MINUTES

OF THE

CURRENT RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1896

Next meeting will be held with Shiloh Church, Clay County, Arkansas, on Thursday before the third Lord's Day in September 1897

NTERS

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MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Current River

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Mount Pleasant, West, Baptist Church,

Randolph County, Ark., September 17, 18, 19, 1896.

Next Session to be held with Shiloh Church, Clay County, Ark., on Thursday, at 11 o'clock a. m., before the third Sunday in September, 1897.

THE ARKANSAS BAPTIST CO. PRINTERS

Articles of Faith.

1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe by the voluntary transgression of one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death has passed upon all men, for all have sinned and all are by nature the children of wrath.

4. We believe that Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man, and through his meritorious death the way of Salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all who come unto him upon the gospel terms.

5. We believe that believers are justified in the sight of God only by righteousness imparted unto them through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. We believe that the saints will persevere in grace and not one of them will be lost.

7. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust, and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

8. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers composed of men and women who have given themselves to the Lord and attained fellowship with each other, having agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the gospel.

9. We believe in revealed religion by the operation of the Spirit agreeable to the word of God, and that Jesus Christ is the general head of the church and the government thereof is with the body.

10. We believe that none but legally baptized believers have a right to commune at the Lord's table, and that no person has a right to administer the ordinances of the gospel except he be legally called and qualified.

11. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the gospel to be continued until His second coming and that true believers are the only fit subjects of baptism, and immersion the only gospel mode.

12. We believe that the Lord's Day should be observed and set apart for the worship of God, and that no work of worldly nature be transacted thereon, works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted.

Proceedings.

PITMAN, ARK., September 17, 1896.

The Current River Baptist Association assembled with Mt. Pleasant West Baptist Church, Randolph County, Ark., at 11 o'clock, a. m., and was called to order by the Former Moderator, Eld. J. J. McGuire.

Moved that we adjourn until 2:30 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Eld. D. H. Sharp.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Called to order with singing led by Bro. S. K. Dungan.

1. Moved that Eld. F. C. Neely preach the introductory sermon.

2. Moved that he, Bro. Neely, preach the introductory sermon tonight at early candle light.

3. Call for the letters from the various churches. Letters presented, read and received, and Messengers' names enrolled in regular order, as follows:

Shiloh—W. T. Griffith.

Mt. Pleasant West—William Cunningham, G. W. Crowder, J. W. Gambill.

Hopewell—T. T. Watson, W. H. Mason.

Union No. 2—J. G. Ray, W. F. Bridges.

Mt. Pleasant East—R. R. Black.

Reyno—R. V. Parker, Joseph Herren, W. M. Malone.

Union No. 1—R. A. Hawthorn, W. W. Baker, W. M. Yarbro.

New Prospect—J. W. Strong, J. F. Smith, J. F. McCane.

Hazel Dell—Thomas H. Moss, Henry Mentelmam.

Black River—W. J. Elder, R. A. Cate, Levi Lee.

Corning—Mary E. Bishop, Uzilah Lindsey.

New Hope—T. S. Winningham, R. E. Coates.

Liberty—Berry Wright.

Landmark—S. K. Dungan, J. J. Howell.

Siloam—L. L. Shamel, J. R. Shiveley. E. C. Robison.

Balm of Gilead—B. F. Morgan, W. V. Wheatley, L. C. King.

New Home—J. B. Webb.

4. Moved that we go into an election for Moderator and Clerk. Eld. J. J. McGuire was re-elected Moderator and Robt. Black, Clerk.

5. Call for petitionary letters. Two presented—one from Balm of Gilead and one from New Home. They were both received and Messengers' names enrolled.

6. Call for correspondence from sister associations. One presented from State Line Association, which was received and Messengers given a seat in the body.

7. Moved that we adjourn to meet at 7:30 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Eld. F. C. Neely.

EVENING SESSION.

8. The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

9. Introductory sermon delivered by Eld. F. C. Neely, as directed, from Isaiah 28: 16.

10. Bro. Wright asked to be excused from the body on account of sickness. He was excused.

11. Moved that we come to adjournment until tomorrow morning 8:30 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. W. F. Bridges.

FRIDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by singing and prayer, led by Eld. W. A. Fowler.

12. Call for the bill of arrangements. Bill presented, read and adopted, and committee discharged.

13. Roll called.

14. Rules of Decorum read.

15. Call for delinquent letters. None presented.

16. Call for correspondence from sister Associations. Bro. Lincoln, at State Line, came forward and was given a seat in the body.

17. Call for report on State Missions. Report presented, read and adopted.

18. Call for report of Committee on Associational Missions.

Report presented, read and not accepted.

19. Moved that there be a committee appointed on Associational Missions. Committee consisted of L. C. King, F. C. Neely, J. B. Webb.

20. Call for report on Resolutions. Report presented, read and deferred until later on.

21. Moved that we take recess until 2 o'clock p. m.

Divine service at 11 o'clock a. m. by Eld. W. F. Bridges, from John 3: 36.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order by singing. The Association resumed business.

1. Call for report on Home Missions. Report presented, read and adopted. Collection taken up for Home Mission work. Amount collected, $5.70.

2. Call for report on District Missions. Report presented, read and adopted.

3. Call for report of Committee on Foreign Missions. Report presented, read and adopted. Moved that the Moderator appoint a man to visit each church and take up collection for Foreign Missions during the year.

4. Moved that we take up the report on Resolutions. Report presented, read and adopted.

5. All visiting brethren were asked to come forward and enroll their names, whereupon W. A. Clark came forward and enrolled his name as corresponding messenger from the State Board; also C. L. Cate, from Cane Creek Association; F. C. Neely, from Reynolds County Association.

6. Moved we come to adjournment to meeet tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. W. A. Clark, of Little Rock, Ark.

Divine service by Eld. W. A. Clark, at 7:30 p. m. Text: Joshua, 2: 6.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

At 8 o'clock the Association convened pursuant to adjournment. Called to order with singing and prayer by Eld. Lincoln.

1. The Moderator appointed a Committee on Finance. J.

G. Ray and R. V. Parker were appointed.

2. Call for report of Committee on Publications. Report presented, read and adopted.

3. Moved that we have our minutes printed by The Arkansas Baptist, Little Rock, Ark.

4. Call for the report on Temperance. Report presented, read and adopted.

5. Call for report of Committee on Schools and Colleges. Report presented, read and adopted.

6. Resolution presented by Eld. F. C. Neely, read and adopted.

7. Call for the report of Committee on Sunday Schools. Report presented, read and adopted.

8. Call for Correspondence from sister associations. J. S. Anderson, from State Line, came forward and enrolled his name.

9. Call for all visiting members to come forward and enroll their names, whereupon J. H. Milburn enrolled his name with us.

10. Call for report on Woman's Work. Report presented, read and adopted.

11. Call for report of Committee on Obituaries. Report presented, read and received.

12. Call for report of the Missionary Band. Report presented, read and received.

13. Call for the report on Finance. Report presented, read and received.

14. Moved that we see what we can get subscribed for the Missionary cause: Union No. 1, $4; Black River, $5; Mt. Pleasant, East, $1; Landmark, $5; New Hope, $3; Union No. 2, $5; Mt. Pleasant, West, $5; Reyno, $10; Shiloh, $5; Corning, $5; Hopewell, $5; Siloam, $4; New Prospect, $5; Hazel Dell, $1; New Home, $10; Balm of Gilead, $1; Liberty, $2. Total, $78.

Moved that we adjourn to meet at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. J. J. Anderson. Divine services by Eld. J. H. Milburn at 11 o'clock a. m. Text taken from John 4: 35-6.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjounrment, and was called to order by singing and prayer by Eld. O. H. L. Cunningham.

1. Call for volunteers to correspond with the different associations: To State Line, T. J. Watson, W. F. Bridges and W. V. Wheatley; to Cane Creek, W. J. Elder; to Spring River, J. B. Webb; W. F. Bridges, to Gainsville.

2. Moved that we represent ourselves in the State Convention. Also Eld. O. H. L. Cunningham volunteered to represent us in the Convention. There was a collection taken to defray his expenses. Amount collected, $1.60.

3. Moved that our Moderator write out and deliver to Bro. Cunningham his credentials to the Conventions.

4. Moved that we go into an election for the place to hold our next Association. Shiloh was elected or chosen, and O. H. L. Cunningham was chosen to preach the introductory sermon and W. F. Bridges, Alternate.

5. Moved that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes.

6. Moved that Eld. J. H. Milburn, of Kentucky, preach on Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m., on Communion.

7. Moved that there be a collection taken up on Sunday for Bro. Connor.

8. Moved, with second, to reconsider the matter of appointing a collector to visit all the churches.

9. Moved, with second, that we recommend that each pastor preach a missionary sermon and take up a collection for the same.

10. Moved, with second, that the minutes be read. Minutes presented, read and received.

11. Moved that we come to an adjournment to meet with Shiloh church, Clay county, Ark., on Thursday, at 11 o'clock a. m., before the third Sunday in September, 1897.

ELD. J. J. McGUIRE, Moderator.

ROBT. R. BLACK, Clerk.

Reports of Committees.

ARRANGEMENTS.

We, your Committee on Arrangements, beg leave to report as follows:

1. Call roll of messengers.
2. Reading the rules of decorum.
3. Call for letters of delinquent churches.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
7. Call for reports of committees.
8. Reports of Missionary Board.
9. Elect some one to preach the Introductory Sermon.
10. Vote on place of holding next Association.
11. Some one to superintend printing and distribution of minutes.
12. Miscellaneous business.

G. W. CROWDER,
J. W. GAMBILL,
J. W. CUNNINGHAM. } Committee.

STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, beg leave to report: Our State Mission field is a very important one, and should be well cultivated. We believe the present plan the best, and recommend its continuation with Bro. W. A. Clark as Secretary. We further recommend that each pastor preach on State Missions and take a collection before the State Convention meets in November and forward it to Bro. Clark at Little Rock, Ark.

JOE HERREN,
R. V. PARKER,
W. M. MALONE. } Committee.

HOME MISSIONS.

The great command is to preach the gospel to every creature, hence we should utilize the means the Lord has given us to this end. We find a great destitution in our home mission field; therefore we suggest that every one of God's pastors teach their respective churches their duty concerning home missions; and further recommend that each church devise a plan by which they can help support home missions. We find the Home Mission Board has been instrumental in the hands of the Lord in establishing hundreds of churches in their field. Let the good work go on.

W. T. GRIFFITH, Shiloh Church.

DISTRICT MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on District Missions, beg leave to report: Feeling that District Missions is more important to us than any other mission, and should concern our first attention, as the best plan to carry on this work, we would recommend that a board of three be appointed who shall have full control of this Mission. We also recommend that the Messengers pledge for their several churches. We further recommend that S. K. Dungan, R. A. Hawthorn and D. Blackburn compose that board.

J. B. WEBB,
L. C. King,
F. C. NEELY. } Committee.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Foreign Missions, beg leave to report:

Believing as we do that the heathen will be lost without the gospel, and that our Savior commanded his disciples to preach the gospel to all the world, we feel it our duty to send it to them. Our Foreign Mission Board needs $150,000 each year to carry on this work in the various fields, and in order to meet this great obligation, each State and Association must contribute freely. Therefore, we recommend that this Association appoint a Financial Secretary to visit each church at appropriate season and take a collection for Foreign Missions, and send it to R. J. Willingham, Richmond, Va.

MARY E. BISHOP, }
ZILLA LINDSEY. } Committee.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, Dr. Whitsitt, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has made grave blunders in exploiting a fancy of his, on church history; and

Whereas, He has declared the family relation more binding than the church relation; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we condemn his theory of Baptist history and his views of the duty of wives in church relation as unscriptural and subversive of loyalty to revelation. Therefore, we will not render encouragement to the seminary until those in authority shall purge the faculty of men who are not in harmony with scripture and history. Respectfully,

F. C. NEELY.

Resolved, That we express our gratitude to the brethren and friends of Mt. Pleasant church for their kind hospitality during the sitting of this association.

Resolved, That each church report all of their ordained ministers and ordained deacons in each church, giving their names.

Resolved, That each church report in their letters all of deceased members, by death, giving the names of each one of them.

Resolved, That the articles of faith and rules of decorum be inserted in our minutes of the next Association.

PUBLICATION.

Believing that the Bible is our only guide in doctrine and practice, we recommend its faithful study and in the line of helps to its study, we should use only such Baptist literature as bears the imprint of our Baptist publishing houses. We recognize that our best workers are those who are informed as to the movements of our denomination through reading our denominational papers. Therefore, we not only recommend the Arkansas Baptist as sound in its teachings, but we also urge every Baptist to take it, pay for it and thereby advance the unity and energy of our people.

R. R. BLACK, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE.

We, as Christians, believe it our duty to do all we can in the putting down of strong drink, for it is one of the worst evils that infest our country. It fills our jails and work-houses; it is the cause of the many crimes; so many children brought up in poverty and distress; and as God-loving and God-serving people, let us be temperate and use our means in teaching others to be, and we know of no better way than to fight it on every side with God's word; warn all against the curse; rise up in the strength of God; pray and labor for tempenance.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

Your Committee on Schools and Colleges, would report as follows: We, as Baptists, realize the necessity of education, and especially an educated ministry, and with a degree of pride we can say that our educational facilities are ample, equaled by few and surpassed by none. We have schools and colleges all over our country, and on this line our own Arkansas is almost in the front ranks. We look upon Ouachita, the child of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, with its Conger and its faculty of seventeen teachsrs; and Mountain Home with its Kennard and a full faculty of qualified teachers; and Central Baptist College, for females, with its J. G. Lile and a full faculty of teachers, as being institutions of learning that we are justly proud of, and we urgently request our people to take advantage of the splendid opportunities offered by these schools, and let their children, young men and young ladies, have a chance to obtain a thorough education, that they may be prepared for any honorable calling in life. J. J. McGUIRE.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to submit the following:

1. Knowing as we do that the Sunday school is an important factor in disseminating the truth and training the young up as they should go, we, your committee, therefore recommend that each church organize and maintain an evergreen Sunday school.

2. That every church have their pastor to teach them their duty toward their children.

3. That each church and Sunday school take at least one collection each year and send it to the State Board to be used in the work of Sunday schools.

4. That each Sunday school use nothing but sound Baptist literature, as the day is here for us, as Baptists, to stand clear from the many isms that are being taught in our land.

R. E. COATS,
P. S. WINNINGHAM, } Committee.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Your Committee on Woman's Work would respectfully submit the following for your consideration: Woman's work is to administer to the saints, and to point the wanderers to Christ. During the personal ministry of Christ, the woman of Samaria was instrumental in leading many of the Samaritans to believe on him. John 4: 39. Woman was the first to the sepulchre, and Christ first appeared to Mary at his resurrection. Mark 16: 1-10. It is with feelings of gratitude and pride that we refer to the great work that is being done by our Southern women in the kingdom of Christ, and their influences for good eternity alone will reveal, and we believe that our churches ought to foster and encourage them in their work. Our own women are the most earnest workers in the church and their prayers are acceptable in public as well as private. Therefore, we would recommend that the churches encourage the organization of Woman's Mission Societies in our churches, and that we pledge our hearty support and co-operation in their work, and the churches send up a report of all work done by such organization at our next meeting, and that all such societies send representatives to this body.

ELD. W. F. BRIDGES, Union Church No. 2.

OBITUARIES.

We, your Committee on Obituaries, report as follows: We learn that

the sickle of death has been mowing in our land and has taken from us thirty-one members. Trusting that all these have been gathered into mansions prepared, we pray that we should so live as to be ready to meet them when the Master calls us to cross the chilly waters of death and meet them that are with Christ.

L. C. KING, Chm'n.

FINANCE.

Bethel	$
Black River	1 00
Corning	75
Hazel Dell	1 00
Hopewell	1 25
Liberty	
Landmark	1 00
Mt. Pleasant, West	1 00
Mt. Pleasant, East	1 00
Hopewell	1 00
New Prospect	1 20
Reyno	2 00
Shiloh	1 50
Siloam	1 00
Union No. 1	1 00
Union No. 2	1 50
Balm of Gilead	50
New Home	75

ELD. W. F. BRIDGES, JOHN G. RAY. } Committee.

COMMITTEES.

The following committees were appointed by the Moderator to report at next association:

On arrangements, Shiloh church.
On Foreign Missions, New Home church.
On Home Missions, Reyno Church.
On State Missions, Mt. Pleasant West.
On Obituaries, Corning church.
On District Missions, Union No. 2.
On Woman's Work, Landmark church.
On Sunday Schools, New Hope church.
On Temperance, Black River church.
On Publication, Siloam church.
On Schools and Colleges, New Prospect church.
On Resolutions, Mt. Pleasant, East, church.

J. J. McGUIRE, Moderator.

Ordained Ministers.

BARKER, S. B. ..... Palatka
BRIDGES, W. F. ..... Walnut Ridge
BRISTOE, J. H. ..... Neelyville, Mo
CONNOR, A. ..... Palatka
CROWDER, G. W. ..... Pitman
CUNNINGHAM, O. H. L. ..... Maynard
GIBSON, M. ..... Neelyville, Mo
HAYNES, W. L. ..... Walnut Ridge
McCANN, H. ..... Thurman
McKAY, G. W. ..... Thurman
McGUIRE, J. J. ..... Thurman
NEELY, F. C. ..... Reyno
SHARP, D. H. ..... Pitman
SMITH, J. F. ..... Neelyville, Mo
TOWNSEND, G. ..... Palatka
WATSON, T. J. ..... Thurman
WELCH, W. O. ..... Palatka
WHEATLEY, J. A. ..... Thurman

Rules of Decorum.

1. The Moderator shall take the chair at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned and after prayer shall proceed to business. It shall be his duty to keep order and he shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but in no case shall he be given a vote unless the Association be equally divided.

2. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator, and in no wise shall he be interrupted unless he digress from the subject in question, and he shall in no wise cast any reflections upon those who have spoken before him, but shall fairly give his own views without sophistry or criticism.

3. No member shall speak more than three times upon any one subject without leave of the Association.

4. No member shall address another by any other appellation than that of "Brother" when sitting in council.

5. The Moderator shall not interrupt nor prohibit a member from speaking until his speech is finished, unless he violate the Rules of Decorum.

6. The names of all members shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called as often as the Association may desire.

7. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

8. Every case taken up and decided shall be announced by the Moderator.

9. Any member who shall knowingly violate any of the foregoing rules shall be reproved as the Association may deem proper.

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES	TIME OF MEETING	CLERKS.	POST-OFFICES.	PASTORS,	MESSENGERS.	Baptized.	Rec by Recom'n.	Rec. by Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total Membership.
Shiloh		W. J. Griffith	Thurman	J A. Wheetley	W. T. Griffith	..	..	3	..	2	..	4	27
Hazel Dell	Sat. before 4th Sun.	G. A. McKinney	Neeleyville	H. Bristoe	Thomas Moss, H. Mentelman	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	26
Union No. 2	Sat. before 3d Sun.	E. J. Ivey	Walnut Ridge	W. F. Bridges	J. G. Ray, W. F. Bridges	2	..	..	..	..	1	8	113
Mt. Pleasant East	3d Sunday	R. R. Black	Palatka	A. Conner	Robert Black	2	..	..	..	1	7	..	29
Corning		T. Bishop	Corning		M. E. Bishop, U. Lindsey	..	..	..	..	..	9	8	77
Union No. 1		R. A. Hawthorn.	Palatka.	A. Conner	R. Hawthorn, W. Baker, Wm. Yarbro	13	..	..	3	1	2	..	28
Liberty	2d Sunday	R. F. Rilev	Peru	E. T. Lincoln	Berry Wright	..	..	..	2	1	1	2	10
Siloam	1st Sunday	J. R, Shively	Bridgeport	D. H Sharp	Ishmael J. Shively, E. C. Robison	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	26
Balm of Gilead		B. F. Morgan	Palatka	J. Wheetley	F. Morgan, L. C. King, W. V. Wheetley	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	6
Reyno	1st a 3d Sunday	Bettie Cheek	Reyoo	O. Cunningham.	R V Parker, J. Herren, W. M. Malone	21	11	..	..	6	..	7	105
Black River	2d Sunday	D. A. Lemons	Baysville	M. Gibson	J. Elder, R Cate, C. M. Lee	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	36
New Home	1st Sunday	J. A. Hunter	Pocahontas	F. Bridges	J. B. Webb	2	1	11	..	..	..	..	14
Mt. Pleasant West	3d Sunday	T. J. Gambill	Pitman	J. A. Wheetley.	W. Cunningham, G. W. Crowder, J. W. Gambill.	1	..	..	..	10	3	4	75
Hopewell	4th Sunday	J. H. Irwin	Corning	T. B. Barker	T. J. Watson, H. McCann	1	.	1	1	2	2	..	35
Landmark		J. J. Howell	Williams	F. C. Neely	S. R. Dungan, J. J. Howell	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	[illegible]
New Prospect		J. W Strong	Moark	M. Gibson	J Strong, J. F. Smith. J. F. McCane	..	2	4	..	..	..	1	21
New Hope		A. R. McCann	Thurman	J. A. Wheetley.	T. S. Winningham, R. E. Coats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
					Totals	62	16	25	7	25	30	36	700

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Baptist Superintendent	6¼ cents.	25 cents.
Baptist Teacher	12½ "	50 "
Senior Quarterly	5 "	20 "
Advanced Quarterly	2¼ "	9 "
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Primary Quarterly	2¼ "	9 "
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Our Young People	10 cents.	40 cents.
Young Reaper, Monthly	2½ "	10 "
" " Fortnightly	5 "	20 "
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Our Little Ones	6¼ "	25 "
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REDUCTION IN PRICE

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