

ROCKY BAYOU

Missionary

Baptist

Association

1898

The next session will be held with Mt. Lebanon Church
near Lunenburg, IZARD County, Arkansas
beginning Friday at eleven o'clock
A. M., before the second
Lord's Day in
October
1899

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

CONCORD CHURCH, IZARD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

The Rocky Bayou Missionary Baptist Association convened in its 57th session with the above named church on Friday, October 7, 1898, at 11 o'clock. a. m.

Eld. W. L. Smith, who was elected at the last session to preach the introductory sermon, was excused and Eld. H. F. Vermillion was elected and preached said sermon from Ex. 14:15, after which the Association adjourned for refreshments.

At 2 o'clock p. m. the Association was called to order by Eld. W. M. Duren, the Moderator of last session, W. K. Estes, the Clerk of last session, being present. Prayer was led by Eld. G. L. Foard.

The names of the churches were called and letters read by Bros. R. L. Landers and H. F. Vermillion. Antioch church petitioned for the next session.

Called for petitionary letters. None presented.

Proceeded to elect Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Eld. J. P. Lovelace for Moderator and W. K. Estes for Clerk. After a few timely remarks by the newly elected Moderator, the Association proceeded to business.

Called for Corresponding Messengers from sister Associations. Eld. H. F. Vermillion and Bro. T. H. Horn from White River and Eld. J. L. Brown from Independence accepted the invitation and were given the hand of fellowship by the Moderator and welcomed among us.

Called for visiting ministers; none.

The following committees were announced:

1. On Preaching: Messengers of Concord church.
2. On Arrangement of Business: Eld. W. M. Duren, N. C. Dauner and A. L. Felts.
3. On Baptist Literature: Elds. S. A. Marchant, W. L. Smith and J. W. Twilley.

4. On Associational Missions: G. S. Rector, Elds. G. L. Foard and J. L. Brown.
5. On Foreign Missions: J. T. Shannon, Eld. J. L. Brown and A. T. Felts.
6. On State Missions: Jno. C. Miller, Eld. G. L. Foard and R. N. Shannon.
7. On Sabbath Schools: D. J. Smith, R. L. Landers and S. P. Hite.
8. On Finance: Charley Shell and W. H. Meers.
9. On Temperance: Eld. J. L. Brown, T. E. Brown and Eld. S. A. Marchant.
10. On Destitution: V. E. Duren, R. E. Marchant, G. L. Foard, J. J. Vest and T. E. Brown.
11. On Prayer Meetings: W. L. Smith, J. L. Carpenter and W. H. Kelley.
12. On Christian Education: W. M. Duren, F. M. Horton, T. H. Horn and T. P. Williams.
13. On Obituaries: R. L. Landers, N. C. Danner, G. S. Rector and A. L. Felts.
14. On Orphans' Home: S. A. Marchant, W. M. Duren, J. L. Brown and W. L. Smith.

On motion the Association appointed tomorrow evening at 3 o'clock to select place for next session and some one to preach introductory sermon. At this time Eld. Vermillion spoke in favor of the Arkansas Baptist. On motion adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer led by Eld. S. A. Marchant.

OCTOBER 8, 1898.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator at 9 o'clock, a. m.; prayer led by Eld. J. W. Twilley.

Called for the report of the Committee on Arrangement of Business. The report was read and adopted.

Called for churches not represented yesterday; none.

Renewed call for petitionary letters; none.

Renewed invitation to corresponding messengers; none

Renewed invitation to visiting ministers; none.

Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

Called for report of Committee on Baptist Literature. The report was read, amended and adopted. (See appendix "A")

Called for report of committee on Educational Missions. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "B")

On motion the Association proceeded to elect an Associational Mission Board. The following were elected: Eld. W. M. Duren, T. J. Lovelace, D. J. Smith, S. P. Hite and A. T. Felts.

At 11 o'clock adjourned for preaching and refreshments.

Eld. S. A. Marchant preached an able sermon from Matt 5:14 followed by Eld. J. J. Vest.

At 2 p. m. the Association was called to order. On motion the regular order of business was suspended and Eld Brown by request took pledges for Associational Missions amounting to \$122.50.

Mount Lebanon church was selected as the place to hold the next session of this Association and Eld. H. F. Vermillion was elected to preach the introductory sermon, with Eld. W. L. Smith as alternate.

Rocky Bayou church was selected as the church with which to hold next ministers' and members' meeting and Elds. Lovelace, Foard and Twilley were selected to arrange programme.

Called for report of Committee on State Missions. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "C")

Adjourned till next Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Sunday morning at 11 o'clock Eld. James L. Brown preached in the grove near the meeting house from Luke 1:6 to a large concourse of people, who enjoyed his very excellent sermon on "Commandments and Ordinances." Also at lamplighting Bro. N. T. Dauner preached from Psalms 126:6.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, OCTOBER 10, 1898.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer led by Eld. W. M. Duren.

Called for report of Committee on Temperance. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "D")

Called for report of Committee on Destitution. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "E")

Called for report of Committee on Foreign Missions. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "F")

Called for report of Committee on Finances. The committee reported \$15.30 collected for printing minutes, and a collection amounting to \$1.70 was taken and on motion it was voted to have Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith published in the minutes.

Called for report of Committee on Prayer Meetings. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "G")

Called for report of Committee on Obituaries. Report read, amended and adopted. (See appendix "H")

The roll was called and absentees marked. (See list of messengers.)

Called for report of Committee on Christian Education. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "I")

Called for report of Missionary Board. The report was read and adopted. (See appendix "J")

Called for report of Ministerial Education Board. The board had no report to make and on motion the board was continued.

At 12 o'clock, m., the Association adjourned for refreshments and at 1 o'clock p. m. was called to order. Prayer led by Bro. R. L. Landers.

On motion the Moderator appointed Eld. W. M. Duren foreign mission agent.

Arranged correspondence as follows:

Little Red River: R. N. Shannon, J. N. Haley.

Blue Mountain: Eld. W. L. Smith, J. T. Shannon and V. E. Duren.

Independence: J. W. Twilley and N. C. Danner.

White River Valley: S. P. Hite, N. C. Danner.

Spring River: G. L. Foard, W. M. Duren.

Big Creek: A. T. Felts, S. A. Marchant, B. S. Stroud, D. J. Smith and R. E. Shell.

White River: James H. Bone, J. J. Vest, W. L. Smith, S. A. Marchant.

Elds. W. L. Smith and W. M. Duren were elected as messengers to the Arkansas Baptist Convention and Eld. W. M. Duren was recommended as a member of the State Mission Board.

Eld. H. F. Vermillion was elected as a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Called for report of Committee on Orphans' Home. Report was read and adopted. (See appendix "K")

Eld. W. M. Duren presented the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That we extend our heartfelt thanks to Concord church and the citizens of the vicinity thereof for the kind hospitality to us while in their midst."

Resolution offered by S. P. Hite that the Clerk of this Association superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes of this session and have \$5.00 for his services was adopted.

On motion the Moderator appointed a committee consisting of John C. Miller, Eld. W. M. Duren and W. K. Estes to write and submit at the next session, a history of this Association.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet with Mount Lebanon Church near Lunenburg, IZARD county, Arkansas, on Friday before the second Lord's Day in October, 1899, at 11 o'clock a. m., and while singing the messengers took the parting hand.

Prayer was led by Eld. W. M. Duren.

OFFICERS.

Eld. J. P. LOVELACE, Moderator,	- - -	Stella, Ark.
W. K. ESTES, Clerk,	- - -	Melbourne, Ark.
ELD. W. M. DUREN, Foreign Mission Agent,	-	Zion, Ark.

 MISSIONARY BOARD

Eld. W. M. Duren, Chairman,	Zion, Ark.
A. T. Felts, Secretary,	Sage, "
S. P. Hite, Treasurer,	Franklin, "
T. J. Lovelace,	Pineville, "
D. J. Smith,	Melbourne, "

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION BOARD.

Eld. G. L. Foard,	Zion, Ark.
Eld. S. A. Marchant,	Pineville. "
Eld. J. P. Lovelace,	Stella, "

MINISTERS.

G. L. Foard	Zion
W. M. Duren,	Zion,
A. E. Nixon,	Victor.
J. J. Vest,	Jumbo.
H. F. Vermillion.	Melbourne.
W. L. Smith	Melbourne.
N. C. Danner,	Victor.
I. N. Davenport,	Sage.
H. L. Thomas.	Newport.
S. A. Marchant,	Pineville.
J. W. Twilley,	Lunenburg.
W. H. Wren,	Cushman.
J. P. Lovelace,	Stella.
N. N. Satterfield,	McPhearson.
A. J. Whaley,	McPhearson.

REPORTS.

Appendix A—Report on Baptist Literature: We, your Committee on Baptist Literature, beg leave to report the following: We would first recommend the Bible as our chief guide in all matters pertaining to the doctrines of Christ and for the government of his church, it being the inspired word of God and the measure in all things pertaining to Christianity; we therefore first of all recommend the Bible to each of our members and urge each to read it carefully and prayerfully. We would also recommend, 1st, The Arkansas Baptist, American Baptist Flag, Western Recorder, Ford's Christian Repository, Baptist Gleaner, as good and sound literature, and we recommend that each brother supply himself with as many of the above as he is able to take

W. L. Smith,
Eld. S. A. Marchant,
Eld. J. W. Twilley.

Appendix B—Report on Associational Missions: We, your committee on Associational Missions, submit the following: 1, We recommend that a board consisting of five members be appointed to have control of the work—that it be their duty to hold a board meeting in connection with each 5th Sunday meeting, at which time they shall inquire into the state of destitution within the field, and seek to supply the same with preaching, either by the employment of one Associational Missionary for all his time or by employment of preachers for part of their time. 2, We recommend that one person be appointed in each church to collect funds for this board; that they be instructed to send in quarterly collections to the board. 3, That we ask each member of the churches belonging to this Association to contribute at least ten cents per quarter to this work. J. L. Brown, Chairman.

Appendix C—Report on State Missions: We, your committee on State Missions, beg leave to make the following report: In looking over the state fields we find that there are thousands of people in darkness, who have not the gospel preached to them.

Our financial board is in need of funds. We recommend that each member of the Association contribute liberally of his means to this fund. We suggest that the moderator of this Association appoint an agent in each church to collect and remit to the State Mission Agent the contribution of his church.

R. N. Shannon,
John C. Miller,
G. L. Foard.

Appendix D—Report on Temperance: We, your committee on Temperance, submit the following: 1, We consider intemperance the giant evil that curses our land. We look upon it as a deadly serpent whose poisonous bite sends an army of 400 persons per day to a drunkard's grave and to a drunkard's hell. As this army receives recruits from the homes of Christianity in our fair land, we beg you brethren to do all in your power to save our children from this dreaded curse. We recommend that the churches discipline all their members that are known to be tiplers or dram drinkers, and also members that are known to vote for the accursed license law.

J. L. Brown,
Thomas E. Brown.
S. A. Marchant.

Appendix E—Report on Destitution: We, your committee on Destitution, submit the following: We find that there are several places that are destitute in our bounds, to-wit: Smith's School house, Sidney, Dillard's School house, three miles east of Pineville, Adam's Hall, Abraham's Oak, Mt. Olive, Spaun's School house and Wild Haws Landing on White river, Dry Bone School house, Round Bottom, and all south of the Lunenburg and Cushman road to White river.

J. J. Vest, Chairman.

Appendix F—Report on Foreign Missions: We, your committee on Foreign Missions, report as follows: Everything being considered there has been but little said about foreign missions, and yet much more has been said than done. Dear brethren, mission work is the going into all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature. That work is, we think, the work of the

churches. We accept the obligation by claiming to be the true churches of Christ. The churches should be very zealous in its mission work considering the value of souls. If we believe the gospel to be the power of God unto salvation, why should not the churches be active in this work, and spend our money and time in spreading the gospel throughout all rations? We recommend the following plan for the ensuing year: That the pastors of each church appoint one member of each church to take collections for mission fund, it to be paid to the Foreign Mission Agent of this Association.

J. L. Brown,
J. T. Shannon,
A. T. Felts.

Appendix G—Report on Prayer Meetings: We, your committee on Prayer Meetings, submit the following report: Where as, Paul requested that prayer be made for all men and James said that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much; we, therefore, recommend that each church establish and maintain a weekly prayer meeting, and that every member attend the same and encourage it in every possible way.

W. L. Smith,
J. L. Carpenter,
W. H. Kelley.

Appendix H—Report on Obituaries: We, your committee on Obituaries, beg leave to report the following: We find that since the last report the following brethren, viz: Wilson Price, W. W. Campbell, John Payne; Sisters: Sarah Thompson, Eliza Payue, Arrie Vails, Mary Battles and Dora Taylor have departed this life. We recommend that a page of our records be set apart to their memory and that their names be printed in the minutes of this meeting as a remembrance of them.

R. L. Landers,
G. S. Rector,
N. C. Danner,
A. L. Felts.

Appendix I—Report on Christian Education: We, your committee on Christian Education, submit the following report: We must educate or we must perish is truer today than at any time in the past. Institutions of learning are springing up all over our

land. The enemies of God and truth are making great advances in learning. We as a christian people cannot afford to fall behind them. Our people need sufficient education to detect the sophistry in the teaching of semi-infidelity as well as the errors that are being taught in the name of religion. Without education we are weak, superstitious, and easily driven about. The young must be educated or they will be weaklings. Therefore, we recommend that parents give their children as much education as is in their power. We recommend that young men entering the ministry be helped and encouraged to secure as much education as possible. If the pulpit must stand against the world its power should not be lessened by the inefficiency of the men who fill it. As a school for higher education we recommend Mountain Home College.

W. M. Duren.

Appendix J—Report of Mission Board: We have held four meetings and employed Eld. W. M. Duren to preach monthly at Sidney for \$20.00, and Eld. W. L. Smith monthly at Franklin and Unity for \$35.00. We here attach their reports and receipts. Have paid Eld. Smith in full and Eld. Duren \$16.95, leaving yet due Bro. Duren \$3.05.

G. S. Rector, Ch'n.

W. K. Estes, Sec'y.

R. L. Landers,

J. P. Lovelace,

A. T. Felts.

Appendix K—Report on Orphans' Home: We, your committee on Orphans' Home, submit the following report: We learn that there are 18 children being cared for in the home and that application has been made for several others, but they cannot be taken in until room has been made for them. An additional building is being erected that will cost when finished about \$2,200, and Baptists and friends of the institution are now asked to contribute at once money to pay for the same. Therefore, we recommend that a collection be taken at this meeting for the same and that each church send a collection between this and the expiration of the year. We also recommend that churches send contributions to each associational meeting for this work.

J. L. Brown.

Appendix L—Report on Sabbath Schools: We, your committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report the following: We recommend that each church in the Association organize and maintain a Baptist Sunday School. We further recommend that the Bible or sound Baptist literature be used in said schools.

R. L. Landers,
S. P. Hite,
D. J. Smith.

MESSENGERS.

- Antioch—Eld. G. L. Foard, T. P. Williams, Jno. L. Carpenter.
Big Spring—S. P. Hite.
Bellvue—W. L. Smith, G. S. Rector, D. J. Smith.
Concord—J. P. Lovelace, G. W. King, H. Stroud, W. H. Meers.
Fairview—A. L. Felts.
Melbourne—W. K. Estes, R. L. Landers, J. T. Shannon.
Mt. Lebanon—W. H. Kelley, H. C. Horton. Willie Brooks, F. M. Horton.
Mt. Pleasant—R. E. Shell, A. J. Shell, A. T. Felts, Alex Shell.
Pilgrims' Rest—N. C. Danner.
Pleasant Valley—Eld. S. A. Marchant, R. E. Marchant.
Rocky Bayou—R. N. Shannon, Samuel Majors, J. W. Twilley, C. M. Shannon.
Saints' Rest—T. E. Jennings, H. W. Smith, Eld. J. J. Vest, W. B. Mayfield.
Unity—H. W. Walker.
Wise's Chapel—T. J. Lovelace, T. E. Brown, Ed. Sherrill, John Copeland.
Zion Hill—Eld. W. M. Duren, V. E. Duren, J. C. Miller, M. V. Hightower.

CONSTITUTION.

1, This Association shall be called and known by the name of Rocky Bayou Association of Missionary Baptists.

2, The members composing the annual meetings of the Association shall consist of messengers sent by the churches.

3, The messengers to the annual meetings shall not exceed four (4) from each church.

4, The Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as shall have been previously appointed.

5, The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by a majority at each annual meeting.

6, This Association shall have no power to control or regulate the internal affairs or discipline of any church, but it may adopt and recommend all such measures as shall be considered best calculated to produce the harmony and prosperity of the churches and advance the Redeemer's Kingdom, and advise and consult upon such matters as the churches may, at any time, present for consideration and advice. And it may receive churches into this Association, dismiss churches from the body, inquire into the state of religion within its bounds, suggest measures for its advancement and be a common bond of union among the churches --but shall not exercise any legislative power over the churches.

7, This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the members present; provided, notice has been given at the previous meeting.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1, The Association shall commence with religious exercises, and a sermon from one preacher, who shall have been previously appointed, unless the Association shall otherwise direct.

2, The Moderator of the previous session shall preside, and the Clerk shall act, provided they attend, until the letters from

the churches shall have been read and a Moderator and Clerk elected.

3. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meeting during its sessions, appoint committees—unless the Association shall otherwise direct—preserve order, reprove improprieties—except an appeal is made to the meeting by two members—and shall have a right to speak on all subjects, calling a member to the chair, and shall examine and correct the Minutes, if necessary.

4. The Clerk shall keep a correct copy of the proceedings, read the letters, documents, (and call any member to assist him,) and at the close of the meeting, take charge of all the papers and documents, unless otherwise directed.

5. A committee of arrangements, consisting of three, shall be appointed by the Moderator at the commencement of each session, whose duty it shall be to regulate the order of the religious exercises, and by whom performed, unless otherwise directed by the Association.

6. The churches shall designate their messengers and report their condition by letter.

7. Preachers in good standing in other Baptist churches or Associations with which we are in fellowship, when attending our annual meetings, shall be invited to seats as correspondents, and these meetings shall always be opened and closed by prayer.

8. Every member may speak twice on any one subject in debate before the meeting, but not more, without leave; and when speaking, shall stand and address the Moderator, use decorous language, and no member shall absent himself from the Association, during the session, without leave.

9. These rules may be amended by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting.

10. The churches shall contribute funds to meet the ordinary expenses of the body, such as printing the Minutes, paying the traveling expenses of such members as the Association may send to other bodies, etc.

11. Public collections may be taken up at each session, and applied to such benevolent purposes as the Association may direct.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

I. We believe 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 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 center of Christian union and The Supreme Standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. 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 Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. 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 of eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. 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, but 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, compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. 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 which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is fully 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.

VI. 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 determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. 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.

VIII. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and 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 Savior.

IX. 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 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.

X. 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.

XI. 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 the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man—to fulfill its precepts—arises entirely from his love of sin, to deliver man from which and to restore him through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible churches.

XII. 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.

XIII. We believe that the 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 the only Scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to show faith in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is a pre-requisite 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.

XV. 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.

XVI. We believe that Civil Government is of divine appointment, for the interest 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.

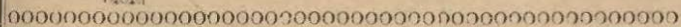
XVII. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked, that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God and truly righteous in his esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and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

XVIII. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ shall 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 His judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

Besides what is reported in the Statistical Table the Foreign Mission Agent received from Sister Vermillion 50 cents and received at last Association \$2.40. Besides the amounts reported for Associational Missions, the sum of \$12.60 paid by individuals. Eld. W. L. Smith, Missionary at Big Spring Church, reported: Sermons, 25; conversions, 11; baptisms, 4; also 5 sermons at Spann's School House. At Unity. Sermons, 30; conversions, 6; baptisms, 4. Eld. W. M. Duren, Missionary at Mt. Olive, reported 14 sermons preached.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	P. O.	Increase.			Decrease			Membership.	Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Mission	Pastors' Salary.	Value of Church Property	Sunday Schools	Days of Meeting
				By Baptism.	By Letter.	Recomnd'n Restored.	Dismissed By Letter.	Excluded.	Died.								
Antioch	W. M. Duren	J. J. Lawson	Zion	16	7	1	4	2	1	125	1.40	.....	.....	30	225	1	1
Bellvue	W. M. Duren	D. J. Smith	Melbourne	1	.....	.....	6	2	.....	76	7.00	.....	1.00	50	500	.....	2
Big Spring	W. L. Smith	S. P. Hite	Franklin	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	.....	.....	.25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Concord	J. P. Lovelace	V. L. Stroud	Stella	6	2	.....	4	1	2	77	3.45	.....	.90	.....	200	.....	4
Cushman	Not Represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fairview	W. L. Smith	H. C. Duren	Violet Hill	.....	4	.....	7	.....	1	44	5.00	.....	.....	.....	400	.....	4
Melbourne	J. L. Brown	W. K. Estes	Melbourne	4	.....	1	1	.....	2	57	13.60	3.25	3.25	99	400	1	1
Mt. Lebanon	G. L. Foard	F. M. Horton	Gid	2	3	1	.....	1	.....	74	.....	.....	.....	30	300	.....	3
Mt. Nebo No. 1	Not Represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Nebo No. 2	Not Represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Pleasant	J. P. Lovelace	R. E. Shell	Sage	.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	49	.....	.....	.....	20	300	.....	.....
Newhope	Not Represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Philadelphia	Not Represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	4.00	.....	.....	1	.....
Pilgrims' Rest	J. L. Brown	J. H. Sanders	Victor	7	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	134	4.45	1.00	.75	50	400	.....	4
Pleasant Valley	R. T. Farthing	J. H. Whiteaker	Pineville	3	3	1	7	.....	2	44	2.60	.....	.60	.....	140	.....	4
Rocky Bayou	J. P. Lovelace	R. N. Shannon	Lunenburg	16	2	1	6	.....	.....	47	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	.....	2
Saints' Rest	W. L. Smith	J. R. Wood	Jumbo	3	.....	.....	8	1	.....	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	200	.....	1
Table Rock	Not Represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unity	W. L. Smith	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wise's Chapel	R. T. Farthing	W. M. Brown	Pineville	2	4	.....	.....	1	.....	32	.....	.....	1.00	.....	.....	.....	2
Zion Hill	J. P. Lovelace	Wm. Campbell	Zion	5	5	1	5	3	2	117	1.85	2.10	40	200	3
				73	32	8	57	11	11	1123	\$39.35	\$4.25	\$13.85	319	3315



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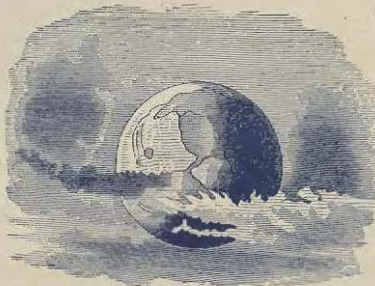
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