

# **MINUTES**

**Of The**

**Seventy-Sixth Session of the Old Organization**

**And The**

**Fifty-First Session of the New Organization**

**Of The**

## **White River Baptist Association**

**Held With**

**New Hope Church, Ralph,**

**Marion County, Arkansas.**

**August 30, 31 and September 1, 1918.**

### **OFFICERS:**

**Rev. W. H. McCuiston, Moderator : Gassville, Ark.**

**J. W. Barnett, Jr., Clerk : Cotter, Ark.**

**T. O. Horn, Treasurer : Mountain Home, Ark.**

# MINUTES

According to previous adjournment the White River Baptist Association convened with New Hope Church at Ralph, Ark., August 30th, 1918.

In the absence of Rev. B. L. Bayless who was to preach the introductory sermon Rev. J. S. Compere was appointed to preach the same which was a very interesting sermon.

Called to order by the Clerk and Rev. W. H. McCuistion was appointed as Moderator pro tem.

Recess until 2 P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Prayer by Brother A. P. White.

Brethren T. O. Horn and H. T. Goatcher were appointed as reading clerks. Letters read and received.

By motion the body proceeded with the organization by the moderator appointing Rev. J. S. Compere, Rev. Parks and Sister S. Jordan to take the vote for Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, respectively. Resulting as follows: Rev. W. H. McCuistion, Moderator, J. W. Barnett Jr. Clerk, and Brother T. O. Horn treasurer.

Call for petitionary letters was made. None presented.

Visiting ministers invited to seats as advisory councils.

Rev. J. S. Compere from Little Rock, and Rev. Parks from Southwest Tennessee Association responded.

The following committees were appointed:

Divine Service—Pastor and messenger of New Hope church.

Associational Missions—Brethren Eugene Horton, A. P. White, and Rev. W. B. Oneal.

State Missions—Brethren T. O. Horn, J. A. Pasco, and W. Mayfield.

Home Missions—Brethren Eugene Horton, H. T. Goatcher, and S. E. Arp.

Foreign Missions—Brethren J. B. Crane, S. E. Arp

Sunday Schools—Rev. Fred H. Ward, R. H. Rimer and Sister Jesse Jones.

Baptist Literature—Brethren J. G. Dillahunty, J. W. Covington and W. W. Lamb.

Christian Education—Rev. Fred H. Warde, Bro. E. Willbanks, and Sister Emma Mahan

Finance—Brethren M. R. Willbanks, Walter Firestone and Cyrus Napier.

Temperance—Bro. Will Nanny, Rev. W. B. Oneal

and Sister Irma Robertson

Woman's Work—Sister Babe Firestone, Lula Long, Buna Rimer, Annie McCarty, J. M. Reynolds and all women present.

Obituaries—Brethren A. P. White, A. D. Jordan, and S. F. Tucker.

Resolutions—Rev. R. H. Rimer, Brethren W. W. Lamb and Walter Firestone.

Associational Mission Board—Rev. Fred H. Ward Brethren Eugene Horton, H. H. Goodman and Will Newman.

Motion made that Committee be appointed to investigate why Camp Pastors are being withdrawn. Revs. Fred H. Ward, W. B. Oneal, Brethren A. P. White and Eugene Horton.

Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read by the Clerk.

Committee on Divine Service recommended that Rev. R. H. Rimer preach Friday night and Rev. Z. Whitaker preach Saturday at 11 A. M. Also that two committees report Friday night.

Motion carried to meet with Whiteville Church on Friday before the First Sunday in September 1919.

By motion Rev. R. H. Rimer was selected to preach the introductory sermon. Rev. Morton Alternate.

Motion carried to adjourn until 8 P. M.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

Prayer by Brother Eugene Horton.

Committee on Temperance made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 1.)

Committee on Sunday Schools made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 2.)

A very interesting sermon was preached Saturday night by Rev. R. H. Rimer.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Prayer by Rev. Fred H. Ward.

By motion report on Christian Education was placed as the first thing at 8 P. M. Saturday night.

Committee on Foreign Missions made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 3.)

Call made for letter not present at previous reading. Wise's Chapel letter read and approved.

Committee on Woman's Work made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 4.)

Committee on Obituaries made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 5.)



Motion to suspend regular order of business and take up Miscellaneous Business.

Motion carried for the Moderator to appoint a committee of three to select Associational Mission Board. Brethren S. F. Tucker, J. G. Dillahunt and W. H. Mayfield were appointed on this committee.

The following were appointed on the Board: Rev. Fred H. Ward, Brethren A. P. White, Eugene Horton, H. H. Goodman, and Will Newman.

Committee on Stewardship and Young People's Work to be added to the list of committees for next year's work.

Committee on Baptist Literature reported and the report was adopted. (See report No. 6.)

Motion carried to take recess until 2:30 P. M.

Rev. Z. Whittaker preached an interesting sermon at 11 A. M.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Prayer by Brother Reed.

Calling of the Roll.

Committee on Associational Missions made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 7.)

Committee on State Missions made their report which was adopted. (See Report No. 8.)

Committee on Finance made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 9.)

Committee on Home Missions made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 10.)

Committee on Resolutions made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 10.)

Motion carried to take recess until 8 P. M.

#### NIGHT SESSION

By motion the Association agreed to pay an old debt on Missionaries Salary.

Pledges taken for Associational Missions as follows: Rev. Fred H. Ward, \$12.00; Rev. H. D. Morton, \$12.00; Rev. W. B. Oneal, \$12.00; Brother Eugene Horton, \$12.00; Rev. Z. Whittaker, \$12.00; Hopewell Church, \$12.00; Whiteville Church \$12.00; Mountain Home Church, \$102.00; Sardis Church, \$12.00; Pilgrims Rest Church, \$12.00; New Hope, \$12.00; Alex James, \$5.00; Wises Chapel \$12.00; Mt. Pleasant, \$12.00; A. P. White, \$5.00; S. F. Tucker, \$5; T. O. Horn, \$5.00; H. T. Goatcher, \$5.00; Cotter, \$25; Oak Grove, \$12.00; J. W. Barnett Jr. \$10.00; W. H. Mayfield, \$2.50; Blooming Grove, \$12.00. Cash

collection taken amounting to \$14.82.

Shilo church was the place selected as the meeting place for the next Fifth Sunday meeting. Rev. R. H. Rimer, Rev. W. B. Oneal, and Rev. J. W. Rector committee to prepare the program.

Committee on Christian Education made their report which was adopted after some very interesting talks were made on the subject. (See report No. 12.)

Rev. H. D. Morton preached an interesting sermon Saturday night.

### SUNDAY SESSION

Prayer by Rev. Lawrence Davis.

Committee on Orphans Home made their report which was adopted. (See report No. 13.)

Motion carried for the Missionary to look after the monthly donations to both Baptist Orphans Homes. Also to look after securing a car of provisions for the orphans.

Cash collection taken to secure money to finish printing the minutes. Six dollars and thirty five cents was secured.

Motion carried to elect a delegate to the State Convention. Rev. H. D. Morton elected.

Motion to adjourn to meet with Whiteville Church on Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1919.

W. H. McCUISTION, Moderator.

J. W. BARNETT JR., Clerk.

## REPORTS

No. 1. It is a matter of satisfaction and rejoicing that our government is awakening to the value of prohibition as a war savings measure. Surely our nation will learn that anything that proves to be saving in times of war will be a saving to the country in times of peace. It is also very gratifying to see the states, one by one ratifying the constitutional amendment for nation wide prohibition. We feel confident that our next State Assembly will lose no time in placing Arkansas in this ever growing column which now consists of fourteen states. We wish to go on record as a body favoring ratification and desiring that the next Legislature enact an amendment to our present "Bone Dry" law so that liquor can be shipped into our state in no form whatever under no circumstances or conditions except absolutely for medicinal and chemical purposes



and for use in such laboratories as require such.

At present it looks as if the victory is about won, but it is at such a time that the heaviest blows must fall, if we wish to silence the enemy for all time and give no hope for a future revival of his nefarious business. Let us press our law-makers in both state and nation to stand firm for all prohibition measures, and let us strive to secure the full enforcement of all temperance laws by reporting all offenses to our officers and urge them to perform their whole duty in the punishment of the offenders. No greater steps can be taken than those we take to defend our young men from the liquor traffic. Let Baptists go on record as they have always gone on record, as against the making and selling of any kind and all kinds of alcoholic beverages.

W. E. NANNY, Chairman.

Report No. 2.—Sunday Schools—God's word clearly commands that his laws and statutes should be taught. Clearly the church is the teaching force of God; and the Sunday School is the teaching arm of the Church. This teaching factor is being sadly neglected in the White River Association. Many of our Churches maintain no Sunday School at all. There is a great lack of trained teachers.

We urgently recommend that some steps be taken looking to the organization of more Sunday Schools and more efficiency in the ranks of Sunday School teachers. We recommend that our Associational Missionary arrange for the holding of Sunday School Institutes and Training classes.

FRED H. WARD, Chairman.

Report No. 3.—Foreign Missions—The Southern Baptist Convention at Hot Springs in May decided that Southern Baptists should be required to give one and a half million dollars to Foreign Missions before the next meeting of the Convention. Compared with Southern Baptist numbers and wealth, this amount is small.

God's blessings are upon Foreign Missions. Even the war is helping this great enterprise. There were 6290 baptisms last year. We now have 464 churches on all the fields, of which 141 have assumed self-support. We have a church membership above 53,000 with 715 Sunday Schools enrolling more than 34,000 scholars. In other schools we have enrolled nearly 9,000 scholars. We are conducting theological Schools in Japan,

China Africa, Italy, and South America. We have but few doctors under appointment and yet these gave more than 100,000 treatments last year. Eighteen new missionaries were appointed in June and many others are greatly needed. Every church in the Association is admonished to lay large plans and press the greatest campaign next March and April that we have ever undertaken for Foreign Missions. This Association should undertake to raise a worthy part of the million and a half dollars. Arkansas should raise \$40,000 this year for this great cause. The Home and Foreign Fields price fifty cents, is recommended to all church members. The Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va. furnishes FREE of charge tracts for distribution.

J. B. CRANE, Chairman.

Report No. 4.—Woman's Work.—We note with a degree of encouragement that the helpfulness of Woman's work is being rapidly recognized as an essential part of Baptist work. We lament the fact that the organization of this work has been sadly neglected in this Association. We urge that our pastors and Missionaries to look carefully to this part of our Master's work. We ask for the prayers and sympathy of the entire Association in our undertakings in this work. We urge that Woman's societies be organized in as many communities as possible.

MRS. H. C. FIRESTONE, Chairman.

Report No. 5.—Obituaries—We your committee on obituaries beg leave to submit the following: We find that God in His wisdom has seen fit to call to their eternal home five of our brethren. While we feel a great loss in the Home going of these, our brethren, we humbly submit to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

A. P. WHITE, Chairman.

Report No. 6.—Baptist Literature—Your committee on Baptist Literature beg to submit the following: Recognizing the fact that the world is swayed with literature, we your committee recommend that we as Baptists should endeavor to (1) Get God's word read and studied in every home and (2) That we in this Association try to get in every home Baptist Literature and good Baptist papers, books and tracts which teach the things that Baptists believe and teach. These tracts may be had free of charge by applying to the Baptist Executive Board, 410 Donaghey Bldg., Little

Rock, Ark., or from the Baptist Sunday School Committee at Texarkana, Ark. Therefore we recommend that the pastors of the various churches try to get some good Baptist papers and tracts into every community where he preaches.

J. G. DILLAHUNTY, Chairman.

Report No. 7.—Associational Missions and Destitution—There is, perhaps no greater need to be found in Arkansas, than is found in the bounds of the White River Association. One half of the churches in this Association have not had meetings in a year. One half of the churches are now pastorless. There are not near enough ministers to supply the demand either as pastors or to hold meetings. There are fifteen or more needy points where meetings could and should be held, places where Sunday Schools could be organized, and a great work done for the glory of the Lord. The churches are unable, or at least, they do not pay their pastors enough to justify the Man of God to give any special attention to the need of the field or to do more than to mere preach at the times of his regular appointments. The demands for concerted action much praying and loyal giving were never greater.

The work of the Missionary Board since March 20th has been very gratifying. Elder W. B. Oneal was employed for full time at \$100 per month as Missionary. One half of his salary was paid by the Association and one half by the State Board. With the help of the Missionary we have raised \$311.72 which is sufficient to pay the Missionary in full with a cash balance of \$45.06.

We heartily recommend the employment of a strong missionary for full time to begin work at once. We further recommend that an executive board of five members and an advisory committee consisting of one member in each church be constituted to superintend the work.

EUGENE HORTON, Chairman.

Missionary's Report—Miles Traveled, 1080; Churches visited, 16; Mission Points visited, 5; Trips to Churches, 29; Collections for Home Missions, \$44.32; for Foreign Missions, \$44.31; for Associational Missions, \$148.81; Total collected \$237.44. Books sold or donated by Missionary, 30; Tracts distributed, 300; Sunday Schools started, 2; Churches Reassembled, 1; Prayers in Homes, 6; Meetings Held, 7; Sermons



preached 124; other addresses delivered 29; Additions by letter, 8; Additions by Baptism, 18; Additions by Restoration, 4; Total additions, 30.

On account of the lateness of the season when your missionary got on the field (it being March 29th when I began,) it was impossible to visit all the churches or to get in touch with all the needy Mission Points. The Missionary earnestly solicits the pastorless churches to secure pastors and urges that all the pastors strive to hold meetings during the summer evangelistic campaign. Let the next campaign be started early and an effort made to reach every corner of the Association.

The missionary appreciates very much, the hearty co-operation of the many churches and brethren in supporting the work during his few months of labor and he wishes to thank every one who helped in this way or in making suggestions and in pointing out needy fields. Let us all pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send laborers into the harvest.

W. B. ONEAL, Missionary.

Report No. 8.—State Mission—Your Committee on State Missions makes the following report. The way for a Baptist church to become a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle is for it to be entirely in doctrine and practice. State Missions may be defined as the united efforts of Arkansas Baptists to get every person in Arkansas saved and into Baptist churches, and then to get them to give proper support to all enterprises of the Kingdom of God. Both for Arkansas and all the world.

We believe the great commission was given to the Baptist Church. There is great destitution in all sections of the state. What an opportunity this presents to Arkansas Baptists. They will listen to our preaching when we send the messenger, and the obligation rests upon the people of Arkansas to give them the Gospel. This work is carried on by the churches in the state through the Executive Board of the Baptist State Convention and State Association. The report of this Board to the Convention last year showed great results. Thus: 91 workers, 4384 conversions, 2243 baptisms, 3470 additions, 29 churches, 111 Sunday Schools and B. Y. P. U's. Organized, and \$44,800.00 given for State Missions. It is the best day we have ever seen. This year the work has been greatly enlarged. The num-

ber of workers are now 189. We have four men working full time at Camp Pike besides some special workers.

We are spending thousands of dollars to win our soldier boys to Christ. There has been more than 6000 professions at Camp Pike. It will be necessary to raise in the State Mission campaign not less than \$50,000 if we go to the Convention at Helena with all State Mission Obligations paid. Arkansas Baptists are abundantly able to give all this and more.

Your committee urges that pastors and active laymen during the meeting of this Association get together and make plans to reach every church in the Association for a worthy offering to State Missions before December 7th.

T. O. HORN, Chairman.

Report No. 9.—Finance—We your Committee on Finance have raised \$27.25 from the various churches for the printing of the minutes.

M. R. WILLBANKS, Chairman.

Report No. 10.—Home Missions—The Committee on Home Missions presents the following report: Every true Baptist in the South has reason to feel encouraged with the great work that has been done by the Home Board. The following figures reflect much credit on this feature: Number of workers, 1498; churches supplied, 5106; Mountain Schools 36; pupils in the schools, 5190 of whom 110 were preachers; built or improved 505 meeting houses; Sunday Schools organized, 634; Churches organized, 213; baptisms 30,982. Total number of additions, 51,949. For this work alone the Baptists of the South have given \$589,987. We urge our churches to encourage and foster this feature of our work.

EUGENE HORTON, Chairman.

Report No. 11.—Resolutions—We, your Committee on Resolutions report as follows: Resolved that we thank the Moderator and Clerk for their efficient and faithful service. Resolved that we thank the New Hope Church and community for their kindness while here with them. And also that the Clerk be allowed to take \$5.00 from the minute funds for his fee for writing and superintending the printing of the minutes.

R. J. RIMER, Chairman.

Report No. 12.—Christian Education—It is evident that the world is in a transitional era. There is



certainly a new condition if not a new age to confront us as soon as the war shall end. That our nation shall be able to meet the demands of this time the government is urging us to go to school.

While we rejoice in the great public school system of our land, yet there is a limitation upon the public schools that it is impossible for them to supply the every educational need of our people. This lack must be supplied by Christian Schools.

Arkansas Baptists now have a chain of splendid Institutions. These schools and colleges are dependent upon the denomination for support. At present we are in a five year campaign to raise a permanent endowment fund for our schools. We urge that hearty support be given this movement.

Further there is needed very greatly funds for the education of our young preachers. God's men must be equipped. We recommend that regular and systematic offerings be taken for the support of our Baptist Schools. Especially do we urge that every Baptist in this Association lend his most hearty support to the Mountain Home College.

FRED H. WARD, Chairman.

Report No. 13—Orphans Home—There can be no doubt that the Scripture commands us to look after the fatherless children. We, Baptists, have two Orphan's Homes in this State. One at Monticello, under the care of the State Convention and one at Texarkana under the care of the State Association.

Your committee would urge upon all Baptists in this Association to aid and assist one or both these Orphan Homes. We would also urge that every pastor in the association lay the matter of these Homes upon the hearts of our Baptist people, and take up a collection at least every quarter for this purpose.

We also urge that our Sunday Schools be trained to turn over all Sunday School collections at least once each month to one or both these homes.

We would also recommend that at some hour to be decided by the Moderator there should be a collection taken by this Association for one or both of said Homes.

J. L. McCARTY, Chairman.

---

The following committees should have been inserted in Order of Business on Page 17, paragraph 7:—Committee on Stewardship and Committee on Young People's Work.



# MINISTERS, MESSENGERS AND CLERKS

CHURCHES	MESSENGERS	PASTORS	CLERKS	ADDRESS
Cotter	By Letter	Eld J. H. Marler	Floyd H. Goodman	Cotter, Ark.
Friendship	Bro. J. M. Randle and Sister Hattie Randle	J. M. Cooper	J. M. Cooper	Mountain Home, Ark.
Hopewell	Bro. J. W. C. Venton, T. O. Horn and W. H. Mayfield	J. W. Coventon	J. W. Coventon	Mountain Home, Ark.
Mt. Pleasant	Bro. J. W. Barnett, Jr. J. B. Crane and S. F. Tucker	W. H. McCuistion	J. W. Barnett, Sr.	Gassville, Ark.
Mountain Home	Eld. Fred H. Ward, Z. Whitaker, W. B. Oneal and A. D. Jordan	Fred H. Ward	J. L. Paul	Mountain Home, Ark.
New Hope	Bro. J. A. Pasco, W. Nanny, Walter Firestone and Sis. B. Firestone	B. L. Bayless	Abe James	Ralph, Ark.
New Harmony	By Letter	M. C. Burton	D. M. Noe	Oakland, Ark.
Norfolk	Bro. Eugene Horton	W. M. Fout	Eugene Horton	Norfolk, Ark.
New Athens	By Letter	B. L. Bayless	Charley Talburt	Cumi, Ark.
Pilgrims Rest	A. P. White	W. H. McCuistion	O. A. Martin	Gassville, Ark.
Pleasant Grove	Rev. W. H. McCuistion	R. L. Carson	J. W. Parnell	Rea Valley, Ark.
Blooming Grove	Bro. Frank Reed	J. M. Langston	L. D. Wolf	Yellville, Ark.
Antioch	By Letter	J. W. Rector	A. Johnson	Flippin, Ark.
Yellville	Bro. W. R. Jones, S. E. Ard, J. L. McCarty, and Sis. A. McCarty	W. H. McCuistion	T. G. Angel	Yellville, Ark.
Wise's Chapel	Bro. D. A. Hively and Henry Sanders	J. W. Rector	J. H. Lovelace	Cross Roads, Ark.
Sardis	Bro. E. Willbanks, M. R. Willbanks, W. Hillhouse, Emma Mahan	W. H. McCuistion	Emma Mahan	Pontiac, Mo.
Whiteville	Bro. W. W. Lamb, J. G. Dillahunty and H. T. Goatcher	J. W. Rector	H. T. Gatchner	Gassville, Ark.
Shilo	Bro. R. J. Rimer, Sisters Lula Long and Buna Rimer	Lawrence Davis	Tilda Endaman	Three Brothers, Ark.
Oak Grove	Bro. Cyrus Napier, Sisters Jessie Jones and Irma Robertson		Bessie Sowell	Mountain Home, Ark.

## STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	Increased by Letter	Increased by Baptism	Inc'as'd by Restorati'n	Decrease by Letter	Decrease by Exclusion	Decrease by Death	Total Membership	Year Con- stituted	Days of Church Meetings	Number in Sunday School	Contribut'd Minutes	Associa- tional Mis- sions	Home Missions	State Missions	Foreign Missions	Pastoral Support	Incidental Expenses and Church Building	Orphans Home	Sunday Schools	Ministerial Relief	Christian Education
Cotter				13	1		73	1904		43	\$1 00	\$38 00	\$25 00	\$53 41	\$25 00	\$72 35	\$ 60 00	\$40 00		\$ 6 00	
Friendship	1	2		1			23	1882	3rd Sunday and Saturday		1 25					15 00				\$ 9 00	
Hopewell							42	1874	1st Sunday and Saturday		1 50	4 00		2 00							
Mt. Pleasant	3	5	1			1	138	1868	3rd Sunday and Saturday	52	2 00	19 00			3 00	69 00					
Mountain Home	26	12		14			120	1868	Every Sunday	75	5 00	42 55	85 90	184 50	85 89	128 20	146 00	78 06	\$60	177 67	\$ 5 00
New Hope	3					1	83	1881	3rd Sunday	30	1 50	8 70		25 00	30 75	35 50	69 00				
New Harmony							69	1872	1st Sunday and Saturday		1 00	1 75				34 00		9 00			
Norfolk							28	1912	4th Sunday		1 50	5 25		1 75		22 00					
New Athens							62	1891	2nd Sunday		1 20										
Pilgrims Rest		4		13	1		148	1872	2nd Sunday	50	1 20	20 00				40 00					
Pleasant Grove					1		14	1882	2nd Sunday		75	12 75		2 00		30 00					
Blooming Grove		9					59	1904	3rd Sunday	40		19 52				40 00					
Antioch						1	104	1891			1 25										
Yellville	1					1	37	1913		40	1 20	30 00	47 40			140 00					
Wise's Chapel		7		2	1		95	1892	4th Sunday and Saturday	70	1 20	5 00		10 82		50 00				10 00	
Sardis		4				1	31	1908	4th Sunday		1 00	25 20	3 50	5 50	3 20	20 00					
Whiteville	6	14					79	1892	4th Sunday and Saturday		2 00	16 20		10 30		69 00					
Shilo	2			1			15	1917	2nd Sunday and Saturday	45	50		3 25	12 90	3 25	12 00		2 75			
Oak Grove	5	3	3				11				1 00	9 25									

## 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 meeting 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 shall 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.

## 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 supreme 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 Jehova, 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 or the God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son, 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 affected 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.

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 all-sufficient Savior.

9. We believe that election is the eternal purposes of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that doing so is perfectly consistent with the free agency 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 to 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 demands 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 persevering 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 unto 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 baptised believers, associated by covenant in 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, our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and 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.

15. 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 in things 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.

### **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 meetings, 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 correspondent 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.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Annual introductory sermon.
2. Call of Association to order by the Moderator.
3. Call for church letters and enrolling messengers.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters and messengers.
6. Call for corresponding letters and messengers.
7. Appoint the following committees: Divine service, associational missions, state missions, home missions, foreign missions, destitution, Sunday Schools, Baptist literature, christian education, finance, temperance, woman's work, orphan homes, obituaries, deceased ministers, resolutions.
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 someone to preach the introductory sermon.
17. Adjournment.

**FORM FOR CHURCH LETTER**

The Baptist Church of Christ at -----  
 To the White River Baptist Association:

Dear Brethren:—We send as messengers Elder  
 ----- Brethren-----

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 \$-----

Orphans Home \$-----

Contribution for associational missions \$-----

Contribution for state missions \$-----

Contribution for foreign missions \$-----

Contribution for home 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-----