

MINUTES

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION



OF THE

TRACE * RIDGE * ASSOCIATION

OF

MISSIONARY BAPTISTS,

HELD WITH

Liberty * Church,

VAN BUREN COUNTY, ARK.

OCTOBER 31st, and NOVEMBER 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1890.

1891.

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MINUTES.

Minutes of first annual session of Truce Ridge Association of Missionary Baptists, held with Liberty Church, Van Buren County, Ark., commencing on Friday, 11 o'clock, A. M., before the 1st. Sabbath in November, 1890; the appointee to preach the introductory sermon, Eld. D. M. James, not being present, the body selected Eld. T. W. McInturf to preach the introductory sermon; which was preached from Daniel 2:44. After ten minutes recess, the Association was called to order by the former moderator. Prayer by Elder John Kimbrell.

1st: Called for statistical letters; whereupon the following letters were received and messenger's names enrolled.

Burr Oak, not represented.

Mount Hope; Jacob Jones, Lafayette Pack, and A. M. Sanders.

Hartsugg; Marlon Wilson, R. M. Hays and Elder James Denney.

Liberty; R. N. O'Neal, W. P. West, J. M. Coleman and G. T. West.

Hopewell; Eld. T. W. McInturf, A. C. Sanders, David Boyd and Thad. Stephenson.

Pleasant Exchange; J. M. Adkinson, J. A. Rambo, I. T. O'Neal, Wm. O'Neal and E. D. Mainard.

Zion; W. B. Pack, James M. Cotton and E. Bradley.

On motion, suspended the regular order of business, and called for petitionary letters.

Received one from Zion Hill; letter read and received. The moderator extended the hand of fellowship to her messengers; J. M. Bridges, J. C. Burnett, M. C. Bridges and J. F. Walker.

On motion, the Association went into election of a moderator and clerk, resulting in the election of Eld. T. W. McInturf, moderator, and Eld. John Kimbell, clerk.

The moderator appointed a devotional committee, consisting of J. D. Ingram, Thad. Stephenson and John Bridges. On motion; adjourned till Saturday morning, 10 o'clock. Prayer, by Bro. J. M. Coleman.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Second day's proceedings. Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. David Boyd. Minutes of previous day, read and adopted. The moderator proceeded to appoint the following committees:

1st. Committee on finance; Brethren, D. Boyd, I. T. O'Neal and Thad. Stephenson.

2nd. Committee on destitution. Brethren, J. Bridges, J. M. Coleman and Jacob Jones.

Committee on Associational Missions; Elders, John Kimbell, James Denney and Bro. J. D. Ingram. On motion, Eld. T. W. McInturf was added to the last named committee.

Committee on Sabbath schools; Brethren, J. M. Coleman, David Boyd and John Bridges.

Committee on Resolutions; David, Boyd, G. T. West and Wm. O'Neal.

Committee on religious literature; W. P. West, A. E. Thomas and R. M. Hays;

Committee on temperance; Brethren; G. T. West, J. M. Coleman and J. M. Bridges.

Committee on arrangements; Brethren, Thad. Stephenson, R. N. O'Neal and J. C. Burnett.

On motion, J. D. Ingram was chosen treasurer.

On motion, adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Eld. James Denney.

Saturday, 2 o'clock, P. M. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro Wm. O'Neal. Call for report of arranging committee report, received and committee discharged.

1st. Renewed the call for petitionary letters received—

none.

2nd. Called for correspondence received—none.

3rd. Called for report of committee's.

Call for report of committee on finance; report received and committee discharged. We, your committee on finance, have on hand from the churches \$10.30.

Called for report of committee on destitutions; report received and committee discharged. See report, B.

Called for report of committee on associational missions; report received and committee discharged. See report, C.

Called for report of Committee on foreign missions; report received and committee discharged. See report, D.

Called for report of committee on Sabbath schools; report received and committee discharged. See report, E.

Called for committee report on religious literature; report received and committee discharged. See report, F.

Called for report of committee on temperance; report received and committee discharged. See report G.

On motion, opened up correspondence with Blue Mountain Association. Appointed Elders, John Kimbell, James Denney and T. W. McInturf, as corresponding messengers.

On motion, opened up correspondence with United Association, and appointed Elders, James Denney, T. W. McInturf and Bro. David Boyd, as messengers.

On motion, opened up correspondence with White River Association, and appointed Eld. John Kimbell and Bro. I. T. O'Neal, as messengers.

On motion, opened up a correspondence with Peder Association, and appointed Eld. James Denney, Bro's. I. T. O'Neal and W. P. West, as messengers.

On motion, opened up correspondence with Union Association, and appointed Brethren, J. M. Sridges, R. S. O'Neal, R. M. Hays and J. M. Coleman, as messengers.

Took recess for preaching.

Resumed business. Moved and seconded, that the next session of this Association be held with Hopewell Church, Searey county, Ark., commencing on Saturday, 11 o'clock,

before the 4th. Sabbath in September 1891. Carried.

On motion, went into election of a minister to preach the introductory sermon at next annual association; resulting in the choice of Eld. John Kimbell. Elders, J. W. Rambo, T. W. McInturf and James Denney, being equally tied for alternate; on motion Eld. James Denney was appointed alternate.*

On motion, Eld. T. W. McInturf was chosen to preach a sermon on the theme of missions.

Called for report of committee on resolutions; report received and committee discharged.

Resolution, No. 1. Resolved that we advise the churches of this association to look to the interest of their pastors and make their times good. D. Boyd, chairman. Resolution adopted.

Moved and seconded, that the clerk superintend the printing and distribution of 200 copies of our minutes, and that he receive \$2.50 for his services. Carried.

Resolution, No. 2. Resolved that we tender our thanks to Almighty God, for the privilege of meeting, and to Liberty church, and vicinity, for the kindness shown us during this association. Adopted.

On motion, adjourned till Sunday, 11 o'clock. Prayer, by Eld. John Kimbell.

Sunday, 11 o'clock, A. M. Met pursuant to adjournment. After the sermon on missions was preached by Eld. John Kimbell, the association was called to order; and on motion, adjourned to time and place above mentioned. Prayer by the moderator.

ELD. T. W. MCINTURF, Moderator.

ELD. JOHN KIMBELL, Clerk.



REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Report, B. We, your committee on destitution, submit the following: We find that Witt's Springs and many other places, need the assistance of this body.

Jacob Jones Chairman.

Report, C. We, your committee on associational missions, beg leave to submit the following: Whereas, there is great need of gospel enlightenment, we urge upon this body the need of using all their power to secure a mission to preach to the destitute in our bounds.

James Denney, Chairman.

Report, D. We, your committee on foreign missions, would submit the following: We advise the churches of this association, through their pastors, to take a collection, quarterly, and forward to J. B. Searcy, to aid in this great work.

R. N. O'Neal, Chairman.

Report, E. We, your committee on Sabbath schools, submit the following: We consider the Sunday school interest as one of great importance, and yet sadly neglected, and we recommend the churches of this association to organize Baptist Sunday schools at once.

David Boyd, Chairman.

Report, F. We, your committee on religious literature, submit the following: Seeing the great lack of knowledge in religious matters, we urge a faithful reading of God's word. We recommend the literature published by the Arkansas Book House, at Little Rock, and the National Baptist Publishing Co., of St. Louis, Mo.; and such papers as the Arkansas Baptist, of Little Rock Ark., and the American Baptist, of St. Louis, Mo.

R. M. Hays, Chairman.

Report, G. We, your committee on Temperance, submit the following: We are glad to know that there is a growing sentiment in this association, in favor of Temperance, therefore, stand firm to your duty;—vote the liquor traffic down;—petition it out every time you have a chance, and let us make a bold stand against this monster evil.

John Bridges, Chairman.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

- T. W. McInturf.
- John Kimbell.
- James Denney.
- J. W. Rambo.
- C. T. Cotton.
- C. C. Anderson.
- C. L. Boyd.
- S. D. Ferrin.

LICENTIATE MINISTERS.

- J. M. Actkinson.
- J. M. Coleman.
- W. L. Goodhugh.

Articles of Faith.

I. We believe that 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 supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. We believe that 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—expressibly 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.

III. 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 adult mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; being, by nature, utterly devoid 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.

IV. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon himself 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 perfection, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. 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 it 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 imparted to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. 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.

VII. 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 is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness in life.

VIII. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the re-

generating 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 and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; 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 infinitely, 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.

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

XI. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto 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.

XII. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy

and good, and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and 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.

XIII. We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptised 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, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.

XIV. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a 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, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ—preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. 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 private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. We believe that the civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed—except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST-OFFICE	MESSENGERS.	Rec'd by B'p'm	Rec'd by Let.	Rec'd by Restr.	Dis. by Letter.	Expelled.	Died.	Total.	Contribution for Minutes.	Days of Meet'g.
Hopewell	J W Rambo	J W Mathis	Leslie	T W McInturf, A C Sanders, D Boyd, J W Mathis	5			10	1		158	1 85	20
Burr Oak	J Kimbell	J Whisenant	Snow Ball	No letter or messengers									
Mt. Hope	C C Anderson	J Jones	Witt's Springs	J Jones, L Pack, A M Sanders	9	8	4	7	1		27		
Hart Sugs	Jas. Denny	R M Hays	Clinton	M Wilson, R M Hays, J Denny, A Thomas							20	1 00	4
Liberty	C L Boyd	R N O'Neal	Copeland	R N O'Neal, W P West, J M Coleman, G T West	11	7	3		3		131	1 50	4
Pleasant Ex.	J W Rambo	Wm. O'Neal	Watts	J M Atkinson, J A Rambo, I T O'Neal W O'Neal				4	2		132	1 15	4
Zion Hill	J M Coleman	J M Bridges	Hauks	J M Bridges J C Burnett M C Bridges J Walker							45	1 50	3
Trace Ridge	C T Cotton	H F Wood	Murillo	J M Williams, J D Ingram H Wood W T Keller	1	1	1	2	2		35	1 25	1
Zion	C C Anderson	C L Boyd	Smyrna	W B Pack J M Cotton E Bradley				16	1		35		2