

# MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Grand Prairie Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

CENTER POINT CHURCH, PRAIRIE COUNTY, ARK.,

ON

OCTOBER 24, 25 AND 26, 1895.

A. H. SOEKLAND, MODERATOR. DEWITT, ARK.

W. THEO. SMITH, SECRETARY, STUTTGART, ARK.

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The next session will be held with Rising Sun Baptist Church, Arkansas County, Arkansas, commencing on Thursday evening before the 4th Sunday in Sept. 1896.

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STUTTGART, ARK.,  
CHRONICLE BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.  
1895.

# PROCEEDINGS.

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HAZEN, ARK., October 24, 1895.

The Grand Prairie Baptist Association convened at the meeting house of Center Point Baptist church, Prairie county. Moderator Alderson was present and presided.

Congregation sang: "Come thou fount," after which N. G. Williams led in prayer. The Moderator called for the Introductory sermon, which was delivered by Eld. Williams from Ephesians 2:13 after which the congregation sang: "Amazing grace," prayer by D. S. Cannon.

Adjourned to meet Friday morning at 8:30. Prayer by J. M. Street, of Virginia.

## FRIDAY MORNING SERVICE.

Called to order by Moderator. Congregation sang: "Sweet hour of prayer." Eld. Street read the 14th chapter of John, after which he led in prayer. Congregation sang: "Children of the Heavenly King."

Letters from the various churches were called for, whereupon the following reported: Stuttgart—W. Theo Smith; Cross Roads—J. T. Hammond, J. D. Highfill and J. S. Smith; Cash Prairie—S. K. and Sister Downs; DeWitt—A. H. Soekland, Ed Hanks and J. B. Wofford; Salem—C. W. Andrews; New Hope—M. D. L. Webb, Sisters Fannie Webb and Bessie Lendzy; Pt. DeLuce—represented by letter; Grand Prairie—B. F. Coburn; Macedonia—A. L. Tanner, W. W. Ault and J. H. Percifull; Pleasant Ridge—R. A. Wicks and J. I. Kerr; Bethel—G. W. Belcher, C. I. Walker and Sister Fannie Richardson; Big Lagrue—J. C. Crabtree, D. T. Watkins and Sister R. F. Routh; Oak Grove—C. L. Boyett, J. C. Lancaster and W. L. Cole; Center Point—E. J. McKewen, B. P. McCalley and W. H. Bullock; New Bethel—B. F. Honea and Sisters Matta Wood and Iona Honea; Hazen—Sister Hattie Sanders, Henry Miller and Dr. A. C. Parrish; New Zion—represented by letter.

Petitionary letters were called for but there being none the body proceeded to the election of officers. Brethren Street and Walker were appointed tellers and reported the following brethren elected: A. H. Soekland, moderator and B. F. House, vice moderator. Upon motion W. Theo Smith was elected, by acclamation, as clerk. Bro. S. K. Downs, treasurer.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us, whereupon Brethren J. M. Street, of Virginia, G. W. Thomason of Arkadelphia and S. L. Pine of Carlisle responded. Correspondents were called for and W. A. Clark of the Arkansas Baptist, Little Rock, responded.

The Moderator appointed J. W. Highfile, M. D. L. Webb and E. J. McKewen as a Finance committee. A recess was taken until 1 o'clock to hear a sermon at 11 o'clock and for dinner at 12 m.

Congregation sang "Am I a Soldier of the Cross." Elder Street, the appointee, read the 9th chapter of Matthew and after prayer he preached from 38th verse of said chapter. After the sermon dinner was served on the ground.



# AFTERNOON SESSION.

The congregation joined in singing "Come thou fount," prayer by the Moderator. An invitation was extended visiting brethern to seats with us. No response.

Hurrican church presented its application to become a member of the association and sent as delegates I. T. and Sister Lewis. The church was received.

The Moderator called for the reports of standing committees. Committee on Sunday schools read its report which was adopted as read. [See App. A.] Committee on Temperance reported. Their report was received and adopted. [See App. B.] Committee on Education offered its report which was adopted after some discussion. [See App. C.] Committee on Publication read its report which, after considerable discussion, was adopted. [See App. D.]

The Moderator appointed W. Theo. Smith as delegate to the state convention from the Association and Elder Street as delegate from DeWitt church.

There being no one volunteering to go to the Southern Baptist convention the Moderator and Secretary were authorized to issue credentials to any one that would attend. The Moderator reported the Executive Board for insuing year. [See App. E.]

Finance committee made its report which was read and accepted. [See App. F.] Upon motion the clerk was authorized to have the minutes printed to the best advantage to the churches represented. Adjourned to meet after night services. Bro. Clark preached from Ephesians 4:15. After the sermon the body proceeded to business. The Executive Board made its report which was rejected. Upon motion the Secretary was excused from further service and N. G. Williams was elected Assistant Secretary. Adjourned to meet at 8:30, Saturday morning.

Saturday, 9 a. m., the Association called to order by the Moderator. Hymn "Nearer my God" was then sung by congregation, prayer by B. F. Coburn. The Moderator reported the standing committees. [See App. G.]

The report on Foreign Mission was called for, read and adopted and a collection taken amounting to \$3.65. The Clerk was instructed to send same to Secretary of Foreign Mission Board. [See App. H.]

Committee on Preaching reported that G. W. Thomason would preach at 11 a. m.

Upon motion the Moderator appointed the following as a committee on Resolutions: A. L. Tanner, J. J. Alderson and D. S. Cannon. On motion it was ordered that the next meeting of this body be on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September 1896 and that Rising Sun be the place of meeting. Adjourned till 1:30 p. m. to hear a sermon by G. W. Thomason.

Came together for preached at 11:30. Congregation sang "Jesus Lover of my Soul," Elder Thomason then preached from Hebrews 10:23. Benediction by S. L. Pine.

After a bountiful repast given by the good citizens of the community the Association came together and sang "How firm a Foundation." Prayer by A. L. Tanner.

Committee on Resolutions reported. [See App. I.]

The Treasurer's report was called for, read and adopted. [See App. J.]

Committee on Home Missions made its report, which was adopted. [See App. K.]

The rules were suspended in order that Bro. Thomason might address the body in the interest of Ouachita College, after which a cash collection was taken amounting to \$4.05 and \$10.50 in pledges.

Upon a recommendation made by the committee on Resolutions Chas. I. Walker was adopted by the Association as its beneficiary at Ouachita College and a collection, in pledges, amounting to \$64.50 was taken. [See App. L.]

D. S. Cannon was elected to preach the Introductory sermon with Bro. Coburn, alternate.

C. I. Walker was then elected to preach the Missionary sermon and B. F. House, his alternate.

A motion was made that the Association go in to the election of a Missionary, carried; whereupon D. S. Cannon was the choice of the body. Adjourned to meet after the 7 o'clock services, but on account of rain the body failed to do so.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator who led in a word of prayer. The Association was then highly entertained with some excellent songs by Prof. L. S. Burkhead and his class. After which a vote of thanks were tendered them, also the officers of the body for their services.

A collection amounting to \$12.60 was taken for Sister Morris. Adjourned to hear the Missionary sermon by Elder House.

At 11 o'clock a. m. congregation came together and sang "Amazing grace." The 53 Ps. was read and prayer offered by Eld. House, who then preached the Missionary sermon, using as a text John 14:23. After the sermon a collection was taken up, in cash, \$7.71, pledges, \$45.00. For names of those who pledged to this fund [See App. M.]

The minutes were then read and adopted, after which "Children of the Heavenly King" was sung by the congregation and the parting taken. Thus closed, we hope, a profitable meeting of the body.

Adjourned to meet with Rising Sun Baptist church on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1896.

A. H. SOEKLAND,

MODERATOR.

W. THEO. SMITH,

SECRETARY.





## COMMITTEE REPORTS.

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**—"A" The Sabbath school, properly conducted, can be made a very effective means in the study of God's word, and the diffusion of scriptural knowledge. We would therefore recommend, First: That every church in the bounds of this Association organize, and keep in successful operation a Sabbath school. Second: That they use discretion in selecting superintendents and teachers. Third: That pastors and missionaries use their best efforts to have a Sunday school organized in every church to which they preach. Fourth: We further recommend that all schools in this Association use the literature published by the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

W. THEO. SMITH.

**TEMPERANCE.**—"B" We, as the representatives of Christ, are in duty bound to stand upon the wall of Zion and cry aloud and spare not against the use of all intoxicants. While we realize that there is a great deal said in regard to alcholic drinks there could be much more said on that subject and then not do it justice. But some times we over look one evil that is doing great danger to the human race, and that is the use of opiates. Let us do all in our power to obliterate both evils from the face of the earth.

CHAS. WALKER.

**EDUCATION.**—"C" We can see much improvement in the way of education, yet it is a fact that many of our little ones are not brought up in the Sabbath school where their young minds may be taught and expressed with truths that make them wise unto Salvation. Fully realizing the great necessity of a higher grade of education we recommend that the Baptists of this Association use every means at hand to help the work of education. We also, most cheerfully, recommend to those who contemplate giving their children a higher education, our Ouachita, Mountain Home and Central colleges. None need send their children out of the state to educate them. These are

our institutions of learning, and merit our support and patronage. B. F. HOUSE.

**PUBLICATION.**—"D" "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." As Baptists, we should study the Bible to know God's will. We should read our state paper to know what our people are doing and what needs to be done. We should put in the hands of our children the helps published in our own southland. Therefore we urge Bible reading, the support of the Arkansas Baptist and the Southern Baptist convention S. S. Literature.

W. THEO. SMITH.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:**—"E" Bellevue, R. Hannah; Bethel, G. W. Belcher; Big Lagrue, R. H. Parker; Cash Prairie, S. K. Downs; Center Pt., E. J. McKewin; Cross Roads, J. W. Highfill; Crooked Creek, T. Harville; DeWitt, Ed Hanks; Grand Prairie, B. F. Coburn; Hazen, Henry Miller; Hurricane, Bro. Lewis; Macedonia, A. L. Tanner; New Bethel, J. S. Wood; New Hope, M. L. D. Webb; New Zion, Pat Dunivan; Oak Grove, W. L. Cole; Pleasant Ridge, H. J. Morris; Point DeLuce, Henry Powel; Rising Sun, J. C. Ragan; Salem, W. C. Luckett; St. Charles, J. N. Worthy; Stuttgart, C. S. Proctor; Bayou Meto, J. Carpenter.

**FINANCE.**—"F" We make the following report:

Received for minutes	\$17.15
Clerks fee	2.35
Associational fund	2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21.50</b>

J. W. HIGHFILL.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**—"G."

**Education:**—Charles Walker, M. D. L. Webb and H. B. Dudley.

**Sunday Schools:**—A. L. Tanner, Fannie Webb and Ed Hanks.

**Publication:**—H. H. Street, W. A. Calley and W. C. Luckett.

**Foreign Mission:**—B. F. House, J. J. Alderson and J. S. Word.



Home Mission:—R. F. Routh, S. K. Downs and W. J. Highfill.

Temperance:—D. S. Cannon, B. F. Coburn and W. B. Reagan.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—“H” The foreign Mission board of the Southern Baptist Convention is doing great things in spreading the Gospel in foreign lands which is in obedience to the commission of our Lord: “Go teach all nations.” The religious destiny of the world is lodged with the church as it is the custodian of the Bread of life. We wish to impress upon the minds and hearts of the brethren of the Grand Prairie Baptist Association that it is through the labors of the foreign Missionarys from other lands that we can claim three million Baptists in our own favored land. We should rejoice that the efforts of others in the foreign work are being blest and that thousands are being brought to Christ. But we regret to say that owing to the fact that our churches have withheld from the Lord’s treasury we can make no report of anything done by our Association to help on the Lord’s work. We recommend that a collection be taken now for foreign Mission

N. G. Williams.

RESOLUTIONS —“I” Believing that a christian spirit has directed our deliberation and, as we are about to seporate, we ask that the sincere thanks of the Association be tendered Center Point Baptist Church and citizens generally for the bountiful hospitality shown us during our stay with them, and that we shall remember our stay among them as one that was both pleasant and profitable.

A. L. TANNER.

TREASURE.—“J”

RECEIVED.

PAID OUT

From Treas.,	\$14.62	To clerk.	\$17.50
For minutes,	17.50	To clerk fees,	2.35
For clerk fees,	2.35	To F Mission,	3.65
For Association,	2.00	To Sister Morris,	12.60
For college,	4.05	To college,	4.05
For F. Mission,	3.65		
By collection,	7.71		<u>\$40.15</u>

For Sister Morris,	12.60
By R. H. Parker,	.38
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Total,	\$64.86

S. K. DOWNS.

HOME MISSIONS.—“K” The Home Mission board of the Southern Baptist Convention is doing great things in spreading the gospel of our Lord, and we should be under lasting obligations to it for what it has done in Arkansas. Let us, with our money, assist in the taking of the country for Christ and in showing the world what Baptist principles are. We must not overlook the fact that the religious destiny of the world is lodged with the English speaking people. To the Anglo-Saxon race God seems to have committed the work of the world’s conversion. Of this race, the American people constitute a rapidly increasing majority. Of the 5,000,000 Baptists, more than 3,000,000 are in this country and a majority of these are within the bounds of the Home Mission board.

It is through this board we reach the moral waste of the frontier and the slums of the cities. These pest houses threaten to sap the foundation of our government. It would be better for an earthquake to engulf the land than for it to be controlled by the criminals that swarm in these haunts of vice. Nothing will save us from such a fate but a Christianity strong enough to hold in check the infidelity and crime that infests our land. Christianity pure enough to write upon our governmental policy and upon everything we have to do, “Holiness to the Lord.”

Multitudes of people, speaking strange tongues, will flow into our southland from every nation. To christianize these millions will be largely the work of the Home Mission board of the Southern Baptist convention.

R. F. ROUTH.

MISSION PLEDGES.—“M” The following are the names of churches and individuals who pledged to this fund:

Cross Roads,	\$2.00	Grand Prairie,	\$5.00
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DeWitt,	5.00	Katie Pierce,	.50
Center Point,	5.00	C. L. Boyett,	1.00
New Hope,	2.00	B. F. House,	5.00
Big Lagrue,	5.00	Miss Mattie Wood,	1.00
Macadonia,	2.50	Miss Sallie Calley,	1.00
Pleasant Ridge,	5.00	Hannah Lewis,	.50
Bethel,	2.50	D. P. Calley,	1.00
Oak Grove,	1.00		
		Total,	\$45.00

PLEDGES FOR BRO. WALKER.—“M”

R. F. Routh,	\$5.00	H. G. Miller,	2.50
J. W. Robinson,	5.00	Oak Grove,	5.00
G. W. Belcher,	5.00	A. H. Soekland,	5.00
W. W. Ault,	5.00	R. A. Rix,	1.00
J. W. Highfill,	5.00	Mrs. Mary Muzzy,	1.00
Grand Prairie,	5.00	D. S. Cannon,	5.00
New Hope,	5.00	Sister Mattie Wood,	1.00
Macedonia,	5.00	Miss F. Richerson,	1.00
Sister Downs,	1.00	J. T. Hamons,	1.00
Sister Routh,	1 00		
		Total,	\$64.50

BOARD MEETING.

HAZEN, ARK., Oct. 27, 1895.

The New Board was called together by President A. H. Soekland, prayer by S. K. Downs. The following members were present:

Hazen, Henry Miller,  
 Cross Roads, J. W. Highfill,  
 Cash Prairie, S. K. Downs,  
 DeWitt, Ed Hanks,  
 Center Point, E. J. McKewen,  
 New Hope, M. D. L. Webb,  
 Grand Prairie, B. F. Coburn,  
 Bethel, G. W. Belcher,  
 Macedonia, A. L. Tanner,  
 Oak Grove, W. L. Cole,  
 Pleasant Ridge, H. J. Morris,  
 New Bethel, J. S. Wood,

It was found that the board had \$23.00 in cash and \$52.00 in pledges on hand. D S. Cannon offered his



entire service to the board as missionary for the ensuing year at a salary of \$30.00 a month, he to be collecting agent of the board and to turn over all moneys to the board as collected. His proposition was accepted and he was elected to the position of Associational Missionary. He was then authorized to go into the field and work where it was most needed.

After some discussion it was decided to make Bethel the permanent place of meeting for the Associational year. Adjourned to meet at Bethel on Saturday, 2 p. m. before the 5th Sunday in December, 1895.

A. H. SOEKLAND,  
President.

N. G. WILLIAMS  
Clerk, Protem.

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#### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Called to order by the Moderator to hear the Introductory sermon after which the Association re-assembles with the Moderator and Clerk in their seats.

2. Letters read and delegates enrolled.

3. Petitionary Letters called for.

4. The election of officers for the ensuing year.

5. Call for Correspondence.

6. Invitation to visiting brethren to seats in the body.

7. Committees appointed: (1) Committee on Education.  
(2) Committee on Sabbath Schools. (3) Committee on Finance.  
(4) Committee on Foreign Missions. (5) Committee on Publication.  
(6) Committee on Religious Exercises. (7) Committee on Temperance.

8. Complete Correspondence and Messengers with Sister Associations and the State Conventions.

9. Reports from Standing Committees.

10. Contributions and pledges from Churches received.

11. Resolutions and Propositions received.

12. Report from Executive board.

13. Determining Time and Place for holding the next Annual meeting.

14. Treasurer's Report.

15. Executive board appointed

16. Reports from Temporary Committees.

17. Appointment of brethren to preach the Introductory and Missionary sermons.

18. Reading of Minutes.

19. Parting Address by the Moderator.

## CONSTITUTION.

**ARTICLE 1.** This body shall be known by the name of the Grand Prairie Baptist Association, and composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union, who, on producing letters, shall be entitled to seats; also the ordained ministers in good standing, retiring moderator and all committees appointed at one session to report the next.

**ART. 2.** The motto of this Association shall be: "The truth in its purity, preached in every section of our bounds."

**ART. 3.** The letters from the churches must state the number of members baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed by letter, excluded, the name and postoffice of pastor and clerk.

**ART. 4.** The members thus chosen and convened, shall have no power to infringe on any of the rights of the churches, but may act as an advisory council for the common good of all the churches and advancement of the Redeemers's Kingdom, and have power to exclude any church from her fellowship which may depart from the gospel of Christ either in faith or practice.

**ART. 5.** Every church composing this Association shall be entitled to three delegates.

**ART. 6.** Should any church fail to represent herself for two consecutive years. she may be dropped from the list of churches should a satisfactory reason not be given.

**ART. 7.** New churches may be admitted into this body who petition by letter and delegates, if found to be sound in the faith and in good order, the reception to be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers.

**ART. 8.** This Association shall annually elect a Moderator from among themselves, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are observed, and take the voice of the Association on all questions properly brought before it; also, a vice Moderator, and a clerk, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all the business of the Association; also, a treasurer, to receive and disburse the funds sent up to the Association, as directed by the body, or churches sending the same.

**ART. 9.** It shall be the duty of the clerk of this Association to retain on the Minute the names of all churches admitted to membership, until such are dropped by action of the Association; and in case of non-representation, it shall be his duty to write: "Not represented," in the proper place opposite their names in the statistical table.

**ART. 10.** This Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except in the reception and dismissal of a church, which shall be unanimous.

**ART. 11.** This Association may correspond with other Associations and Conventions as may be agreed upon while in session.

**ART. 12.** It shall be the duty of the Association to appoint a minister to preach an Introductory sermon, with an alternate;



also one, with an alternate to preach a Missionary sermon at each succeeding session; and to fix the time and place for the next meeting of the body.

ART. 13. The moderator shall appoint, at each annual session, an Executive board, consisting of at least one member from each church, whose duty it shall be to elect and employ a missionary, or missionaries, in our bounds; to solicit and collect money, or issue orders on the treasurer of the Association to pay the same, which orders the treasurer is hereby authorized to pay out of any money that he may have for this purpose; also to change, during vacation, the time or place, or both, for next meeting of the Association, whenever, in the providence of God, it may be necessary. The officers of the Association shall be considered members of the board.

ART. 14. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any time, by a two-third vote of the members present, except that clause in the fourth article which prohibits interference with the internal rights of the churches; which shall forever remain in tact.

ART. 15 The minutes shall be signed by the moderator and clerk.

#### RULES OF DECORUM.

ART. 1. The Association shall be opened by singing and prayer.

ART. 2. The moderator, vice-moderator, clerk and treasurer shall be elected by ballot by the members present.

ART. 3. The moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the body.

ART. 4. The moderator shall be entitled to the privilege of speaking as other members, but not to vote, unless it is a tie.

ART. 5. All questions shall be introduced by motion, and if seconded, shall be open for discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been discussed a reasonable time, the moderator shall, when the question is called for, proceed to take it by calling for the yeas and nays, and if a call for a division is made, he shall call for a standing vote.

ART. 6. Any member wishing to speak, shall rise and address the moderator. Only one shall speak at the same time, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or make personal reflections.

ART. 7. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject, until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity, nor more than twice without permission.

ART. 8. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be decided before another is offered, unless it be laid over by motion, with the consent of the mover and the Association.



ART. 9. The names of messengers shall be called whenever the Association shall direct, and absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the moderator,

ART. 10. The appellation of "brother" shall be used in addressing each other.

ART. 11. Any member violating the rules, shall be subject to reproof by the moderator.

ART. 12. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

ART. 13. Any case coming before the Association not provided for in these rules shall be governed by general parliamentary rules.



