

MINUTES

—OF THE—

—GRAND PRAIRIE—

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

—HELD WITH—

Cross Roads Baptist Church,

Prairie County, Ark., Sept., 24, 1892.



J. B. SANDERS, Moderator,..... Hazen, Ark.

N. G. WILLIAMS, Clerk,..... St. Charles, Ark.



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Grand Prairie Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH—

Cross Roads Baptist Church, Prairie Co., Ark., September 24, 1892.

18TH ANNUAL SESSION.

FORENOON SESSION.

Meeting called to order at 10 o'clock a. m. by Moderator Sanders. Song. Prayer, by Elder Irwin of Kentucky.

The next order of business was the introductory sermon, which was preached by Eld. R. F. Routh, Alternate. Elder Cole, appointee, being absent. Scripture reading—Rom. x.

Song—"Am I a Soldier of the Cross." Prayer by Eld. Routh. Song—"Tis Religion That Can Give."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Meeting called to order by Moderator. Song—"Come Thou Fount," etc. Prayer by Eld. Davis. Letters were called for and read, from which was made the following role of messengers:

Bellview Church—H. J. Turner, Sister N. C. McSwain and H. L. Turner.

Center Point—W. D. Roberson, M. P. Cawley, P. B. Ashby and H. Y. Morris.

Big La Grue—Dick and Thadeus Parker and Sister Routh.

Beulah—L. R. and Sister Rhodes.

Fairmount—G. W. and Mattie Belcher.

New Hope—H. D. Gibson, Isaac Routh and Miss —— Gibson.

Oak Grove—W. L. Cole and W. J. Lancaster.

Grand Prairie—Not represented.

De Luce—Henry, Abby and J. H. Powell.

Rising Sun—Sister G. N. Boon, A. D. Turner and J. C. Ragan.

St. Charles—J. N. and Sister Worthy.

Stuttgart—A. H. Soekland and Sisters Fannie Gililland, H. B. Dudley.

Salem—J. T. Robertson, A. J. Barker and Sister Gay.

De Witt—Not represented.

Hazen—R. L. Davis, H. G. Miller and Calvin Stark.

Cross Roads—J. W. Highfill, J. T. Hammond and G. T. Tollar.

Pleasant Ridge—J. T. Roe, James Carr, J. D. Jenkins.

Crooked Creek, Bayon Meto and Liberty—Not represented.

Election of officers.

While Brethren A. H. Soekland, W. D. Hargraves and G. W. Belcher were out preparing their report as tellers, the congregation sang "Jesus Lover of My Soul." Prayer by Eld. Williams. Song: "How Firm a Foundation." Prayer by E. B. Ashby. Song. Prayer by Bro Davis. Song: "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross."

The tellers then reported: J. B. Sanders, moderator; N. G. Williams, secretary; S. K. Downs, treasurer; as elected to offices.

Visiting brethren invited to seats in the body—Elds. M. C. Irwin and J. K. P. Henderson responded.

Cororespondence called for. Caroline Association—P. W. Hudson, J. C. Wadkins, W. E. Padgett, R. A. Duncan, Mollie Padgett, J. N. Padgett and R. H. Wallace.

Correspondence from Central Association, Mississippi, by letter from Eld. P. A. Haman; correspondence returned by letter by clerk.

Corresponding messengers to Caroline Association, J. W. Highfill and G. T. Hammon.

Mount Vernon Association, W. Theo. Smith and Eld. W. D. Hargraves.

Mount Zion Association, W. Theo. Smith.

Delegates to Baptist State convention, W. Theo. Smith and W. D. Hargraves

Southern Baptist Convention, Elds. I. R. B. Davis and W. D. Hargraves.

Committee on Education not being present, the chair appointed a new committee (R. H. Parker, G. T. Hammond and A. H. Soekland) to report on Monday.

Committee on Religious Exercise: S. K. Downs, G. W. Belcher and R. H. Parker, with pastor and deacons of Cross Roads church.

Committee on Finance: H. G. Miller, P. W. Ashby and G. W. Belcher.

Report on Sunday-school, after discussion by W. Theo. Smith, A. H. Soekland, Bro. Highfill and Elds. M. C. Irwin, W. D. Hargrave and N. G. Williams, was adopted as read.

Committee on preaching reported that Eld. M. C. Irwin preach at night. On motion adjourned to meet at 7 p. m.

SATURDAY EVENING. 7 P. M.

Preaching by Eld. Irwin; text, John iii-16. Song, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Prayer by Eld. Williams.

8:00 p. m.—Body called to order by the moderator. Motion carried to change time of meeting from 4th Sunday in September to 4th Sunday in October, 1893.

Committee on preaching reported that the missionary sermon be preached Sunday at 11 a. m. by Eld. Routh. Eld. Irwin conducted the Sunday-school mass meeting, followed by W. Theo. Smith and A. H. Soekland, and that Elder Williams conduct prayer meeting at 10 a. m.

It was, upon motion, agreed that the next annual meeting of the Association be held with the Grand Avenue church of Stuttgart.

The following were appointed as a committee on temperance: W. Theo. Smith, W. C. Luckett and J. N. Worthy, to report Monday.

SUNDAY—10 A. M.

Prayer meeting, conducted by Elder Williams, who read 1st Tim., ii. Song, "Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire."

11 a. m. The missionary sermon was then preached by Elder Routh, from 1st King, 18-21. All sang "Am I a Soldier," etc. After the sermon a collection was taken up, amounting to \$7.50 in cash.

Committee on preaching reported that Elder G. G. Thomas would preach in the M. E. church south, there not being room enough to seat the people in

the Baptist church. His text was John v.-24. The sermon over, a collection was taken up amounting to \$7.06. making a total of \$14.56.

SUNDAY—3 P. M.

Sunday-school mass meeting, conducted by Elder Irwin; services opened by reading part 2d chapter 1st John. Song, "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross."

Question: "How can we have permanent Sunday-schools in every church?" A. H. Soekland and Elders Irwin and Thomas; the discussion eliciting great interest.

SUNDAY—8 P. M.

Preaching by Elder J. A. Leak, of Tennessee River Association, Alabama. Text, 2d Kings, v.

MONDAY—8 A. M.

Body reconvened. Song. Prayer by A. H. Soekland. Minutes of Saturday and Sunday read and adopted. Correspondence from sister associations not present Saturday called for.

Elders Leak of Alabama and O. U. Owens from Caroline Association were invited to seats as corresponding messengers.

Contributions from churches: L. C. Swartz, \$1; Big La Grue, \$5; Salem, for clerk, 50c.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Big La Grue, R H Barker.

Hazen, T K Flinn.

Pleasant Ridge J P Kerr.

New Hope. H C Gibson.

Grand Prairie, J J Alderson.

Bellvue, H G Turner.

Benlah, P G Hoffman.

Fairmount, George Belcher.

Rising Sun, J C Reagan.

Center Point, Jas Sanders.

Cross Roads, J W Highfill.

Stuttgart, W Theo Smith.

Salem, Wm Luckett.

Point De Luce, H D Powell.

Oak Grove, W T Cole.

St Charles, J N Worthy.

De Witt, Miss Lou Halliburton.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Education: W D Hargraves, H G Miller and T K Flinn.

On Sunday-schools: A H Soekland, W W Moxley and J J Alderson.

On Publication: R F Routh, J N Worthy and H D Gibson.

On Foreign Missions: B F House, I R B Davis and Wm Luckett.

On Temperance: R H Parker, N G Williams and J S Bass.

Committee on Education reported and, after some discussion, on motion, the word "must" was stricken out and substituted by the word "should" and was then adopted. [Appendix A.]

Report on publication read and adopted without any change. [See appendix B.]

Report on foreign missions read and adopted, collection taken up amounting to \$6.65; Hazen church, \$3.50; total, \$10.15. The report was adopted, with the instruction that the secretary forward the collection to H A Tupper, Richmond, Va [See appendix C.]

Report on temperance read and adopted, [See appendix D.]

Report on finance as follows, for Minutes: \$21.17; from Hazen church, Sister Morris, \$1; from Hazen church, for foreign missions, \$3.50. Adopted as read.

Report of Executive Board read and adopted. [See appendix E.]

Motion to suspend rules; carried.

Treasurer's report adopted, [Ap. F]

Motion to reconsider the establishing of day of meeting; carried.

Motion to change time of meeting from 4th Sunday in October to Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1893; carried.

Moved that Elder Davis preach the next introductory sermon, Elder Williams, alternate; carried.

Moved that Elder Hargraves preach the annual missionary sermon, with Elder Routh, alternate.

MONDAY—EVENING SESSION.

Body reassembled. Song: "Amazing Grace." Prayer by Elder Cravens. Contribution then taken up for Sister Morris, cash \$12; Salem church then pledged \$3.40; Cross Roads church \$2 and J I Kerr \$1, making \$7.40 pledged for missions.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That any brother or sister, besides those appointed, attending any sister association with whom we correspond are hereby requested to act as correspondent for us.

Resolved, that we tender to the M E church, south, our thanks for the use of their house of worship on Sunday.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered Cross Roads church and citizens generally for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained us; that we shall always remember our associations with them as among the happiest moments of our lives. Respectfully submitted,

W. THEO. SMITH.

The parting address was then made by the moderator, which was very impressive. All sang "Children of the Heavenly King," and the parting hymn was given, thus closing one of the most harmonious sessions ever held within our bounds.

J. B. SANDERS, Mod.

N. G. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sunday schools would respectfully beg leave to submit the following report:—Observation and experience teaches us that the church, the cause of religion and the moral character of a community have no stronger influence for good than a properly conducted Sunday school. We use the term "properly conducted" advisedly, for we have known Sunday schools that were no advantage to the cause of religion or morality. Much—we might almost say, that the whole influence of such a school, for weal or woe, depends upon the Superintendent. He is the head, and should be "many gifted." His position is co-equal in responsibility and gravity with the minister. We are not sure that his influence is not even greater. He is the teacher, leader and EXEMPLAR of our little ones, who form their ideas of the Christian's walk and conduct from his. He prepares the soil upon which the minister scattereth the seed. If the ground be not properly prepared the seed falleth upon waste places and die without fruit. How many, alas, should we not say how few of our Sunday school Superintendents realize the fearful fact? Day after day—week in and out—the children watch him and form their ideas of right and wrong by his conduct. He may be a fine talker—gifted in prayer, have thorough knowledge of the Bible and yet be a lamentable failure as a Superintendent. The Sunday school, properly officered and conducted, is second only to the pulpit in influence for good. As to the qualifications necessary for efficiency as Superintendent of a Sunday school. We respectfully suggest that he should carry with him, every day in the week, the remembrance of his grave and responsible position. Bearing in mind always that the eyes of our Savior's pets are upon him. That they are as wax, upon whose minds and hearts impressions of childhood are deep and lasting for good or evil. That as he teaches on Sunday so should he practice during the after days of the week. If he is flippant, frivolous and careless in his daily walk and conversation, he will inoculate his pupils with the same moral poison. He should remember that he is more observed and imitated by the children, than the minister, because he is met with by them in the daily walks of life, while the preacher is not so frequently brought in contact with them. Your committee, in conclusion, would earnestly recommend that our churches do more for Sunday schools. Respt.,

W. THEO. SMITH.

APPENDIX.

"A" REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Education, respectfully report that the necessity of a higher and more thorough education is essential to the upbuilding of the church of Christ in our midst, again forces itself upon the consideration of this Association.

2. We realize that our ministry, our deacons, our Sunday school superintendents and teachers, should study more. In order to be able to do this, our ministry must be better paid, our Sunday schools must have a better allowance, our superintendents, teachers and scholars must have the full support of every Baptist in this association, and all other christians.

3. We would earnestly recommend that every church in this association begin the present year by striving to put new life into the Sabbath school; pay their pastor promptly and last, but not least, furnish our Executive board sufficient money to employ one or two first class missionaries for home work, that the people also, may secure a fuller exposition of the word of God.

4. That we earnestly recommend our Ouachata college and our Central Female Baptist College, at Conway, to the Baptist student as a proper place to secure that learning so much needed.

R. H. PARKER
A. H. SOEKLAND.

"B" REPORT ON PUBLICATION.

Your committee on publication would report that for our people to be familiar with our denominational work, should, first of all, familiarize themselves with the Bible. Then the Arkansas Baptist, believing it to be in every way worthy of our patronage. We would also recommend that the people of our association take the Baptist Review, published at Stuttgart, believing that an associational organ will greatly enhance our associational work. For our Sunday school literature, we recommend the Kind Words series and the publications of the American Baptist Publication society.

Respectfully,

I. R. B. DAVIS.
R. L. DAVIS.

"C" FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your committee on foreign missions would report that Christ was a Foreign missionary and if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of His. Christ says: "As my Father sent me, even so send I you. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." "They that call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." How, then, shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?" Now, as it takes means to accomplish ends, we would recommend that each church in this association collect ten cents per capita, and that the same be sent to the board of our association to be forwarded to H. A. Tupper, Richmond, Va. And we would further recommend that a collection be taken now and forwarded as above.

R. F. ROUTH, Chairman,
R. H. PARKER.
J. W. HIGHFILL, Com.

"D" REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee on temperance would respectfully beg leave to submit the following report:—Temperance is certainly one of the most important questions that has, or will come before this association for consideration. It should be the prime object of every Christian in the world, and especially is it the duty of the great Baptist brotherhood of Grand Prairie association to place themselves squarely on record as being unalterably opposed to intemper-

ance. They should put forth their energy and best efforts to crush out, with unrelenting hand, the sale of strong drink—whiskey, whose history is one of blood, tears, misery, ruin, and finally death. It is an evident fact that many bright and happy homes, generous natures and brilliant minds have been crushed by its use. Misery, woe and destruction naturely follow.

It is beyond question one of the woes of all woes, and the bitterest curse of all curses. It has, and is still doing more than all other devices combined to spread destruction over our bright American land.

In view of these deplorable facts, it behooves us to come boldly to the front, without fear or favoritism, and take a stand for right and morality. Intemperance is not only spreading its destructive influence over our society, but its blighting influence is felt in the church.

We recommend to the churches of this Association that they aid in the agitation of the Temperance cause and our ministers preach more about it. If we desire to be better, happier and more useful while upon earth, we would say; vote temperance, and live temperate lives in ALL things and we will be a blessed people, and God, the Father of us all, will be glorified.

Respectfully, W. THEO. SMITH.

"E" REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your Executive Board would report as follows: We had a meeting during the last session of this Association and agreed to continue Brother House at Liberty church, as formerly employed, until the next regular meeting of the board. The second meeting was held at Stuttgart November 28, 1891. At this meeting Brother House was continued at Liberty church. It was agreed to pay Beulah church \$2.50 per month and Grand Prairie church \$2 per month. It was voted that no claims against the board would be honored hereafter unless they be in writing and endorsed by the church.

Brother N G Williams' work for the year is as follows: Traveled 541 miles; preached 27 sermons; received by letter, 2; by statement, 1, total, 3; he has received for his services at Beulah, \$17.50, and the board is still due \$5 on his services.

Elder Routh was employed to supply Grand Prairie church; traveled 350 miles preached 21 sermons and made eight trips. The board has paid him, in full, \$22.

Your board is unable to report the work of Brother House. The board has paid Elder Leak \$5 for assisting Elder Williams in meeting at Beulah.

We would further report that there has not been that interest or good accomplished that would have resulted if a regular missionary had been placed in the field. And we would recommend that the Association go to work to take in the entire bounds for Christ and the Baptist. Respectfully submitted.

J. B. SANDERS, Mod.

W. THEO. SMITH, Clerk.

"F" TREASURER'S REPORT.

By cash balance		\$ 75.68
" "	Oak Grove Church	4.50
" "	Stuttgart Church, for Sister Morris,	3.60
" "	Center Point Church	1.75
" "	Hazen Church	1.00
" "	For Minutes	21.70
" "	For Foreign Missions	10.15
" "	For Sister Morris	1.00

Total 119.38

Paid out	To B. F. House	4.25
" "	To R. F. Routh	16.00
" "	To B. F. House	7.00
" "	To R. F. Routh	6.00
" "	To N. G. Williams	22.50
" "	To M. A. Leak	5.00
" "	To Minutes	21.70
" "	To Foreign Missions	10.15
" "	To Sister Morris	1.00

Total 93.60.

Balance in Treasury \$25.78.

S. K. Downs, Treasurer

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Called to order by the Moderator to hear the Introductory Sermon, after which the Association re-assembled with the Moderator and Clerk in their seats.
2. Letters read and delegates enrolled.
3. Petitionary Letters called for.
4. The election of officers for the ensuing year.
5. Call for Correspondence.
6. Invitation to visiting brethren to seats in the Body.
7. Committees appointed. (1.) Committee on Education. (2.) Committee on Sabbath Schools. (3.) Committee on Finance. (4.) Committee on Foreign Missions. (5.) Committee on Publication. (6.) Committee on Religious Exercises.
8. Complete Correspondence and Messengers with Sister Associations and the State Convention.
9. Reports from Standing Committees.
10. Contributions and pledges from Churches received.
11. Resolutions and Propositions received.
12. Report from Executive Board.
13. Determining Time and Place for holding next Annual Meeting.
14. Treasurer's Report.
15. Executive Board appointed.
16. Reports from Temporary Committees.
17. Appointment of brethren to preach the Introductory and Missionary Sermons.
18. Reading of Minutes.
19. Parting Address by the Moderator.



TABLE OF STATISTICS.

Churches	Messengers	Pastors	Post Office	Clerks	Post Office	Increase		Deer'se		Male Members	Female Members	Licentiates	Sunday Schools	Pastors' Salary	For Minutes	Total Membership	Days of Meeting		
						Baptism	Letter	Statement	Restored									Letter	Exclusion
Big LaGrue	R. H. & Thaddeus Parker	R. F. Routh	Fairmount	R. H. Parker	St. Charles	9		3	2					100.00	2.00	103	1st Sunday		
Stuttgart	A. H. Soekband W. Theo. Smith	R. L. Cole	Stuttgart	H. G. Dndley	Stuttgart	8	8	2	9			1			1.50	57			
Hazen	H. G. Miller	W. D. Hargraves	Hazen	R. L. Davis	Hazen	7	2		3	3	24	43	1	100.00	1.80	66	2nd & 4th Sunday		
Salem	J. F. Robinson A. J. Barker F. M. Luckett	B. F. House	Hazen	J. T. Robinson	Cascoe	5			3	15	18		1	75.00	1.25	55	2nd Sunday		
Rising Sun	J. C. Ragan Sister G. N. Boon	B. F. House	Hazen	W. F. Keaton	Violet	1	1			2					1.00	45	2nd Sunday		
De Witt	Letter	R. F. Routh	Fairmount	H. Coffey	DeWitt		1			1	9	10	1			19	4th Sunday		
Pleasant Ridge	J. T. Rowel James Kerr	J. K. P Henderson	Baretsville	G. W. Jenkin	Baretsville	2		2	18	2	26	18			30	44	3rd Sunday		
Cross Roads	J. W. Highfill J. T. Hamman & G. T. Tolar	W. D. Hargraves	Hazen	J. T. Hamman	Hickory Plains	1	1		4						1.55	29	3rd Sunday		
Centre Point	Jess Raper H. Y. Morris & Ashby	B. F. House	Hazen	J. W. McMulin	Hazen	5	3	1	6	3				100.00	2.00	118	4th Sunday		
St. Charles	J. N. Worthy and Sister Worthy	R. L. Cole	Stuttgart	A. C. Bass	St. Charles	1	2		2		9	16	1	125.05	1.00	25	2nd & 4th Sunday		
Grand Prairie	Letter and Pastor	R. F. Routh	Fairmount	J. J. Alderson	Almyra				2				1			10	2nd Sunday		
Fairmount	G. W. Beleber and Luther Cupet	B. F. House	Hazen	W. B. Harville	Fairmount	5	1			8	16				15	24	4th Sunday		
Point De Luce	Henry Abott and Harry Rowell	N. G. Williams	St. Charles	Abott Powell	DeLuce	2	1	1	2	5	21	35			1.50	56	2nd Sunday		
Oak Grove	W. L. Cole J. O. Hamilton & G. W. Bass	B. F. House	Hazen	W. L. Cole	Hamilton				1	2	16	30				46			
New Hope	H. D. Gibson and Sister Mary Gibson	R. F. Routh	Fairmount	Elmer Moon	Hagler	7			1	14	1				2.00	87	3rd Sunday		
Beulah	J. R. Roach Sister Clara Roach	N. G. Williams	St. Charles	P. G. Poffman	Gillett		2	1			5	7			1.00	12	3rd Sunday		
Bellyue	Letter and Pastor	N. G. Williams	St. Charles	L. W. Padgett	Ethel	1	3	2	4	29	4				1.00	57	4th Sunday		
Grand Total						54	25	9	4	42	60	11	183	193	1	6	\$ 502.00	\$18.35	855