

HISTORICAL

Minutes of The
**Organization of the Stone
County Association**

Held With

CORINTH CHURCH

At Mountain View, Arkansas.

November 16-17, 1918

OFFICERS:

ELD. J. A. BRANSCUM,	-	-	Moderator.
W. J. GOWER,	-	.	Clerk.
ELDER T. D. JEFFERSON,	-		Treasurer.

PROCEEDINGS

The messengers of the Churches met with Corinth Church at Mountain View, Stone County, Ark., on Saturday, November 16th, at 2 p. m. The body was called to order by Elder R. A. Suggs, and the following officers were chosen, to-wit: Elder J. A. Branscum, Moderator; W. J. Gower, Clerk; and Elder T. D. Jefferson, Treasurer. The Covenant was signed by the messengers.

COVENANT

Mtn. View, Ark., Nov. 16, 1918.

Whereas, the messengers from the churches of Stone County that represented at the meeting at Corinth Church, at Mountain View, Nov. 16, 1918, deem it necessary for the betterment of Christianity and for more effective work in the cause, enter into an organization of an Association known as the Stone County Association of Missionary Baptists, and we obligate ourselves to faithfully stand for the purposes of the Association.

CHURCHES AND MESSENGERS

Bethany Church: J. A. Branscum, W. W. Branscum and J. J. Balentine. Pleasant Valley Church: E. M. Stephens, and T. J. Mealer. Corinth Church: T. D. Jefferson, R. A. Suggs and T. F. Evans. Blue Mountain Church: J. T. Smith and P. C. Goodwin. Shady Grove Church: G. W. Wilcox. Timbo Church: J. W. Gammill. Big Spring Church: W. J. Gower. Pine Chapel Church: John Thomas and Ada Prince.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees:

Committee on Arrangement: T. D. Jefferson, R. A. Suggs and J. T. Smith.

Committee on Constitution: T. D. Jefferson, J. W. Gammill and P. C. Goodwin.

Committee on Rules of Decorum: T. E. Evans, E. M. Stephens and W. W. Branscum.

Committee on Articles of Faith: J. T. Smith, J. J. Balentine and R. A. Suggs.

The Association then took recess till 6:30 p. m.

The Association met on time. Prayer by T. D. Jefferson. The Moderator called for report of the Committee on Articles of Faith, which was received and adopted.

Called for report of Committee on Constitution. Report received and adopted.

Called for report of Committee on Rules of Decorum. Report received and adopted.

The Association took recess till 9:00 a. m. Sunday morning.

On Sunday morning the Association met on time. The Moderator read the 116 Psalm, prayer by J. J. Balentine.

By motion and second of this body, the Stone County Association shall meet annually on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September in each year.

The Association decided to put a Missionary in Stone County, one-fourth time from the adjournment of this Association until the 15th of July, 1919, then full time until the next meeting of the Association. Elder J. A. Branscum was chosen as Missionary. The Association agreed to pay him \$5.00 per month for one-fourth time, until July 15th, 1919, then to pay him \$50.00 per month for full time till the next meeting of this Association, on Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1919. The following Churches pledged the amounts as follows:

Corinth Church, \$50.00; Pleasant Valley Church, \$25.00; Bethany Church, \$25.00; Shady Grove Church, \$10.00; Blue Mountain Church, \$25.00; Timbo, \$25.00; Big Spring Church, \$10.00; Total \$170.00.

R. A. Suggs, W. M. Anderson and P. C. Goodwin were appointed as an Emergency Committee.

DEVOTIONAL SERVICES

Saturday night, Preaching by Elder J. J. Balentine, concluded by R. A. Suggs.

Sunday, Preaching by the Moderator, concluded by R. A. Suggs.

Blue Mountain Church was chosen as the next place of meeting on Friday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1919. Elder R. A. Suggs was chosen to preach the Introductory Sermon.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Jacob King, Mountain View, Ark.

J. J. Goodman, Timbo, Ark.

R. A. Suggs, Mountain View, Ark.

T. D. Jefferson, Mountain View, Ark.

J. A. Branscum, New Nata, Ark.

J. J. Balentine. Onia, Ark.

G. W. Fox, Alco, Ark.

J. S. Kelley, Hedges, Ark.

Resolved, that we tender our heartfelt thanks to Corinth Church for their kind hospitality shown to us during our stay with them.

May the Lord bless and lead them in the path of Peace and Happiness.

W. J. Gower, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION

Of the Stone County Association of Missionary Baptists.
The Boundary Lines to be Stone County

Article 1. This Union of Churches shall be known and distinguished by the name of Stone County Association of Missionary Baptists.

Article 2. This Association shall be composed of delegates from churches in union, each church shall be entitled to three delegates who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by their several churches before they take their seats.

Article 3. The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by ballot of the members of the Association at each annual session, and shall continue in office until their successors are chosen.

Article 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies in all matters of internal government and shall act only as advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or is evidently implied by the nature of this compact. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates from the churches, and the right to withdraw from and disown all churches which depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodoxy in faith or disorderly in practice. It shall therefore regard all under this constitution with a vigilant eye for good, and endeavor to extend the Kingdom of Christ on earth through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and cultivate a close fellowship with all the churches of Christ, especially those united in this constitution.

Article 5. Newly constituted churches, or any church desiring to unite with this union may be admitted on sending their delegates to any annual meeting of this Association with a petition for admission, and their delegates agreeing to the abstracts of principles herein.

Article 6. The churches of this union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association a written communication specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, the

number baptised, received by letter, dismissed, restored, deceased, number of licentiates and ordained ministers, since our last session, and all other information which the churches may deem important, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

Article 7. This Association may have a fund supplied by voluntary contributions of the churches, and all money contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over through the Finance Committee to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall retain and manage funds agreeably to the order of the Association and shall present annually for insertion in the minutes a clear statement of all receipts and expenditures.

Article 8. This association shall furnish the Churches with the minutes of every session.

Article 9. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent to it by churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and failed, nor any difficulty between churches unless they have pursued the directions given in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them. When this Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at its discretion.

Article 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of each session of this body, and deliver same to his successor in office.

Article 11. Any Church or individual of this Association shall have the privilege of giving their missions funds through the channel of the Convention Board, or the General Association. They shall also have the privilege of donating to the Baptist Orphans Home at Monticello or Texarkana.

Article 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of this Association by the concurring voice of two-thirds the members present, provided such alteration or amendment be approved by the churches comprising this Association.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and shall have the right to call to order at any time.
4. A member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the

Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and obtain permission to speak.

6. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject, or unless words of personal reflection are used. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by he who made it.

8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another can be offered.

9. When a question is up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and the members on the affirmative of the question shall signify the same by rising from their seats, and those on the negative retain theirs.

10. The Moderator shall announce the decision before those standing resume their seats.

11. Any member wishing permission to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

12. No member shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission of the Association, nor more than once until every member that wishes to speak shall have spoken.

13. The appellation of Brother shall be used in the Association by members addressing each other.

14. The names of the members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

15. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt while speaking.

16. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

17. Any member violating these rules may be reprov'd by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the violation is done.

T. F. Evans,
W. W. Branscum,
E. M. Stevens,
Committee.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in the only true and living God, the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are Divine authority and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe that man cannot, by his own free will or ability, recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature.

4. We believe in Original Sin.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election according to the foreknowledge of God, through sanctification unto obedience of the Spirit and sprinkling of the Blood of Christ.

6. We believe the Saints will be preserved in Grace and never fall away.

7. We believe Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church of Christ; that Baptism by immersion is the only Apostolic mode and that true believers are the only proper subjects and washing the Saint's feet is a duty.

8. We believe in the Resurrection of the Dead, and a General Judgement.

9. We believe that the joys of the Saints and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.

10. We believe no minister has the right to administer the ordinance except those who have been legally baptised and called of God, and come under the imposition of hands by a Presbytery.

11. We believe it to be our indispensible duty to do all we can for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom and the spread of the Gospel.

12. We believe that the Missionary Baptist Church of Christ was established during His personal Ministry, and has a complete chain of succession from then until now.

There being no further business, the brethren and friends took the parting hand. Thus ended a good and harmonious meeting.

Elder J. A. Branscum, Moderator.

W. J. Gower, Clerk.

Elder T. J. Jefferson, Treasurer.