F. Nanny, R. L. Carson, W. R. Jones	R. L. Carson	Elnora Phillips	Ralph, Ark.
New Harmony	G. W. Bayless, J. N. Mahoney	B. L. Bayless	W. L. Jenkins	Oakland, Ark.
Norfolk	Eugen Horton	W. H. McCuiston	Euge e Horton	Arkana, Ark.
New Athens	Represented by Letter	W. M. Fout	Charley Talburt	Cumi, Ark.
New Prospect	J. H. Stonecipher, G. W. Casey	J. B. Smith	Will Brady	Pyatt, Ark.
Oakland	T. J. Meredith, C. F. Stone, S. J. Stone	W. M. Fout	C. F. Stone	Mountain Home, Ark.
Pilgrim's Rest	J. H. Marler, B. M. Marler	J. H. Marler	W. P. White	Gassville, Ark.
Pleasant Hill	J. H. Nanny, F. Z. Pulliam, W. R. DePriest, J. A. Cooper	N. F. Bradley	J. F. Etam	Bruno, Ark.
North Yellville	W. R. Pierce, Wesley Reed		Eliza Langslas	Summit, Ark.
Whiteville	J. G. Walker, L. E. Tucker	J. G. Walker	Harrison Morris	Gassville, Ark.
Wise's Chapel	J. W. Hively, Talmae Stag	G. R. Sanders	V. G. Brown	Cross Roads, Ark.

## STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	Increase by Letter	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Restorati'n	Decrease by Letter	Decrease by Excom'n	Decrease by Death	Total Mem- bership	The Year Constitut'd	Days of Church Meeting	Home Mis- sions	No. in Sun- day School	Contrib- ution for Minutes	For As- sociational Missions	State Missions	Foreign Missions	Pastoral Support	Church Building	Incidental Expenses	Orphan's Home	Sunday School	Ministerial Relief
Antioch	5	26		1	8	1	112			\$4 50		\$1 35	\$ 8 74		\$4 50	\$33 00					
Blooming Grove	2	3					64	1904	2nd Sunday			75				50 00					\$ 5 80
Cotter	6	11		4		1	63		2nd and 4th Sunday	4 50	88	2 25	30 14	15	50 150	\$ 15 00	\$12 00	\$11 25	40		
Friendship							23	1882	1st and Saturday before			50									
Hopewell				1	2	1	81	1874	Saturday before 1st Sunday		20	1 75		\$6 25		12 00		6 00			
Mt. Grove		2		2			22	1890	Saturday before 4th Sunday				5 17								
Mt. Pleasant				5		3	116	1868	Saturday before 3rd Sunday		45	1 50				44 50	6 50				
Mt. Zion		5	1				26	1911	2nd Sun and Sat before			70					247 28				
Mountain Home	3	2		1			64	1868	1st and 3rd Sunday	15	30	2 00	30	33 75	15 200			50 00	48 50	16 90	
New Hope	6	1		2	1	1	89	1878	2nd Sunday and Saturday			1 25		6 00	5 50	65 00		8 00	10 00	15 00	
New Harmony						1	60	1872	3rd Sunday and Saturday			1 00								7 00	
New Prospect	1	7		1	1		58	1888	4th Sun. and Sat. before			1 50				46 80				4 35	
Norfolk							9	1912	4th Sunday			75	6 60			14 85					
New Athens		5	5	2			65	1891	1st Sunday			1 00				5 25					
North Yellville							18					50									
Pleasant Hill							117	1871	1st Saturday and Sunday			1 50				63 50					
Pilgrim's Rest	3	13					167	1872	2nd Saturday and Sunday			1 30				5 25					
Whiteville	2	12		2		1	104	1892	4th Saturday and Sunday			1 50				3 50				4 50	
Wise's Chapel				1	6		63	1892	2nd Sunday and Saturday			75		3 30	5 00	40 00					
Oakland	9	11			1	59	1881		2nd Sunday and Saturday		25	1 00				15 00		11 00		5 00	



# Constitution.

Article I.—This Association shall be called and known by the name of the “White River Baptist Association.”

Article II.—The members composing the annual meetings of the Association shall consist of the messengers sent by the churches.

Article III.—The messengers sent by the churches to the annual meetings shall not exceed four from each church.

Article IV.—The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall have been previously appointed.

Article V.—The officers of the Association shall consist of a moderator, Clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority of the messengers annually at the annual meetings of the body.

Article VI.—This Association will have no power to control or regulate the internal affairs or discipline of any church, but it may adopt and recommend all such measures as shall be considered best calculated to produce the harmony and prosperity of the churches, and to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, and advise and consult upon such matters as the churches may at any time present for their consideration and advice. And it may receive churches into this Association or dismiss churches from the body, inquire into the state of religion in its bounds, and suggest measures for its advancement, and be a common bond of union among the churches, but shall not exercise any legislative power over the churches.

Article VII.—This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided notice has been given at a previous meeting.

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## Declaration of Faith.

1. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter, that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the su-

preme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

4. — We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections He is every way qualified to be an all-sufficient Savior.

5. We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own



determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

7. We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or be born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with the divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life.

8. We repeat that repentance and faith are sacred duties and inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the only all-sufficient Savior.

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that doing perfectly consistent with the free agents of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being perfectly free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demand and deserves the utmost diligence.

10. We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Healer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

11. We believe that such only are true believers as endure

to the end; that their reserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith into salvation.

12. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good, and that the inability which Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law is one great end of the gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

13. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinance of Christ, governed by his laws and exercising the gifts and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications and claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

14. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ preceded always by solemn self-examination.

12. We believe that the first day in the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath, and it is to be kept sacred, to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreation, by the devout observance of all the means of Grace, both of private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

16. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and



obeyed, except in things opposed by the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the prince of the kings of the earth.

17. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ shall descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution, that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be judged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

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### **Rules of Decorum.**

1. The Association shall commence with religious exercises and a sermon from some preacher, who shall have been previously appointed, unless the Association shall otherwise direct.

2. The Moderator of the session shall preside, and the former Clerk shall act (provided they attend) until the letters from the churches connected with the body shall have been read and a Moderator and Clerk appointed.

3. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meeting during its session and appoint committees (unless the Association shall otherwise direct), preserve order, reprove improprieties (except an appeal is made to the meeting by two members). He shall have a right to speak on all subjects, calling a member to the chair, and examine and correct the minutes if necessary.

4. The Clerk shall keep a correct copy of the proceedings of the meeting, read the letters and documents, and call any member to assist him at the close of the meeting. He shall take charge of the papers and documents unless otherwise directed.

5. The churches shall designate their messengers and report their condition by letter.

6. Preachers in good standing in other Baptist churches or Associations with whom we are in fellowship, when attending our annual meeting, shall be invited to a seat as correspondents, and these meetings shall always be opened with a prayer and closed in a similar manner.

7. Every member may speak twice on any one subject in debate before the meeting, but not more without leave; and when speaking shall stand and address the Moderator and use decorous and Christian language; and no member shall absent himself from the Association during the session without leave; and any person who shall violate these rules, or the constitution, shall be reprov'd as the Association shall think proper.

8. These rules may be amended by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting

9. The churches shall contribute funds for the ordinary expenses of the body, such as printing the minutes and paying the traveling expenses of such members as the Association may send to other bodies.

10. A public collection shall be taken by the Moderator at each session and applied to such benevolent purposes as the Association may direct.

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### **Order of Business.**

1. Annual introductory sermon.
2. Call of Association to order by the Moderator, if present.
3. Call for church letters and enroll messengers.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters and messengers.
6. Call for corresponding letters and messengers.
7. Appoint committees.
8. Read constitution and rules of order.
9. Call and correct the roll and note absentees.
10. Call report of messengers to corresponding bodies.
11. Appoint messengers to corresponding bodies.
12. Call for report of committees in order.
13. Miscellaneous business.
14. Resolutions.
15. Appoint place for next meeting of Association.
16. Appoint some one to preach the Introductory Sermon.
17. Adjournment.



**Form for Church Letter.**

The Baptist Church of Christ at.....

To the White River Baptist Association:

Dear Brethern:—We send as messengers Elder.....

Brethern .....

Increase by baptism.....

Increase by letter.....

Increase by restoration .....

Decrease by letter.....

Decrease by exclusion .....

Decrease by death.....

Total membership.....

Constituted in the year 19.....

Present pastor.....

Day of church meeting.....

Number engaged in Sabbath School .....

Contribution for minutes \$ .....

Contribution for associational missions \$ .....

Contribution for state missions \$ .....

Contribution for foreign missions \$ .....

Contribution for ministerial relief \$ .....

Money expended for pastoral support \$ .....

Money expended for church building \$ .....

Money expended for incidental expenses \$ .....

By order of the church.

Date.....19.....

.....Moderator

.....Church Clerk.

Postoffice.....