

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BIG FORK UNITED BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

BIG FORK CHURCH

Polk County, Arkansas

Commencing, September 16th. A. D. 1893.

A. A. Bates, Moderator.

S. M. Kemp, Clerk.

♦♦♦ MINUTES. ♦♦♦

The Big Fork, United Baptist Association, met with Big Fork, A Church, Sept. 16th. 1893. The *Introductory sermon* was preached by Eld. B. G. Wilcox, text romans 9th *chapt.* 33 *ver.*

After recess the Association was called to order by reading, Singing and prayer, by the Moderator. Called for the letters and appointed, Bro's, A. J. Strickland, and J. K. Wilcox, to read the letters. The letters were read, and delegates names enrolled, and by proper organization the Association proceeded to election of officers, and elected Eld A. A. Bates, as *Moderator*, and S. M. Kemp, *Clerk* and *Treasurer*, the moderator appointed Committies to wit: 1st. On preaching, 2d. On obituary, 3d. Finance, 4th. arrangement, 5th. prayer meeting, 6th. Sabbath Schools and singing.

Called for petitionary lettets and received 2 Churches to wit:— Christian—Home, and Caineey, on their Delegates subscribing to our articles of faith, their delegates were seated. Called for *Corresponding Messengers* and received 2 from Caddo—River Association, to wit:— Eld's. J. J. Hughes, A. Nelson, who was recognized and seated. By motion adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

MONDAY MORNING 9 O'CLOCK.

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by the Moderator. By motion limited the time of debating to 10 minutes. The rules of Decorum was read by the Clerk. Read and adopted the minutes of satudays proceedings.

By motion heard the report of committies. First on preaching, See appendix A.

2d. on obituary appendix B 3d. on prayer meetings appendix C. 4th. on Sabbath schools and singing, and the teaching of the same appendix D. On Finance appendix E. On Pastors to churches, and Churches to Pastors, appendix F. On arraigngements appendix G. The several reports were read, received and adopted. and the Committies discearged

By motion agreed to Correspond with CADDO-RIVER and Buck-ville Associations, Delegates to the same A. A. Bates, J. K. Wilcox, & David Bates.

By motion agreed to have 200 coppies of the minutes printed, and the Clerk *DISTRIBUTE ACCORDING TO THE MONEY SENT UP BY EACH Church*, and retain the balance for his services, if any be left.

By motion agreed to have the old transcript *Recorded* in the new book.

By motion, agreed to HOLD OUR NEXT ASSOCIATION with Liberty church, Polk co., commencing on SATURDAY before the 3d. Sabbath in Sept., 1894, AND Eld. J. E Long, to preach the Introductory sermon, AND Eld. DAVID BATES, Alternate.

RESOLVED that we TENDER our thanks to the Brethren and vicinity of Big Fork church.

By motion adjourned till Tuesday morning 9 o'clock.
 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, met pursuant to adjournment, singing
 and prayer by Eld. B. G. Wilcox. Read and adopted the report
 of preaching *Committee*. Read, received, and adopted the Min-
 utes of the *Association* as prepared by the *Clerk*.

By motion, adjourned to meet with Liberty Church.

A. A. *BATES* Moderator.
 S. M. Kemp, Clerk.

While singing the parting hand was taken.

APPENDIX.

A. Preaching. Bro. A. Nelson, from Caddo—River Associa-
 tion, to preach at church Saturday night, and bro. J. E. Long, at
 Father W. Lawrences, Saturday night, and Bro. J. J. Hughes,
 to preach Sunday at 11 o'clock, text Mathew, 7 ch. 21 *verse*. bro.
 DAVID BATES, to preach his ordination sermon Sunday at 3
 o'clock. Bro. A. Nelson, to preach at the church Sunday night,
 and Bro DAVID BATES, to *conclude*.

Bro. J. E. Long, Monday at 11 o'clock, and Bro J. J. Hughes,
 to *conclude*. Bro. A. A. Bates, to preach Monday night at the
 Church, and David Bates, to *Conclude*.

B. Obituary. Brethren, we find from reading the letters from
 the different churches to this body, that it pleased God, to call
 from us our beloved Tister, Surena. Dilbeck, the wife of Eld.
 John. Dilbeck, and sister Mary-ann. Suit, who was worthy mem-
 bers of *Big Fork* church, and sister—the wife of Bro. J. C. Pul-
 lin, who was a worthy member of *Brushy-Creek Church*,
 and Bro. J. C. Derr who was a worthy member of Sulphur
 Springs church.

brethren, this reminds us that it is *Appointed* unto man once to
 die, and after this the Judgement, brethren, pray for the bereaved
 relations and friends, that God, will bless, and save them.

J. E. Long, Chairman.

C. Prayer Meeting. Our report, brethren, we feel the
 great need of a prayer meeting, and we urge each church to erect
 an altar of prayer, and we refer to acts, 3d. chapter, 1st. to 12th.
ver. and acts 12th ch. 4th. to 7th. *ver.*

Respectfully Submitted.

B. G. Wilcox,	}	Committee.
Z. S. Wilcox,		
A. J. Strickland.		

D. Sabbath-school. We feel the great need of training up our children in the way they should go, we would advise good Sabbath-Schools, and some standard music book, and the teaching of the same.
S. M. Kemp. *Chairman.*

E. Finance. We find from the letters sent up the amount of \$10.50c.

Respectfully Submitted. A. T. Hill, *Chairman.*

F. Churches to Pastors. 1st. Resolve that the scriptures making it the duty of the Church to administer to the *Needcsities* of their Pastors, and that it is the duty of the Deacons, to watch over the poor Saints, in their Jurisdiction, not for speculation of the Gospel, but for the prosperity of the cause of Christ.

2d. *Duty of Pastors to Churches:* Attend regularly, all the churches under their care, Preach the word. Be instant in season, and out of season, contend *earnestly* for the faith once delivered to the Saints. Visit the membership and the sick, attend to all the ordinances independent of a Gain-saying world, encourage prayer-meetings and all good works.

J. K. Wilcox, *Chairman.*

G. Arrangement. The time and place for holding the next Association, will be with Liberty Church, Polk Co., Ark. Commencing on Saturday before the 3d. Lord's day, in Sept. 1894. and Bro. J. E. Long, to preach the *Introductory* sermon, and Bro. David. Bates, *Alternate.*

We invite other Associations to Correspond with us.

J. K. Wilcox, *Chairman*

CONSTITUTION

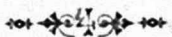
OF THE

BIG FORK ASSOCIATION OF UNITED BAPTIST

Article 1. This union of churches shall be known, and distinguished, by the name and title, of the Big Fork, United Baptist Association.

Art. 2. This Association shall be composed of Delegates from Churches in union. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by their church, before taking their seats.

Art. 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberate body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual Association. and continue in office until their successor is chosen.



Art. 4. This Association, shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which it is composed, it shall regard them as independent bodies in all matters of internal government, and shall only act as an *advising* council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the churches, or evidently implies by the very nature of compact. It nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, and delegates from the churches, and in justice and propriety, *must* have power to withdraw from, and disown, all churches which depart from the principles of the compact by becoming *heterodox* in faith, or disorderly in practice. It should *therefore* regard all churches united under this Constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Its business shall be to declare, and promote the declarative glory of God, by extending the *Kingdom of Grace on earth*, through the medium of preaching the *Gospel*, to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, especially, with those united under this constitution.

Art. 5. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other Associations of same faith, and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up three delegates to the annual meeting of this Association, with a petition for admission, and by their Delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles herewith published.

Art. 6. The Churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association, a written communication, specifying THE NAMES OF THEIR DELEGATES. THEIR number in full FELLOWSHIP, number Baptized, Received, Excommunicated, Restored or Dismissed, since last session, and all other information which the church may deem important; *which will be read and minuted accordingly.*

Art. 7. THE Association, shall have a fund supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches and payed over through the Committee on finance to THE TREASURER, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of THE ASSOCIATION, & manage the funds agreeably. He shall return to THE order of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the *minutes*, a clear and sufficient statement of all the receipts and expenditures.

Art. 8, This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed, nor of any difficulty between Churches, unless they have pursued the dictations of the 18th. chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then, this Association shall take such matters under consideration and act upon them at its discretion.

Art. 9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk, of the Association to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of this body, and deliver over the same, to his successor in office.

Art. 10. This *Constitution* may be altered, or amended, at regular meetings of this Association, by the concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present, provided such alterations or amendments be approved by the churches of the Association.

Art. 11. There are to be no Sunday collections taken up in this Association, nor men appointed to preach what are known as *missionary sermons*, but to choose their own subject.

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RULES OF DECORUM

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1. The Association shall be opened, and closed by prayer.
1. The Moderator and Clerk, shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
3. The Moderator shall be considered a Judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time.
4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association the same day but not thereafter.
5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to their feet, address the Moderator, obtain permission, and then proceed to speak.
6. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or is guilty of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

8. Every case taken up by the association, shall be decided or withdrawn, before another is approved.

9. When any question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator, may take the voice of the association on all subjects, in any way he may think best.

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

11. No member shall speak more than twice, on the same subject, without permission of the association, nor more than once until every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject, until the debate is carried through.

12. The appellation "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members to their address to each-other.

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

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice, which tends to interrupt public speech.

15. The Moderator, shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech, as any other member, provided, he appoint another to fill his seat during that time, but shall not be entitled vote, unless the Association be evenly divided, when he may cast the deciding vote.

16. Any member violating these rules may be reprov'd by the Moderator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall be committed.



ARTICLES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.

Article. 1. *We believe* in only one true, and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the God-Head— the Father, Son and Holy-Ghost, and that these three are one.

Art. 2. *We believe*, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

Art. 3 *We believe* in the fall of Adam, and that the depravity of his fallen nature was entailed upon his posterity, and in the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free-will or ability.

Art. 4 *We believe* in Election through sanctification of the spirit, and belief of the truth.

Art. 5 *We believe* in the final *Preservation* of the Saints, and that they will never finally fall away and be lost.

Art. 6 *We believe* that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the *Righteousness of Christ*, imputed unto them, and that it pleased God, by the *foolishness of preaching* to save them that *Believe*.

Art. 7 *We believe* that good works are fruits of faith, and follows after justification, and are evidence of our own gracious state.

Art. 8 *We believe* the visible church of Christ, is a congregation of faithful persons, baptized— who have gained christian fellowship with each other, and give unto the Lord, and one another and have agreed to keep up a Godly, disciplin agreeable to the aules of the Gospel.

Art. 9 *We believe* there will be a Resurrection of the dead, and a general Judgement, and that the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked will be never ending.

Art. 10. *We believe* that Jesus—Christ, is the great head of the Church, and the only law-giver, and the disciplin is with the holy, and should be faithfully kept up for the glory of God, and the prosperity of his people.

Art. 11 *We believe* that baptism by immersion, is the apostolic mode, and true believers are the only fit objects thereof.

Art. 12 *We believe* that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the church, and should be continued til Christ's, second-coming.



❖ ❖ STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1893. ❖ ❖

CHURCH.	❖ COUNTY. ❖	P O.	DELEGATES + NAMES.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Contribution.	Days of meeting.	Ordained.	Licentiate.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.
Antioch																
Big Fork	Polk	Egger.	John. Loftis, J. D. Holmes, B. Garmon.						2	482	204	1			A. A. Bates.	H. A. Standridge
Board Camp	"	Board Camp	S. M. Kemp, Z. A. Hilton, A. J. Strickland	191	2	1			561	401					" "	S. M. Kemp
Brushy Creek	Montgomery	Oden	David. Bates, D. Singleton, A. T. Hill.		1				1	221	151	1			" "	A. T. Hill
Christial hill	Polk															
Calney	Montgomery	Waters	A. A. Bates, J. J. Cotton						7	652		1			" "	J. J. Cotton
Christian Home	Polk	Quito	J. D. Risenhoover, B. W. Posey	3					9	604					B. G. Wilcox	G. M. Risenhoover
Liberty	"	Egger.	J. K. Wilcox, B. G. Wilcox, Z. S. Wilcox	4	3	1			301	252					A. A. Bates	J. K. Wilcox
Macedonia	Ind & Ter.															
Sulphur springs	Montgomery	Big Fork	James. Standridge & Bro. Mays.					1	1	251	103					
Union Grove	Scott	Boles	J. E. Long				4		121	15		1			J. E. Long	E. L. E. Beaucham
Totals				264	4	5	1	4		1050						