

BLACK RIVER ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Organization

1914

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. G. Albright

R. P. Sharp

T. H. Townsend

G. E. Henry

R. V. Goss

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INTRODUCTION.

In launching a new Association it seems only right to give some of the reasons that led to it, and the undersigned have been requested to prepare such a statement.

For years this immediate section of our state has been occupied by three Associational bodies—Spring River, Current River and State Line—each of which covers a wide territory. Spring River Association embraced a portion of four counties, with a membership of thirty-five churches. This proved to be a larger field than they could take care of as it should be, and for several years there has been a growing conviction upon the part of some that there ought to be a new organization to help develop this needy field.

Again, there has been, and is yet, a wide difference of opinion among brethren composing the various churches, as to our duty with reference to the Lord's command to evangelize the world, and how it ought to be done. And while these differences were not permitted to enter into discussion in the annual meetings, it was thought that the interest of the work would be much better served if such a restriction could be removed so that those who cared to do so might feel free to discuss the work and methods employed without fear of offending. Therefore, when the Associational year came on, and the agitation was again renewed, it was brought to a definite conclusion by the Hoxie Church sending letters to various other churches asking that delegates be sent to go into such an organization. These met on November 5, 1914, representing Imboden, Black Rock, Walnut Ridge, Hoxie, Allea and Swifton, and perfected the plans so long discussed, and the result was, Black River Association. The new body will work in co-operation with the Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Tuckerman elected delegates, but they made a mistake as to the time and came a week too late. The church, however, has acted in its statistics and requested that it be enrolled as one of us.

We now extend the hand of fellowship and good will to the brethren at large, and hope that others may find with us an opportunity for larger service through our new organization.

The next meeting will be held with the Hoxie Church at a time which shall be selected by the Executive Committee. At that time we would be glad to welcome into our fellowship any who may feel that they can best carry on the Lord's work by joining their lots with us.

Faternally,

W. T. JACKSON.
CHAS. C. ELLIOTT.

Hoxie, Ark., November 6, 1914.

PROCEEDINGS.

Pursuant to a call of the Hoxie Baptist Church, of Hoxie, Ark., to take under consideration the organization of a new Association, delegates from the following churches assembled in the Baptist Church at Hoxie, on November 5, 1914, at 11 a. m., to-wit:

Alicia—Albert Pinkston, Mrs. Arthur Byrd.

Black Rock—F. C. Neely.

Hoxie—W. T. Jackson, J. P. Dunn, Mrs. J. L. Fisk.

Imboden—R. V. Goss.

Swifton—A. D. Cullom, R. P. Sharp, J. L. Johnson.

Walnut Ridge—C. G. Elliott, E. H. Tharp, H. T. Kirkpatrick, G. E. Henry.

C. G. Elliott, pastor of the church, called the assembly to order, and upon motion F. C. Neely was made temporary Moderator, and E. H. Tharp temporary Clerk.

After informal discussion in which various brethren took part, Brother W. T. Jackson moved that we proceed to organize; seconded by A. D. Cullom. After discussion by Brethren Elliott and Jackson the motion was carried.

Upon call for the enrollment of churches represented and wishing to participate, the above named delegates responded.

Upon motion which was carried, the Moderator appointed three committees, as follows:

Constitution—R. V. Goss, R. P. Sharp, G. E. Henry.

Articles of Faith—C. G. Elliott, A. D. Cullom, H. T. Kirkpatrick.

By-laws—J. P. Dunn, J. L. Johnson, Albert Pinkston.

It now being noon, the assembly adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 o'clock the assembly was called to order by the Moderator, and the following business was transacted, to-wit:

The Committee on Constitution made their report and submitted the following, which was adopted, section by section, and then as a whole:

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This body shall be known as the Black River Association of Missionary Baptist Churches.

Art. 2. Each church within the bounds of this Association shall be entitled to three delegates.

Art. 3. The officers of this body shall consist of a Moderator, and a Clerk, who shall also be Treasurer, elected annually, and who shall discharge the duties generally incumbent upon such officers.

Art. 4. The purpose of this Association shall be to enlist, combine and direct the energies of the sisterhood of churches in Missions—State, Home and Foreign; Christian Education, Sunday Schools, Orphans' Home, Temperance and such other interests as will promote our Lord's cause among men.

Art. 5. The Association shall appoint annually an Executive Committee consisting of five members, whose duty it shall be to look after the general interest of our work during the interim of the annual meetings of this body.

Art. 6. - The Association shall appoint at each annual meeting two preachers to prepare and preach a sermon each at the ensuing meeting. One to preach the Association sermon, the other to preach a doctrinal sermon.

Art. 7. This body shall be purely advisory in its purpose and work, and shall never usurp the authority of the churches, or infringe upon the independence and right of the individual church.

Art. 8. This Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting; provided, such amendment be offered at the first day and voted on the second day of the meeting of the body.

The Committee on Articles of Faith made their report, which was adopted, as follows:

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—equal in power and glory.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were written by the inspiration of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, of total depravity and man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4. We believe that God chose His people, in Jesus Christ, before the foundation of the world, and that they are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

6. We believe that the Gospel is God's appointed means of calling sinners to the knowledge of the truth; and that He has commanded it to be preached to every creature.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith and the only evidence of justification; and that all believers will abound therein from a principle of love.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the just and the unjust; the general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

9. We believe that a visible church of Christ is composed only of baptized believers, who have covenanted to keep up a discipline agreeable to the New Testament.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only law-giver of His church, and that the government is with the church, each member having equal rights therein.

11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances of the church, and are to be observed until the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

12. We believe that immersion alone is baptism, and can be administered only by those duly authorized by the church, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects for the ordinance.

13. We believe that regularly baptized believers only have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

The Committee on By-laws made their report, which was also adopted, as follows:

BY-LAWS.

1. All meetings of this Association shall be opened with prayer, and closed with prayer or benediction.

2. The officers of this Association shall hold their positions until successors are chosen.

3. The Moderator shall preside, or some brother whom he may designate while speaking, and shall preserve order; his decisions being final, unless an appeal is immediately made to the body.

4. It shall be in order for only one person to speak at a time, who shall first be recognized by the Moderator.

5. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion, or uses personal reflection.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to a vote, unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. After allowing due time for debate all questions taken up shall be disposed of before any other motion can be entertained.

8. No member shall speak more than once upon the same subject without permission of the Association, nor shall any practice be tolerated which interrupts speaking.

9. Members shall use the term brother, when speaking of each other, and shall be rebuked by the Moderator for violation of these rules.

10. These rules may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

11. Kerfoot's Parliamentary Practice shall be adopted as the standard in the government of this body.

The Moderator now announced that the body was ready for permanent organization, and a motion was made that a Nominating Committee be appointed, who should recommend officers, Executive Committee, time and place of next meeting, and preachers for the occasion.

The following were appointed:

A. D. Cullom, W. T. Jackson and R. V. Goss.

Brother R. M. Inlow, General Secretary of the Convention Board, having come in, was recognized and asked to address us

while the committee was making up its report, and he gave us a most interesting statement of conditions existing at the Orphans' Home at Monticello, Ark.

The committee made its report as follows:

For permanent Moderator, F. C. Neely, Black Rock, Ark.

For permanent Clerk and Treasurer, E. H. Tharp, Walnut Ridge.

Executive Committee—A. F. Albright, Hoxie; R. P. Sharp, Swifton; J. H. Townsend, Black Rock; G. E. Henry, Walnut Ridge; R. V. Goss, Imboden, Ark.

That the next meeting be held with the Hoxie Church, and C. G. Elliott preach the Associational sermon, and A. D. Cullom the doctrinal sermon, and that the time of meeting be selected by the Executive Committee so as not to conflict with other Associational meetings.

After some discussion the report was adopted.

Just at this point it was moved, seconded and carried that the delegates present come forward and receive from Brother Inlow the hand of recognition as a new organization, which was right heartily given.

After this Brother Inlow was again asked to tell us something of his work, and he gave us a thrilling address on State Missions.

The Association then adjourned until 7:30 p. m., after the announcement that the Moderator would preach at that hour.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Association met promptly at 7:30. Devotional exercises were conducted by Brother Elliott, pastor of the church, after which Brother Neely preached.

The question of the employment of an Associational Missionary was brought up, and referred to the Executive Committee with authority to act.

The Clerk was instructed to have a sufficient number of minutes printed to distribute not only in the Association but among other churches in this territory.

Adjourned with prayer by the Moderator.

F. C. NEELY, Moderator.

E. H. THARP, Clerk.

STATISTICS.

ALICIA—Pastor, A. D. Cullom, Swifton; Clerk, Mrs. Eva Byrd, Alicia; members, 12.

BLACK ROCK—Pastor, F. C. Neely, Black Rock; Clerk, Miss Kiddle Matthews, Black Rock; members, 108.

HOXIE—Pastor, C. G. Elliott, Walnut Ridge; Clerk, J. P. Dunn, Hoxie; members, 59.

IMBODEN—Pastor, ——— ———; Clerk, J. W. Ragan, Imboden; members, 110.

SWIFTON—Pastor, A. D. Cullom, Swifton; Clerk, R. P. Sharp, Swifton; members, 50.

TUCKERMAN—Pastor, G. R. Tyler, Tuckerman; Clerk, Tad Bradley, Newport, R. F. D.; members, 125.

WALNUT RIDGE—Pastor, C. G. Elliott, Walnut Ridge; Clerk, J. M. McCarroll, Walnut Ridge; members, 141.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

ALICIA—

BLACK ROCK—Superintendent, Frank McWhorter; Secretary, Duncan Anderson.

HOXIE—Superintendent, J. P. Dunn; Secretary, Miss Christine Edwards; enrollment, 80.

IMBODEN—Superintendent, J. J. Estes; Secretary, Miss Della Herring; enrollment, 85.

SWIFTON—Superintendent, R. P. Sharp; Secretary, Miss Willie Ellis; enrollment, 46.

TUCKERMAN—Superintendent, R. H. Dark; Secretary, Miss Bertha Smith; enrollment, 80.

WALNUT RIDGE—Superintendent, G. E. Henry; Secretary, H. H. Fitzgerald; enrollment, 150.

WOMAN'S SOCIETIES.

ALICIA—

BLACK ROCK—President, Mrs. E. W. Williams; Secretary, Mrs. Rachel Anderson.

HOXIE—President, Mrs. Noah Edwards; Secretary, Mrs. Dollie Fisk.

IMBODEN—President, Mrs. J. A. Hill; Secretary, Miss Ida James.

SWIFTON—President, Mrs. Ada Moon; Secretary, Mrs. Pearl Cross.

WALNUT RIDGE—President, Mrs. W. Story; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Smith.

TUCKERMAN—President, ——— ———; Secretary, Mrs. Anne Robertson.

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BLACK ROCK—President, Mrs. F. C. Neely; Secretary, Charley Warren.

HOXIE—President, Roy Moore; Secretary, A. G. Albright.

TUCKERMAN—President, ——— ———; Secretary, Miss Lula Dunn.

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