

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Springtown Association

OF BAPTIST,

—HELD WITH THE—

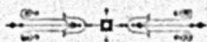
BAPTIST CHURCH AT TEMPERANCE HILL.

Commencing on Thursday, Sept. 17th, 1885.



OFFICERS:

R. C. GIBBS,	- - -	MODERATOR.
H. HIGHFILL,	- - -	CLERK.



MINUTES, SPRINGTOWN ASSOCIATION.

TEMPERANCE HILL, BENTON }
Co., ARK., Sept. 17th, 1885. }

The Springtown Baptist Association met with the church at Temperance Hill according to previous appointment.

The brethren appointed to preach the Introductory being absent, Elder O. M. Lucas of Little Rock, Ark., was invited and preached from 1st Peter, 1:1.

The Association was then called to order by the former Moderator P. R. Johnson.

Elders A. J. Estes and J. F. Mitchell were appointed to read the letters from the churches and the messengers names were enrolled. (see table.)

Took recess one hour for dinner which was upon the ground, and then resumed business. Elders I. R. Hall and A. J. Maxwell were appointed tellers, the association then went into permanent organization, electing R. C. Gibbs, Moderator, and H. Highfill, Clerk.

Visiting ministers were invited to seats, accepted by Elders O. M. Lucas of Little Rock, who represented the interest of the Arkansas Evangel, and J. F. Mitchell of Springtown.

Called for correspondent messengers, accepted by Elders I. R. Hall, A. J. Maxwell, F. M. Seamster, J. Dunagin, of Bentonville association and J. H. Hogan of Cherokee Nation.

Called for unfinished business. The report of the committee that visited the Liberty church was received and made a special order for 9 o'clock A. M., Friday.

The report of the committee that visited Zion Hill was received and adopted. Elder B. F. Cooper was granted leave of absence.

Adjourned to 9 A. M., Friday.

The following committees were appointed: On divine service—John Givens, P. R. Johnson and the delegates of Temperance Hill.

Finance—A. E. Bright and John Givens.

Education—A. J. Estes, S. Murdock and E. S. Gibbs.

Temperance—B. A. Sammons and Joseph Setser.

Obituaries—J. C. Robertson, J. W. Netherton and B. F. Cooper.

Sabbath School P. R. Johnson, G. W. Setser and B. Steves.

Home Mission—A. J. Estes, Wm. Murphy and J. M. Peak.

Publication—John Duncan, P. R. Johnson and D. H. Smith.

Queries—J. C. Robertson, B. K. Netherton and P. Gholson.

Friday morning—The association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Eld. J. H. Hogan who was granted leave of absence.

Called for correspondence, received none.

The minutes of Thursday were read and approved.

The report of the committee that visited the Liberty church was taken up and indefinitely tabled and the petition of the Liberty church withdrawn, it was ordered that the report of the committee be spread upon the minutes; adjourned to 11-2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Elder J. F. Mitchell. Resumed business at 1 1-2 P. M., prayer by G. W. Gordon.

The following reports were received and adopted—of Executive Board, Home Mission and Education.

It was determined that the next meeting of this association be held with the church at Mt. Pleasant, commencing at 10 o'clock, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in Oct. 1886.

Eld. J. W. West to preach the Introductory sermon and Elder A. J. Estes, alternate. The constitution is ordered to be changed so as to read that this body shall meet on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in Oct. 1886. Adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M., Saturday. Prayer by Elder J. Dunnagin.

Saturday morning—The Association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by J. F. Mitchell.

1st, Proceeded to elect a Missionary Board, consisting of B. A. Sammons, P. R. Johnson,

John Chastain John Givens and H. Highfill.

The reports of committees on Temperance, Finance and Publications were received and adopted. Adjourned to 11-2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Elder J. Dunnagin.

The Association was called to order at 11-2 o'clock P. M., prayer by Eld. Wm. Edwards. The reports of committees on Sabbath schools and obituaries were received and adopted. A special to Eld. John Givens, Sr., deceased, was read, approved and ordered to be spread upon the minutes, also that a copy of the same be sent to the Ark. Evangel for publication.

A resolution proposing a system to raise missionary funds, received and adopted.

Query No. 1, was adopted.

The following brethren were appointed correspondents to the Bentonville Association: B. A. Sammons, J. W. Simmons, J. C. Robertson, P. R. Johnson, J. F. Mitchell, A. J. Estes, J. L. Jones and Thomas Siton, and to the Fayetteville Association: B. A. Sammons, J. C. Robertson, A. J. Estes, E. S. Gibbs, P. R. Johnson and H. Highfill.

To the Cherokee Nation Association: John Givens, G. W. Gordon, E. S. Gibbs, J. F. Mitchell, J. C. Robertson, A. J. Estes and P. R. Johnson.

A resolution for the consolidation of the Springtown and Bentonville association received and adopted. A committee consisting of the corresponding messengers were appointed to meet

a like committee from the Bentonville association to determine time and place for a convention to be composed of delegates from the churches of each association to effect said consolidation.

P. R. Johnson was appointed correspondent to the State convention.

Resolved, that this body return its thanks to the Temperance Hill church and community for their kindness during our stay in their midst.

It is ordered that the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of 500 copies of these minutes, and that he have five dollars for his services, if there is that much left when the printer is paid.

The association adjourned to time and place of next meeting. Prayer by Elder Wm. Edwards.

R. C. GIBBS, Moderator.

H. HIGHFILL, Clerk.

Reports of Committees.

Liberty Church.—We your committee appointed to visit Liberty church, beg leave to make the following report: We carefully examined into the standing of said church and find that she was legally constituted, is sound in doctrine, and what we would term a model Baptist church, we wish to say nothing in reference to the opposite party, but in justice to the Liberty Church must say that the grounds they had for withdrawing from the Vineyard church were sufficient, we therefore heartily recommend their admittance into this association.

J. F. MITCHELL,

A. J. ESTES;

P. R. JOHNSON,

B. A. SAMMONS.

A minority report of Liberty church received:

So far as an investigation of Liberty church is concerned, so as to justify her action, I regard it as a total failure, though we find them gospelly organized, working together in christian harmony, for the advancement of the master's cause.

WM. DAVIS.

We your committee visited Zion Hill church, at her regular meeting in May 1885, after consulting with the church, they passed a resolution stating that they did not endorse irregular ordination.

B. H. WELLER, Chairman.

Publications.—We submit the following first the careful study of the Bible, for literature Arkansas Evangel, Tennessee Baptist and American Baptist Flag.

J. B. DUNCAN, Chairman.

On Missions.—We find great destitution in many parts of our association and would advise that steps be taken by this body to occupy these waiting fields, we would recommend the election of an Executive Board whose duty it shall be to raise funds, employ and send into the field, competent laborers and that this body take a collection on Saturday and Sunday for missionary work, and that all the churches be earnestly requested to raise funds for this purpose and that the missionary employed by the board be required to report to the board every quarter.

A. J. ESTES, Chairman.

Finance.—We find \$16.65, sent up by the churches, and in the hands of the clerk from last year \$2.25.—
Total \$19.20.

Education.—We your committee on education submit the following report: We as Baptist claim to be friends of education, therefore we should foster and liberally sustain institutions of learning, where children may acquire a liberal education

to prepare them for the duties of life; the need of an educated ministry is greatly felt, therefore we would recommend earnest effort in this direction, that our ministers may be qualified to present the truth and sustain the cause of Christ,

A. J. ESTES, Chairman

Report of the Missionary Board

Carried over from last year \$9.25

Received from the church at Siloam Springs, \$7.35.

Took up a collection on Saturday and received, \$7.30

Also Sunday and received \$12.55

Total on hands, \$36.45.

B. A. SAMMONS, Chairman.

Report of Executive Board:

We your missionary board beg leave to make the following report: As there was but little money left in our hands, we employed Bro. M. C. Harris, empowering him as financial agent, agreeing to allow him \$1.50 per day for labor actually rendered as missionary in the bounds of this association, provided he collected enough to pay himself, he was not to hold the board responsible for his wages. He visited two churches and took in subscription and cash \$20.50. He failed to meet the board or report. D. L. JESSE, Chairman.

On Temperance.—We your committee submit the following report: We find great room to fear a rapid growth of intoxication in our bounds against which we should guard with all our influence—preach and teach wherever we go the evils therein.

B. A. SAMMONS, Chair'm.

Sabbath School.—We submit the following: There are but few of our churches that seem to feel the great importance of this work—our children are the hope of the church and the church is the light of the world—we should be awake to the importance of educating our children; there is nothing that is superior to a well directed Sunday

school for training our children in that light. Therefore, resolved that this association earnestly advise the brethren to establish Sunday schools in each church with the New Testament as its text book with other suitable helps.

P. R. JOHNSON, Chairman.

OBITUARIES.

We, your committee, find that only five of our brethren and sisters have been removed from us during the past year, therefore we have reasons to be thankful to God for his preserving care. The following are the names of those whom God in his wisdom has called to a higher and happier life: Bro. G. W. Berry, Elder John Givens, sisters, Rosa Campbell, Martha Darnell and Ann Underwood, all of whom now rest in peace awaiting the coming of the Blessed Jesus. We mourn them only because of their loss to us, rejoicing in the hope that our loss is their eternal gain. Resolved, that this association tender its sympathy to the bereaved relatives and friends of the deceased. J. C. ROBERTSON, Ch'm.

RESOLUTION.

Whereas there exists in the bounds of the Springtown Association a great destitution, and the field can not be occupied without means. The Lord has blessed his people with abundance, therefore,

Resolved, That the churches adopt the plan of systematic giving as the Lord has prospered them, say each member of the several churches be requested to contribute at least one nickle at each regular monthly meeting.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Reported from Siloam and Springtown.

A Union S. S. from Corner Spring.

QUERY NO. 1.

Should we as Baptist make it a test of fellowship where a member of the church joins worldly associa-

tions and disregards the example and commands of the blessed Jesus?

Ans. of the committee on queries:

Yes, we should make it a test of fellowship, not for joining worldly associations, but for disregarding the example and commands of Christ. J. C. ROBERTSON, Ch'm.

OBITUARY SPECIAL

To Elder JOHN GIVENS Sen., who was born in Hawkin County, Tenn., Dec. 18th, 1806.

Born again in Monroe county, about the year 1835, and united with the Big Creek church and was ordained a Gospel minister in the Baptist church about a year afterward. He moved from Tennessee to Northwest Arkansas in 1855—he died at his home in Benton county, Aug. 22, 1885, in his 79th year. On coming to Benton county in 1855 and finding no Baptist churches in that portion of the country, after riding and searching he found a few Baptist scattered here and there, whom he constituted into a church, was called to their pastorate and served them for several years, the church enjoying a revival each month for five years. From that church in a short time several others were organized with Bro. Givens pastor. To Bro. Givens most of the churches in Northwest Arkansas owe their organization. He was known to walk ten and twelve miles to serve these churches when he had no horse to ride. He also organized the first Sabbath School on Butler's Creek at his home church where he was a faithful laborer till death. Bro. Givens was the father of a family of seventeen children, a kind husband and father, faithful minister and pastor, the moderator of the Hiawasa Association in Tennessee for many years, also of the Springtown Association in Arkansas at various times, always filling the office with honor to himself and his association. To him as husband, father and minister, the

claims of duty in all the relations of life were served. His works do follow him. When on his death-bed, he carefully and prayerfully reviewed his life in all its varied scenes and said he had nothing to regret, that he had fought a good fight, he had kept the faith, he had finished his course, henceforth there was laid up a crown of righteousness. All who knew him deplore his death as their common loss but feel it to be his infinite gain. In view of the foregoing history, we, your committee, would therefore report the following:

Whereas God in his wisdom has seen fit to call from the labor of earth to a brighter life and a perfect rest, our beloved brother and father in the ministry, Elder John Givens, the oldest minister of our association, a devoted pastor whose life in general has been a model of Christian meekness and forbearance, who amid the trials and turmoils of life has never faltered in duty to the master's cause, and who by many deeds of kindness and love has endeared himself to all who knew him, and

Whereas, by this dispensation of providence, many are bereaved and sadness is made to fall upon all by this great loss to the church and society, therefore

Resolved, That in his death this association and the church has sustained an irreparable loss—a pillar gone never again to be replaced—a chief stay in the brotherhood whose place can never be filled.

Resolved further, That though in wisdom he has been taken from us, yet we deplore his loss, and extend to the bereft family our heartfelt sympathy in their great misfortune.

Resolved further, That a copy of this be recorded in our minutes, and that a copy be sent to our state paper, the Arkansas Evangel, for publication.

J. C. ROBERTSON,
B. F. COOPER,
J. W. NETHERTON } Com.

Preaching services, Thursday, Introductory, by O. M. Lucas, text, 1st Peter, 1, 1. Thursday night, F. M. Seamster followed by Joseph Setser, text, Hebrews 9: 26, 27 and 28.

Friday at 11 o'clock, A. J. Maxwell from Luke 4th: Friday night, I. R. Hall, from Psalms 84: 11; Saturday at 11 o'clock, J. Dunagin, John 3: 5: "Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and the spirit he can not enter into the kingdom of God."

MESSENGERS.

Siloam Springs Church—A. J. Estes, B. Steves, R. C. Gibbs, G. W. Gordon and E. S. Gibbs.
Harmony Grove—J. M. Minan, Jas. Setser and Joseph Setser.
Temperance Hill—R. A. Sammons, E. J. Bishop, A. E. Bright, J. L. Jones and Wm Perceel
Pleasant Grove—R. L. Keith
Mount Pleasant—R. Edwards.
Mt. Enterprise—G. W. Setser and E. Holcom.
Mason Valley—Pleasant Gholson, John Brisco, John Duocan and John Givens.
Spavinaw.....
Butler's Creek—R. E. Cooper.
Corner spring—J. M. Peak
Honey Creek—J. W. Netherton, T. M. Bagby and R. K. Netherton
Wager's Mill—J. C. Robertson, Wm. Murphy and D. H. Smith.
Bethesda—P. R. Johnson, J. B. Phillips, J. L. Clouston,
Springtown—Thos. Siton, W. J. Smith, H. Highfill.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

John Y. Black	A. J. Estes
Wm. Edwards,	J. M. McCraw
G. W. Kenedy,	E. S. Baldwin,
G. W. Gordon	J. F. Mitchell,
Joseph Setser,	L. H. Palmer,
W. H. Mapes,	Joseph Windfield
R. E. Cooper,	J. C. Robertson
C. Seeley,	T. W. West,

LICENTIATES.

Wm. Davis,	S. C. Pearce,
L. W. Keith,	G. W. Setser,
R. H. Weller,	D. Jones,
H. B. Louis,	Thos. Siton,
E. S. Gibbs,	B. Brannan,

J. W. Netherton,

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe that the Holy Bible, written by men, divinely inspired and full of unmixed truth, is a perfect rule of faith and practice.

2nd. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

3d. We believe that man, once holy, fell by voluntary transgression from that happy state, and is now utterly void of holiness.

4th. We believe that sinners are saved by grace alone.

5th. We believe that men are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6th. We believe that salvation is free to all who will accept the Gospel.

7th. 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.

8th. We believe that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are the duties of every one who hears the Gospel.

9th. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God by which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners.

10th. We believe that sanctification begun in regeneration and ever progressive is the process by which we are made to partake of God's holiness.

11th. We believe in the preservation of the saints, that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12th. We believe that God's law is the only, the eternal and unchangeable rule of his church and moral government.

13th. 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.

14th. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, by a properly qualified administrator into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

15th. We believe that only such as have been properly baptized and received into the fellowship of a regularly organized Baptist church should partake of the Lord's Supper.

16th. We believe that the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath should be devoutly observed and sacredly de-

voted to religious services.

17th. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and that the governor of states and nations should be obeyed, when the laws they seek to enforce are not in conflict with the Gospel.

18th. We believe in the future resurrection of the dead.

19th. We believe in the final judgment; and that, in that day, the righteous and wicked will be separated forever.

20th. We believe that the righteous will be made happy forever in Heaven and the wicked miserable forever in hell.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2nd. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3d. The moderator shall be deemed a judge of order and shall have a right to call to order at any time.

4th. Any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the association on the same day; but at no other time.

5th. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and, on obtaining leave, proceed.

6th. The moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming him, or otherwise.

7th. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in hand, or use words of personal reflection, and every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except withdrawn by the member who made it.

8th. Every case taken up by the association shall be decided on, or withdrawn before another is offered.

9th. When anything is taken up by the association, after allowing a reasonable time for debate, the mod-

erator shall take the question and those in favor of the proposition shall rise to their feet and those against it shall keep their seats.

10th. The moderator shall pronounce the decision before the standers take their seats.

11th. No person shall depart from the service of the association without leave.

12th. The appellation of brother shall be used in addressing one another.

13th. The names of members shall be called as often as the association may direct.

14th. No member shall be countenanced in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in times of public speech.

15th. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as any other member, provided he appoint some other member to his seat while he is speaking, but shall not be allowed to vote unless the association be equally divided.

16th. Any member breaking this decorum shall be reprov'd at the discretion of the association, but only on the day the breach is made.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1st.—This Association shall be composed of messengers, who shall be members of the churches they represent, (except such as may be invited to a seat by consent of this body,) and shall be styled, the Springtown Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 2nd.—This Association shall meet annually on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in October at the place previously appointed and after public worship and reading the letters from the churches, and acting upon those soliciting membership, a moderator and clerk shall be chosen from the messengers by ballot, both of whom shall hold their offices until others shall be elected.

ARTICLE 3rd.—It shall be the duty

