

**LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES**

**OF**

**The Twenty-Sixth Annual Session**

**OF**

**The Benton County  
Baptist Association**

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**HELD WITH THE  
Baptist Church at New Prospect  
Herd, Benton County, Arkansas  
August 11, 12, and 13,**

**1911**

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**OFFICERS:**

**Moderator, Hon. W. T. Gann, Seligman, Mo.**

**Clerk, Eld. J. L. Chastain, Gentry, Ark.**

**Next Session to be held with the Baptist  
Church at Zion, Four miles west of  
Lowell, beginning at 10 a. m., on  
Wednesday, before the Fourth  
Sunday in October, 1912.**

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## PROCEEDINGS

### FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 11 1911.

The Benton County Baptist Association met at 10:00 o'clock a. m., on Friday before the Second Sunday in August, 1911, with the Baptist Church at New Prospect.

The meeting was called to order by the moderator of the previous session, W. T. Gann.

Song: "When Jesus Comes to Reward His Servants."

Reading of John 15th Chap. by moderator, and prayer by Eld. J. W. West.

Song: "Holy Manna."

P. A. Rodgers and E. M. Bagby were appointed reading clerks, and letters were read and messengers enrolled.

At 11:00 a. m. a motion prevailed to discontinue the business till 1:30 p. m., and give place to the Introductory Sermon.

Introductory Sermon was then preached by Eld. J. A. Hall, from Gal. 1:16.

### Friday Afternoon Session.

Song: "Wonderful Peace."

Prayer by E. C. Brooks.

Roll of messengers was read and corrected.

Motion prevailed to go into permanent organization, which resulted in the choice of W. T. Gann as moderator and J. L. Chastain as clerk.

Committee on Divine Service was appointed consisting of E. J. Bishop, and E. C. Brooks and the messengers and former pastor of New Prospect Church.

A motion prevailed that visiting ministers who are in sympathy with the work of this Association and of the State Association be invited to seats.

Zion Church was selected as place of next meeting, being the only church inviting.

Motion prevailed to elect preacher of Introductory Sermon by nomination and acclamation, resulting in the choice of J. W. West, with A. N. Sanders as alternate.

Committee on Finance:—Philo Rodgers, Jim Jones and R. L. Hurst.

Motion prevailed to amend Art. 2 of the Constitution of this body by substituting "Wednesday before the Fourth Sunday in October" for "Friday before

the Second Sabbath in August."

On motion adjourned till 7:30 p. m.

### Friday Evening Session.

Song.

Prayer by Eld. J. T. Christian.

Song: "Are You Washed in the Blood."

Reading of 1 John 2:1-14 by Eld. A. N. Sanders, and prayer by Eld. E. J. Adams.

Song: "Coronation."

Preaching by Eld. A. N. Sanders from John 14:15.

Prayer by Eld. J. A. Hall.

The following committees were announced:

Associational Missions:—J. W. West, P. T. Keller, G. M. Mays.

State Missions:—J. A. Hall, J. O. Atchley, Flavey DeWitt.

Foreign Missions:—E. M. Bagby, G. C. Harris, Wm. Fagala.

Publications:—E. C. Brooks, H. T. Lane, L. H. Allen.

Resolutions:—T. F. Jones, J. B. Burgin, Jas. H. Jones.

Temperance:—P. A. Rodgers, M. V. Adams, R. Edwards.

Obituaries:—W. M. Edwards, Clifton Bright, S. T. Maxwell.

Ministerial Education:—E. J. Bishop, D. M. Aaron, E. Austin.

Texarkana Orphan Home:—E. J. Adams, J. H. Sharp, Fred A. Lewis.

Sunday Schools:—John Glover, T. J. Weaver, David M. Edwards.

Ministerial Support:—W. J. Langley, W. L. Ice, J. M. Hickman.

Motion prevailed to adjourn to 8:30 tomorrow.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Song: "Jesus Lover of My Soul."

Reading the 4th Chapter of 1 Peter and prayer by Eld. E. J. Adams.

Song: "When Jesus Comes to Reward His Servants."

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings were read and approved.

Committee on Foreign Missions submitted report, which was discussed by E. M. Bagby, G. C. Harris, E. C. Brooks, and adopted.

Associational Missionary submitted report, which was discussed by G. C. Harris, T. F. Jones, J. T. Christian, E. C. Brooks, Philo Rodgers, W. T. Gann, A. B. Herd, and adopted.



Committee on Associational Missions submitted a report, which was discussed by J. W. West, T. F. Jones, G. C. Harris, E. C. Brooks. Pending discussion, a collection was taken in pledge amounting to \$190.00, after which report was adopted.

Motion prevailed to take recess till 1:30 p. m.

Preaching by Eld. J. W. West from Mark 8:36.

### **Saturday Afternoon Session.**

Song, "Holy Manna,"

Prayer by P. A. Rodgers.

Committee on Ministerial Education submitted a report, which was adopted.

Committee on Temperance submitted report, which was discussed by P. A. Rodgers, J. W. West, and adopted.

Committee on Publications submitted report, which was discussed by G. C. Harris, W. T. Gann, and adopted.

Committee on Finance submitted report, which was adopted.

Committee on Orphans Home submitted report, which was discussed by E. C. Brooks, W. T. Gann, and adopted.

A Communication from Eld. J. T. Moore concerning the sale of the Mission Property at Cuernavaca, Mexico, was read.

A motion prevailed that any funds contributed by this Association as a body to the Mission Property at Cuernavaca, Mex., be applied to pay off the indebtedness on the Texarkana Orphan Home, and that the churches be advised to apply their contributions to the same purpose.

Committee on Ministerial Support submitted report, which was discussed by W. J. Langley, G. C. Harris, A. R. Hall, and adopted.

Committee on Obituaries submitted report, which was adopted.

Resolution No. 1 was offered by P. A. Rodgers was adopted

Committee on State Missions submitted report, which was discussed by J. T. Christian and adopted.

Motion prevailed that the report on S. S. be laid over till 9:30 a. m. tomorrow.

Resolution No. 2, was presented by the committee and adopted.

Motion prevailed that the Executive

Committee of the past year be continued.

A motion prevailed that the Clerk be allowed \$10.00 for his services, and that the rest of the minute fund be expended for printing and distribution of minutes.

A collection of \$3.42 was taken to augment the minute fund.

Adjourned to 7:30 p. m.

### **Saturday Evening Session.**

Song, "Take the Name of Jesus With You."

Prayer by Bro. Masters.

Song, "On Jordan's Stormy Banks."

Reading of a portion of the 28th Chapter of Matthew.

Song, "Amazing Grace."

Preaching by Eld. J. T. Christian from Exodus 13:21.

Prayer by Eld. H. T. Lane.

Financial report of Executive Committee was read and adopted.

Song, "What a Friend."

Prayer by Eld. J. A. Hall.

Adjourned to 9:30 a. m. tomorrow.

### **SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.**

Song.

Reading of 1 Cor. 13 Chapter and prayer by Eld. J. W. West.

Committee on Sunday Schools submitted report, which was discussed by David M. Edwards, E. C. Brooks, G. C. Harris, J. W. West, P. A. Rodgers, and the report was adopted.

Petitionary letter from the Baptist Church at Highfill was read and by unanimous vote, the Church was received and the hand of fellowship was extended to the messengers of said church by the moderator.

Eld. J. W. West, on behalf of the executive committee, presented the name of Eld. J. A. Hall for missionary, and the messengers present, almost unanimously, voted their endorsement and support, provided he accepts the position.

On motion, approved minutes without reading.

On motion, adjourned to time and place of next meeting.

W. T. GANN, Moderator.

ELD. J. L. CHASTAIN, Clerk.

## REPORTS.

### Missionary's Report.

Your Missionary makes the following report:

Began work Oct. 28, 1910, and labored at the following named places:

Pleasant Ridge: Days of labor 14; sermons preached 14; miles traveled, 27; contributions, \$1.05.

Prairie Creek: Days of labor, 22; sermons preached, 22; miles traveled, 34; contributions \$2.20.

Pleasant Hill: Days of labor, 1; sermons preached, 1; miles traveled, 5; accessions, 1.

Rocky Branch: Days of labor, 6; sermons preached, 6; miles traveled, 20.

Pine Log: Days of labor, 4; sermons preached, 4; miles traveled, 26.

Willow Springs: Days of labor 7; sermons preached, 8; miles traveled 19.

War Eagle: Days of labor, 4; sermons preached, 4; miles traveled, 17.

Cole Gap: Days of labor, 3; sermons preached, 3; miles traveled, 4; contributions, 82 cents.

Walnut Hill: Days of labor, 5; sermons preached, 6; contributions, \$1.00.

Fairview: Days of labor, 6; sermons preached, 7; miles traveled, 20; contributions, 33 cents.

Ozark: Days of labor, 8; sermons preached, 5; miles traveled, 18.

Cloverdale: Days of labor, 9; sermons preached, 9; professions, 1; contributions, 25 cents.

Lowell: Days of labor, 18; sermons preached, 21; miles traveled, 10; contributions, 50 cents; professions, 1; accessions, 1.

Cottage Hill: Days of labor, 3; miles traveled, 14; sermons preached, 4.

Organized one Sunday School at Fairview. Delivered one lecture on the evils of Socialism. Homes visited, 100.

Amounts recieved otherwise: Pleasant Site Church, \$5.30; Brother Mood Mays, \$10.00; Brother Adams, 50 cents; Brother Chastain, treasurer, \$199.43.

G. C. HARRIS, Missionary.

### Associational Missions.

We, your committee on Associational Missions, submit the following:

It is evident that the home field, our own district, claims our attention first, and that we, the churches of this association should use freely our means, and employ the very best agencies possible to cultivate our own field. Therefore your committee would recommend that this association employ a man for at least half of the year, at the most suitable

time of the year, and put him on the field at living wages, to be governed in the work by his judgment under the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

J. W. WEST,  
P. T. KELLER,  
G. M. MAYES.

### Financial Report of Executive Committee.

We, your Executive Committee, submit the following report of funds that have been handled by our treasurer:

Received from:

Balance reported last year.....	\$176.72
Sister Young on last years pledge.....	5.00
Pleasant Valley Church.....	2.60
Wiley Etris on pledge.....	1.00
C. P. Catron on pledge.....	1.00
E. J. Bishop on pledge.....	2.95
Zion Church.....	3.70
E. C. Brooks, Gravette Church.....	7.50
Springtown Church.....	8.00
A. N. Sanders on pledge.....	2.50
Finance Committee.....	85.40

Total.....\$296.37

Paid Out to:

G. C. Harris, Missionary.....	\$199.43
Balance on hand.....	96.94
	\$296.37

### Orphan Home.

We, your committee on Orphan Home, submit the following:

We find that the Orphan Home at Texarkana has about twenty-five children which God has committed to our care, who are dependent upon the churches for their support and education. Therefore we insist that the churches take regular collections for the Orphan Home.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. J. ADAMS,  
J. H. SHARP,  
FRED. A. LEWIS.

### Foreign Missions.

We, your committee on Foreign Missions beg to make the following report:

We recognize home missions to be the basis of all other missions; but we should not by any means stop with helping near us, but see to it that the gospel is preached to the uttermost parts of the earth so far as our ability extends.

We recommend that our pastors preach and use their influence to get churches to give regularly and systematically to the support of our missionaries.

E. M. BAGBY,  
Wm. FAGALA,  
G. C. HARRIS.



### Finance.

We, your committee on Finance, submit the following report of money received from the churches of the Association:

For Minutes: Gravette Church, \$1.00; Antioch, .75; Bethesda, .60; Mt. Pleasant, \$1.59; Pea Ridge, \$1.50; Pleasant Site, \$1.00; Zion, \$1.05; Bethlehem, \$1.50; Pleasant Valley, \$1.00; Mt. Enterprise, .60; Pleasant Grove, \$1.40; Mason Valley, \$1.50; Springtown, \$1.65; Maysville, .75; Temperance Hill, .75; Lowell, \$1.62; New Prospect, \$1.50. Total \$19.76.

For Orphan Home: Pea Ridge, \$1.19; Bethlehem, \$1.75; Maysville, \$4.25. Total \$7.19.

For Foreign Missions: Pea Ridge, .25; Bethlehem, \$2.75. Total \$3.00.

For State Missions: Pea Ridge, .25; Bethlehem, \$2.75. Total \$3.00.

For Associational Missions: Gravette, \$15.00; Pea Ridge, \$17.00; Zion, .50; Pleasant Valley, \$2.40; Temperance Hill, \$26.75; Lowell, \$3.75; New Prospect, \$20.00. Total \$85.40.

Total for all purposes, \$118.35.

PHILO RODGERS,  
JAS. H. JONES,  
R. L. HURST.

### Ministerial Education.

We, your committee on Ministerial Education, submit the following report:

Whereas, the masses of the people are becoming better educated, it is an imperative necessity that the ministry be abreast of the times, especially that he be well grounded in the knowledge of God's word, that he may be able to meet and successfully refute the heresies and false doctrines that are so persistently introduced, and are being received by so many to their eternal ruin.

Therefore we recommend the churches to encourage young men entering the ministry to strive to obtain the preparation required, and that members of our churches aid them financially to do this.

E. J. BISHOP,  
E. AUSTIN,  
D. M. AARON.

### Publications.

We, your committee on Publications, beg to report as follows:

First, we recommend the prayerful study of the Bible, as it is the king of books, from which we may learn our duty to God and our duty to our fellow man. In studying the Bible, one should remember who is speaking, to whom it is spoken, and what is the subject.

As to religious papers and tracts, we would recommend the "Arkansas Baptist" as sound in doctrine; also Scarboro's "Plain Truth."

As to Sunday School literature, we recommend the Landmark Sunday School Concern, or any sound Baptist literature.

As to what we as Baptists should not read, we should not read novels of any type, nor such papers as "Appeal to Reason," for such things tend to destroy our religious liberty, and drift toward anarchy and infidelity.

E. C. BROOKS,  
L. H. ALLEN,  
H. T. LANE.

### Ministerial Support.

We, your committee on Ministerial Support, submit the following:

From the letters sent up by the churches, it is evident that the majority of the churches are not doing their duty in contributing to the support of their pastors. The Scriptures expressly declare that they that preach the gospel should live of the gospel. Also the Scriptures declare that the laborer is worthy of his hire. If they minister to us in spiritual things, how much more should we minister to them in temporal things. No man goeth to warfare at his own charges, and as the churches demand the time of their pastors, they are in duty bound to remunerate them for their services. Hence, we recommend to our brethren that they be more faithful in this duty, and evidence greater liberality in their support.

W. J. LANGLEY,  
W. L. ICE,  
J. M. HICKMAN.

### State Missions.

From the reading of the letters of the churches, we see that they are not supporting the state mission work as they should. We have a number of missionaries on the field who are continually in need, and calling for help without scarcely any response. Brethren, are we Baptists? Our Master has said, "Where your treasure is, there will your hearts be also." We would recommend that the churches be more liberal in the support of this work, and that they invite the missionaries to visit them when opportunity affords and talk to them about the work, that greater interest may be awakened.

Signed respectfully by the committee,  
J. A. HALL,  
J. O. ATCHLEY,  
FLAVEY DEWITT.

### Temperance.

Your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report:

The word Temperance as defined by the lexicographers in its primary meaning is, Habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restrained or moderate indulgence; moderation; as, temperance in eating and drinking; temperance in joy or mirth.

While it has grown to be the custom to consider only the saloon question in reports on temperance, we think it of the highest moment that the Christian should exemplify the full import of the word temperance in their daily lives.

Herbert has said: "To put on the profound humility and exact temperance of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to keep them on in the sunshine and noon of prosperity, is as necessary and as difficult, at least, as to be clothed with perfect patience and true christian fortitude in the cold midnight storms of persecution and adversity." Yet without this we cannot hope to build high christian character; and without such character, we cannot hope to impress ourselves on the world for good. So we must add to our knowledge temperance.

Outside of the moral aspect of the subject, it has a sanitary bearing that cannot be neglected. Benjamin Franklin said, Be sober and temperate and you will be healthy. But we will leave that field for the medical fraternity to occupy.

We believe the Christian man who is immoderate in his habits, and that means intemperance, cannot be a highly efficient worker. The man who eats intemperately, or labors intemperately with body or mind, or exercises any of the passions intemperately is not in normal state, and loses efficiency.

We believe the indulgence of unnatural appetites, though moderately, is close kin to intemperance, and is only a little less harmful. This of course hits the tobacco habit squarely in the face; and we believe it is high time the Christian world,

especially the ministry, were becoming examples of abstinence in this particular. Let us study more carefully and imitate more zealously the life of perfect equipoise, perfect sobriety, perfect temperance, and perfect simplicity of our great Leader.

This report of course would be a disappointment if concluded without some mention of the liquor question. The church sustains two general relations to this burning question of the day.

First, the church should be a great training school in conjunction with the fireside instructors, where a thorough abhorrence of the liquor habit and of the liquor traffic should be ingrained in the very nature of the young.

Secondly, the church should use its power to shape the legislation of our country, both state and national, so the people may, when a majority speak against whiskey by their ballots, have their will enforced.

Our state is fast becoming dry. The prohibition sentiment has, through the influence of the church, made wonderful strides in our state, till a very large majority of the counties have voted dry—more than sixty.

The last legislature passed one of the best temperance laws that has been enacted in many years. The bill so amended the statutes that the distilleries cannot sell in five gallon lots or in any quantity in counties that have voted against license. The greatest need now is a law by the National Congress prohibiting transportation companies or individuals from transporting intoxicants into dry territory in the states. Until this is done our prohibition laws will lack greatly in effectiveness.

The people of the state have adopted the Initiative and Referendum amendment to the Constitution, and the last legislature passed an enabling act, rendering the amendment operative. Therefore the people of the state can initiate and enact any laws on the temperance question they may like. So the work



becomes almost wholly a work of building public sentiment on this question.

We will conclude by stating that the money waste caused by the use of drink is appalling. It has been estimated that the drink bill of the American people yearly is \$440,000,000, a sum sufficient to build and fortify the Panama canal. It is our opinion that the church people of America spend enough money for tobacco and drink annually to maintain and promote our church work on a scale far greater than is now done.

Respectfully,

P. A. RODGERS,

M. V. ADAMS.

R. EDWARDS.

### Obituaries.

We, your committee on Obituaries, beg to submit the following report:

The following are the names of our brethren and sisters who have deceased since our coming together last year:

Sister M. J. Foster of Mt. Enterprise; Sister Jane Edwards of Antioch; Sister Lida Wells of Bethlehem; Sister Cora Harris and Brother T. M. Townzin of Temperance Hill; Sister Mahala Sharp of Zion; Brother John Morgan of Pleasant Grove; Brother David Edwards and Sister Julia Burnes of Mt. Pleasant; Brother David True of Mason Valley; Sister J. K. Burns of Lowell; Brother Wm. E. Garrett and Sister Dollie Hays of Springtown; Brother A. F. Osburn, Brother J. B. Phillips and Sister Etta Williamson of Bethesda; Brother W. M. Hickman and Sister Alice Price of Pea Ridge.

We do hereby offer our sympathy to our bereaved brethren and sisters, and refer them for comfort to the only real Comforter, of whom Christ said, "If I depart I will send Him unto you." May we all look to Him for comfort and direction, knowing that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

W. M. EDWARDS,  
CLIFTON BRIGHT,  
S. T. MAXWELL.

### Sunday Schools.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, report the following:

We recommend that each church have an evergreen Sunday School, and that it be under the care of the church, and that they use Baptist literature. We urge that each member do his utmost for the advancement of Sunday Schools.

J. J. GLOVER,

T. J. WEAVER,

D. M. EDWARDS.

### Resolution No. 1.

Be it resolved by the Benton County Association in the 26th Annual session assembled that the managers of the Texarkana Orphan Home be requested to file with the clerk of this association an Annual report of the financial condition of the home, showing receipts and disbursements, indebtedness, and all details appertaining to the home. Also the number of inmates, giving the age and sex of each, and all other points of interest that will encourage the churches to aid in its support.

### Resolution No. 2.

Resolved, that this Association extend to the New Prospect Church and community their sincere gratitude, for the hospitality and entertainment received at their hand during our stay with them.

We ask the blessings of God on them and their labors in the Lord.

T. F. JONES,  
J. B. BURGIN,  
JAMES H. JONES.

### Pledges for Associational Missions.

Maysville Church	\$25.00
Mason Valley Church	2.50
Bethlehem Church	17.50
Pleasant Site Church	7.50
Antioch Church	20.00
Temperance Hill Church	10.00
Gravette Church	22.00
Lowell Church	15.50
Mt. Pleasant Church	15.00
New Prospect Church	16.00
Pea Ridge Church	9.00
Pleasant Grove Church	10.00
Springtown Church	10.00
Zion Church	5.00
Bethesda Church	5.00
Bro. D. M. Edwards	1.00
Sister Mary Young	5.00

**\$196.00**



**Roll of Messengers.**

Antioch—P. A. Rodgers, Philo Rodgers, E. Autsin.  
 Bethesda—Wm. Fagala.  
 Bethlehem—Eld. T. F. Jones. P. T. Keller, J. B. Burgin.  
 Butler Creek—Not represented.  
 Flint Creek—Not represented.  
 Gravette—Eld. J. W. West, E. C. Brooks, L. H. Allen.  
 Highfill—M. D. Morrison.  
 Indianola—Not represented.  
 Lowell—E. J. Bishop, Fred A. Lewis, W. J. Langley.  
 Mason Valley—Represented by letter only.  
 Maysville—Represented by letter only.  
 Mt. Enterprise—David M. Edwards.  
 Mt. Pleasant—Eld. W. M. Edwards, R. Edwards, Jas. H. Jones.  
 New Prospect—W. T. Gann, Eld. J. O. Atchley, Eld. H. T. Lane.  
 Pea Ridge—M. V. Adams, J. M. Hickman, Eld. J. A. Hall.  
 Pleasant Grove—G. M. Mayes.  
 Pleasant Home—Not represented.  
 Pleasant Site—Eld. E. J. Adams, Eld. G. C. Harris, S. T. Maxwell.  
 Pleasant Valley—Thos. J. Weaver, Flavey DeWitt.  
 Springtown—Eld. J. L. Chastain, R. L. Hurst.  
 Temperance Hill—E. M. Bagby, J. J. Glover, Clifford Bright.  
 Zion—J. H. Sharp, W. L. Ice, D. M. Aaron.

**Ordained Ministers.**

Adams, E. J., Rogers, Ark., member of Pleasant Site church.  
 Achley, J. O., Seligman, Mo., member of New Prospect church.  
 Brandon, F. M., Gravette, Ark., member of Bethlehem church.  
 Chastain, J. L., Gentry, Ark., member of Springtown church.  
 Edwards, W. M., Gravette, Ark., member of Mt. Pleasant church.  
 Greene, W. F., Pea Ridge, Ark., member of Pea Ridge church.  
 Hall, J. A., Rogers, Ark., member of Pea Ridge church.  
 Harris, G. C., Rogers, Ark., member of Pleasant Site church.  
 Hicks, G. W., Hiwassee, Ark., member of Mt. Pleasant church.  
 Jones, T. F., Decatur, Ark., member of Bethlehem church.  
 Jones, S. H., Gravette, Ark., member of Bethlehem church.  
 Lane, H. T., Seligman, Mo., member of New Prospect church.  
 Reynolds, E. J., Gentry, Ark., member of Springtown church.  
 Sanders, A. N. Centerton, Ark., member of Mason Valley church.

Setser, G. W., Maysville, Ark., member of Maysville church.  
 Sikes, J. W., Rogers, Ark., member of Pleasant Site church.  
 West, J. W., Gravette, Ark., member of Gravette church.

**Addresses of Pastors, Clerks, and Sunday School Superintendents.**

Antioch—J. A. Hall pastor, Rogers, Ark., E. Austin clerk, Gravette, Ark.  
 Bethesda—J. A. Hall pastor, Rogers, Ark., L. C. Fagala clerk, Rogers, Ark.  
 Bethlehem—T. F. Jones pastor, Decatur, Ark., J. B. Burgin clerk, Gravette, Ark., Gravette—J. R. Dunagin clerk, also superintendent, Gravette, Ark.,  
 Highfill—Cook pastor, M. D. Morrison clerk, Highfill, Ark.  
 Lowell—E. J. Adams pastor, Rogers, Ark., Fred A. Lewis clerk, Lowell, Ark., Mrs. W. H. Cowan superintendent, Lowell, Ark.  
 Mason Valley—J. A. Hall pastor, Rogers, Ark., J. M. Ketchum clerk, also superintendent, Springtown, Ark.,  
 Maysville—A. N. Sanders pastor, Centerton, Ark., Lydia G. Sellers clerk, Maysville, Ark.  
 Mt. Enterprise—W. M. Edwards pastor, Gravette, Ark., Wm. Brooks clerk, Gravette, Ark., W. S. Brooks superintendent, Gravette, Ark.  
 Mt. Pleasant—A. N. Sanders pastor, Centerton, Ark., James H. Jones clerk, Hiwassee, Ark., W. R. Edwards superintendent, Hiwassee, Ark.  
 New Prospect—W. T. Gann clerk, also superintendent, Seligman, Mo.  
 Pea Ridge—W. F. Greene pastor, Pea Ridge, Ark., A. R. Hall clerk, Pea Ridge, Ark., H. H. Patterson superintendent, Rogers, Ark.  
 Pleasant Grove—C. A. Westbrook pastor, Rogers, Ark., T. L. Beard clerk, Lowell, Ark.  
 Pleasant Site—E. J. Adams pastor, Rogers, Ark., S. T. Maxwell clerk, Rogers, Ark., Mrs. Martha Harris superintendent, Rogers, Ark.  
 Pleasant Valley—T. F. Jones pastor, Decatur, Ark., Leona McKinney clerk, Siloam Springs, Ark.  
 Springtown—T. F. Jones pastor, Decatur, Ark., Bertie Ogdon clerk, Springtown, Ark., L. N. Dodgen superintendent, Springtown, Ark.  
 Temperance Hill—J. T. Brattin pastor, Cassville, Mo., J. J. Glover clerk, also superintendent, Bentonville, Ark.  
 Zion—E. F. Rice pastor Springdale, Ark., G. B. Jones clerk, Lowell, Ark., J. H. Sharp superintendent, Lowell, Ark.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. We believe that the Holy Bible was 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; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, 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 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 the evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the meditorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; thus having arisen from

the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Saviour.

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 work 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 it brings us into a state of most blessed peace with God and secures every other blessing needed for time and eternity.

VI. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free for 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 inherent 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 affected 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 holy fruits of repentance and



faith and newness of life.

VIII. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating spirit of God; whereby, being deeply convicted 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 Saviour.

IX. 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 infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes 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 effect 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 holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the heart of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter in the continued 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 attachments to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors, that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that 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, just and good; and that the inabilities which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arise entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them

from which and to restore them through a Mediator to an unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of 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 baptized 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 spiritual 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, unto the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church relations, and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate 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 the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest 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 the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII. We believe that there is a radical essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such 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.

XVIII. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will 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 adjudged 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.

### CONSTITUTION.

Article 1.—This Association shall be composed of messengers, who shall be members of the churches they represent (except such as may be invited to a seat by consent of the body) and shall be styled, "The Benton County Baptist Association."

Art. II. This Association shall meet annually on Wednesday before the Fourth Sunday in October, at the place previously appointed; and after public worship, and reading the letters from the churches, a moderator and clerk shall be chosen from the messengers by ballot, both of whom shall hold their offices until others shall be elected.

Art. III. It shall be the duty of the clerk to make an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Association, in a book provided for the purpose. He shall also act as treasurer.

Art. IV. Each church may send three messengers. The messengers shall present letters certifying their appointment and briefly expressing the state of the churches, their increase and decrease, and their aggregate number. Each church shall send with the letter money for printing the minutes.

Article V. Churches wishing to unite with the Association may apply by letters and messengers, and giving satisfactory information of their being sound in doctrine and correct in practice, they may be received by unanimous vote, in token of which the moderator shall give to their messengers the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association. Churches may be dismissed upon application.

Art. VI. We acknowledge the independence of the particular churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association, nor will the Association decide in any controversy that may arise in any church. Nevertheless they deem it

their duty to disown any church belonging to this body which may have essentially departed from the faith.

Art. VII. When a church shall neglect making any communications to the Association for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the minutes of the Association unless at least two members request their continuance, who shall engage to inquire into their standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

Art. VIII. This Association shall have the right to open and hold correspondence with other Associations, as may be deemed expedient.

Art. IX. It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the several churches such measures as may be wise and proper to promote the interest of the Messiah's kingdom, and spread the Gospel throughout the world.

Art. X. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-third vote of all members present.

### A FORM OF CHURCH COVENANT.

Thanking God for the light we have received, and for the revelation of Jesus which we now enjoy; and hoping, that God, for Christ's sake, has pardoned our sins; and having been baptized on a profession of our faith in Christ Jesus into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we do this day before God and the world, with deep joy and great solemnity, enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We therefore covenant and agree, that, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, we will walk together in love and Christian fellowship. We promise to labor for the advancement and final triumph of the church; to sustain her worship by attending the house of God and supporting the ministry; to guard her ordinances, enforce her discipline, and defend her doctrine.

We also pledge ourselves to walk circumspectly in the world; to be honest, just and faithful in our business relations; and, as God may give us help, we promise to live righteous and holy lives.

We further promise to watch over each other in brotherly love, to visit the sick; to pray for each other and the world; to aid the poor and needy; and to perform such other kind offices as may be well pleasing in the sight of God.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

CHURCHES.	Day of Meeting.	Received by Baptism.	By Letter.	By Relation or Restoration.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded or Dropped.	Deceased.	Present Membership.	Ordained Ministers.	Paid to Pastor.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Orphan Home.	Minutes.	Other Purposes.	Average Attendance of S. S.	Officers and Teachers.	Paid for Literature.	For Other Purposes.
Antioch	4	1					1	56		\$125.00	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$.75	\$21.75			\$	\$
Bethesda	2		4		1		3	56		100.00					.60					
Bethlehem	2				3	1	1	70		60.00		2.75	2.75	1.75	1.50					
Gravette	4		4		1	1		35	3	79.05	22.50			9.25	1.00	32.32	25	5	5.75	
Highfill	1		16					16							.50					
Lowell	1		3		6		1	110		50.00	3.75				1.62		50	5	5.20	
Mason Valley	3				4		1	96	1	53.55					1.50		40	9	8.00	
Maysville	4	1	1					38	1	72.00		6.00		4.25	.75					
Mt. Enterprise	2						1	84							.60		35	9	8.00	4.00
Mt. Pleasant	1		4				2	112	2	38.60		10.00		9.26	1.59	5.60	33	7	5.50	8.00
New Prospect	3					6		63	2	68.50	20.00			10.48	1.50	5.00	30	5	9.52	
Pea Ridge	2				2		2	92	2	53.60	17.00	5.25	10.25	20.40	1.50	27.00	28	4	4.75	5.29
Pleasant Grove	3					1	1	80			10.00			14.25	1.40					
Pleasant Site	3		5					74	3	19.30	4.80				1.00	85.84	27	3	8.84	
Pleasant Valley	1	2			2	2		41		100.00	5.00				1.00	8.20				
Springtown	4				10		2	110	2	90.00	8.00		10.48		1.65		32	8	4.50	16.56
Temperance Hill	4	1					2	86		187.50	26.75		42.00		.75	11.00	43	8	9.11	7.10
Zion	4				4		1	69		50.75	4.20		7.20		1.05		46	6		