

MINUTES

OF THE FIRST SESSION OF

Concord Association

OF

WESTERN ARKANSAS,

AND

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

CONVENTION,

CALLED FOR ITS FORMATION HELD WITH

Fellowship Baptist Church

Sebastian County, Ark.

NOV. 5, 6 & 7 1871.

FORT SMITH, ARK.

NEW ERA BOOK & JOB OFFICE.

Proceedings of Convention.

Fellowship Church, Sebastian Co., Ark.

SATURDAY, November 4, 1871.

PURSUANT to a call of a portion of the churches composing the "Dardanelle Baptist Association," the following churches assembled in Convention, by their messengers, at the time and place above-mentioned, for the purpose of organizing themselves into a "MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION."

CHURCHES REPRESENTED.

1. Fellowship, Charleston, Smyrna, Greenwood, Hepzibah, Mount Nebo, Cedar Grove, Mount Hope, Grand Prairie, Pine Mountain, Oak Bower, Fort Smith and Washburn Creek Church.

On motion, Bro. E. L. Compere was called the chair, and Bro. W. A. Welch chosen as Clerk of the Convention.

On motion, the Chairman was requested to preach the Introductory sermon, which he did from I Peter, 4th chap., from 1st to 8th verse.

Prayer by Bro. Rippey.

On motion, the Pastor and Deacons of Fellowship Church together with Bros. Bean and Barry, were appointed a committee on preaching.

On motion, Elders E. L. Compere, S. J. Fuller, A. J. Rippey, J. S. Ledbetter, Wm. Greenlee, J. Yielding, and F. L. Kregel were appointed a committee on Constitution, Rules of Order, and Articles of Faith.

The Committee on Preaching reported the following as the order for Lord's-day: Elder F. L. Kregel to preach at 11 o'clock, A. M., and Elder A. J. Rippey at 2 o'clock, P. M. Adopted.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. Fuller.

LORD'S DAY EXERCISES.

11 o'clock, A. M., Sermon—by Elder F. L. Kregel, from Exodus, xii, 1-21.

Two o'clock, P. M.—Sermons by Elders A. J. Rippey and Wm. Greenlee.

Collection..... \$14 85

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, A. M., Nov. 6, 1871.

The Convention re-assembled, pursuant to adjournment.
Prayer by Bro. Fuller.

Minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Bro. J. M. Johnson was recognized as a messenger from Washburn Creek Church.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION.

The Committee to whom was referred the preparation of a Constitution, Rules of Order, and Articles of Faith for the Association about to be formed, beg leave to report, as follows :

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Concord Association of Western Arkansas.

ART. 2. It shall be composed of Messengers from Baptist churches known to be in good standing. Each church with fifty members or less, shall be entitled to three messengers. Each additional fifty members shall entitle the church to one additional messenger.

ART. 3. The officers shall be a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual session, and shall continue in office till their successors are chosen.

ART. 4—SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the body according to parliamentary usage.

SEC. 2. The Clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings, attend to the publication and distribution of the Minutes, keep a regular file of the printed Minutes of the sessions of the body, and deliver the same to his successor in office.

SEC. 3. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Association, holding them subject to an order from the Association or its Executive Committee, and render an account of the same to the annual session of this body.

ART. 5. The objects of this Association shall be, to promote fellowship among the churches; to secure unanimity of faith; to encourage concert in operation, and especially to cultivate the piety of the churches, and to aid in this last object, several days of each session shall be spent in devotional exercises.

ART. 6—SEC. 1. This Association shall, in no case, interfere with the internal regulations of the churches, but will act as an advisory council whenever it shall be necessary.

SEC. 2. It, however, claims authority over its own members, the Messengers from the churches; and will withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice.

ART. 7. Newly organized churches, or churches dismissed from other Associations, may be admitted into this body upon application by letter and messengers, at our annual meetings, and by their messengers agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

ART. 8. Churches may be dismissed from this Association upon application at an annual meeting, for the purpose of joining any body we recognize, or for the purpose of forming a new Association; but any church departing from us without being regularly dismissed, shall be regarded as disorderly.

ART. 9. There shall be an Executive committee consisting of one member from each church, and the officers of the Association shall be *ex officio* officers of this committee. This committee shall have direction of the Missionary operations of the Association, subject to its control, and make an annual report of its proceedings at each session of the Association. Beside the special objects entrusted to the committee, it shall also have authority to represent the Association in all matters requiring attention while the Association is not in session. This committee shall hold regular meetings on the Saturday preceding each fifth Lord's-day of the year, at such places as may be designated by the committee. The committee shall meet for organization immediately after the adjournment of the Association. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. 10. It shall be the privilege of this Association, in addition to its powers already granted, to conduct missionary operations within or without its limits, and for this purpose to choose a missionary or missionaries, as means may allow, designate the fields of labor, and pay them quarterly

through their treasury, out of funds to be sent up along with the fund for publishing the minutes, to every annual meeting.

ART. 11. The annual meetings of the Association shall embrace the Lord's-day, and shall begin at 11 o'clock, on Saturday before the first Lord's-day of October, at which time the introductory sermon shall be preached. On each succeeding day the Association shall adjourn at 11 o'clock, A. M. for preaching.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended, except as to Art. 6, Sec. 1, at any regular meeting of the Association, by the two-thirds vote of the members who are in attendance.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. An Introductory and Missionary sermon shall be preached by ministers chosen by ballot at the preceding Association. In case of absence or failure, the sermon of either to be preached by an alternate, chosen at the same time and in the same way. Some brother shall also be chosen to deliver a Temperance address.

3. A Committee of Arrangements, consisting of five members, besides the Moderator and Clerk, who shall be members *ex-officio*, shall be appointed by the Moderator to arrange and report the order of business.

4. Visiting brethren in good standing may be invited to seats, but not to vote.

5. A member not satisfied with any decision of the Moderator, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

6. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise, address the Moderator, and on obtaining leave, shall proceed.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection, and then by the Moderator.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another is introduced.

9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association by yeas and nays, or otherwise.

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

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Association.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in the Association, by members in their addresses one to another, and all titles unknown to the Scriptures, such as "Rev.," "D. D.," "Parson," and the like, shall not be employed or appear upon the minutes.

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

14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

15. Any member violating these rules may be reprov'd by the Moderator, at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

16. These rules may be amended or altered at any regular meeting of this body, by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, Jehovah, and that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired word of God, constituting the only and all-sufficient standard of Faith, Doctrine, Discipline and Practice.

3. We believe that Election is the sovereign exercise of that Eternal love, by which God hath, according to his infinite wisdom, chosen his people in Christ before the world was, and hath predestinated them unto the adoption of children, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth, and doth keep them by his power through faith unto salvation.

4. We believe that man was created holy, but by a wilful violation of the law of his Maker, he fell into a state of sinfulness, and brought death upon his race, who being by natural descent in the unholy image of Adam, are children of wrath by nature, and without natural or spiritual power, to live a holy life or attain to a happy state.

5. We believe that sinners are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, and in no other way.

6. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration is effected by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth and the proper evidences thereof, are repentance, faith and obedience unto Christ.

7. We believe that such only are true believers as endure unto the end in holiness of life, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

8. We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God.

9. A Christian church is a congregation of immersed believers, who meet statedly, and have covenanted together to maintain the ordinances of Christ, discharge the duties and enjoy the privileges in the New Testament appertaining to the Church of Jesus Christ.

10. The only proper officers of a Christian church are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons.

11. Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by a regularly ordained Baptist minister in good order.

12. The Lord's Supper is a positive and commemorative ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be observed in the church as such, in remembrance of Christ, and to show forth his death till he come.

13. The first day of the week is the Lord's day, and should be observed as a day of rest from common labor and all worldly business, and devoted to religious duties.

14. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment; and that the felicity of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

On motion, *Resolved*, That we consider the above report, article by article.

On motion, the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Articles of Faith, as above reported, were adopted as the basis of organization.

MINUTES.

On motion, Bro. Motteau was excused from attendance as a messenger, and Bro. James Steinbaugh recognised in his place.

On motion, Roll called and collected.

On motion, the Association proceeded to the election of permanent officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder E. L. Compere, Moderator; W. A. Welch, Clerk; and Wm. Greenlee, Treasurer.

On motion, Petitionary Letters were called for, whereupon Letters were read from the following churches: Macedonia, Figure 5, and Mount Lebanon—which were received into the fellowship of the Association by the right hand of fellowship.

On motion, a Committee on Finance was appointed; committee—Brethren A. Lovelace, Wm. M. Blaylock, and J. T. Mayfield.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Association will not recognise the practice of pulpit affiliation with ministers of other denominations.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to district the Association. Committee—Brethren Ledbetter, Greenlee and Holland.

On motion, a committee consisting of Brethren Bean, Barry and Mayfield, were appointed to nominate Brethren to preach the Introductory and Missionary Sermons, and to deliver the Lecture on Temperance.

The committee nominated the following Brethren, who were duly elected:

Introductory Sermon—Bro. F. L. Kregel. Alternate, Bro. J. Yielding.

Missionary Sermon—Bro. E. L. Compere. Alternate, Bro. Holland.

Temperance Lecture—Bro. S. J. Fuller. Alternate, M. S. Buckley.

The Committee on Districting the Association, reported as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.—Fort Smith, Grand Prairie, Greenwood, Hepzibah, Charleston, Oak Bower, Mount Hope, Figure 5, and Pine Mountain churches.

SECOND DISTRICT.—Cedar Grove, Fellowship, Smyrna, Macedonia, Washburn Creek, Mount Lebanon, and Mount Nebo Churches. Report adopted and committee discharged.

On motion, the stated meetings of the Executive Committee for the Associational year were fixed as follows:

1.—Charleston, Saturday before the fifth Lord's-day in December.

2.—Fellowship, Saturday before the fifth Lord's-day in April.

3.—Greenwood, Saturday before the fifth Lord's-day in July.

4.—Cedar Grove, Saturday before the fifth Lord's-day in September.

On motion, the following committees were appointed to report to the next session of this body:

On Domestic Missions—Brethren A. J. Rippey, J. S. Ledbetter, and E. M. Pettigrew.

On Temperance—Brethren S. J. Fuller, J. J. Holland, and J. T. Mayfield.

On Sabbath Schools—Brethren Wm. Greenlee, A. S. Jackson, and W. A. Welch.

On Destitution—Brethren J. Yielding, H. Bean, and — Eckols.

On Duty of Churches to Pastors—Brethren F. L. Kregel, Wm. Blaylock, and Dr. J. M. Barry.

On motion, *Ordered*, that 250 Minutes of the Convention and Association be printed and distributed, and the balance of the money on hand be paid to the Clerk for his services.

Time and place of next session.—Resolved, That this body hold its next annual meeting with the Church at Greenwood, on Saturday before the first Lord's-day in October next.

Correspondence—On motion, Resolved, That this Association open correspondence with the following bodies: State Convention, Dardanelle and Mountain Associations.

MESSENGERS TO CORRESPONDING BODIES.

Dardanelle Association—A. J. Rippey, and E. L. Compere.

Mountain Association—S. J. Fuller, J. S. Ledbetter, J. J. Holland.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet in its next annual session as above directed.

After singing and prayer, the Brethren gave each other the parting-hand, and closed its first session—a meeting marked throughout by Christian courtesy, fraternal fellowship, and that “unity of spirit in the bonds of peace” which the presence of the Lord only can produce.

E. L. COMPERE, *Moderator*.

W. A. WELCH, *Clerk*.

ASSOCIATIONAL RECORD.

CHURCHES.	POST OFFICE.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	MEMBERS.	CONTRIBUT'N
1—Fellowship....	Salem.....	Sebastian....	J. J. Holland....	— — Overton....	A. Lovelace, R. H. Cook, A. Steinbaugh, Jas. Steinbaugh....	170	\$5 00
2—Charleston ...	Charleston	Franklin....	E. L. Compere....	H. Payne.....	E. L. Compere, A. J. Rippey, E. M. Pettigrew, D. Jetor....	186	3 00
3—Greenwood... ..	Charleston	Franklin....	Wm. Greenlee....	C. Anderson....	H. Bean, J. J. Holland, C. Anderson.....	92	1 50
4—Hepzibah	Charleston	Franklin....	Wm. Greenlee....	C. J. Howe.....	J. L. O'Neal, C. J. Howe.....	42	1 00
5—Fort Smith... ..	Fort Smith	Sebastian....	F. L. Kregel....	W. A. Welch....	F. L. Kregel, J. M. Barry, W. A. Welch.....	75	2 50
6—Mount Nebo.. ..	Greenwo'd	Sebastian....	J. M. Ledbetter..	Wm. Blaylock..	Wm. M. Blaylock, T. F. Roddin, James A. Bennett.....	100	3 00
7—Smyrna.....	Greenwo'd	Sebastian....	J. J. Holland....	T. J. Hannah....	S. W. Hannah, T. J. Hannah, T. Ratteree.....	28	1 50
8—Cedar Grove.. .	Black Jack	Scott.....	S. J. Fuller.....	Asa Scott.....	S. J. Fuller, Asa Scott.....	37	1 00
9—Mount Hope.. .	Roseville	Franklin....	J. Yielding.....	E. White.....	A. S. Jackson, J. Yielding, J. W. Snider.....	33	1 00
10—Grand Prairie	Charleston	Franklin....	J. S. Ledbetter..	G. W. Tigner....	J. S. Ledbetter, G. W. Tigner, J. T. Mayfield.....	22	1 25
11—Pine Mountain	Charleston	Franklin....	J. L. Ledbetter..	W. H. Carey....	C. Colquitt, w. H. Carey, J. Corbel.....	41	1 25
12—Oak Bower... ..	Bloomer ..	Sebastian....	Wm. Greenlee....	L. H. McClendon	Wm. Greenlee, L. H. McClendon, B. B. Ki man.....	32	1 90
13—Washburn Creek..	Black Jack	Scott.....			J. M. Johnson.....	12	50
14—Macedonia ...	Sugar Loaf	Sebastian....	J. J. Holiland....	S. T. Eskridge..	S. J. Eskridge, James Cantley, J. Sadler.....	13	1 85
15—Figure Five.. .	Van Buren	Crawford... ..	Simon Whitt....	James Collins....	Joseph Echols.....	21	1 50
16—Mt. Lebanon..	Bloomer ..	Sebastian....	Wm Gre nlee....	J. H. Burke....	D. J. Tucker, James H. Burke, D. Williams.....	12	75
						Total.....	806 \$28 40
						Sabbath Collection	14 85
						Total.....	\$43 25