

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

White River Valley Baptist Association

HELD WITH

TAYLOR BAY CHURCH, WOODRUFF CO., ARKANSAS,

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 1876.

OFFICERS:

W. W. WORLEY, MODERATOR.

J. M. HERRINGTON, CLERK.

Next Session to be Held* with Liberty Church, Independence County, Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.:

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MINUTES

— OF THE —

White River Valley Baptist Association

COMMENCED WITH THE

Taylor Bay Church, Woodruff County, Arkansas,

— ON —

Friday, September 29, 1876, at 11 O'Clock A. M.

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The opening discourse was delivered by Elder J. M. Herrington, on the subject of "The Church and Her Ordinances."

Prayer was then offered by Eld. Moses Green, of Caroline Association.

On motion, Eld. W. W. Worley was called to the Chair.

Letters of Correspondence were called for, and the following Churches corresponded by letter and messengers:

BOLD SPRING CHURCH—W. H. Erwin and S. R. Erwin.

HURRICANE GROVE CHURCH—Letter; no messenger.

CEDAR GROVE CHURCH—James Maxley, E. T. Glenn and George Nathan.

LIBERTY CHURCH—Daniel Williamson and John W. Ham.

MACEDONIA CHURCH—Eld. F. M. Brannen and T. J. Brannen.

PLEASANT VALLEY CHURCH—Eld. J. M. Herrington, R. T. Malone, Dr. D. May and W. A. Turner.

RAMAH CHURCH—E. E. Monroe and G. Carter.

SHILOH CHURCH—Eld. Jos. E. Blaneett.

TAYLOR BAY CHURCH—Eld. W. W. Worley, Allen Wooley, R. D. Gorman and M. L. Huckleby.

OAK GROVE CHURCH—John W. Whitt.

NEW PLEASANT CHURCH—Eld. G. M. Maxwell, John H. Goodall, Elisha Bray.

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH—No letter or messengers.

NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH—F. M. Spradlin, W. H. Harris and John Hogan.

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH—No letter or messengers.

Eld. W. W. Worley was chosen Moderator, and Eld. S. Herrington re-elected Clerk.

Petitionary Letters were then called for, and

Mount Zion Church presented a letter, praying to be received into the Association.

Found to be orthodox in faith and practice, and on motion received and the following messengers were invited to seats:

As Messengers from Mount Zion Church—A. M. Allen, T. N. Robertson and J. T. Allen.

Corresponding Messengers were called for from sister Associations, and Eld. T. B. Espy, D.D., Eld. Ben Thomas and Eld. Moses Green, from Caroline Association, came forward, received the hand of fellowship, and were invited to seats with us.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Divine Services—The Messengers from Taylor Bay Church.

On Finance—W. H. Erwin, T. N. Robinson and J. H. Goodall.

On Arrangement of Business—Eld. F. M. Braunan, Dan. Williamson and Jas. Maxley.

On Publications—B. T. Malone, Eld. J. L. Blaneett and Eld. G. M. Maxwell.

On Sabbath Schools—Allen Wooley, W. A. Turner and E. E. Monroe.

On Missions—W. H. Erwin, E. T. Glenn and J. T. Allen.

On Education—Eld. J. M. Herrington, F. M. Spradlin and Elisha Bray.

On motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.
Benediction by Eld. M. Green.

SECOND DAY.

Saturday, September 30—9 A. M.

Association met according to adjournment.

Prayer by the Moderator.

Calling the roll was dispensed with.

The minutes of yesterday were read and corrected.

The Committee on Arrangements made the following report, and was then discharged:

First—Call the roll and mark absentees.

Second—Reading and correcting minutes.

Third—Call for Petitionary Letters.

Fourth—Reports of committees.

Fifth—Unfinished business.

Sixth—Miscellaneous business.

We, your committee, recommend that the next Association be held with Liberty Church, Independence county, and that the next District meeting be held with Pleasant Valley Church, Jackson county, commencing on Thursday before the first Sabbath in August, 1877, at 11 o'clock a. m., and that Eld. F. M. Brannan preach the opening discourse.

On motion, adopted.

The Committee on Education made their report, as follows:

Whereas, Judson University, situated at Judsonia, White county, Arkansas, has been formally adopted as a place suitable for the education of our sons and daughters and that we, as an Association, have the utmost confidence in the President, Eld. Ben. Thomas, and in the Faculty in every department in said institution while governed by its able Board of Trustees; therefore,

Resolved, That we, as an Association, will do all in our power to build up said institution by patronizing and soliciting students for said University.

J. M. HERRINGTON, Chairman.

The Committee on Publications submitted the following report, which was, on motion, adopted:

The influence of the printed sheet is potent for good or evil, according to the thoughts printed, and knowing this to be an age of books and newspapers and reading, we advise all of our brethren to be very careful in the encouragement of extreme writing. The Bible is the head and test of all religious literature, and we cannot err in recommending the Word of God, and all other religious books and papers that teach the spirit of Christ or of our holy religion. We call attention to our paper, the "Western Baptist;" if it is not what we want it to be, let us make it such a paper. We offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That we will labor and sacrifice for the "Western Baptist" until every Baptist family in the State and throughout its circulation shall rejoice in its success and in its influence.

B. T. MALONE, Chairman.

On motion, the resolution was adopted.

The Committee on Missions made a report and offered resolutions to the effect that a Missionary be put to work within the bounds of the Association immediately. After some discussion, during which it was evinced that while the Association was friendly to the mission cause, there

were reasons for not carrying the proposed measure into execution at present, and the report was voted down.

On motion, the Association then adjourned to half-past 2 o'clock p. m., in order to hear a discourse by Eld. T. B. Espy, D.D.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association convened pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee on Divine Services made the following report, which was, on motion, adopted:

Your Committee on Divine Services would respectfully suggest that Eld. Ben. Thomas preach to-night; Eld. T. B. Espy, D.D., on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock; Eld. Ben. Thomas Sunday morning at 11 o'clock; Moses Green Sunday night, on the subject of "Communion."

W. W. WORLEY, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed as a Committee on the State of Religion and Statistics of the Church:

B. T. Malone, Eld. G. M. Maxwell and S. R. Erwin.

The query from Liberty Church: "What relation is there between Baptist Churches, if any?" was answered: "Fraternal, not organic."

The minutes of the District meeting were read and adopted and ordered to be appended to these minutes, but for want of money to print them, at the suggestion of the brethren the Clerk has left them off.

On motion, Bro. Jas. Maxley was appointed Alternate for Eld. F. M. Brannan at the District meeting.

On motion, on Friday, 11 o'clock a. m., in the District meeting, Eld. J. L. Blancett is to preach on "Repentance;" on Saturday at 11 o'clock a. m. Eld. J. M. Herrington, on the subject of "Faith;" on Saturday at 4 o'clock p. m., Eld. W. W. Worley, on "Infant Salvation." W. H. Erwin, essay on Sabbath Schools; E. E. Monroe, essay on Prayer; Jas. Maxley, essay on Brotherly Love. Eld. G. M. Maxwell will, on Saturday night, deliver a discourse on the subject of "The Atonement;" Allen Wooley, essay on the power of the Church to ordain with or without a council.

Eld. W. W. Worley was elected to preach the next introductory discourse, and Eld. J. L. Blancett as his alternate.

The Committee on Finance reported \$22.50 contributed by the Churches for Associational purposes.

The report was, on motion, adopted.

On motion, the Clerk was appointed Treasurer and requested to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes, with instructions to distribute according to the money paid by the Churches.

On motion, the "Western Baptist" is to have the refusal of printing the minutes.

The Committee on the State of Religion and Statistics of the Church made the following report:

We are happy to say that all our Churches are in prosperous condition, and, with few exceptions, have had gracious revivals during the present season and have had many added to their numbers. Our Ministering Brethren are doing all in their power to occupy the field and supply the Churches with the Word and Ordinances, and the great Head of the Church has blessed their labors. During the past year there have been within our bounds:-

Conversions,	77
Baptisms,	75
Received by Letter,	59
Relation,	17
Restored,	17
Dismissed by Letter,	16
Excluded,	21
Deaths,	20
Total in Fellowship,	543

B. T. MALONE, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted.

On motion, it was resolved to open a correspondence with the Caroline Association, by messengers and minutes, and Elds. W. W. Worley and Wm. R. Bray were appointed messengers.

W. H. Erwin offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the members of Taylor Bay Church, and citizens generally, for their kind entertainment during our present sitting.

Resolved, That our thanks be and are hereby tendered to the Moderator and Clerks for their faithful discharge of duty.

On motion, the following preamble and resolution were ordered to be appended to the Minutes:

Whereas, God, in his providence, has removed from his labors on earth to his rest above, our father in the ministry, Eld. J. H. R. G. Gardner, one whom we all loved and looked to for counsel; therefore,

Resolved, That we bow in humble submission to the Divine will, and

that we try to imitate his many virtues, and with the veil of charity cover all his frailties.

Bro. Gardner was born in Knox county, Tenn., March 9th, 1809, and professed faith in Christ in 1827. He united with the Church of Christ worshipping at Hickory Creek, Knox county, Tenn., and was buried in baptism in 1828. On November 22d, 1833, he was ordained to the ministry by a Presbytery consisting of Elds. George Litwell, J. J. Monger, John Clark, Henry Seward, George Davis and Amos Hardin.

According to his memorandum, up to the last ten years of his ministry, when he became so palsied he could not write, he had baptized about twenty-seven hundred persons.

Truly was Bro. Gardner a great and good man, but while we mourn his loss, it is not as though we were without hope, and can but say, in the language of the beloved Disciple, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

To the aged mother and bereft wife we offer our sympathies, and would recommend her to the God of her husband, and to the children we would say, worship the God of your father.

J. M. HERRINGTON, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned, to meet with Liberty Church on Friday, before the first Lord's Day in October, 1877, at 11 o'clock a. m.

Prayer by the Moderator.

The Association then engaged in singing, and took the parting hand.

W. W. WORLEY, Moderator.

J. M. HERRINGTON, Clerk.

MONEY FROM THE CHURCHES.

Liberty,	\$2 40
Cedar Grove,	1 50
Ramah,	
Shiloh,	75
Hurricane Grove,	1 00
Bold Spring,	2 00
Pleasant Valley,	3 00
Oak Grove,	1 00
New Pleasant,	2 00
Macedonia,	2 30
Mt. Zion,	1 85
Taylor Bay,	2 50
New Providence,	2 50
Hickory Grove,	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$25 30
Paid for Clerk's fees,	\$ 5 00
Paid for Minutes,	20 00
	<hr/>
	\$25 30

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