

MINUTES

—OF THE—

11TH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

1879

Crooked Creek Association

OF BAPTISTS,

HELD WITH

Union Church, Newton County, Arkansas.

September 27th, 28th and 29th.

HARRISON, ARK.
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SATURDAY, Sept. 27th, 1879.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Isaac Davis, from Luke 1st chap. and latter clause of the 33d verse, "Of this kingdom there shall be no end."

After 15 minutes recess the Association was called together by Brother Alfred Moss, the former Moderator not being present, and the following proceedings were had, viz:

Brother J. H. Alexander was chosen Moderator, pro tem.

Letters were called for and presented from the different churches, and read, and delegates names enrolled.

From Bellefonte, letter and delegate, Wm. Goodhue.

Attest, Elder J. H. Alexander, R. F. Sham, John Sego and Mastin Wallrip.

Bethlehem, J. W. Grantham, Jas. Sams, Warran Sams, L. W. Edwards and Wm. Edwards.

Cave Springs, Alfred Moss, W. R. Speer, W. P. Grogan, Wm. Holt. Enon, Philip Hilger.

Prairie Grove, Elder W. N. Edwards, J. B. Baines and A. J. Roberts. Spout Spring, N. W. Roper and I. M. Eoff.

Union, Boone Co., Elder Isaac Davis, Robt. Capps, J. M. Reece and J. C. Hancock.

Union, Newton Co., Elder N. F. Bradley, Hiram Cane, F. C. Stephens and Jas. Harris.

Walnut Grove, Marion Long and W. S. Black.

Sugar Loaf, Uriah Hunnicut.

New Hope, John Hankins and D. C. Tinsley.

On motion, the rules were suspended and newly constituted churches were invited. Orion appeared by letter and her delegates, W. W. Brown and J. M. Johnson. The Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship, and they invited to seats with us.

The Association now proceeded to the election of officers to preside during the sitting of this Association, which resulted in the election of brethren A. J. Roberts, Moderator and W. S. Black, Clerk.

Called for corresponding messengers from other associations. White River Association appeared by letter and delegate, Willis Wright who took a seat with us.

Invitation to ministers of our faith and order, brother E. R. Graham, from Carrollton church, appeared and took a seat with us.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the committee of arrangements, brethren Isaac Davis, Alfred Moss and Philip Hilger, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

The committee on devotional exercises, were brethren Wm. Goodhue, Grogan and Johnson, together with the delegation from this church.

Committee on Domestic Missions, Mastin Waltrip, Roper and Eld. J. H. Alexander.

Committee on Resolutions, J. B. Baines, Wm. Speer and John Hawkins.

Committee on Finance, Grantham and Robt. Capps.

Committee on Publications, Philip Hilger and Sams.

Committee on Querries, Alfred Moss & Brown.

Committee on Sabbath Schools, dispensed with.

Committee on Devotional Exercises made their report, read and received, and Marked (A).

Moved the association adjourn till Monday Morning 8 o'clock.

Sabbath 9 o'clock, prayer meeting. At 11, Eld. W. N. Edwards delivered a discourse from Romans, 5th chapter and 15th verse. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ," to a large and well ordered congregation, and at 4 o'clock a sermon by Eld. W. E. Graham.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 o'clock:

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Isaac Davis. Roll called, absentees noted.

On motion the Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum were read.

Moved and carried that the word holy, be stricken from the 14th article of our declaration of faith.

Committee on arrangements, made their report. Read, adopted and committee discharged.

Extended invitations to newly constituted churches none appeared. Report on domestic missions read, adopted, and committee discharged, marked (B).

Report of finance committee received and committee discharged, marked (C).

Moved and carried that the following members be appointed to take subscriptions for missionary papers: For Bellefonte, Jas. H. Robinson; for Bethel, Jas. Davis; for Bethlehem, Jas. Sams; for Cave Spring, Wm. Speer; for Enon, Philip Hilger; for Prairie Grove, J. B. Baines; for Spout Springs, N. W. Roper; for Union Boone Co., Robert Capps; for Union Newton Co., N. F. Bradley; for Walnut Grove, W. S. Black; for Sugar Loaf, W. H. Raly; for Orion, W. W. Brown; for New Hope, D. C. Tinsley.

Moved we now go into the election of a Missionary to preach in the Bounds of this Association. Resulted in the election of W. N. Edwards, who accepted.

Moved we now appoint a committee composed of one member from each church and that W. S. Black, our Treasurer, act in conjunction with said committee, and Robt. Capps is appointed in District No 1; in No. 2, Mastin Waltrip; in No. 3, A. Harris; in No. 4, J. W. Grantham.

That the Missionary shall be paid Quarterly out of the means contributed for Missionary purposes and furnished by the Association district committee.

Moved that brother Edwards collect what he can as Missionary, and report to our next Association.

Report of committee on Publications, read and received, committee discharged and Marked (D).

Report of the committee on Resolutions read and adopted, committee discharged and Marked (E).

Moved that Query No. 3, be postponed till next Association. Motion was lost. Query: What is the door into the church. The Association says the right hand of fellowship after Baptism is the door into the church.

Query No. 4: Has a minister alone in the absence of a church the right to hear an experience and administer baptism. The Association says no.

The several districts are advised to hold Union meetings on the 5th Sabbath in each month where the 5th Sunday occurs.

Moved that the Clerk of this Association be appointed to attend to the printing and distribution of the minutes, and that 400 copies be printed.

Our next Association will be held with Enon church, Boone Co. Ark. commencing on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1880 and that Elder J. H. Alexander preach the introductory sermon. N. F. Bradley his alternate.

Moved we appoint Alfred Moss, Roper and Elder W. N. Edwards, messengers to White River Association, and that A. Moss write the corresponding letter to the same, and that Brethren Marion Long Wm. Speer and Eld. E. R. Graham write a letter to Union Association and bear the same.

Moved we now adjourn till the time and place of our next Association. Done and signed by order of the Association.

A. J. ROBERTS, Moderator.

W. S. BLACK, Clerk.

(A.)

We, the Committee on Devotional Exercises, beg leave to make the following report: Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, preaching at 11 o'clock by W. N. Edwards, Bro. Graham at 4 o'clock P. M., J. H. Alexander at night.

N. F. BRADLEY, Chairman.

(B.)

We, your Committee on Home and Domestic Missions, beg leave to make the following report: We find nothing done the past year, in the cause of Missions, but find great destitution of Baptist preaching in the bounds of this Association, and would recommend that this body sends a missionary to labor in the bounds of this Association.

(C.)

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit: Received for printing minutes,

Bellefonte,	90	Union, Boone Co.,	1 00
Bethel,	2 00	Union, Newton Co.,	75
Bethlehem,	75	Walnut Grove,	750
Cave Spring,	85	Sugar Loaf,	1 00
Enon,	1 00	Orion,	50
Prairie Grove,	1 00	New Hope,	50
Spout Spring,	1 00		
Total,			\$12 25

(D.)

We your committee on publication, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit: We would recommend the special reading of the Bible, which is our rule of faith and practice, also Ford's Christian Repository, published at St. Louis, Mo., the Baptist, published at Memphis, Tenn., and the Western Baptist, published at Little Rock. We would further recommend our people to take and read those publications, that they may be well informed in the workings of our people throughout the land. All of which is respectfully submitted.

PHILIP HILGER.

(E.)

We your committee on resolutions beg leave to make the following report:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the members of the Church and the citizens of this vicinity, for their hospitality and good behavior during our meeting, and also to the officers of this Association for the faithful discharge of their duty during this session.

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the death of our beloved brother and faithful minister, Elder E. Martin, and deeply sympathize with his bereaved wife and children.

J. B. BAINES, Chairman.

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DECLARATION OF FAITH.

ART. 1. We believe that the 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 there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is Jehovah, 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 of the God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, 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 defence or excuse.

4. We believe the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature yet without sin, honored the Divine law by His personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies, with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and an all sufficient Saviour.

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 works 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 it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every 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 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 born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with Divine Truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence appears in the Holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

8. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also 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 as the only and all sufficient Savior.

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the moral 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 infinitely 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 the 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 sealer 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 real believers as endure unto 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 the scriptures ascribe to fallen man 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 of the means of Grace, connected with the establishment of His visible Church.

13. We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

14. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, administered by a legal administrator, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin, and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a Church relation and to 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 of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public and by preparation for that rest that remains 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 magis-

trates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to 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 there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief, and in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

18. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the Last Day, Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that the judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or Hell on principles of righteousness.

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CONSTITUTION.

We the churches of Jesus Christ, called Baptists, being assembled through our Delegates at Bellefonte, Boone County, Ark., on Saturday before the second Sabbath in May, A. D. 1869, agree to form ourselves into an Association for the purpose of instruction, edification and the promotion of the cause of our blessed Redeemer.

ART. 1. The Association shall be composed of Messengers or Delegates chosen by the Churches in our union, who on presenting letters certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The Messengers there chosen, when convened, shall be known as the "Crooked Creek Association," who shall be not merely an advisory counsel, but also for the advancement of the cause and kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Each Church in the Association shall be entitled to four Delegates, and any Church failing to represent herself shall render the reason to the next Association.

4. Letters from the Churches shall state the number received by experience, baptism, letter, recommendation or restoration; those dismissed by letter, excommunicated or deceased, since the last Association; also the whole number in fellowship.

5. New Churches may be admitted into the Association, who petition by letter and delegates, and adopting or subscribing to our articles of faith, constitution and rules of decorum, the Moderator giving the hand of fellowship.

6. The Association shall elect a Moderator and Clerk, by the suffrages of the members present.

7. The Association shall have a fund for her support which shall be supplied by voluntary contribution of the Churches sent by the hands of her Messengers, which shall be at her disposal for Association purposes only.

8. Donating or withholding our means for religious purposes shall be at the free volition of any member, and it to be no bar to fellowship.

9. Questions may be sent by Churches in their letters or brought in by motion and second, and may or may not be investigated as the Association may determine.

10. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members, except the reception of members which shall be unanimous.

11. The Association shall have power to withdraw her fellowship from any Church in her union who after due admonition shall be unsound in faith or practice.

12. Some one of her Ministers shall be appointed by the Association each session to preach the introductory sermon at the next.

13. She may correspond with other Associations as she may determine, while in session.

14. There shall be a Treasurer appointed by the Association who shall receive and disburse all funds belonging to her as she may direct.

15. The Clerk shall keep a minute of the proceedings which shall be printed and distributed among the Churches according to the membership.

16. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerk, before the association recess.

17. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time when two-thirds of the Churches may deem it necessary.

17. The association at each session shall determine the time and place for the next.

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RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator shall cause each session to open and close with prayer.

2. Ministers present invited to seats are privileged to speak with us on all subjects, but vote on none.

3. Those who speak shall rise to their feet and respectfully address the brother Moderator.

4. No motion shall be entertained without a second.

5. If when a motion has been made and seconded, a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, should this question be discussed and negatived, the subject shall drop.

6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless ordered at the time.

7. No one shall speak more than three times on any subject, without special leave from the Association.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator; if so his name shall be left off the minutes.

9. The stand shall be supplied with preaching from time to time during the session, only by consent of the Association.

10. The Moderator shall decide by his vote all questions upon which there is no majority.

11. The Moderator shall state and explain questions before the Association, and take the sense of the Association in all cases where a vote is taken, except by ballot.

12. No motion shall be entertained until the one under discussion has been disposed of, except a motion to adjourn, postpone, amend or put the main question.

13. The Moderator shall call to order any member who, while speaking, use discourteous language or departs from the subject under discussion.

14. These rules may be amended at any time when a majority of the members may deem it necessary.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Showing the state of the different Churches, respectively.

CHURCH.	POST OFFICE.	ORD. MINISTERS.	DELEGATES.	By Letter,	Rec'd by Baptism,	Dismissed,	Excluded,	Dead,	Ordained Ministers,	Total,
Bellefonte,	Bellefonte,	E. Martin,	W. Goodhue,	11	8	11	4	8	1	37
Bethell,	Harrison,	J. H. Alexander,	R. A. Shaw, John Sego, Mastin Waltrip,	17	12	6	2	1	1	67
Enon,	Harrison,	J. T. Bell,	Philip Hilger,	0	0	1	1	1	1	23
Bethlehem,	Cassville,	J. W. Grantham,	J. W. Grantham, Jas. Sams, Warren Sams, L. W. Edwards,	4	6	0	0	0	0	26
Lave Spring,	Harrison,	Supply, Elder E. Sarebee,	Alfred Moss, W. R. Spear, W. P. Grogan, W. Holt,	0	1	12	0	1	0	38
Prairie Grove,	Harrison,	Elder W. N. Edwards,	J. B. Baines, A. J. Roberts,	5	0	7	1	0	1	37
Spout Spring,	Valley Springs,	Supply, Elder Isaac Davis,	N. W. Roper, I. M. Eoff,	5	1	6	1	0	0	18
Union, Boone Co.	Elmwood,	Elder Isaac Davis,	Robert Capps, J. M. Reece, J. C. Hancock.	1	0	6	1	1	1	26
Union, Newton Co.	Mount Parthenon,	N. F. Bradley,	Hiram Lave, F. O. Stephens, Jas. Harris,	0	1	14	0	0	0	20
Walnut Grove,	Harrison,	Supply, Elder Isaac Davis,	Marion Long, W. S. Black,	1	4	4	0	0	0	20
Sugar Loaf,	Harrison,	Jas. Stracener,	Uriah Honeycutt,	8	4	6	8	4	1	20
New Hope,	Elmwood,	Supply I. R. Stephens,	John Hankins, D. C. Tinsley,	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Orion,	Elmwood,	Supply, W. N. Edwards,	W. W. Brown, J. H. Johnson, J. M. Johnson,	5	8	0	0	9	0	23