

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Seventh Annual Session

OF THE

GAINESVILLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Rock Hill Baptist Church,

GREENE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, SEPTEMBER 26-28, 1896.

NEXT SESSION TO BE HELD WITH BLOOMING GROVE CHURCH, THREE MILES NORTH
OF RECTOR, CLAY COUNTY, COMMENCING ON SATURDAY BEFORE THE
FOURTH SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER, 1897.

PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

THE GAINESVILLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened with Rock Hill Church, pursuant to adjournment, at 11 o'clock A. M. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder G. Lively. His text, 1st Peter: 1st chapter, part of 11th verse.

The body was then called to order by the former Moderator.

A motion was then carried to adjourn until 2 P. M., for refreshments, which was furnished in abundance on the ground.

Prayer, by Elder C. B. Hunton. Benediction, by Elder J. W. Weathersbee.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 o'clock the Association was called together, and business resumed.

The roll of Churches was called and twenty-four responded by letter and messengers. (See Tabular Statement).

Then on motion, the body went into election by ballot for permanent officers of the Association, which resulted in the election of Elder G. Lively, for Moderator; Henry Holcomb for Clerk, and T. L. B. Thorn for Treasurer.

The Moderator, on taking the chair, thanked the body for the honor conferred, and then invited the body to join in prayer, led by Eld. E. D. Cooper.

Petitionary letters were then called for and five responded, one from Bark Camp Island, one from Jerico, one from Oak Grove and one from St. Francis churches, by letter and delegation; and on motion, received and messengers invited to seats with the body.

Letters of correspondence called for.

The Moderator invited visiting brethren to seats within the body and participate in its deliberations. Elders C. B. Hunton, J. N. Robertson, W. J. Bearden, C. D. Owen and Bro. J. H. Kitchen, Jr., of Mt. Zion Association, and Elder J. W. Weathersbee, of Spring River Association, accepted the invitation.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the usual committees, viz:

Divine Service—The officers and messengers of Rock Hill Church.

On motion, the report on arrangements of last session's proceedings was adopted.

Ministerial Education—J. A. Smith, J. A. Thomas and S. W. Weatherly.

Home Missions—G. W. Colier, T. L. B. Thorn and A. J. Early.

Foreign Missions—J. Mahon, Z. D. Mitchell, G. H. Faulkner and C. B. Hunton.

State and Associational Missions—J. T. Edwards, G. W. Kirby, W. T. Williams and J. W. Weathersbee.

Sunday Schools—C. D. Morris, G. R. Beckley and W. D. Turner.

Finance—J. A. Smith, J. F. Bradshaw and J. F. Sain.

Obituaries—Thos. Nettle, L. H. Roberts and H. W. Cagle.

Temperance—J. D. J. Faulkner, R. H. Shearer, N. B. Beard and J. N. Robertson.

Publication—H. H. Cole, A. G. Cagle, J. W. Kirby and W. J. Bearden.

Orphans' Home—J. A. Smith, J. A. Mahon and A. G. Cagle.

The Committee on Divine Service reported as follows: Elder C. D. Owen preach to-night, and Elder C. W. Hunton on Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning, 8:30. Prayer, by Elder W. J. Bearden.

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MONDAY MORNING.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer, by Elder C. A. Merideth. The roll was called, and messengers answered to their names.

The minutes of Saturday's proceedings were read and approved.

The order of business as follows:

1. Call of the Roll and read the Minutes.
2. Call for Petitionary Letters.
3. Call for Letters of Correspondence.
4. Inviting visiting brethren to seats in the body.
5. Report of Committee on Ministerial Education.
6. Report of Committee on Home Missions
7. Report of Committee on Foreign Missions.
8. Report of Committee on State and Associational Missions.
9. Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.
10. Report of Committee on Finance.
11. Report of Committee on Obituaries.
12. Report of Committee on Temperance.
13. Report of Committee on Publication.
14. Report of Executive Board.
15. Report of Missionary.
16. Report of Treasurer.
17. Miscellaneous Business.
18. Call Queries and Resolutions.

W. J. HARDY, Chairman.

The Report of Committee on Ministerial Education was presented, read and adopted, as follows:

In view of the great importance of an efficient ministry to meet the different phases of infidelity and the many errors of the day which are put forth in the name of Religion;

AND WHEREAS We have a number of Godly young men who are striving hard to obtain an education in order to faithfully preach the Gospel; we recommend that the pastors of our churches bring the importance of this matter before the people and try to educate them for this great duty, and that the body appoint an agent in each church to solicit and collect funds and send the general agent; that the funds be applied to aid them in this work; and we recommend Mountain Home and Ouachita Baptist Colleges.

J. A. SMITH, Chairman.

On motion, the Association send and aid Eld. E. D. Cooper in school in Paragould for one year.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following-named members as agents of the respective churches to solicit and collect funds for ministerial education and forward same to Brother J. F. Hammett, at Gainesville, Ark., who was appointed by the Association as general agent to receive and pay over said funds to whom the Association may assist in school: Rock Hill, J. H. Loyd; Epsaby, L. H. Roberts; Fairview, J. T. Edwards, Hope-well, J. A. Thomas; Friendship, Oscar Hammett; New-light, N. F. Carpenter; New Hope, Z. T. Underwood; Providence, H. B. Wright; Pleasant Grove, T. R. Fletcher; Salem, C. W. Bradshaw; Rector, C. G. Earles; Union Grove, J. J. Bone; Marmaduke, A. J. Early; Mt. Tabor, H. A. Seal; Brown's Chapel, J. W. Langley; Gainesville, J. M. Thorn; Post Oak, J. F. Bradshaw; Blooming Grove, G. B. Beckley; Main Shore, J. C. Murphy; Center Hill, N. Hampton; Piggott, W. J. Davidson; Wanderers' Home, J. T. Williams; Knobel, Floyd Mitchel; Blue Cane, Z. D. Mitchel; Palestine, N. B. Beard; Unity, H. H. Cole; Oak Grove, G. W. Kirby; Jerico, J. E. Connelly; St. Francis, E. V. O'Neal; Bark Camp Island, Eugene Nettle.

The report of the general agent on Ministerial Education was presented, read and accepted, as follows.

RECEIPTS.

Friendship Church.....	\$2 50
Chilnesville Church.....	50
Brown's Chapel Church.....	2 00
General Educational Fund.....	1 50
Total Receipts.....	\$6 50

J. F. HAMMETT, Agent.

On motion, adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M. Benediction by Eld. J. D. J. Faulkner. Preaching at 11 o'clock by Eld. C. B. Hunton, His subject: "Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life," which was listened to with marked attention.

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AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer, by Elder G. H. Faulkner.

The Committee on Foreign Missions reported as follows, which was read and adopted:

In view of the fact that the Great Head of the Church, just before His departure from this world, said: All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth; and said to His Church: GO: Preach all Nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Therefore we believe it is the duty of every Association and of every Church, as well as the duty of each individual member of the Kingdom of Christ, to give of their means as the Lord has prospered them to this cause; also to pray often for those engaged in this work.

It may seem to some that the work is prospering very slowly, but, nevertheless, we have much to encourage us. The Lord has wonderfully blessed what little we have done. There has been a greater number of conversions according to the money contributed by us, than any other denomination on the Mission fields, and as the spirit of Missions is the life of the Church, we would recommend that all pastors of Churches keep the Mission interest before their people.

G. H. FAULKNER, Chairman.

The Committee on State and Associational Missions reported as follows, which was read and adopted:

As to State Missions, for want of the necessary information, we are unable to state as to what has been done through our cooperation with the State Board. But we recommend that our editorial brethren in their pastoral work bring the claims of State Missions before their Churches, that we may bring ourselves in touch with the great Baptist Brotherhood of our State. And we recommend the continuation of the Executive Board, and that said Board elect a Missionary, who shall act under the direction of said Board, and that the pastors of the various Churches present the claims of the Associational Missions, and take up a col-

lection therefor, at the close of each quarter, and forward the same to the Secretary of the Executive Board.

J. T. EDWARDS, Chairman.

The Committee on Sunday Schools reported as follows, which was adopted :

We are glad to know that many of our churches now have good Sunday Schools, but are sorry to learn that a few are yet without what we consider to be one of the greatest aids to our churches, one of the greatest blessings to our youth, and last, but not least, the grandest work which promotes a desire in the minds and hearts of the young to respect and revere God's Word and the Holy Sabbath day. We would strongly recommend that all the churches in the Association have and maintain a Sunday School, that we may the more readily prepare the child's way for a higher and more useful sphere, as a sincere child of God and a member of our church. We also recommend Bible reading, and any of the worthy publications published by any of the Baptist publishing companies; and we further recommend that the parents attend and take part in the Sunday School, and the children will follow, and God will bless us.

C. D. MORRICE, Chairman.

The Committee on Finance reported as follows, which was found correct and adopted :

RECEIPTS FOR PRINTING MINUTES.

Union Grove church	\$ 1 00	Palestine church	50
Gainesville church	1 50	Salem church	1 20
Rock Hill church	2 00	Knobel church	1 20
Hopewell church	1 35	Piggott church	1 00
New Light church	1 00	Friendship church	2 50
Fairview church	2 00	Providence church	1 50
Blue Cane church	1 50	Rector church	1 00
Pleasant Grove church	50	Mount Tabor church	1 00
Epsaby church	50	Marmaduke church	1 50
Brown's Chapel church	1 00	New Hope church	1 50
Post Oak church	75	Blooming Grove church	1 50
St. Francis church	1 50	Oak Grove church	1 20
Unity church	1 50	Bark Camp Island church	25
Center Hill church	1 50	Jerico church	25
Main Shore church	1 50		
		Total Minute Fund	\$38 00
Home Missions	\$ 7 10		
State and Associational Missions	6 00		
Foreign Missions	1 40		\$14 50
Total Missions	\$14 50	Grand Total	\$50 00

J. A. SMITH, Chairman.

The Committee on Obituaries reported as follows :

We, your committee, report that death has been among us, and taken twenty-five of our brothers and sisters of the various churches of the Association since our last session.

H. W. CAGLE, Chairman.

The Committee on Temperance reported as follows, which was read and adopted :

In view of the wide-spread evil and distress produced by the use of intoxicants by the people of our country, we recommend

to our people total abstinence from all such. Let us ask the Lord to help us in the great work of prohibition, and ever vote as we pray, that the time may soon come when our homes, our children, and our entire country shall be free from the accursed evil. We further recommend that all of our ministers often warn the people of the great evils of the whiskey business, and that the churches be strict in discipline with their members who are guilty of drunkenness.

J. D. J. FAULKNER, Chairman.

On motion that Bro. Charles Ohair, from Oak Grove Church, be excluded from a seat as messenger from said church, in the Association, for being under the influence of whiskey.

The Committee on Publication reported as follows, which was read and adopted:

The Bible, of course, should ever be the book of our study, and the rule of our faith and practice. We believe, however, that every Baptist in Arkansas ought to read our own State paper, the Arkansas Baptist. We also recommend the Texas Baptist Standard, and the American Baptist, as being sound literature.

H. H. COLE, Chairman.

The Committee on the Advisability of Founding an Orphans' Home within the bounds of Gainesville Association reported as follows:

Inasmuch as the State Baptist Convention has an Orphans' Home already under headway, we think it not advisable to undertake such a task at the present, but instead, give our support to the institution of the State Convention.

J. A. SMITH, Chairman.

The report of the Executive Board, as follows:

Paid St. Francis Church \$10; to Eld. W. P. Throgmorton in debate with Cayce at Salem Church, \$1.50; balance on hand, 70c.

J. J. BURTON, Chairman.

The report of the Treasurer was presented, read and adopted, as follows:

RECEIPTS

Amount on hand at last report.....	\$ 35 10
Received since last report—	
For Foreign Missions	13 20
For Home Missions.....	7 75
For State and Associational Missions.....	20 15
For Ministerial Education.....	1 20
For Minute Fund.	36 03
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Total amount received.....	\$113 43

DISBURSEMENTS.

Amount paid Clerk for Minutes of 1895.....	\$ 32 75
Amount paid J. F. Hammett as the General Agent of Ministerial Education.....	2 20
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	\$ 23 95

Balance on hand..... 79 48

T. L. B. THORN, Treasurer.

On motion, the body went into an election for the place of holding the next session of the Association, which resulted in the election of Blooming Grove Church, Clay County, Arkansas, and Eld. S. V. Cooper was elected to preach the introductory sermon, with Eld. J. H. Holcomb his alternate.

On motion, the Moderator appointed J. J. Burton, J. H. Loyd, W. J. Hardy, J. A. Mahon and W. D. Farmer as the Executive Board.

On motion, the Treasurer was instructed to pay the amount for printing minutes to the Clerk; that he superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes, and that he be allowed the minute fund, less the expense for printing and distribution of same, for his services.

On motion, that we correspond with Mt. Zion and Current River Associations, and Eld. E. D. Cooper and J. T. Edwards to Mt. Zion, and G. Lively and J. H. Haden to Current River, were appointed as corresponding messengers.

WHEREAS, We have been royally entertained by Rock Hill Church, and the good people of the vicinity, during the sittings of this body; therefore

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this body be extended to them, and our prayers be given for their material and spiritual welfare.

Thus closed the twenty-seventh annual session of the Gainesville Missionary Baptist Association, to meet with Blooming Grove Church, three miles north of Rector, Clay County, Arkansas, on Saturday, before the fourth Sunday in September, A. D. 1897, at 11 A. M., and during song service the parting hand was extended to the brethren. Benediction by the Moderator.

ELD. G. LIVELY, Moderator.

HENRY HOLCOMB, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.

MESSENGERS.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Sundays of Preaching	MEMBERSHIP.						Minute Fund.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars.	Total Enrollment.	Contributions For the Schools	
			Increase.			Decrease.								
			By Baptism	By Letter	Restored By Recommendation	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Died						Present Membership
Rock Hill	J. H. Richards, Frank Burton, C. D. Morrice	1st	4	10	1		3		134	\$2 00	1	76	84	\$
Epsaby	L. H. Roberts	2nd					1	1	68	50				
Fair View	J. T. Edwards, O. S. Thomasson, S. P. Spear	3rd	5	1	1		6	1	71	2 00				
Hopewell	W. D. Farmer, G. W. Colier, J. A. Thomas	3rd	3	2	1		3	2	142	1 35				
Friendship	S. H. Weatherly, Henry Shearer, R. Boon	2nd	7	3	1	1		4	91	2 50				
New Light	P. H. Smart	3rd						2	64	1 00				
New Hope	Henry Holcomb	3rd	2	1			2	1	6	108	1 50			
Providence	W. T. Williams, T. Hamilton	4th	1	1			7	2	127	1 50				
Pleasant Grove	George Russell	1st	24	2			2	2	123	50				
Salem	J. A. Smith, J. W. Garrett	1st	2	2			1	3	4	87	1 25			
Rector	C. P. Bryant, H. W. Cagle, G. Lively	2nd					1		25	1 00	1			
Union Grove	G. H. Faulkner, J. J. Bane	3rd	3						55	1 09				
Marmaduke	J. A. Mahon, A. J. Early	4th	5	3			6	1	33	1 50				
Mt. Tabor	H. A. Seal	4th					1	3	50	1 00				
Brown's Chapel	J. F. Sain, E. A. Burton, J. M. White	2nd	5	2					43	1 00	1	33	62	6 40
Gainesville	T. L. B. Thorn, J. W. Hardy	1st	2		4		4	2	36	1 50	1			
Post Oak	J. F. Bradshaw	4th					2	1	19	75				
Blooming Grove	G. R. Beckley, G. A. Gatewood	2nd	1						82	1 50				
Main Shore	J. C. Murphy, George Jones, J. H. Meddock	1st	14			2		1	53	1 50				
Center Hill	J. M. Guin, J. B. Brewster, J. W. Craven, Jr	4th	24	1				2	76	1 50				
Piggott	By Letter	2nd		4			2	1	39	1 05	1	40	75	
Knobel	By Letter	4th	4	3				1	41	1 25				
Wanderer's Home	No Intelligence	4th							35					
Blue Cane	J. T. Maherg, Z. O. Mitchel, G. W. McCain	4th	7	3	1	3	3	1	54	1 50				
Palestine	W. S. Crittenden, N. B. Beard	2nd	1	2			2	1	18	50				
S. Francis	By Letter	4th	1	3	2			1	11	1 50				
Unity	H. H. Cole, F. M. Haygood, A. G. Cagle	3rd	1	5			1	3	73	1 50				
Oak Grove	G. W. Kirby, J. W. Kirby, Charlie Ohair	3rd	2				2		10	1 25				
Bark Camp Island	A. W. Rowland, T. J. Nettle, Eugene Nettle	4th	9				2	6	22	85				
Jerico	J. E. Connelly, Charles Richey	6	2					1	10	28				