

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Red River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH
MOUNT BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH.

Clark County, Ark.,

SEPTEMBER 21, 22 AND 23, 1895.

J. P. COMELAND, MODERATOR, Wolf Creek.

J. P. BOURLAND, CLERK, Curtis.

Constitution.

Article 1. This Union shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of the Red River Baptist Association.

Art. 2. This Association shall be composed of delegates from the Churches in the Union. Each Church shall be entitled to three delegates, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by their several Churches before they take their seats.

Art. 3. The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative 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 successors are 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 in matters of internal government, and shall act as advisory counsel, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to it by the Churches, or evidently implied by the nature of the compact. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates from Churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from, and disown, all Churches which depart from the spirit of this 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 principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God by extending the Kingdom of Grace on earth through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and the means in accordance with the Gospel to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, especially those united in this constitution.

Art. 5. Newly constituted Churches dismissed from other Associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union by sending three delegates, their number in fellowship, number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored and deceased since last session, and all other information.

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF—

Red River Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH—

Mt. Bethel Baptist Church,

CLARK COUNTY, ARK.,

—ON—

September 21, 22 and 23, 1895.

Next session to be held with Providence Baptist Church, Nevada
County, Ark., commencing on Friday before the second
Sunday in October, 1896,

3. When the delegates' names are enrolled and called by the Clerk, the Association shall then elect by ballot a Moderator and Clerk, the plurality of votes governing the election.

4. All motions and amendments to motions must be seconded before they can be entertained by the Moderator. When motions or amendments to motions are made, the last one made shall be the first in order, and so on in inverse order to the original motion, but the mover may at any time withdraw his motion.

5. Any person wishing to make a motion or to speak on any matter before the Association shall rise to his feet and respectfully address the Moderator, and if he be in order the Moderator shall signify by calling the person or otherwise, and no one thus in order shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject, or for personal reflections; nor shall any member speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the Association, or to explain some of his former remarks.

6. Whenever sufficient time has been allowed for discussion of any subject before the Association the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association and declare the result, a plurality governing all cases except those provided for.

7. No member may vacate his seat without the consent of the Moderator while the body is in session.

8. When one member shall speak to or of another he shall call him brother.

9. The Moderator shall have the names of the delegates called whenever it is necessary.

10. The Moderator may speak on matters of debate and other members by calling some one else to fill his seat while speaking, but not until all others have spoken who desire to speak.

11. The Moderator may invite visiting ministers in good order, to seats in the council, who may speak but not vote.

12. The minutes of the Association may be read as it may think necessary.

13. The Moderator shall be judge of the order; the object or may appeal to the body, a majority of whom shall determine the point of order.

Proceedings.

MT. BETHEL, September 21, 1895.

The Forty-Seventh Annual Session of the Red River Baptist Association met with Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, Clark County, Ark., at 9 o'clock a. m. on Saturday, September 21, 22 and 23, 1895.

Congregational singing led by Bro. A. J. Price, earnest and fervent prayers offered by E. B. Miller, D. G. Wells and I. F. Welch.

At 10:30 o'clock Moderator Copeland announced intermission for a short while.

At 11 o'clock promptly congregation reassembled. Singing was led by A. J. Price, daughters and I. F. Welch. The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. J. O. Browning, reading an introductory lesson to the services the 14th chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Song, "Shall Jesus Bear the Cross Alone, and All the World Go Free?" J. O. Browning then announced his text, Rom. 1:15. Bro. Browning's discourse was short, necessarily so on account of feeble health. The discourse was well prepared, delivered in the spirit of our Lord, manifested and feelingly, and was most kindly received by the entire audience, and was concluded by the very appropriate and timely remarks of G. W. Burns, with closing prayer by W. H. Davis. Adjourned for refreshments. Benediction by J. O. Browning.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened promptly at 1 o'clock. Congregational singing led by A. J. Price. Moderator J. Copeland read the first division of the Psalms. Prayer by Bro. T. A. Midgbrook of Union Association.

The former Moderator called the Association to order, re-

questing the Messengers to come forward at once and deliver on the Clerk's table the letters from their respective Churches.

J. W. Conger and J. F. Welch were appointed to read the letters. After the reading of the letters, the Messengers' names being enrolled and Churches registered, names were called and absentees noted. Moderator Copeland announced regular order of business to be that of permanent organization by electing Moderator and Clerk, and that he would appoint J. B. Langley and Ezra Cates as tellers of said election. Churches were called in regular alphabetical order and Messengers voted. The votes were counted, and Teller J. B. Langley announced as the result of the election that the present incumbents were almost unanimously elected, whereupon the Moderator and Clerk thanked the Association for the reconferred honors, and resumed at once the duties of their respective offices.

Called for Petitionary Letters, and letters were presented by the Messengers from Durrett and Mt. Zion. Letters read and Messengers' names regularly enrolled, after which the Moderator, upon the part and in behalf of the Association, extended to the Messengers the right hand of fellowship, announcing to them that upon their petitionary letters and the action of the Association their respective Churches were received into full fellowship and the Messengers cordially invited to seats with us in council.

Motion prevailed that a Committee on Divine Service be appointed. Moderator appointed J. H. Holt, J. B. Langley and K. Hall.

Motion carried that Messengers from Mt. Bethel Church be added to the Committee.

The following corresponding Messengers were received and invited to seats with us: Eld. T. A. Middlebrook, Union Association; Eld. Z. C. Bandy, Howard County Association.

Upon motion of G. W. Burns, Messengers and Corresponding Messengers were appointed as follows: To Southern Baptist Convention—J. W. Conger; State Baptist Convention—E. H. Miller, D. G. Wells, I. F. Welch, J. J. Haynes and B. F. Malcomb; State Mission Board—J. J. Haynes, continued; Howard County Association—J. P. Copeland and J. H. Holt; Union Association—J. J. Haynes and A. J. Price; Caddo Association—I. F. Welch.

and J. R. Hardy; Saline Association—G. W. Burns, E. W. McBrayer; Judson Association—J. O. Browning, E. B. Miller.

Report on Divine Services received and adopted as follows:

At Mt. Bethel Church, Saturday night, D. G. Wells to preach; at Richwoods, L. F. Welch; at Wilson Fultons, W. U. Davis; at Mt. Zion Church, Z. C. Bandy.

Prayer meeting Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, conducted by J. J. Haynes; Sunday at 11 o'clock, F. D. Baars; Sunday evening at 8 o'clock, J. P. Copeland.

Upon the introduction of the Moderator, Miss May Clark, of Little Rock, was unanimously received by the Association as a visitor and representative of "The Baptist."

Upon its application, motion prevailed unanimously to grant letter of dismission to Mt. Pleasant Church for the purpose of uniting with Howard County Association.

Messengers and visitors were assigned homes by J. L. Bozeman.

Upon the request of the Moderator, motion prevailed that he be allowed time (until 11 o'clock Sunday morning) to announce committees appointed.

Motion to adjourn to 9 o'clock Monday morning prevailed, whereupon the congregation arose and sang "Sweet By and By." Benediction. Prayer by J. W. Conger.

EVENING SERVICE.

Congregation assembled at 8:30 p. m. Singing was led by J. J. Haynes—"Nearer My God to Thee." A heartfelt, earnest prayer was offered by Bro. T. J. Bennett. D. G. Wells read the 8th chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans. After congregational singing and prayer, he announced his text—Rom. 8:38. Bro. Wells preaches the plain, simple Gospel, in a plain, simple way, and his sermon was well received by the entire congregation. Services were concluded by A. W. King.

Sunday Services—The people began to assemble early. Congregational singing, led by A. J. Price, was delightful. Promptly at the appointed hour J. J. Haynes read the 116th division of the Psalms, commenting and explaining the beautiful

lessons therein taught. Prayers were offered by I. F. Welch, J. P. Copeland, Z. C. Bandy, W. U. Davis and Andy Price, alternated with sacred music, religious talks and profitable lectures delivered by several of the brethren, and the prayer meeting closed with an excellent good feeling.

Congregation reassembled at 11 o'clock. J. J. Haynes read part of the 8th chapter of Romans; song, "Nearer, My God, to Thee;" prayer, by G. W. Burns.

The Moderator announced committees appointed, stating that the first name of each committee would act as chairman, and asking all to please prepare their reports early on Monday morning:

Pastoral Support—G. W. Burns, J. H. Holt, J. T. Pollard

Sunday Schools—E. W. McBrayer, Adam Lane and J. A. McMillian.

Temperance—W. U. Davis, J. C. Brown and J. R. Hardy.

Education—E. B. Miller, G. W. Burns and D. G. Wells.

Woman's Work—E. B. Miller, J. L. Bozeman and W. A. F. Wells.

Literature—J. M. Hardage, L. B. Ramage and J. W. Holt.

State and Associational Missions—J. P. Bourland, L. H. Hitt and I. F. Welch.

Documents—S. S. Langley, J. C. Wright and W. C. Tyson.

Ministerial Education—J. W. Conger, J. O. Browning and E. W. McBrayer.

Nominations—A. J. Price, E. Delaughter and R. K. Hall.

Obituaries—J. O. Browning, B. F. Malcromb and J. M. Thomas.

Finance—J. B. Langley, J. P. Copeland, Jr., and J. D. Dwiggins.

Ouachita College—J. W. Conger, E. B. Miller and F. H. Baars.

Home and Foreign Missions—L. H. Hitt, J. O. Browning and J. C. Kelley.

The Committee on Divine Services submitted the following additional report, which was adopted: At Mt. Zion Church, C. Kelley will preach tonight; T. J. Bennett, at Mt. Bethel Richwoods, A. W. King; Thompson's School House, Bro. Milam

at Wilson Fultons, J. R. Hardy, and Monday at 11 o'clock; at Mt. Bethel, Z. C. Bandy.

F. D. Baars, in that very pleasant though humble manner, addressed the large audience which had crowded the building to its full capacity (with many yet out of doors), and announced his text—1st Cor. 15:58. From this text Bro. Baars delivered a scholarly discourse, yet simple and plain, and, oh, how beautiful his illustrations! At the close of this service a collection was taken for Associational Missions, amounting to cash \$18.39. The closing prayer was led by F. D. Baars.

The people were requested by Moderator Copeland to remain upon the grounds and partake of the abundant refreshments furnished by the good folks of Mt. Bethel Church and surrounding country.

AFTERNOON SERVICES.

The hour of 3 o'clock was set apart for Eld. J. P. Copeland to preach. The services were opened by singing, and the congregation reassembled, all eager to obtain entrance. After prayer J. P. Copeland announced his text from the last part of the 8th chapter of Romans, delivering a very solemn and profitable discourse, listened to by a crowded house, with that attention that knows no jar. They were concluded by J. O. Browning.

EVENING SERVICES.

T. J. Bennett being sick, the pulpit at Mt. Bethel was occupied for the hour by E. Delaughter, who delivered a good sermon from the text Acts 16:30, 31. Services were concluded by song and prayer.

The services at the different appointments are reported to have been well attended and of great interest, and it is to be hoped that a great good for our Master's work has been done.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, singing led by A. J. Price, prayer led by E. Delaughter.

Reports of Committees were called for.

The Committee on Pastoral Support reported as follows:

God hath ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel. 1st Cor. 9:1-14. As the Lord provided for the ministry in the service of the Temple, so he provided for His ministry in His Churches. But as the Churches sometimes withhold the portion that belongs to the pastor, so did the Israelites, and the priests were driven to the fields (secular employments), but were reprov'd by the prophet, Nehemiah, for this wrong. Nehemiah 13:10-14. Therefore, we would recommend that each Church have and support its own pastor, to the end that he may wait on his ministry, and the blessings of the Lord will rest upon his Church and pastorate.

G. W. BURNS, Chairman.

Motion to adopt speeches favoring the report by G. W. Burns, E. Delaughter, J. C. Kelley and J. M. Thomas; report adopted.

The report of the Committee on Nominations was submitted as follows:

We respectfully recommend that the next session of the body be held with the Church at Providence, Nevada County, and that A. W. King preach the introductory sermon; J. C. Kelley, alternate.

A. J. PRICE, Chairman.

Motion to adopt. Motion to amend by inserting Clovis Springs. Amendment lost, and original report adopted.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was read and adopted as follows:

We believe the use of intoxicating spirits as a beverage one of the greatest evils in our land, and condemned by God's word. "Wine is a mockery; strong drink is raging." We recommend not to look upon wine, much less drink it as a beverage. God says: "At last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." Prov. 23:22. The curse of the Lord rests in awful wrath upon the man who puts the cup to his neighbor's lip. The Bible teaches that no drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God (Gal. 5:9-21). We recommend local option for all that

is worth, and we confidently look forward to the time when all Baptists will rise up in their manhood and vote this curse out of our land. We also urge, as has been heretofore, that the use of tobacco is a filthy habit and great waste of money, and we should certainly teach our children not to use it.

J. R. HARDY, Chairman.

The report of the Committee on Obituaries was read and adopted as follows:

We have no information as regards the death of any ordained minister from the reports from the different Churches, but we remember a notice of the death of Bro. James Gunter, an ordained preacher of this Association, published in the "Arkansas Baptist" over the signature of W. K. Gilreath, which we recommend this body to accept as a portion of this report, and the same be republished in our Minutes.

J. O. BROWNING, Chairman.

GUNTER—Eld. James, died January 4, 1895. Aged 70 years. 4 months and 2 days.

The Reaper of Life with his keen sickle, who does not discriminate between the thorns and the flowers, has seen fit to gather unto his fathers our much respected, highly esteemed and dearly beloved brother, Eld. James Gunter. Bro. Gunter was a native of North Carolina—born in Chatham County on September 2, 1824; removed to Clark County, Ark., in 1842; was married to Miss Permelia Jarman on October 5, 1843; professed religion and joined Mt. Bethel Baptist Church in 1844; was ordained to the full work of the ministry by Pleasant Hill Church on October 12, 1851. He was an earnest and conscientious minister of the Gospel, ever ready and willing to defend our Master's cause. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." But his presence with us will long be missed, while he waits upon the other shore for our coming. His estimable and aged wife, children and relatives have the profound sympathy of the entire community in their irreparable loss.

W. K. GILREATH.

The Committee on Sunday Schools read its report as follows:

After examining the letters from the various Churches we find them sadly deficient in the Sunday School work—only a few Churches with schools. Brethren, in this age of Bible and enlightenment we see no excuse for this neglect of duty or lethargy among our Churches. Solomon of old and wise said, "train up the child in the way it should go and when old it will not depart therefrom." And, as it has been well demonstrated that our greatest ingathering of souls has been in Churches where live Sunday Schools have been maintained, and being one of the Lord's plans of propagating the Gospel, we believe and recommend that it is one of the indispensable duties of pastors to indoctrinate their Churches along this line; and we therefore urge upon the various Churches of this Association the great necessity of immediately taking up this work.

E. W. McBRAYER, Chairman.

Speeches were made favoring the report as read, and urging the importance of the same being put into practice, by Bro. White, Bandy, Burns and E. Delaughter. The report was adopted.

No business being before the body, the Association engaged in prayer, led by Eld. J. O. Browning.

The Committee on Woman's Work reported through its chairman as follows:

We find that the women of our Southern Churches, through organized agencies, gave last year to Foreign Missions, \$24,933.64; to Home Missions, \$23,515.61. In the State of Arkansas they contributed to Foreign Missions \$289.31; to Home Missions \$381.95; to State Missions, \$146.79; Church aid, \$4,448.82; material aid, \$131.25; boxes sent to frontier missionaries, \$529.00; Christmas offerings to Japan, \$51.70. The above amounts are taken from minutes of Southern Baptist and Arkansas State Conventions—thirty-nine societies reporting. From our information there has been nothing done towards associational missions the past year, and we, your committee, would respectfully suggest that this body appoint some sister unincumbered with a family, and who is known to be a lover of missions, as Vice President of Missions; that as far as practical all of the women

of the Churches of our Association be organized for special efforts in circulating missionary literature and gathering and contributing funds for the dissemination of Gospel truth at home and abroad.

E. B. MILLER, Chairman.

Report adopted, and, upon motion of John L. Bozeman. Mrs. Estella Blake, of Arkadelphia, was unanimously chosen by the body to organize woman's work within the bounds of our Association.

Motion to adjourn to 1 o'clock prevailed.

Preaching by Z. C. Bandy, reading as an introductory to the 11 o'clock services the 135th division of the Psalms. After prayer he announced his text, Rev. 22: 9—"Worship God." The discourse was of interest to all, and was listened to with good attention. After prayer and benediction we were dismissed for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1 o'clock the Association reassembled. After song and prayer, the Moderator called the body to order and resumed business.

The Finance Committee read its report, which was adopted. Resolved from the Churches for—

Minute fund	\$36.75
Associational Missions	26.60
Home Missions	1.45
Foreign Missions	3.45
State Missions	50
Total	\$68.75

J. B. LANGLEY, Chairman.

The following report from the Committee on Literature was read and adopted:

First of all we urge the Baptists of Red River Association to read and study the Bible. It has always been accepted as the basis of all our doctrine and practices. Next we heartily encourage and advise our people to read and use our denominational literature. Our State paper, "The Baptist," is eminently sound

and worthy of our hearty and united support. We are sure that our rapid growth in the State is largely due to the influence of our State paper. We ought to be loyal to it; and, last, but not least, work to increase its circulation. We recommend the use of our Southern Baptist Convention literature in our Sunday Schools. It is the product of the Southern Baptist Convention and is equal to any published outside of our Convention. We urge our people to use none but our denominational literature. It is sound and safe and is of the utmost importance in teaching our children the truths of the Bible. The so-called non-denominational publications we regard as very hurtful, and should not be used in our Sunday Schools.

J. M. HARDAGE, Chairman.

G. W. Burns submitted the report on education, reading from the minutes of last year. Motion to readopt:

The duty of every intelligent parent is to give his children—sons and daughters alike—the most complete education of which he is capable. He owes it to his children, to his country, to his God. God may conceal what lies before us in the distant years; but the duty of the present in the education of our children is clear. Education means the training of faculties, the broadening of powers. Not only a familiarity with the best thought of the best minds of the past and present, but deeper spiritual insight and intellectual grasp. As Christians and as Baptists it is our duty to provide higher Christian education for our children. All truth is Christ's and subservient to Him, and should be utilized in the progress of His Kingdom. The interests of Christ and all truth are identical. Religion and learning go hand in hand. Trace the smallest ray of truth in any sphere and it leads to Christ, the uncreated sun, from whom all light proceeds. An interest in Christ necessitates an interest in education, hence higher education has always been dependent principally upon the fostering care of religion. The greatest colleges have always been Christian colleges, and under the direct supervision of the ministry. The Churches of Red River Association enjoy superior advantages and have great responsibilities. We have within our midst Ouachita College, which

thoroughly equipped for the best work. Will our children have its benefits and receive its inspiration? Will we foster and cherish it and prove worthy of the trust committed to us by our sister Churches? The opening the past week is very encouraging and shows that Ouachita is growing in the confidence and love of the people throughout the State. We refer with much gratitude, also, to Central and Mountain Home Colleges, both of which are splendidly equipped and have excellent facilities for work.

G. W. BURNS, Chairman.

Speeches followed favoring the report and in the great interest of education by E. B. Miller and A. G. McManaway. Report adopted.

The following report from the Standing Committee on Ouachita College was read and adopted:

Notwithstanding the financial depression and discouragements that have swept over our country from East to West, the College had a large attendance and a very successful year. The work at the close of the session was altogether satisfactory, showing progress along the entire line of the College work. About 275 pupils were enrolled during the year—fourteen in the graduating class. Our hearts were made glad on last Tuesday when quite a number of the old pupils returned to take their places in College, with many new ones, and far the best opening and prospects that the College has ever had. We have the strongest faculty and better facilities for college work than ever before. Up to date there are about twenty-five young ministers in College. Brethren, there are many ways you can help us in this great work—your prayers, children, influence, money and hearty co-operation.

J. J. HAYNES, Chairman.

The Associational Executive Board submitted its annual report, including missionaries' reports:

At a regular meeting assembled at Curtis, October 19, 1895, a quorum was present, composed of J. P. Bourland, chairman; C. H. Hitt, John B. Langley and Dr. J. C. Wallis by proxy. After prayer, led by Bro. L. H. Hitt, asking God in His wisdom to guide and direct your Board in the discharge of its whole duty in behalf of our Associational mission work; also, after a very

careful consideration of the situation of our work, as well as the financial condition of our country, as best we could solve it. We were all of the same mind and belief that it would be best for the cause to organize a different line of work to that heretofore adopted. Instead of employing one man to take the entire work of the Association at a stated salary we thought it better, as well as economy, to employ different brethren living most convenient to destitute places, and to help young and weak Churches to secure good pastors. So we at once entered into contract with the following named brethren to supply the following named Churches and mission points: J. J. Haynes, Evergreen Church, near Hebron, Clark County; L. H. Hitt, Mt. Zion Church; J. P. Copeland, Durrett, Pike County (mission point); S. L. Holloway, mission point north of Caddo River; H. J. P. Horne, Antoine (mission point); I. F. Welch, Red Land Church; E. Merrell, Picket School House (mission point).

After a few months' service at Antoine, Bro. Horne advised to discontinue the work at that point, as the entire interest of the Baptist cause was centering at Durrett, so contract was cancelled and H. J. P. Horne claims nothing from the Board for the services rendered at Antoine. Our obligations to the other brethren amount in the aggregate to \$150. From a condensed report of our missionaries we find:

CHURCHES OR STATIONS.	MISSIONARIES.	Churches Organized.	No. Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Sermons Preached.	Religious Visits.	Prayer Meet- ings and Ad- dresses.	No. of Con- versions.	REMARKS.
Durrett.....	J. P. Copeland.....	1	6	17	39	21	.....	9	Church self-sustaining
Evergreen.....	J. J. Haynes.....	.....	6	3	44	8	33	6	
Mt. Zion.....	L. H. Hitt.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Important field. Ordained 3 deacons
North of Caddo.....	S. L. Holloway.....	4	3	11	17	23	.....	4	
Red Land.....	I. F. Welch.....	.....	5	15	25	12	.....	.....
Picket School House.	E. Merrell.....	.....	.....	18	.....	7	.....	.....
Totals.....		1	13	23	127	71	76	19	

Up to date we have received cash from:

J. B. Langley.....	\$0 85	Brought forward.....	\$8 00	Brought forward.....	.....
Sister Langley.....	1 15	Contributions Sunday.....	18 30	Mrs. Ollie Arnold.....	.....
Miss Kate Perrie.....	5 00	Mrs. A. F. Wells.....	25	Finance Committee.....	.....
South Fork church.....	1 00	Carried forward.....	\$26 55	Total.....	.....
Carried forward.....	\$8 00				

J. P. BOURLAND, Chairman.

Motion was made to adopt. Division of reports was called for, and motion to amend by striking out so much of the report of the Executive Board as refers to Mt. Zion Church. This provoked a lively discussion. Interesting and plausible speeches were made both for and against the amendment, those favoring the amendment contending that Bro. Hitt was not going to claim nor receive the appropriation made by the Board, as the Church had proved to be self-sustaining; also, as *prima facie* evidence sustaining the position taken, Bro. Hitt had sent no report of his work to the Association. Question called; rising vote; result, for the amendment 38, against the amendment 20; and report as amended, with missionaries' reports, was adopted.

The following report was read by the Committee on State and Associational Missions:

We advise that our Associational Mission Board co-operate with our State Board in the support and maintaining our State Mission work. In our bounds we know of large destitution, people living within our limits without the Gospel, and we feel it our imperative duty to supply the people of these destitute places with the preached word. But we find from the report of our Executive Board that we owe for work already rendered under contract with our Board—good and faithful services, too. So we would advise that our first duty is to arrange for the liquidation of our entire indebtedness, and for the future work we recommend that our Churches who have not already reported amounts that they will pay for another year in support of this work, to prayerfully consider the matter during their next Conference meeting, agree upon some amount that they will pay and report same to the chairman of our Executive Board so that our Board may have at an early date a basis upon which it can formulate its work for another year. We would also advise that our district meetings be changed to mission meetings, and that the programs of these meetings be composed largely of queries appertaining to missions and the mission work, and that we arrange in the programs of these meetings for a missionary sermon to be preached on Sunday at 11 o'clock and at the close of this service a collection be taken up for the Associational mission fund. In this way we will educate ourselves

to take a more godly interest in our meetings as well as the mission work. We will also establish in our mission meetings a more systematic way of giving to the service of the Lord. May God help us.

J. P. BOURLAND, Chairman.

Motion to adopt was made, and speeches by E. B. Miller and A. G. McManaway in support of the report. The Moderator asked permission to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the members of this Association, including the pastors of all our Churches, be requested to take up collections at their regular monthly meetings and continue from time to time until a sufficient amount has been raised to liquidate the entire debt of our Associational Mission Board. Two dollars and twenty-five cents from each Church will pay the debt.

Report, with resolution, was adopted.

Motion was made to continue the Board, and amendment offered by J. B. Langley that he be relieved and J. M. Hardage be appointed. The vote was solid against the amendment. Motion prevailed to add the name of J. M. Hardage and the Board be continued.

The following report of the Committee on Ministerial Education was read and adopted:

There is great need of a higher education in the ministry. We have ample facilities for the accomplishment of this end. In Ouachita there were twenty-six young ministers last year and about twenty this year, with five or six of this number from our own Association, and they all need help. We ought to walk up on this line. If we claim to be missionaries, let us prove it by giving of our means to qualify godly, consecrated men to preach the truth as it is in Jesus. If we do not give of our means to qualify men to preach, we are sadly failing in our duties, opportunities and privileges of doing good.

E. W. McBRAYER, Chairman.

J. M. Hardage and E. B. Miller spoke favoring the cause and pledges to the amount of \$—— were taken and recorded by J. M. Hardage.

The following report from the Committee on Home and Foreign Missions was read and adopted:

During the past year the work of missions under the Home Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has been very successful, for which we feel very grateful to God. Number of missionaries in the field, 425, an increase of forty-four over last year and more than in any year of the Board's history. Baptized, 5921, an increase of 1451 over last year and 72 more than has been baptized in any year since the organization of the Convention; number of new Churches constituted, 178; an increase of forty-five over last year. We recommend that our Association co-operate in this good work. The glorious work of carrying the Gospel to the heathen is still receiving the support and hearty co-operation of our people.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has sent out six new missionaries and has other applications, but the Board does not deem it expedient to enlarge the work just now.

By death we have lost three zealous workers in the mission fields, to-wit: Sister and Brother Newton, of Lagos, Africa, and Sister Z. T. Taylor, Bahia, Brazil.

During the year the following have returned to their various fields of labor, to-wit: R. T. Bryan and family, Rev. S. G. Throck, Rev. W. T. Lumbley and wife.

Number of increase by baptism, 581. There seems to be a greater manifestation of interest in foreign mission work than ever before. The Churches have responded promptly and liberally throughout the South. God has blessed all fields of labor, both in the Eastern and Western hemispheres. We would earnestly urge our brethren to renewed efforts in this work.

J. O. BROWNING, Chairman.

Motion prevailed to change time of annual meeting from Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September to Friday before the second Sunday in October.

J. P. Bourland was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

The following resolution was offered by G. W. Burns and adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be extended to the members of Mt. Bethel Church and the good citizens of the vicinity for their generous entertainment and liberal hospitality in caring for the Messengers and visitors of this, our forty seventh annual meeting; also, to the Moderator and Clerk for their faithful care of business.

No reports this year from Ladies' Aid Societies.

Communication from Rev. E. Merrell read and referred to the Executive Board, with request to report at our next meeting.

J. P. Bourland, Treasurer, submitted the following report

Receipts.	
On hand from last report	
From Finance Committee	
" Sunday collections	
Total	
Disbursements.	
Paid to Associational Mission Board	\$44 00
" for printing Minutes	24 00
" Clerk's fees	15 00
" for Home missions	1 45
" " Foreign " "	3 46
" " State " "	50
" postage and express	3 75
Balance	3 00

The Association directed the Clerk to have 800 copies of the minutes printed and distributed among the Churches according to the money paid, and that he be allowed \$15 for his work.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with the Church at Prosser, one and one-half miles west of Boughton (Iron Mountain Railway) Nevada County, on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1896, at 10 o'clock a. m.

The congregation, by request of the Moderator, arose and joined in singing and extending to each other the parting hand. Benediction. Prayer led by A. G. McManaway.

J. P. COPELAND, Moderator

J. P. BOURLAND, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAMES.	CHURCHES.	POSTOFFICES.	NAMES.	CHURCHES.	POSTOFFICES.
Burns.....	Unity.....	Arkadelphia	J. C. Kelley.....	Piney Grove.....	Boughton.
Burns.....	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia	J. M. Kelley.....	Amity.....	Amity.
Bennett....	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia	E. Merrell.....	Ozan.....	Bingen.
Browning..	Pleasant Hill.....	Dalark.	E. B. Miller.....	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia
Browning..	Pleasant Hill.....	Hebron.	A. G. McMana-		
Bullins....	Unity.....	Arkadelphia	way.....	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia
Burkland..	Wolf Creek.....	Wolf Creek.	J. J. Mathis.....	Curtis.....	Arkadelphia
Boughton..	Boughton.....	Boughton.	J. A. McMillan..	Amity.....	Amity.
Buggins....	Union.....	Alpine.	D. E. McGraw....	Macedonia.....	
Burns.....	Salem.....	Alpine.	J. B. Roundtree..	Liberty Hill.....	Bowen.
Davis.....	Bethel.....	Okolona.	Z. T. Rogers.....	Hollywood.....	Hollywood.
Franklin..	South Fork.....	Hollywood.	J. A. Smith.....	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia
Franklin..	Piney Grove.....	Prescott.	C. E. Toby.....	Mt. Bethel.....	Arkadelphia
Franklin..	Curtis.....	Curtis.	N. Tompkins.....	Pleasant Grove...	Eleyville
Franklin..	Caney Fork.....	Arp.	I. F. Welch.....	Providence.....	Boughton.
Franklin..	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia	D. S. Williams...	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia
Franklin..	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia	D. G. Wells.....	South Fork.....	Gurdon.
Franklin..	Union.....	Alpine.	J. M. White.....	Mt. Bethel.....	Arkadelphia
Franklin..	First, Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia			

LICENTIATES.

Anderson..	Caney Creek.....	Gurdon.	H. C. Stroud....	Bethel Spring....	Gurdon.
Anderson..	Curtis.....	Smithton.	W. M. Stephens..	Gethsemane.....	Leard.
Anderson..	Providence.....	Boughton.	S. Shaddock.....	South Fork.....	Keyton.
Anderson..	Prescott.....	Prescott.	J. B. Thomas.....	Macedonia.....	
Anderson..	Union.....	Alpine.	J. H. Turner.....	Mt. Bethel.....	Arkadelphia
Anderson..	Pleasant Grove...	Eleyville.	W. B. Williams..	Union.....	Alpine.

PASTORS, CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE'S.	DAYS OF MEETING.	MESSENGERS.
Arkadelphia, First	E. B. Miller.....	J. W. Bunch....	Arkadelphia....	Every Sunday....	E. B. Miller, J. W. Conger, J. M. Hardage.
Amity	W. W. Carson....	J. W. Key.....	Amity.....	4th S.a Sat.before	J. A. McMillan, T. A. Hollinshead.
Aeon	W. U. Davis....	J. H. Wisdom....	Alpine.....	2d " " "	J. J. Dwiggins.
Bethlehem	A. W. King.....	W. L. Bunch....	Gurdon.....	1st " " "	Ezra Cates, T. B. Burris, J. H. Key.
Boughton	H. J. P. Horne....	W. D. Sutton....	Boughton.....	3d " " "	A. J. Price, E. Delaughter, Andy Price.
Bethel	D. G. Wells.....	J. H. Smart.....	Okolona.....	3d " " "	J. F. Hall, R. K. Hall.
Bethel Spring	D. G. Wells.....	H. C. Stroud....	Gurdon.....	.....	A. L. Humphries, Elias Barr.
Clear Spring	G. W. Burns....	W. F. Wilder....	Clear Springs...	1st S.a Sat.before	W. F. Wilder, J. T. Bolt, T. W. Henderson.
Center Ridge	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Caney Creek	D. G. Wells.....	F. D. Brown....	Gurdon.....	4th S.a Sat.before	F. D. Brown, W. C. Tyson.
Caney Fork	G. A. Franklin....	J. O. Manwaring	Hollywood.....	1st " " "	J. R. Hardy, R. F. Kelley, J. J. Byers.
Curtis	H. J. P. Horne....	J. L. Stroope....	Curtis.....	1st " " "	J. P. Bourland, T. B. Freeman.
DeGray	L. H. Hitt.....	W. D. Cooke....	Arkadelphia....	2d " " "	E. W. McBrayer, T. F. Terrell, W. D. Cook
Evergreen	J. J. Haynes....	T. P. Ricketts...	Hebron.....	1st " " "	A. J. Ricketts, W. Roundtree.
Gum Spring	J. J. Mathis....	W. E. Payne....	Gum Sprag.....	4th " " "	Mance Mathis, N. B. Neill
Glenwood	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Gurdon	F. D. Baars.....	S. B. Earle.....	Gurdon.....	2d S.a Sat.before	M. A. Davidson
Gethsemane	J. J. Dwiggins....	J. T. Speakman..	.....	2d " " "	W. M. Stephens, C. Deaton, J. H. Trout.
Hollywood	Z. T. Rogers....	J. M. Clark.....	Holly Wood....	1st " " "	F. E. Tagur, B. F. Malcrom.
Holly Grove	J. T. Howell....	R. C. Biggadike..	Beirne.....	3d " " "	W. A. Stovall, W. S. Bigadike.
Liberty Hill	.....	.....	.....	.....	S. S. Langley.
Midway	W. U. Davis....	C. N. Thomas....	Clear Springs...	.....	S. W. Farlin, J. R. Etchison, W. B. Baggan.
Mountain Home	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Macedonia	W. M. Patterson	W. R. Wheelless	Arp.....	.....	J. B. Thomas.
Mt. Olive	J. H. Collins....	M. D. Bistap....	Hearn.....	3d S.a Sat.before	A. J. Thompson, John Wingfield, J. W. Harred
Maple Springs	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Mount Pleasant	J. M. Copeland..	W. G. Bright....	Bingen.....	2d S.a Sat.before	P. K. Davis, J. L. Epton.
Mt. Bethel	J. O. Browning..	J. Bozeman.....	Arkadelphia....	4th " " "	T. H. Carter, J. M. White, John L. Bozeman.
New Home	L. H. Hitt.....	J. W. Nelson....	Prescott.....	4th " " "	J. C. Brown, J. C. Wright.
Ozan	I. F. Welch.....	J. H. Holt.....	Bingen.....	1st " " "	J. H. Holt, A. H. Cagle, L. B. Ramage.
Okolona	A. W. King.....	J. M. Thomas....	Okolona.....	4th " " "	B. W. Towland, J. M. Thomas, John Little.
Pleasant Hill	G. W. Burns....	J. B. Langley....	Hebron.....	2d " " "	J. O. Browning, J. B. Langley.
Pleasant Home	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Pleasant Grove	I. F. Welch.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Piney Grove	J. C. Kelley....	Freeman Ridzell	Boughton.....	1st S.a Sat.before	J. J. Mayes, J. C. Kelley.
Prescott	J. M. Hart.....	Jno. M. Milburn.	Prescott.....	1a3 " " "	W. H. Butcher.
Providence	I. F. Welch.....	S. M. Scott.....	Boughton.....	2d " " "	I. F. Welch, S. M. Scott, H. Garmon.
Richwoods	G. W. Burns....	E. S. Smith.....	Gum Springs...	3d " " "	E. S. Smith, W. I. Anderson, S. W. Studdard.
Red Land	I. F. Welch.....	.....	Wallisburg....	.....	Not represented.
Spring Hill	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
Salem	.....	.....	.....	.....	Not represented.
South Fork	D. G. Wells....	G. B. Carter....	Gurdon.....	2d S.a Sat.before	D. G. Wells, Ed. McMillan.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	MEMBERSHIP.						FINANCIAL.						
	Incr'se.			Decr's.			Associational Missions.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	For Minutes.	Value of Church Property.	For Associational Missions this year.
	By Baptism.	By Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.							
Arkadelphia, First	58	94		72	2	1	421	\$30 40		\$38 55	\$10 00	\$2 50	\$5000
Amity				12			72					1 50	150
Aeon							34					30	
Bethlehem	17	9	1	2	4		93					1 50	400
Boughton	14	9		6		2	54					1 50	450
Bethel	2	1					23					75	
Bethel Spring	13	5		3			47				1 00	200	
Clear Spring	7			9			90	1 00				75	
Center Ridge													
Caney Fork		6		3	3		28	50		50		60	
Caney Creek	2	1					23				1 00	200	
Curtis	4	8		7			46	18 00			1 50		\$10 00
DeGray	3	3		3	8		109				2 00		
Evergreen	6	3	1	3	1	1	22	65 \$3 15				300	
Gum Spring	3			1	4	2	45				1 00	300	3 00
Glenwood													
Gurdon	6	8		1		1	40	1 40			1 00		
Gethsemane	1	11					28					50	
Hollywood			1			3	27				1 00		
Holly Grove	7	5	3	5	2	2	62	45		50	1 50	350	
Liberty Hill													
Midway	3				1		23				50		
Mountain Home													
Macedonia		4		7		1						40	
Mt. Olive	5		2		2			2 75			50		
Maple Springs													
Mount Pleasant	13	5					56	70 1 00					
Mt. Bethel	3	6		9			57				75	500	
New Home	1	5	1	10	7	2	80			95	1 25	250	
Ozan	2	1		22	1		77	5 00	50	2 50	1 40	400	
Okolona	3	3			2		64	1 10			50		
Pleasant Hill	9	2	2	7			63	19 65	4 55		1 50	100	15 00
Pleasant Home													
Pleasant Grove							98	3 00			2 00	450	
Piney Grove	10	4		19			40	1 00			1 00	300	
Prescott	3	3		8			59		22 10	67 40	2 00	500	5 00
Providence	12	2	1				70	4 35			1 00		5 00
Richwoods	3	4	1	11	2	1	63	3 50	4 40		1 25	700	
Red Land		5		3	5		12						
Spring Hill													
Salem													
South Fork	1	9	2	8	12	2	65	5 00				250	
Shiloh	1	2		2			43				75		8 00
Union	5	5		1									
Unity	4	3		7	2	1	59	1 95	11 85		1 00	400	
Wolf Creek	4	6		6			53				1 30	300	
Wheeler	7			6		1	29	50			1 00		
Washington		2					20				75	1000	
Zion													
NEW CHURCHES.													
Durrett	6						23				60		
Mt. Zion	15	5			2		33				1 00		
Totals	253	244 15		253 60	20	2415	\$100 00	\$4 65	\$84 45	\$78 85	\$38 75	\$11600	\$41 00