

H. D. Marton

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-Ninth Session of the Old Organization

AND THE

Forty-fourth Session of the New Organization

OF THE

WHITE RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Hopewell Baptist Church, Baxter County Ark.

September 1, 2, 3, 4, 1911.

OFFICERS:

J. P. LOVELACE, Moderator	:	Cotter, Ark.
W. B. EASLEY, Clerk,	:	Cumi, Ark.
J. G. DILLAHUNTY,	:	Gassville, Ark.

MINUTES.

The White River Missionary Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment with the Hopewell Baptist Church, Mountain Home, Ark., on Friday, September 1, 1911 at 10 o'clock a. m., the Moderator and Clerk being present. The meeting was called to order by singing.

Prayer by Eld. W. D. White.

Elder J. H. Marler preached the Introductory Sermon, after which the Moderator called for the letters from the different churches. Bro. J. L. Paul and W. R. Jones were appointed as Reading Clerks by the Moderator. After reading the letters the Association went into an election of officers for the ensuing year.

The Moderator appointed Elds. A. P. Scofield, McChristian and G. R. Sanders to hold the election for Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer respectively.

By motion and second that Bro. Blansett be appointed to assist Bro. Scofield in holding the election for Moderator. The election resulted as follows:—For Moderator, Eld. J. P. Lovelace; for Clerk, W. B. Easley; for Treasurer, Bro. J. G. Dillahunt.

Called for petitionary letters. The Mt. Zion Church presented a letter and by motion and second was received. The Wise Chapel Church also presented a petitionary letter.

By motion and second the Moderator appointed the following:—Eld. W. D. White, B. L. Bayless and Brethren W. H. Douglas, W. R. Jones and J. L. Paul as an investigating committee. The committee reported favorable, and upon motion and second the church was received into the Association.

Motion and second to take recess until 2 p. m. Carried

Prayer by Eld. W. R. Carson.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Eld. R. F. Nanny.

Called for report of Corresponding Messengers. Eld. J. P. Lovelace stated that he visited Rocky Bayou Association and found them strong in the faith and doing a good work. Called

for Corresponding Messengers from sister Associations.

Appointment of committees as follows:—

Deceased Ministers—Eld. W. D. White, B. L. Bayless and M. M. Jenkins.

Education—Eld. R. F. Nanny, Fred Farmer, C. F. Stone and R. D. Cooper.

Sunday School—Bros. J. L. Paul, J. M. Anderson, and Sister Elnora Phillips.

State Missions—W. R. Jones, J. E. Eubank, and A. B. Morrow.

Orphans Home—Bros. W. H. Douglas, W. R. Jones and J. L. Paul.

Baptist Literature—Eld. H. C. Lamb and Bros. Geo. Carty and Allen Arnett.

Destitution—Bros. Alex James, H. C. Firestone, A. D. Jordan and L. D. Wolf.

Womans Work—Bros. C. L. Dunagan, J. W. Pierce, Sister Elnora Phillips, and Millie Powell.

Obituaries—Bros. F. M. Angel, J. L. Paul and J. M. Pruitt.

Associational Missions—Bros. T. O. Horn, H. C. Firestone and E. Daffron.

Home Missions—C. L. Wolf, F. M. Angel and J. H. Baker.

Foreign Missions—W. H. Douglas, J. H. Marler and H. C. Lamb.

Temperance—J. B. Smith, R. L. Barnett and Bro. J. R. Willbanks.

Finance—Bros. J. W. Barnett, J. C. Blansett and J. C. Marler.

Bro. John H. Baker was chosen to read the Constitution and Rules of Order.

Motion and second that the Clerk have until 10 a. m. Saturday to prepare roll appointment of Messengers to sister Associations.

Rocky Bayou—Eld. J. P. Lovelace, C. M. Brantley and Bros. R. D. Cooper, L. E. Tucker, Henry Horn and T. O. Horn.

Blue Mountain—Eld. J. A. Copeland and J. B. Smith.

Crooked Creek—Eld. H. C. Lamb, and Bro. F. M. Angel.

Big Creek—Eld. J. P. Lovelace.

Independence—Eld. R. F. Nanny and J. P. Lovelace.

County Line—Eld. C. M. Brantley.

Carroll County—Bro. Ulis Firestone.

Motion and second that we suspend the regular order of business and select a place for the next Association and some one to preach the Introductory sermon. Pilgrims Rest and Pleasant Hill were both put in nomination for next Association. A vote was taken and Pleasant Hill Church, Bruno, was chosen as the next meeting place for the Association.

Eld. J. B. Smith was selected to preach the Introductory Sermon, with Eld. W. R. Carson as alternate.

Motion and second to adjourn until 8:30 p. m., Saturday.

Prayer by Eld. J. H. Porterfield.

7:30 p. m.—Preaching by Eld. W. R. Carson, followed by Eld. W. D. Jennings.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Called to order by Moderator.

Prayer by Eld. J. H. Porterfield.

Renewed call for petitionary letters.

Called for report of committees.

The report on deceased ministers was read and adopted.
(See report 1.)

Motion and second to appoint a committee to write a sketch of the life of Eld. H. H. Hilton and to collect funds to put a monument at his grave. The committee follows: Eld. W. D. White, W. D. Jennings, and Bros. W. R. Jones, T. O. Horn; T. A. Johnson.

Report on state missions read by W. R. Jones and adopted.
(See report 2.)

Report on foreign missions read and adopted. (See report 3.)

Motion and second to take recess until 2 p. m. Carried.

11 a. m.—Preaching by Eld. J. B. Smith, followed by Eld. G.

R. Sanders.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called for report on committees.

Report on destitution read, amended and adopted. (See report 4.)

Report on Baptist literature read and adopted. (See report 5.)

Report on associational missions read and adopted. (See report 6.)

The Moderator appointed a board of five to manage the mission work in White River Association. The committee follows: W. H. Douglas, chairman; T. O. Horn, secretary; J. G. Dillahunt, treasurer; W. R. Jones, L. E. Tucker. The committee selected Eld. W. H. McChristain as missionary for the ensuing year.

Report on woman's work read and adopted. (See report 7.)

Report on orphans home read and adopted. (See report 8.)

Report of Elder H. C. Lamb, associational missionary read and received. (See report 9.)

Report of Eld J. B. Smith, associational missionary read and received. (See report 10.)

Report on home missions read and adopted. (See report 11.)

Report on obituaries read and adopted. (See report 12.)

Report on finance read and received. (See report 13.)

Report on Sunday Schools read and adopted. (See report 14.)

Report on temperance read and adopted. (See report 15.)

Report on education read and adopted. (See report 16.)

Motion and second to adjourn until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

Carried.

Prayer by Eld. J. H. Marler.

SATURDAY, 7:30 P. M.

Preaching by Eld. J. H. Porterfield, followed by Eld. McChristian.

SUNDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

Sunday School rally led by Eld. A. P. Scofield.

10 a. m., preaching by Eld. A. P. Scofield.

11:30 a. m., preaching at the church house by Eld. W. D. White and at the school house by Eld. H. C. Lamb.

A collection was taken up for the Orphans Home at Monticello which amounted to \$34, and one for the home in Texarkana which amounted to \$21.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 3 P. M.

Preaching by Elder Lee Carson.

SUNDAY EVENING, 7:30 P. M.

Preaching at the Baptist church by Elder R. F. Nanny and at the school house by Elder W. H. McChristian.

MONDAY MORNING, 8:30 A. M.

The Moderator called the house to order. Prayer by Elder C. M. Brantley. The Clerk being absent T. O. Horn was appointed Clerk pro tem.

The report of committee on resolutions was read and adopted. (See report 17.)

Motion and second to appoint an executive committee to look after our college property, said committee to report at the next session. The committee follows:—T. O. Horn, J. B. Smith, J. H. Marler, W. R. Jones. On motion the Moderator (J. P. Lovelace) was added to the committee.

On motion the committee to write the history of this Association was requested to report at our next session. The committee is as follows:—W. D. White, W. R. Jones, T. O. Horn, J. H. Marler and J. M. Casey.

Motion and second that we adjourn to meet with the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church at Bruno, Marion County on Friday at 10 a. m. before the first Sunday in September, 1912.

The parting hand was taken, followed by a prayer from the Moderator.

REPORTS.

1.—We, your Committee on deceased ministers, beg leave to submit the following: We find that God in his providence has seen fit to take from our midst our dear brother, H. H. Hilton, one of the pioneer ministers of the White River Association, and while we regret to give him up, but believing that God does all things well let us bow in humble submission to His will.

W. D. White, Chairman; B. L. Bayless, M. M. Jenkins.

2.—We, your Committee on state missions, respectfully submit the following report:

State missions is a vital part of our denominational work. The great unit from which all mission work is launched must forever be the local church. And the local churches of Jesus Christ must forever be left free to carry on God's missionary work as they see fit and proper, so long as they do no violence to New Testament principles. If the local church desires to send forth one or more missionaries to proclaim the gospel to a lost world, it has the perfect right to do so. If two or more churches decide to affiliate themselves together into an associational capacity, they also have the right to send forth as many missionaries as they see proper, for the purpose of extending the boundaries of God's Kingdom, and of carrying out the great commission. For the true local churches compose the "household" of Jesus Christ. He is the head, not of one only, but of them all collectively.

For the same reason; if two or more churches desire to affiliate together for the purpose of widening their missionary effort, and of covering a whole state, they have the same right to do that. In fact, it is not only the right of the churches to extend their missionary efforts to the furthest bounds of the state in which they are situated, but it is their duty as well. All the states in the world must be converted to the religion of Jesus Christ before he can be said to truly rule over the earth.

In the choice of executives for the purpose of carrying on state mission work the matter is entirely in the hands of the

churches affiliating themselves together. They are sovereign in this matter and no association, convention or any other body of messengers fraternizing together, shall say them nay. Each local church must be left entirely free in this matter.

But we feel that it is the duty of every church to take an interest in the great work of saving the State of Arkansas for Jesus Christ, and we recommend that each church not only send messengers to some state gathering this fall, but that it contribute to carrying on state mission work as well. At the present there are two mediums through which the Missionary Baptists of this state are carrying on state mission work. One is designated as the State Convention. The other the State Association. Each of these are simply the executives of the will of the local churches, affiliating together. Then there is a third plan of doing state mission work—that is for the church to endorse the missionary and for the contributions to be sent direct to said missionary in the field.

Your committee regrets that we can not all agree to the same plan of doing state mission work, and earnestly urge the brethren to investigate the different methods of carrying on God's work in our state.

But in the meantime we recommend that each church, and each individual of every church, be urged to support one of the plans of carrying on state mission work, leaving the method to be pursued to the best light the church may have on the subject, and to the honest Baptist hearts composing the church membership.

We recommend that this great work be carried on in a spirit of love and not of strife.

We recommend that all money collected for the purpose of carrying on state mission work through the Executive Board of the State Convention be sent to Eld. John T. Christain, Little Rock, and that all money collected for the purpose of doing state mission work through the Committee of the State Association be sent to O. H. Echols, Ft. Smith.

Trusting that God will, at his own proper time, lead us into a perfect spirit of unity, we are respectfully.

W. R. Jones, J. E. Eubank and A. B. Morrow.
Committee.

3.—We your committee on foreign missions report as follows: We realize the sad state of affairs in regard to foreign missions in our Association. But few churches are giving anything to this cause. We want to urge our brethren to think more on this cause and do more in propagating the gospel in heathen lands. Christ's command: Go into all the world, is as urgent today as it was in the past.

We would ask that every church take a collection for foreign missions some time during the year and forward it to the foreign mission field and thus be a helper in the worlds redemption.

W. H. Douglas, Chairman, J. H. Marler. H. C. Lamb.

4.—We your committee on destitution beg leave to report as follows:—We realize that there is still great destitution within the bounds of this Association, and we recommend that the pastors and deacons of the various churches do all in their power to raise means for the support of such missionary. Alex James, Chairman, H. C. Firestone, A. D. Jordan, L. D. Wolf.

5.—We your committee on baptist literature beg leave to make the following report:—First, we recommend the reading and careful study of the Bible. Second, we recommend the reading of all sound Baptist literature. H. C. Lamb. Chairman, George Casey, Allen Arnett.

6.—We your committee on associational missions would respectfully submit the following: Whereas there is great destitution in in our bounds we therefore recommend that the Moderator appoint a committee consisting of five brethren to solicit funds from any legitimate source that they may choose and employ one man for full time or two men for half time as missionaries to preach in the bounds of the Association. We urge upon all our

churches to contribute liberally for the support of this work.

T. O. Horn, H. C. Firestone and E. Daffron

7. We your committee on woman's work wish to submit the following: Realizing the great influence for good wielded by the women of our country and knowing the great things being accomplished by them along financial, moral and spiritual lines, request that the brethren of this Association help the women in all of their endeavors for the uplifting of their fellow man and forwarding the cause of Christ.

C. L. Dunagan, J. W. Pierce,

Elnora Phillips, Millie Powell.

8. We your committee on orphan's homes, beg leave to submit the following report: We now have two Baptist orphan homes in Arkansas—one at Monticello and the other at Texarkana. The home at Monticello is under the management of the State Convention; the one at Texarkana is under the management of the State Association. There are about 150 orphan children in the home at Monticello and about 20 in the home at Texarkana. Bro. J. N. Williams is superintendent and his wife is matron at Monticello. Bro. Carter is superintendent and his wife is matron at Texarkana. Both of these institutions are sadly in need of money to take care of the children.

We recommend therefore that this Association take an offering in cash and pledges for the orphans and that each individual and church be requested to give or pledge to the Home of his choice.

We further recommend that our churches and Sunday schools take a public offering for the orphans some time during the next Associational year and at the earliest date possible.

Send all money intended for the orphans home at Monticello to Bro. J. N. Williams, supt., Monticello, Ark. And send all money intended for the Texarkana home to J. W. Sims, Marvell, Ark.

W. H. Douglas, W. R. Jones, J. L. Paul.

9.—Days labored, 100; miles traveled, 662; conversions, 6; additions, 11; baptisms, 10. I resigned the mission work April 30, and took the care of some churches. I have been paid in full.

All but eight dollars. I resigned the work because of sickness in my family. I find much destitution in the bounds of the White River Association. My prayer is that God will send more labor in to his vineyard. May all the Baptists in the White River Association be awakened to a sense of our condition.

H. C. Lamb, Missionary.

10.—The following is a report of my mission work during the past year: Days of labor, 46; miles traveled 363; sermons preached 52, exhortations 32; public prayers, 40; homes visited, 26; number of conversions, 12; churches organized, 7; number of baptisms, 9; money received, \$59.50; money due me, \$9.00.

J. B. Smith, Missionary, Arkana, Ark.

11.—We your committee on home missions submit the following report: Believing as we do in the preached word of God and as the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, and as men cannot hear without a preacher and the preacher must be sent.

We therefore urge that the churches of the Association give liberally of their means to supply the destitution of our home fields, either through the Southern Baptist Convention or the General Association.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Wolf, F. M. Angel, John H. Baker.

12.—We your committee find that God in his providence has seen fit to separate from us by death, eleven of our beloved brethren and sisters, distributed among the churches as follows:

Friendship, Bro. Sherman Bishop; Wisers Chapel, Bro. M. Hively and A. O. Porterfield; Blooming Grove, Bro. Tom Reed; New Prospect, Sister Nancy Snow; Pleasant Hill, Mary Cooper Fronié Henderson; Quality Ridge, Ada Studdard; Mt. Pleasant, Rev. H. H. Hilton; Whiteville, Sister Martha White and Ella Tucker; New Athens. Bro. Elisha Hall.

Let us humbly submit to his divine will.

F. M. Angel, J. L. Paul, L. M. Pruett.

13.—We your committee on finance beg to make the following report: There has been paid by the churches of the White River Association for minntes \$28.50. J. W. Barnett, Chairman,

J. C. Blansett, J. C. Marler.

14.—We your committee on Sunday schools find from the reading of the letters that there are few Sunday schools in the Association. And the Bible teaches us to "train our children in the way they should go," and we do not believe there is a better way than to organize Sunday schools in each church, and not only send our children but go with them. J. L. Paul, Chairman,

J. M. Anderson, Mrs. Elnora Phillips.

15.—We your committee on temperance submit the following report:—Realizing that dram drinking is among the greatest curses known to our day and time, and knowing that it destroys the manhood and usefulness of everyone that partakes of it, and knowing it destroys the peace and happiness of homes and good society.

Therefore, we earnestly recommend that the churches of this Association carefully discipline their members who are inclined to dram drinking and who deal in any way in intoxicating liquors,

Further still we recommend that every Baptist voter withhold his support from all individuals for political preference who deal in intoxicants in any way. And that we urge our pastors to deliver at least one discourse on intemperance to their respective churches at their earliest convenience. J. B. Smith, Chairman,

J. R. Willbanks and R. L. Barnett.

We your committe on education submit the following report: Realizing that there is room for improvement in our public school system; and realizing that it is the only means by which our children obtain the foundation for a higher degree of education, we therefore recommend that every Baptist of this Association co-operate in every way possible to better same in regard to the morality and spirituality of its teachers, and to encourage our children to obtain as much there as possible.

We further recommend Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., which is co-educational and is unsurpassed by any other educational institutions in the state, and Central Baptist College, which is devoted entirely to the training of young ladies, and all other Baptist institutions in the state.

We further recommend the hearty financial support of our Baptist institutions by our entire brotherhood.

John H. Baker, Chairman, R. F. Nanny,

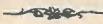
Fred Farmer, C. F. Stone, R. D. Cooper.

17. We your committee on resolutions, report as follows:
Resolved first that this body direct the Clerk to have the articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum and the full proceedings of this body printed.

Second, that the Clerk of this body superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes to the various churches.

Resolved further, that this body return its thanks to the church and the community for their kindness that they have shown us while with them. And that the Clerk have five dollars for his fee, said five dollars to be paid out of the minutes fund.

L. E. Tucker, C. M. Brantley, J. M. Randell,
Committee.



CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—This Association shall be called and known by the name of the "White River Baptist Association."

ARTICLE II.—The members composing the annual meetings of the Association shall consist of the messengers sent by the churches.

ARTICLE III.—The messengers sent by the churches to the annual meetings shall not exceed four from each church.

ARTICLE IV.—The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall have been previously appointed.

ARTICLE V.—The officers of the Association shall consist of a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority of the messengers annually at the annual meetings of the body.

ARTICLE VI.—This Association will have no power to control or regulate the internal affairs or discipline of any church, but it may adopt and recommend all such measures as shall be considered best calculated to produce the harmony and prosperity of the churches, and to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, and advise and consult upon such matters as the churches may at any time present for their consideration and advice. And it may receive churches into this Association or dismiss churches from the body, inquire into the state of religion in its bounds, and suggest measures for its advancement, and be a common bond of union among the churches, but shall not exercise any legislative power over the churches.

ARTICLE VII.—This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided notice has been given at a previous meeting.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

1. We believe 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, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the su-

prime standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, and infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehova, 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 Spirit; equal in every divine perfection; and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

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 by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defence or excuse.

4—We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; 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 every way qualified to be an all-sufficient Savior.

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

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

determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

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

8. We repeat that repentance and faith are sacred duties and inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced 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 all-sufficient Savior.

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that doing perfectly consistent with the free agents 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 perfectly 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 discourages 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 demand and deserves the utmost diligence.

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 Healer and Comfortor, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

11. We believe that such only are true believers as endure

to the end; that their reserving 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 of God through faith into salvation.

12. 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 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 the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

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 ordinance of Christ, governed by his laws and exercising the gifts and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications and claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

14. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer into the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, 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 is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ preceeded always by solemn self-examination.

15. We believe that the first day in 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 of private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

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, concientiously honored and

obeyed, except in things opposed by the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the prince of the kings of the earth.

17. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ shall descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be judged 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.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall commence with religious exercises and a sermon from some preacher, who shall have been previously appointed, unless the Association shall otherwise direct.

2. The Moderator of the session shall preside, and the former Clerk shall act (provided they attend) until the letters from the churches connected with the body shall have been read and a Moderator and Clerk appointed.

3. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meeting during its session and appoint committees (unless the Association shall otherwise direct), preserve order, reprove improprieties (except an appeal is made to the meeting by two members). He shall have a right to speak on all subjects, calling a member to the chair, and examine and correct the minutes if necessary.

4. The Clerk shall keep a correct copy of the proceedings of the meeting, read the letters and documents, and call any member to assist him at the close of the meeting. He shall take charge of the papers and documents unless otherwise directed.

5. The churches shall designate their messengers and report their condition by letter.

6. Preachers in good standing in other Baptist churches or Associations with whom we are in fellowship, when attending our annual meeting, shall be invited to a seat as correspondents, and these meetings shall always be opened with a prayer and closed in a similar manner.

7. Every member may speak twice on any one subject in debate before the meeting, but not more without leave; and when speaking shall stand and address the Moderator and use decorous and Christian language; and no member shall absent himself from the Association during the session without leave; and any person who shall violate these rules, or the constitution, shall be reproved as the Association shall think proper.

8. These rules may be amended by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting.

9. The churches shall contribute funds for the ordinary expenses of the body. such as printing the minutes and paying the traveling expenses of such members as the Association may send to other bodies.

10. A public collection shall be taken by the Moderator at each session and applied to such benevolent purposes as the Association may direct.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. Annual introductory sermon.
2. Call of Association to order by the Moderator, if present.
3. Call for church letters and enroll messengers.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters and messengers.
6. Call for corresponding letters and messengers.
7. Appoint committees.
8. Read constitution and rules of order.
9. Call and correct the roll and note absentees.
10. Call report of messengers to corresponding bodies.
11. Appoint messengers to corresponding bodies.
12. Call for report of committees in order.
13. Miscellaneous business.
14. Resolutions.
15. Appoint place for next meeting of Association.
16. Appoint some one to preach the Introductory Sermon.
17. Adjournment.

FORM FOR CHURCH LETTER.

The Baptist Church of Christ at

To the White River Baptist Association:

Dear Brethren:—We send as messengers Elder

Brethren

Increase by baptism

Increase by letter

Increase by restoration

Decrease by letter

Decrease by exclusion

Decrease by death

Total membership

Constituted in the year 19....

Present pastor

Day of church meeting

Number engaged in Sabbath School

Contribution for minutes \$.....

Contribution for associational missions \$

Contribution for state missions \$

Contribution for foriegn missions \$.....

Contribution for ministerial relief \$

Money expended for pastoral support \$

Money expended for church building \$.....

Money expended for incidental expenses \$.....

By order of the church.

Date.....19....

.....Moderator

.....Church Clerk.

Postoffice.....