

MINUTES

OF THE

Second Annual Session

OF

Wolf Bayou Association

OF

GENERAL BAPTISTS

Held with Liberty Church, Denmark, Jackson County, Ark., Sept. 4, 5, and 6,

1902.

ELD. J. C. WILLEFORD, Moderator.

J. C. ALEXANDER, Clerk, Denmark, Ark.



GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
OWNSVILLE, IND.



CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION.

....., 1902.

The..... General Baptist Church unto the..... Association, sendeth Christian salutation. Grace mercy, and peace be unto you through our Lord Jesus Christ. We send with this as delegates our beloved brethren..... and who will inform you of our progress and condition in the Divine Life. Receive them as brethren beloved.

Our statistics are as follows: Received,; baptized,; dismissed,; excluded,; died, Our day of meeting is Our pastor for the ensuing year is Total membership, Sunday school,; number in Sunday school,; and prayer meeting, We send \$..... as a minute fund. God be with you and prosper you in winning souls to God and in building up the church.

....., Moderator.

....., Clerk.

NEW CHURCH TO THE ASSOCIATION.

The..... General Baptist Church of....., having been organized..... 1902, by..... and being in hearty accord with General Baptist Doctrine and Usages, send unto..... Association Christian salutation, and respectfully petition to be received into your body. [Rest of the letter is Church Letter to the Association.]

LETTER FROM A CHURCH.

....., 1902.

This certifies that..... is a member in full standing in the..... General Baptist Church at....., and as such we commend..... to the fellowship of God's people everywhere. When we are informed that..... has united elsewhere, we shall consider..... regularly dismissed from this church.

Done for and in behalf of the..... General Baptist Church.

....., Pastor.

....., Clerk.

MINUTES

Of the Second Annual Session of the Wolf Bayou Association, which convened with Liberty Church, Denmark, Jackson County, Arkansas, on Thursday before the first Lord's Day in September, 1901, at 11 oc'clock, A. M.

Services were opened with singing by the congregation and prayer by Eld. J. F. Goff, after which a chapter was read by Elder Goff, and prayer offered, led by Elder W. F. Thomas.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. F. Goff, from Rom. 8:1, followed by Eld. J. C. Lassiter.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, p. m.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Association convened with singing by the congregation and prayer by Eld. J. C. Willeford.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. J. C. Willeford.

The Constitution and Rules of Decorum of the Wolf Bayou Association were read by the Moderator.

Call for letters from the churches.

Call for Petitionary letters, in which one, Harvey's Chapel, Tuckerman, Jackson Co., Ark., was represented.

Bro. J. G. Johnson was elected Assistant Clerk, pro tem.

Moved and seconded that the petitionary church be received into this Association. Motion carried.

The church letters were read and the delegates' names enrolled.

Moved and seconded that Sister M. B. Rich be received as a delegate from Concord church in Bro. H. Hall's place. Motion carried.

Proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, in which Eld. J. C. Willeford was elected Moderator, Eld. J. F. Goff assistant; and J. C. Alexander, Jr., Clerk, with Lloyd Noble assistant.

The following committees were appointed:

Divine Services—W. R. Robins, L. A. Alexander, J. N. Wilson.

Credentials—J. F. Goff, J. C. Lassiter, J. B. Scoggin.

Sunday School—J. W. Lackey, J. B. Scoggin and J. N. Hensley.

Prayer Meeting—J. L. Alexander, J. C. Lassiter, L. Noble.

Correspondence—S. Mink, A. B. Hall, J. G. Johnson.

Finance—W. F. Thomas, A. B. Hall, R. B. Rose.

Requests and Resolutions—L. A. Alexander, W. F. Thomas, D. W. Hogue.

Moved and seconded that the act of the last Association in regard to receiving new churches by the entire delegation extending the right hand of fellowship, be rescinded. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we have inserted in our minutes the time and place of the organization of the Wolf Bayou Association. Motion carried.

The Wolf Bayou Association was organized at Antioch church, Wolf Bayou, Cleburne county, Ark., on Friday before the first Lord's Day in December, 1900.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn, to meet Friday morning at 8 o'clock.

Singing by the congregation and prayer, led by W. F. Thomas. Adjourned.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association convened with singing by the congregation and prayer by Eld. J. C. Lassiter, after which the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Call for the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting, which were read and approved.

There being a disunion in the Association, a committee was appointed to investigate the matter, W. F. Thomas, W. R. Robins and J. H. Hensley were appointed.

Report of committee appointed to investigate the disunion in the Association was read and the committee discharged, the offending parties making public acknowledgements.

Moved and seconded that this Association forgive A. B. Hall by a rising vote, and that the entire delegation extend him the right hand of fellowship. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn to meet at 3, p. m. Motion carried. Singing by the congregation, prayer, led by Eld. A. B. Hall. Adjourned.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Association convened with singing by the congregation and prayer, led by Bro. W. R. Robins. The Association was then called to order by the Moderator.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

Moved and seconded that we have a Home Mission work. Motion discussed and carried.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn, to meet Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. Motion carried. Singing by congregation and prayer, led by Bro. L. Noble. Adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association convened with singing by the congregation and prayer, led by Eld. J. W. Lackey. The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Minutes read and approved.

Report of committee on Sunday School read and committee discharged. Report discussed and adopted.

Report of committee on Prayer Meeting received and committee discharged. Report discussed and amended, by saying once a week, instead of once a month; adopted.

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

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

Moved and seconded that Eld. J. F. Goff be sent as a delegate to Post Oak Grove association. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that Eld. W. F. Thomas be an alternate to the Post Oak Grove association. Motion carried.

Elders A. B. Hall and J. C. Willeford volunteered to visit Little Vine Association as delegates.

Moved and seconded that Bro. J. G. Johnson be received as a delegate in place of Bro. Reed, to represent Antioch church.

Moved and seconded that we take up the subject of the delegation to represent each church in the Association. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that the delegation to the Association, and the distribution of the minutes to the churches, stand as it now is. Motion carried.

Motion and seconded that we hold our next Association

with Camp church, Newport, Jackson Co., Ark., commencing at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Saturday before the third Lord's Day in September, 1903. Motion carried

Moved and seconded that Elder J. F. Goff preach the Introductory Sermon, with Elder J. C. Willeford as alternate. Motion carried.

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

Moved and seconded that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he be allowed all over \$7.00 for his services. Motion carried

Moved and seconded that we adjourn, to meet at 3 p. m. Singing by the congregation and prayer, led by Bro. R. B. Rose. Adjourned.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Association convened with singing by the congregation and prayer, led by Bro. J. H. Rich. The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Moved and seconded that the Wolf Bayou Association unite with the General Association. Motion discussed and withdrawn.

Moved and seconded that we rescind the act of the organized Presbytery and take the Bible as the word of our council. Motion carried.

Report of committee on Requests and Resolutions received and committee discharged. Camp church requests the next Association, and also the ordination of Bros. L. Noble and R. B. Rose

Moved and seconded that we adjourn. Singing by the congregation and prayer led by Bro. J. N. Wilson. Adjourned, to meet at early lamp-lighting.

The Association convened Saturday night with singing by the congregation and prayer led by Bro. J. H. Hensley. Preaching by Elder J. C. Willeford, after which the communion service and the washing of the saints' feet were attended to.

The ordination of Bros. Noble and Rose was attended to.

Extended the parting hand till we meet again with Camp church, Newport, Jackson Co., Ark. on Saturday before the third Lord's Day in September, 1903, at 11 a. m.

Tendered our sincere thanks to the people of this neighborhood for their kindness and hospitality shown us.

Thus ended one of the happiest of our associations.

ELD. J. C. WILLEFORD, Moderator

ELD. J. F. GOFF, Assistant Mod'r.

J. C. ALEXANDER, Jr., Clerk.

LOYD NOBLE, Ass't. Clerk.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Divine Services.—Thursday morning, J. F. Goff and J. C. Lassiter. Thursday night, L. Noble and A. B. Hall.

Friday morning, J. F. Goff and J. W. Lackey. Friday night, J. C. Lassiter and W. F. Thomas

Saturday morning, J. H. Rich and R. B. Rose. Saturday night, J. C. Willeford and A. B. Hall.

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 folds of Christ.—J. W. Lackey, Chairman

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

Correspondence.—We, your committee on correspondence, believe it to be right to correspond with the General Baptist Association and with sister associations.—J. G. Johnson, Chairman.

Finance.—We, your committee on finance, have received \$8.00 for minute fund.—A. B. Hall, Chairman.

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

Disunion in the Association.—We, your committee on Disunion in the Association, find that A. B. Hall should, and is ready to make acknowledgements to J. F. Goff and J. C. Lassiter, that he got off of his balance and did wrong. And also that J. F. Goff should, and is ready to make acknowledgements to A. B. Hall for using harsh words against him in the Association at Concord.—W. F. Thomas, Chairman.

Requests and Resolutions—We, your committee on Requests and Resolutions, do recommend that the next Association be held with Camp church, Newport, Jackson Co. Ark., and that J. F. Goff preach the introductory sermon. J. C. Willeford, alternate. We also recommend the ordination of our beloved brethren, L. Noble and R. B. Rose. We also render our heartfelt thanks to this neighborhood for their kindness.—W. F. Thomas, Chairman.

Address of Ministers.

J. F. Goff, Gin; W. F. Thomas, Tina; J. C. Lassiter, Tina; J. C. Willeford, Tina; A. B. Hall, Newport; J. W. Lackey, Newport; Benj. Valuner, Newport; L. Nobles, Newport; R. B. Rose, Newport; — Woodell, Newport; J. E. G. Knight, Newport; J. W. Foust, Ida; J. H. Rich, Jamestown; R. M. Smith, Wolf Bayou, and J. W. James, Desha. All of Arkansas.

Address of Clerks.

Concord—Lucy Millikin, Jamestown; Corinth—Nannie May, Wilburn; Camp—Jack Grizzle, Newport; Harvey's Chapel—Ed Julian, Tuckerman; Antioch—A. J. Ward, Wolf Bayou; Pleasant Grove—B. F. Donn, Gin; Liberty—J. C. Alexander, Jr., Denmark. All of Arkansas.

Roll of Delegates.

J. C. Lassiter, J. F. Goff, J. C. Willeford, L. A. Alexander, A. B. Hall, J. W. Lackey, J. N. Wilson, J. B. Scoggin, J. L. Alexander, W. R. Robins, W. F. Thomas, J. H. Rich, Mrs. M. B. Rich, L. Nobles, R. B. Rose, D. W. Hogue, S. Mink, J. H. Hen-
sley, J. C. Alexander, Jr., J. G. Johnson and A. VanWinkle.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	No Members May of Meeting	Dis- missed by Letter	With- draw from	Re- stored	No Members	Ordained Ministers	Minute Fund.	Prayer Meeting and Sunday School	Value of Church Property
Concord	J. W. James	4	1	1		27	2	\$1 70		
Corinth	J. W. Foust	2				11		25		\$500
Camp	A. B. Hall	3	62			24	2	2 25	1	500
Liberty	J. C. Willeford	4	1	1		19	1	2 30	1	
Harvey's Chapel	A. B. Hall	2	12			20		70		
Antioch								1 00		
Pleasant Grove										
		76	7	1		173	5	8 00	2	\$1200

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, licentiates 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 this 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 cause 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

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

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

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures, and can not extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.—Romans 8:7-20.

4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—Heb. 9:24, 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 4:12; Rev. 2:10.

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. 3:15; Rom. 6:4; Acts 8:24; Col. 2:12. The Supper, Matt. 26:27, Mark 14:22, Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:23-24. Washing of feet, St. John 13:4-17, 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 on it we should abstain from our worldly concerns, except in case of necessity or mercy.—Ex. 31:16-17, Deut. 5:12; Matt. 12:12.

9. 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, 10:43; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6; St. John 3:16, 15, 16, 17; 1 Cor. 12:20, 23; Rom. 5:13.

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. 26; 6, 27, 28.

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 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.

Three Little Books.

1. The "Doctrine and Usages of the General Baptist church," authorized and endorsed by the General Association; 82 pages, Manila cover, price prepaid 15 cents.

2. "Christian Baptism," Duty, Subjects, Mode, etc. By A. D. Williams, D. D. Clearly sets forth the General Baptist position on the question, A 56 page pamphlet, sent prepaid for 15 cents.

3. "The Lord's Supper: The Communion of Saints," by A. D. Williams, D. D. A 34 page pamphlet, price 10 cents prepaid. The best argument on his question ever published.

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