

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL SESSION OF

ROCKY BAYOU
MISSIONARY BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION



HELD WITH
FAIRVIEW CHURCH, VIOLET HILL, ARK.
OCTOBER 10-12, 1918

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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH
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ROCKY BAYOU
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HELD WITH
FAIRVIEW CHURCH, VIOLET HILL, ARK.
OCTOBER 10-12, 1918.



ELDER R. T. FARTHING, Moderator.
Stella, Ark.
W. R. MILLER, Clerk,
Lunenburg, Ark.

Next Session convenes with Knob Creek Church, at Knob
Creek, Ark., Thursday before second Sunday in November,
1919.

Ordained Ministers.

M. C. Burton,	Newburg.
I. N. Davenport,	Larkin.
Thomas Felts,	Cave City.
J. M. Garrison,	Cushman.
James Rector,	Melbourne.
Wilson Taylor,	Stella.
R. A. Roberson,	Lunenburg.
F. F. Weaver,	Sidney.
F. B. Williams,	Zion.
T. E. Lawrence,	Knob Creek.
Allen Cooper,	Melbourne.
W. M. Cooper,	Melbourne.
G. L. Ford,	Zion.
L. H. Davis,	Stella.
R. T. Farthing,	Stella.
P. A. Wiles,	Zion.
J. W. Gist.	Day.
J. F. Jones,	Creswell.
J. M. Rush,	Melbourne.
J. H. Porterfield,	Wild Cherry.
J. T. Jones,	Cave City.
W. A. Davis,	Franklin.
G. W. Speak,	Creswell.
N. T. Chadwick,	Newburg.
J. Blevins,	Violet Hill.
W. H. Casey,	Polk.

PROCEEDINGS.

Thursday, October 10, 1918, the Rocky Bayou Missionary Baptist Association convened in its Seventy-Seventh Annual Session with Fairview Church at Violet Hill, Ark., at 11 o'clock a. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder L. H. Davis, after which recess was taken until 2 o'clock p. m.

First Day — Afternoon Session.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

The Moderator appointed Bros. J. G. Jennings and Theodore Wilson, Reading Clerks.

After reading letters from the various churches, the Association went into the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in the election of Elder R. T. Farthing as Moderator and the re-election of W. R. Miller as Clerk.

Call for petitionary letters. Responded to by Pine Hill Church.

Invitation was extended to Corresponding Messengers Accepted by John Cochran and G. W. Bray of Big Creek Association.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Arrangement of Business— G. L. Ford, W. M. Cooper and T. B. Williams.

Divine Worship— L. H. Davis and Messengers of Fairview Church.

Baptist Literature— W. S. Davis, J. G. Jennings and J. H. Porterfield,

Foreign Missions— J. M. Rush, F. F. Weaver and W. A. Davis.

Associational Missions— J. G. Jennings, W. A. Roberts and W. M. Cooper.

State Missions— P. A. Wiles, G. L. Ford and L. H. Davis.

Sabbath School-- S. E. Martin, H. C. Duren and J. H. Porterfield

Temperance-- H. C. Duren, Melvin Wiles and Oscar Miller.

Prayer Meeting-- A. J. Shell, W. L. Muncy and F. F. Weaver.

Finance-- Walter Haley and J. W. Carpenter.

Destitution— F. B. Williams, P. A. Wiles, J. E. Wilkinson and L. H. Davis.

Christian Education— G. L. Ford, J. G. Jennings, L. H. Davis and J. M. Rush.

Obituaries— Sisters Lucy Horton, Carrie Muncy and R. C. Jackson.

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

Orphan's Home— J. E. Wilkinson, F. B. Williams and J. A. Conyers.

Home Missions— L. H. Davis, W. M. Cooper and S. E. Martin.

Pastoral Support— J. L. Gray, J. J. Fountain and Homer Davis.

A motion prevailed to change the date of meeting of the annual sessions of this Association to Thursday before the second Sunday in November.

Walnut Grove Church was chosen as the place to hold the next fifth Sunday meeting.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 9 a. m. tomorrow. Preaching at 7 o'clock p. m. by Elder F. F. Weaver.

Second Day -- Morning Session.

The Committee on Arrangement of Business recommended the adoption of the order of business as laid down in last years Minutes. Report adopted.

Renewed invitation to Corresponding Messengers.

Renewed invitation to visiting ministers.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions read and adopted.

The next order of business was to select a place to hold the next session of the Association. Knob Creek was chosen as the place, and F. B. Williams was elected to preach the introductory sermon, with F. F. Weaver as alternate.

Report of Committee on Associational Missions read, amended and adopted.

Report of Committee on Baptist Literature read and adopted.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 2 p. m.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by Elder G. L. Ford.

Second Day -- Afternoon Session.

The Association was called to order at 2 p. m. by the Moderator.

Renewed invitation to visiting ministers. Accepted by W. H. McCuistian of White River Association.

A motion prevailed to make report of Committee on Christian Education a special order of business for 2 p. m., Saturday.

Report of Committee on Home Missions read and adopted.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Report of Committee on State Missions was read and adopted.

A collection was taken for State Missions. Amount recieved, \$28.41.

Report of Committee on Temperance read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools read and adopted.

A motion prevailed to ajourn until 6:45 p. m.

At 6:45 p. m. house was called to order and prayer was lead by Elder W. M. Cooper.

Report of Committee on Orphan's Homes was read and, amended and adopted.

A collection was taken which resulted as follows: \$7.00 for the Home at Montecello, and \$14.25 for the Home at Texarkana.

On motion, the Association ajourned until 9 a. m. tomorrow.

Preaching at 7:30 p. m. by W. H. Mc Cuistian, of White River Association.

Third Day -- Morning Session.

At 9 a. m. Saturday, the house was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer was offered by Elder T. D. Thatch.

Report of Committee on Prayer Meeting read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Pastoral Support read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Obituaries read and and adopted.

On motion, the Association ajourned until 2 p. m.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by Elder J. M. Rush.

Third Day -- Afternoon Session.

The house called to order at 2 p. m. by the Moderator. Prayer was lead by Elder J. M. Rush.

Report of Committee on Finance was read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Destitution was read and adopted.

Renewed invitation to visiting ministers. Accepted by H. D. Morton and B. Oneal of White River Association.

Report of Committee on Christian Education read and adopted.

Arrangement of correspondence with sister Associations was made as follows:

Independence— L. H. Davis and P. A. Wiles.

Blue Mountain— W. A. Davis and J. M. Rush.

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

White River— W. M. Cooper, P. A. Wiles and J. A. Porterfield

Spring River— J. T. Jones and J. M. Garrison.

Big Creek-- R. T. Farthing, J. M. Rush, J. H. Porterfield, J. N. Mc Elmurry and J. W. Haley.

Reports of Associational Mission Board called for.

Report of Clerk was read and adopted.

Report of Treasurer was received and filed.

Oral report were made by the following missionaries: R. T. Farthing, J. M. Rush and P. A. Wiles. Written reports were made by L. H. Davis and W. M. Cooper.

Pledges were taken for Associationa Missions as follows:

Pledged by Churches.

Antioch,	\$13.50	New Prospect,	2.50
Bethlehem,	5.00	Pine Hill,	5.00
Belleview,	17.50	Providence,	10.00
Concord,	15.00	Pleasant Valley,	5.00
Calico Rock,	15.00	Rocky Bayou,	12.50
Eutopia,	10.00	Saints Rest,	6.00
Fairview,	10.00	Sidney,	10.00
Franklin,	12.50	Strawberry,	2.50
Hidden Creek,	5.00	Shannon Valley,	5.00
Knob Creek,	6.00	Walnut Grove,	8.00
Melbourne,	15.00	Wiseman,	5.00
Mount Lebanon,	3.00	Cross Roads,	3.00
Mount Pleasant,	12.50	Zion Hill,	15.00

Pledged by Individuals.

L. H. Davis	\$5.00	Kittie Jackson	\$1.00
R. L. Clem	5.00	Bettie Williams pd	1.00
H. A. Duren	2.50	Fred Waggoner	1.00
J. E. Wilkerson	2.50	W. F. Kelley	1.00
P. A. Wiles pd	2.50	W. F. Taylor pd	1.00
F. F. Weaver	2.50	L. J. Jackson	1.00
H. C. Duren	2.50	Sallie Davidson pd	1.00
Melvin Wiles	2.50	Bertie Duren	1.00
J. M. Marchant pd	1.00	Lizzie Duren	1.00
J. W. Carpenter pd	1.00	Mary Nelm pd	1.00
E. M. Philips pd	1.00	Grace Duren	1.00
T. F. Thompson pd	1.00	Mellie Duren pd	1.00
J. H. Cooper	1.00	Mrs. T. F. Thompson pd	1.00
C. B. Chadwick	1.00	L. C. Porterfield	1.00
Carrie Muncy pd	1.00	H. H. McGee pd	1.00
Lucy Horton pd	1.00	O. T. Miller pd	1.00
R. N. Frizzell pd	1.00	Mary Campbell	1.00

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. H. A. Duren	1.00	C. W. Lewis,	1.00
Mrs. J. W. Carpenter pd	1.00	W. B. Oneal, pd	1.00

The next order of business being to elect an Associational Mission Board, a motion prevailed to go into the election of a Board, which resulted in the election of R. L. Clem, H. C. Duren, G. H. Miller, W. L. Muncy and J. M. Gilbert.

Resolution No. 1, read and adopted.

Resolution No. 2, read and adopted.

A resolution to render financial aid to the Baptist Tuberculosis Sanatorium at El Paso, Texas, was read and adopted, and a collection was taken, which amounted to \$13.45.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with Knob Creek Church on Thursday before the second Sunday in November, 1919.

While singing the parting hand was taken.

Preaching by Elder W. B. Oneal at 7:30 p. m.

Preaching by Elder H. D. Morton at 11 a. m. on Sunday.

REPORTS.

Baptist Literature

We, your Committee on Baptist Literature, submit the following:
We recommend that we as a Baptist people make the Bible our chief study and become familiar with its teachings.

We also recommend such other books and tracts that are sound and are calculated to lead to pure lives and to greater usefulness as citizens, neighbors and servants of God.

We further recommend the Baptist and Commoner as sound literature, and insist that the Baptist of our Association subscribe for and read it.

We recommend that all our Sunday Schools use sound Baptist literature.

J. H. PORTERFIELD,
W. S. DAVIS,
Committee.

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

Foreign Missions.

We, your Committee on Foreign Missions, submit the following:

Christ gave his commission to the Church to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and in the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." He commissioned His Church to go teach all nations, to make disciples there, to baptize there and to observe all things. No other institution or society has the God given right; only Christ's Church. Any agency that takes this authority tries to usurp the authority from the Church. So the Church of Christ must be the only true way of sending the Gospel to foreign lands, that the heathen may hear, believe and be saved. By the Gospel we mean tidings by which man is saved from sin. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. It means to teach the ways of righteousness; teach them to observe the ordinances and to establish churches.

We recommend that this Association co-operate with the General Baptist Association in sending the Gospel to foreign lands.

We also recommend that all our churches do likewise, as it is the way of Association Churches of co-operating together in sending this Gospel.

Send all contributions for Foreign Missions to C. C. Winter, Texarkana, Ark.

J. M. RUSH,
W. A. DAVIS,
F. F. WEAVER,

Committee.

Associational Missions.

We, your Committee on Associational Missions, submit the following report.

In as much as our board has done all in their power to cover the destitution in the bounds of our Association under the present plans that have been followed in the past, and realizing that we are still unable to do what we feel impressed to do. So we would recommend that the board, if possible, place a competent man in the field for half time in connection with the work the pastors are doing.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

We also recommend that the churches double their contributions. As charity begins at home let us work the fields at our front door. We urge our pastors to take collections and inform the people as to the conditions of our Association. If we are missionaries let us prepare to meet our God.

J. G. JENNINGS,
W. M. COOPER,
W. A. ROBERTS,

Committee.

State Missions.

We, your Committee on State Missions submit the following:

With Arkansas Baptists, the greatest expression of their Missionary faith and zeal is found in State Missions. The object of State Missions is to bring all the affairs of all the people of the entire State under the control of Christ. The destitution of our great State is alarming. There are at least 1,000,000 lost souls in Arkansas. There are at least two or three hundred towns and villages where there are no Baptist Churches, and there are numerous districts in country and cities where there are no Baptist Churches. In one whole Association there is just one church house. In one school district there is not one Christian. To lift this reproach and glorify Christ we should greatly increase our gifts to State Missions.

The Baptist State Convention last year reported. 91 workers; 4,384 conversions; 2,243 baptisms; 3,470 additions; 29 churches; 111 Sunday Schools and B.Y.P.U.'s organized, and \$44,800 given for State Missions. Funds for this work should be sent to J. S. Rogers, Little Rock, Ark.

The Baptist State Association, reported last year; six missionaries and \$2,975.45 given to State Missions. Funds for this work should be sent to J. A. Smith, Little Rock, Ark.

We recommend that our pastors preach on State Missions, and that regular collections be taken. We further recommend that a collection be taken now.

L. H. DAVIS,
G. L. FORD,
P. A. WILES,

Committee.

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Sunday Schools.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, submit the following:

As the Sunday School is a place to learn and train for the Lord's service, we urge that each church in this Association organize and maintain a Sunday School, and that the Bible and sound Baptist literature be used in the Sunday Schools.

J. H. PORTERFIELD,
H. C. DUREN,
S. E. MARTIN,

Committee.

Prayer Meeting.

We, your Committee on Prayer Meeting submit the following:

In as much as the Bible commands that prayer be made for all men everywhere, we do urge that the churches of this Association have regular prayer meeting, and that each pastor urge each, not to forget to assemble together as Paul commands them; for James tells us that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

ANDY SHELL,
F. F. WEAVER,
W. L. MUNCY,

Committee.

Finance.

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following:

We have collected \$35.15 for the Minute Fund from the following churches: Mt. Pleasant, \$1.50: Shannon Valley, \$.85: Providence, \$2.50: Mt. Lebanon, 1.00: Walnut Grove, \$1.50: Pleasant Valley, \$.50: Bethlehem, \$1.25: Melbourne, \$1.50: Hidden Creek, \$.50: Pine Hill, \$1.00: Oak Grove, \$.50: Strawberry, \$1.00: Knob Creek, \$1.00: Guion, \$1.00: Pleasant Ridge, \$.95: Saint's Rest, \$1.25: Antioch, \$2.50: Belleview, \$1.50: Franklin, \$1.50: Wiseman, \$1.50: Cross Roads, \$.85: Ash Flat, \$1.00: Lunenburg, \$1.50: New Prospect, \$1.00: Fairview, \$2.00: Concord, \$2.00: Zion Hill, \$2.00.

J. W. CARPENTFR,
J. W. HALEY,

Committee.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Destitution.

We, your committee on Destitution, submit the following:

Realizing that our Board has no other guide under which to direct their efforts in reaching the destitute fields of our bounds other than this report, and as we feel the importance of this great work, we recommend that as fast as possible the following places be reached with Baptist preaching: Oak Grove School House, Day School House, Union School House, Ruddels, Mount Etna School House, Evening Shade.

We especially recommend that our Board assist the following weak churches: Oak Grove Church, Guion Church and Shannon Valley.

F. B. WILLIAMS,
P. A. WILES,
L. H. DAVIS,
J. E. WILKINSON,

Committee.

Christian Education.

We, your Committee on Christian Education, submit the following:

Baptist were pioneers in education in America, and now have more money invested in schools than any other religious body.

In Arkansas we have Ouchita College at Arkadelphia, Central College for young ladies at Conway, Maynard Academy at Maynard, Mountain Home College at Mountain Home, Ark.; and Mont View Institute at Blue Eye, Mo.

Children naturally imbibe the atmosphere and life of the schools they attend. If Baptists are to retain the leadership in religion we must foster Baptist educational institutions, and train our people for aggressive, intelligent religious leadership in religious thought and life.

If we send our children to our own schools they will continue to support our doctrine and our churches.

If we do not patronize our schools, our children may be turned away from us and our doctrines forever.

L. H. DAVIS,
G. L. FORD,
J. M. RUSH,

Committee.

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Obituaries.

We, your Committee on Obituaries, submit the following:

The Lord has seen fit in His wisdom to take from our midst several of our brothers and sisters since the last meeting of our Association.

As nearly as we could ascertain the following have died in the past year: Clementine Mitchel, Clementine Tomlinson, Dave Turner, Richard Hanes, W. E. Marchant, Nettie Horton, Arkie Cornett, Edith Carter, Rubina Blevins, Minnie Davidson, R. P. Chenault, Mary Watson and Ora Freeman.

CARRY MUNCY,
KITTIE JACKSON,
LUCY HORTON,
Committee.

Orphan's Homes.

We, your Committee on Orphan's Homes submit the following:

We first recommend our home at Texarkana, and the Montecello Home at Montecello.

Believing it to be our duty as a church, and as Christians, we recommend that each pastor urge each of their churches to do all they can to support these institutions.

We also recommend that a collection be taken up for these homes on the adoption of this report.

J. E. WILKINSON,
F. B. WILLIAMS,
J. A. CONYERS,
Committee.

Home Missions.

The Home Mission Board, located at Atlanta, Ga., is the agency through which Southern Baptists as a single body address themselves to the task of saving the lost, and building up the Church in the whole South. The task of Home Missions is immense. The territory served by the Home Board embraces 1,000,000 square

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miles, and has in it about 36,000,000 people. The following figures taken from the Home Mission Board's report last year gives some idea of the work being done through this Board. Number of workers, 1,498; Churches and stations supplied, 5,106; Maintained schools, 36; Pupils in these schools, 5,190, of whom 110 were preachers. Several missionaries are employed. Also a number of conversions and baptisms.

The General Association does work through its Executive Committee. Funds for this work should be sent to C. C. Winters, Texarkana, Ark. We recommend that churches contribute regularly to this work.

L. H. DAVIS,
W. M. COOPER.
Committee.

Temperance.

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following:

Prohibition is one of the great moral questions which are now confronting the American people. The liquor traffic has been, and is now, a menace to civilization. It destroys homes, blights lives and drags its thousands to premature graves. We recommend that this body oppose liquor traffic in all its forms.

OSCAR MILLER,
M. E. WILES,
H. C. DUREN,
Committee.

Pastoral Support.

We, your Committee on Pastoral Support submit the following:

We believe the failure of churches to support their pastors lessens the pastor's usefulness, and the time he should devote to study and pastoral work must be devoted to labor to support himself and family.

Our Lord has ordained "that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." 1 Cor. 9:14.

We believe the pastor should have adequate support to devote his entire time to study and pastoral work. We therefore ask

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

our pastors to preach on this duty of giving, and educate his congregations to systematic giving, so he can develop his talent and the pastor and church can best glorify our Lord.

J. L. GRAY,
J. J. FOUNTAIN,
HOMER DAVIS,

Committee.

Report of Clerk of Mission Board.

The Mission Board of the Rocky Bayou Baptist Association met at Melbourne, Ark., Feb. 12, 1918 and re-elected J. M. Gilbert, Chairman, and W. W. Taylor, Clerk to succe. Roy Davis, and re-elected R. L. Clem, Treasurer.

The treasurer reported \$183.34 in cash on hand and \$255.00 in pledges, making a total of \$438.34 means available.

Agreed to send Bro. J. M. Rush to Guion and give him \$3.00 per trip for his services. Sent Bro. P. A. Wiles to Oak Grove and report. Requested the clerk to write to certain brethren at Day in regard to the work at that place, which was done and found to be unfavorable.

Hired Bro. L. H. Davis as Associational Missionary for half time and agreed to pay him \$75.00 per month for the time put in.

Having no further business the Board ajourned to meet with the fifth Sunday meeting.

Having failed to meet with the fifth Sunday meeting the Board met at Melbourne, on May 10, and proceeded to hire Bro. W. M. Cooper to work as much as six weeks or more as Missiooary in the Association and to pay him \$75.00 per month for time worked.

Sent Bro. R. T. Farthing to Mt. Etna and agreed to pay him \$4.00 per trip for his services.

No further business appearing, the Board ajourned subject to the call of the chairman.

You are referred to the work done by the Missionaries and to the treasurer's report for statement of finance.

W. W. TAYLOR, Clerk.

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Missionaries Report.

Being able to do some mission work, I have the following to report.

Days labored, 37; Sermons preached, 48; Professed conversions, 20; Baptisms, 10; Collected on salary, \$73.12.

W. M. COOPER, Missionary.

Missionaries Report.

Being able to devote only one Sunday in each month to the mission work, your missionary has the following to report.

Days labored, 31; Miles traveled, 370; Sermons preached, 40; Prayers offered, 47; Homes visited, 51; Professed conversions, 4; Baptisms, 3; Collected for Foreign Missions, \$18.45; Collected on salary, \$43.80.

L. H. DAVIS, Missionary.

Report of Treasurer of Mission Board.

Balance in Treasury Oct. 1, 1918,-----	\$188.34
Recieved on Church Pledges,-----	214.80
Recieved from Individuals,-----	12.00
" " W. M. Cooper,-----	48.12
" " L. H. Davis,-----	43.80
	<u>\$507.06</u>

Expenditures.

Paid to R. T. Farthing,-----	\$16.00
" J. M. Rush,-----	18.00
" P. A. Wiles,-----	5.00
" L. H. Davis,-----	77.50
" W. M. Cooper,-----	92.50
	<u>Total paid out \$209.00</u>

Recapitulation.

Total amount recieved,-----	\$507.06
Total amount paid out,-----	209.00
	<u>Balance in Treaaury, \$298.06</u>

R. L. CLEM, Treasurer.

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

Resolution.

Whereas, a great many Baptists, including many ministers and members of their families, suffer from tuberculosis, and

Whereas, tuberculosis is more prevalent in the South than in the nation as a whole and is rapidly spreading on account of the war, and

Whereas, the people of El Paso, Texas, have donated to the Baptists and have deeded to the Home Mission Board 143 acres of land containing a magnificent administration or headquarters building erected by them at a cost of \$65,000.00, and

Whereas, the Southern Baptist Sanatorium intends not only to care for and treat tubercular patients but to conduct a continuous campaign against tuberculosis in the South by teaching people everywhere how to care for tubercular patients, how to cure tuberculosis at home and how to prevent it from spreading, and

Whereas, many poor tubercular people are now seeking admission to this blessed institution, which cannot receive them until another building can be erected and equipment secured for which purposes there are not now sufficient funds, Therefore,

Resolved, that this association give its hearty endorsement to the Southern Baptist Sanatorium; That we request our pastors and missionaries to solicit funds and take public offerings for it; our churches, Sunday Schools, Ladies', Young peoples' and children's organizations to contribute to its work, and that a collection of cash and pledges be now taken and forwarded immediately to Superintendent H. F. Vermillion, El Paso Texas.

J. G. JENNINGS.

Resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Association superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes of this session, and that he have \$10.00 for his services.

W. M. COOPFR.

Resolution.

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks to Fairview Church and the good people of the vicinity for their kind and generous treatment to us while here.

L. H. DAVIS.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Roll of Messengers.

Antioch— G. L. Ford, R. N. Frizzell, J. N. Mc Elmurry and F. B. Williams.

Bethlehem— A. L. Gray, Mrs. A. L. Gray, T. D. Thatch and Mrs. T. D. Thatch.

Bellevue— W. M. Cooper and T. F. Thompson.

Concord— W. F. Taylor, L. H. Davis, Melvin Wiles and Wesley Carpenter.

Cross Roads— L. C. Porterfield and C. B. Chadwick.

Fairview— R. F. Wilson H. C. Duren and James Gaston.

Franklin— W. A. Davis, S. E. Martin, W. A. Roberts and Fannie Roberts.

Hidden Creek— J. R. Gilbert and L. R. Gilbert.

Knob Creek— J. H. Cooper and R. L. Clem.

Melbourne— W. L. Muncy and Carrie Muncy.

Mt. Lebanon— H. E. Davis.

Mt. Pleasant— G. H. Miller and R. E. Shell.

New Prospect— J. M. Barnes and S. G. Dillard.

Pine Hill— C. W. Lewis, F. F. Weaver, J. E. Wilkerson and Florence Wilkerson.

Providence— Jephtha Conyers.

Pleasant Valley— J. M. Marchant and E. A. Lamb.

Rocky Bayou— W. R. Miller, J. W. Haley and Lucy Horton.

Pleasant Ridge— W. B. Yancy and J. R. Mc Vey.

Saint's Rest— William Watson and Necie Mayfield.

Strawberry R- T. Farthing, L. J. Jackson, Mrs. L. J. Jackson.

Shannon Valley W. S. Davis.

Walnut Grove J. H. Porterfield, H. H. Mc Gee and Jeff Fountain.

Wiseman E. M. Phillips and Gertie Phillips.

Zion Hill J. G. Jennings, P. A. Wiles, A. J. Shell and Oscar Miller.

Associational Mission Board.

R. L. Clem,
H. C. Duren,
G. H. Miller,
W. L. Muncy,
J. M. Gilbert,

Knob Creek.
Violet Hill.
Sage.
Melbourne.
Melbourne.

W. R. MILLER, Clerk,
Lunenburg, Ark.

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

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 advice 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 the 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 the 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 arrangement, consisting of three, shall be appointed by the Moderator at the commencement of each session, whose duty it shall

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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 correspondent, 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.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of maker, and 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.

4. 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,

MINUTES OF ROCKY BAYOU

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 Saviour.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

11. 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.

12. We believe that such only are real believers as endured 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.

13. 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.

14. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, Son and the 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 privilege 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.

15. 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.

16. We believe that Civil Government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good 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.

17. 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.

18. 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 judgement will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

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