

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BIG FORK UNITED BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

BRUSHY CREEK CHURCH MONTGOMERY

COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER, 10, A. D.

1892.

J. E. Long, Moderator,

S. M. Kemp, Clerk.

MINUTES.

We, the Big Fork United Baptist Association, met with Brushy Creek Church, on September 10th, 1892. The *Introductory* sermon was preached by Eld. A. A. Bates, *text Ephesians*. 2 chapt. 21-22 verses. After recess, the Association, was called to order by Moderator, singing and prayer by the Moderator, J. E. Long. On motion, Bro. James Wilcox, was chosen Clerk, *Protem*, the letters were then called for, and and Bro's S. M. Kemp, and A. J. Strickland, was appointed to read the letters from the different Churches, the letters were read, and Delegates names enrolled, and by proper organisation the Association proceeded to election of Officers. And Eld. J. E. Long, was elected *Moderator*, and S. M. Kemp, *Clerk and Treasurer*.

The Moderator appointed the following Committees,—viz: 1st on preaching. 2d, on obituary. 3, on finance, 4th on arrangements.

Called for corresponding Messengers, and received Eld. Redwine, as *Messenger*, from Buck Ville Association. By motion adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

Met Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Moderator,

1st, called the role and marked absenters.

2d, extended an invitation for *Petitionary letters*, and received one, from Massedona Ind' Territory, and the Moderator extended the *right hand of Fellowship* to her *Delegater*. Then the Clerk read the Minutes of first days work, which was adopted. On motion agreed for the Moderator, to appoint a Committee to represent the duty of Churches, and the pastoral care of the churches; Committees. Antioch Church, J. G. Harden, Brushy Creek, J. C. Pullen, Big Fork Wm. Lawrence. Chrystal Hill, A. A. Bates. Board Camp, A. J. Strickland. Union Grove, W. S. Woods. Liberty, J. K. Wilcox. Sulphur Springs, James Standridge. Masedonia. T. N. Brown, called for report of committee, READ AND received the report.

On obituary see appendix A. Committee on finance appendix, B. Committee on preaching, their work was complied with, but no report was handed in. Committee on arrangements appendix C. By motion agreed to hold a ministers and Deacons, meeting on each 5th Sabbath in the year, and the first meetings, be held with Antioch Church, commencing on Saturday, before the 5th Sabbath in Oct. 1892. By motion agreed to *Correspond* with *Buck Ville Association*, and Bro's. A. A. Bates, and J. E. Long, are our *Delegates* to the same—also that we correspond with Caddo River Association, Bro's. A. A. Bates, and A. J. Strickland, are our *Delegates* to the same.

By *motion*, agreed for the Clerk to have 200 copies of the minutes printed, and make the proratto and the Clerk pay for the same.

By *motion*, resolved that we tender our thanks, to Brushy Creek Church, and vicinity, for their hospitality during our sojourn with them.

By *motion*, read, received, and adopted the minutes.

—APPENDIX.—

A—We, your committee on obituary, beg leave to make this, our report. Bretheren, we find from reading the letters from the different churches, to this body, that it pleased God, to call from us our beloved brother, William. Chambers, who was a worthy member of Chrystal Hill church: and sister Eliza. Medford, who was a worthy member of Board Camp church: and sister, Miram, Luraina, Hicky, who was a worthy member of Brushy Creek church. Bretheren, this reminds us that it is *appointed unto man once to die*; and after this the *Judgement*. Bretheren, pray for the bereaved relations and friends, that God will bless and save them.

A. J. Strickland, *Chairman*.

P— We, your committee on finance, beg leave to make this, our report,— we find from the letters sent up the amount of \$10. 30c. Respectfully submitted: J. W. Gist, *Chairman*.

C— We, your committee on arrangements, beg leave, to make this, our report,—The time, and place, for holding the next Association, will be with Big Fork church, Polk Co., Ark. *Commencing*, on Saturday, before the 3d, Lo's, day in Sept. 1893. and Bro. B. G. Wilcox, to preach the *Introductory* sermon, and J. G. Harden, his alternate. We, invite older Associations, to *correspond* with us.

—RESOLUTION.—

We, your committee, beg leave to *submit*, the following resolution, on the support of the Pastors of churches,

J. G. Harden, *Chairman*.

Resolve, that the Scriptures, makeing it the duty of the churches to *administer* to the *necessities* of their pastors, and that it is the duty of the Deacons, to watch over the poor Saints, in their Jurisdiction, not, for speculation of the Gospel, but for the *promotion* of the cause of Christ.

After singing, and prayer, by Eld. Redwine, the parting hand was given, and the Association adjourned to meet with Big Fork Church, polk Co., on Saturday, before the 3d Sabbath in Sept. 1893.

J. E. Long, *Moderator*,

S. M. Kemp. Clerk.



—FORM OF LETTERS TO THE ASSOCIATION.—

We, the United Baptist Church of Christ, at..... send *Greeting* to the Big Fork Association, which is to convene with.....church, commencing Saturday before the first Sabbath in September, 18.....

We send as *Delegates* to represent us in your body our beloved Brothers, (here give their names)..... Here state the condition of the church).....Our statistics are as follows: Name of Church.....Name of County..... No Baptized.....No Received by letter..... No Dismissed by letter.....No Restored.....No Excluded.....No Died..... Total No. in Fellowship.....Contribution \$.....Sabbath meeting.....Name of Pres. Office.....Name of Ordained ministers.....Name of Licentiates.....

Done by order of the Church, in Conferance, thes the....day
of.....18....

.....Moderator.
.....Clerk.

—{ CONSTITUTION. }—

—BIG FORK ASSOCIATION OF UNITED BAPTIST.—

Article 1. This union of Churches shall be known, and distinguished, by the name and title of the Big Fork United Baptist Association.

Art. 2. This *Association* shall be composed of *Delegates* from churches in union. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, who shall be required to furnish *satisfactory* evidence of their appointment by their churches, before taking their seat.

Art. 2. The *Delegates*, when *convened*, organize themselves into a deliberate body, by the appointment of a *Moderator* and *Clerk*, who shall be chosen by ballot, at each Annual Association, and continue in office until their successor is chosen.

Art. 4. This *Association*, shall not interfere with the right of the churches of which it is composed. It shall regard them as independent bodies in all matters of internal government, and shall only act as an advising council, assuming no authority except what is *expressly* delegated to it by the churches, or evidently implies by the very nature of compact. It, *nevertheless*, claims authority over its own members, and *delegates* from the churches, and in justice, and propriety, must have power to withdraw from, and disown, all churches which depart from the principles of the *compact* by becoming *heterodox* in faith, or disorderly in practice. It should *therefore* regard all churches united under this Constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Its *business* shall be to declare, and promote, the declarative glory of God, by extending the *Kingdom* of *Grace* on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gos-

1; to cultivate union, and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, especially, with those united under this *Constitution*.

Art. 5. Newly constituted churches, or churches *dismissed from other Associations, of same faith, and order*, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up three delegates to the annual meeting of this Association, with a petition for admission, and by their delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

Art. 6. The churches in this union, shall transmit to every annual session of this Association, a written communication, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in full fellowship, number baptized, received or excommunicated, restored, or dismissed since last session, and all other information which the church may deem important, which will be read, and minuted accordingly.

Art. 7. The Association, shall have a fund, supplied by contribution of the churches, and all money thus *contributed*, shall be transmitted from the churches, and payed over through the *Committee on Finance* to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the *Association*, and manage the funds agreeably. He shall return to the order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the *Minutes*, a clear, and sufficient statement of all the receipts, and *expenditures*.

Art. 8. *This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulty between churches unless they have pursued the dictations of the 18th chapter Mathew, and have not been able to settle them: then, this Association, shall take such matters into consideration, and act upon them at its discretion.*

Art 10. It shall be THE duty of CLERK OF THE Association, to keep a regular file of THE printed Minutes, of THIS body, and deliver over THE SAME TO HIS SUCCESSOR IN OFFICE.

Art. 11. This *Constitution* may be altered, or amended at regular meetings of the Associations, by the concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; provided, such alterations or amendments be approved by the churches of the *Association*.

Art. 12. There are to be no Sunday collections taken up in this Association, nor men appointed to preach what are known as *miscellany sermons*, but to choose their own subject.

{ *RULES OF DECORUM.* }

1. The Association shall be opened, and closed, by *prayer*.
2. The Moderator and Clerk, shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

3. The Moderator, shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time.

4. A member not satisfied with his decision may appeal to the Association the same day, but not thereafter.

5. But one member shall *speak at a time*, who shall rise to his feet, address the *Moderator*, obtain permission, and then proceed to speak.

6. The *Moderator*, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless, he departs from the *subject*, or is guilty of personal reflection. Every motion made, and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the *Association*, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

8. Every case taken up by the *Association*, shall be decided, or withdrawn, before another is approved.

9. When any question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator may take the voice of the Association on all subjects in any way he may think best.

10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without permission of the Association, nor more than once, until *every member wishing to speak shall have spoken*;

nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debate is carried through.

12. The appellation "Brother" shall be used in the Association, by members in their address to each other

13. The names of the members, shall be called as often as the Association shall direct.

14. No member shall be *tolerated* in any practice, which tends to interrupt *public speech*.

15. The *Moderator*, shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as any other member, provided, he appoint another to fill his seat during that time, but shall not be entitled to vote, unless, the Association be evenly divided, when he may cast the deciding vote.

16. Any member violating these rules may be reproved by the Moderator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall be committed

{ ARTICLES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH }

Article 1. *We believe* in only one, true, and living God, and that there is a Trinity of persons in the Godhead—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and that these three are one.

Art. 2. *We believe* the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

Art. 3. *We believe* in the fall of Adam, and that the depravity of his fallen nature was entailed upon his posterity, and in the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will or ability.

Art. 4. We believe in Election through sanctification of the spirit, and belief of the truth

Art. 5. We believe in the final *Preservation* of the Saints, and that they will never finally fall away and be lost.

Art. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the *righteousness of Christ* imputed unto them, and that it pleased God, by the *foolishness of preaching*, to save them that believed.

Art. 7. *We believe* that good works are fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and are evidence of our own gracious state.

Art. 8. *We believe* the visible Church of Christ, is a congregation of faithful persons, baptized, who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and give unto the Lord, and one another, and have agreed to keep up a Godly, disciplin, agreeably to the rules of the Gospel.

Art. 9. We believe there will be a Resurrection of the dead and a general judgement, and that the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, will be never ending.

Art. 10. We believe that Jesus-Christ is the great head of the Church, and the only Law-Giver, and the disciplin si with the body. and should be faithfully kept up for the glory of God, and the prosperity of His people

Art 11. We believe that baptism by immersion, is the apostolic mode, and true believers the only fit subjects thereof.

Art. 12. We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the Church, and should be continued until Christ's second coming.
