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# MINUTES

OF THE

## BENTONVILLE

## BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, .

### SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION,

HELD WITH MT. VERNON CHURCH,

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

COMMENCING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1869.

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BENTONVILLE:  
TRAVELER PRINTING OFFICE.  
1869.

# MINUTES.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1869.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. C. Renfro, from Job 21st and 15th, "What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?"

After a short recess the Delegates reassembled. Prayer by Elder John Mays.

Appointed Brethren C. S. Fritz and J. W. Sikes reading Clerks. Read the letters present from the different churches and enrolled the Delegates names.

Called for petitionary letters. Received letter from New-Site, which was read and received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to her Delegate.

Letter presented from Concord Church which was received—no Delegates.

Brethren C. S. Fritz and J. L. Vaughn were appointed Tellers, who reported Elder J. Dunagin Moderator, and Elder J. W. Sikes Clerk.

Rules of Order read.

Brethren J. G. Owens, J. L. Vaughn and Albert Rice, with the Delegates of Mt. Vernon Church, were appointed a committee on Divine Service.

Elders R. L. Baker, J. F. Mitchell and John Mays were appointed to act with the Moderator and Clerk as a committee of Arrangements.

Elder John P. Dewitt, correspondent from Spring River Association invited to a seat.

A petitionary letter from Peaceful Traveler Church, in the Cherokee Nation, in reference to the trial and exclusion of Elder T. R. Furgerson, by Vineyard Church, was presented, read and referred to the committee of Arrangements.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at half past eight o'clock. Prayer by Elder R. L. Baker.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8½ O'CLOCK, OCTOBER 2, 1869.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

Petitionary letter from Middle Fork Church, for membership, presented, read and received, and the right hand of fellowship given to her Delegates.

Letter of correspondence, from Spring River Association read and received.

Brother L. S. Saunders, of Peaceful Traveler Church, bearing petitionary letter to this Association, invited to a seat.

Called for the report of the committee of Arrangements. Report received and adopted, and committee discharged.

Rules of Decorum read by the Moderator.

Roll called and absentees marked.

Appointed Brethren J. L. Vaughn, C. Baker and A. Cain committee on Finance.

• Appointed Elders J. C. Renfro, J. M. McCraw and Brother Albert Rice committee on Sabbath Schools.

Appointed Elders R. L. Baker, John Mays and G. Bryant committee on Books and Periodicals.

Appointed J. F. Mitchell, John Mays and Brother H. T. Hartly committee on Education.

A motion to continue correspondence with the Spring River Association—carried, and Elders R. L. Baker, J. C. Renfro, J. M. McCraw, Wm. M. Blakely, Wm. Roland, Charles Sealy, Jasper Dunagin, John Givens, and Brother Alfred Davidson, were appointed Corresponding Messengers.

Visiting Ministers invited to seats with this Association.

A motion to continue correspondence with Dardanell Association, by letter, carried, and Elder John Mays appointed to write and forward the same.

Letter from Huntsville Church presented, read and received, and her Delegates invited to seats.

On motion, query, from Mt. Enterprise Church, "shall we be known as Missionary or United Baptists?" was taken up and it was recommended that the Churches, comprising this Association, designate themselves as, "The Baptist Church."

Adjourned until 12½ o'clock, P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Petitionary letter from White Oak Church presented, read and received, and the right hand of fellowship given to her Delegates.

Brethren J. E. Guthrie, James Greer, Wm. Baker and Elder G. P. Rodgers, were appointed a committee to district this Association.

A motion to make arrangements for preaching on Sabbath, carried—Elders Dunagin, Baker and Sikes, were then appointed to fill the stand tomorrow. Elder Dunagin to preach at 10 o'clock A. M., a sermon on the organization of the Church, and Elder Sikes to follow with a sermon on the Historic Identity of the Church.

A motion to print the minutes of this Association carried, and it was ordered that fifteen hundred copies be printed and distributed among the several Churches hereof, except thirty-five copies which are to be distributed by our Messenger to corresponding Associations.

Committee to whom was referred the matter between Vineyard Church and Elder T. R. Furgerson reported—report received and adopted—whereupon a committee of five, consisting of Brethren J. G. Owens, J. W. Kellum, Elders John Mays, J. M. McCraw and J. W. Sikes, were appointed to investigate the proceedings of the Vineyard church in the matter and report.

Adjourned until Monday morning, 8½ o'clock, A. M.

## S A B B A T H .

The stand was occupied at 10 o'clock A. M., by Elder J. Dunagin—Elder J. W. Sikes followed—each of them complying with the arrangement previously made for this day, after which a public collection was taken up—received \$13 95. The day being so far advanced, Elder R. L. Baker did not preach. The stand was occupied at candle-lighting by Elder Jas. Isaacs. A large and attentive congregation present during services, and much good, we trust, effected.

MONDAY MORNING, 8½ o'clock, OCTOBER 3, 1869.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder G. Bryant.

Called the roll.

Received and adopted the report of the book agent.

Appointed Elder R. L. Baker to act in conjunction with the present agent in the sale of books.

Received and adopted the report on Sabbath Schools—committee discharged.

Received and adopted the Constitution and Rules of Order, drafted by the committee appointed for that purpose—committee discharged.

Received and adopted the report on finance—committee discharged.

A motion that the Sabbath collection be added to the book fund, carried.

Committee to inquire into the proceedings of Vineyard Church, in the trial and exclusion of Elder T. R. Furgerson, reported. Report received and adopted and committee discharged.

Received and adopted the report on deceased Minister—committee discharged.

Received and adopted the report on books and periodicals—committee discharged.

Received and adopted the report on education—committee discharged.

A motion to postpone locating a site, for the Baptist College of this Association, until its next annual meeting, carried.

Received and adopted the report on districting this Association—committee discharged.

A motion to appoint district annual meetings, carried; whereupon a meeting was appointed, to be held with Antioch Church, in the first district, commencing Friday before the first Sabbath in December, 1869,—Elders Bryant, Blakely, Baker and Sikes agreeing to attend; with Twelve Corner Church, in the second district, Friday before the first Sabbath in July, 1870,—Elders Mitchell, Sealy and McCraw agreeing to attend; with Valley Grove Church, in the third district, Friday before the fourth Sabbath in May, 1870,—Elders Renfro, Bryant and Mays agreeing to attend; and with Vineyard Church, in the fifth district, Friday before the second Sabbath in November, 1869,—Elder Blakely, Bryant, Mitchell and McCraw agreeing to attend.

The next Association appointed to be held with the Honey Creek Church, in the northwest corner of Benton county, commencing Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1870,—Elder R. L. Baker to preach the introductory sermon, Elder G. Bryant his alternate.

Elder J. Dunagin, appointed by the Association to preach a special sermon on the subject of Missions, at 11 o'clock on Sabbath at our next annual meeting.—Elder R. L. Baker his alternate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be required to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes of this Association, and that he be allowed \$15 00 for his services—adopted.

Elder James S. Robinson invited to a seat with us.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Mt. Vernon Church and friends in its vicinity, for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this body during its session.

Adjourned to the time and place before named. Prayer by Elder J. C. Renfro.

J. DUNAGIN, Moderator.

J. W. SIKES, Clerk.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

We, the committee of Arrangements, to whom was referred sundry petitionary letters, from Churches and persons, together with a memorial from Vineyard Church, relative to the trial and exclusion of Elder T. R. Furgerson, by Vineyard Church, having had the same under careful and prayerful consideration, ask leave to report: That, while we deeply deplore the sad state of things as they exist, and with all due respect to the petitioners, your committee are of the opin-



ion that the Association, neither has the right nor the power to comply with the request of the petitioners in exhorting Elder T. R. Furgerson from the charges and the calumny referred to by them, and that all the Association could do, in the premises, would be to appoint a committee of investigation to ascertain whether the Church has acted contrary to the laws of Christ or not.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. DUNAGIN, Chairman.

Your Book Agent, would respectfully report that money placed in his hands for the purchase of books, has been expended for books published at the South-west Publishing House, and the same turned over some three or four times, and the books, we believe, have had the desired effect.

Value of books now on hand.....	\$ 4 85
Money .....	10 65
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$15 50</b>

J. F. MITCHELL, Agent.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, recommend to the several Churches comprising this Association, the establishing of Baptist Sunday Schools.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report:

Money for printing the minutes, from the churches comprising this Association.....	\$64 05
Balance in hands of the Treasurer.....	8 56
Public collection on Sabbath.....	13 95
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$86 56</b>

J. L. VAUGHN, Chairman,

Brethren, your committee, appointed to investigate the proceedings of Vineyard Church, in the trial and exclusion of Elder T. R. Furgerson, submit the following: That, after a prayerful and careful examination of the matters and facts submitted to us, we feel confident that it is not the prerogative of the Association, nor in its power to do anything further in the premises. Baptists acknowledge that each church is independent and has the exclusive right to do all business connected therewith. The records appear in regular form.

JOHN MAYS, Chairman.

Brethren, having been informed that the death of Brother Joseph Baker had been previously noticed, we were not otherwise informed until too late for it to appear in the last minutes.

Elder Joseph Baker was born in Clabourne county, Tennessee, January 18th, 1800; professed religion and joined the church, in Harlan county, Kentucky, when about thirty-two years of age; commenced exercising in public immediately; moved to Claybourne county, Tennessee, and was licensed by Cedar Fork Church; moved to Arkansas in the fall of 1837; was ordained about the year 1846 by Daniel Murphy and Joseph Caloway, Mt. Zion Church, Missouri.

Brother Baker was one of the first Baptist Ministers who emigrated to this country, and was consequently one of the first to labor hard and zealously in the building up and establishing of the Baptist cause. Brother Baker rode far and near, and labored with an energetic, unyielding and un-

compromising zeal, and doubtless many of the first Baptist churches established in this country, owe their existence to his untiring labors. He was one that was perhaps more universally beloved, than any Minister we ever knew; the longer his acquaintance, the more numerous and strong his friends.

His death was undoubtedly regretted by all who knew him. He departed this life in November 1866, after an illness of some twelve or fourteen days. He died in the full triumph of a living faith, and has doubtless gone to reap his reward, where the pilgrim ceases from trouble, and the weary are at rest. But we are proud that we sorrow not as those without hope, for we view the time as not far distant when we, together with his entire family, three of whom are now faithful Ministers of Christ, will meet him beyond this vale of tears, where parting will be no more, there to bask, with him, in the smiles and glory of God, forever and ever.

J. F. MITCHELL,

Chairman of Committee on Deceased Ministers.

We, your committee on Books and Periodicals, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to submit the following:

We believe in the dissemination of Gospel light—we would therefore recommend the constant, careful and prayerful reading of the Scriptures, also the books published at the South-west Publishing House; especially Orehards' Church History, the Baptist book of Martyrs, and Theodocia Earnest, in three volumes; also the Baptist, published by Brother Graves. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. L. BAKER, Chairman.

We, your committee on Education, are sorry to say that, notwithstanding we have many flourishing schools in our midst, yet not a single Baptist school or college exists in our bounds; and, owing to the great negligence of us as Baptists in the building of a high school, we are compelled to patronize other denominational schools, if we give our sons and daughters a liberal education, and by so doing suffer their young and tender minds to be brought in immediate contact with what we believe to be serious and dangerous errors. We therefore recommend the Association to take into consideration the great necessity of the speedy erection of a Baptist college in our bounds. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. F. MITCHELL, Chairman,

The first District of this Association shall be composed of Antioch, Springtown, Butler's Creek, Honey Creek, Flint Creek, Mt. Enterprise, Spavanaugh, Round Prairie, Key Lodge and New Site.

Second District. Bentonville, Pleasant Grove, Bloomington, Pond Spring, Twelve-Corner, New Prospect, Spring Creek and Friendship.

Third District. Huntsville, First Brush Creek, Second Brush Creek, White Oak, Valley Grove, St. Paul, Middle Fork, Mt. Zion, Second New Prospect, Mt. Vernon, West Fork and Richland.

Fourth District. Fayetteville, Hopewell, New Hope, Vineyard, Sugar Hill, Ephesus, Concord and Fellowship.

The Association, after this, shall go round to each district in turns.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. E. GUTHRIE,

Chairman of Committee on Districting Association.

Your committee, appointed at your last Association, to draft a Constitution and Rules of Order for your consideration at this session, ask to report the following:

# CONSTITUTION.

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## ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be composed of Delegates who shall be members of the Churches they represent, (except such as may be invited to a seat by consent of the body,) and shall be styled "The Bentonville Baptist Association."

## ARTICLE II.

This Association shall meet annually, on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, at the place previously appointed; and after public worship, reading the letters from the Churches, and acting upon those soliciting membership, a Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen from the Delegates by ballot, both of whom shall hold their offices until others shall be elected.

## ARTICLE III.

It shall be the duty of the Clerk to make an accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Association, in a book provided for that purpose. He shall also act as Treasurer.

## ARTICLE IV.

The Churches shall each send not more than three Delegates, who shall present the letters certifying their appointment and briefly expressing the state of the Churches, their increase and decrease, and their aggregate number. Each Church shall send with their letter, money for printing the Minutes.

## ARTICLE V.

Churches wishing to unite with this Association may apply by letter and Delegates, and giving satisfactory information of their being sound in doctrine and correct in practice, they may be received by a unanimous vote; in token of which, the Moderator shall give to their Delegates the hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association. Churches may be dismissed upon application.

## ARTICLE VI.

We acknowledge the independence of the particular Churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association; nor will the Association decide in any controversy that may arise in any Church: Nevertheless, they deem it their duty to disown any Church belonging to this body, which may have essentially departed from the faith.



## ARTICLE VII.

When a Church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for three years successively, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and shall be dropped from the Minutes of the Association, unless at least two members request their continuance, who shall also engage to inquire into their standing and report at the next meeting of the Association.

## ARTICLE VIII.

This Association shall have the right to open and hold correspondence with other Associations, as may be deemed expedient.

## ARTICLE IX.

It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the several Churches, such measures as may be deemed wise and proper, to promote the interest of the Messiah's Kingdom, and spread the Gospel throughout the world.

# RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every meeting of this body, business shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. Ministers present, invited to seats with us, may debate on all subjects before the Association, but shall not vote on any.

3. Those who speak shall rise from their seat and address the Moderator, and shall cast no personal reflections on any.

4. No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.

5. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the person who made it.

6. Any question susceptible of division, shall be divided at the request of any member.

7. Motions made and lost, shall not be recorded on the Minutes, unless it be so ordered at the time.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

9. All questions brought before the Association for action, shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

10. No member shall absent himself during business without leave of the Moderator, nor leave before the adjournment without leave of the Association; if so, his name shall be left off the Minutes.

11. The Minutes of each session of this body shall be read and approved, before the rising of the Association, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

12. That it shall be the duty of the Association to make arrangements for the preaching of two or more sermons, on each day during her session.

13. These Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the Chair, immediately after the organization of each session hereof.

14. Alterations or amendments may be made to these Rules of Order, at any subsequent regular session of this Association.

J. DUNAGIN, Chairman.



**A TABLE EXHIBITING THE CONDITION OF THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES RESPECTIVELY.**

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Amount paid Pastor.	Meeting day.	Received by Baptism.	Reed. by letter.	Reed. by reln.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Restored.	Died.	Total.	Contribution.
Antioch .....	Brown, Willingham	Bentonville.....	Letter but no Delegates.....		1	1	4	1	6	2			55	\$2 00
Bentonville .....	Dunagin .....	Bentonville.....	Sikes and Duckworth.....		4	1	12		2				38	4 00
Brush Creek First..	Vaughn.....	Little Spring....	Fritz, Caps and Lane.....				3		4				48	1 50
Bloomington .....	Baker .....	Bloomington....	Baker, Owens, and Ford.....		1	11	3						36	1 50
Butler's Creek.....	Givens .....	Maysville .....	Guthrie.....		4	3	1		2				34	1 50
Brush Creek Sec'nd	Renfro .....	Huntsville.....	Duncant and Todd.....	\$35 85	2				3			1	69	1 25
Twelve-corner.....	Baker .....	Pea Ridge.....	Roland, Rice and Carden .....	60 00	1		4	2		1			81	3 00
Concord .....	Burket .....		No Delegates present.....		4	4	6						18	
Fayetteville.....	Mays .....	Fayetteville.....	Mays, Isaacs and Davidson....		4		3	2	9		1		64	2 00
Friendship .....	Bryant.....	Fayetteville ....	Renfro, Hartley and Searcy....		4	15	10	5	3				77	2 00
Fellowship .....		Rhen's Mill.....					2		1				12	2 00
Flint Creek.....	Burket .....	Double Springs	Whitesides, Hogan, Hodge....		1	3	10	1					42	2 00
Hopewell.....	Renfro.....	Fayetteville ....	Licklider .....	48 50		17	1		1	1			52	2 00
Honey Creek.....	Givens .....	Maysville .....	Pearce and Weare.....		1	10	21		5	3		1	87	2 50
Huntsville .....		Huntsville .....	Baker and Phillips.....		2		2		2	2		1	22	1 00
Key Lodge.....	Mitchell .....	Hico .....	Not represented.....											
Mount Vernon.....	Slaughter.....	Fayetteville.....	Boyd, Kain and Vernon.....		3	11	3	2	9	1			116	3 00
Mt. Enterprise.....	McCraw .....	Maysville .....	McCraw .....		3	2	8					1	19	1 00
Mount Zion.....	Jones and Cambell		Campbell .....		1	1	4		1	1	1		35	50
New Hope.....	Jones.....	Billingsley .....	Malicote.....		2	12			5				35	1 50
New Prospect.....	Rodgers .....	Sugar Creek.....	Rodger and Bayless.....		3		4	3	41	2	2		83	2 00
Sec. New Prospect..	Mays .....	Fayetteville ....	No Delegate.....			16	5		9	1			64	1 50
New Site.....	Sealy .....	Bentonville.....	Sealy .....		3	4	1	3	2				15	75
Pleasant Grove.....	Dunagin.....	Bentonville .....	Hamby, Johnson and Baker...		3	3			8				92	2 00
Pond Spring.....	Dunagin.....	Bentonville .....	Dunagin, Ritter and Etris.....	50 00	2	5	2	2	5				82	3 00

Continued from eighth page.

A TABLE EXHIBITING THE CONDITION OF THE DIFFERENT CHURCHES RESPECTIVELY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Amount paid Pastor.	Meeting day.	Received by Baptism.	Recd. by letter	Recd. by rela.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Restored.	Died.	Total.	Contribution.
Round Prairie.....	Mitchell .....	Double Spring..	Kellum .....	\$40 00			2						11	\$ 1 00
Spring Town.....	Mitchell .....	Hickory .....	Mitchell, Reynolds, Vaughn...	47 00	4	35	25	6	8	1			112	2 75
Spavanaugh .....	Sealy .....	Spavanaugh .....	Epperson, Burjin, Edwards...			3	2	4	7	3	1	1	80	2 00
Spring Creek.....	Baker .....	Elm Spring.....	Beard and Severs.....		2	3	2		3			1	60	2 50
Sugar Hill.....	Dobbs .....	Boonsborough..	Adair and Chambers.....		3	10	9	3	7	1			39	1 00
St. Paul.....	Blakely.....	St. Paul.....	Sizemore.....			2	1	1	1			1	29	2 00
Vineyard .....	.....	Evansville .....	Kimbrough and Greer.....		2	2			17	1			20	1 80
Valley Grove.....	Blakely.....	M'Guire's store	Blakely and Webb.....			5	3		6	4			46	3 00
West Fork.....	.....	West Fork.....	Peters, Woolsey and Crawford		1	5	2		5	2			23	2 00
White Oak.....	Blakely.....	Jupiter .....	Ross and Cooper.....			11	4	2	3	2			18	1 00
Ephesus .....	Mays.....	Farmington.....	Hinson, Clayton and Martin...										30	1 50
Middle Fork.....	Mays.....	Fayetteville.....	Robinson, Wilson and Mankin	20 00									30	1 50
Total.....						195	159	37	180	28	4	8	1764	\$64 05