

Wolf Bayou Association

GENERAL BAPTISTS



FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION



**Held with Evening Shade Church,
Cleburn Co., Ark., Sept. 15-17, 1904**

ELDER J. C. LASSITER, Moderator, Tina, Arkansas
JOHN GRIZZLE, Clerk, . . . Newport, Arkansas

**GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE,
OWENSBILLE, INDIANA.**

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the infallible Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice.—2 Timothy 2:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Acts 4:12.

2. That there is but one living and true God, and in the Godhead, or divine essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—Deut. 4:38-39; John 1:1, and 17:3; 1 John 5:7; Isa. 44:12.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures, and can not extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.—Romans 8:7-9; St. John 6:44; Rom. 3:10-12; St. John 6:61; St. John 14:16, 17.

4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—Heb. 5:9, Acts 4:12, John 14:2, Heb. 7:26, Eph. 4:9, Rev. 1:12.

5. We believe that he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.—Matt. 10:22 and 24:13; Rev. 2:10; Mark 13:13.

6. That the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.—Matthew 25:46 and 4:12, John 5:22, 29, Romans 6:23; Rev. 2:10; Matt. 25:46; Daniel 12:2.

7. We believe that baptism, the Lord's supper and washing of saints' feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ appointed in the church, and that none but true believers are proper subjects, and that the only true mode of baptism is immersion.—On Baptism, Matt. 2:15 and 23:19, Acts 2:38 and 2:41, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12. The Supper, Matt. 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:19, 20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25. Washing of feet, St. John 13:4-17, 1 Tim. 5:10, First Peter 2:21.

8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week—or Lord's day—and it ought to be observed and spent in the public or private worship of God, and on it we should abstain from our worldly concerns, except in case of necessity or mercy.—St. John 20:19-24, Acts 20:7, Isa. 58:12, Mark 2:27, 28.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both the just and the unjust, but every one in his own order—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation; and that God hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.—Acts 24:15, St. John 5:29; Matt. 25:32, 34, 41, Acts 17:31, Romans 2:16, Acts 10:42, 1 Thes. 4:16; Dan. 12:2.

10. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general, and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God.—Galatians 6:10; Rom. 12:16; 1 John 2:7; 4:19.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that none can partake of His divine benefits only by repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Infants and idiots excepted, they being included in the covenant of God's grace).—Heb. 2:9, St. John 3:16-18 and 3:36, 1 John 2:2, Luke 13:4 and 9:56, Acts 3:19, Heb 11:6.

12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the door into the church, and that baptism is a duty in answer to a good conscience.—St. John 10:9, 1 Peter 2:21.

13. We believe that the Lord's people are one in him, therefore should be one at his table.—1 Cor. 11:22-25, St. John 17:11, 21, Matt. 26:26, 27, 28.

NEW CHURCH TO THE ASSOCIATION.

The.....General Baptist church of.....
having been organized.....180...., by....., and being
in hearty accord with General Baptist doctrine and usages,
send unto..... association Christian salutation, and
respectfully petition to be received into your body. (Rest of
the letter the same as a church letter to the association.)

PROCEEDINGS

Of the Fourth Session of the Wolf Bayou Association of General Baptists, convened with Evening Shade Church, Stark, Cleburn County, Ark., at 11 o'clock A. M., on Thursday before the third Lord's day in September, 1904.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Elder J. C. Willeford. Singing by congregation, and prayer by Elder J. H. Rich.

Introductory sermon preached by Elder J. C. Willeford, text Rom. 4: 20, followed by Eld. J. C. Lassiter.

The association was called to order by the Moderator and the following committees were appointed:

Committee on Credentials—J. C. Lassiter, J. W. Foust, J. H. Rich.

Committee on Divine Service—A. C. Stone, Z. N. Dill, L. M. Seymore.

A motion and second to adjourn to meet at 3 P. M. was made. Motion carried. Singing by congregation, and prayer by J. W. Foust, and adjourned.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION.

The association convened at 3 P. M. with singing by congregation, and prayer by L. M. Seymore.

The association was then called to order by the Moderator.

A call was made for the letters from the different churches composing Wolf Bayou association, in which Camp, Concord, Evening Shade, Antioch and Liberty were presented.

Call for petitionary letters were made in which New Hope church of Jamestown, Ark., was presented.

Moved and seconded that New Hope church be received into Christian fellowship, and that Eld. J. W. James represent it. Motion carried.

Proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, in which Eld. J. C. Lassiter was elected Moderator and

John Grizzle of Newport, Ark., was elected Clerk.

The following committees were appointed:

Sunday School—Thomas Chastain, A. C. Stone, J. W. Shoffit.

Prayer Meeting—J. L. White, W. E. Alexander, L. M. Seymore.

Correspondence—J. A. Rich, J. C. Willeford, Z. N. Dill.

Finance—Iran Martin, J. W. Shoffit, J. L. White.

Requests, Queries and Resolutions—J. W. Foust, Thomas Chastain, John F. Goff.

Moved and seconded to adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock A. M. Friday, September 16, 1904. Motion carried.

Singing by congregation, and prayer by J. A. Rich, and adjourned.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

The association convened at 8 A. M.; singing by congregation, and prayer by Eld. John Isabel.

The association was called to order by Moderator.

Call for reading of minutes of the Friday evening session. The minutes were read and approved.

By a motion and second it was deemed necessary to take up section three (3) of the unfinished business on Requests, Queries and Resolutions of the association in 1903, in regard to Bro. A. B. Hall's case. It was deemed necessary to call in his credentials, and to authorize the Clerk to have him advertised in our paper, the Messenger, published by Bro. Cox, of Owensville, Ind. The motion carried.

A motion and second was also made for this association to withdraw from Bro. Pendegrass and call in his credentials, and that he also be advertised in our paper at Owensville, Ind., for lying, and for abusing our association and denomination. Motion carried.

Moved and seconded that this association empower the Clerk to have this attended to. Motion carried.

Motion and second to receive Sister Rich as delegate from Concord church. Motion carried.

Motion and second to adjourn to meet at 3 P. M.
Singing by congregation, and prayer led by J. F. Goff, and adjourned.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

The association convened at 3 P. M. Singing by congregation, and prayer by J. W. Shoffit.

The association called to order by the Moderator.

Call for reading of the minutes of the morning session. The minutes were read and adopted.

Call for reports of the committees.

Report of committee on Finance received. Moved and seconded to receive the report and discharge the committee. Motion carried.

The report of the committee on Credentials received, discussed and rejected, and committee was discharged.

The report of the committee on Requests, Queries and Resolutions received and the committee discharged.

Moved and seconded that we adjourned to meet at 8 A. M. Saturday. Motion carried. Singing by congregation, and prayer by Bro. McAfee, and adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The association convened at 8 o'clock Saturday morning. Singing by congregation, and prayer by Sister Nellie McBride.

The association called to order by the Moderator.

Call for reading of the minutes of Friday evening session. Minutes read and approved.

A motion and second was made to take up the report of Requests, Queries and Resolutions by sections, there being four in number.

Section one was taken up, discussed and laid aside.

Section two was taken up and, after long discussion pro and con, it was discarded.

Section three was taken up and it was moved and seconded that we, as General Baptists of Wolf Bayou as-

sociation, ordain and set apart Bro. T. J. Bittle to preach the gospel.

Section four was taken up and unanimously adopted.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock Saturday evening. Singing by congregation, and prayer by Bro. Wilson, and adjourned.

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION.

The association convened at 3 o'clock Saturday evening. Singing by congregation, prayer by J. W. Shollit. The association was called to order by Moderator.

Call for reading the minutes of Saturday morning session. Minutes read and approved.

Moved and seconded that we hold our next association with Antioch church, Ida. Cleburn county, Ark., beginning at 11 o'clock on Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1905.

Elder J. W. Foust was elected to preach the introductory sermon, with Elder Isabel as alternate.

Moved and seconded that a contribution be made to compensate Bro. Grizzle for his services as Clerk. A contribution was made and \$2.05 was received.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn until 7 o'clock. Singing by congregation, and prayer by Bro. Isabel, and adjourned until 7 P. M.

Saturday night services.—After preaching, the communion service and the washing of the saints' feet were attended to.

The Presbytery ordained Bro. Bittle as a minister of the gospel.

Singing by the congregation and extended the parting hand until we meet again with Antioch church, of Ida. Cleburn county, Ark., on Saturday before the first Lord's day in September, 1905.

Thus ended the fourth session of the Wolf Bayou association.

J. C. LASSITER, Moderator. Tina, Ark.

JOHN GRIZZLE, Clerk, Newport, Ark.

Reports of Committees.

Finance.—We your committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report: We have received from the following churches the following amounts: Liberty \$1.00; Concord \$1.10; Camp \$1.10; Antioch \$1.00; Evening Shade \$1.00; New Hope \$.95; total \$6.15.—J. W. Shoffit, Chairman.

Sunday School.—Not in possession of report.—Clerk.

Prayer Meeting.—The same as above.

Correspondence.—The same as above.

Divine Service.—The same as above.

Requests, Queries and Resolutions.—We your committee on Requests, Queries and Resolutions submit the following:

Section 1. Resolved, that the deacons look after the pastors of their respective churches.

Section 2. Queries. We your committee ask, first, Can a man fall away and be lost after he has been regenerated? Second, Can a man attain to perfection?

Section 3. Requests. We your committee beg leave to say that Evening Shade church requests the ordination of Bro. T. J. Bittle as a minister of the gospel.

Section 4. Resolved that we extend our heart-felt thanks to the good people of Evening Shade church and vicinity for the kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.—Thomas J. Chastain, Chairman.

The report of committee on Credentials was rejected and their report is not in the Clerk's possession.

ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS.

J. T. Goff,	.	.	.	.	Gin, Arkansas.
J. C. Willeford,	.	.	.	.	Tina, Arkansas.
J. C. Lassiter,	.	.	.	.	Tina, Arkansas.
John Isabell,	.	.	.	.	Hutchinson, Arkansas.
J. H. Rich,	.	.	.	.	Elmo, Arkansas.
J. W. Shoffit,	.	.	.	.	Coras, Arkansas.
W. F. Foust,	.	.	.	.	Ida, Arkansas.
T. L. Summers,	.	.	.	.	-----
J. W. James,	.	.	.	.	Desha, Arkansas.
W. F. Thomas,	.	.	.	.	Tina, Arkansas.
J. W. Foust,	.	.	.	.	Shiloh, Arkansas.

ADDRESSES OF CLERKS.

Liberty—J. W. Van Winkle, Deumark, Ark.
 Camp—Miss Fannie Scouyers, Newport, Ark.
 Concord, Lucy Millikin, Tina, Ark.
 New Hope—J. S. Pasley, Jamestown, Ark.
 Antioch—A. J. Ward, Ida, Ark.
 Evening Shade—A. C. Stone, Shiloh, Ark.
 Corinth—Nannie May, Wilburn, Ark.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Concord—M. B. Rich.
 Liberty—W. E. Alexander.
 Camp—John Grizzle and James MaAfee.
 Antioch—Z. N. Dill, Iran Martin, L. M. Seymore.
 Evening Shade—Isaac Hooten, T. J. Bittle and A. C. Stone.
 New Hope—T. H. Wilson.

THE PRESBYTERY.

Ministers.

T. L. Summers.	John F. Goff.
J. C. Willeford.	J. C. Lassiter, Mod'r.
John Isabel.	W. F. Foust.
J. W. Sholfit.	

Deacons.

Thomas Chastain. J. L. White. John Grizzle, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	PASTORS.	Day of Meeting	Number Received	Lettered out	Withdrawn	Died	Number Members	Ordn and Ministers	Ministers' Fund	Sunday School	Prayer Meeting
Concord	W F Thomas	1	1	...	1	1	28	2	\$1 10	1	1
Camp	John Isabel	1	1	3	3	3	46		1 10	1	1
Liberty	W F Thomas	1	1	...	1	1	1		1 00	1	1
Evening Shade	J W Foust	1	1	...	...	...	12	1	1 00		
Antioch	J C Lassiter	1	5	...	1	1	39		1 00		
New Hope	J W James	2	11	...	...	...	11	1	1 00		
Totals			28	8	7	6	157	4	\$4 15	1	2

CONSTITUTION.

1. This association shall be composed of such messengers as shall be chosen by the different churches composing this association, thought most fit for that purpose and sent with letters testifying to their appointment to represent them in the association, who shall be entitled to seats; ministers, deacons, licentiate and clerks included.

2. The officers of this association when properly organized shall consist of a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the association in order, state questions fairly and take their minds thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat be filled, to have no vote unless the association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the association.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded and died since the sitting of the last association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by this association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the association shall take up the same and act on it.

5. Every church in the association shall be entitled to a representation of any number not exceeding six.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted on unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The association shall not have the power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless we agree that the churches composing this association shall stand in the same relation to each other in this association that individuals do to each other in the churches; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this association by letter and delegate, if upon proper examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly; such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegates thereof.

10. This association shall have power to sit as an advisory council; to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this association; to appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite any brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association; to adjourn the association to any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the church from which he or they were delegates.

11. Where a church has a deacon that they desire the ordination of, they are authorized to have it done at any time or place where a presbytery can be found.

12. This constitution is not to be altered without a majority of three-fourths of the members composing this body. But if any person after becoming a member shall become dissatisfied with any part of this constitution or articles of faith, he shall be entitled to a letter of dismission, if in fellowship in his own church.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.
3. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he break order.
4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question, and shall in no wise cast personal reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.
5. No person shall speak more than two times on the same subject without leave of the association.
6. Members shall address each other by the appellation of Brother or Brethren.
7. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.
8. No member of this association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.
9. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the association.
10. Any member who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the moderator, according to the direction of the association.

LETTER FROM A CHURCH.

This is to certify that.....is a member in full standing in the.....General Baptist church at..... and as such we recommend.....him to the fellowship of God's people everywhere. When we are informed that.....has united elsewhere, we shall consider.....regularly dismissed from this church. Done for and in behalf of theGeneral Baptist church,

.....Pastor.
.....Clerk

CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION.

The General Baptists at.....unto the.....Association sendeth Christian salutation. Grace, mercy and peace be unto you through our Lord Jesus Christ. We send with this as delegates our beloved brethren, and..... who will inform you of our progress and condition in the divine life. Receive them as brethren beloved. Our statistics are as follows: Received by baptism.....; by letter.....; by recommendation.....; dismissed.....; excluded.....; died.....; total membership..... Sunday-school.....; prayer-meeting..... Our day of meeting is.....; our pastor for ensuing year is.....; our clerk isof We send \$..... as minnte fund. God be with you and prosper you in winning souls to God and building up the churches. Done for and by order of..church.Mod.
..... Clerk.

General Baptist Publishing House, OWENSVILLE, IND.

The Messenger, the official church paper for the General Baptist denomination. An eight page weekly. \$1 00 a year. Full of letters, communications and other interesting matter each week. Sample copies free.

DENOMINATIONAL BOOKS.

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"The Christian Church and Its Institutions," by A. D. Williams, D. D.; a work on Theology, which treats of the Church, the Sabbath, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, etc ; 264 pages. \$1.00.

OTHER GOOD BOOKS.

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