

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Thirtieth Annual Session

OF THE

BIG CREEK

Missionary Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

Oak Grove Church

September 24, 25, and 26

1904

Moderator, Eld. J. C. HOLEMAN, Salem, Ark.

Clerk, J. F. BARNES, ~~Union, Ark.~~

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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 meetings 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 in 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 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 human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. 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, 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 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 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 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 true believers as 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 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 it is a prerequisite 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 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 meetings, and shall read the letters and documents, and may call any member to assist him at the close of the meeting. He 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 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 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 reprovod 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 ex-

penses 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 30th annual session of Big Creek Baptist Association convened with Oak Grove Church September 24, 1904.

Eld. J. H. Soden, (the one appointed to preach introductory sermon) having been called to a home beyond on the 6th of February, 1904, in a cyclone near Union, Ark., and the alternate, Eld. S. L. Ballard, being absent, Eld. D. A. Allen of Cushman preached the introductory sermon. Text, Romans 5th, 6th.

After refreshments Eld. J. C. Holeman, the former Moderator, called the house together, the former clerk being present. Eld. W. H. Bowling and Bro. George Goodwin were appointed reading clerks and proceeded to business.

Churches names were called, letters read and messenger's names enrolled.

1. Cross Roads: Not represented.
2. Diamond Springs: Allen Wilkins, Wm. Fout.
3. Emeans: J. A. Lancaster. R. H. Mask.
4. Enterprise: R. K. Pope, B. L. Thompson.
5. Flora: A. D. Barker, (petitionary letter.)
6. Liberty: J. R. Ellis, G. P. Keith.
7. Liberty Hill: J. H. Clinton, E. Webb.
8. Mt. Zion: J. D. Cochran, J. F. Barnes, G. W. Wilson, O. P. Prewitt.
9. Macedonia: J. H. Copeland.
10. New Prospect: J. S. Barnes, S. G. Dillard.

11. Oak Grove: A. McElmurry, G. C. Jones, A. Farrell, Bert Claxton.

12. Pleasant Grove: E. J. Bratcher, R. I. Hiner.

13. Plum Grove: J. D. Denton, M. W. Earls.

14. Shady Grove: S. M. Oliver, James Raney, Nathan Light, J. C. Holeman.

15. Salem: W. H. Bowling, W. T. Livingston, T. A. Goodwin.

16. Union Hill: A. J. Howard, W. T. Fowler.

17. Viola:

George Goodwin and Walter Goodwin were appointed tellers and the election resulted in the re-election of Eld. J. C. Holeman Moderator and J. F. Barnes Clerk. After remarks by the Moderator corresponding messengers and visiting ministers were welcomed to seats with us, viz: Abner McElmurry of Rocky Bayou Association, Eld. D. A. Allen of Independence Association and J. D. Bratcher of Eleven Points Association.

Called for petitionary letters, which was responded to by Flora church and it was received into the Association.

The several committees were appointed. (See reports.)

Eld. J. E. Cargill and the messengers from Oak Grove church was the committee on devotional exercises.

Enterprise church was the place selected for the next meeting of this Association, Eld. J. E. Cargill to preach introductory sermon and Eld. W. H. Bowling alternate.

Arranged correspondence to sister Associations, viz:

To Rocky Bayou—Eld. W. H. Bowling, W. T. Livingston, J. D. Cochran, S. P. Campbell, Thos. Foister, Eld. J. C. Holeman.

To Union—Eld. R. I. Hiner, Eld. J. E. Cargill, G. P. Keith.

To White River—Robt. Thompson, R. I. Hiner, W. T. Livingston.

To State Line—Eld. W. H. Bowling, Eld. J. L. Bowling.

To Spring River—J. D. Denton, M. W. Earls.

To Eleven Points—Eld. J. C. Holeman, Dr. J. F. Barnes.

Adjourned to 7:30 P. M.

NIGHT SESSION.

At 7:30 the house was called to order by the Moderator.

Called for report of committee on devotional exercises, which reported Eld. D. A. Allen to preach Sunday at 11 o'clock and Eld. T. F. Cargill alternate; Eld. W. H. Bowling to preach at 4 P. M., S. M. Oliver alternate,

Called for report of Sabbath Schools committee. No report written yet. State Missions report ready, but on account of so few being present it was voted that this be laid over until 10 A. M. Monday. Adjourned to reassemble Sunday at 11 A. M.

SUNDAY, 11 A. M.

Eld. D. A. Allen, missionary for State Convention, preached an interesting sermon to a large, attentive audience. Text, Mark 16:15. A collection of \$8 04 was taken and turned over by Eld. W. H. Bowling to Eld. D. A. Allen for transmission to state board.

Motion that we take up the Sabbath School, Christian Education and Temperance questions at 3 P. M., carried by a vote of 10 to 3. But at the suggestion of Eld. W. H. Bowling the Moderator left the vote to the congregation, which voted for preaching, and at 4 P. M. Eld. W. H. Bowling preached from Romans 8:31, followed by Eld. S. M. Oliver. Adjourned to Monday 8 A. M.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 26.

The house was called to order by the Moderator. Minutes of Saturday and Sunday read and approved. Roll called and absentees marked.

After much heated discussion there was a motion made that Flora church be advised to clear up some of its accounts in reception of members who are under charges in sister churches. Carried.

Call for reports of committees.

Sabbath Schools—We earnestly recommend every church to organize a Sunday School, believing it to be the life of the church, and that the pastors preach at least one sermon on this subject to each church, giving one month notice before preaching the sermon, —W. T. Livingston, J. R. Farrell. Adopted

Baptist Literature—We beg to recommend the Bible as the book of books, the only true guide promoting denominational knowledge, and that our Sunday Schools use the American Baptist and Southern Baptist Literature; also we recommend the Arkansas Advance.—T. F. Cargill, J. D. Cochran, G. W. Wilson. Adopted.

Associational Missions—We recommend the present Board system; also that our ministers whose time is not fully employed select destitute points, preach regularly, and when practical organize a church, collect all they can, and report fully at our next meeting.—G. M. Farrell, O. P. Prewitt, J. S. Barnes. Adopted.

Central Board—We employed Eld. R. I. Hiner at \$1 per day. We paid him \$8 35, amount on hand, and he agreed to risk the Association for balance.—E. J. Bratcher, Sec. and Tr. A. M. C. B. Adopted.

Missionary Report—I, your Missionary, worked 28 days, had 11 conversions, baptized 6, organized 1 church. Received from field \$18.40, from board \$9.60.—R. I. Hiner, Missionary. Adopted.

Collections taken for Associational Missions, cash and pledges amounting to \$34 00. E. J. Bratcher, S. M. Oliver, J. D. Cochran, R. K. Pope, S. S. McElwee were appointed on Central Board and the several church clerks to constitute an auxiliary board.

Home Missions—We beg to advise that all our churches make liberal contributions for home missions. Ye shall be witnesses of me in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem. Then let us be witnesses of him in Mexico, Cuba, Porto Rico and Hawaiian Islands.—Thos. Foister, J. B. Raney, Nathan Light. Adopted.

Christian Education—Christian Education develops the mind and heart, preparing people for complete living. Millions of dollars are paid annually by the various denominations to prepare the young people for work. The Baptists are not behind in the grand work. We have in our state many Baptist schools doing good work. We advise Baptist people to support Baptist schools, and if any church has in it a young man whom they believe is called of God to preach the gospel, they should send such to one

of these schools.—T. F. Cargill, J. D. Denton, J. H. Clinton. Adopted.

Foreign Missions.—We beg to advise that the churches make liberal contributions for Foreign Missions. The scriptures teach Ye shall be witnesses of me to all the world; also go teach all nations, baptizing them. Now if we are loyal to our Lord, we will declare his glory among the heathen. A church that loves the Lord will keep his commandments. Also advise that pastors use their diligence to secure contributions for this work.—J. L. Bowling, S. G. Dillard, A. D. Barker. Adopted.

Finance.—We have on hand for minutes fund and clerk \$15.18. —J. D. Cochran, W. T. Livingston, G. C. Jones. Same was turned over to the clerk, he to have minutes printed and distributed.

10 O'CLOCK A. M.

State Mission Report (No. 1.)—As the scriptures abound in the doctrine of a world-wide gospel, and hence a world-wide mission, we therefore conclude that there are no more important division of mission work, and as the work was to begin at Jerusalem and go into all the world, as we build in the state and gather strength and momentum, it gives great advantage in our efforts to evangelize the world, and as our Baptist Union in our state are making greater efforts and are succeeding more satisfactory than ever before, we recommend that our beloved brethren and the churches of our Association make regular and generous contributions to the divinely appointed work, and we also recommend that the churches of this Association do co-operate with the Baptist State Convention.—W. H. Bowling, J. F. Barnes.

Deceased Ministers and Members —Eld. J. H. Soden and Eld. S. W. Cochran, Sisters Pearl Sills, Elizabeth Soden, Effie Holman, Catherine Battles, and Brothers J. Collins, William Hooper and Robert Holloway have been called away by the death angel. We mourn their loss, but are sure that our loss is their eternal gain.—T. A. Goodwin, S. G. Dillard. Adopted.

It was suggested that we change our time of meeting from Saturday back to Friday morning, but the chair decided that it

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICES.	Days of Meeting	Inc.			Dec.			Total Membership	Minutes Fund..
					Baptism	Letter	Restored	Letter	Excluded	Deaths		
Cross Roads.....	Not Represented										27
Diamond Springs	J. Skiver.....	Allen Wilkins..	Wake, Ark.....	4							16	\$.50
Emeans	J. C. Holeman...	J. S. Lancaster..	Camp, Ark.....	3					4		13	.50
Enterprise	R. I. Hiner.....	R. K. Pope	Beall, Ark	2				6	1	1	51	1.10
Flora	R. I. Hiner.....	A. D. Barker	Flora, Ark.....	2	6	7					2	1.13
Liberty.....	J. C. Holeman...	G. P. Keith.....	Byron, Ark.....	3	1			2	1		39	1.25
Liberty Hill.....	S. A. Marchant..	S. W. Taylor.....	Oxford, Ark.....	1		3		3			51	.60
Mt. Zion.....	J. F. Cox	S. Miller.....	Union, Ark.....	3	1					1	71	1.25
Macedonia.....	S. M. Oliver	J. T. Ezell.....	Byron, Ark	3		6	1	4		1	24	.50
New Prospect....	J. C. Holeman...	S. G. Dillard.....	Violet Hill, Ark.	4	7	1	3	5	1	2	53	1.00
Oak Grove.....	J. C. Holeman...	G. C. Jones	Moody, Mo	2				1	5		50	1.50
Plum Grove.....		J. D. Denton.....	Afton, Ark.....	3	3						19	1.00
Pleasant Grove..	T. J. Holoway...	A. M. Cristy	anton, Mo.....	1			1	3		3	67	1.25
Shady Grove.....	R. T. Farthing..	G. M. Goodwin...	Wheeling, Ark...	2			2		1	2	102	1.60
Salem.....	S. L. Ballard...	Annabell King...	Salem, Ark.....	2	12	6		2			78	1.40
Union Hill	R. E. Richardson	W. T. Fowler.....	Wake, Ark.....	1		2					29	.60
Viola	Not Represented.										65
Totals.....					30	25	7	26	13	10	777	\$15.18

There are in Arkansas 47 Associations, 1,855 Churches and 155,377 members.

There are in the United States 5,515,183 Missionary Baptists.

In other lands only 827,030. About 1,000,000 colored Baptists.

could not be done only by a resolution and it to lay over one year.

Motion that we continue our Fifth Sunday Meetings as heretofore, all subjects subject to criticism, Eld. J. C. Holeman to be Moderator and J. F. Barnes Clerk. Motion carried.

Resolutions—Resolved, that we tender our thanks to the Oak Grove Church and community for their generous hospitality, to the Moderator and Clerk for their services, and to visiting brethren for their assistance.—R. I. Hiner. Adopted.

While singing the brethren took the parting hand, then adjourned, to meet with Enterprise Church at 11 A. M. Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1905.

J. C. HOLEMAN, MODERATOR,

Wheeling, Ark.

J. F. BARNES, CLERK, Union, Ark.

A Few Suggestions By The Clerk.

1. That if the churches want larger and better minutes, do more business and furnish more money for making them.

2. That when messengers go to their Associations they be on hand at every coming together, especially when roll is called.

3. That when messengers are put on a committee they get up their respective reports at once and not confuse the body by asking leave of absence or being absent when report is called for. Due diligence is the duty of every christian.

4. That every church send in exactly their vote to next Association, written number for state convention and number for general association. that this time consuming question may be forever settled.

5. That each church instruct their messengers to vote for the abolishment of state mission committee in Big Creek Association, if they so desire it, and each church do its state mission work under its own advisement.

I write these suggestions for your consideration.

Yours in Christ,

J. F. BARNES.

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American Baptist Publication Society

IS IT WISE?

WE HAVE been informed that there are Baptist Sunday schools which have yielded to the solicitations, personal and otherwise, of an undenominational publishing house, and which are taking, in whole or in part, the literature of that house in preference to the literature of their own Publication Society. In view of this information we desire to put the question, *Is it wise?* to pastors, Sunday school officers and teachers who may have been thus influenced.

Is it wise to put into the hands of Baptist children and youth a literature which in some parts is largely sensational, in other parts directly opposed to Baptist teaching, and in no part clearly and positively declarative of our distinctive denominational views? What sort of Baptists will the next generation be if the youth of this generation are brought up on a merely negative or an essentially Pedobaptist literature, and are never taught in the Sunday school the truths for which our fathers were ready to suffer and which form the only ground for our denominational existence? And how are young people to be brought to Christ and developed into stalwart Christians, if the aim in the literature employed is mainly to gratify a craving for the sensational and not to instruct and fortify against errors in doctrine and life?

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