

PROCEEDINGS



Ninth Annual Session

Wolf Bayou Association

— OF —

General Baptists

Held with Antioch Church, Cleburn Co.,
Ark., September 3 and 4,

1909

ELD J. W. FOUST,
A. E. STONE, Clerk,

Moderator.
Shiloh, Arkansas.

GENERAL BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
OWENSVILLE, INDIANA.

MINUTES

Of the Ninth Annual Session of Wolf Bayou Association of General Baptists, Held With Antioch Church, Cleburn County, Arkansas, September 3 and 4, 1909.

The association was called to order by the moderator, Elder J. W. Foust. Singing by congregation and prayer by Bro. ———. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. W. Foust, followed by Elder W. E. Arnold from 1st Cor. 15:19.

The association adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Called to order by the moderator. Singing by congregation and prayer by Brother Cobb. Then the association was organized by electing Eld. J. W. Foust Moderator and A. E. Stone Clerk.

The first item of business was the appointing of committees by the moderator.

Committee on Divine Services.—J. W. Stone, F. Foust and R. C. Ramer.

Committee on Credentials.—J. R. Nelson, J. C. Matheny and M. M. Mason.

Then called for letters from the several churches composing the Wolf Bayou association. Evening Shade, Liberty, Antioch, Hickman Chapel and Walnut Grove churches gave in letters which were read and received and the delegates seated, after which the call for new churches was made. Mill Springs church presented a letter which was received and the delegates seated and given the right hand of fellowship.

The following committees were appointed:

On Sunday-school—W. E. Arnold, E. E. Osborn, J. B. Cobb.

On Prayer Meeting—Mart House, J. B. Scroggens, J. M. Thatcher.

Correspondence—H. Martin, R. C. Clements, Jacob Hager.

Requests, Queries and Resolutions—West Martin, J. C. Matheny, W. E. Arnold.

On Finance—Albert Southerland, J. L. White, Bro. Bufford.

By motion and second the Friday evening session adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. Closed with singing by congregation and prayer.

Preaching at night by Elder Mart House, followed by Elder Matheny.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The association was called to order by the moderator. Singing by congregation and prayer by Bro. Thatcher.

Committee on Sunday-school made the following report:

We fully endorse a good Sunday-school, and we believe that each church should keep up a Sunday-school all the time.

Report received and adopted and the committee discharged.

Committee on Resolutions made the following report:

First, that we as General Baptists endorse all orthodox baptism and no other.

Report adopted.

On Queries—First, "Is man under any of the Adamic sin or not?"

By motion and second the query was tabled.

2. Does this association endorse Sunday-school literature or not?

By motion and second it was decided in favor of literature.

3. What is considered orthodox baptism by this association?

It was resolved that orthodox baptism is one who is baptized by immersion after he has been regenerated and born of the Spirit of God.

4. Resolved, That this association require the deacons of the several churches to look after the interests of the ministers of the gospel more in the future than they have in the past.

Resolved, That the delegates composing this association tender their heart-felt thanks to the brethren and sisters and community at large for the kindness shown them during their stay among them; and also to the Missionary Baptists for their house and kindness to us.

All the above resolutions and queries were received and adopted and the committee discharged.

Committee on Prayer-meeting made the following report:

We believe that all churches should keep up a good prayer-meeting at all times, as a means of leading souls to God and building up the church of Christ.

Report received and adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion and second, adjourned for 11 o'clock services. Stand was filled by Elder J. R. Nelson, followed by Elder Arnold. Text, James 2:9.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The afternoon session was called by singing by congregation and prayer by Bro. Mart House.

In the absence of the moderator, Brother Nelson was chosen to fill the chair as moderator.

Committee on Correspondence report that they think it the duty of this association to correspond with all other sister associations.

Report received and adopted and the committee discharged.

Committee on Credentials reported that they find all credentials all O. K.

Report received and adopted and the committee discharged.

Committee on Finance reported that they find donated as Minute fund \$6.92.

Report received and committee discharged.

Next item was selecting a place to hold the next association, and the following places were put in nomina-

tion: Mill Springs, Walnut Grove and Hickman Chapel. It was voted to go to Hickman Chapel; to meet on Friday before the first Lord's day in September, 1910, at 8 o'clock a. m.

Elder J. W. Foust was elected to preach the introductory sermon at our next coming together and Bro. Arnold alternate.

Adjourned for night services. Closed by singing, and prayer by Bro. Jacob Hager.

Night Services.—Preaching by Eld. J. B. Cobb, followed by J. F. Gaff. Text, Matt. 28:20.

After preaching, the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet was attended to.

Then the Presbytery ordained Bro. Mart House.

The parting hand was then given until our next coming together. So ended one of the best and happiest of meetings.

ELD. J. W. FOUST, Moderator.

A. C. STONE, Clerk.

CLERKS AND ADDRESSES.

Evening Shade—A. C. Stone, Shiloh, Ark.

Mill Springs—J. H. Thatcher, Jamestown, Ark.

Hickman Chapel—E. E. Osman, Bradford, Ark.

Walnut Grove—Elizabeth Cobb, Newport, Ark.

Antioch—Albert Southerland, Ida, Ark.

Liberty—J. B. Scroggens, Denmark, Ark.

DELEGATES.

Evening Shade—J. W. Stone, R. C. Ramer, Isaac Hooton.

Hickman Chapel—Brother and Sister Clements, Bro. and Sister Osman.

Antioch—Mark Reed, E. F. Foust, J. W. Martin, Henderson Martin, A. H. Southerland.

Liberty—J. B. Scroggens, Jacob Hager.

Mill Springs—J. A. Thatcher, N. M. Mason, Ira Buford.

Walnut Grove—J. B. Cobb.

New Hope—Not represented.

STATISTICS

CHURCHES	PASTORS	Prayer Meeting.	Sunday School	Minister Fund ...	Ministers.	Total Membership	Members Rec'd	Meeting D-v
Evening Shade	T J Rittle	1	1	1	1	44	2	1
Mill Springs ..	John Isbell	1	1	1	1	14	1	1
Hickman Chap	Mart Hodge	1	1	1	1	22	1	1
Walnut Grove	W R Arnold	1	1	1	1	57	1	1
Antioch	W R Arnold	1	1	1	1	18	1	1
Liberty	John Isbell	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
By J F Goff	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	4	4	4	4	162	24	24

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, licentiates and clerks included.

2. The officer 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 three 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe 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 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

2. That there is but one living and true God, and in the Godhead, or divine essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—Deut. 4:39; 1 Cor. 8:4; 1 John 5:20.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures, and can not extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.—Rom. 6:12-20; Rom. 3:10-12.

4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the life, death, resurrection, ascension and Intercession of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—Acts 4:12; Heb. 10:10.

5. We believe that he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.—Matt. 22.

6. That the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.—Matt. 25:46.

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. 3:15; Rom. 6:4; Acts 8:38; Col. 2:12. The Supper, Matt. 26:27; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:23-24; washing of feet, John 3:4-17; 1 Tim. 5:10; 1 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.—Ex. 20:8; Acts 20:7; 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; 1 Cor. 15:16-17; John 5:29; Matt. 25:32-41; Acts 17:31.

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.—Rom. 12:10.

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; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:15; 1 John 2:2; John 3:36.

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.

13. We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him, therefore should be one at His table.—1 Cor. 12:13; St. John 17:11, 21, 22; Matt. 26:, 27, 28.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

The.....church of General Baptists unto Wolf Bayou association. We are all in peace. We have elected the following brethren to sit with you in council when convened withof General Baptists at on the day before the..... Sunday in September, 190.... brothers A and C. We pray you receive them. We have had the labors of Eld..... the past year, and have chosen Eld..... for the ensuing year, and..... church clerk. Our statistics are as follows: Received by letter; by experience and baptism.....; by recommendation; dismissed by letter.....; excluded; died.....; ordained ministers.....; licentiates.....; our postoffice is day of meeting is on Saturday before the Sunday in each month. Done by order of the church at its.....meeting. Total number of members in good standing.....; our contribution is \$.....

Eld., Moderator, Clerk.

FORM OF DISMISSION LETTER.

We, the General Baptist Church of Christ, atnow in session, do certify that our beloved A or B, is a member with us and in full fellowship up to date of their dismission, and as such is dismissed from us when joined to another church. This done by order of the church, when in session this.....in 190....

.....Moderator, Clerk.

Form of Petitionary Church Letter.

The —— church of General Baptists was brought into church capacity by Elds. A B and C D, on the following class of members: By letter —; recommendation —; experience and baptism —; total —. Received since organization. By letter —; by recommendation —; experience and baptism—. Dismissed by letter—; none excluded—; total membership—. We are all in peace, and have chosen following brethren, D E and F H to bear this petitionary letter and sit with you in council. We pray you receive them. We have ordained ministers ; licentiates. Our day of meeting is Saturday before the Lord's day in each month. We have chosen Eld. G H for our pastor the ensuing year, and Bro. E C for church clerk. Our postoffice is . Total number members in good standing—; Contribution money— This done by order of the church at its — meeting.

E I, Church Clerk.

Eld E D Moderator.

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