

MINUTES

OF THE

First Annual Session

OF THE

Wolf Bayou Association

OF

GENERAL BAPTISTS

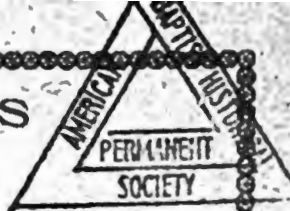
Held with Concord Church, in Arkansas, on
September 21 and 23, 1901.

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ELDER J. C. WILLEFORD, Moderator.
J. C. ALEXANDER, Clerk, Denmark, Ark.

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GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
OWENSVILLE, IND.



MINUTES.

The First Session of Wolf Bayou Association met with Concord Church, Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1901. Services were opened by J. C. Willeford reading the 3rd chapter of Romans. Prayer led by J. C. Willeford.

Introductory Sermon was preached by J. C. Lassiter; text, St. Mark 10:52; followed by R. M. Smith.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator and the following committees were appointed:

On Divine Services—A. J. Ward, W. R. Webb, J. C. Alexander.

On Credentials—J. B. Scoggin, J. L. Alexander, David Miller.

Motion to adjourn to 8 o'clock.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by Mdoerator. Singing by congregation, and prayer by W. F. Thomas. Called for letters of the different churches.

Called for petitionary church letters. Pleasant Grove and Camp were presented. Motion carried that the two churches be received into full fellowship with us.

Proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, which were as follows: Elder J. C. Willeford, Moderator; J. C. Alexander, Clerk.

The messengers' names were enrolled and letters read.

The various committees were appointed as follows:

Sunday School—W. F. Thomas, R. M. Smith, J. B. Scoggin.

Prayer Meeting—J. C. Lassiter, J. W. Foust, J. L. Alexander.

Correspondence—A. J. Ward, J. F. Goff, W. R. Webb.

Requests and Resolutions—Z. R. Dobbins, J. F. Goff, J. B. Scoggin.

Finance—J. W. Foust, W. F. Thomas, David Miller.

Home Mission—W. F. Thomas, J. C. Lassiter, A. J. Ward.

Moved and seconded that Brother A. Nash be received as an alternate in Brother White's place, from Antioch.

Motion to adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer led by R. M. Smith, and adjourned.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association convened at 8 o'clock Monday morning. Prayer by J. C. Willeford. Minutes read and approved.

Call made for letters from new churches. One was presented.

Moved and seconded that we receive the new church into full fellowship with us. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that this Association receive new churches into the Association by entire delegation extending them the right hand of fellowship. Motion carried.

and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the delegates of the new churches.

Report of committee on Sunday School received and committee discharged. Report was adopted.

Report of committee on Prayer Meeting received and adopted, and the committee discharged.

W. F. Thomas was appointed Assistant Moderator, and David Miller Assistant Clerk.

Report of committee on Correspondence received and committee discharged. Report discussed, amended and adopted.

Report of committee on Requests and Resolutions received and adopted, and committee discharged.

Report of committee on Home Mission received and adopted, and committee discharged.

Motion to adjourn till 3 o'clock. Prayer led by J. W. James, and adjourned.

MONDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Association convened at 3 o'clock by singing. Prayer led by J. W. Foist.

Moved and seconded that the minutes of the organization of Wolf Bayou Association be read. Motion carried.

Report of committee on Credentials received and committee discharged. Report discussed and adopted.

Report of committee on Finance received and adopted, and committee discharged.

Moved and seconded that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he be allowed \$2.00 for his services. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we retain control over any member when lettered out until joined to another church of some true, orthodox denomination. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the next association be held with Liberty church, Jackson county, Arkansas, to convene at 11 o'clock on Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1902. Motion carried.

Eld. J. W. James was elected to preach the next Introductory Sermon, with Elder J. F. Goff as alternate.

Motion to adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning. Prayer led by J. C. Lassiter, and adjourned.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association convened Tuesday morning. Prayer by J. C. Brightwell. The Association called to order by the Moderator.

Moved and seconded that this Association organize a presbytery. Motion carried.

Concord church requested the ordination of S. A. Capps as a deacon.

Extended the parting hand till we meet again. Prayer by R. M. Smith, and the Association adjourned to meet with Liberty church on Thursday before the first Sunday in September, 1902.

Thus closed the happiest of our associations.

J. C. WILLEFORD, Moderator.

W. F. THOMAS, Ass't Mod'r.

J. C. ALEXANDER, Clerk.

DAVID MILLER, Ass't Clerk.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Divine Service.—Saturday morning, J. C. Lassiter, text St. Mark 10:52; Saturday night, J. F. Goff, text Rom. 8:1; Sunday morning, J. C. Willeford, text Matt. 28:19, 20; Sunday night, W. F. Thomas, text Luke 16:13; Monday morning, J. W. Foust, text Acts 7:37; Monday night, R. M. Smith, text Acts 1:5.

Credentials.—We your committee on Credentials submit the following report: So far as we can ascertain, all is O. K.—David Miller, Chairman.

Prayer Meeting.—We your committee beg leave to submit the following report on Prayer Meeting: We recommend prayer meeting at least once each month in each church.—J. W. Foust, Chairman.

Correspondence.—We your committee on Correspondence recommend that we correspond with sister associations by letter, by minutes or by messengers.—A. J. Ward, Chairman.

Requests and Resolutions.—We your committee on Resolutions recommend that our people study the Bible prayerfully, and the happiness of God's people in general.—Z. R. Dobbins, Chairman.

Home Mission.—We your committee on Home Mission recommend that each church support home mission as far as possible, and that we recommend for each church to see after the poor of their community.—W. F. Thomas, Chairman.

Sunday School.—We your committee on Sunday School recommend that each church keep up a union Sunday-school, as we can all be a help in bringing the rising generation to the fold of God.—W. F. Thomas, Chairman.

Finance.—We your committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report: We have received from each church as follows: Concord, \$1.10; Antioch \$1, Liberty \$1, Corinth \$2.04, Pleasant Grove 50 cents, Camp 50 cents; balance in treasury, \$2.00. Total, \$8.14.—J. W. Foust, Chairman.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

W. R. Webb,	Z. R. Dobbins,	A. J. Ward,
J. F. Goff,	David Miller,	J. C. Brightwell,
J. B. Scoggin,	A. Nash,	J. L. Alexander,
R. M. Smith,	J. C. Alexander,	J. C. Willeford,
J. C. Lassiter,	W. F. Thomas,	J. W. Foust,
J. W. James.		

ADDRESSES OF CLERKS.

J. C. Alexander, Denmark, Ark.
 Nannie May, Wilburn, Ark.
 John Grizzle, Newport, Ark.
 A. J. Ward, Wolf Bayou, Ark.
 Lucy Mullins, Tina, Ark.
 E. C. Dermond, Gin, Ark.

ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS.

J. F. Goff, Gin, Ark.
 R. M. Smith, Wolf Bayou, Ark.
 J. C. Lassiter, Tina, Ark.
 W. F. Thomas, Tina, Ark.
 J. W. Foust, Wolf Bayou, Ark.
 J. W. James, Desha, Ark.
 J. C. Willeford, Tina, Ark.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.		PASTORS.											
Liberty.....	J C Wilford	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Antioch.....	J O Lavelle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Concord.....	W F Thomas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cornish.....	J C Lavelle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pleasant Grove.....	Y B Thompson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Camp.....	J E O Knight	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total.....		10	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the reliable Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

2. That there is but one living and true God, and in the Godhead, of divine essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—St. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures, and are not extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.—Romans 8:7-8.

4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—Eph. 5:24, Eph. 4:9, Rev. 1:18.

5. We believe that he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.—Matt. 24:13; Rev. 2:10.

6. That the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.—Matthew 25:46.

7. We believe that baptism, the Lord's supper and washing of saints' feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ appointed in the church, and that none but true believers are proper subjects, and that the only true mode of baptism is immersion.—On Baptism, Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4; Acts 8:38; Gal 3:27. The Supper, Matt. 26:27, Mark 14:22, Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:24. Washing of feet, St. John 13:1-17, 1 Tim. 5:10, 1 Peter 2:21.

8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week—or Lord's day—and it ought to be observed and spent in the public or private worship of God, and as it we should abstain from our worldly concerns, except in case of necessity or mercy.—Ex. 20:8-10, Deut. 5:13; Matt. 23:23.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both the just and the unjust, but every one in his own order—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation; and that God hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.—St. John 5:28-29; 1 Thes. 4:16; Dan. 12:2.

10. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general, and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God.—Galatians 6:10; 1 John 2:9.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that none can partake of His divine benefits only by repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Infants and Idiots excepted, they being included in the covenant of God's grace.)—Acts 4:11, 10, 42; 1 Tim. 2:8, 9; St. John 3:16, 18, 19, 17; 1 Cor. 12:20, 22; Rom. 8:13.

12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the door into the church, and that baptism is a duty in answer to a good conscience.—St. John 10:9.

13. We believe that the Lord's people are one in him, therefore should be one at his table.—1 Cor. 12:13, St. John 17; 11, 21, 22, Matt. 24:24, 27, 28.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This association shall be composed of such messengers as shall be chosen by the different churches composing this association, thought most fit for that purpose and sent with letters testifying to their appointment to represent them in the association, who shall be entitled to seats; ministers deacons, exhorters and clerks included.

2. The officers of this association when properly organized shall consist of a moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the association in order, state questions fairly and take their minds thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat be filled, to have no vote unless the association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the casting vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the association.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded and died since the sitting of the last association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the association shall take up the same and act on it.

5. Every church in the association shall be entitled to a representation of delegates not exceeding six.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted on unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The association shall not have the power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless we agree that the churches composing this association shall stand

in the same relation to each other in this association that individuals do to each other in the churches; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this association by letter and delegate, if upon proper examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly; such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegates thereof.

10. This association shall have power to sit as an advisory council; to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the causes why churches neglect to represent themselves in this association; to appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite any brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association; to adjourn the association to any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the church from which he or they were delegates.

11. Where a church has a deacon that they desire the ordination of, they are authorized to have it done at any time or place where a presbytery can be found.

12. This constitution is not to be altered without a majority of three-fourths of the members composing this body. But if any person after becoming a member shall become dissatisfied with any part of this constitution or articles of faith, he shall be entitled to a letter of dismission, if in fellowship in his own church.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he break order.

4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question, and shall in no wise cast personal reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the association.

6. Members shall address each other by the appellation of Brother or Brethren.

7. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

8. No member of this association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

9. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the association.

10. Any member who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the moderator, according to the direction of the association.