

BAPTIST HISTORIC

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

General Assembly

OF WESTERN ARKANSAS,

HELD WITH

OAK BOWER CHURCH,

SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

September, 22d, 24th and 25th, 1877.

OFFICERS:

E. L. COMPERE, Moderator,

M. L. EGGLESTON, Clerk,

R. H. McCONNELL, Treasurer.

DARDANELLE:

INDEPENDENT ARKANSIAN JOB ROOMS.

1877.

PROCEEDINGS.

THE CONCORD ASSOCIATION met pursuant to adjournment, with Oak Bower Church, Sebastian County, Arkansas, on Saturday, the 21 day of September, 1877.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. S. J. Fuller. Theme:—"Unity."

Bros. R. H. McConnell, G. A. Graves and J. F. Burt, together with the Deacons and Clerk of Oak Bower church, were appointed a committee on Preaching.

Letters were called for, and read by Bros. Jas. H. Smith and J. M. Ledbetter.

As there are two letters from Pleasant Grove, each claiming seats, a motion laid them on the table.

Bro. M. S. Buckley was received as a messenger from Ft. Smith church.

A petitionary letter was presented from Corinth church, and, on motion, laid on the table. Also petitionary letters from Dutch Creek, Oak Valley, Shiloh and Good Hope presented and the hand of fellowship given to their messengers.

The following brethren were chosen annual officers: E. L. Comere, Moderator; M. L. Eggleston, Clerk; R. H. McConnell, Treas.

On account of difficulties existing in Pleasant Grove church, Bro. S. Marshall declined to preach the Missionary Sermon and Bro. J. J. Holland being absent, Bro. F. L. Kregel was appointed to occupy the hour.

On motion, the letters laid on the table, now be taken from the table and referred to a committee of six brethren, consisting of Bros. Kregel, Clevinger, Ledbetter, Been, McConnell and Buckley.

Prayer by Eld. W. A. Clark. Dismissal by Eld. S. J. Fuller.

Adjourned until Monday morning, 8 o'clock.

In the interim appointed the following committees:

On Finance.—G. H. Council, I. Davis and M. S. Buckley.

On Documents.—Jas. H. Smith, J. M. Ledbetter and C. T. Cagle.

On Sabbath Schools.—L. F. Patterson, J. M. Ledbetter and F. M. Blaylock.

On Temperance.—J. J. Holland, J. M. Ledbetter and M. M. Speers.

On Domestic Missions.—R. H. McConnell, W. V. McNeely and H. Been.

On Ministerial Education.—C. T. Cagle, S. J. Fuller and D. L. Moore.

On Ministerial Support.—F. L. Kregel, H. Payne and L. H. McClendon.

On Deceased Ministers.—L. H. McClendon, J. J. Tate and B. C. Owens.

Eld. W. A. Clark, from Dardanelle, preached on Saturday night from Ephesians iv : 15. Theme :—"Elements of church growth."

SABBATH EXERCISES.

Prayer meeting at 10 o'clock, led by Eld. J. J. Tate. Missionary Sermon, by Eld. F. L. Kregel, from Ephesians iii : 21. Afternoon preaching by Eld. W. A. Clark, from Revelations xx : 12. Theme :—"The Books Opened." Preaching at night by Eld. T. J. Allen from 1st Samuel xvii : 29. Theme :—"Is there not a Cause?"

MONDAY, September 24th, 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Eld. J. M. Ledbetter. Minutes read, corrected and approved.

On recommendation from the council, called by James' Fork church which was recommended by the committee to whom was referred the letter from James' Fork church, by the Association on the 23d day of September, 1876, at Poteau church, received ; and received Bro. M. M. Spear as messenger from said church.

The following corresponding messengers were present and received : From State Convention.—Eld. W. A. Clark. From Clear Creek Association.—Eld. F. L. Kregel. From Dardanelle Association.—Eld. John Young and T. J. Allen. The next meeting of the Dardanelle Association embraces the 3d Sabbath in September.

Appointed the following correspondents : To Dardanelle Association.—S. J. Fuller, E. L. Compere, F. L. Kregel, M. L. Eggleston, J. J. Tate and J. J. Holland—S. J. Fuller to write the corresponding letter. To Clear Creek Association.—William Watkins and M. S. Buckley—the latter to write the corresponding letter.

Bro. E. L. Compere requested to write the corresponding letter to the State Convention.

Bros. R. H. McConnell, E. L. Compere, M. S. Buckley, H. Been and Jas. H. Smith, were appointed delegates to the General Association of Northwestern Arkansas, to meet at Alma, Crawford county, on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in August, 1878.

To Washita Association.—J. J. Tate, and to write the corresponding letter. Choctaw and Chickasaw Association.—L. F. Patterson, J. L. Ledbetter, and the latter to write the corresponding letter.

Eleven o'clock, preaching by Eld. John Young, from Matthew 22:14. Theme:—"Faithfulness to Christ." And followed by Eld. Cagle in the afternoon.

The report of the committee on the two (2) letters from Pleasant Grove, received and adopted; and the hand of fellowship given to the messengers from Corinth church. (Appendix A.)

The report of the committee on Sabbath Schools, received and adopted. (Appendix B.)

The report of the committee on Finance, received and adopted. (Appendix C.)

Appointed Bros. M. S. Buckley, G. H. Council and H. Been, a committee to nominate the executive committee.

The report of the committee on Domestic Missions, received and referred back to the committee.

Adjourned. Prayer by Bro. Cagle; dismissal by Bro. Kregel.

TUESDAY, September 25th, 1877.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. B. C. Owens.

Minutes read and approved.

The report of the committee on Domestic Missions having been referred back, the committee now make the following report:

"Your committee on domestic missions, with regret, report that a very small amount of money has been raised by the churches. We, therefore, recommend that the pastors of the churches be requested to deliver a lecture or sermon on the subject of missions, to each of their churches, in the month of July next, and that each church, in the bounds of this association, be requested to appoint a committee to solicit contributions, and that the amount thus raised be inserted in the reports and sent to the association by the messengers, and that a committee of one from each church be appointed by this association to assist in carrying out this recommendation.

R. H. McCONNELL, Chairman."

On motion, speeches were limited to five minutes.

On motion, appointed J. J. Holland, J. M. Ledbetter and C. T. Cagle a committee to appoint a missionary committee.

The report of the committee to nominate an executive committee, received and adopted. (Appendix D.)

The report of the committee on documents received and adopted. (Appendix E.)

The report of the committee on temperance received, amended and adopted. (Appendix F.)

The report of the committee on ministerial education received and adopted. (Appendix G.)

The report of the committee on ministerial support received and adopted. Appendix H.)

The report of the committee on finance was received and adopted. (Appendix I.)

The report of the committee on deceased ministers was received and adopted. (Appendix J.)

The report of the committee on the missionary committee was received, amended and adopted. (Appendix K.)

The report of the committee on nominations was received and adopted. (Appendix L.)

Resolved, that the Clerk have fifteen (\$15) dollars, for attending to the printing and distribution of the minutes and the balance of the minute money be used in printing and distributing the minutes, and that they shall be distributed pro rata.

FORM OF AN ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER.

The Missionary Baptist Church, at ———, in ——— County, Ark., to
"The Concord Association," when convened with ——— church.

Greeting :

Brethren :—We have appointed ———, messengers to sit with you in your deliberations, and ———, alternates.

Eld. ———, is our Pastor ; Bro. ———, is our Clerk ; our post office ——— ; days of meeting ——— Sabbath and ———.

Our statistics are as follows : Baptised, — ; Received by Letter — ; Dismissed, — ; Restored, — ; Excluded, — ; Dead, — ; Total, — ; Ordained Ministers, — ; Licentiates, — ; Contribution, \$—.

Signed by order of the Church in conference, on the — day of —

A. D. 18—

—————, Moderator.

Attest : —————, Clerk.

On motion the first item of business shall be to appoint a committee on credentials. Resolution adopted.

WHEREAS, The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has entered into cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention Board, thereby securing special advantages to Arkansas, in its present needy condition therefore,

RESOLVED, That Concord Association earnestly desires to co-operate with the State Convention in this work, and, to secure that co-operation, our executive committee is hereby instructed to correspond with the State Board and thereby perfect our missionary plans, and execute such arrangements as they, and the State Mission Board shall see fit upon.

RESOLVED, Further, That the executive board be instructed to correspond with the Missionary Board of the General Association of Western Arkansas and the Indian Territory, on the same subject.

On motion, the Association then adjourned, to meet with Macedonia Church, on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1878.

When singing the parting song, the brethren gave the "parting word" with heartfelt emotions of sorrow and joy—sorrow because we were going to separate and joy in the hope of a meeting of the Saints in the New Jerusalem, where we will live forever, singing praises unto Him who gave Himself for us.

E. L. COMPERE, Moderator.

M. L. EGGLESTON, Clerk.

GENERAL APPENDIX.

(APPENDIX A.)

The committee to which was referred the letters from Pleasant Grove churches, A and B, and from Corinth church, beg leave to report.

1st. That inasmuch as the letter from Pleasant Grove church, represent their organization as a new one, but does not come to us in petitionary form, that, therefore, we recommend the letter to be turned to the church.

2d. That, convinced of the impossibility of investigating the difficulties existing in Pleasant Grove church, during this session of Association, and believing that to do so would establish an injurious and hurtful precedent, we, therefore, recommend that its letter be laid upon the table; and further recommend that the churches call a mutual advisory council, composed of brethren from churches in no way connected with their difficulties, and seek an early, righteous and amicable settlement of the same, and a full reconciliation with their grieved brethren.

F. L. KREGEL, Chairman

(APPENDIX B.)

Your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following:

That we regard a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures to be essentially necessary to a proper training of the youthful mind, in preparing them for usefulness and future happiness; and recommend that the churches no longer overlook the importance of the organization and fostering of Sabbath Schools in the bounds of our Association, which can be successfully affected only by the united efforts and untiring energy on the part of both parents and teachers.

Resolved that we recommend to the churches *KIND WORDS*, published at Macon, Ga., as a valuable assistant in the Sabbath School work. Address, *KIND WORDS*, Macon, Ga. Subscription price, copy, \$1; clubs of ten, 63c.

J. M. LEDBETTER, Chairman

(APPENDIX C.)

Finance Committee beg leave to report, that we find :

Means on hand for Minutes,	-	-	-	-	-	\$57.10
Amount sent up from Churches for Missions	-	-	-	-	-	7.75
Amount by Bro. A. L. Brown,	-	-	-	-	-	25
Sabbath Collections,	-	-	-	-	-	10.90
Total	-	-	-	-	-	\$76.00

G. H. COUNCIL, Chairman.

(APPENDIX D.)

Your Committee to whom the duty of nominating an Executive Board, would suggest that the Junior Deacons of each church be appointed as such Board. Respectfully submitted,

M. S. BUCKLEY, Chairman.

(APPENDIX E.)

The Committee on Documents report that two churches (Poteau and Macedonia) request the next Association, and recommend Macedonia, which church is four miles west of Salem.

JAS. H. SMITH, Chairman.

(APPENDIX F.)

Your Committee believe that the use of ardent spirits is a great evil and a gross immorality, and that dram-drinking naturally leads to drunkenness. We, therefore, recommend that the church abstain from all such practices and use all her influence against the same.

Respectfully submitted, J. J. HOLLAND, Chairman.

(APPENDIX G.)

We, your Committee on Ministerial Education, beg leave to report : That we feel a lack of ministerial education in our Association, and would earnestly advise the Association to devise some plan to educate her ministers.

S. J. FULLER, Chairman.

(APPENDIX H.)

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Pastoral Support beg leave to report :

The adequate and liberal support of the Ministry of the Gospel is the simple and positive duty of the churches of Jesus Christ. As His servants, and as His poor, He throws them upon His people as their

special care. He tells His laborers to go forth, bearing the word of life, preaching the Gospel to a lost world, and their peace is to come upon all by whom they may be received, and, as His laborers, they are worthy of their hire. God has ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel, hence, all other conditions or modifications of this rule, are positive violations of the Law of Christ, and, in practical results, hurtful to the interests and in the way of the success of His cause.

We, therefore, call upon the churches of the Association to ponder the question, whether or not our present leanness, or the low state of our Zion, is not mainly attributable to the neglect and failure to comply with this Law of our Lord and Master? We further commend to their notice and attention, the suggestions embraced in the following resolutions:

Resolved, That, in order to secure a fair and reliable support of the Ministry of the Word among us, we recommend to the churches, each and severally: 1st. To secure a pastoral home in its midst. 2d. To adopt some plan by which every member of the church shall become a contributor to the support of its Pastor, and see that that plan is carried out.

F. L. KREGEL, Chairman.

(APPENDIX I.)

J. J. HOLLAND, Treasurer, in account with Concord Association:

To amount minute fund,	-	-	-	-	-	\$57.10
" Sabbath collections, 1875,	-	-	-	-	-	5.70
" Amount sent by the churches, in 1876,	-	-	-	-	-	41.65
" Sabbath collections, 1876,	-	-	-	-	-	13.45
" Amount received of ex-treasurer,	-	-	-	-	-	13.25
						<hr/>
						\$131.15
Credit by Clerk's receipt,	-	-	-	-	-	57.10
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Ballance on hand	-	-	-	-	-	74.05

(APPENDIX J.)

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers report that we find one of our most able and much beloved ministers has been called from our midst, viz.: Bro. Joseph P. Smedley, who has long been a citizen of Sebastian county, and much beloved by many friends. We thank God that so good a man has lived in our midst, and whom, we trust, has gone to receive the reward of a faithful watchman.

L. H. McCLENDON, Chairman.

(APPENDIX K.)

Your Committee to appoint one committeeman in each church, to solicit contributions for the missionary work, submit the following :

We recommend that the clerks of the various churches be requested to act as said committee, and that there be a committee of three appointed by this body, to co-operate with said committee in said work.

J. J. HOLLAND, Chairman.

Appointed R. H. McConnell, Jas. H. Smith and H. Payne.

(APPENDIX L.)

Your Committee to nominate Ministers to preach the annual sermons, suggest that J. J. Holland preach the Introductory Sermon, and J. M. Ledbetter, alternate ; James M. Clevinger, to preach the Missionary Sermon, and F. L. Kregel, alternate. Adopted.

M. S. BUCKLEY, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Concord Association of Western Arkansas.

ART. 2. It shall be composed of Messengers from Baptist churches known to be in good standing. Each church with fifty members or less shall be entitled to three messengers. Each additional fifty members shall entitle the church to one additional messenger.

ART. 3. The officers shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual session, and shall continue in office 'till their successors are chosen.

ART. 4. SEC. 1.—It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the body according to parliamentary usage. SEC. 2.—The Clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings, attend to the publication and distribution of the minutes, keep a regular file of the printed minutes of the sessions of the body, and deliver the same to his successor in office. SEC. 3.—The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Association, holding them subject to an order from the Association or its Executive Committee, and render an account of the same to the annual session of this body.

ART. 5. The objects of this Association shall be, to promote fellowship among the churches; to secure unanimity of faith; to encourage concert in operation, and especially to cultivate the piety of the churches, and to aid in this last object, several days of each session shall be spent in devotional exercises.

ART. 6. SEC. 1.—This Association shall in no case interfere with the internal regulations of the churches, but will act as an advisory

whenever it shall be necessary. SEC. 2.—It however claims authority over its own members, the messengers from the churches; and will withdraw from and disown churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly practice.

ART. 7. Newly organized churches, or churches dismissed from Associations, may be admitted into this body upon application by messengers, at our annual meetings, and by their messengers agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

ART. 8. Churches may be dismissed from this Association upon application at an annual meeting, for the purpose of joining any body to recognize, or for the purpose of forming a new Association; but any church departing from us without being regularly dismissed, shall be regarded as disorderly.

ART. 9. There shall be an executive committee consisting of one member from each church, and the officers of the Association shall be ex-officio officers of this committee. This committee shall have direction of the missionary operations of the Association, subject to its control, and make an annual report of its proceedings at each session of the Association. Besides the special objects entrusted to the committee, it shall also have authority to represent the Association in all matters requiring attention while the Association is not in session. The committee shall hold regular meetings on the Saturday preceding the fifth Lord's day of the year, at such places as may be designated by the committee. The committee shall meet for organization immediately after the adjournment of the Association. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 10. It shall be the privilege of this Association, in addition to the powers already granted, to conduct missionary operations without its limits, and for this purpose to choose a missionary, or missionaries, as means may allow, designate the fields of labor, and pay them quarterly through their treasury, out of funds to be sent up along with the fund for publishing the minutes, to every annual meeting.

ART. 11. The annual meetings of the Association shall embrace the fourth Lord's-day, and shall begin at 11 o'clock, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's-day of September, at which time the introductory sermon shall be preached. On each succeeding day the Association shall convene at 11 o'clock, A. M., for preaching.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended, except as in Art. 6, Sec. 1, at any regular meeting of the Association, by the two-thirds vote of the members who are in attendance.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Dead	Total	Contributions for Minutes	Mission Fund	Preaching
Bethesda	Booneville	Logan	W V McNeely	V McNeely, C M Bryant					4		43	150		
Bethlehem	Greenwood	Sebastian	D L Moore	Concepcion, R Hight	13	4			1		38	170		
Booneville	Booneville	Logan	N Marshall	N Erwin	2						26	145		1st
Cedar Creek	Waldron	Scott	T N Watkins	Errell, H H Harrell, W J Harrell		6	3				26	200		3d
Cedar Grove	Black Jack	Scott	J J Holland	Owen, W P Loper	3	7	8			2	58	175		
Charleston	Charleston	Franklin	F L Kregel	Compere, M L Eggleston, D M Jetton	6	7					83	260		4th
Corinth	Booneville	Logan	N Marshall	Syng, A Callahan	1	1					17			
Dutch Creek	Blue Ball	Scott	J J Tate	Tate, J Hunt, J Prewitt							36	135		2d
Evan	Webb City	Franklin	A A Spiller	Bedding	1						12			3d
Fellowship	Witcherville	Sebastian	A J Rippy	Graves, I Davis, G H Council	2	6	7		2	2	111	200		
Friendship	Dayton	Sebastian		Christopher, Wm Byers						1	51	100		
Ft Smith	Ft Smith	Sebastian		Buckley								50		
Good Hope		Yell	N Marshall	Cornelius, J R Hunnicutt, J C Oglesbee	4	3			5	1	29	200		4th
Grand Prairie	Charleston	Franklin	F L Kregel	Payne, F O Spiller					4		35	220		1st
Greenwood	Greenwood	Sebastian	D L Moore	Moore	1	2		3	2	38	150	225		
Hopzibah	Charleston	Franklin	L H McClendon	McClendon, M D Brown, E Amos	3	3	4		1	1	50	100		1st
Hopewell	Booneville	Logan	S J Fuller	Fuller, J Sharp, J N Fuller	18	8	1				48	100		1st
Jones Creek	Brawley	Scott	L N Watkins	Workman, C O Jones	2		2	1		1	24	60		2d
James Fork				M Spear								50		
Lick Creek	Sugar Grove	Logan	A S Jackson	Herriman, N L Godfrey	3	2	9	1	1	1	20	100		
Lone Pilgrim	Enterprise	Sebastian	L F Patterson	Moore, H Chroister, M Herrin				4		4	21			
Macedonia	Greenwood	Sebastian	C T Cagle	Holland, S Ward, S T Eckridge	15	10	3	1	3	3	76	300		1st
Mt Nebo	Greenwood	Sebastian	D L Moore	Rodden, W M Blaylock, F M Blaylock	2	3					35	100		4th
Mt Lebanon	Greenwood	Sebastian	H Dildy	Lewis, J H J Burk, D Tucker	11	1	1				35	175		4th
Mt Pleasant	Hartford	Sebastian	L F Patterson	Hollida, E J Wallace, S Goforth			5	2	1		76	250		2d
Mt Zion	Greenwood	Sebastian	C T Cagle	Bennett, S Wilkerson, W Richer	6	1				1	43	230		2d
Mt Hope	Roseville	Logan									24			
New Bethel	James' Fork	Sebastian	T L Watkins	Pool and Thomas Pool							9	65		
New Hope	James' Fork	Sebastian	J M Ledbetter	Ledbetter, C T Cagle, E Baker	1	2	3			1	45	200		
Oak Bend	Subrosa	Franklin	F L Kregel	Watkins	1	1	3		1		48	100		3d
Oak Grove	Greenwood	Sebastian	E L Compere	Carter, H N Been and B H Been			3	5		1	47	225	550	1st
Oak Bower	Bloomer	Sebastian	J M Clevinger	Rodgers and J S Seward and U M Brown	4	2	17		4		48	200		
Oak Valley	Bloomer	Sebastian	J M Clevinger	Brown and W H Thomas and H Brown	3	3					25	200		2d
Pleasant Hill	James' Fork	Sebastian	C T Cagle	Stalcup and J W Miller and B Upchurch	5	3			1		27	150		4th
Pleasant Valley	Sugar Loaf	Sebastian	W J Patterson	Patterson and J H Anderson		6	2		1		30	200		2d
Pilgrim's Rest				Anthony							27	25		
Pleasant Grove											55			
Pine Mountain														
Poteau	Waldron	Scott	N Marshall	H Smith	8	3			4	1	78	300		3d
Sharon	Chismville	Logan	John Young	Bates		1	4			4	21	50		4th
Shiloh	Long Ridge	Logan	B C Owen	Holland and R J Mason	3	7					29	130		
Smyrna	Greenwood	Sebastian		Anna and W T Crook and E Avery			6			1	39	100		
Union	Washburn	Sebastian	J M Clevinger	Glass and W H Wheeler	1	4				2	26	30		3d
Washburn Creek	Black Jack	Sebastian									29			
Total					109	98	89	5	39	27	1614	5710	775	