

MINUTES

OF THE

OUACHITA UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

THE OUACHITA UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

met with Fountain Head Church, Polk County, Arkansas, Sept. A. D. 18, 1874.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. H. C. Ridling, Text, First Peter, 2d Chap., and 6th ver., followed by Eld. J. J. Parkinson.

After a short intermission, the Association was called to order, by the Moderator, H. C. Ridling. The Letters from Churches, and Delegates' names Enrolled—See Statistical table.

A petitionary letter, received from Macedonia Church, and the right hand of fellowship, extended to her Delegate by the Moderator, Eld. J. M. Green chosen Moderator, and Thomas Wright, jr., chosen Clerk and Treasurer.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following Committee: On Preaching, Bros. Neal Gist, James Standridge and H. P. Coffman,

On Publication, Elds. Wm. Lawrence, G. H. Green and Wm. Flanagan.

On Finance, Eld. W. H. Dunn, Isaac McGlamery and C. C. Cope.

On motion, a Committee on Destitution was appointed as follows: Eld. H. C. Ridling, Wm. Lawrence, and S. H. Kelly.

Corresponding letters from associations called for, none presented.

On motion, the Moderator appointed Elds. Wm. Lawrence, G. H. Green and Deacon James Standridge, as Corresponding Messengers to Caddo River Association.

Received a verbal report from one of the Committee appointed to visit Little Vine Association, committee discharged.

Adjourned until tomorrow morning 8 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. Wm. Lawrence.

Saturday morning 8 o'clock, met pursuant to adjournment, prayer was offered by Eld. W. H. Dunn.

On motion, the Association was divided into four districts, and the Moderator appointed the following Committee to locate the boundaries:

Eld. H. C. Ridling, Thomas Mills and S. M. Kemp.

On motion each district shall be represented by three delegates from each church within its bounds, and one messenger from each church in the association.

Granted letters of dismission to "Shiloh", "Christial Hill" and "Bluff Churches."

Took recess for preaching—Called to order at 1 o'clock p m.

Report from committee appointed to district the association was read and adopted, to wit: We your committee would recommend to divide, as follows: East and west from Mt. Ida, via Dallas to Choctaw Nation; north and south from Foren's Gap, to S. T. Spears on Cositot, and the following churches be included in District No. 1: Cositot, Pleasant Grove and Mountain Fork; No. 2, Mt. Gilliad, Sulphur Springs, Big Fork and Macedonia; No. 3, Bethel, Fountain Head, Mt. Pleasant and Concord; No. 4, Pleasant Hill Gum Spring and Antloch.

S. M. Kemp, Chairman.

On motion District Meetings were appointed as follows: In District No. 2, Commencing Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in July, 1875, with Mt. Gilliad Church—Deacon James Standridge to write an essay on the duties of Deacons.

Meeting in 3d district to be held with Concord Church, commencing Thursday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1875.

Meeting in 4th district to be held with Antloch Church, Scott County, Commencing Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in September, 1875.

Report of Committee on destitution was read and adopted, as follows:

We your committee on destitution beg leave to make the following report: We find a large scope of country in the northern and southern bounds of this association that is destitute of Gospel Preaching. The aforementioned parts of our territory are nearly entirely destitute, as strong settlements in other parts. We would recommend the propriety of this body adopting some plan whereby said destitution can be supplied. We would further recommend that this body, adopt the resolution as proposed by Pleasant Grove Church, to wit; "Resolved, that our messengers to the Association are requested to support a resolution advising each minister of the association to reserve one sabbath in each month to preach in the destitute parts of this association; and that the churches be requested to support their pastors to enable them to perform their duties."

S. H. Kelley, Chairman.

The following was read and adopted:

We your committee on Publication would respectfully recommend "The Baptist" published by Eld. J. R. Graves, of Memphis, Tenn.; as a standard religious paper, and would recommend the "Southern Psalmist" to be adopted by the churches.

Wm. Lawrence, Chairman.

We, your committee on finance, beg leave to report, that we find sent up from the churches, the amount of \$19.90, and \$2.00 donated by Bro. Thomas Wells, total, \$21.90.

W. H. Dunn, Chairman.

On motion, the clerk was instructed to take the money in his hands; and have the minutes printed, together with Constitution, Abstract of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

Resolved, to hold the next Association with Costlet Church, Sevier County, Ark.; Commencing Thursday before the 3d Sabbath in September, 1875, and that Eld. W. H. Dunn preach the Introductory Sermon; Eld. J. J. Parkinson, Alternate.

Resolved, that the thanks of this body are due, and are hereby tendered to the brethren and friends in this vicinity for their kindness and hospitality during the sitting of this body.

On motion, the minutes were read and adopted.

On motion, adjourned. After some touching remarks by the Moderator a hymn was sung, and the parting hand was given.

Thomas Wright Jr.,
Clerk.

J. M. Green,
Moderator.

Preaching was conducted as follows, during the meeting, as arranged by the committee:

Friday the Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. H. C. Ridling, as arranged last year by the association, followed by Eld. J. J. Parkinson. Saturday, at 11 o'clock, Eld. Joseph Sherly, Eld. E. Ferguson Concluding, and 3 o'clock Eld. J. J. Parkinson preached, followed by Eld. W. H. Dunn., Eld. W. Dunn occupied the stand at 11 o'clock, on Sabbath, followed by H. C. Ridling.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Names.	Post Offices.	Names.	Post offices.
Wm. Lawrence,	Big Bend	John Boyd,	Eagle Hill
J. J. Parkinson,	" "	J. M. Green,	" "
E. Ferguson,	" "	W. H. Dunn	" "
G. H. Green,	" "	Joseph Sherly,	Mt. Ida
Jno. Dilbeck,	5 Fork	H. C. Ridling	Dallas.

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APPENDIX.

Constitution of the Ouachita Association.

ARTICLE 1. This Union of Churches shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of the "Ouachita United Baptist Association."

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed of delegates from Churches in Union. Each Church shall be entitled to three (3) Delegates, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by their several Churches before they take their seats.

ART. 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by ballot at each annual Association, and continue in office until their successors are chosen.

ART. 4. This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies in all matters of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the Churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the Delegates from the Churches—and, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from, and disown all Churches which depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. It should, therefore, regard all Churches united under this Constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Its principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending the Kingdom of Grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and the means in accordance with that Gospel, to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, especially with those united under this Constitution.

ART. 5. Newly constituted Churches, or Churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this Union on their sending up three delegates to the annual meeting of this Association, with a petition for admission, and, by their delegates, agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

ART. 6. The Churches in this Union shall transmit to every

annual session of the Association, a written communication, specifying the names of their Delegates, their number in fellowship, number baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, or deceased, since the last session, and all other information which the Churches may deem important, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7. This Association may have a fund, supplied by contributions of the Churches; and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches, and paid over, through the Committee of Finance, to the Treasurer; who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall retain and manage the funds agreeably to the order of the Association, and present, annually, for insertion in the minutes, a clear and succinct statement of all the receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

ART. 9. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same, and have failed; nor of any difficulty between Churches, unless they have pursued the directions in the 8th chapter of Mathew, and have not been able to settle them. Then this Association shall take such matters into consideration, and act upon them at its discretion.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the printed Minutes of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 11. This Constitution may be altered or amended at regular meetings of the Association, by the concurring voice of two-thirds of the members then present; provided, such alteration or amendment, be approved of by the Churches comprising this Association.

Rules of Decorum.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time.

4. A member, not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise on his feet, and, obtaining permission, proceed.

6. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or is guilty of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

8. Every case taken up by this Association, shall be decided or withdrawn before another is offered.

9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and the members on the affirmative side of the question shall signify the same by rising from their seats, and those in the negative shall retain theirs. The Moderator shall pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission from the moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Association, nor more than once till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject till the debates have been carried through.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their addresses to each other.

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

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member; provided, he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided.

Any member violating these rules may be reproved by the Moderator at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall be made.

Abstract of Faith.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there is a Trinity of persons in the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and these three are one.

2. We believe the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments is the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and that the depravity of his fallen nature was entailed upon his posterity; and in the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe in the election through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the Truth.

5. We believe in the final perseverance of the Saints, and that they will never finally fall away and be lost.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and that it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.

7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification; and are evidences of our own gracious state.

8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgement, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be never-ending.

9. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful baptised persons, who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given unto the Lord, and one another, and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the gospel.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the Church, and the only lawgiver, and the discipline is with the body, and should be faithfully kept up for the glory of God and the prosperity of his people.

11. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Gospel, and none but true believers have a right thereto, and should be administered by regularly ordained minister, and that immersion is the only Gospel mode of Baptism.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Counties.	Delegates.	Pastors.	Chapels.	Post Offices.	Licentiate.	Haptized	Rec. by Letter	Rec. by Recon	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Restored	Died	Total in fellow	Sub. Meeting	Contributions
✓Cositot.	Sevier.	Rob. Flanagan, Jas. Lone and W. G. Flanagan.	W. H. Dunn.	M. C. Jordan.	Locksburg.	Flanagan and Jas Lone.	179			0 0 2				501	2 00	
✓Pleasant Hill.	Polk.	Thomas Mills.	J. M. Green.	W. H. Flanagan	Dallas.		5 6			2 0 1				254	2.00	
✓Pleasant Grove.	" "	J. M. Green, W. H. Dunn and H. P. Coffman.	J. M. Green.	W. L. Willson.	Eagle Hill.	W. L. Wilson.	8 3			3 1 0				423	1.50	
✓Fountain Head.	" "	H. C. Ridling, J. J. Eager and Sam. Suits.	H. C. Ridling.	J. J. Eager.	Big Bend.		0 5			1 0 1				483		
✓Gum Spring.	" "	S. H. Kelley, B. C. Pyland and T. Wright.	J. M. Green.	S. H. Kelley.	Dallas.		1 2			1 2 0				250	2.20	
✓Mt. Gilliad.	Montgomery	J. A. Scott.	H. C. Ridling.	D. M. Beck.	Bek Springs.		14 8			4 0 0				720	2.75	
✓Concord,	Polk.	W. W. McDaniel C. L. Robinson and Robt. Smith.	J. J. Parkinson.	T. J. Robinson.	Dallas.	W. W. McDaniel	0 4			1 0 0				274	2.00	
✓Bethel.	" "	J. J. Parkinson, J. S. Risenhoover and A. J. Howard.	J. J. Parkinson.	J. S. Risenhoover	Big Fork.		0 0			2 0 0				161	1.50	
✓Macedonia.	" "	W. G. Green.	Jno. Dilbeck.	A. C. Redwine.	" "		0 11			0 0 0				110		
✓Antioch.	Scott.	Isaac McGlamery, Neal Gist and John Gist.	H. C. Ridling.	Neal Gist	Waldron.	L. McGlamery.	1 3			5 1 2				571	2.25	
✓Mt. Pleasant.	Polk.	W. D. Nicholson G. A. Hilton and S. M. Kemp.	H. C. Ridling.	S. M. Kemp	Big Bend.	R. Ridgel.	1 3			1 0 1				501	1.50	
✓Big Fork.	" "	W. M. Lawrence, J. E. Johnson and T. G. Smith.	E. J. Ferguson.	J. W. Barnes.	Big Fork.		2 20			8 1 1				304	2.00	
✓Sulphur Springs.	Montgomery	Jas. Standridge, E. J. Ferguson and A. H. Hooper.	E. J. Ferguson.	A. J. Anderson.	" "		4 8			10 1 0				413	2.00	