

MINUTES

OF THE

NINTH ANNIVERSARY,

OF THE

BIG FORK

UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

LIBERTY CHURCH,

Polk County, Arkansas.

HELD September, 12th, 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1895.

S. M. KEMI, Moderator. J. K. WELCOX, Clerk.



GEO. W. BATES,
PRINTER,
BIG FORK, ARK.



❧ ORDER OF BUSINESS. ❧

—FIRST DAY.—

- 1st. Introductory sermon,
- 2nd, Called for letters from the churches.
- 3rd. Called for petitionary letters.
- 4th. Election of officers.
- 5th. Invited visiting members to seats.
- 6th. Called for correspondence.
- 7th. Appointed the usual committees.
- 8th. Called for the report of committee on preaching.

—SECOND DAY.—

- 1st. Called for the reading of the minutes.
- 2nd. Called the roll and marked absentees.
- 3rd. Called for report of committees.
- 4th. Called for resolutions.
- 5th. Appointed the next Association.
- 6th. Called for Treasurers report.

—* : MINUTES : *—

• OF THE •

BIG FORK, UNITED BAPTIST, ASSOCIATION.

• HELD WITH •

—* Board Camp Church, Polk Co., Ark. *—

COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 14TH. 1895.

THE Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. A. A. BATES,
Text— St. Luke, 16 chapt. and 16 verse. After recess the Association was called to order by reading, singing and prayer, by the Moderator.

1st. Called for the letters, and appointed Bro's, J. M. Hilton, and S. M. Kemp, to read them. The letters were read, and Delegates names enrolled.

2d. By proper organization the Association proceeded to elect officers and elected; Bro. S. M. Kemp, as Moderator, J. K. Wilcox, as Clerk, and A. J. Strickland, as Treasurer. The Moderator appointed Committees to wit:—1st. On preaching, 2d. on Obituary, 3rd. Finance. 4th. Arrangements. 5th. Prayer-meetings and Sabbath schools. 6th. Destitution and mission. 7th. Pastors to Churches and Churches to Pastors.

Called for petitionary letters, and received none. Called for Corresponding Messengers, and received one from Caddo River association to wit: J. A. Collum, who was recognized and seated.

On motion Adjourned untill Monday morning 8 o'clock.

— MONDAY MORNING 8 O'CLOCK —

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by the Moderator.

1st. Called the role and marked absentees.

2nd. Called for the reading of the minutes of the first days proceedings, which was read, and adopted. On motion the speeches were limited to 15 minutes.

By motion heard the report of Committees. 1st. On preaching Appendix A. 2nd. On obituary Appendix B. 3rd. On prayer meetings and Sabbath schools Appendix C. 4th On finance Appendix D. Pastors to churches, and churches to pastors Appendix E.

On arrangements Appendix F. On destitution G.

Motion in order that Bro. G. Jones, be released from this body on account of sickness, and Bro. R. G. Brown, take his seat both in the body and as committeeman on preaching. On motion adjourned untill 2 o'clock p. m.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Called to order by the Moderator. Then taken up the general order of business—

Called for the report of the committee that this association appointed one year ago to meet a committee from the Ouchita association,

which was read and received, and committee discharged, and their proposition was rejected by this body. By motion adjourned until Tuesday morning half past 8 o'clock.

—TUESDAY MORNING—

Met pursuant to adjournment, singing and prayer by Eld. J. E. Long. Then the body was called to order by the Moderator, then called the role and marked absentees. Then called for the reading of the minutes of Monday's proceedings, which was read and adopted.

Called for resolutions, No's. 1, 2 and 3, were read and adopted; Resolution No 4 was discussed and lost.

Motion and carried that Long View Church, of Scott Co., Ark. have a letter of dismission from the Big Fork, United Baptist Association

Motion in order that the Clerk have 200 copies of the minutes printed.

Heard the report of the preaching committee which was read and adopted.

Called for the Treasurer's report which was read, and adopted.

Called for the minutes of the body, which was read and adopted. On motion adjourned to meet with Brushy Creek church, Montgomery Co., Ark. commencing Sat. before the third Sun. in Sept. 1896.

S. M. Kemp, *Moderator.*

J. K. Wilcox, *Clerk.*

While a hymn was sung the parting hand was taken.

—*: > **APPENDIX.** :*

A. Bro. B. G. Wilcox, to preach Saturday Night J. D. Aates, to conclude. Sunday at 11 o'clock, Bro. A. A. Bates, and B. G. Wilcox, to conclude. Sunday night, Bro. J. M. Deen. And Bro. J. E. Long, Monday at 11 o'clock. Bro. J. D. Bates, Monday night.

J. M. Hilton,
J. D. Holmes,
R. G. Brown.

B. *Obituary.* We feel a sadness to report that we find from reading the Statistical letters that our beloved Sister, Francis Wilcox, who was a worthy deaconess of Liberty Church, a loving sister and worthy member, has been called from her labor. She lived in honor to her profession, and after an illness of about 18 days having born her affliction with strong fortitude, she departed this life in the full Triumphs of a living faith. Also we find that Big Fork, has lost 2 of her worthy members to wit.— Malissa Garmon, was a worthy member, and one of the first members of that church. And Sister

Nancy Standridge, who was a worthy Deaconess of Sulphur Springs Church, a loving sester, and a worthy member, has been called from her labors. She lived in honor to her profession, and died in the full triumphs of a living faith. We also find from this Brethren, that it is appointed unto man once to die, and that we, also should be ready Brethren, remember the Disconsolated brethren in their bereft condition, and pray God, to administer to their necessities through life.

J. M. HILTON, *Chairman.*

C. Prayer meetings and Sabbath Schools.

Brethren, we feel the great need of prayer-meetings, and urge each church to erect an altar of prayer, and a Sabbath-school, and faithfully teach, and warn the rising generation, and we refer to Acts. 3rd. ch. 1st. 12th verses. Acts. 12th. 4th to 7th *et.*

P. H. HILSON,
P. M. PATTERSON.

D. Finance. We find sent up from the churches for printing the minutes, the sum of \$7.85c,

W. O. BROWN,
J. W. DILLBECK.

E. Pastors to Churches, and Churches to Pastors.

Resolve, that the scriptures make it the preachers duty to go, and preach the Word, to all nations. And we see the duty of the church is, to bare one anothers burdons, and so fulfill the law. Now brethren, there has been only \$41.50c. Administered to Ministerial support of this Association. Dear brethren, can they live at this rate. Remember the Lord, loves a cheerful giver, and if we have sown unto you Spiritual things, is it a great thing if they shall reap of us carnal things.

A. A. BATES, CHAIRMAN.

F. Arrangements. The time and place for holding our next Association will be with, Brushy Creek, Church Montgomery Co., Ark. Commencing Saturday before the third Sabbath in September 1896. And Bro. J. D. Bates, to preach the introductory sermon, and A. A. Bates, Alternate

B. G. WILCOX, *Chairman.*

G. DESTITUTION. We find there is a destitution existing in the bounds of our Association, and we recommend that the Churches of this Association send one member from each church, to act as an Executive Board, to supply said destitution with preaching of the Gospel of Christ. And we FURTHER recommend THAT SAID BOARD meet with LIBERTY CHURCH, on Saturday before THE first SABBATH in April, 1896.

A. J. STRICKLAND,
J. D. HOLMES,
J. E. LONG.

RESOLUTIONS.

No. 1. *Resolve* that we, the Delegates and Messengers, of this Association tender our low respects and Christian salutation to Board Camp, Church, and community regardless of any church dis-cension, for the social and brotherly manner in which they have entertained this Association.

J. O. Moss,

No. 2. *Resolve* that the Treasurer pay over to the Clerk all the money in his hands for the purpose of printing the minutes, and Associationial purposes. The total amount.....\$7.85c.

A. J. Strickland, *Treasurer.*

No. 3. *Resolve* that we erase the 11th. Art. from our Constitution, as we think it useess the way it stands.

J. D. Holmes, *CHAIRMAN*

No. 4. *Resolve* that the word "United," be erased from the Constitution of this association, which was discussed and lost.

J. D. Bates, *CHAIRMAN.*



BIG FORK UNITED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. This union of Churches, shall be known and distinguished, by the name 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 churches, 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 principle 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 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. No, 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 payed over through the committee of finance to the Treasurer, (who shall be elected by ballot and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association, and manage the funds agreeably.) He shall return to the order of the Association a clear and sufficient statement of all the receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8. This Association shall take cognizance of any query sent up from the churches, unless they have endeavored to solve the same, and have failed, our of *any difficulty between churches*, unless they have pursued the detentions to the 18th chap. of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them. *Then, this Association will take such matter 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 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.

❖❖❖ RULES OF DECORUM. ❖❖❖

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 depart 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 in their address to each-other.
13. THE names of the Churches 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 the time, but shall not be allowed to vote, unless the Association be equally divided, then 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 one only 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 follow 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-an-other, and have agreed to keep up a Godly, disciplin agreeable to the rules 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 body, 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 subjects thereof.

ART. 12. We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the Church, and should be continued unto CHRIST'S second coming.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1895.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	P O	DELEGATES NAMES.	Baptized	Received by letter	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Total in Fellowship	Days of meeting	Contributions	Orphaned	Levittates
Board Camp	Polk		S. M. Kemp, J. M. Hilton, A. J. Strickland				3	10	2.05	1		
Liberty	Polk		G. Jones, B. G. Wilcox, J. K. Wilcox	14	5	1		14	1.00	2	1	
Big Fork	Polk		J. D. Holmes, J. W. Dilbeck, J. A. Fisher	3	1	2	4	25	1.20	4		
Brushy Creek	Montgomery		Oden, J. D. Bates		2		1	5		1	1	
Christian Home	Polk		Quito, P. H. Hinson		1			15	.50	4	1	
Caney	Montgomery		Waters, A. A. Bates								1	
Long View	Scott		Bales, J. E. Long, J. O. Moss, W. S. Wood					19	1.00	4	1	
Sulphur Springs	Montgomery		Big Fork, M. B. Standridge, H. M. Patterson, W. O. Brown				1	27	.60	3		

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