

MINUTES
OF THE
RUSSELLVILLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
HELD WITH
HOPEWELL BAPTIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2-3, 1915

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OFFICERS

W. W. ROBBINS, Moderator, Pottsville, Ark.

S. B. BARNETT, Clerk and Treasurer, Atkins, Ark.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. F. HALL, Russellville, Ark.

M. E. BURGESS, Lamar, Ark.

J. C. FORREST, Dover, Ark.

Next session will be held with the London Baptist Church, Pope county, beginning on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1916, at ten o'clock a. m.

Introductory Sermon to be preached by R. L. Loyd; Alternate, J. C. Hendrick.

ATKINS, ARK.
ATKINS CHRONICLE PRINT.
MDCCCCXV

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MINUTES

Hopewell Church, Atkins, Ark., October 2, 1915.

Pursuant to adjournment at last meeting, the Russellville Baptist Association convened at 10:00 o'clock a. m. in its thirty-fifth annual session. The moderator being absent, the association was called to order by S. B. Barnett. Prayer by J. A. Myers.

W. W. Robbins was elected temporary moderator and, the clerk being absent, S. B. Barnett was elected temporary clerk. W. F. Hall and Ardis Tyson were appointed reading clerks.

Letters were presented and read from the following churches: East Point, Dover, Hopewell, Clarksville, Pottsville, Big Piney, London, Knoxville, Oakland, Union Grove, Atkins, Cross Roads, Lamar, Providence, Trinity, Pittsburg. 16

On motion the temporary organization was made permanent.

R. L. Loyd, who was appointed last year to preach the introductory sermon, being absent, S. B. Barnett was asked to preach, which he did, using as a text Matt. 16:19.

The moderator announced the appointment of the following committees:

Devotion—S. B. Barnett, Ardis Tyson, O. H. Reid.

State Missions—J. S. Rogers, W. F. Hall, H. Gerwein.

Foreign Missions—W. E. Atkinson, R. O. Morton, Z. M. Jetton, J. C. Forrest.

Christian Education—M. E. Burgess, J. S. Rogers, J. H. Whorton.

Home Missions—E. B. Greener, O. H. Reid, J. H. Moore.

Adjourned till 1:30 p. m.

The association met at 1:30 p. m., pursuant to adjournment. Devotional services were conducted by E. B. Greener.

Letters were presented and read from Caglesville and Fairview churches. 22

Called for corresponding messengers, when J. A. Myers and J. J. Holland of United Association were seated.

A petitionary letter was presented from Laurel church, and on motion the church was received, and the moderator extended to the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

The following corresponding messengers were appointed: To United Association—S. B. Barnett, F. M. Taylor; to Dardanelle Association—O. H. Reid, W. F. Hall.

The following visitors were recognized: J. S. Rogers, general secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and A. A. Neal of Center Point Association.

The following committees were announced:

Associational Missions—W. E. Atkinson, J. D. Williams, M. F. Riddle, M. E. Burgess.

Publications—Ardis Tyson, O. J. Alexander, Jeff Woodard.

Ministerial Education—J. S. Rogers, W. F. Hall, J. H. Whorton, G. W. Jones, C. L. Boyd.

Orphans' Home—W. F. Hall, E. F. Brazell, G. R. Martin, Chas. B. Zachary.

Temperance—O. H. Reid, A. Beeson, R. L. Hartley, G. J. Anthony, John Zachary.

Obituaries—J. J. Alewine, G. L. Ellison, Roy Jones, W. M. Weeks, Luther Richard.

Finance—R. C. Horton, Frank Vaughn, Guy Love.

Sunday Schools—R. C. Horton, J. C. Forrest, W. W. Tanner, L. D. Williams, Lena Forrest.

Foreign Missions

The committee on Foreign Missions made their report, which was discussed by W. E. Atkinson, A. A. Neal and J. S. Rogers, and was adopted. It is as follows:

Our foreign mission work is the effort on our part to carry out the last command of our Lord and Master to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. The challenge of the hour to all our churches is the present call of our foreign mission work. The conditions of the world today are giving tremendous emphasis to the fact that all men need a simple New Testament religion. The non-Christian nations are awakening in a wonderful way and enquiring for the path of peace and the way of life. The doors are wide open. The people are more accessible than ever before. The harvest fields are ripe and we should now thrust in the sickle and reap on a scale that will far transcend anything in the past.

The Foreign Mission Board, located at Richmond, Virginia, composed of eighteen local members and eighteen state members representing each state in co-operation with the Southern Baptist Convention, is conducting work in Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, China, Japan and Africa. In these fields the missionaries reported last year 382 churches with 819 out-stations, 33,584 church members, 442 Sunday Schools with 23,959 scholars and 8,833 students in mission schools, 384 of whom are in theological seminaries and training schools preparing to preach the gospel to their own people. There are 300 missionaries on the fields, 20 of whom were sent out during the past year, and a total of 651 native workers. Notwithstanding difficult conditions on many of the fields caused by the European war and the injury to the work in Mexico from chaotic political conditions in that country, 5,190 baptisms were reported during the year.

The distressing financial conditions throughout the South created by the war in Europe caused a falling off in contributions to foreign missions last year. Many of the churches made heroic and sacrificial efforts but some of them were not able to keep up their usual contributions. This will make it more difficult for us to maintain the work this year unless God's people meet the situation in a still more heroic spirit. The Convention in Houston asked for an apportionment of \$624,000 for foreign missions this year. Every dollar of it will be needed to carry on the work successfully. Our supreme task now should be the raising of the apportionment as a minimum in every association and every state. We should not for a moment think of anything less and we must do more than this if possible.

We therefore recommend:

1. That we as an association undertake to raise for foreign missions our full proportion of the above sum; that this amount be divided among the churches on an equitable basis; that we earnestly urge the churches to contribute the amount asked of them; that each church inaugurate a plan of systematic weekly or monthly giving and remitting for this cause so that the work may be taken care of and debt and interest payments may be avoided.

2. That each pastor in the association appoint a committee in each church of which he is pastor to canvass the membership with a view to securing a subscription to the Foreign Mission Journal in every Baptist family within our bounds, so that our people may be more fully informed as to our world-wide work.

Respectfully submitted.

W. E. Atkinson,

Z. M. Jetton,

R. O. Morton,

J. C. Forrest,

Committee.

Publications

The committee on Publications made their report, which was briefly discussed and adopted. It is as follows:

First, we recommend the reading of the Bible in a systematic way. For instance, take up one book and finish it; have stated hours to do the reading; sum up each chapter before beginning another. In this way the great truths are brought out and better understood; in this way we see the relations of chapter to chapter and book to book.

We recommend the following literature: The Baptist Advance and The Baptist as Baptist papers, and Southern Baptist Convention literature for Sunday Schools and Baptist Young People's Unions. We also wish to call attention to the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia.

Ardis Tyson,
O. J. Alexander,
Jeff Woodard,
Committee.

Adjourned till 7:00 o'clock.

The Association met at 7:00 o'clock.

W. W. Robbins preached a great sermon on "Fruitfulness," using for a text John 15:8.

London and Union Grove churches were nominated as places to hold the next session of the Association. A number of speeches were made in favor of each place. London was selected.

R. L. Loyd was chosen to preach the introductory sermon at the next meeting of the Association and J. C. Hendrick was chosen as alternate.

By motions the exercises for Sunday were arranged as follows: Sunday School work in the morning, sermon on Missions at 11:00, and Associational Missions at 2:00 p. m.

Adjourned till 9:00 o'clock tomorrow.

SUNDAY SESSIONS

Sunday, October 3, 1915.

The Association met at 9:00 a. m. pursuant to adjournment. Devotional services were conducted by T. D. Frasar

Sunday Schools

The committee on Sunday Schools made their report, which was ably discussed by Mrs. W. T. McCurry, W. E. Atkinson, J. S.

Rogers, W. W. Robbins, Ardis Tyson, and others. The report was amended. As amended it is as follows:

We earnestly urge that all churches having no Sunday School organize at once. We heartily endorse the training of the young minds in the ways of the Lord.

We find that almost all the churches report thriving Sunday Schools. We find that one of the greatest factors in a good School is a well informed corps of teachers. We heartily endorse the weekly meeting of the teachers and the preparing of the lesson that it may interest those who do not attend often and cause them to attend regularly.

We recommend that our preachers, superintendents and teachers in our Sunday Schools be requested to attend the Summer Assembly at Ouachita, and also that we instruct our Executive Committee to hold one or more institutes within the bounds of our Association with trained and competent instructors.

We urge that all Sunday Schools take offerings for foreign missions.

R. C. Horton,
J. C. Forrest,
L. D. Williams,
W. W. Tanner,
Committee.

T. D. Frasure was seated as a corresponding messenger from Dardanelle Association.

Missionary Sermon

The missionary sermon was preached by J. S. Rogers, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention. He announced as his subject, "A New Testament Program for Arkansas Baptists." He discussed it under three headings: Benevolence, including hospitals and orphanages; Education, including denominational schools and colleges; Evangelism, including associational, state, home and foreign missions, though he only discussed state missions.

At the close of the sermon a cash collection was taken for associational missions amounting to \$16.35. H. S. B. Oliver added \$1.00 later, making \$17.35.

Adjourned till 2:30 p. m.

The Association met at 2:30 p. m. Devotional services were conducted by J. C. Hendrick.

Associational Missions

The report of the Executive Committee appointed last year to

have charge of the associational mission work was read by M. E. Burgess, and on motion the report was received. It is as follows:

The Committee, with the co-operation of the State Board, employed two missionaries, Bro. W. W. Robbins and Bro. D. B. Moore—Bro. Robbins at a salary of \$1,000, \$400 to be paid by the State Board and \$600 by the Association; Bro. Moore at a salary of \$600, to be paid by the State Board. These two missionaries have labored faithfully and the Lord has blessed their work. Under their ministry there have been 152 conversions and 214 additions to the Baptist churches throughout the Association. We have paid Bro. Robbins in full and have a balance of \$19 71; \$6 00 of this is in the treasury and \$13 71 in the hands of the former clerk, Bro. Womack.

M. E. Burgess,
W. E. Atkinson,
O. H. Reid,

Executive Committee.

The committee on Associational Missions made their report, which was discussed by W. W. Robbins, W. E. Atkinson, O. H. Reid, C. L. Boyd, J. C. Forrest, F. M. Taylor, E. B. Greener, and J. H. Moore and then adopted. It is as follows:

The work of our Associational Committee this year has resulted in much good

1. The activity shown has stimulated some of our churches to a renewal of effort in the preaching of the gospel, teaching in the Sunday Schools and training our young people for service.

2. Many churches which were hopeless have been led to call pastors and to begin strong evangelistic efforts and to represent in this association.

3. A number of churches have begun to contribute to our different departments of work and are enthusiastic in the work.

This has been done with the small efforts which your Committee was able to make. More could have been done if our people had contributed generally.

We recommend that each church be requested to take a collection at once and urge each member to contribute, as a basis for associational missions for next year; that the moderator appoint a committee of three to act as an Executive Committee for this work; that subscriptions and pledges be taken here; that said Committee employ such missionaries as the funds may justify, and that said Committee co-operate with the State Mission Board.

W. E. Atkinson,
M. E. Burgess,
M. F. Riddle,
J. D. Williams,

Committee.

The Executive Committee provided for in the above report was appointed by the moderator and is composed of the following brethren: M. E. Burgess of Lamar, W. F. Hall of Russellville and J. C. Forrest of Dover.

Pledges for associational missions were then taken as follows:

Cross Roads church	\$ 5 00
J. C. Forrest, Dover	5 00
Hopewell church	10 00
Laurel church	5 00
A. C. Thompson, Russellville	5 00
Scottsville church	10 00
Knoxville church	25 00
Atkins church	25 00
East Point church	5 00
Lamar church	25 00

Total pledges \$120 00

Adjourned till 7:00 o'clock.

The Association met at 7:00. Devotional services were conducted by C. L. Boyd.

Ministerial Education

The committee on Ministerial Education made their report, which was adopted without discussion. It is as follows:

That the education of preachers is a wise course for Baptists is proved by many New Testament facts. Jesus gave large time to the training and teaching of the twelve Apostles. Paul was the best educated man in his day. Our Baptist fathers from the days of Paul till now have believed and practiced the doctrine of ministerial education.

This Association honors and loves our preacher brethren who could not go to school much and who have done and still will do great things in the kingdom; yet we must urge all of our young preachers as far as possible to get the best education they can. We recommend Ouachita College and our Seminaries.

Your committee would urge also that all of our pastors be requested to preach on this subject and that all of our churches make annual offerings for the education of our young preachers and send the money to J. S. Rogers, Little Rock.

J. S. Rogers,
C. L. Boyd,
of the Committee.

Christian Education

In some way the report on Christian Education was misplaced and was not read. However the clerk was by motion instructed to say in the Minutes that this Association considers education to be one of the greatest factors in our denominational life and that it most heartily endorses Ouachita College at Arkadelphia and Central College at Conway and pledges to them its support both in patronage and finance. The benefits of these schools to Arkansas Baptists can never be overestimated.

President J. W. Conger of Central College delivered a great address on Education.

In order to finish the business at this session several reports were read and adopted without discussion. They follow:

Home Missions

The Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Georgia, is the great central agency of the Southern Baptist Convention through which our people address themselves as a unit to the task of saving the South.

We find that our Home Board is doing a great work along evangelistic lines. It reported 38,000 baptisms by its workers last year and is doing a great work among undeveloped churches, building church houses, supporting mountain schools, etc.

We earnestly commend to our churches the support of the great work of home missions.

E. B. Greener,

J. H. Moore,

Committee.

State Missions

The report on state missions was not read. The following facts were furnished by request by Secretary Rogers and are given here for the information of the brethren:

State missions by the churches co-operating in the Baptist State Convention includes revival meetings in destitute places and in weak churches, baptizing, reviving and enlisting laggard churches, colportage, projecting and helping to build church houses, and aiding weak churches in supporting pastors, raising church debts, Sunday School and Baptist Young People's Work, encouraging Woman's Work, and whatever else will send far and wide the pure gospel of Christ and upbuild the Baptist cause in this great State.

In 1914 the churches co-operating through the Convention

served the kingdom as follows: missionaries employed, 47; days labored, 10,123; miles traveled, 65,827; appointments, 74; sermons, 5,490; other addresses, 898; total sermons and addresses, 6,388; services in homes, 1,812; conversions, 1,458; baptisms, 1,270; additions, 804; total additions, 2,074; amount raised for state missions, \$12,262 75.

The amount of money needed to put the Executive Board of the Baptist State Convention out of debt for missions at the State Convention at Conway, November 18, 1915, is approximately \$80,000. Send money to J. S. Rogers, Little Rock, Ark.

Orphans' Home

The crying need and appeal of the many orphans of our state should find a hearty response among the Baptists of Arkansas in both prayerful and financial support. Two hundred and thirty-six children are now being cared for in the two homes, one at Monticello with 196 children and one at Texarkana with 40 children. Both institutions are in need of funds and assurance of ample income. Men and women who have been contributing have not only been caring for the physical need of unfortunate humanity, but their contributions have been converted into real character and Christian manhood and womanhood.

We recommend that our Sunday Schools set aside one Sunday in each month as Orphans' Home Day and that the collections of that day be forwarded to the Orphans' Home.

W. F. Hall,
G. R. Martin,
E. F. Brazell,
Chas. B. Zachary,
Committee.

Finance

Your committee have received the following amounts in cash and have paid the same to the clerk:

For printing Minutes	\$33 20
For state missions	31 25
For associational missions	4 00
For Monticello Orphans' Home	77
For Texarkana Orphans' Home	2 02

Total \$71.24

R. C. Horton,
Frank Vaughan,
Guy Love,
Committee.

Resolutions

Resolved 1. That we tender our sincere thanks to the church and people of Hopewell for the splendid hospitality shown to us while among them.

Resolved 2. That we thank the moderator for his efficient services, and that the thanks of this body be extended to Dr. J. L. Rogers, to Mrs W. T. McCurry and to Dr. J. W. Conger for valuable assistance rendered by them.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet with the London Baptist church at 10:00 o'clock on Saturday morning next before the first Sunday in October, 1916. The congregation sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," the messengers took the parting hand and the thirty-fifth annual session of the Russellville Baptist Association passed into history.

W. W. ROBBINS, Moderator

S. B. BARNETT, Clerk.

Ordained and Licentiate Ministers

ORDAINED

Allmon, Ernest, Pottsville, Ark.
 Barnett, S. B., Atkins
 Bowers, H. L., Gumlog
 Boyd, C. L., Simpson
 Breedlove, G. F. Russellville
 Burns, S. J., Lamar
 Daily, R. S., Russellville
 Greener, E. B., London
 Haigwood, H. H., Clarksville
 Hendrick, J. C., Dover
 Loyd, R. L., Gumlog

~~Moore, D. B., London~~
 Payne, S. H., Scottsville
 Reid, O. H., Russellville
 Robbins, W. W., Pottsville
 Walker, S., Clarksville
 White, F. M., ———
 Womack, B. R., Russellville
 Woodard, T. J., Clarksville

LICENTIATES

Carter, Dave, Silex
 Friar, T. B., Appleton
 Woodard, J. M., Clarksville



OUR DEAD



Barefield, Sister Lillie, Russellville

Butler, Sister Alice, East Point

Blackford, Sister M. E., Trinity

Hargis, Sister Addie, Russellville

Howard, Brother Ben, Atkins

Morton, Brother E. G., Pottsville

Reid, Brother Ira, Trinity

Shinn, Sister Nancy, East Point

Swanson, Brother Henry, Atkins



Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.—Rev. 14:13.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

MINUTES

The third annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union, comprising the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies of the churches in the Russellville Baptist Association, met in the Hopewell School House for worship, in connection with the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Russellville Association, October 2, 1915

The president being absent, Mrs. W. L. Oates was chosen president for the time. Devotional exercises were led by Mrs. W. L. Oates and prayer was offered by Mrs. W. T. McCurry.

Permanent Organization: Mrs. W. L. Oates was elected President and Mrs. M. E. Burgess was elected Secretary.

Reports from the societies were called for. The societies represented were as follows: Atkins, Clarksville, Dover, Pottsville, Russellville, Trinity.

The following program was rendered:

A paper was read by Mrs. W. L. Oates.

Song: "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

The remainder of the afternoon was taken up by Mrs. W. T. McCurry, who delivered an interesting address on Personal Service.

The following officers were elected:

President—Mrs. W. L. Oates, Russellville.

Vice President—Mrs. M. E. Burgess, Lamar.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. S. B. Barnett, Atkins.

Superintendent—Mrs. A. S. Hays, Russellville.

Closing prayer by Mrs. W. T. McCurry.

Adjourned to meet next year with the London Baptist church.

MRS. W. L. OATES, President.

MRS. M. E. BURGESS, Secretary.

STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL TABLE

Churches	STATISTICAL							FINANCIAL								
	Rec. by Bap.	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Died	Total Members	No. in S. S.	Minutes	Education	Min. Educat'n	Orphanages	Assoc. Mis.	State Mis.	Home Mis.	Foreign Mis.
Atkins	2	1		6	7	2	104	75	2 00			35 00	19 00		1 50	1 50
Big Piney	2			3			16		75				1 00			
Caglesville	11	7					47		1 50				5 00	2 52		
Clarksville	2	4		8			70	50	3 00	50 00	10 20	47 00	28 00	80 00	36 00	30 00
Cross Roads	10	4		4	1		33	32	75			1 54	16 30	17 64	1 50	1 50
Dover		2		1	2		30	45	1 50					16 50		
East Point	1			2	1	2	84		1 60			1 25		5 00		
Fairview	3			6			43		1 50							
Hopewell	3	1		1			106	50	1 50				10 00			
Knoxville	4	3		3	1		143	100	2 00			10 20	25 00	66 95	7 00	10 70
Lamar	2	6		1	1		71	65	1 00			6 00	22 50			
Laurel	23	33		2			54		1 65					5 50		
London									1 25							
Oakland	8	2					64	42	1 25				11 01			
Pittsburg		2		3			68	41	1 50				2 00			
Pottsville		5		2	1	1	81	56	1 00			3 77	16 00	72 50	17 00	25 00
Providence	3	4			3		31	50	1 00		4 80			18 96	2 83	2 82
Russellville	2	10		4		2	156	112	3 00	50 00	9 50	24 00	22 00	41 00	25 00	60 00
Scottsville	14	4	5	1			51	80	1 50					6 00		
Trinity	10	1	3			2	89	50	1 45					20 10		
Union Grove	8	2	1	2			46	83	1 50		2 30	2 50		39 13	68	68
Total	108	91	9	49	17	9	1387	931	32 20	100 00	26 80	131 26	177 81	391 80	91 51	132 20

No Statistics were furnished by the London Church.

East Point Church reported a Sunday School, but did not report the number of Scholars enrolled.

Laurel is a new Church, received at this meeting.

H. S. B. Oliver added \$1.00 to Minute Fund, making \$33.20.

MESSENGERS, PASTORS AND CLERKS

Churches	Messengers	Pastors	Clerks	P. O. of Clerks
Atkins	O J Alexander, S B Barnett, A Beeson	S B Barnett	J R Roberts	Atkins, Ark.
Big Piney	W W Tanner, C B Zachary	C L Boyd	Anna Zachary	London
Caglesville	Jeff Biffle, R C Horton	R L Loyd	R C Horton	Caglesville
Clarksville	W E Atkinson		Mrs L A Johnson	Clarksville
Cross Roads	J H Moore	S J Burns	Annie Burgess	London
Dover	J C Forrest, Lou Kirkscey, F M Taylor	J C Hendrick	F M Taylor	Dover
East Point	E B Greener, O H Reid, J H Whorton	O H Reid	J H Whorton	London
Fairview	W F Vaughan	H L Bowers	D R Grant	Gumlog
Hopewell	J J Alewine, G L Ellison, Ardis Tyson	S B Barnett	Ardis Tyson	Atkins
Knoxville	H Gerwein, Lydia Gerwein	W W Robbins	Lydia Gerwein	Knoxville
Lamar	M E Burgess, Mrs M E Burgess	W W Robbins	M E Burgess	Lamar
Laurel	C L Boyd, Sam Burch, R S Ross	J T Payne	R B Hogan	Scottsville
London	G R Martin	W W Robbins	J F Price Jr	London
Oakland	Z M Jetton	S J Burns	O W Blackford	Lamar
Pittsburg	Maggie Brown, J D Williams	S J Burns	Maggie Brown	Lamar
Pottsville	R O Morton, W W Robbins	W W Robbins	R O Morton	Pottsville
Providence	J E Cromer	D B Moore	C X Crofts	Silex
Russellville	W F Hall, J W Reynolds, A C Thompson		A C Thompson	Russellville
Scottsville	J B Curtis, Syndia Johnson, H F Spillers	R L Loyd	H F Spillers	Scottsville
Trinity	E F Brazell, M F Riddle, L D Williams		E F Brazel	Clarksville
Union Grove	Guy Love, W C Swift, W M Weeks	D B Moore	W C Swift	Harmony

Churches Not Represented: Bald Hill, Bayou, Blackville, Corinth, Friendship, Piney German, Spadra.

Constitution

Article 1. This body shall be known as the Russellville Baptist Association.

Art. 2. It shall be composed of Messengers sent from Baptist Churches, known to be in good standing. Each church with fifty members or less, shall be entitled to three Messengers. One hundred members shall entitle a church to four Messengers. And churches with more than one hundred members shall be entitled to one Messenger for every succeeding hundred.

Art. 3. The officers shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, unless otherwise ordered by a two-third vote, at each annual session, and shall continue in office until their successors are chosen.

Art. 4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the body, according to parliamentary usage. The clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings, attend to the printing and publication of the Minutes, keep a regular file of the printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office. The Treasurer shall take charge of the funds of the Association, holding them subject to an order from the body.

Art. 5. The objects of the Association shall be, 1st. To promote fellowship among the churches, secure unanimity of faith, and cultivate the piety of its members. 2d. To labor for Domestic and Foreign Missions; and for the establishment of Sabbath Schools in all the churches. 3d. To encourage the circulation and reading of Baptist Literature. 4. And a special object shall be to encourage and provide assistance for the Education of the rising Ministry, and for this purpose to establish an institution of learning in our midst, as soon as practicable.

Art. 6. This body shall, in no case, interfere with the internal regulations of the churches, but will act as an advisory council, whenever it may be necessary. It claims, however, authority over its own members—the Messengers of the churches, and will withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principle 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 their petitioning 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 applications, at an annual meeting, for the purpose of joining any body which we recognize, or for the purpose of forming a new Association; but any church desiring to withdraw from this Association, is requested to do so by applying for a letter.

Art. 9. A quorum to do business in this Association shall consist of at least two thirds of the Messengers who may assemble at its session.

Art. 10. This Constitution may be altered, or amended, at any regular meeting of this Association, by the concurring voice of two-thirds of the members who are in attendance.

NOTE—The above Constitution was copied from the Minutes of 1902. A few slight typographical errors have been corrected. If any one knows of any amendments that have been adopted, let him mention it at next meeting. In the Minutes of 1902 this Constitution was headed "By-Laws," and the following printed at the bottom: "By-Laws adopted are same as those adopted by Land Mark Association."—Clerk.

Declaration of Faith

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author,

salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

5. We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

7. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with Divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

8. We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

9. We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness; being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and

active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

10. We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially, the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

11. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12. We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

13. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

14. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

15. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

16. We believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

17. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

18. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the Last Day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.