

MINUTES.

| OF THE |

— { FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING } —

— OF THE —

— BIG FORK, UNITED BAPTIST —

ASSOCIATION.

**HELD WITH LIBERTY CHURCH,
POLK CO., ARKANSAS.**

Commencing, September 18th

— A. D. 1890. —

**{ A. A. Bates, Moderator.
James, M. Hilton, Clerk.**

MINUTES.

State of Arkansas,)
County of Polk.)

We, the Big Fork United Baptist Association, met with Liberty Church, in Polk Co., Ark. Saturday the 13th day of Sept. A. D. 1890. Pursuant to adjournment. The Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. Wm. Lawrence, from the 13th Chapter and 17th ver of Mark, at 11 o'clock, A. M. and Brother A. A. Bates, concluded. After a short intermission for refreshment, the Association was called to order by Eld A. A. Bates Moderator, protem. The Moderator, not being present, and after prayer by the Moderator protem, the letters from the different Churches, that composed the Big Fork Association, was called for, and petitionary letters was called for, and Brushy Creek Church, presented a letter with Delegates, who subscribed to the articles of faith, and the right hand of Fellowship, was extended to Delegates of Brushy Creek church and all the Delegates names was enrolled.

The association then proceeded to organize by electing a moderator, and Clerk, and Treasurer, which resulted in the election of Eld. A. A. Bates, Moderator, for the ensuing year, and brother James. M. Hilton, Clerk, and Treasurer, for the association. On motion the Moderator, appointed a committee on preaching. James. Standridge, J. W. Dilbeck, C. C. Bruton, N. A. Wilcox, and James. Wilcox. On motion the association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock: prayer by Moderator.

Monday morning the association met according to adjournment. The moderator being absent, the body chose Eld. Wm. Lawrence, moderator, PROTEM,

the Moderator, appointed the following Committees.

On obituary. Wm. P. Hilton, John. Mathews, John. C. Singleton.

Wm. P. Hilton, Chairman.

On Finance. J. C. Pullen, J. R. Cranford, and J. E. Long. Chairman.

On arrangements, Wm. Lawrence, James M. Hilton, J. D. Wilhite, R. Suit, J. H. Standridge, and J. K. Wilcox,

(Chirman

On motion, the rules of Decorum was read by the Clerk.

On motion, Bro James. M. Hilton, presented a form of a Church letter, to be adopted by the association, and after arguing the case, the motion was lost.

On motion, it was ordered by this body, that Brother E. J. Ferguson, who was a member of Sulphur Springs Church: an ordained minister of the Gospel, and now, stands excluded from the church, and refuses to give up his letters, or credentials, and this body orders that he be published in the minutes of this association.

APPENDIX A.

We, your Committee on preaching, beg leave to make this our report; that Eld. G. C. Storks, preach at the church house at early candle light, Saturday night; And Bro David. Bates, his Alternate. And Bro. J. E. Long, to preach Saturday at 11 o'clock, A. M. and Bro. G. C. Storks, his alternate. and Bro. M. C. Riddling, to preach at 4 o'clock Sunday, P. M. and Bro' M. F. Edwards, his alternate. Bro' J. E. Long, to preach at 11 o'clock: A. M. Monday; and Bro' David. Bates, his alternate.

(James. Standridge, chirman.

APPENDIX B.

We, your committee on obituary, beg leave to make this our report. Brethren, we find from reading the letters from the different churches, to this body. that our beloved brother, John Dilbeck, who was a worthy member, of big fork church, and a ordained Minister of the Gospel, for many years; who have been called from the walks of man; bretherin, this reminds us THAT it is apointed unto man once to die, and after THIS THE JUDGEMENT. bretherin, pray for THE beloved sister, that God, will be a husband unto her, and comfort her in her bereved condition.

Wm. P. Hilton, Chairman

APPENDIX C.

We, your committee on finance, beg leave to make this our report; we find the sum of \$10.50c. sent up from the different churches, of this association, for the printing of the minutes of this association.

J. C. Pullen, Chirman.

APPENDIX D,

We, your Committee on arrangements, beg leave to make this our report; the time for holding the next association of this body, will be on Saturday before the first Sabbath in Sept' A. D. 1891; and convene with Christial Hill church in Montgomery Co., Ark. and brother J. E. Long, preach the Introductory sermon, and A. A. Bates, alternate. And the Clerk of this body have just as many copies of minutes printed, as he can for the amount of money, and to distribute the same.

J. K. Wilcox, chirman.

On motion, resolve that we extend our thanks to the brotherin and friends, for their kindness and Hospitality, shown us during this session.

On motion, the as-ociation, adjourned to meet with christial Hill, church, Montgomery Co., Ark, on Saturday before the first sabbath in Sept.' A. D. 1891. Prayer by the moderator protem: and while a hymn was sug the parting was given

{ Eld. Wm. Lawrence, moderator protem.

{ James M. Hilton, Clerk.

—FORM OF LETTERS TO THE ASSOCIATION.—

We the United Baptist, church of Christ at.....send Greeting, to the Big Fork, Association which is to convene with church commencing Saturday before the first Sabbath in Sept 18.... We send as Delegates, to represent us in your body our beloved Brothera. (here give their names)_____

Here state THE condition of THE CHURCH. our statistics is as follows.

Name of Church.
Name of County.

No Baptized
No Received by Letter.
No Restored.
No Dismissed by Letter.
No Excluded.
No Died.

No total in Fellowship.

Contribution, \$ Sabbath meeting.

Name of Licentuates.

of 18 Moderator

Name of Post Office.

Done by order of the Church in Conference, this the

Name of ordained Ministers

Day

Church Clerk

{ CONSTITUTION OF THE BIG FORK ASSOCIATION }

—OF UNITED BAPTIST.—

Article. 1 This union of churches, shall be known and distinguished by the name, and title of the Big Fork United Baptist association.

Art 2 This association, shall be composed of Delegates, from churches in union, each church shall be entitled to their delegates, who shall be requested to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointments by their churches before taking their seats.

Art 3 The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberate body, by the appointment of a moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual association, and continue in Office, until their successor is chosen.

Art. 4 This association, shall not interfere with the right of the churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies, in all matters of internal Government; and shall only act as an advising council, assuming no authority except, what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or evidently implies by the very nature of compact. It nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, and the delegates from the churches, and in justice, and propriety, must have power to withdraw from, and disown, all churches which depart from the principle of the compact by becoming heterodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. It should therefore, regard all churches, united with this constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Its business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending the kingdom of grace, on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel, and the means in accordance with the gospel, to cultivate union, and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, especially with those united under this constitution:

Art 5 Newly constituted churches, or churches, dismissed from other associations of the same faith, and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up three delegates, to the annual meeting of this association, with a petition for admission, and by their Delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles here with published.

Art. 6 The churches in this union, shall transmit to every annual session of the association a written communication, specifying the name of their delegates, their number in full fellowship, number baptized, Received or Excommunicated, Restored or dismissed, since the last session.

And all other information which the Church may deem important, which will be read and minuted accordingly.

Art. 7 The Association shall have a fund, supplied by contribution of the Churches, and all money thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the Churches, and payed over through the Committee of finance to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his Office during the pleasure of the Association, and manage the funds agreeably. He shall return to the order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the minutes, a clear, and sufficient statement, of all the receipts and expenditures.

Art 8 This Association, shall furnish the Churches with the minutes of every session.

Art 9 This Association, shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches, unless, they have endeavored to solve the same, and have failed, nor of any difficulty between churches unless they have pursued the dictations of the 19th, Chapter of Mathew, and have not been able to settle them. Then, this Association, shall take such matter into consideration, and act upon them at its discretion.

Art 10 It shall be the duty of the Clerk, of this Association, to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in Office.

Art 11 This Constitution, may be altered, or amended, at regular meetings of the Association, by the concurring voice of two thirds of the members present. Provided, such alterations, or amendments, be approved by the churches of the Association.

Art 12 There is to be no Sunday collections, taken up in this Association, nor men appointed to preach what is called missionary sermons, but to chuse their own subject.

—RULES OF DECORUM.—

1 The Association, shall be opened and closed, by prayer.

2 A 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 a right to call to order at any time.

4 A member not satisfied with this decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but not thereafter.

5 But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to their feet, address the Moderator, obtain permission, and then proceed 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 is guilty of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

8 Every case taken up by this Association, shall be decided or withdrawn, before another is approved.

9 When any question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator, shall take the voice of the Association on all subjects, and the members on the affirmative shall signify the same by rising from their seats. And those in negative, shall when the question is put to them rise from their seats.

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

11 No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without permission of the Association. Nor more than once, till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject, till the debate is carried through.

Art The application of brothers shall be used in the Association, by members in their address to each other.

Art 12 The names of the members shall be called as often as the Association shall direct.

Art 14 No member, shall be tolerated in any practis, which tends to interrupt public speech

Art 15 The Moderator, shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech, as any other member, provided, he appoint another to fill his seat during that time, but shall not be entitled to voet, unless the Association, be equally devided, then, he may give the desiding vote,

Art 16 Any member, violateing these rules, may be reprov- ed by the Modetator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breech shall be done.

{ ARTICLES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH. }

Art. 1 We believe in only one true, and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the God head, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three are one.

2 We believe, the scripturs of the old, and new Testaments, are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practis.

3 We believe, in the fall of Adam, and that the deprivity of his fallen nature was entailed upon his posterity, and in the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will or ability.

4 We Believe, in Election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of THE TRUTH.

5 We believe, in the final Resurrection of the Saints, and that they will never finally fall away and be lost.

6 We believe, that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the righteousness of Christ, imputed unto them. And that it pleased God, by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believed.

7 We believe, that good works, are fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidence of our own Gracious state.

8 We believe, the visable church of Christ, is a congregation of faithful persons, baptized, who have gained christian fellowship with each other, and give unto the Lord, and one another, and have agreed to to keep up a Godly, disciplin agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.

9 We believe, there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general Judgement, and that the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, will be never ending.

10 We believe, that Jesus Christ, is the great head of the church, and the only law-giver, and the disciplin is with the body, and should be faithfully kept up for the glory of God, and prosperity of his people.

11 We believe, that baptism by immersion, is the apostolic, mode and true believers the only fit subject thereof.

12 We believe that the Lords, supper, are ordinance of the church, and should be continued till Christa, second coming.