

ARKANSAS BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

ARKANSAS BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FOURCHE VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ADONA, ARKANSAS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH.
1919

MINUTES.

The Thirty-second Annual Session of the Fourche Valley Baptist Association convened with the Adona Baptist Church on Friday, October 11, 1919, at 10 a. m. Elder George L. Hayes, Moderator, and C. A. Black, Clerk, being present, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, and after the devotional exercises it was found that Elder J. E. Steeley although present was unable to preach the Introductory Sermon, and upon motion Elder W. E. Turner was elected to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Committee on Divine Service appointed as follows: M. F. Caperton, J. Horton and S. T. Tillery.

At 11 o'clock the Introductory Sermon by Elder W. E. Turner was delivered, after which the Association adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

FRIDAY EVENING, 2:30 O'CLOCK.

Association called to order and devotional services conducted by the Moderator with prayer by H. W. Duncan and John L. Hill.

T. T. Black and Sam Avery were appointed Reading Clerks and upon call for letters the following churches responded to the call for letters with Messengers present as follows:

Applin—J. H. Alexander and Calvin Black.
Adona—M. F. Caperton, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Caldwell.
Cherry Hill—S. T. Tillery, Ralph Knowles and T. J. Tillery.
Casa—H. W. Duncan, R. S. Sausbee and R. S. Williams.
Calvary—G. W. Devall, L. Hudgpath and J. L. Hulocker.
Bigelow—Elder J. E. Steeley, Mrs. Lipscomb, Mrs. J. F. Doughty, Miss Lois Prewitt and Miss Bernice Bell, and J. L. Lewellen.

Harmony—Thomas Weaver and Roy Boyett.

Houston—J. A. Lovelace, H. W. Perry, Earline May and Katherine Cook.

Perryville—Mrs. J. E. Brazil, Mrs. Mary Bland, R. C. Cumby. On motion John L. Hill was seated as a messenger from the Perryville church (It being explained that the Perryville church probably had a membership to entitle it to a fourth messenger.)

Pleasant Grove—W. A. Paul, Jim Paul, Miss Mural Vandelson and Thadde Norfleet.

Mulberry Grove—C. H. Duncan, R. M. Kiker and W. H. Howel.

After reading the letters from the various churches above the Association went into permanent organization by electing Elder George W. Hayes Moderator and John L. Hill, Clerk.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED.

Home Missions—J. E. Steeley, Mrs. Mary Bland and J. T. Tillery.

Foreign Missions—J. R. Paul, J. H. Alexander and M. F. Caperton.

Christian Education—Sam Avey, W. A. Paul and Thomas Black.

Sunday Schools—R. C. Cumby, J. R. Paul and H. W. Duncan.

Woman's Work—Mrs. J. E. Brazil, Miss Thadde Norfleet and Mrs. Myrtle Caldwell.

State Missions—A. A. O'Neal, Arthur Allison and S. T. Tillery.

Associational Missions—R. M. Pruett, R. S. Williams and Mansun Kiker.

Religious Literature—Miss Earline May, Miss Mural Vandelson and Mrs. Brandt.

Orphan's Home—Mrs. Hettie Norton, Miss Katherine Cook and Mrs. Mary Bland.

Prohibition—R. C. Cumby, W. A. Paul and Thomas Black.

Deceased Members—John L. Hill, H. W. Duncan.

Finance—S. T. Tillery, J. Norton and J. L. Lewellen.

Resolutions—J. E. Steeley and J. H. Alexander.

On motion and vote of the Association the order of business as set out in the Minutes of 1918 was adopted.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading of Letters from Churches.
2. Election of Officers.
3. Reception of New Churches.
4. Welcome Our Faith to Counsel.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Appointment of Committees.
7. Election of Places of Next Meeting.
8. Report of Committees.
9. Election of Minister to Preach the Introductory Sermon.
10. General Business.
11. Election of Correspondents.
12. Adjournment.

Visiting brethren were seated with us as follows: Elder W. E. Turner of Alma, Okla. At this time the question of where the Association should meet to hold its next session, and on motion and vote the selection of place to hold the next session was passed until Sunday, at 10 a. m.

Elder J. E. Steeley was elected to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association.

The following pledges were made to pay note at Bank of Casa: Aplin Church \$10.00, Casa Church \$15.00, Cherry Hill Church \$5.00, Houston Church \$20.00, Calvary Church \$1.00, Harmony Church \$5.00, Pleasant Grove Church \$15.00, and J. E. Brazil was elected to receive said funds and pay same to the Bank of Casa on note.

Sister O. R. Florence of Conway, Ark., at this time discussed the Women's Work.

Report of the Committee on Divine Service being submitted was to the effect that they had elected Elder Allen Hill Autry to preach at 7:30 p. m., and on motion the Association adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

FRIDAY NIGHT, 7:30 O'CLOCK.

Association called to order and after devotional services Mrs. Lydia May addressed the Association on Woman's Work, after which Elder Allen Hill Autry preached, his text being Isa 54:23, his theme being "Enlarge the Tent of Thine Habitation." After the sermon the report on Home Missions was submitted and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Home Missions, submit the following report: The most urgent mission task that confronts us today is to propagate Bible democracy in the homeland is our \$75,000,000 campaign, which will enable us to accomplish the task in a worthy manner. Your committee recommends that each Church gladly accept their apportionment.

J. E. STEELEY,
T. J. TILLERY,
MARY BLAND.

Adjourned to meet at 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9:00 O'CLOCK.

Moderator and Clerk not being present Elder J. E. Steeley and J. H. Alexander were selected moderator and clerk pro tem.

After devotional exercises the report on Woman's Work was submitted and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Woman's Work, report as follows:

We find that a greater spirit is manifested in the Church through the co-operation of the W. M. S.

We can get closer to our members through personal work among our uninterested members.

The purpose of the W. M. S. is to visit the sick and to teach the young men and women through the Y. W. A. and the B. Y. P. U.

It is said in Matt. 6:10: "Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done." The

W. M. S. tries to bring the Kingdom of God into the lives of our young people. We beg that more W. M. S. be organized for the purpose of studying the Bible and learning more of what our duty to God is. Great work can be done toward the \$75,000,000 campaign through W. M. S.

MRS. J. E. BRAZIL,
MRS. THADDIE NORFLEET,
MRS. MYRTLE CALDWELL

John L. Hill offered an amendment to the Constitution, which upon a motion and vote of the Association, was adopted, the amendment reading as follows:

That Article 3 to the Constitution be amended to read as follows: "That each Church composing this Association shall be entitled to three messengers until the Church numbers fifty, and then one additional messenger for each additional fifty or major fraction thereof."

Report on Religious Literature was submitted and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Religious Literature, submit the following report:

1st. That we recommend a careful study of the Holy Scripture, the Book on which our faith is founded.

2nd. We recommend the Baptist Advance, our state paper and Mission Journal home and foreign mission field.

3rd. That we patronize our book house at Little Rock when in need of religious books.

4th. That we advise the use of S. B. C. literature in all of our Sunday Schools.

MISS EARLINE MAY,
MISS MURAL VANDALSON,
MRS. BRANDT.

The report of the Committee on State Missions was submitted and adopted, as follows:

STATE MISSIONS REPORT.

The following facts show something of Arkansas' needs and progress along State Mission lines: White population, 1,320,300. Whites above 10 years of age, 920,445. Whites holding church membership in some denomination, 369,297. Whites over 10 years of age out of church relationship, 551,747. Total out of church membership over 10 years of age, including negroes, 790,176. Our white Baptists number fully 128,000. Churches in State, over 1,600. Fully 400 of these have no houses of worship and 1,000 others, according to the values placed on the houses by the churches themselves, have houses with only an average value of \$500.00 each. There are two county seats without Baptist churches and three without Baptist church buildings.

Two counties have only one Baptist house of worship each. Our membership, by counties, ranges from 14 per thousand of the population in Newton county, up to 283 per thousand in Grant. Many communities are without Baptist preaching or church organizations. Perhaps 300 of our weaker churches are without pastors, or Sunday Schools, prayer meetings or other helpful organizations. Then think of the thousands of souls to be reached with the gospel as well as the errors that need to be met in nearly every part of the State.

A thoughtful consideration of these things and the realization of the meaning of the Savior's commission and commands to His churches, and a recalling of His challenge, "If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments," will certainly give to us all a deep consciousness of the tremendous responsibilities that are ours as His servants and commissioned ambassadors.

More than this the growth of Baptists in Arkansas, in comparison with other denominations, during the past 25 years, shows that the people of this State are open to the gospel as preached by us as to no other "name or order." With the ears and hearts of the people thus opened to us before

this awful war; and the Baptist day of opportunity, so enlarged by the war, our greatest day of opportunity is here. We must seize it.

Last year showed the following work done by our State Board: Association Missionaries helped, 21; Missionaries and other workers employed, 194; sermons and addresses, 15,224; Sunday Schools and B. Y. P. U.'s organized, 136; churches organized, 16; conversions in State, 2,253; soldiers making professions, about 10,000; baptisms from Mission work, 2,337; total additions from Mission work, 3,779; raised for State Missions, \$56,626.45. The work this year is laid out on a basis of more than \$90,000 and more than 125 missionaries have been employed during the present year. This includes Association Missionaries, District Missionaries, Enlistment men, Sunday School, B. Y. P. U. and W. M. U. workers. The labors of these workers have been greatly blessed this year.

In the 75 Million Campaign \$140,000 per year is apportioned for State and Association Missions, all to be raised by Arkansas Baptists themselves. This amount and more is needed. There is not a county in the State but what needs a strong, religious, hustling sound missionary for full time the year round. In caring for these needs there should be the most hearty and considerate co-operation between the Associations and the State Convention, so that the work may be the more thoroughly and economically done.

Your committee would recommend that the churches of this Association support heartily this great work and that our Association co-operate in all needed ways in order that all Baptist money expended and men employed may count for the most in the service of our Lord. Doing our best for the 75 Million Campaign will help solve the financial problems of this work as of all others. For information about the work write E. P. Alldredge, General Secretary, 405 Donaghey Bldg., Little Rock, Ark.

A. A. O'NEAL,
S. T. TILLERY.

Committee.

The report on Sunday Schools was submitted and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg to report as follows: Believing the Sunday School is the Church at work training the children in the way they should go, we therefore recommend that every Church in Fourche Association organize a Sunday School, also that both old and young be encouraged to attend.

We recommend the use of the S. B. C. Sunday School literature in the schools.

We find out of the ten Churches represented eight have Sunday Schools with an average attendance of sixty-eight pupils.

We urge the greatest effort on the part of the Sunday School in a financial way because of the 75 Million Campaign.

R. C. CUMBY,
J. R. PAUL,
H. W. DUNCAN.

The report of the Committee on Orphan's Home was submitted and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee, submit the following:

The Orphan's Home at Monticello has been a blessing to perhaps a thousand orphans. This work of mercy has a large place in the hearts of the people. Its mission based on God's word is to relieve the distressed orphans and save them to the State and bring them into the Kingdom, and this great 75 Million Campaign is going to help care for our orphans so let us go over the top for our orphan children.

Respectfully submitted,

NETTIE NORTON,
MARY BLAND,
CATHERINE COOK.

At 11:30 a. m., sermon by Elder Allen Hill Autry. Text, Luke 9:28; theme, "Lessons From the Mountain Tops," after which the Association adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

SATURDAY EVENING, 2:30 O'CLOCK.

Association called to order by Moderator, song service led by E. M. Bartlett, prayer by J. R. Jobe.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Missions was submitted and adopted as follows:

Foreign Missions are preaching the gospel in foreign lands. Jesus was a foreign missionary, and He made His Church a foreign missionary Church when he said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

There are more than a thousand missionaries on the foreign fields. Southern Baptists are to put \$20,000,000 into foreign mission work in the next five years. To this end we recommend that our churches pray and work and pay for our 75 Million Campaign.

This great war has opened the door of opportunity to Baptists as never before. We must make disciples of all nations. This takes money. We appeal to our Churches to do their best.

J. R. PAUL,
J. H. ALEXANDER,
M. F. CAPERTON.

At this time, after the submission of the various reports, they were discussed by the following:

J. B. Mosley, Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Secretary; Elder A. H. Autry, Elders George L. Hayes, J. E. Steele and A. A. O'Neal.

Mrs. Hettie Norton, leader of the W. M. U. in this Association, tendered her resignation and Mrs. G. C. Williams was duly elected in her stead.

The Committee on Divine Service offered their report to the effect that Elder George L. Hayes would preach at 7:30, and upon motion and vote the Association adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 7:30 O'CLOCK.

The Association met and was called to order by singing led by Mr. E. M. Bartlett followed by the sermon by Rev. George L. Hayes. Text, Matt. 11:28-29-30. Theme, "Gospel Invitation," after which upon motion and vote the Association adjourned until Sunday morning, October 28, 9:00 o'clock.

SUNDAY MORNING, 9:00 O'CLOCK.

Association called to order by Moderator and after song service prayer was had, led by Brother R. C. Cumby.

The Committee on Finance offered its report, which was discussed and approved as follows:

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report that we have examined the letters from the various Churches and we find that the following money has been raised during the year for the various causes: Foreign Missions, \$101.98; Home Missions, \$77.77; State Missions, \$376.82; Associational Missions, \$126.45; Christian Education, \$81.00; Sunday Schools, \$148.09; Orphans Home, \$31.00; Total value of Church Property, \$15,000; Minutes of this Association, \$88.10. We feel that it will take the amount here raised to get the Minutes of this Association printed and recommend that the Association raise at this time the balance of amount due on last year's Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

S. T. TILLERY,

Chairman.

After the adoption of the above report a collection was taken to pay the deficit on the Minute Fund of last year and \$19.00, the amount in full,

was the amount collected.

At this time came the question as to where the Association will be held next year and Bigelow and Perryville both were put in nomination and Perryville was unanimously elected as the place for the holding of the Association next year.

Committee on Divine Service reported at this time that Elder George Hayes preach at the 11 o'clock hour and Elder A. A. O'Neal led the devotional service in the afternoon.

11:30 a. m., sermon by Elder George L. Hayes. Text, Acts 1:8; subject, "Witnessing for Christ," after which upon motion and vote the Association adjourned until 2:30 p. m.

SUNDAY EVENING, 2:30 O'CLOCK.

The Association was called to order by Moderator. Devotional services were conducted by Elder A. A. O'Neal.

The Committee on Deceased Members offered its report which was discussed by Elders J. E. Steele, George L. Hayes, M. F. Caperton and John L. Hill, and was adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Deceased Members beg to report that we have examined the letters from the various churches and find that the following brothers and sisters have departed this life since our last Association:

Casa Church, 2. Sister Iva Ward, Sister Betty Harris.

Cherry Hill Church, 1. Homer Ussery.

Bigelow Church, 3. Elder J. C. Vaughn, Sister Hattie McKinney, and Sister Brooks.

Mulberry Grove Church, 3.

We, your Committee, on behalf of this Body state that we deeply feel the loss of these our Brothers and Sisters and extend to the friends and relatives of these departed ones our deepest sympathy.

JOHN L. HILL,

Chairman.

The Committee on Prohibition was submitted and adopted as follows:

The fight on "John Barleycorn" by churches and other anti-alcoholic bodies have swept from community to town and from town to state and from state to every part of this great country of ours until it is a question of short duration till alcoholic beverages will be no more in this God-loving and fearing land.

We should continue to pray that all our people fight and vote until sobriety and truth shall reign supreme.

R. C. CUMBIE,

T. F. BLACK,

W. A. PAUL.

The report on Christian Education was submitted and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Ministerial Education, beg leave to make our report as follows:

Ouachita College and our mountain schools are of very special importance in the matter of training men for the ministry. We are sadly in need of more preachers and preachers need training in order to be prepared to do the best service. We ought to encourage and help our young preachers to attend our Baptist Institution of learning and that our 75 Million Dollar Campaign will maintain these institutions. Let every Church go its full quota in the work.

W. A. PAUL,

Chairman.

At this time Brother R. C. Cumbie tendered his resignation as the associational member of the Executive Board, which was accepted, and John L. Hill was unanimously elected as a member of said Board in his stead.

The first section of the report of the Committee on Resolutions was submitted and adopted as follows:

Resolved, that we thank our Moderator for his impartiality while presiding, and we thank our Clerk for his proficiency and that he superintend the printing and distribution of Minutes on the basis of the money paid in and that he make any needed corrections or amendments necessary and that we allow him \$10.00 for his services plus the postage.

J. E. STEELEY,

J. H. ALEXANDER.

On election of the Association Executive Board the following were elected: John L. Hill, R. S. Williams, C. A. Black, J. Norton, R. M. Pruitt, Dr. R. A. Jones, J. E. Brazil, Sam Avery and George L. Hayes. After which upon motion and vote the Association adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

SUNDAY NIGHT, 7:30 O'CLOCK.

Association called to order by singing and prayer by Elder M. F. Caperton after which the matter of a Fifth Sunday meeting was taken up and it was unanimously ruled that we have a Fifth Sunday meeting in November and that it be held with the Bigelow Baptist Church, and J. E. Steeley and R. M. Pruitt were appointed to prepare a program.

Sermon by Elder George L. Hayes. Text, Matt. 7:22-27. Theme, "The Two Builders." After the sermon the second section of the report on resolutions was submitted and adopted as follows:

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt thanks to the Adona Church and friends for their hospitality to us during our stay with them. We want them to realize that we are conscious that they took care of us in a worthy way.

J. E. STEELEY,

J. H. ALEXANDER.

John L. Hill offered an amendment to Article 2 to the Constitution, amending said article to read as follows:

This Association shall be known as the Fourche Valley Missionary Baptist Association and shall meet annually on Friday, at 10 o'clock a. m., before the last Sunday in September, and remain in session three days, which amendment by a two-thirds vote was adopted.

On motion and vote the Association adjourned to meet with the Perryville Missionary Baptist Church on Friday at 10 o'clock a. m., before the last Sunday in September, in 1920.

ELD. GEO. L. HAYS, MO.

JOHN L. HILL CLERK

STATISTICAL T

CHURCHES

PASTORS

CLERKS.

POST OFFICE

Aplin.....	Geo. L. Hays.....	J. A. Alexander.....	Aplin
Adona.....	R. L. Carson.....	J. S. Wright.....	Adona
Bigelow.....	.....	J. T. Bandy.....	Bigelow
Calvary.....	A. A. O'Neal.....	Mrs. L. M. Duvall.....	Aplin
Cherry Hill.....	.....	W. M. Porter.....	Perryville
Casa.....	Geo. L. Hays.....	Jezred Williams.....	Casa
Harmony.....	Thomas H. Green.....	Addie Hawkins.....	Thornburgh
Houston.....	.....	Sibyl Lovelace.....	Houston
Perryville.....	Geo. L. Hays.....	R. C. Cumbie.....	Perryville
Pleasant Grove.....	Geo. L. Hays.....	J. R. Lorence.....	Aplin
Mulberry Grove.....	.....	W. H. Howell.....	Adona
			Total

STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCHES.

POST OFFICE	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Died	Excluded	Present Membership	Amount for Minutes	Amount for Associational Missions	Amount for State Missions	Amount for Home and Foreign Missions	Pastor's Salary	Orphans' Home	Days of Meeting (Sundays)	No. Enrolled in S. S.	Cost of Literature	Value of Church Property	Education
Aplin				2		40	\$ 1.25	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$	\$
Adona	2	1	2			33	3.00	25.00	35.42	8.12	69.10	8.62			14.20	1,000.00	
Bigelow	40	11	6	2		138	6.00		141.00	80.00	649.15			80	74.10	1,500.00	
Aplin							1.00							44	8.00		
Perryville						60	1.50	11.25		2.25				72			
Casa	7	1	7		1	64	4.50	46.00	100.65	11.28	109.00			30		1,000.00	
Thornburgh	4		6			40	.85		3.00	3.25	22.00	7.60					
Houston	3	2	4	1		157	5.00	20.00	40.00		150.00		4th		25.00	1,500.00	
Perryville	6	9	5		2	95	5.00		67.75	35.00	180.00	24.28	1st	116	35.16	1,500.00	66.50
Aplin	8	3	4	4		106	4.00							120			
Adona		5	2	5	3	7	80	6.00	4.20	59.74	250.00					1,000.00	
Total						622	\$38.10	\$106.45	\$387.82	\$199.60	\$1,429.25	\$80.50		472	\$156.40	\$6,500.00	

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CONSTITUTION.

The following Constitution was adopted as follows:

Article 1.—The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches of our union, together with the ministers who on producing their credentials shall be entitled to seats.

Art. 2.—This Association shall be known as the Fourche Valley Missionary Baptist Association and shall meet annually on Friday at 10 o'clock a. m., before the last Sunday in September, and remain in session three days.

Art. 3.—That each Church composing this Association shall be entitled to three messengers until the Church numbers fifty and then one additional messenger for each additional fifty or major fraction thereof.

Art. 4.—The object of this Association will be to advise measures to promote the Redeemer's Kingdom on earth and to meet at such times and places as she may appoint.

Art. 5.—This Association shall be considered an advisory council and shall have no power to legislate for the churches or lord it over God's heritage.

Art. 6.—Other churches may be admitted into this body by letter and delegates, provided they be deemed orthodox, which shall be determined by their abstract of faith and church government.

Art. 7.—The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by ballot at each session and hold their offices until their successors are properly qualified. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Board.

Art. 8.—The Clerk shall keep a regular file of minutes of the Association and turn the same over to his successor in office.

Art. 9.—It shall be the duty of each church composing this Association to send up such contribution in money to each annual meeting, as shall be necessary to defray the expenses of this Association and each church shall be furnished with minutes in proportion to the amount furnished.

Art. 10.—It shall be the duty of each Church to send up to each annual meeting of this body a letter containing a brief history of her progress since the last session with the following particulars, to-wit: Her prosperity or adversity, the names of delegates, pastors, deacons, ordained or licensed ministers, her increase by baptism, by letter, exclusion, died, total membership, her contribution for pastor's salary, other home expenses, Associational Mission, State Missions, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Ministerial Education, number of Sunday School pupils, number of officers and teachers, name of Postoffice, of Superintendent, amount contributed by the Sunday School, value of church property, time of regular Conference meetings.

Art. 11.—Any church may make any query, asking advice of this Association.

Art. 12.—It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a full and fair record of the proceedings of this Association and to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes. For his services he shall receive such remuneration as the Association may from time to time think proper.

Art. 13.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and account for all moneys paid him for use of the Association according to its order.

Art. 14.—Amendment to this Constitution may be made at any session of this Association when two-thirds of the members present shall deem it necessary.