

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

Big Creek

Missionary Baptist Association,

HELD WITH DIAMOND SPRING CHURCH,
DIAMOND SPRING, ARKANSAS,
SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 1915.



ELD. W. H. BOWLING,	-	-	-	-	-	-	MODERATOR.
OSCAR E. ELLIS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	CLERK.

PROCEEDINGS.

Big Creek **Missionary** Baptist Association met with Diamond Spring **Missionary Baptist Church** at Diamond Spring, Arkansas, on Thursday, **September 23rd, 1915.**

After a **song service** conducted by Bro. Allen Wilkins, the Association was called to order by Rev. W. H. Bowling, the moderator of the **previous Association.**

After **prayer** by Rev. R. T. Farthing, Rev. R. K. Pope was introduced, and **preached** the introductory sermon. Text, Gen. 3rd ch. 14th verse.

Bro. W. J. Goodwin and Rev. R. K. Pope were appointed as reading clerks. Letters from the following churches were read and the **messengers** enrolled:

Salem **Church**—Eld. T. G. Hawkins, Bros. O. E. Ellis, W. J. Goodwin and Sister Bertha Carter.

County Line Church—Eld. R. K. Pope, Bros. J. P. Hall, S. Sharp and Stephen Fore.

Diamond Spring Church—Bros. G. W. Findley, J. R. Fout, Allen Wilkins, Tom Newton and Herman Tanner.

Next order was the election of a moderator and clerk for the next **associational** year. The vote was taken by Bros. R. T. Farthing and J. H. Porterfield. Eld. W. H. Bowling was elected moderator and Oscar E. Ellis was elected clerk.

Invitation was extended to visiting ministers from sister associations. Revs. R. T. Farthing and J. H. Porterfield came as visiting **ministers** from Rocky Bayou Association.

The **messengers** from Diamond Spring Church with Bro. W. M. Fouts were appointed as a committee on Devotional Exercises.

They reported that Rev. R. T. Farthing preach at 7:30 P. M., seconded by J. H. Porterfield. The association adjourned until 7:30 P. M.

THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION.

Song service by Bro. Allen Wilkins, after which prayer was offered by Rev. W. W. McCuiston. Rev. R. T. Farthing preached. Text, Heb. 10th Ch. 14th verse.

The various committees were appointed by the moderator. The committee on Devotional Exercises reported that Rev. J. H. Porterfield preach Friday morning at 11 A. M.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

After a song service led by Bro. Fred Walker and prayer by Bro. Allen Wilkins, the Association was called to order by the moderator at 9 o'clock A. M.

Letters from the following churches were read and the messengers enrolled:

Oak Grove Church—Bros. C F. Walker, J. T. McElmurry, P. C. Collins, L. S. Prewett and G. C. Jones.

Mt. Zion Church—Bros. O. P. Prewett, and J. D. Cochran and Sister Tempy Cochran.

Bro. W. B. Easley came forward as a corresponding messenger from White River Association and Revs. J. P. Lovelace and W. H. McCuiston came forward as visiting ministers from White River Association.

The committee on Home Missions made the following report:

We, your committee on Home Missions, beg leave to submit the following: Realizing that there are about fifty millions of people in our own home-land of accountable age who make no religious profession and believing that the Baptists have the Gospel of Christ, we urge the members of the Big Creek Association to make liberal contributions; also we recommend to the ministers to mention this in their pastoral work. J. K. Powell and O. P. Prewett, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by J. P. Lovelace, R. K. Pope and W. H. Bowling, was adopted.

The committee on Foreign Missions submitted the following report:

We, your committee on Foreign Missions, recommend that we as an association undertake to raise our proportional part of the money required to carry on the Foreign Mission work, 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 of 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. W. M. Fouts and W. J. Goodwin, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by R. K. Pope, J. P. Lovelace and W. H. Bowling, was adopted.

The committee on State Missions made the following report: Your committee would report as follows: As the days go by the great importance of State Missions grows; if the Baptists would become weak and lame and lose their power at home and abroad let them cease to emphasize State Missions. State Missions by the churches co-operating in the Baptist State Convention includes revival meetings in destitute places and in weak churches, aiding weak churches in supporting their pastors, in arranging woman's work, raising church debts, and whatever else will spread the pure Gospel of Christ and uphold the Baptist cause in this great state. In 1914 the churches co-operating through the state convention served the kingdom as follows: Missionaries employed, 47; days labored, 10,125; miles traveled, 65,827; sermons preached, 5,490; conversions, 1,458; baptized, 1,270; total additions, 2,074; amount raised for State Missions, \$12,262.75. The amount needed to put the State Mission Board out of debt next November is approximately \$30,000.00. So your committee would recommend that this association at this meeting would formulate some plan by which we may reach all the churches and arouse the State Mission spirit in them and if possible secure a collection from each for State Missions. R. K. Pope and J. P. Lovelace, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body, the association postponed further consideration of the report till after recess. Association recessed till 1:30 o'clock.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

Song service was led by Oscar E. Ellis and prayer by Rev. J. P. Lovelace.

The report of the committee which was carried over from the morning session was again taken under consideration. After being discussed by J. P. Lovelace, W. H. Bowling and W. H. McCuiston, was adopted. A collection was taken by which means \$2.80 was raised for State Missions.

Hall's Chapel Church presented a petitionary letter and asked to become a member of Big Creek Association. They were accepted and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the messengers, who were as follows: Eld. C. W. Hill, Bros. Billie Fields, Raymond Hall, and Alvin Southard.

Union Hill Church: Elds. J. M. Langston and J. J. Ivie and Bros. A. J. Hand and C. F. Langston.

The committee on Associational Missions and Destitution submitted the following report: We, your committee, do respectfully submit the following: We recommend the present board system and that we pay our indebtedness to our missionary for this year's work and do all we can for Associational Missions this next year. J. D. Cochran and J. T. McElmurry, committee.

Read in the hearing of the body and continued subject to call from the moderator Saturday morning.

The committee on Temperance made the following report: We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows: We believe that the use of intoxicating liquors is a great evil to our nation, our church and our home, causing crime, poverty, distress and immorality. We recommend that we as Baptists oppose its use in every form we can. We also recommend that our churches pass resolutions prohibiting our members from dram drinking. R. T. Farthing and J. J. Ivie, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by R. T. Farthing, J. H. Porterfield, Jacob Skriver, W. H. Bowling, Oscar E. Ellis, J. P. Lovelace and W. H. McCuiston, was adopted.

The committee on Devotional Exercises reported that W. H. Bowling preach at 7:30 o'clock.

Association dismissed by prayer.

FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION.

The song service was conducted by Allen Wilkins. After reading of the 6th chapter of John by W. H. Bowling and prayer by R. T. Farthing, Eld. W. H. Bowling preached. Subject, "Endless Life."

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the moderator. After prayer by R. K. Pope, the committee on Sunday Schools submitted the following report: "Realizing the great need of Sunday School Work, it being a great means of instruction in the word of God, we would recommend that a Sunday School be organized in every church in the bounds of Big Creek Association and that the work be encouraged everywhere. We recommend that we use the Bible and sound Baptist literature in our Sunday Schools." J. H. Porterfield and C. F. Langston, Committee. After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by R. T. Farthing, J. K. Powell, Jacob Skriver, W. H. Bowling and R. K. Pope, was adopted.

The call was made for corresponding messengers from sister associations and Jacob Skriver came as a messenger from White River Association.

The committee on Orphan's Home submitted the following report: "We, your committee, report as follows: It is the will of Christ for us to care for the fatherless and give them parental care. We have a home at Monticello, Arkansas, with 186 children in it, that are looking to us for support. This home is fostered by the Baptists and they ask your help." R. K. Pope and Allen Wilkins, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by R. K. Pope and W. H. Bowling was adopted. A collectinn was taken for the Orphan's Home by which means \$2.25 was realized.

The committee on Deceased Members submitted the following: "We, your committee, beg to submit the following: We find the following deaths during the year: Sister Jane McElwee and Bro. Henry McElmurry, Oak Grove Church, Bro. Herschel Earles and Sister Elizabeth Nicks of County Line Church, Bro. G. W. Bell and Sister Delilia Wilkins of Diamond Spring Church, Sister Elizabeth Cochran and Lafayette Taylor of Mt. Zion Church, Bro.

James Harris of Union Hill Church. While we are made sorrowful over the loss of our beloved ones, our loss is their gain. Respectfully submitted. C. F. Walker and G. C. Jones, Committee.

The report was adopted.

The committee on Baptist Literature reported as follows: We, you committee, would recommend that as the Bible is the foundation of all religious literature, first of all that the study of the word of God be followed. Secondly, the reading of the Baptist Advance or some other good religious paper. We further recommend the reading of the Home Field, published at Atlanta, Georgia, and also the Foreign Missionary Journal, published at Richmond, Virginia. Respectfully submitted. J. P. Lovelace and C. F. Langston, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by W. H. Bowling, was adopted.

A resolution to change the name of the association which was carried over from last year was taken up and defeated.

The committee on Christian Education reported as follows: "We, your committee, beg to submit the following: We believe that Christian education is the only education taught by the Bible and therefore we urge our brothers to render all possible assistance to our Baptist Colleges, which are located at Arkadelphia, Conway and Maynard. This committee hopes that all of our preachers will preach at least once each year on the needs and benefits of Baptist Colleges and that our people will send their children to these Baptist Colleges. Especially do we emphasize the importance of educating our young preachers. We recommend that each church in Big Creek Association take a collection for Ouchita College. W. H. McCuiston and Oscar E. Ellis, Committee.

After being read in the hearing of the body and discussed by Oscar E. Ellis, W. H. Bowling and J. P. Lovelace, was adopted.

The call was made for volunteers as messengers to sister associations and J. M. Langston and J. J. Ivie volunteered and were appointed as messengers to White River Association, J. K. Powell and J. D. Cochran to Rocky Bayou Association.

Salem was selected as the place for the holding of the next association which will be on Thursday before the fourth Sunday

in September, 1916. W. H. Bowling was selected to preach the introductory sermon.

The report of the committee on Associational Missions which had been carried over subject to call, was taken up and after being discussed, was adopted.

The moderator appointed the following as the Missionary Board for the next year: J. D. Cochran, G. C. Jones, Oscar E. Ellis, R. K. Pope and J. T. McElmurry.

The Committee on Finance reported that \$7.35 had been sent by the various churches to pay for the printing of minutes.

The report was adopted and collection was taken by which \$1.55 was raised to supplement the amount sent by the churches.

J. T. McElmurry, G. C. Jones, and C. F. Walker were appointed by the moderator as a committee to adjust the difference between Will Zorn and R. A. Holloway.

A song service was conducted by C. F. Walker after which R. T. Farthing read the 24th chapter of Matthew and preached. Text Rev. 1st ch. 7th verse and Rev. 9th ch. 6th verse.

A collection was taken to help pay on what the association owes the missionary for the past year. The following contributed the following amounts: W. H. Bowling \$5.00, J. D. Cochran \$1.00, Oscar E. Ellis \$1.00, W. J. Goodwin \$2.00, R. K. Pope \$2.00 J. K. Powell \$2.00, J. T. McElmurry \$1.00, G. C. Jones \$1.00, miscellaneous \$.75.

The Association adjourned to meet with Salem church next year at the regular time for holding the association.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known by the name of Big Creek Baptist Association, and shall be for the purpose of creating a stronger bond of love and fellowship among the members of the churches composing it.

Article 2. The members composing the annual meeting of the Association shall consist of messengers sent by the churches.

Article 3. The messengers sent by the churches to the annual meeting shall not exceed four from each church.

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

Article 5. The officers of this Association shall consist of a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority of the messengers annually at the annual meeting of the body.

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

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

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STATISTICAL TABLE BIG CREEK ASSOCIATION.

Names of Churches.	Names of Pastors.	Church Clerks and Addresses.	Days of Meeting	Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Exclusion	Letter	Deaths	Total Membership	Value of Property	Paid Pastor	Paid for Minutes	Paid Orphan's Home.	Pupils in S. S.	Paid Missions	S. S. Expenses
Salem X	A. A. Weeks	Bertha Carter, Salem	4	0	1	1	12	7	0	102	900	50 00	1 50	16 54	66	22 56	11 47
Oak Grove	R. K. Pope	A. M. Farrell, Moody	2	1	0	1	2	5	2	82	500	60 00	1 50	2 00	50	4 22	5 00
County Line	R. K. Pope	Secil Fore, Bakersfield	3	0	4	0	7	1	2	80	000	60 00	85	11 23	107	21 61	10 70
Diamond Spring	W. M. Fout	Allen Wilkins, Field	3	0	1	0	0	2	2	54	000	00 00	1 00	0 00	00	0 00	0 00
Hall's Chapel	C. W. Hill	Mary Casey, Hand	2	14	2	5	1	0	0	25	000	18 25	1 00	0 00	00	2 50	0 00
Union Hill	J. H. Porterfield	C. F. Langston, Hand	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	44	000	00 00	75	0 00	00	0 00	0 00
Mt. Zion	R. T. Farthing	Sam Miller, Union	3	0	5	0	0	1	2	110	000	00 00	75	0 00	00	0 00	0 00
				16	13	8	22	20	9	497	1400	188 25	7 35	29 77	223	50 89	27 17.