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CENTRAL
PROCEEDINGS OF
THE FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Central

Baptist Association

*Held with the First Baptist Church of Benton,
Arkansas, on Wednesday and Thursday,
29-30 of October, 1919.*

*The next session of this Association will be held
with the Lonsdale Baptist Church, Lons-
dale, Garland County, Arkansas, be-
ginning on Friday before the third
Sunday in September, 1920,
at 10:00 o'clock, A. M.*

JOHN R. NANCE, MODERATOR, HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

R. R. ADAMS, CLERK, BENTON, ARK.

W. K. SMITH, TREASURER, MALVERN, ARK.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

In response to a call of the First Baptist Church of Benton, Baptist Council met on the 29th day of October, 1919, at 10 a. m. in the First Baptist Church of Benton, to consider the advisability of organizing a new Baptist Association.

On motion, Elder Giles C. Taylor was elected temporary chairman, and R. R. Adams, secretary.

Visiting brethren invited to seats in the Council.

Bro. C. F. J. Tate preached at the 11 o'clock hour. Text, I Cor. 3.21, "Therefore let no man glory in men: for all things are yours.

Recess to 2:00 p. m.

Afternoon.

Called to order at 2 p. m. by the chairman. Prayer led by Bro. J. R. Nance.

On motion, the Council went into the organization of a new Association.

By unanimous consent Elder C. F. J. Tate read proposed constitution for the new Association. By-Laws, Church Covenant and Articles of Faith were also read.

Organization.

Nominations being in order Bro. John R. Nance was nominated and elected Moderator and R. R. Adams Clerk.

On motion, election of treasurer was postponed until tomorrow (Thursday).

Constitution, By-Laws, Church Covenant and Articles of Faith as previously read were adopted.

Proceedings of Association.

Messengers to Association enrolled as follows:

Benton—First Baptist Church, R. R. Adams, G. R. Kelly and J. W. Melton.

Hot Springs—First Church, A. T. Moody, S. W. Kendrick and John F. Adkins; Second Church, C. F. J. Tate, J. W. McDonald and O. M. Harrison; Park Place, H. A. Ball and John R. Nance.

Pleasant Hill—A. L. Mashburn, I. H. Pettus and Daniel Mashburn.

Lonsdale—W. H. Richardson and W. M. Williams.

Malvern—Third Church, Dr. C. J. Barker.

The following resolution by Elder E. J. A. McKinney was adopted:

In the organization of Central Baptist Association it is the desire of the Churches entering this union to promote every interest of our Lord's cause within the territory covered by this body, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth; but it is especially our desire to press more earnestly the work of our Lord in reaching the destitution within our bounds in developing the Churches of the territory covered by the Association. We, therefore, invite such regular Baptist Churches as wish to labor with us to this end to come into our union. To this end, therefore, be it resolved,

First. That in the interim from now until our next annual meeting all such Churches as express their desire to unite with us be enrolled by our Executive Committee as members of the body.

Second. That such Churches be requested to elect their members of the Executive Committee and that such elected member be recognized as members of said committee.

Third. That Churches which comply with the above terms be recognized as charter members of this Association.

Fourth. That we stand for peace and fellowship in service in our Lord's cause and pray God's blessings on the labors of our brethren everywhere in seeking to advance the Master's cause.

On motion, committee of three was appointed on Bap-

tist 75 Million Campaign, consisting of C. F. J. Tate, G. R. Kelley and Giles C. Taylor.

Committee appointed on order of business: Giles C. Taylor, W. M. Kelley and A. T. Moody.

Recess to 7:00 at night.

After devotional exercises Association called to order by Moderator.

Committee on 75 Million Campaign made report as follows:

75 Million Campaign.

Realizing the awful condemnation awaiting the unsaved in their eternal banishment from the presence of God and glory of His power and present unrest and yearnings of mankind throughout the nations—for they know not what—affording the most glorious opportunity of the ages for presenting to them that which alone can satisfy their longings, pacify their bickerings and quiet their uprisings—Jesus Christ, the hope of the world—we join most heartily and enthusiastically with our brethren of our great Southland in the most gigantic undertaking ever attempted by Baptists since Pentecost for the raising of \$75,000,000 within the next five years for missions and education for the purpose of evangelizing the world, and we most earnestly recommend that every member of each Church within the bounds of this Association esteem it a glorious privilege to have some worthy part in this noble undertaking. Respectfully submitted,

C. F. J. TATE,
GILES F. TAYLOR,
G. R. KELLEY.

Dr. E. P. Alldredge being present, by unanimous vote, made a lengthy and able argument in favor of the report. The report was adopted.

Committees Appointed.

Associational Missions—G. R. Kelley, C. F. J. Tate.

State Missions—Giles C. Taylor, A. T. Moody.

Home Missions—A. L. Mashburn, W. M. Kelley.

Ministerial Education—A. T. Moody, I. H. Pettus.
Resolutions—C. F. J. Tate, A. T. Moody.

Finance—G. R. Kelley.

Foreign Missions—Giles C. Taylor, C. F. J. Tate.

Colleges and Schools—C. F. J. Tate and H. A. Ball.

Religious Literature—Giles C. Taylor, G. R. Kelley.

Sunday Schools—A. T. Moody, Daniel Mashburn.

Orphans' Home—C. F. J. Tate, G. R. Kelley.

Christian Stewardship—Giles C. Taylor, C. F. Ledbetter.

Woman's Work—C. F. J. Tate, Giles C. Taylor, W. M. Kelley and Sister W. M. Kelley.

Young Peoples' Work—Giles C. Taylor, G. R. Kelley.

Digest of Letters—C. F. J. Tate, Daniel Mashburn.

Temperance—A. T. Moody, W. M. Kelley, C. P. Ledbetter.

Nominations—I. H. Pettus, C. F. J. Tate, A. L. Mashburn.

This being the first session of Central Association Committee on Obituaries was not appointed, therefore no report was made.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

Thursday Morning.

Committee on Home Missions made report. Discussed and adopted.

Committee on Foreign Missions made report. Discussed and adopted.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Elder E. J. A. McKinney. Text, Matt. 16:18, 19. "And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Recess to 2:00 p. m.

Afternoon.

Called to order by Moderator.

On motion, Bro. W. K. Smith of Malvern was elected Treasurer of the Association.

On motion, it was agreed that the Association meet

again on Friday night before the fifty Sunday in November, 1919.

Report on Digest of Letters made and adopted.

Report on Sunday Schools made and adopted.

Report on Temperance made and adopted.

Report on Nominations made and adopted.

Report on Literature made and adopted.

Report on Stewardship made and adopted.

Report on Young Peoples' Work made and adopted.

Report on State Missions made and adopted.

Report on Orphans' Home made and adopted.

Report on Woman's Work made and adopted.

Report on Ministerial Education made and adopted.

Report on Resolutions made and adopted.

On motion of C. F. J. Tate, Giles C. Taylor was elected as a messenger to Southern Baptist Convention.

It was agreed by a vote that a fifth Sunday meeting be called to meet with the First Baptist Church of Benton on the fifth Sunday in November, 1919, and W. M. Kelley, Giles C. Taylor and C. F. J. Tate were appointed a Committee on Program.

Adjourned to meet with First Baptist Church of Benton on Friday night before fifth Sunday in November, 1919.

Report on Associational Missions.

The very purposes that have brought this Association into being are beneficent and fraternal. We seek neither benefit, honor nor profit, but the advancement of the Master's kingdom and the good of others, the salvation of the lost, the strengthening of the struggling, and the vitalizing of the dying. We seek to cover a field that has hitherto been largely neglected or abandoned. The destitution and lethargy amid the peoples of the various communities throughout these counties from which there are Churches representing in this body make imperative the most vigorous and enthusiastic campaign possible. We

would therefore strive for a live Sunday School in every Church in all this territory, the stimulating of every Church into as near every-Sunday preaching as possible, every Church with a live, active, energetic pastor on fire for souls, devoting his time to the work of the gospel, preaching services in every schoolhouse, shed, barn, grove, arbor or elsewhere that people may be gathered to hear and heed the message, and a godly, consecrated, prudent missionary to go into the homes of all sections of this territory, praying with the people and stressing all things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. We therefore recommend that Executive Committee be requested to seek and employ such a missionary at the earliest possible moment and inaugurate plans to provide support. Respectfully submitted,

Committee.

Report on State Missions.

The following facts show something of Arkansas' needs and progress along State Mission lines: White population, 1,320,300. White above 10 years of age, 920,445. Whites holding church membership in some denomination, 369,297. Whites over 10 years of age out of church relationship, 551,747. Total out of church membership over 10 years of age, including negroes, 790,176. Our white Baptists number fully 128,000. Churches in State, over 1,600. Fully 400 of these have no houses of worship and 1,000 others, according to the values placed on the houses by the churches themselves, have houses with only an average value of \$500.00 each. There are two county seats without Baptist Churches and three without Baptist Church buildings.

Two counties have only one Baptist house of worship each. Our membership, by counties, ranges from 14 per thousand of the population in Newton County, up to 283 per thousand in Grant. Many communities are without Baptist preaching or church organizations. Perhaps 300 of our weaker churches are without pastors, or Sunday Schools, prayer meetings or other helpful organizations.

Then think of the thousands of souls to be reached with the gospel as well as the errors that need to be met in nearly every part of the State.

A thoughtful consideration of these things and the realization of the meaning of the Savior's commission and commands to his churches, and a recalling of his challenge, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments," will certainly give to us all a deep consciousness of the tremendous responsibilities that are ours as his servants and commissioned ambassadors.

More than this the growth of Baptists in Arkansas, in comparison with other denominations, during the past 25 years, shows that the people of this State are open to the gospel as preached by us as to no other "name or order." With the ears and hearts of the people thus opened to us before this awful war, and the Baptist day of opportunity, so enlarged by the war, our greatest day of opportunity is here. We must seize it.

Last year showed the following work done by our State Board: Association Missionaries helped, 21; Missionaries and other workers employed, 194; sermons and addresses, 15,224; Sunday Schools and B. Y. P. U.'s organized, 136; churches organized, 16; conversions in State, 2,253; soldiers making professions, about 10,000; baptisms from mission work, 2,337; total additions from mission work, 3,779; raised for State Missions, \$56,626.45. The work this year is laid out on a basis of more than \$90,000 and more than 125 missionaries have been employed during the present year. This includes Association Missionaries, District Missionaries, Enlistment men, Sunday School, B. Y. P. U. and W. M. U. workers. The labors of these workers have been greatly blessed this year.

In the 75 Million Campaign \$140,000 per year is apportioned for State and Association Missions, all to be raised by Arkansas Baptists themselves. This amount and more is needed. There is not a county in the State, but what needs a strong, religious, hustling sound mission-

ary for full time the year round. In caring for these needs there should be the most hearty and considerate co-operation between the Associations and the State Convention, so that the work may be more thoroughly and economically done.

Your committee would recommend that the churches of this Association support heartily this great work, and that our Association Executive Committee co-operate in all needed ways in order that all Baptist money expended and men employed may count for the most in the service of our Lord. Doing our best for the 75 Million Campaign will help solve the financial problems of this work as of all others. For information about the work write E. P. Alldredge, General Secretary, 405 Donaghey Building, Little Rock, Ark.

GILES C. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Report on Home Missions.

It seems that every year the Lord has a way of manifesting His goodness and mercy and favor to Home Missions, peculiarly fitted for our needs. In this good hour He has surpassed all former years in the bestowment of His favor upon our Home Mission work.

The supreme task, indeed, of Southern Baptists is the enlightenment, enlistment and co-operation of the churches of the South. Our progress at home and abroad hinges on the measure of our enlistment and training.

Your committee recommends that the churches of this Association do all in their power to co-operate with each other in spreading the gospel over our great Southland.

That classes be formed in all our churches to study the Home Mission books issued by the Southern Baptists, and that a large use be made of the free tracts on Home Missions. Orders for tracts and books should be addressed to the Book Department of the Advance Office, 405 Donaghey Building, Little Rock, Ark. Respectfully submitted,

Committee.

Report on Ministerial Education.

The nation trains its soldiers, both privates and officers, in order to make them efficient in battle. Equipment, intellectually as well as spiritually, is essential to the highest success of the preacher. As a people we need to encourage and help our young preachers in their efforts to obtain an education. Let us put our encouragement in practical form, helping them financially where such help is needed.

Committee.

Report on Sunday Schools.

Believing that the prosperity of churches next to preaching the gospel depends largely upon Sunday Schools. That Bible knowledge is the best to be acquired. That knowledge is first in the plan of salvation, next repentance, then faith. That first impressions are usually the most lasting. And young people are more susceptible of having good impressions made upon them than older persons, and that opportunities for salvation lies in early instruction of young people.

Therefore, we recommend that the pastors of churches use their influence to promote and improve the Sunday School interest, and that every church in this Association use its best efforts to keep an evergreen Sunday School in operation.

Committee.

Report on Foreign Missions.

The Foreign Mission call is the call of Jesus Christ and a lost world. By as much as we love the souls of men and our Lord and Savior by so much should the cause of Foreign Missions appeal to our hearts and purse strings.

The greatest need of the nations today is the Baptist message of the absolute lordship of Jesus, and the competency of every soul to deal with Him directly for itself.

We have greater opportunities now than ever before. Where once we had open doors for our missionaries, we now have practically a wide-open world.

We should be moved not only by the Macedonian cry

of the nations, but also by the farewell command of our Lord to make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

Here are our marching orders, embodying the duties of evangelization, organization (as baptism is the organizing ordinance of the gospel) and loyalization. This puts the entire responsibility of the entire commission for the entire world. Hence Southern Baptists have very properly refused to enter into any union or alliance with the people of any other faith.

God has wonderfully blessed our Foreign Mission work, as the following items show:

Number churches in the field.....	464
Number churches self supporting.....	141
Sunday Schools	715
Scholars enrolled, over.....	34,000
Total church members	53,000
Baptisms last year.....	6,290
Expenses of work, per cent.....	71½

Let us pray for the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into His field. Respectfully submitted,

GILES C. TAYLOR, Chairman.

Report on Schools and Colleges.

Surely God's blessings are upon our schools and colleges as never before. Ouachita and Central Colleges are today crowded beyond the limits of their capacities, and more than 75 young men and young women are in waiting for places to get in. Surely, surely the buildings of these institutions must be enlarged at once. Shame will rest upon each individual Baptist and upon the honored name by which we are called until this thing is done. Similar conditions are reported from Mountain Home, Maynard, Blue Eye, Hagarville, with substantial progress toward a great institution at Jonesboro. Our schools are the pride and delight, not of Baptists alone, but of every true and loyal Arkansan of whatever creed or persuasion. Th.

hall of state and nation, law and medicine, of schools and church, of science and art, of literature and music, of home and community are graced by their graduates, and their alumni are a mighty and invincible force, steadily building the great structures of state and nation and the kingdom of Almighty God among men.

We therefore recommend for these institutions the most hearty sympathy and co-operation of our people, together with their most generous and liberal support in all ways possible. Respectfully submitted,

Committee.

Report on Literature.

We know of nothing more potent in moulding character and the shaping of destiny than what one reads. As we read, we think, and as "man thinketh in his heart, so is he." We therefore recommend:

The study of God's Word.

The subscribing and reading of the Baptist Advance and other sound Baptist papers.

The reading of books on distinctive Baptist principles, such as "Theodosia Earnest," the "Little Baptist," "Grace Truman," and so on.

Taking our Mission Journal.

"Home and Foreign Fields" and such other literature as is sound and wholesome. Respectfully submitted,

A. T. MOODY, Chairman.

Report on Orphans' Home.

The Orphans' Home at Monticello has been in operation 23 years, and has been a blessing to perhaps 1,000, or 1,200 orphans. This work of mercy has a large place in the hearts of our people. Its mission is based on God's Word and is to relieve the distressed orphans, and save them to the State and bring them into the kingdom.

The policy of placing the children into good homes, while it has its problems, is proving a great blessing to the children and at the same time enabling the home to care for a larger number of children.

The health of the children has been remarkably good during the year, and according to reports the Home is in excellent condition. Our contributions to the 75 Million Campaign will go in part to support the Home. Respectfully,
G. R. KELLEY, Chairman.

Report on Stewardship.

"The silver is mine and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." Haggai 28.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." Ps. 24:1.

"According as each hath received a gift, ministering it among yourselves, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I Pet. 4:10.

These and many other Scriptures teach life is a stewardship, and we are stewards of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"All I have and all I am are not mine but His," should be felt and acknowledged by every man, especially the redeemed. Our stewardship, therefore, takes in both ourselves and our possessions. As to ourselves, our talents, our influence, our opportunities are all the gifts of God, and should be used for His glory. As to our possessions, what we call ours is not ours but His. We hold it only in trust, and are therefore bound to use our Master's "goods" for the furtherance of His cause and not for our own selfish ends.

We recommend that all our people adopt the N. T. rule of proportionate and systematic giving as taught in I Cor. 16:2. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him. Respectfully submitted,
Committee.

Report on Woman's Work.

We rejoice that this Association in its infancy recognizes the women in their organized capacity as helpers in kingdom building, and your committee would urge the societies within the Association to organize an Associational Union, if possible, before our next annual meeting.

but at least at that time.

There is work for our women to do. Let our first aim be a Woman's Missionary Society in every Church in the Association, and also all other organizations prompted under the auspices of our women, where such organizations are practicable. Respectfully submitted,

MRS. W. M. KELLEY,

Report on Young Peoples' Work.

The hope of tomorrow is our young people of today. Nowhere is that fact truer than in the kingdom. Hence the importance of their training in kingdom work, and instruction in practical and doctrinal teaching in God's Word. The B. Y. P. U. is the institution set for the training of our Baptist young people.

We recommend that our churches organize and maintain live Baptist Young Peoples' Unions for the training of our young people. Respectfully submitted,

Committee.

Digest of Letters.

For information on this subject we respectfully refer the reader to the Church letters. Respectfully,

Committee.

Report on Temperance.

Your committee rejoices in the victories won for prohibition during the past year. January 16th of this year the thirty-sixth State ratified the National Constitutional Amendment for a dry nation. This very week the National law for the enforcement of National prohibition goes into effect. It is a question of enforcement now, and it behooves us to support for office such men as will be faithful in service, and then for us to co-operate with such officers in putting out of business bootlegging and wild-cat distillery offenders. Then let us press on for world-wide prohibition. Respectfully submitted,

A. T. MOODY, Chairman.

Report on Nominations.

We present for your consideration the following recommendations:

First. General members of Executive Committee, Giles C. Taylor, M. L. Voyle, C. F. J. Tate and H. A. Ball.

Second. Place of meeting, First Baptist Church of Hot Springs.

Third. Preacher of annual sermon, Giles C. Taylor; alternate, M. L. Voyles.

Respectfully submitted, Committee.

Adjourned.

There being no further business, after song and prayer, the Association adjourned to meet with First Baptist Church of Benton on Friday night, November 28, 1919.

JOHN R. NANCE, Moderator,

R. R. ADAMS, Clerk.

Reconvened.

Pursuant to adjournment, Central Baptist Association met with First Baptist Church of Benton on Friday night, November 28, 1919. On account of excessive rain but few of the messengers were present. Adjourned to Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Saturday.

The following churches were represented: First Church of Benton, First Church of Hot Springs, Second Church of Hot Springs, Park Place Church of Hot Springs, Lonsdale, Social Hill, Third Church of Malvern.

Called to order by Bro. John R. Nance, Moderator.

Devotional services led by Bro. A. T. Moody. Read and commented on 53rd chapter of Isaiah. Prayer by Bro. C. F. J. Tate.

Letters received and read from First Church of Benton and Church at Lonsdale.

Dr. C. J. Barker, Ernest Harrington were enrolled as messengers.

Bro. H. A. Ball preached at the 11 o'clock service. Text, Eph. 2:8, 9, 10. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them. Recess.

Afternoon.

Met at 2:30 o'clock. Called to order by Moderator.

By motion, it was agreed that Fifth Sunday meeting be held with the Third Baptist Church at Malvern on fifth Sunday in February, 1920. Committee on program, Giles C. Taylor, W. M. Kelley and Dr. C. J. Barker.

Round Table Talk.

Seventy-five Million Campaign. Discussion lively and interesting. Telegram received from Rev E. P. Alldredge giving encouraging reports from 50 counties. Other reports received from different parts of state.

Resolutions.

RESOLVED; 1st, That we tender our sincere thanks to the members of the Benton Baptist Church and its friends for their generous hospitality which we have so abundantly enjoyed.

2nd. That we express our appreciation of the efficient services of our worthy and esteemed Moderator and Clerk.

3rd. That we deplore the indifference and questionable walk of certain ones within the membership of our churches.

4th. That we censor the uncensored picture show and view its encroachment with alarm. That we emphatically denounce the modern dance, cards, and various forms of gambling as of the devil, and recommend that our churches do not retain in their membership persons who persist in such practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee.

Moved, that Churches of this section be encouraged to join with us in purpose and effort, and to signify same at any time during the current year by electing one of their number to membership on our Executive Committee, and that such Members and Churches be regularly enrolled with us. Adopted.

There being no further business, the Association adjourned to meet with Lonsdale Baptist Church on Friday at 10 a. m., before the third Sunday in September, 1920. Closing prayer by Elder W. M. Kelley.

This, the first session of Central Association, was exceedingly pleasant, peace and harmony prevailing throughout.

JOHN R. NANCE, Moderator.
R. R. ADAMS, Clerk.
Church Letters.

First Baptist Church of Benton to Central Baptist Association, Greeting:

We send as messengers Brothers R. R. Adams, G. R. Kelley and Dr. J. W. Melton.

Membership: Increase by baptism, 30; by letter 31; total, 61. Decrease, by letter, 10; by exclusion, 1; total, 11. Total membership, 237.

Sunday School: Pupils, 112; officers and teachers, 11. Literature Southern Baptist Convention.

Finances: Pastor's salary, \$1,800; incidentals, \$250; ministerial help, \$150; Church debt, \$392; Sunday School supplies, \$65; Orphan's Home, through Sunday School, \$60; Home and Foreign Missions, \$210; State Missions, \$196.53; Charity, \$7.00; Christian education, \$100; total, \$3,230.53.

Value Property: Meeting house, \$5,000; parsonage, \$2,500.

REV. GILES C. TAYLOR, Moderator.
R. R. ADAMS, Clerk.

Hot Springs, First Church, to Central Baptist Association, sends greetings:

Messengers: Dr. S. W. Kendrick, J. F. Atkins, and

A. T. Moody.

Membership: Increase by letter, 67; increase by baptism, 50. Decrease by letter, 46; decrease by death,

4. Total membership, 317.

Finances: Pastor's salary, \$2,105; repairs, janitor, light, gas, interest on borrowed money, \$1,605; Home Missions, \$200; Foreign Missions, \$100; Fire Insurance, \$315; Orphan's Home, \$100; Ladies' Aid and Education, \$50; Charity, \$150; Hospital, \$25; paid off Church Debt, \$17,500; paid off Old Loan, \$100. Total, \$22,230.

Sunday School: Enrollment, 185; average attendance, 125.

Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society, \$500. B. Y. P. U., \$100.

REV S. W. KENDRICK, Moderator.

A. B. READER, Clerk.

Hot Springs, Second Church, sends greetings:

Messengers, O. M. Harrison, J. W. McDonald, and C. F. J. Tate.

Membership: Increase by baptism, 2; by letter, 11; total, 13. Decrease by letter, 21; by death, 2; total, 23. Total membership, 216.

Sunday School: Officers and teachers, 10; pupils, 66; average attendance, 55.

Finances: Paid on Pastor's Salary, \$1,200; Janitor, \$130; Incidentals, \$96; Repairs, \$83; Indebtedness, \$324; State Missions, \$25; Ministerial Education, \$25; Home and Foreign Missions, \$95. Total, \$1,978.

Total collections for Sunday School, \$114.

Value Church property, \$8,000.

Second Church has no pastor.

(Names of Moderator and Clerk omitted.)

Hot Springs, Park Place Church, sends greetings:

Messengers, H. A. Ball and John R. Nance.

Membership, 160.

Finances: Paid pastor's salary, \$1,325; other purposes, \$740; paid Church Debt in full, \$2,340. Total, \$4,405.

Sunday School: Enrollment, 191.

Our Church is in a state of spiritual prosperity, and is moving forward in the Lord's cause.

H. A. BALL, Moderator.

JOHN R. NANCE, Clerk.

Third Church of Malvern sends greetings:

Dr. C. J. Barker as messenger.

Membership: Males, 20; females, 30. Total, 50.

Finances: Paid on pastor's salary, \$275; Incidentals, \$20; Paid on Building, \$31.25. Total, \$326.25.

Value of property, \$2,500.

State Missions, \$17; Foreign Missions, \$32.20; Orphan's Home, \$2.40. Total, \$51.60.

Sunday School: Officers and teachers, 9; number of classes, 6; number scholars, 75; average attendance, 65. Superintendent, J. F. Fletcher; secretary, Miss Alice Wilson. Cost of literature, \$28.50.

Pledges to 75 Million Campaign to date \$1,180. Our pastor is Elder Earle Harrington of Oauchita College.

WM. KELLEY, Clerk.

Lonsdale Baptist Church sends greetings: Messengers, W. H. Richardson, W. M. Williams.

Membership: Increased by baptism, 6; by letter, 4; total, 10. Decrease, by letter, 1; by death, 2; total, 3. Total membership, 91.

Finance: Pastor's salary, \$200; Missions, \$25; repair on Church, \$20; all other expenses, \$50.

Sunday School: Supt. W. H. Richardson. Number of teachers, 5; number of classes, 5; pupils on roll, 85; average attendance, 65. Total collections, \$50.

O. C. ROBINSON, Moderator.

W. H. RICHARDSON, Clerk.

This being the first session of Central Baptist Association, the letters are imperfect. Reports of conditions of churches at the next session will be more complete. It is urged that all churches send a full quota of messengers.

CONSTITUTION

Article I.—Name.

The name of this body shall be Central Baptist Association.

Article II.—Object.

The object of this Association shall be to aid the churches in their divinely appointed work of spreading the Kingdom of God throughout the whole world by every scriptural means.

Article III.—Membership.

Section 1.—This Association shall be composed of messengers from regular Baptist Churches, which are in sympathy with the principles and purposes of this Constitution and desire to co-operate with this Association, and shall be entitled to seats upon the presentation of letters from their churches, or other satisfactory evidence of their appointment.

Section 2.—Each church shall be entitled to three messengers for the first 100 members, or less, and one additional messenger for each additional 50 members, or major fractional part thereof.

Section 3.—Messengers from any church desiring to become affiliated with this Association may do so by the presentation of a petitionary letter indicating the desire of the church, the standard of faith which the church holds, and the messengers appointed to represent the church in the Association.

Section 4.—All regular ordained ministers in the membership of the churches of this Association shall be considered messengers, by virtue of their office.

Article IV.—Authority.

This Association shall never exercise any legislative or ecclesiastical authority over any church, nor shall it in any way interfere with the rights and absolute independence of the churches of Christ.

Article V.—Officers.

Section 1.—The officers of this Association shall

be Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the opening of each annual session by a majority of all the votes cast at such meeting. Provided, however, that the Moderator shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 2.—The Moderator shalll preside at all sessions of the Association or call some one to occupy the chair temporarily in his absence, and may exercise the same privilege of discussion as any other member of the Association.

Section 3.—The Clerk shall keep a correct record of all the proceedings of the Association and shall superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes of each session as he may be directed by the Association.

Section 4.—The Treasurer shall receive all funds of every kind entrusted to his care, and shall disburse the same upon the order of the Association and shall make an itemized report of all such funds to the Association before the close of each annual session.

Article VI.—Associational Executive Committee

Section 1.—The Associational Executive Committee shall be composed of one member from each church co-operating with the Association (to be elected by the churches), and five additional members to be elected from the Association at large at each annual session of the Association, five of the whole number constituting a quorum for business after due notice has been given to all the members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2.—This Executive Committee shall co-operate with the churches in this Association in informing and arousing the churches, in gathering and disbursing of funds for all of the objects fostered by this Association and shall transact all of the business of the Association in the interim of the annual meetings of the Association.

Article VII.—Meeting.

This Association shall meet annually at 10:00 A. M. on Friday before the third Sunday in September at such place as the Association may determine.

Article VIII.—Amendment

This Constitution may be amended at any annual session of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present at any annual meeting, provided that the substance of Article IV shall never be abrogated.

BY-LAWS

I.—Each anniversary of the Association shall be opened with appropriate religious services under the direction of the Moderator, or in his absence by the next officer in rank present, or if all the officers are absent, by the Pastor of the entertaining church.

II.—The following shall be the order of exercises:

1.—Religious services as above.

2.—Call to order by the presiding officer.

3.—In case of the absence of all officers, election of temporary chairman and Clerk.

4.—Introductory Sermon.

5.—Appointment of Program Committee to report to each hour of adjournment.

6.—Appointment of Committee on Enrollment.

7.—Reading of Articles Three, Four, Five and Seven of the Constitution by the Clerk.

8.—Introduction of visitors.

III.—All committees shall be appointed by the chair, and confirmed by the Association, unless otherwise ordered.

IV.—There shall be appointed at each annual session, the following committees, to report to the Association in session:

1.—Associational Missions.

- 2.—State Missions.
- 3.—Home Missions.
- 4.—Foreign Missions.
- 5.—Colleges and Schools.
- 6.—Religious Literature.
- 7.—Sunday Schools.
- 8.—Ministerial Education.
- 9.—Orphans' Home.
- 10.—Christian Stewardship.
- 11.—Woman's Work.
- 12.—Young People's Work.
- 13.—Digest of Letters.
- 14.—Obituaries.
- 15.—Resolutions.
- 16.—Finance.
- 17.—Temperance.
- 18.—Nominations.

V.—Each session shall be opened and closed by prayer.

VI.—Visiting brethren and sisters may be invited to seats in the Association and allowed all privileges of the session except to vote.

VII.—Every speaker shall rise and address the Moderator. In discussion all personalities shall be avoided. No one shall speak more than twice on the same question without permission from the Association.

VIII.—Mell's Parliamentary Law shall be the standard in deciding questions of parliamentary practice.

IX.—The minutes of the preceding day shall be read and approved at the opening of each morning session.

X.—Such offerings may be taken at the annual meeting of the Association as the body may direct.

XI.—These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-third's vote of those present,

or suspended by unanimous vote.

XII.—The Associational Executive Committee shall meet at such time and place as the Executive Committee itself may determine.

Articles of Faith

1.—We believe that the Holy Bible, written by men divinely inspired, and full of unmixed truth, is a perfect rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16.

2.—We believe in one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Gen. 1:16; II Cor. 13:14.

3.—We believe that man, once holy, fell by voluntary transgression from the happy state, and is now utterly void of holiness. Gen. 1:26; 3:17.

4.—We believe that sinners are saved by grace alone. Eph. 2:8,9.

5.—We believe that salvation is free to all who will accept the Gospel. Isaiah 55:1; John 7:37; Rev. 21:6; Rev. 22:17.

6.—We believe that, except a man be renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is not qualified or prepared for the kingdom of Christ on earth, or to enjoy His glory hereafter. John 3:3-8.

7.—We believe that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are duties of everyone who hears the Gospel. Matt. 3:2; Acts 18:31.

8.—We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, by which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners. Rom. 8:30.

9.—We believe that sanctification, begun in regeneration and ever progressive, is the process by which we are made to partake of God's holiness. John 3:6; II Thes. 2:12.

10.—We believe in the perseverance of the saints, that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. I Peter 1:5.

11.—We believe that God's law is the only, the eternal and unchangeable rule of His churches and

moral government. II Tim. 3:17, 18.

12.—We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers united in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances and obeying the laws of Christ, and that its officers are pastors and deacons. Acts 2:41-47; 3:28.

13.—We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, by a properly qualified administrator, in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:18; Mark 16:16; Rom. 6:3, 4.

14.—We believe that only such as have been properly baptized and received into fellowship of a regularly organized Baptist Church should partake of the Lord's Supper. Matt. 26:26, 27; I Cor. 11:20-23.

15.—We believe that the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath should be devoutly observed and sacredly devoted to religious services. Mark 16:9; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1, 2; Heb. 10:25.

16.—We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, and that the governors of States and Nations should be obeyed when the laws they seek to enforce do not conflict with the gospel.

17.—We believe in the future resurrection of the dead. Dan. 12:12; Thes. 4:16.

18.—We believe in the final judgment, and that in that day the righteous and the wicked will be separated forever. Acts 17:31; Matt 25:32, 33.

19.—We believe that the righteous will be happy forever in heaven and the wicked miserable forever in hell. Matt. 25:34-46.

CHURCH COVENANT

Thanking God for the light we have received, and for the revelation of Jesus which we now enjoy, and hoping that God, for Christ's sake, has pardoned our sins, and having been baptized on a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we do this day, before God and the

world, and with deep joy and great solemnity, enter into this covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We therefore covenant and agree that, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, we will walk together in love and Christian fellowship. We promise to labor for the advancement and final triumph of this church, to sustain its worship by attending the house of God and supporting the ministry; guard its ordinances, enforce its discipline and defend its doctrine.

We also pledge ourselves to walk circumspectly in the world; to be honest, just, and faithful in our business relations, and—as God may give us help, we promise to live righteous and holy lives.

We further promise to watch over each other in brotherly love; to visit the sick; to pray for each other in the world; to aid the poor and needy, and to perform such other kind offices as may be well pleasing in the sight of God.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

C. F. J. TATE—Hot Springs.

J. W. McDONALD—Hot Springs.

N. H. HARLEY—Hot Springs.

H. A. BALL—Hot Springs.

S. W. KENDRICK—Hot Springs.

GILES E. TAYLOR—Benton.

W. M. KELLEY—Benton.

H. L. GREEN—Alexander Route No. 1.

TOM GREEN—Paran.

M. L. VOYLES—Malvern.

EARLE HARRINGTON—Malvern.

O. C. ROBINSON—Lonsdale.

F. C. LANGLEY—Slocum

C. P. LEDBETTER—Benton.

JOE TAYLOR—Paran.