



Wolf Bayou Association
General Baptists
1914

Fourteenth Annual Session

Order of Business.

Devotional exercises, thirty minutes.
Introductory sermon.
Call for churches and enrollment of delegates.
Call for new churches.
Election of officers.
Appointing committee on Divine Service and Credentials.
Call for correspondence.
Inviting visiting brethren and sisters to seats in council.
Appointment of committees.
Reports of Ministers.
Call for reports of treasurer, permanent committees, boards, etc.
Call for Messenger subscriptions.
Reports of committees.
Church contributions.
Place of holding next meeting.
Appointing delegates to General and other associations.
Unfinished business.
New business.
Adjournment.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3. The person speaking shall adhere to the question, and shall in no wise cast personal reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he break order.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the association.

6. Members shall address each other by the appellation of Brother or Brethren.

7. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

8. No member of this association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes, at any one time without leave of the association.

10. Any member who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the moderator, according to the direction of the association.

PROCEEDINGS

Of the Fourteenth Annual Session of Wolf Bayou Association of General Baptists, held with Bethlehem Church, Independence County, Arkansas, September 17, 18 and 19, 1914.

The services were opened Thursday night by the moderator, Rev. House, with singing and prayer and experience services.

Preaching by Rev. Thomas; alternate, Rev. Bittle; text, 13th chapter of St. Mark, 34th verse.

Appointment of committee on Divine Services—Brother Berry, Bro. Hopkins, Bro. Shiver.

Closed with singing and prayer by Rev. Foust.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY FORENOON.

Services opened at 8 o'clock by moderator, with singing and prayer by Rev. Foust.

Letters called for and received from Wilburn, Bethlehem, New Hope, Dug Hill, Harty Chapel, Walnut Grove, Bethel.

Rev. Foust was chosen moderator and E. E. Osmond clerk.

Delegates were seated and given the right hand of fellowship.

New churches were called for and four received—Dunn's Chapel, Oak Grove, Macedonia, Pleasant Grove. Their delegates were seated and given the hand of fellowship.

Reading rules of decorum by moderator, and commenting on them.

Visiting brethren invited to seats in council. One received from North Arkansas association, Bro. Joseph Lynner, also Sister Laneer.

Appointment of various committees:

Sunday-school—Bro. Landrum, Bro. Stone, Bro. Bittle.

Prayer Meeting—Bro. Crain, Bro. Ripley, Bro. Headly.

Finance—Bro. Arnold, Bro. Berry, Bro. House.

Temperance—Bro. Oscar Taylor, Bro. Albert Taylor, Bro. Nash.

Queries and Resolutions—Bro. Arnold, Lewis Taylor, Bro. Nixon.

Credentials—Bro. Landrum, Bro. Stone, Bro. Berry.

Committee to State Association—Rev. Foust, Rev. Bittle, Bro. Stone.

The committee on Divine Services reported that Rev. Arnold would preach at 11 A. M., and Rev. Foust alternate.

Dismissed with singing and prayer by Rev. Thomas.

Eleven o'clock services opened with singing, and prayer by Bro. Stidman. Preaching by Rev. Arnold; alternate, Rev. Foust. Text, Hebrews 6th chapter, 3rd verse.

Adjourned to meet at 2 P. M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. Thomas.

Report of committee on Temperance:

Resolved, that it is the duty of every Christian to be temperate in all things; expressly do all they can against the making and selling of intoxicating drinks.

On motion the report was adopted as read and the committee discharged.

Prayer Meeting Report.—We do favor and endorse a prayer meeting in all churches; and we advise each church to advocate the same, and that they try to encourage the work to all young converts. And we do favor experience meetings with all prayer meetings. We recommend that one be appointed in every church to see after prayer meeting.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report on Sunday-school.—We recommend that all General Baptist churches maintain an evergreen Sunday-school, and that where there is no Sunday-school now that there be one organized at once.

Report received and committee discharged.

Report on Credentials.—Find all O. K. until proven otherwise, and moved and seconded and passed that we dismiss the case against Bro. Bufford, on the absence of the accusers.

Report received and committee discharged.

The committee on Divine Services reported that Bro. Taylor would preach Friday night, alternate Rev. Thomas.

Adjourned, to meet for night services. Closed by singing and prayer by Rev. Bittle.

Friday night services opened with singing and prayer services and experience meeting. Preaching by Brother Taylor, alternate Rev. Thomas; text, Matt. 24th chapter. Closed by singing, dismissed by Rev. Foust.

SATURDAY FORENOON.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Bro. Ripley.

Report on Queries and Resolutions read, discussed and amended, that we impress the duty of deacons to finance for the ministers' needs.

Report received and committee discharged.

Ministers' reports given as follows:

J. C. Matheny.—Traveled 762 miles, preached 65 times, funerals 1, organized one church, organized one Sunday-school, baptized 3; received \$60.15.

Plessie Ripley.—Preached 4 sermons, traveled 3 miles, one conversion witnessed.

T. J. Bittle.—Traveled 25 miles, preached 39 sermons, witnessed 17 conversions, organized 2 churches, baptized 8, preached 3 funerals.

J. S. Isbell.—Conversions 92, sermons preached 157, organized one church, organized one Sunday-school, preached two funerals, married one couple, traveled about 500 miles, received \$99.00.

W. F. Thomas.—Funerals preached 5, conversions witnessed and additions to church 65, preached 50 times, miles traveled 200, cash received \$12.00, married one couple, baptized 5, pastored one church and part of time two, helped organize one church with membership of 14, name of church Macedonia; revivals 4.

W. F. Crain.—Sermons 28, conversions witnessed 5, pastored one church part of year, additions to church 1, cash received \$2.00.

Lewis R. Taylor.—Sermons preached 25, conversions witnessed 27, helped to hold five revival meetings, traveled 25 miles, superintended two Sunday-schools part of year, helped organize two Sunday-schools, helped in two children's day services.

W. E. Arnold.—Report for 1913 and 1914: For 1913, preached 50 sermons, traveled 235 miles, organized one Sunday-school, preached one funeral, held three protracted meetings. For 1914, preached 35 sermons, organized one Sunday-school, helped in four protracted meetings, organized one church, attended one children's day service, traveled 125 miles, studied 225 Bible lessons, 150 history lessons.

Mart House.—Preached 113 sermons, witnessed 80 conversions, baptized 45, married 4 couples, preached three funerals, traveled 348 miles, cash received \$26.50.

Committee on Divine Service reported that Rev. Arnold would preach at 11 A. M.

Adjourned for a few minutes.

The 11 o'clock services opened with singing, and reading of a lesson by Rev. Arnold; preaching by Rev. Arnold, alternate Rev. Foust. Text, Romans 5th chapter, 6th verse. Dismissed by Rev. Thomas till 2 P. M.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. House.

Committee on Finance reported \$8.50 on hand. Report received and committee discharged.

A motion carried to change the time of next association to commence on Thursday night before the first Sunday in September, 1915.

Appointment of committee to North Arkansas association for 1915—Rev. House, Bro. Berry.

Rev. Arnold was selected to preach the introductory sermon at our next association.

Place of next meeting.—Voted to go to Pleasant Grove church, near Stark, Ark., on North Arkansas R. R.

Donated to clerk, \$1.83.

A motion passed that we send Rev. House as home missionary.

The presbytery was then formed and ordained Brother Crain, Brother Berry, Brother Ripley and Brother Taylor as ministers, and Brother Headley as deacon.

Resolution of Thanks.—Resolved, that the delegates of this association tender their heart-felt thanks to the brethren and sisters and the community at large for the kindness shown during our stay among them.

The committee on Divine Services reported that Rev. Bittle would preach at night, alternate Rev. Foust.

Adjourned, with singing and prayer by Rev. Thomas, for Saturday night services.

Saturday night services opened with singing and prayer and experience services. Preaching by Rev. Bittle, alternate Rev. Foust. Text, Matt. 28th chapter, 20th verse.

After preaching, the ordinances of the Lord's supper and foot-washing were attended to, and the parting hand was given until our next coming together. So ended a grand and glorious association.

J. W. FOUST, Moderator.

E. E. OSMON, Clerk.

Bradford, Ark.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Church and Pastor.	Day of Meeting.....	Received	Total Membership	Died	Ministers.....	Minute Fund.....	Sabbath School.....	Prayer Meeting.....
Bethel	1	9	1	1	1			
Pleasant Grove..... T. J. Bittle		8	1	.50				
Macedonia..... W. F. Thomas	4	19		\$1.00				
Oak Grove..... T. J. Bittle	1	10	1	.50				
Dunn's Chapel... J. C. Matheny	2	7		1.00	1	1		
Walnut Grove..... Mart House	1	26	59	2	1.00			
Harty's Chapel... W. F. Crain	4	3	24	1	1.00			
Dug Hill..... W. F. Thomas	2	2	19	1	1.00			
New Hope..... W. F. Crain	3	2	16	2	.25			
Wilburn..... T. J. Bittle	4		19		1.00			
Bethlehem..... Lewis Taylor	2		23	1	1.00	1		
Amt. on hand from last year...					.25			
		213		\$8.50				

Roll of Delegates.

John Hopkins, Elmira Crain, Ardelphia Hall, Jesse Shierer, J. A. Nixon, W. S. Nash, W. R. Knee, Oscar Taylor, Albert Taylor, Lewis Taylor, Ed Cobb, C. N. Head'y, T. J. Bittle, A. C. Stone, R. L. Childress.

Ministers' Addresses.

J. W. James..... Stark, Arkansas
 J. S. Isbell Almond, Arkansas
 W. E. Arnold..... Route 1, Box 33, Tuckerman, Arkansas
 Mart House..... Hutchinson, Arkansas
 T. J. Bittle..... Stark, Arkansas
 J. W. Foust..... Wilburn, Arkansas
 J. O. Curl..... Bradford, Arkansas
 John Goff Heber, Arkansas
 J. C. Matheny Almond, Arkansas
 W. F. Thomas..... Dug Hill, Arkansas
 W. F. Crain..... Alonzo, Arkansas
 Thomas Berry..... Route 1, Newport, Arkansas
 Plessie Ripley..... Pleasant Plains, Arkansas
 Lewis R. Taylor..... Bailey, Arkansas

Addresses of Church Clerks.

Bethel—L. E. Higginbotham.....	Hellington, Ark.
Pleasant Grove—A. C. Stone.....	Shiloh, Ark.
Macedonia—E. E. Evans.....	Five Mile, Ark.
Oak Grove—E. C. Davis.....	Edgemont, Ark.
Dunn's Chapel—Scena Casey.....	Union Hill, Ark.
Walnut Grove—Ed Cobb.....	R. 1, Newport, Ark.
Harty Chapel—Margaret Pennington....	Grandglaze, Ark.
Dug Hill—W. R. Knee.....	Dug Hill, Ark.
New Hope—E. L. Crum.....	Hutchinson, Ark.
Wilburn—Jesse Shierer.....	Wilburn, Ark.
Bethlehem—Clara Crain.....	Alonzo, Ark.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This association shall be composed of such ministers and messengers as shall be chosen by the different churches composing this association, thought most fit for that purpose, and sent with letters testifying to their appointment to represent them in the association, who shall be entitled to seats.

2. This association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the association in order, state questions fairly and take their minds thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, provided his seat be filled; to have no vote unless the association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of all the proceedings of the association.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded and died since the sitting of the last association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by this association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the association shall take up the same and act on it.

5. Every church in the association shall be entitled to a representation of any number not exceeding six.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted on unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The association shall not have the power to Lord it over God's heritage, so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless we agree that the churches composing this association shall stand in the same relation to each other in the association that individuals do to each other in the churches; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church, the church

injured shall try to reclaim them by gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this association by letter and delegate, if upon proper examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly; such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegates thereof.

10. This association shall have power to sit as an advisory council; to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this association; to appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite any brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association; to adjourn the association to any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who will not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the church from which he or they were delegates.

15. Where a church has a deacon that they desire the ordination of, they are authorized to have it done at any time or place where a presbytery can be found.

16. This constitution is not to be altered without a majority of three-fourths of the members composing this body; but if any person after becoming a member shall become dissatisfied with any part of this constitution or articles of faith, he shall be entitled to a letter of dismission, if in fellowship in his own church.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the infallible Word of God, and the only safe rule of faith and practice.—2 Tim. 3:16; Acts 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21

2. That there is but one living and true God, and in the Godhead, or divine essence, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—St. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; Isaiah 45:12; Col. 2:8; Deut. 4:39; 1 Cor. 8:4.

3. That we are fallen and depraved creatures, and cannot extricate ourselves from our fallen situation by any ability we possess by nature.—St. John 14:16, 17, 15:26; Rom. 8:7-20, Rom. 3:10-12.

4. That Salvation, Regeneration, Sanctification, Justification and Redemption are by the life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—Eph. 2:8, 9; Acts 4:12; Heb. 10:10; Jer. 29:3.

6. We believe that he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.—St. Mark 13:13; Matt. 24:13; 2 Pet. 2:20, 21, 22; Matt. 10:22.

6. That the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.—Rev. 20:4, 5; Matt. 25:46; Matt. 19:29.

7. We believe that baptism, the Lord's supper and washing of saints' feet are the ordinances of Jesus Christ appointed in the church, and that none but true believers are proper subjects, and that the only true mode of baptism is immersion.—On Baptism, Matt. 3:15, Romans 6:1, Acts 8:38, Col. 2:12. The Supper, Matt. 26:27, Mark 14:22, Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 23:34. Washing of Feet, John 13:4-17, 1 Tim. 5:10, 1 Peter 2:21.

8. We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week—or Lord's Day—and it ought to be observed and spent in the public or private worship of God, and on it we should abstain from our worldly concerns, except in case of necessity or mercy.—Deut. 5:12; Exodus 2:8; Matt. 12:2.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, both the just and the unjust, but every one in his own order—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation; and that God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.—Isa. 26:19; St. John 5:2 and 29; Rev. 20:12-15; Acts 24:15.

10. That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate one to another, and to study the happiness of the people of God in general, and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God.—Gal. 6:10; John 2:9; Rom. 12:10; St. John 15:23; Acts 20:30 and 31.

11. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that none can partake of His divine benefits only by repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Infants and idiots excepted, they being included in the covenant of God's grace).—Rom. 4:15; Acts 4:10; St. John 3:14 to 17; Heb. 2:9.

12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the door into the church, and that baptism is a duty in answer to a good conscience.—St. John 10:9.

13. We believe that the Lord's people are one in Him, therefore should be one at His table.—1 Cor. 12:13, Rom. 6:5, Gal. 3:28, 1 Peter 3:8, St. John 17:21, 22.

Form of Petitionary Church Letter.

The.....church of General Baptists was brought into church capacity by Elders A B and C D, on the following class of members: By letter..., by recommendation..., by experience and baptism..., total... Received since organization, by letter..., by recommendation..., by experience and baptism..., dismissed by letter..., number excluded..., total number members in good standing... Contribution money..... We are all in peace and have chosen the following brethren, D E and B S, to bear this petitionary letter and sit with you in council. We pray you receive them. We have ordained ministers..., licentiates... Our meeting day is Saturday before the.... Lord's Day in each month. We have chosen Elder G H for our pastor the ensuing year and Brother E C for church clerk. Our postoffice is..... This done by order of the church at its....meeting.

E I. Church Clerk.

Elder E D. Moderator

Form of Church Letter to Association.

The.....church of General Baptists to..... Association: We are all in peace. We have elected the following brethren to sit with you in council when convened withchurch of General Baptists at.....on.... before the....Sunday in...., 191...: Brothers A. and C. We pray you receive them. We have had the labors of Elderthe past year and have chosen Elder.....for the ensuing year, and.....church clerk. Our statistics are as follows: Received by letter..., by experience and baptism..., by recommendation... Dismissed by letter..., excluded..., died. Ordained ministers..., licentiates... Our postoffice is..... Day of meeting is on Saturday before the....Sunday in each month. Done by order of the church at its....meeting. Total number of members in good standing..... Our contribution is \$....

....., Moderator.

....., Clerk.

Form of Dismission Letter.

We, the General Baptist church known as —, dismiss our beloved brother (or sister) from our watch-care in full fellowship and good standing. Done by order of the church while in conference.

A B, Moderator.

C D, Clerk.

General Baptist Publishing House

OWENSVILLE, INDIANA.

The Messenger—The official church paper for the General Baptist denomination. An eight-page weekly, \$1.00 a year. Full of letters, communications and other interesting matter each week. Sample copies free.

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