

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-fourth Meeting

OF THE

Big Creek Missionary
Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

HYLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Lanton, Mo.

September 26, 27, and 28

1908

DIRECTORY.

OFFICERS—W. H. Bowling, Moderator, Salem, Ark.

E. J. Bratcher, Clerk, Lanton, Mo.

CENTRAL BOARD—J. D. Cochran, G. W. Bray, W. R. King, all of Union Ark.

AUXILIARY BOARD—One member of each church elected by same.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known by the name of Big Creek Missionary Baptist Association.

Art. 2. The members composing the annual meeting of the association shall consist of the messengers sent by the churches.

Art. 3. The messengers sent by the churches to the annual meeting shall not exceed four from each church.

Art. 4. The association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall have previously been appointed.

Art. 5. The officers of this association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority of the messengers annually at the annual meeting of the body.

Art. 6. This association shall have no power to control or regulate the internal affairs or discipline of any church, but it may adopt or recommend all such measures as shall be considered best calculated to produce the harmony and prosperity of the churches, and advise and consult upon the matter as the churches may at any time present for their consideration and advice. It may receive churches into this association, or dismiss churches from the body, inquire into 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.

Art. 7. 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 that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasurer 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 supreme standard by which human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit whose name is Jehovah, the maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness

and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead 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 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 defense 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--that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections. He is in every way qualified to 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 works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith, His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that 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 born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it affects 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 believe 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 guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time.

heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior.

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being 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 encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of christian assurance and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

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 begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, Sealer and Comforter, 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 believers who endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors--that a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government--and 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 the visible church of Christ is a congregation of Baptist believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws and exercising the gifts 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 it is a pre-requisite to the privileges

of a church relation, and to the Lord's supper—by which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the undying love of Christ—preceded always by solemn self-examination.

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

16. We believe that the Civil Government is divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the Kings of the earth.

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

18. We believe that the end of the 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 exercise 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 meetings, and shall read the letters and documents, and may call any member to assist him at the close of the meeting. We shall take charge of the letters 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 Association 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 and closed with prayer.

7. Every member may speak twice on one subject in debate before the meeting, but no more without leave, and when speaking 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 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 up at each session and applied to such benevolent purposes as the association may direct.

PROCEEDINGS.

The thirty-fourth annual session of Big Creek Missionary Baptist Association convened with Highland Park church, Lanton, Mo., on September 26, 27 and 28, 1908. Introductory sermon by Elder R. K. Pope: subject, Praise Ye the Lord; discussed by Elder S. M. Oliver. House was called to order by W. H. Bowling. Moderator and clerk being absent, W. H. Bowling was elected temporary moderator and E. J. Bratcher temporary clerk. R. K. Pope and E. J. Bratcher were appointed reading clerks. Churches were called and responded to by their respective messengers:

- 1 County Line—W. H. Anderson, J. P. Hall, Lee Hays.
- 2 Enterprise—Z. T. Grisso, Jas. Roby, R. K. Pope, Edna Grisso.
- 3 Flora—H. S. Talley, J. F. Cox, J. M. Goodwin, J. W. Carroll.
- 4 Highland Park—W. C. McGinty.
- 5 Liberty—G. P. Keith, P. B. Hawkins.
- 6 Mt. Zion—O. B. Cochran, G. W. Bray, J. D. Cochran, W. R. King.
- 7 Macedonia—Arthur Talley, F. P. Hodges.
- 8 Oak Grove—Henry Walker, G. C. Jones, F. M. Floyd, J. T. Mackinlay.
- 9 Pleasant Grove—Marion Bench, J. F. Christy, J. C. Haywood, T. J. Holloway.
- 10 Shady Grove—S. M. Oliver, R. E. Richardson.
- 11 New Liberty—J. F. Davenport, E. A. Haley.
- 12 Salem—W. H. Bowling, J. T. Livingston, James R. Light.

- 13 Diamond Springs—W. F. Woods.
- 14 Spring River—R. N. Dark.
- 15 Prospect—Not represented
- 16 Plum Grove—Not represented.
- 17 Union Hill—Not represented.
- 18 Viola—Not represented.
- 19 Mt. Pleasant—Not represented.
- 20 Liberty Hill—Not represented.

Call for petitionary letters; New Liberty responded and right hand of fellowship was extended. Visiting ministers and corresponding messengers called for, no response.

Motion to permanent organization carried. H. A. Thompson and E. J. Bratcher were appointed tellers. W. H. Bowling was elected moderator and E. J. Bratcher clerk. W. C. McGinty, H. A. Thompson and E. J. Bratcher were appointed committee on divine services. Adjourned until 2 p. m.

After refreshments house was called to order by the moderator. Prayer by T. J. Holloway. Renewed call for visiting ministers and corresponding messengers; no response.

Report on foreign missions, R. E. Richardson, J. P. Hall, J. F. Cox, committee. Discussion by J. F. Cox and W. H. Bowling. Adopted; see appendix 1.

Report on Baptist literature, Ed Ellis, T. J. Holloway, committee. Discussion by T. J. Holloway and W. H. Bowling. Adopted; see appendix 2.

Report on temperance, R. K. Pope, J. F. Cox, committee. Discussion by J. F. Cox, R. K. Pope and Ed Ellis. Adopted; see appendix 3.

Report on Christian education, R. E. Richardson, E. A. Haley, H. A. Thompson, committee. Discussion by W. H. Bowling and R. E. Richardson. Adopted; see appendix 4.

Motion to call report on Sabbath school work Sunday morning at 10 o'clock; carried. Motion to adjourn until Monday 8 a. m.; carried.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Preaching by Elder J. F. Cox; text, Heb 2-13

SUNDAY MORNING.

On account of rain the assemblage was one hour late. Motion to omit preaching and call for report on Sunday school work after some discussion carried.

Report on Sunday school work, W. C. McGinty, J. R. Light, J. F. Cristy, committee. Discussion by S. M. Oliver, J. F. Cox, J. R. Light, T. J. Holloway, W. H. Bowling, W. T. Livingston and R. E. Richardson; adopted, see appendix 5.

The committee on divine services reported Elder J. F. Cox to preach at 3 p. m. Dismissed for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled at 2 p. m. Prayer service conducted by the moderator. At 3 o'clock preaching by J. F. Cox; text, John 12-21.

MONDAY MORNING.

House called to order by the moderator at 8:30 o'clock. Prayer by G. C. Jones. Roll called and absentees marked. Minutes of Saturday and Sunday read and approved. Renewed call for visiting ministers and corresponding messengers; no response. Call for petitionary letters; no response.

Call for report on home mission, G. P. Keith, G. W. Bray, committee. See appendix 6.

Report on orphans' home, S. M. Oliver, T. J. Holloway, Henry Walker, committee. Discussion by T. J. Holloway, S. M. Oliver and W. H. Bowling. Collection of \$3 was taken for orphans' home. Adopted, see appendix 7.

Report on deceased members, W. B. King, J. F. Davenport, W. F. Woods, committee. Adopted, see appendix 8.

Report on state missions, R. K. Pope, W. T. Livingston, J. D. Cochran, committee. Discussion by R. K. Pope and W. H. Bowling. Collection for state missions \$5.00. Adopted, see appendix 9.

Report on associational missions, S. M. Oliver, J. F. Davenport, Z. T. Grisso, committee. Discussion by S. M. Oliver, R. K. Pope, R. E. Richardson, W. H. Bowling, T. J. Holloway. Adopted, see appendix 10.

Report of central board: We hired Elder R. K. Pope as missionary and paid him \$1.25 per day, in full \$9.10; he preached at Elizabeth, Ark., and had two conversions and five additions to the church; we have cash on hand at present \$27.86. J. D. Cochran, president, and G. C. Jones, secretary-treasurer. Adopted.

Elected J. D. Cochran, G. W. Bray and W. R. King a central board for the ensuing year, and one member to be elected from each church as auxiliary board.

Report on finance, G. C. Jones, F. P. Hodges, Arthur Christy, committee:

Minute funds from the churches.....	\$12 45
Public collections.....	1 93
Total.....	\$14 38

Meeting of next association to be held with Liberty church, two mile south of Viola, Ark. Elder S. M. Oliver to preach the introductory sermon and Elder J. F. Cox alternate.

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Arranged correspondence to sister associations, viz: Union, W. C. McGinty, G. C. Jones, J. D. Cochran, W. H. Bowling, R. E. Richardson; Rocky Bayou, W. T. Livingston, W. R. King, G. W. Bray; White River, J. F. Davenport, R. K. Pope, W. T. Livingston; Elevenpoints, T. J. Holloway.

Motion to hold fifth Sunday meeting as usual, carried. Motion to leave time and place of fifth Sunday meeting with central board, carried.

Resolution. That we tender our thanks to Highland Park church and the people in the vicinity of Lanton for their kind hospitality and to the moderator and clerk, visiting messengers, ministers and to all concerned in the Godly deliberations of this association. R. K. Pope. Adopted.

Motion to adjourn to meet with Liberty church, Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. Carried. While singing "How Firm a Foundation," the brethren took parting hand. Closing prayer by S. M. Oliver.

ELDER W. H. BOWLING, Moderator, Salem, Ark.

E. J. BRATCHER, Clerk, Lanton, Mo.

APPENDIX 1. Brethren, we your committee on foreign mission beg to report the following: Jesus' command is to go teach all nations, etc. We believe that the command applies to us as much as it did to the disciples to whom Jesus gave the command. We are glad to report that the gospel is now being given to man in heathen and papal fields, but there is yet much and pressing need for pushing the work. Jesus has promised to be with us always, even unto the end. Having this promise, we should press forward, for well we know that many are the immortal souls to be saved with the gospel or to be lost without the gospel. Respectfully submitted, R. E. Richardson, J. P. Hall, J. F. Cox, committee.

APPENDIX 2. We your committee on Baptist literature beg to submit the following report: That there is a great destitution in our association of Baptist literature and we advise that our brotherhood take great interest in our home papers and also the Baptist literature of our Baptist publishing houses and to get it in as many homes as possible. Ed Ellis, T. J. Holloway, committee.

APPENDIX 3. We your committee on temperance beg to submit the following report: Dear Brethren: We are all agreed that the use of intoxicating drinks is one of God's worst enemies, and one of the devil's best friends. We therefore recommend that the churches composing this association make the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage a test of church fellowship. R. K. Pope, John Cox, committee.

APPENDIX 4. We your committee on Christian education beg to report as follows: Brethren, let us educate our children in such a way that will make them able to meet successfully the many false doctrines

that are being and doubtless will continue to be taught over our country. We recommend that Baptists support and patronize Baptist literature and Ouachita system of colleges of Arkansas. R. E. Richardson, E. A. Haley, H. A. Thompson, committee.

APPENDIX 5. We your committee on Sunday school work beg leave to submit the following: Realizing the great need of our children being taught the word of God, we urge the churches to organize Sunday schools and supply them with Baptist literature and urge parents to attend Sunday school with their children, thereby showing greater interest in religious education. We further urge that a collection be taken every Sunday, first for foreign missions; second Sunday for orphans' home; third Sunday for home missions; fourth Sunday for school purposes. W. C. McGinty, J. R. Light, J. F. Christy, committee.

APPENDIX 6. We advise that all our churches make liberal contributions for home missions. "Ye shall be witness of me in Judea, common Smyrna and Jerusalem, unto the uttermost part of the earth." Then let us be witnesses of him throughout our home land in its destitute places. G. P. Keith, G. W. Bray, committee.

APPENDIX 7. We your committee on orphans' home beg leave to report that the Baptist home at Monticello is a safe place for the orphans when left in the world without parents to care for them, where they can be cared for and trained up under Baptist principles, and that we give freely of our means to feed and clothe them; and there is great need of our immediate action to relieve them of the financial situation. There are now about seventy-five children in the home. S. M. Oliver, T. J. Holloway, Henry Walker, committee.

APPENDIX 8. We the committee on deceased members report as follows: Eveline White, E. S. Pope. These have been called to a home on high. We mourn our loss. J. F. Davenport, W. F. Woods, W. R. King, committee.

APPENDIX 9. We your committee on state missions submit the following: The church of Christ was commissioned to preach the gospel to every creature. In obedience to the command of God's marching orders from the King of Kings, we have connected ourselves with the organized work of the state and the great army of workers of the South. By doing this we hope to educate, cultivate and regenerate the whole world to Christ. Our missionaries last year done more than they have ever done for the master. We had ninety-three missionaries in the field. They led 5,000 to Christ, baptised 3,330 and added to the church 5,286. Brethern of Big Creek Association, how much credit is due you for this increase of labor and good? May we increase 30 per cent also in our giving to state missions this year. R. K. Pope, W. T. Livingston, J. D. Calison, committee.

APPENDIX 10. We your committee on associational missions beg to report the following: We would say that the least work has been

done the past year than in several years. We recommend that three be appointed as a central board and this board have control of missionary work in the association and that each local church elect a suitable brother or sister to co-operate with the central board by soliciting contributions. We further recommend that any of our preachers doing missionary work bring a report to the next association and be allowed a reasonable remuneration for the same. S. M. Oliver, J. F. Davenport, Z. T. Grisso, committee.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICES.	Days of Meeting	Received by letter	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Deaths	Total membership	Minutes fund	Value of church property
Pleasant Grove	J. C. Haywood	G. A. White	Moko, Ark	1	1			1	64	\$ 50	\$300
Highland Park		W. C. McGinty	Lanton, Mo						62	1 00	400
Macedonia	J. P. White	Pink Phelps	Union, Ark	11	1				43	1 00	
Oak Grove	R. K. Pope	Henry Walker	Moody, Mo	4 18	5	1	2	1	79	1 00	
Mt. Zion	J. F. Cox	Samuel Miller	Union, Ark	3	8				87	1 50	
New Bethel	S. M. Oliver	Lewis Million	Viola, Ark	1 12	10				34	1 00	
Shady Grove	J. P. White	H. H. Floyd	Salem, Ark		1				71	70	300
Flora	R. K. Pope	Z. T. Carrell	Beall, Ark	2			11	2	29	1 00	
County Line	J. F. Cox	E. F. Armstrong	Bakersfield, Mo	4	2				40	1 50	
Liberty	J. P. White	Phœba Ellis	Viola, Ark	3					44	1 00	
Diamond Springs	Geo. Sanders	Allen Wilkins	Wake Ark	3	3				25	50	
Enterprise	J. F. Cox	Edna Grisso	Vidette, Ark	1				1	30	1 00	300
Salem	H. J. Jones	J. R. Light	Salem, Ark	2	2		6		71	75	
Spring Riv r	H. J. Jones	R. H. Dark	Hardy, Ark						16		450
Totals				57	17	1	23	3	701	12 45	1750

SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	S. S. SUPT.	S. S. SECRETARY.	ADDRESS.	LITERATURE.	No. pupils.	No. teachers	Average att.
Pleasant Grove	A. M. Christy	J. Bassham	Moko, Ark	Baptist	60		35
Salem.	J. T. Hudson	Ed Dean	Salem, Ark	Baptist	50		
Spring River	B. F. Wise	Eva Shane	Hardy, Ark	Union	40	5	
New Bethel	Lewis Million	Hettie Batterton	Viola, Ark	Baptist			52
County Line			Moody, Mo				40
Oak Grove							