

MINUTES

OF THE
FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF
Spring River Baptist Association,

HOLD WITH

LIBERTY CHURCH,
RANDOLPH COUNTY, ARKANSAS,
SEPTEMBER 27, & 29, 1873.

OFFICERS :

{ D. WAGSTER, MOD.
P. M. PEARCE, CLERK.

EXECUTIVE BOARD :

{ W. B. HENRY, F. G. PICKETT,
J. P. GOODWIN, D. LANE, J. COFFLE,
D. WAGSTER, J. W. TOWNSEND.

The Executive Board met on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1873, and, after full deliberation, it was agreed with Bro. Holford, our Missionary, to suspend the missionary work until after the meeting of the Board on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in February, 1874. We appeal to each church in the Association to place their contributions and pledges in the possession of the Board before the meeting in February. We urge each member of each church in the Association to act in this matter, and act now. Every one can do something. If we are Evangelical, or Missionary Baptists, let us show it by our works. Do your duty in this behalf and every solitary place within the bounds of Spring River Association, will be made vocal with the gospel before your next annual session. Praying and Paying are equally parts of worship.

J. W. Townsend, Sect.

Rec'd \$23 20 for printing 500 Minutes. Paid Cl'k \$1 50. Postage \$2 00. Total \$26 70.

J. W. Townsend.

MINUTES.

The 5th annual session of the Spring River Baptist Association convened with Liberty church, Randolph county, Arkansas, on Saturday the 27th day of September, 1873.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder B. F. Holford from 1 Tim. ii: 5.

A short recess was taken, and, after singing and prayer, conducted by Elder R. J. Penn, the former Moderator called the Association to order, the former Clerk being absent, called on Elder Pearce to act as Clerk, p. t., called the roll of churches, read their letters, enrolled the names of messengers, and proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder D. Wagster for moderator, and Elder P. M. Pearce for clerk.

The Moderator addressed the Association briefly, and proceeded to the regular order of business, viz:

1. PETITIONARY LETTERS.—Jackson, Antioch, Walnut Hill, Pine Hill, and Dry Creek churches presented petitionary letters asking admission into this union; and it being made to appear to the satisfaction of this Association that said churches are Scriptural in their constitution, faith and practice, they are, therefore, received into this Association with equal rights and privileges of other churches.

2. CORRESPONDENCE.—From Independence Association, Bro. Rose. From Rocky Mountain Association minutes and letter from messenger. From Bethlehem Association, Elders David Thorn and N. Ramsey bearing petitionary letter for correspondence which was received and correspondence opened.

3. COMMITTEES.—On Finance, A. W. James and A. J. Gibbins. On Missions, W. B. Henry, J. P. Goodwin, D. N. Montgomery, J. Coffle W. English. On the State of the Churches, B. F. Holford and B. K. Taylor. On Preaching, A. W. James, R. Gray and F. G. Pickett. On Arrangement, J. W. Wicker, W. M. Johnson, and, on motion, the Moderator and Clerk.

4. NEXT ASSOCIATION.—It was unanimously agreed to hold the next session of this Association with the church at Evening Shade.

Report on Preaching.—The Committee on Preaching reported Bro. Thorn to preach at candle lighting to-night, Bro. Wagster to-morrow at 11 o'clock, a. m., and Bro. Ramsay to-morrow at 2 o'clock, p. m. Bro. Thorn was excused at his request.

5. On motion, the Association adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder P. M. Pearce.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, SEPTEMBER 29, 1873.

The Association assembled, and, after the reading of 1 John iii, singing and prayer by Bro. Holford, proceeded to business.

1. The minutes of the proceedings of Sat. were read and approved.

2. COMMITTEES.—On motion, Bros. Goodwin, Holford, McLeod and Wagster were appointed to report, at our next session, on Sabbath Schools within our boundry; and Bros. Townsend and Penn to report on the state of our colored people within our boundry.

3. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.—On Missions, We find that a great portion of the territory within the bounds of this Association east of Black River, on Spring River, Big Creek and Eleven Points is destitute of Baptist preaching. On the State of the Churches, We find that peace and harmony prevails in the churches throughout your bounds, with some minor exceptions, and some churches have enjoyed precious revivals of grace this year. On Arrangement, 1, Call the roll and read the minute, 2, Committee report, 3, Executive Board report, 4, Missionary report, 5, Appoint place to hold next Association, 6, Elect some one to preach Introductory, 7, Consider missionary business, 8, Resolutions. On Finance, We find \$27 70 for printing minutes. The Executive Board made a verbal report.

4. The foregoing reports were received and committees discharged.

5. Our missionary made his report as follows, [part of this report has been unavoidably lost—Clerk.] viz :

REPORT.—Miles traveled 2089, Religious visits 222, Sermons preached 468, Exhortations delivered 41, Conversions witnessed 32, Baptisms administered 30, Witnessed receptions by letter 11, Witnessed restorations 7, and aided in the constitution of 2 churches.

The reports of the Ex. Board and Missionary show a balance in his favor of \$25, which was paid off, and \$175 pledged for his support the ensuing year, and a contract closed with him for an other year. Brethren W. B. Henry, F. G. Pickett, J. P. Goodwin, John W. Townsend, D. Wagster, D. Lane and J. Coffle were appointed an Executive Board.

6. The following resolutions were adopted, to wit :

Resolved, That each church be requested to send the amount by he will pay to support a Missionary to supply the destitute within our preaching.

Resolved, That Pastors of churches be requested to urge upon their congregations the importance of Home Missions, and compliance with the above request.

Resolved, That we request each church to appoint an active member of her body, whose duty it shall be to collect missionary funds and forward quarterly to the Executive Board.

Resolved, That Elder Wagster preach the next Introductory, Elder Holford alternate.

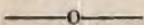
Resolved, That this Association tender their thanks to the officers for the faithful discharge of their duties, the members of Liberty church for their hospitality, and to Mr. W. R. Hunter for his kindness both to the messengers and aiding to pay our Missionary.

Resolved, That we do now adjourn to meet with Evening Shade church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1874.

7. The Association while singing took the parting hand and were dismissed in peace and love.

D. WAGSTER, MOD.

P. M. PEARCE, CLK.



On Sabbath, at 11 o'clock, a. m., Bro. Wagster preached from the Commission, "Go ye, therefore, into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," &c. The sermon well deserves the name, Missionary, for it was to the point and feeling.

At 2 o'clock, p. m., Bro. Ramsey preached from Rev. xxii. 1. His position is that the "River" is the church.

Candle lighting, Bro. Wicker preached from the text, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Clerk.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	When constituted.	No. in constit'n.	Rec'd by baptm.	Rec'd by letter.	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	Sub. meetings.	Minute funds.							
Antioch, <i>a</i>	Not given,	M. M. Jackson, G. W. Brown,	1873	4	1	17									22	1	\$1 00							
Ash Flat, <i>b</i>	Ash Flat,	No messengers nor letter,													59	1								
Big Creek, <i>c</i>	Maxville,	W. M. Johnson, J. M. Vance,	1856	6	103	25	3	35	35	16				1	48	4	1 80							
Dry Creek, <i>d</i>	Smithville.	Petitionary letter, but no messengers,	1873	5	5										10	4	50							
Evening Shade, <i>e</i>	Evening Shade,	Robert Gray,	1872	6	7										1	19	3	1 00						
Freindship, <i>f</i>	Walnut Ridge,	D. M. Montgomery,	1872	13	10	8	1		2	1				2	12	1	1 50							
Harmony, <i>g</i>	Walnut Ridge,	W. B. Henry,	1872	7	4	8									19	2	1 50							
Hill's Chapel, <i>h</i>	Smithville,	R. N. More, John M. Loyd,	1872	7	4	8									19	2	1 50							
Hopewell, <i>i</i>	Smithville,	George Werner	1854	4	84	54	3	62	33	24					24	1	1 00							
Jackson, <i>j</i>	Jackson,	J. Coffle, J. O. Howard,	1873	7	10	5									22	1	1 00							
Liberty, <i>k</i>	Pocahontas,	J. A. James, B. R. James,													1	1	4	14	2	1 50				
Little Spring, <i>l</i>	Poughkeepsa,	J. W. Wicker,	1847	4	49	52	1	82	11	20				7	4	14	6	43	3	2 00				
Mt Ver non, <i>m</i>	Jackson,	J. R. Pratt, M. D. Powers,													3	4	1	40	2	1 50				
New Hope, <i>n</i>	Smithville,	D. Wagster, S. McLeod,	1844	9	147	150	7	96	42	62				4	8	2	7	1	80	2	1 40			
Oak Grove, <i>o</i>	Pocahontas,	J. Cox, B. Knotts,													18	13	2		55	1	2 00			
Pine Hill, <i>p</i>	Evening Shade,	Petitionary letter, but no messengers,	1872	12	4				4	2				4				12	2					
Pt Grove, <i>q</i>	Smithville.	B. F. Holford, F. G. Picket, A. J. Giblins,	1851	31	95	57	4	45	20	21					6	7	2	101	4	3 00				
Pt Grove, <i>r</i>	Pocahontas,	Isaac Witt,													2			34	1	2 00				
Pt Hill, <i>s</i>	Smithville,	B. R. Taylor, D. P. Hunt, J. Witt,	1872	13	41	9	4	11	4	2				1	1	2	4	2	56	1	2 00			
Smithville, <i>t</i>	Smithville,	R. J. Penn, J. P. Goodwin, W. Price,	1850	9	47	38	1	25	4	3				17	2	10	2	50	1	2 50				
Spring River, <i>u</i>	Canton,	No letter nor messengers,																34	3					
Walnut Hill, <i>v</i>		Wm. English, Elias Lane,																						
Totals, —															82	82	4	52	12	21	779		26	70

Names of pastors and clerks. *a* Not given. *b* No letter. *c* W. M. Johnson, A. H. Vance. *d* M. Simpson, H. Simpson. *e* J. W. Miller, R. Gray. *f* P. M. Pearce, J. J. Colford. *g* D. Wagster, W. B. Henry. *h* M. Hill, J. M. Loyd. *i* L. Crawford, G. Werner. *j* Missionary, S. Howard. *k* R. M. Pearce, B. R. James. *l* J. W. Wicker, T. B. Gray. *m* J. R. Pratt, Kinsay Coats. *n* D. Wagster, S. McLeod. *o* Not given. *p* M. Simpson. *q* B. F. Holford, W. J. Watson. *r* H. Sharp, H. L. Keeby. *s* D. Hunt, G. W. Goodwin. *t* J. W. Townsend, J. P. Goodwin. *u* Not given. *v* Missionary.

[We again urge church clerks to fill out their letters by the above table.]

CONSTITUTION.

NAME.—We the Messengers of the Baptist Churches of Christ, in convention assembled, in order to perpetuate union, foster education and aid in the extension of the gospel, do ordain this Constitution for this Union, to be called, *Spring River Baptist Association*.

MESSENGERS.—The Association shall be composed of messengers chosen by the churches of this Union and accredited by letter, and each church shall be entitled to three messengers.

OFFICERS.—The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, whose duties shall be defined in Rules of Decorum.

STATISTICS.—The letters of the churches shall express the number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, the number restored, the number dismissed by letter, the number excluded, and the number dead during the last associational year; the name of the pastor, post office, amount contributed, and the object of the donation, and in no case shall the Association appropriate money to any purpose than that designed by the donor.

POWERS.—The Association shall have no ecclesiastical authority over the churches, but may give council and answer queries when requested.

ADMISSIONS.—Churches may be admitted to this Union on petitionary letters, if Scriptural in constitution and faith.

NON-FELLOWSHIP.—This Association may withdraw from any church in this Union for unchristian conduct.

VOTING.—Every question shall be decided by a majority, except the reception of churches into this Union, which must be unanimous.

MINUTES.—A minute of the proceedings of the Association shall be recorded, and, if the churches furnish the means, printed.

SESSIONS.—The Association shall hold an annual session with one of the churches of this Union on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September in each year.

AMENDMENTS.—This constitution may be amended by proposal made in writing, and entered of record, at one session, and, if a majority at the next session, vote for such amendment, it shall become part of this constitution.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. A Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be elected by the Association, who shall continue in office for one year, and until their successors are elected.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair at the hour to which the Association is adjourned, and, after prayer, proceed to business. He

shall keep order, and may speak on any subject in order for discussion before the Association, provided he shall have called some brother to the chair. When a motion is made and seconded, he shall rise to his feet and state the motion for discussion, when the discussion is ended, he shall repeat the motion, put the question to the vote of the Association, and announce the result. He shall have no vote, except in case of a tie, in that case, he shall give the casting vote. He shall see that all business be taken up under its appropriate place in the *Order of Business*. He shall conduct the the devotional exercises of the Association during her sessions, see that the Constitution and Rules of Decorum be strictly observed, appoint all committees, and sign the minutes after their approval by the Association.

3. The Clerk shall record the proceedings of the Association, read all papers before the body when required, and sign the minutes when approved.

4. The Treasurer shall receive and pay out all associational funds under the direction of the Association, and report when required to the Association.

5. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall stand up and address the Moderator. He shall not depart from the subject under discussion, nor indulge in personal reflections.

6. No member shall address another by any other appellation than "Brother."

7. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave.

8. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

9. The Moderator shall not interrupt any member while speaking, unless he violates the Rules of Decorum.

10. Any member may appeal from the decision of the Moderator to the Association.

11. Any member violating these Rules shall be removed.

12. The sessions of this Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- I. Introductory Sermon.
- II. Opening Prayer.
- III. Reading Letters.
- IV. Election of Officers.
- V. Appointment of Committees.
 1. On Finance.
 2. On Education.
 3. On Missions.
 4. On the State of the Churches.
 5. Select Committees.
- VI. Unfinished Business.
- VII. New Business.
- VIII. Final Adjournment.

We offer for sale, at city retail price, the following books:		Infant Baptism an Invention of Men		90
		Infidel's Confession		1 50
		Infidel's Daughter		1 50
Aids to Devotion	\$ 90	Jephthah's Daughter	1 50	
Atonement	65	Law's Call to Christians	1 00	
Avenging the Elect	40	Life in Judea	1 20	
Anatomy, Physiology & Hygiene	2 25	Life and Writings of A. Brauddus	1 75	
Baptist History by Crump	2 25	Little Iron Wheel	60	
Baptist History by Orchard, 2 vols.	3 00	Lord's Prayer	1 50	
Baptist Short Method	65	Madison Avenue Lectures	1 50	
Baptist Martyrs	90	Manuel of Bible Readings	60	
Baptist Manuel	75	Manuel of Baptism	1 00	
Baptist Church History of N. Eng.	90	Married Life, A Wedding Gift	50	
Baptist Denomination	60	Marriage and Married Life	1 25	
Beauties of Shakpear	2 75	Milton's Poems, Blue and Gold,	1 50	
Blood of Jesus	30	Milton's Paradise Lost,	1 90	
Booth's Reign of Grace	75	Modern Infidelity,	30	
Bunyan's Awakening Works	1 25	Old Tony and his Master,	1 50	
Bunyan's Consoling Works	1 25	Origin of Baptist, Ford,	60	
Bunyan's Devotional Works	1 25	Osborne's Lectures,	40	
Bunyan's Directing Works	1 25	Our Lord's Great Prophecy,	2 25	
Bunyan's Doctrinal Works	1 25	Pedobaptist & Campbellite Baptisms	60	
Bunyan's Experimental Works	1 25	Pengilly's Script. Guide to Bap.	40	
Bunyan's Inviting Works	1 25	Perfect Sacrifice,	75	
Bunyan's Searching Works	1 25	Perfect in Christ,	35	
Bunyan's Practical Works	1 25	Pillar of Popery,	35	
Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress	1 25	Pine Farn, or The Southern Side,	1 00	
Bunyan's Heavenly Footman	35	Philosophy of Religion,	1 50	
Byron's Poems in blue and gold	1 50	Prince Alcohol,	55	
Carson on Baptism, its modes &c.	1 75	Priscilla, or, Trials For Truth,	1 25	
Christ our Life, our hope, and our glory	1 25	Pearls For Little Ones,	50	
Christian Baptism, by Vöberg	96	Precepts and Examples	96	
Christian Union	40	Pure Gold, or, Scripture truths,	15—30	
Church Manuel	50	Questions of the Age,	15—30	
Combe's Constitution of Man	2 25	Questions to the Impenitent,	15—30	
Crawford's Christian Paradoxes	1 50	Review of Mell's Church Discipline,	60	
Composition and Rhetoric, Quacklin	2 50	Rock of Faith;	65	
Coppee's Elements of Logic	1 50	Robert Raikes	75	
Composition and Rhetoric, Hart	1 50	Rome against the Bible,	40	
Comstock's Chemistry	2 25	Sabbath Institution, Defended	30	
Comstock's Phylosophy	2 25	Story of a Pocket Bible,	90	
Distinguished Christians	75	Saints Everlasting Rest,	90	
Doddridge on Regeneration	1 00	Scott's Poems, Blue and Gold	1 50	
Daily Bible Readings	75	Story of Bethlehem,	80	
Early Choice	1 00	Sunday School Facts,	60	
Elements of Astronomy	2 40	Supper Institution, Dennison,	30	
Fuller's Works, 3 vols. Royal Sheep	9 00	Stuart on Baptism,	1 00	
Fuller's Remains	1 25	Science of Life, Buck,	1 00	
Frey's Messiahship of Jesus	90	Science, Moral, Dagg,	1 75	
Frey's Scripture Types, 2 vols.	1 50	Tales from the Parsonage,	55	
First Baptist Church in America	30	The Three Robes,	25	
Fox's Book of Martyrs	2 75	The Three Voices,	50	
French and Port. Prof. Pereira	2 25	Three Reasons why I am a Baptist	60	
Helps to Zion's Travellers	90	The Trilemma, Graves,	50	
Hess's History of the Jews	1 00	Training of Children,	30	
Hess's History of the Jews	90	Two Covenants, Hillman,	30	
Hess's History of the Jews	2 00	The Devotional Tune Book,	75	
Hess's History of the Jews	1 00	Way and Walk,	40	
Hess's History of the Jews	1 00	Virginia Baptist Preachers,	3 50	
Hess's History of the Jews	1 00			
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Address,

J. W. Townsend, Smithville, Ark.