

• • Minutes • •

OF THE

•• *Texarkana* ••

Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

New Hope Church,

Bowie County, Texas, October 22, 23, 24, 1898.

Twenty-Fifth Annual Session.

•• OFFICERS: ••

John Winham, Moderator,

N. J. Rachel, Clerk,

J. C. Watts, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

W. A. Freeman,

B. D. Meredith

J. B. Lambley

B. Chance

R. T. Fulbright.

Next session to be held with First Church, Texarkana, Saturday before fourth Sunday in September, 1899.

Introductory Sermon Friday night before.

STANDING RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That any member of this Association, in good standing in his own Church, bearing a copy of the minutes of this Association, be authorized to represent us in any body with which we correspond.

LETTER TO ASSOCIATION.

..... Missionary Baptist Church to the Tex-
ana Baptist Association.—GEEETING:

Brethren:

Our statistics are as follows: Received by baptism.....; by letter.....; by
ration.....; dismissed by letter.....; died.....; excluded.....; pres-
membership..... Days of meeting..... Prayer meeting,
often..... Pastor.....
office..... Clerk.....
..... Postoffice..... We send for
e Missions \$.....; Foreign Missions \$.....; Associational Missions \$.....; Min-
ial Education and relief \$.....; Buckner Orphans' Home \$.....; Printing Min-
\$.....; Paid pastor \$..... Total \$ Sunday-school superintendent
..... Postoffice.....
lars.....; Officers and Teachers; Sunday-school children baptized.....; Con-
tions.....

....., Moderator
....., Clerk.

Rules of Decorum.

1. Each session of the association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. But one shall speak at a time, and he shall arise and address the moderator.
3. During a discussion no member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of reflection.
4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except it be withdrawn by the one that made it.
5. Every case taken up by the association shall first be decided on or withdrawn before another is offered.
6. No member shall depart from the session of the association without leave.
7. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave obtained, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until all debates are closed.
8. The appellation of brother shall be used in our address to each other.
9. Any person breaking these Rules of Decorum may be reproved as the association may think proper.

Order of Business.

1. Call association to order.
2. Call for and read letters from the churches.
3. Preach the introductory sermon.
4. Elect moderator, clerk, treasurer.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
7. Call for corresponding messengers.
8. Appoint a Committee on Divine Service.
9. Appoint the following committees: 1, on Associational Missions; 2, on Foreign Missions; 3, on Sunday Schools; 4, on Publications; 5, on Finance; 6, on Deceased Ministers; 7, on Orphans' Home; 8, on Ministers' Names and Post Office; 9, on Pastoral Support; 10, on State Missions; 11, Education; 12, Home Missions; 13, on Temperance; 14 call for Treasurer's Report.
10. Select the place of next meeting.
11. Appoint a minister to preach next introductory sermon.
12. Appoint a minister to preach missionary sermon at next meeting.
13. Call for report of Associational Mission Board.
14. Call for reports of committees in order of their appointment.
15. Miscellaneous business.

Proceedings.

The Association was called to order by the moderator. Scripture read and prayer by Bro. J. B. Lumbly.

Call for the letters from the churches. Letters were presented and read. Bros. Neill and Lumbly were appointed reading clerks.

The following churches were represented by letter and messenger:

Park—E. D. Meredith, W. J. Simmons.

New Boston—J. B. Lumbly, J. W. Price.

Tennessee—John Winham.

Mt. Pisgah—Calvin Scott.

Pleasant Grove—J. T. Day.

First Church, Texarkana—W. A. Freeman, W. H. Tilson and F. H. Williams.

Olive Street—W. E. Neill, B. Chance and Gus Payne.

Rock Creek—W. J. Ewbanks, J. M. Smith.

Center Ridge—N. J. Rachel.

Myrtle Spring—L. Moore.

Sand Hill—by letter.

Ward's Creek—J. B. Merchant.

College Hill—A. J. Richardson, Peter Burns.

Bethel—J. E. Corzine, Mattie Corzine.

New Hope—G. E. Pinkham, A. M. Pinkham and J. V. Meadows.

Syl'arenia—J. W. Fawbush, G. W. Yarberry.

Hubbard—S. A. Lee, S. M. Braswell and F. P. Cleghorn.

Bethsaida—J. R. Seller, David Dean.

New Prospect—J. E. Cox.

De Kalt—L. H. Mahaffy.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. E. D. Meredith. Text—1 Samuel 17:29. Subject: "Is There Not a Cause?"

The Association was organized by electing Eld. John Winham, Moderator; Eld. N. J. Rachel, Clerk, and Bro. J. C. Watts, Treasurer.

On motion the clerk was instructed to use the word "messenger," instead of "delegate," in all the records of the Association.

The following resolution was presented and adopted :

Resolved, That the clerk of this association be requested to publish annually a blank form of associational letter, and that the churches be requested to use these forms in their reports to the Association.

Corresponding messengers called for. Bro. H. C. Hill, of Red River Association, was announced present and invited to a seat.

The following visiting brethren were presented to the association and invited to seats: Dock Pegues, of the State Sunday-school and colportage work; W. T. Compere, Texas Baptist and Herald; Bro. Grant, Baptist Standard; J. B. Riddle, general missionary.

Petitionary letters called for.

New Prospect church presented letter by hand of Bro. J. E. Cox. On motion the church was received and hand of fellowship extended by moderator.

Committee on Divine Services—Pastors and deacons of New Hope church.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

Associational Missions—W. A. Freeman, W. J. Simmons, J. E. Corzine.

Foreign Missions—W. E. Neill, G. E. Pinkham, J. B. Merchant.

Sunday-schools—J. B. Merchant, B. Chance, W. J. Ewbanks.

Publications—B. Chance, S. H. Mahaffy, J. R. Sellers.

Finance—W. H. Tilson, E. D. Meredith, J. V. Meadows.

Deceased Ministers—J. B. Merchant, David Dean.

Orphans' Home—E. D. Meredith, Mattie Corzine, S. M. Braswell.

Ministers' Names and Postoffices—N. J. Rachel.

State Missions—J. B. Lumbly, W. A. Freeman, J. T. Day.

Education—W. J. Simmons, Gus Payne, J. W. Price.

Home Missions—Peter Burns, E. D. Meredith, J. E. Cox.

Temperance—Mattie Corzine, Calvin Scott, S. A. Lee.

Treasurer's report called for. Presented and read by W. A. Freeman. Remanded back to treasurer for correction, as it did not correspond with receipts held by B. Chance, secretary of Sunday-school convention.

The First Church, Texarkana, was chosen as the place for holding next association. Time for introductory sermon on Friday night before fourth Saturday in September, 1899, business meeting to begin on Saturday at 8 a. m.

On motion it was ordered that the Executive Board appoint a preacher for introductory sermon.

On motion W. A. Freeman was chosen as messenger to Southern Baptist Convention. J. B. Lumbly as alternate.

Committee on Preaching reported as follows: Saturday night Eld. W. E. Neill; Sunday, 10 a. m., Sunday-school and colportage work by Eld. Dock Pegues; 11 a. m., missionary sermon by Eld. John Winham; 7: 30 p. m., Eld. W. A. Freeman.

On motion adjourned to 9: 30 a. m., Sunday. Prayer by Bro. Simmons.

Saturday night, preaching by Eld. W. E. Neill. Had quite a pleasant service.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional service led by Eld. F. H. Williams.

Report of Sunday-schools read, discussed and adopted.

The State Sunday-school and colportage work was presented by Bro. Dock Pegues. Collection for same, \$9 65.

At 11 a. m., by request of the appointee, Eld. John Winham, Eld. J. L. Whittle preached the missionary sermon. Collection for associational missions, \$18.80.

Adjourned to 2 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

Met in business meeting. Sister E. C. Moore, of Belton Female College, Belton, Tex., was announced present and was

invited to address the body in the interest of her work in the cottage home annex at Belton Female College.

(Note) The cottage home is being built by Sister Moore, that those unable to pay regular board and tuition may receive board in the cottage home family at a nominal price. Those desiring so to do can address her at Belton, Texas. Collection for cottage home, \$10.25.

The reports of the committees were called for, read and discussed, and adopted. See reports in appendix.

Pending the adoption of the report on deceased ministers, on motion it was ordered that a blank page be set apart in the minutes in memory of Elds. J. S. Thomas and H. H. Echols, deceased.

Pending the adoption of the report on Orphans' Home it was resolved that any brother or brethren of this association having business in Dallas be requested to visit Buckner Orphans' Home and report to the association at its next meeting.

On motion adjourned to 7 p. m.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Met in session. Prayer by Bro. Simmons.

Report on Associational Missions was presented and read, and held under discussion. Sermon by Eld. W. A. Freeman.

The following pledges were taken for Associational Missions:

State Board.....	\$100 00	Park.....	5 00
First Church, Texarkana.....	30 00	Center Ridge.....	5 00
Tennessee.....	10 00	Ward's Creek.....	5 00
Olive Street.....	20 00	Hubbard.....	5 00
New Boston.....	10 00	Rock Creek.....	5 00
Myrtle Springs.....	5 00	College Hill.....	5 00
Dekalb.....	5 00		
Bethel.....	5 00	Total.....	\$215 00

Minutes read and approved.

On motion adjourned to 8 a. m. Monday.

MONDAY SESSION.

Continued the consideration of the reports of committees.

Pending the adoption of the report on State Missions, free-will offering, \$9.25.

Report of Finance Committee was received. The treasurer not being present it was ordered that the clerk pay out the money

on hand to the purposes for which they were sent, taking receipts for the same.

On motion the moderator was requested to appoint Executive Board.

The board as follows: W. A. Freeman, E. D. Meredith, J. B. Lumbly, B. Chance, R. T. Fulbright.

On motion Eld. John Winham was chosen as missionary to labor in the bounds of Texarkana Association, to begin April 1 to October 31, 1899, for three-fourths of his time.

On motion adjourned to 1 p. m. Prayer by Bro. Meredith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Concluded consideration of reports.

Miscellaneous business.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved. That the thanks of this body be tendered to the members of New Hope church and community for their kind hospitality during the session of this body, and we assure them that their kindness shall never be forgotten.

On motion it was ordered that the clerk have \$10 out of the minute fund for his services.

On motion it agreed that the introductory sermon be preached on Friday night before fourth Saturday in September, 1899.

The minutes were read and approved.

A song was sung, the parting hand extended. Prayer by Eld. J. B. Riddle.

Adjourned to time and place of next meeting.

JOHN WINHAM, Moderator.

N. J. RACHEL, Clerk.

IN
MEMORY
OF
ELDERS
JERRY S. THOMAS
AND
HARVEY H. ECHOLS
THEY REST IN PEACE

Reports of Committees.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We, your committee, submit the following report: Bros. T. L. Fulbright and J. B. Lumbly have given part of their time during the past year at Dolby Springs. Bro. Winham gave about forty days to the work; received \$35 from the field and paid out \$3. Bro. Martin went one Sunday each month, from April to October, in the northwest part of Bowie county, receiving fourteen by baptism and otherwise. Beside this, little has been done. There is great destitution in the northwest part of Bowie county, and also in the southeastern portion of same. The want of the spirit of missions among our people in the Association is seen in the small amount of funds in the letters from the different churches. We urge the pastors to lay the responsibility of complying with our Saviour's commission upon the hearts and consciences of our churches. Our baptisms last year only numbered fifty-five. We beg that every pastor resolve to make it many times more than this during our next associational year. We also recommend that Bro. Windham be employed for three-fourths of his time. Submitted. W. A. FREEMAN, Chairman.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your committee, would suggest that the mission of the church of Jesus Christ is to be preached the gospel to the world. Beginning at home, we should seek to carry the glad tidings wherever man is found. The great commission is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. We are not commanded to be successful, but we are commanded to be faithful to our Master. Paul says: "Now if any man has not the spirit of Christ he is none of His." May we not truly say that if any church has not the spirit of Christ that such a church is not the church of Christ? The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The churches in the association have given for foreign missions during last year \$50.45. There are twenty churches reported this year. Five gave \$50.45; fifteen gave nothing.

There are nearly 1,400 Baptists in this association, and to carry out the great commission we have averaged about three and one-half cents to each member. Is this the spirit of Christ? We recommend that the pastors take at least one collection this year for this work.

W. E. NEILL,
G. E. PINKHAM,
J. B. MERCHANT.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee, report as follows: By reading the letters of the different churches we find that out of twenty churches only six report having Sunday-schools. We believe that neglect of pastors and churches in not having a Sunday-school is very wrong, since it is our duty to preach the gospel to every creature, and we would recommend that all our churches would see after this matter and endeavor to organize a Sunday-school in their respective churches.

J. B. MERCHANT, Chairman,
B. CHANCE,
W. I. EWBANKS.

DECEASED MINISTERS.

We, your committee, would report that since our last association it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from us by death our beloved brethren, Elds. J. S. Thomas and H. H. Echols, to the home prepared for the people of God. While we bow in sorrow to this our loss, yet they have gained that rest that remains to the people of God. We commend the bereaved to Him who heals all our sorrows and before whom not a sparrow falls without his notice.

J. B. MERCHANT,
DAVID DEAN.

ORPHANS' HOME.

Your committee begs to report (in our opinion): The Buckner Orphans' Home is one of the greatest benevolent institutions on earth. It is providential in its origin, and therefore demands the charity of every Christian in the South, having been fostered by Baptists and long since been taken under the control of the State Baptist Convention strengthens the obligations resting on us, the Baptists of Texas, to support and care for them as special guardians to our wards; therefore let us look after this interest by recommending that each church of this association take at least two collections during the next associational year for this work. Respectfully submitted,

E. D. MEREDITH,
MATTIE CORZINE,
S. M. BRASWELL.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

John Winham.....Edson, Ark.
W. A. Freeman.....Texarkana, Ark.
W. E. Neill.....Texarkana, Ark.

H. H. Williams.....	Texarkana, Ark.
J. B. Lumbly.....	New Boston, Tex.
T. T. Martin.....	New Boston, Tex.
J. A. Petty.....	DeKalb, Tex.
N. J. Rachel.....	Maud, Tex.
J. B. Merchant.....	Dalby Springs, Tex.
G. E. Pinkham.....	Dalby Springs, Tex.
E. D. Meredith.....	Park, Tex.
W. J. Simmons.....	Park, Tex.
J. T. Jenkins.....	Rolyat, Tex.
E. F. Waltman.....	DeKalb, Tex.

N. J. RACHEL, Chairman.

STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee begs to report that never before in the history of the State has greater success attended the efforts of the denomination in mission work. One hundred and twenty missionaries have been employed in preaching the gospel last year to 311 neighborhoods, laboring 23 511 days, preaching 12 334 sermons. Of these sermons over one thousand were missionary sermons. The denomination has paid \$2,200 to this work. The State is being flooded with foreign immigration from many nationalities. Thus the Macedonian cry is coming to us from other nations through our own great State, and it is our duty to meet them with the open Bible. This we have been trying to do in the face of difficulties in our State mission work. We, therefore, recommend the co-operation of the churches of this association with the State Convention. The board begins this year out of debt and about \$3,000 in the treasury. But the board is expecting to enlarge the work for another year, and in order to do this, must have co-operation from the churches. We, therefore, recommend all of our churches and pastors to take collection and send to J. B. Grambell, Dallas, Tex., for this work.

J. B. LUMBLY,
W. A. FREEMAN.
JAMES DAY.

EDUCATION.

We, your committee, submit the following: This is a progressive age and there are institutions of learning all over this great country. We, therefore, as Baptists, should realize the importance of educating under Baptist influence. Hence we recommend the various Baptist schools of Texas to this association and especially Baylor University, Baylor Female College, and the affiliated schools of the denomination, including the colleges

at Decatur, Brownwood and Rusk. These are great schools and ought to have our support. We would further mention our Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. It was founded by our fathers, so that young ministers might have advantage of theological training. Let us stand by this great school and support it with prayer and money.

W. J. SIMMONS,
GUS. PAYNE,
G. W. PRICE.

HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee submits the following report:

The home mission work, as pertains to the Southern Baptist Convention, is probably the largest organized work among Baptists, and is doing a great deal of good in preaching the gospel and disseminating the knowledge of Christ throughout the Southern States and Cuba, and in fact has rendered assistance in almost every part of this great country of ours; Texas having been the special recipient of its favor, therefore bringing us under the strongest obligations to this work. Therefore let us arouse ourselves to a full sense of our duty on this line and resolve in our hearts to do more in the future than we have ever done in the past for this institution, for God has said "Be ye helpers one to the other."

PETER BURNS, Chm'n.
E. D. MEREDITH,
J. E. COX.

TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg to submit: That while we have no disposition to minify any report that may come before this body, yet, in our judgment, there is no subject to be considered by us that is of greater importance than the one assigned to this committee, and we need only to mention some facts to convince all of its importance. The recent statistics show that there is more money spent in the United States for beer and whiskey than there is for bread; and that today nine-tenths of the crimes are traceable to strong drink. Thousands of men are annually going to drunkard's graves, hundreds of innocent women and children are suffering for the necessities of life, all on account of strong drink, and to the shame of Baptists it has been said by saloon men that but for the Baptist vote, they would have to close their business, and the strange thing to your committee is, that men can come before God in prayer asking Him to save the young and at the same time go to the ballot box and by their vote legal-

ize that which is distracting more young men than all other vices of the day. We therefore recommend that the Baptists of the Texarkana Association vote as they pray, remembering that our blessed Lord has said that "Faith without works is dead," and again, "Show me thy faith without thy works and I will show you my faith by my works."

MATTIE CORZINE,
STEPHEN A. LEE,
CALVAN SCOTT.

The following amounts reported paid by the churches not otherwise reported for ministerial education, missions, Orphans' Home and church expenses:

Olive Street.....	\$117 95
First Church, Texarkana.....	426 46
College Hill.....	2 55
Myrtle Springs.....	3 25
Rock Creek.....	3 00
New Boston.....	47 60
Tennessee.....	9 70
Total.....	\$610 51

Statistical

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST-OFFICES.	CLERKS.
Pleasant Grove.....	E. D. Meredith.....	Park, Tex.....	D. T. Meredith.....
Myrtle Springs.....	J. B. Lumbley.....	New Boston, Tex.....	J. O. McCutcheon.....
Ward's Creek.....	J. B. Merchant.....	Dalby Springs, Tex.....	Joseph Peters.....
Bethsaida.....	G. E. Pinkham.....	Dalby Springs, Tex.....	J. R. Sellers.....
Bethel.....	E. D. Meredith.....	Park, Tex.....	Mattie Corzine.....
College Hill.....	E. D. Meredith.....	Park, Tex.....	J. L. Alexander.....
Mt. Pisgah.....	W. J. Simmons.....	Park, Tex.....	R. A. Elkins.....
Sand Hill.....			C. P. Lindsey.....
Rock Creek.....	E. D. Meredith.....	Park, Tex.....	G. W. Burnett.....
Park.....	N. J. Rachel.....	Maud, Tex.....	J. L. Bryan.....
Olive Street.....	W. E. Neill.....	Texarkana, Tex.....	C. W. Matthews.....
New Boston.....	J. B. Lumbley.....	New Boston, Tex.....	J. A. Ellis.....
Center Ridge.....	W. J. Simmons.....	Park, Tex.....	W. L. Helm.....
New Prospect.....	T. W. Jordan.....	Bryant's Mill, Tex.....	J. E. Cox.....
Hubbard.....	G. E. Pinkham.....	Dalby Springs, Tex.....	T. H. Braswell.....
Sylvarena.....	W. J. Simmons.....	Park, Tex.....	A. L. McDonald.....
New Hope.....	G. E. Pinkham.....	Dalby Springs, Tex.....	J. L. Kennedy.....
DeKalb.....	T. W. Jordan.....	Bryant's Mill, Tex.....	Judge S. Owen.....
Tennessee.....	John Winham.....	Edson, Ark.....	John C. Blanchette.....
First Church, Texarkana	W. A. Freeman.....	Texarkana, Ark.....	W. H. Tilson.....
Antioch.....			
Harmony.....			
Pisgah.....			
Mt. Zion.....			
Pleasant Ridge.....			
Dalby Springs.....			
West Bowie.....			

§ Not reported this year, statistics of last.

Table

POST-OFFICES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis'm'd by Letter.	Exc'uded.	Died.	Dropped.	Total.	Days of Meeting.	Foreign Missions.	Associational Missions.	State Miss'ons.	Sunday-school Work.	Orphans' Home.	Minutes.
Park, Tex.....	1		14					58	3d..		\$1 00			\$1 00	\$1 50
Hook, Tex.....			5					49	3d..	\$0 25	1 75	\$1 25			1 00
Dalby Springs Tex.....			2					43	2d..						1 00
Hodgson, Tex.....			1					29							1 45
Roberts, Ark.....								33	2d..						1 75
DeKalb, Tex.....								76	1st.	20	1 10			1 25	1 25
Texarkana, Tex.....								29	2d..						1 60
Siloam, Tex.....			1					49	4th						1 40
New Boston, Tex.....			2					64	4th						2 50
Park, Tex.....			2					45	1st.						1 50
1424 Pine St, Texarkana	17	9	12					116	evy						1 50
New Boston, Tex.....			1					66	2d.						2 00
Maud, Tex.....			1					43	3d.	1 00				1 50	2 00
Simms, Tex.....								24	1st.						1 55
Hodgson, Tex.....								45	1st.						2 40
Boyd, Ark.....			5					37							1 00
Hodgson, Tex.....								41	3d.						1 50
DeKalb, Tex.....								35	4th.	3 35		\$2 00			2 50
Texarkana, Ark.....								56	2d..						2 50
Texarkana, Tex.....	42	22	14					240	evy						2 50
.....								28							
.....								31							
.....								51							
.....								45							
.....								34							
.....								10							
.....								20							
Total.....	57	74	11	66	25	12	3	1397		\$1 45	\$7 32	\$1 25	\$2 00	\$3 75	\$33 15

33.15

133.72

14-

180.87

88
6

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

ART. 2. We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

ART. 3. We believe that man was created in holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice, being utterly void of that holiness acquired by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

ART. 4. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by his obedience and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and all sufficient Savior.

ART. 5. We believe the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification, and justification includes the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life on principle of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

ART. 6. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made

free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

ART. 7. We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; is affected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

ART. 8. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating spirit of God, whereby being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness; and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

ART. 9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy, that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree, that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

ART. 10. We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the sealer and the comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

ART. 11. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; the persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors;

that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power God through faith unto salvation.

ART. 22. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good, and that the inability [which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

ART. 13. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only Scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

ART. 14. We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water of a believer, into the name of Father, and Son, and the Holy Ghost, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

ART. 15. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreation; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

ART. 16. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience and the prince of the kings of the earth.

ART. 17. We believe there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the spirit of our God are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

ART. 18. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy, and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness

Constitution.

We, the Missionary Baptist Churches of Christ in the States of Texas and Arkansas, having been baptized upon a profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches in order to perpetuate a union amongst us and preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other. We, therefore, propose to maintain and keep the order and rules of an association according to the following plan:

1. The association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our association who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The letters from the different churches are to express their members in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored and dead since last association; also inscribe upon the backs of their letters the name of church, postoffice, delegates, pastor and clerk.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known as the Texarkana Missionary Baptist Association, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage or to infringe on any of the eternal rights of churches in the association, but shall be considered an advisory council in matters respecting their internal concerns, for the benefit of all such churches; but the association shall have power to exclude any church from its body who shall violate or deviate from the rules of the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

4. Every church in this association shall be entitled to three delegates or messengers, and should any church fail to represent herself she shall state her reasons in her letter to the next association.

5. New churches may be admitted into this association, who shall petition by letter and delegates, and, upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the association, and the reception thereof manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. This association, when convened, shall be governed by

regular and popular rules which they are authorized to form for themselves.

7. The association shall elect a moderator from among themselves by ballot, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum be attended to, and take the vote of the association in all questions properly brought before it and to organize the next association; also a clerk, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings; also a treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive and disburse all money coming into his hands as directed by the association, giving and taking receipts for the same, and make a report of the same to the association.

8. The association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of members present except in the reception of new churches, which shall require a unanimous vote.

9. Every query sent by a particular church must be included in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to settle it, but could not; in which case the association shall take it under consideration and give its advice.

10. Business which immediately concerns the association at large, when sent by a particular church as from it or handed in by a member shall be taken up and decided as soon as an opportunity will admit.

11. The association shall correspond with other associations as may be agreed upon when in session.

12. The association shall elect one or their ministers to preach the introductory sermon and his alternate at the next association.

13. The association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of her proceedings.

14. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any time when two thirds of the churches composing the association deem it necessary.

15. The minutes of the association shall be read and corrected (if necessary) and signed by the moderator and attested by the clerk before the association adjourns.

16. The association shall at each annual session appoint a Missionary Board, which shall choose its own officers, which shall consist of a president, vice-president, clerk and treasurer. Said board is required to report at each session of the association.