

# MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

## Baptist General Association,

WESTERN ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY,

Held with

# The Baptist Church,

at

SALEM CITY, ARK., OCTOBER 23, 24 and 25, 1880.

### OFFICERS:

Rev. E. L. COMBER,  
Dr. J. A. KEITH,  
Edw. A. FRANK BOSS,  
MARTIN V. JARVIS

Moderator.  
Corresponding Secretary.  
Recording Secretary.  
Treasurer.

SALEM CITY

STURGEON COLLEGE ADVOCATE PRINT:  
1881.

Ernest E. McNamee, Printer

# Minutes.

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SALEM CITY, ARK., October 23, 1880.

The Baptist General Association of Western Arkansas and the Indian Territory met with the Fellowship Baptist Church at Salem City, Ark., at 11 o'clock a. m., and was called to order by the Moderator, Eld. E. L. Compere. The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. M. K. Pitts.

A committee on credentials was appointed, consisting of Brothers J. F. Fuller, A. J. Rippy and J. J. Holland.

Adjourned until 2 p. m.

Association re-assembled; prayer by Bro. Wm. Bridgeman.

The committee on credentials read the following report: Concord Association: A. J. Rippy, S. L. Patterson, J. N. Pennington, J. A. Keith, Wm. H. Davis; and the following churches: Cedar Grove: B. C. Owen; Shiloh, A. P. Parks; Pleasant Hill, Wm. M. Holland; Mt. Zion, M. K. Pitts; Palestine, W. J. Vineyard; Amity, J. M. Ledbetter; Sharon, J. D. Aultman; Prairie Grove, M. V. James; Fellowship, E. L. Compere; Macedonia, J. J. Holland; Hopewell, S. J. Fuller; Charleston, Wm. Bridgeman.

The following seated on the money basis; J. W. Cross, J. M. Dickerson, B. H. Florence, J. Davis, J. J. Hartfield, E. Baker, J. J. Mooneyham, D. C. Mouser, G. H. Council, N. P. Fuller, H. H. Gorham, R. H. Cook, D. Y. Sweeny, A. Frank Ross, W. A. Mitchell, W. D. Looper, J. F. Fuller, J. Condre, W. Tiller, A. Lovelace, J. A. Bennett, H. H. Mouser, G. H. Pettus, J. Edmonson, M. L. Martindale, R. P. McAlister, J. M. Baker, G. T. Terrell, R. P. Claborne, J. Williams and Brother Blackarl.

J. F. FULLER, Chairman.

Upon motion this body unanimously expressed a willingness to recognize and associate with the body from which Bro. W. J. Patterson came, after he had expressed a desire to withdraw.

We organized by re-electing Eld. E. L. Compere, Moderator; elected A. Frank Ross, Recording Secretary; Dr. J. A. Keith, Corresponding Secretary, and Eld. M. V. James, Treasurer.

Committee on Preaching consisting of Bro. H. H. Mouser, with the deacons of Fellowship Church.

Committee on Finance: G. H. Council, W. H. Davis and Geo. Pettus.

Called for visiting brethren when Bro. T. H. Compere, from the General Association of Texas, announced himself with a very concise and enthusiastic speech, after which he was cordially received.

Upon motion the following board was appointed on Domestic Missions: E. L. Compere, A. Frank Ross, M. V. James, M. K. Pitts and G. H. Council.

Adjourned until Monday, 8 o'clock a. m.

Association assembled; Prayer by Brother Martin James.

Report of the Committee on Finance read and adopted, as follows:

Sabbath collection for missions, in cash,	-	\$26.20
"    "    "    "    pledges,	-	5.25
For membership,	-	5.30
For minutes,	-	2.30

Total, - - - - - \$39.05

W. H. DAVIS, Chairman

Upon motion the clerk was authorized to have the minutes printed, and to use the money paid in for membership to finish paying for the same.

Notice is given that we will try to change 2d and 9th articles in our Constitution next session.

It was moved and carried that the Association hold its next session with Prairie Grove Church, in the Choctaw Nation, twenty miles south west of Fort Smith, on Saturday before the 1st Sunday in October, 1881.

Report of Board of Trustees for Buckner College, which was ordered spread on our minutes, as follows:

The Board has, through the Executive Committee, conducted the work of building as rapidly as the means would permit; the house is up and covered, and the flooring on basement story partly laid; all the lumber to complete the building, or about it, is on the ground; work has been suspended on building for some time for want of means to go on. The Institution is in debt about fifteen hundred dollars, which debt the trustees will be able to meet if claims due the Institution can be collected. The work of collection is being forwarded as rapidly as possible. Pledges to the amount of eleven hundred dollars have been secured to complete the building during this meeting. Suitable agents have been appointed to work in the interest of Buckner College, to collect and procure means for completing the college building.

J. F. FULLER, Chairman.

## REV. WESLEY SMITH

Has been laboring since Jan. 1st, among the Sac & Fox Indians, west of the Creek Nation.

For the three months ending June 30, he reports to our Mission Board;

Weeks Labor, . . . . .	13.
Churches Supplied, . . . . .	14.
Other Stations, . . . . .	13.
Sermons Delivered, . . . . .	38.
Addresses, . . . . .	39.
Prayer Meetings Attended, . . . . .	10.
Baptism of Indians, . . . . .	5.
Baptized in connection with his labors,	8.
Indians Restored, . . . . .	8.
Sabbath Schools, . . . . .	1.
Pupils, . . . . .	20.
Teachers, . . . . .	2.
Miles Traveled, . . . . .	678.
Ministers Ordained, . . . . .	1.
Deacons Ordained, . . . . .	1.
Meeting Houses Finished, . . . . .	1.
Churches Organized, . . . . .	1.

Thus we see our missionary is actively at work and doing good.

Begin to lay by on the first day of each week, for this mission—and let every brother and sister send something to the General Association in November for Bro. Smith.

E. L. C.

# Next Annual Session,

Nov. 12, 1881.

Dr. H. F. Buckner, and Rev. Wesley Smith, our Missionary to the Wild Indians, have each requested that the next meeting of the General Association be held in November instead of October, as the Creek Council will be in session in October.

The members of the Mission Board, S. S. Board, Ex. Com. of College Board, and several churches—as Mt. Zion, Mt. Lebanon, Liberty Hill, Poteau, Amity, and Macedonia, have sent in their votes, that the next session begin November 12.

No one has sent a negative vote. All seem of one mind for the change.

The churches will therefore appoint delegates to the Gen. Asso. to meet with Prairie Grove church, 16 miles west of Salem City, Nov. 12, 1881. That no violence be done to the Constitution, the Moderator will endeavor to be at Prairie Grove, Oct. 22nd, and with other brethren will call the body together, and adjourn to Nov. 12—when the officers will be elected and all the business transacted.

A. FRANK ROSS,  
Secretary.

E. L. COMPERE,  
Moderator.

The following Colporage and Sunday-school Board was appointed :  
W. H. Davis, R. P. McAlister, A. J. Rippy, W. N. Ayers and J. J. Holland.

Received and adopted the Treasurer's report, as follows :

Received from ex-treasurer, - - - - \$23.00  
M. V. JAMES, Treasurer.

The following report was received and adopted from the Colportage and Sunday-school Board :

It is with regret that we are not enabled to report having done more, although our capital is quite small. We have organized many Sunday-schools, bought and sold a few books and distributed a great many tracts. We have not succeeded in settling with the old Board, which we suppose has both money and books belonging to the Board. We find the destitution great, and our people are becoming hungry for literature, and by good management, with Divine help, we feel that a great future awaits this glorious work.

A. FRANK ROSS, Chairman.

The new Mission Board was requested to make a report, which it did, as follows :

Your Mission Board beg leave to report that as we have heard the Macedonian cry coming from the wild Indians, begging us to send them a preacher to feed their languishing souls with the bread of eternal life ; they being in our own boundary, and a people to whom American Christians are under the greatest obligations, we at once appointed Rev. Wesley Smith (Creek Indian) as our missionary to carry the Gospel and light up their benighted souls. We have \$55\* of his salary (\$200), the balance of which we will have to collect as it becomes due, and we want you, brethren, to realize that this is the most glorious work in which you can engage ; therefore, we hope that no Baptist will be satisfied without contributing his mite to this grand enterprise.

A. FRANK ROSS, Secretary of Board.

On Saturday night we had a most interesting educational mass-meeting, when we heard with great interest eloquent addresses from Elder T. H. Compere, of Texas ; President Earle, of Cane Hill, Ark. ; Prof. Pettigrew, of Charleston, Ark., and Rev. M. V. James, of the Indian Territory.

On Sunday morning and in the afternoon we held entertaining Sunday-school meetings.

Preaching on Sabbath at 11 a. m. by Rev. T. H. Compere, and at night by Bro. A. Frank Ross.

Thus closes one of our most interesting associational meetings where everything passed in harmony.

Adjourned to time and place above named.

E. L. COMPERE,  
Moderator.

A. FRANK ROSS,  
Recording Secretary.

## CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be known as "The Baptist General Association of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory."

ART. 2. This Association shall consist of messengers, one from each Church; five from each Association; and individual Baptists known to be in good standing in their Churches, may become members by contributing any sum of money.

ART. 3. The officers shall be Moderator, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer. The duties severally assigned to the officers of similar organizations shall devolve on those of this body. They shall be elected annually by ballot and hold their offices until a new election.

ART. 4. The objects shall be: *First*—To promote Missionary Operations, and especially Home Missions. *Second*—The dissemination of religious literature. *Third*—To promote the Sabbath-school work. *Fourth*—To establish and maintain a literary institution of high order in our territory shall be our prime object.

ART. 5. To accomplish the object contemplated by the fourth section of the fourth article, a Board of Trustees shall be elected, consisting of fifteen members; one-third to serve one year, one-third to serve two years, and one-third to serve three years. The board shall have power to fill any vacancy that may be occasioned by the resignation, death or expiration of office.

2d Section. Said Board shall be fully empowered to do all that may be necessary for the accomplishment of the above specified objects, and shall make a full report to this body at each session. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

ART. 6. A board of five shall be appointed annually on Denominational Literature and Sabbath-school Work. Its duties shall be to secure a depository of denominational books, and circulate the same, and to foster the Sabbath-school work, and shall report annually to this body.

ART. 7. There shall be a board of five appointed annually on Missions. Its work shall be to supply the destitute, especially in our bounds, with the Gospel. It shall report annually to this body.

ART. 8. The annual meetings of this Association shall commence on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October.

ART. 9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds, when notice has been given at a previous meeting.

ART. 10. The Churches represented in this body shall send a fund for Associational purposes.