

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-second Annual Session

OF THE

HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

First Baptist Church, Tallapoosa

Haralson Co., Ga.

October 2, 3, and 4

1896

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. J. C. JACKSON, Tallapoosa, Ga.

Clerk, V. M. THACKERSON, Tecumseh, Ala.

The next session to be held at Edwardsville, Cleburne County
Alabama, Friday before the first Sabbath
in October, 1897

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MINUTES.



TALLAPOOSA, GA., OCTOBER 2D, 1896.

The HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met this day in its Thirty-Second Session, in the meeting-house of the First Baptist Church, at 11 a. m.

The Executive Committee made report that the introductory sermon be preached at once by W. W. Roop, who immediately preached; Text, 1st Corinthians iv, 4—"The glorious Gospel of Christ." Adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association re-assembled at 2 p. m. and was led in prayer by O. A. Alden. The letters from the churches were read by J. S. Edwards, T. W. Griffith and C. E. Head. Names of Delegates recorded as follows (absentees noted thus *):—

FIRST DISTRICT.

Ai—W. E. Garner,* J. A. Weathers,* J. A. J. Alewine, M. L. Gaines.

Beulah—C. H. W. Cook, J. M. Kilgore,* G. M. Gladden, D. G. Wilcoxson.

Concord—W. A. Dodd, M. W. Turner, W. H. Gentry,* J. G. Ray,* A. M. Turner.

Edwardsville—T. J. Burton, W. J. McSwain, J. F. Johnson.*

Harmony Grove—J. W. Bennett, W. T. Howell, W. K. Owens.*

Zidonia—J. A. Thompson, J. A. Newell,* W. H. Adair, T. R. D. Williamson.*

Bethsaida—(Not represented.)

Hopewell—D. M. Kaylor, W. D. Nunly,* W. F. Jacobs, G. Mitchell.

Mt. Olive—(Not represented.)

Mt. Bethel—(Not represented.)

New Bethel—(Not represented.)

Pine Grove—J. D. Walker, C. B. Champion,* J. A. Brown,* W. B. Thrasher.

Shoal Creek—B. A. Cheatwood, W. W. Johnson,* S. T. Thompson.*

Pilgrim's Rest—W. H. George, M. C. Hightower, G. W. Davis.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Bethany—F. Lindsey, A. Moss, W. J. James, R. H. Pittman, J. R. Roberts, T. J. Allen.

Buchanan—T. W. Griffith, J. S. Edwards, D. B. Head, W. A. Smith, W. V. Perryman.

Mt. Zion—W. A. Ellis, L. T. Allen, E. R. McWhorter *

Providence—A. Willingham, J. C. Jackson, C. Wright, J. R. Head.*

Poplar Springs—W. J. Fincher, N. C. Pope,* A. C. Waldrop, A. L. Richards.

Pleasant Hill—C. I. Allen, G. W. Gentry, S. O. Smith.

Tallapoosa 1st—T. A. Higdon, J. N. Patrick, F. S. Dunklee, C. Shipman, C. E. Head.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Camp Creek—T. F. Roberts, J. F. Roberts, F. L. Lambert, R. S. Zinamon.

Cherry Grove—V. M. Thackerson, T. J. Treadaway, H. C. Henderson,* J. J. McDowell.

Harmony—(Not represented.)

Salem—O. A. Alden, E. Davis, B. Gowens.

Shiloh—J. Isbell,* C. M. Isbell,* T. M. McWhorter,* J. H. Prewitt, T. A. McCormick, W. T. Thompson.

Election of Officers—Elected by ballot: Rev. J. C. Jackson, Moderator; V. M. Thackerson, Clerk and Treasurer.

J. C. Jackson presented to the body an order of business, and on motion it was adopted.

Called for Petitionary Letters. None.

Called for Correspondence. Received from Tallapoosa Association, Bro. N. N. Beall; Carrollton Association, W. W. Roop; Bethlehem Association, Rev. M. V. Mize, T. N. Fowler; Cedar Creek Association, J. Bruce.

Invited visiting brethren of our faith to seats with us; received Revs. C. B. Hammett and S. L. Cross.

Appointed the following Committee on Preaching: J. A. J. Alewine, T. J. Treadaway, T. J. Burton, with the Deacons of this church. By request, on motion granted the Moderator until tonight to appoint the other committees.

Fixed hours of meeting at 9 a. m. and 1 30 p. m.; hours of adjournment at 12 noon and at pleasure.

Appointed Correspondents to Sister Associations as follows:

Boiling Springs—T. A. Higdon, J. C. Jackson, A. Willingham.

Polk County—W. J. Fincher.

Cedar Creek—W. A. Dodd, A. Willingham, J. C. Jackson.

Bethlehem—T. A. Higdon, F. Lindsey.

Cherokee County—V. M. Thackerson, O. A. Alden.

Carrollton—C. H. W. Cook, T. A. Higdon.

Arbacoochee—W. A. Dodd, W. F. Jacobs, E. E. Myers, W. H. Adair.

Calhoun County—T. A. Higdon, J. H. Davis.

Tallapoosa—F. Lindsey, W. J. James, W. H. Adair.

Adjourned to 7 o'clock p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association re-assembled at 7 p. m., and after singing O. Alden led in prayer.

Appointed the following Committees:—

On Sabbath Schools—J. S. Edwards, O. A. Alden, W. H. Adair.

- On State Missions—T. A. Higdon, T. W. Griffith, A. Willingham.
 On Home Missions—W. A. Ellis, W. A. Dodd, B. A. Cheatwood.
 On Foreign Missions—T. J. Burton, F. Lindsey, W. J. James.
 On Re-districting Association—T. J. Loveless, T. J. Treadaway, J. A. J. Alewine.
 On Nominations—C. I. Allen, D. B. Head, J. W. Bennett.
 On Destitution—A. Willingham, F. Lindsey, B. A. Cheatwood, T. A. Higdon.
 On Associational Missions—T. J. Loveless, M. W. Turner, F. L. Lambert.
 On Finance—L. T. Allen, C. Wright, W. J. McSwain.
 On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—T. A. Higdon, J. H. Davis, W. T. Thompson.
 Appointed T. J. Loveless, C. M. Isbell, A. A. Hurst, T. J. Burton and J. H. Davis, Executive Committee.
 Preaching Committee reported preaching at meeting-house at night by C. B. Hammett and J. Bruce.
 Adjourned to 9 o'clock a. m. Saturday.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

Association convened at 9 a. m. Engaged in singing and prayer, led by S. L. Cross.

By consent of the body, received B. A. Cheatwood from Shoal Creek church, a delegate without a letter.

Renewed call for correspondents and visiting brethren. None.

Report on Re-districting Association read and adopted. (See Reports of Committees.)

Report on Associational Missions read, and after being discussed by Bros. Higdon, James, Willingham, Stripland and others, adopted with the amendment.

A motion was made and sustained to receive J. G. Gibson, D. D., of Atlanta, who represented the interests of the State, Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

Report on Deceased Ministers read and adopted. Suspended order of business to return thanks to God for His protecting care in preserving the lives of all the ministers of the Association. Prayer by T. A. Higdon.

Report on Destitution read and adopted.

Granted Brother Gibson an opportunity to discuss the subject of State Missions. Took up a collection for State Missions amounting to \$10.55. Adjourned.

AFTERNOON.

The Association re-assembled at 1:30 p. m. W. A. Dodd led in prayer.

Reports on Home, State and Foreign Missions read, and after being discussed by Bros. Gibson, Higdon, Ellis and others, were adopted.

Reports on Finance and Nominations adopted.

Reports of Executive Committee and Treasurer adopted. Com-

mittee on Sabbath Schools made report, and on motion made special order for Sunday 9 a. m.

Letter from Pine Grove church read, and delegates, names enrolled.

Heard and adopted resolutions. (See Resolutions.)

General Meetings.—On motion, recommended that the District Meetings of this Association embrace the fifth Sundays in the year.

Appointed next session of this Association to be held at Edwardsville, Ala., commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1897, at 11 o'clock a. m.

Appointed delegates to the Georgia State Baptist Convention—F. Lindsey, T. A. Higdon, J. C. Jackson; to the Alabama State Baptist Convention—A. A. Hurst, T. A. Higdon; to the Southern Baptist Convention—F. Lindsey, delegate, J. C. Jackson, alternate.

Took up a collection to defray the expenses of Bro. Lindsey to the Southern Baptist Convention, amounting to \$8 22 in cash and pledges.

The Association then adjourned to Sunday at 9 o'clock a. m.

Saturday night preaching at the church by H. Allen,

SUNDAY'S SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by H. Allen.

Renewed the call for correspondents, and received from Cedar Creek Association H. Allen, M. Dodd; from Appalachee Association, T. C. McCutchens.

Report of committee on Sabbath Schools taken up, and after being discussed by Bros. Higdon, Jackson, Loveless and others, was adopted.

On motion directed the Clerk to have 800 copies of minutes of this session printed and distributed among the churches pro rata, as per minute fund, and retain balance for his services.

Directed all the Missionary funds sent up by the churches, and all that may be received during this session, to be equally divided between the State Mission Boards of Georgia and Alabama to be divided equally between the State, Home and Foreign Missions.

Called roll of delegates and marked absentees.

Read and approved minutes.

Adjourned for preaching.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

At 11 a. m., T. A. Higdon preached the annual Missionary sermon from Ephesians v, 27. The discourse was a most eloquent one—flowing, as it did from a heart full of love and zeal for the noble cause, and we pray the Lord of the harvest that this day's labors may redound to His name's glory.

Collection for Missions, \$7.82.

2 p. m.—Association convened. Prayer led by A. Moss.

On motion adjourned to time and place appointed. Engaged in singing, during which the brethren gave each other the parting hand, amid tears of sorrow and joy. Prayer led by T. C. McCutchens.

J. C. JACKSON, Moderator.

V. M. THACKERSON, Clerk.



REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.



ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

Your committee begs leave to report that we find from church letters that the most of our churches are dead on the subject of Missions. We recommend that a Missionary be appointed by the executive committee to labor in the bounds of the Association, to visit all the churches, and hold meetings with them, and try to get a co-operation with the pastors and the churches on the subject of Missions, and make an effort to sustain the Missionary, and to co-operate with the State Boards of Georgia and Alabama, and try to get upon higher grounds on Missions. T. J. LOVELESS, Ch'm.

DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your committee reports that God in His providence has spared the lives of all our ministers, for which we feel very grateful.

T. A. HIGDON, Chairman.

DESTITUTION.

Your committee reports that there is no destitution reported in our bounds.

A. WILLINGHAM, Chairman.

HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee beg leave to report: We regret that the cause of Missions does not receive the attention it should; the home mission especially demands the attention of your committee, and we recommend that the Association instruct the home Missionary to visit all the churches of the Association, and destitute places within the bounds of the Association, and insist upon the duties of home mission work until the whole people is fully indoctrinated upon the great subject of home Missions.

W. A. ELLIS, Chairman.

STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee report that the State Board of Georgia located in Atlanta, Ga., J. G. Gibson, cor. secty., and the State Board of Alabama located in Montgomery, Ala., W. C. Bledsoe, cor. secty., are doing a noble work in these states. They are helping in the destitute places, and the Boards are willing to help in any destitute field in the states. But, unless the churches co-operate with the Boards, they cannot help. We, therefore, recommend that the churches of our Association take up collections monthly or quarterly for State Missions. Let us all give as the Lord has prospered us.

T. A. HIGDON, Chairman.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We do not deem it necessary to write anything to convince this body that it is our duty to aid in the support of Foreign Mis-

sions. For every Heaven-born soul is a missionary, and desires that the Gospel of Christ shall be preached to every lost soul. There seems to be a difference of opinion among us as to the best mode of carrying out this great work, and sending the Gospel to every nation.

We have an organization, the Foreign Mission Board, that is doing a great work in this cause, and it is our duty to aid it. It is the best means we have in aiding in this great work. We are engaged in a great conflict, trying to capture the world for Christ. He is our Great Commander, and has said, "Go." Where must we go? Into all the world. For what purpose? To preach His Gospel. Who is to aid in this service? Each and every one of us—not all to go, but all to aid in this great work. It then becomes a personal matter, to each, to churches and each individual member. Then how are we to best aid in this great work?

We must have a system. What shall it be? We have one from Divine authority. It is this: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

We recommend this system first, and urge its adoption. Other systems might be adopted by the church, and we recommend that each church adopt some system for aiding in this work, and let that system be carried into effect. There must be some sacrifice made, a small contribution steadily may appear and may be a sacrifice at the time, but if given freely will be doubly repaid. Let us do our whole duty in this work, and trust God. T. J. BURTON, Chm.

NOMINATIONS.

To preach introductory sermon at the next session, F. Lindsey; alternate, A. Willingham. C. I. ALLEN, Chairman.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We report that there has been nothing brought before the committee, but as chairman of the committee, I visited the State Convention, and through Dr. Gibson got Rev. T. W. Griffith appointed to do missionary work in this part of the State.

T. J. LOVELESS, Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We would urge upon all churches composing this Association to do all they can to encourage and increase the number of Sabbath schools within our Association boundary. This is a vital, fundamental interest, inseparable from the prosperity of the church. We find there is room for improvement on this line. We do urge the use of our Sabbath school literature in our Sabbath schools. Our Heavenly Master has said, "Feed my lambs." As patriots, philanthropists and Christians, let us obey His command, and by united effort, try and have an efficient Sabbath school at every church in our Association. O. A. ALDEN, Chairman.

FINANCE.

Received for Missions,.....	\$55.36
Received for Minutes,.....	27.48
Received for Disabled Ministers,.....	1.45
Collection for State Missions,.....	10.55
Collection Sunday for Missions,.....	7.82
Received from Providence Church,.....	7.08
Total,.....	\$109.74

Paid J. G. Gibson,	43.88
Paid Treasurer,.....	\$65.86
L. T. ALLEN, Chairman.	

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Received from Finance Committee, Oct. 1895:	
Received for Missions,.....	\$58.56
Received for Disabled Ministers,.....	.50
Received for Minutes,.....	27.45
Received for Ministerial Aid,.....	29.55
Total,.....	\$116.06

CREDITS.

Oct., 1895. Paid J. G. Gibson,.....	\$58.56
Paid T. J. Garner, Disable minister,.....	.50
Paid for Printing and Dist. Minutes,.....	16.15
Paid T. W. Griffith, Ministerial Aid,.....	29.55
Paid Clerk's services,.....	11.30
Total,.....	\$116.06

V. M. THACKERSON, Treasurer.



RESOLUTIONS.



Whereas, Bro James Bruce is a Baptist, and is a living monument of the powers of God's saving grace; and whereas he is entirely without an education, and whereas he has given evidence of a call to the Ministry:

Resolved, therefore, that we join with the Cedar Creek Association in helping Bro. Bruce to get an education, so that he may read the Bible. And we commend him to the brethren, and request that the delegates of this body bring this matter before the churches at once; and whatever aid they can get for him, report the same at once to the committee of Cedar Creek Association. (Offered by T. A. Higdon.)

Temperance.

The subject of temperance addresses itself to the hearts, consciences and intellect of every man, woman and child of this Association; and whereas ardent spirits are and have been more detrimental to the peace and harmony of our churches, and tend to the degrading and corrupting the morals of our young people more than any other element known to us:

Therefore, be it resolved, that we as Baptists denounce the use of whiskey as a beverage, and do everything in our power to drive the destructive enemy from our midst. (Offered by L. P. Allen.)

Thanks.

Resolved, That this Association hereby tender to the brethren, sisters and friends of Tallapoosa and community our thanks, for the kind, hospitable and pleasant manner in which they have received and cared for us during this session. (Offered by D. B. Head)

Ordained Ministers.

Alden, O. A.....	Borden Springs, Ala.
Burrow, J. J.....	Borden Springs, Ala.
Cheatwood, B. A.....	Edwardsville, Ala.
Edwards, J. S.....	Buchanan, Ga.
Ellis, W. A.....	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Garner, T. J.....	Ai, Ala.
Garner, J. C.....	Bell's Mill, Ala.
Griffith, T. W.....	Buchanan, Ga.
Moss, A.....	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Higdon, T. A.....	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Newborn, J. W.....	Edwardsville, Ala.
Pritchard, P. T.....	Edwardsville, Ala.
Lindsey, F.....	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Jackson, J. C.....	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Willingham, A.....	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Walker, J. D.....	Bell's Mill, Ala.
Williamson, N. R.....	Edwardsville, Ala.

Licentiates.

Bentley, R.....	Frithurst, Ala.
Carnes, A. B.....	Cave Spring, Ga.
Dodd, W. A.....	Kemp's Creek, Ala.
Eason, E.....	Muscadine, Ala.
Hart, J.....	Newsville, Ga.
Kilgore, J. M.....	Newsville, Ga.
Thompson, J. A.....	Frithurst, Ala.
Walker, J. W.....	Edwardsville, Ala.

Statistics of Harmony Baptist Association, 1896.

CHURCHES	Sunday of M't'g	Minist's		Baptized	Rec. by Letter	Restored	Dis'm'd by Letter	Excluded	Dead	Total Membership	Sunday Schools	For Missions	For Minutes
		Ordained	Licensed										
Ai,	3		1	1	1	1	7	1		42			75
Bethsaida,*										40			
Beulah,	1		1				3	1		35			.75
Bethany,	1	2		1	2		13	4		86		4.38	1.50
Buchanan,		2		22	8	1	16	4	1	125	1	33.30	2.50
Cherry Grove,	4			10	6	1	8			72			.90
Camp Creek,	4	1	1	7		1	5		3	144			1.50
Concord,	2		1			3	1	20	3	81			1.50
Edwardsville,	3								1	47	1	2.00	1.50
Harmony,*										29			
Harmony Grove,	2	1			6		6			35		.55	.75
Hopewell,	3			34	41		6			98		.70	1.50
Mt. Bethel,*										19			
Mt. Olive,*										29			
Mt Zion,	3	1		20	8				2	65		3.05	.80
New Bethel,*										12			
Pine Grove,	1	3		8	13		6			113	1	3.85	1.50
Pilgrim's Rest,	3	1		4	1		2		1	33			.50
Poplar Springs,	4			1			6		4	130			2.00
Pleasant Hill,	2		1		3		4			39		1.15	.75
Providence,	4	2	1	4	3	1	11	3	2	127			1.53
Salem,	4			4	2		9	2	1	53			1.00
Shiloh,	3		1	10	4	2	6	4	1	148			1.50
Shoal Creek,				7	3	1	1	1	1	44			1.00
Tallapoosa, 1st,		1		11	30	3	13	4	1	129	1	7.00	.75
Tallapoosa, 2d,*										12			
Zionia,	1		2	5	5		12			32			.85
TOTAL,		14	9	153	139	14	154	28	20	1819		455.98	27.48

*Statistics are taken from last year.

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Statistics of Harmony Baptist Association, 1896.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	ADDRESS.	CLERKS.	ADDRESS.
A1.....	Cleburne, Ala.	P. T. Pritchard	Edwardsville, Ala.	E. E. Myers	Al, Ala.....
Beulah.....	Cleburne, Ala.	N. R. Withamson	Edwardsville, Ala.	D. G. Wilcox	Muscadine, Ala.
Bethsaida.....	Cleburne, Ala.	F. Lindsey	Tallapoosa, Ga.	R. H. Pittman	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Bethany.....	Haralson, Ga.	W. W. Roop	Carrollton, Ga.	G. D. Griffith	Buchanan, Ga.
Buchanan.....	Haralson, Ga.	F. Lindsey	Tallapoosa, Ga.	V. M. Thackerson	Peuniseh, Ala.
Cherry Grove.....	Cleburne, Ala.	W. J. Campbell	Chulafannee, Ala.	G. W. Roberts	Oak Level, Ala.
Camp Creek.....	Cleburne, Ala.	F. Lindsey	Tallapoosa, Ga.	W. R. Barker	Edwardsville, Ala.
Concord.....	Cleburne, Ala.	J. A. Scott	Iron City, Ala.	J. W. Bennett	Edwardsville, Ala.
Edwardsville.....	Polk, Ga.	Garner & Pritchard	Edwardsville, Ala.	C. M. Withamson	Hopewell, Ala.
Harmony.....	Cleburne, Ala.	A. Willingham	Tallapoosa, Ga.	E. T. Bowling	Hooper, Ga.....
Harmony Grove.....	Cleburne, Ala.	S. I. Cross	Jenkins, Ala.	E. E. Myers	Bell Mills, Ala.
Hopewell.....	Cleburne, Ala.	J. O. Garner	Bell Mills, Ala.	J. Stephenson	Edwardsville, Ala.
Mc Bethel.....	Cleburne, Ala.	N. R. Withamson	Edwardsville, Ala.	C. W. Newman	Poplar Spr'gs, Ga.
Mt. Olive.....	Haralson, Ala.	M. V. Mize	Poplar Sp'gs, Ga.	E. J. Little	Newsville, Ga.
Mc Zion.....	Haralson, Ala.	A. Willingham	Tallapoosa, Ga.	C. Wright	Tallapoosa, Ga.
New Bethel.....	Cleburne, Ala.	O. A. Alden	Borden Sp'g, Ala.	P. J. Garmon	Bluffton, Ala.....
Pine Grove.....	Cleburne, Ala.	F. Lindsey	Tallapoosa, Ga.	W. T. Thompson	Berry's, Ga.....
Pilgrim's Rest.....	Cleburne, Ala.	R. M. Cheatwood	Jenkins, Ala.	F. Hubbard	Shoal Creek, Ala.
Poplar Springs.....	Haralson, Ga.	T. E. McCutchen	Douglasville, Ga.	C. Shipman	Tallapoosa, Ga.
Pleasant Hill.....	Haralson, Ga.				
Providence.....	Cherokee, Ala.				
Salem.....	Polk, Ga.				
Shiloh.....	Cleburne, Ala.				
Shoal Creek.....	Haralson, Ga.				
Tallapoosa 1st.....	Haralson, Ga.				
Tallapoosa 2d.....	Cleburne, Ala.				
Zidonia.....	Cleburne, Ala.			P. R. D. Williams'n	Fruithurst, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.



ARTICLE 1. This body shall be known as the HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed only of Representatives from Baptist Churches as follows: Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and one additional for every fifty members after the first fifty.

ART. 3. The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer elected annually by ballot, by a majority of all the votes cast.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside during the sitting of the body, and preserve order; he shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise directed by the Association. He shall convene the body at the proper time, and announce the business in its proper order.

ART. 5. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of all the proceedings of the Association, and to perform such other duties as the Association may require.

ART. 6. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of all Association funds, and pay them out by order of the body, and make a written report of the same annually.

ART. 7. All members shall have an equal privilege of submitting, explaining and advocating motions.

ART. 8. It is the duty and privilege of all members only to vote upon all questions submitted for decision.

ART. 9. No query shall be investigated or answered, unless it is sent up from a church in proper form, and when in the judgment of the Association it is necessary for the peace and unanimity of the churches.

ART. 10. This Association shall be deemed advisory, and shall treat the churches composing it as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall at no time interfere with their rights.

ART. 11. The object of this body shall be the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom, by the maintaining of brotherly love, by mutual consultations for the welfare of the churches, and by efforts in all appropriate ways for the spreading of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ART. 12. Churches applying for admission may be received upon evidence of their agreeing in faith and practice with the principles of the Word of God, as understood by this Association, and the Association shall have the right to withdraw from and disown any of its churches which may seriously and pertinaciously depart from the Gospel.

ART. 13. The churches are expected to report in their annual letters the names of the church, post-office, county, pastor, clerk, time of regular preaching, name of delegates, ordained ministers, licentiates, statistics of membership, Sunday school, minute funds, and contributions which may have been made by them during the year, for the different benevolent objects, together with any other particulars tending to exhibit their spiritual condition and labors for the cause of Christ.

ART. 14. This Association when convened shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

ART. 15. There shall be an introductory sermon preached at each session of this Association, at such time as it may direct.

ART. 16. Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any annual session.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator and Clerk of the preceding session shall serve until an election is had.

2. Correspondents from Sister Associations shall be received and heard at each sitting.

3. Visiting brethren of our order, and in good standing, shall be invited to seats at each sitting, and participate in our deliberations.

4. The report of the business committee, when adopted, shall become the directory for the remainder of the session.

5. A member rising to speak shall address the Moderator, but shall not proceed until he shall have been recognized by the Moderator.

6. No member speaking in debate shall be interrupted unless he depart from the subject of indulge in personal reflections.

7. No member shall absent himself from the body without leave of the Moderator.

8. Any member absent at the reading of the Minutes, without leave, shall be so noted.

9. Any member may appeal from the decision of the Moderator to that of the body.

10. All motions and resolutions in order shall be entertained, and while under debate no other motion shall be made, except to offer a substitute, to amend, commit, postpone, table or adjourn.

11. Motions to reconsider shall only be entertained when made by one who voted in the majority, and when there are as many members present as when originally passed.

12. The Minutes shall be read and adopted at the close of each session, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

13. The Clerk shall superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and file one copy of each session, to be delivered to his successor, and for his services shall receive reasonable compensation.

14. These rules may be amended or changed at any session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.



I. We believe in one only True and Living God, the Father, Word and Holy Ghost, and these three are one. Deut. vi, 4; 1st John v. 7; 2nd Cor. xiii; 14 Matt. xxiii, 19.

II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God given to us by inspiration of God (2d Tim. iii, 16,) and the New Testament is the only book of discipline to govern the Church of God; and that Jesus Christ is the head and only lawgiver. Heb. ix, 14-17; Eph. i, 22; Matt. xvii. 5.

III. We believe in the doctrine of election, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. 1st Peter i, 2 5; 2d Thess. ii. 13.

IV. We believe that all men are sinners by nature, children of wrath, even dead in trespasses and sin (Eph. ii, 13; Rom. v, 12), and unable to recover themselves from the fallen state they are in by their own ability. Rom. v, 6; John vi. 44; Phil. ii. 13.

V. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by God's grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. ii, 8; 1st John i, 5; Rev. i, 5; Rom. v, 1.

VI. We believe in the pre-ervation and final salvation of all God's children. 1st Peter i, 5; John vi, 38-40, and x. 28, 29; 1st John iii, 2; Col. iii, 3, 4.

VII. We believe that Baptism is an ordinance from God, enjoined upon true believers in Jesus Christ only, commanded by Christ to be kept by His Church; and that immersion only is Scriptural Baptism. John i, 6, 33; xxviii. 19; 1st Cor. xi, 2; Rom. vi, 4, 5; Col. ii. 12.

VIII. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ as an ordinance to be observed by His Church till He comes, and

that no person has a right to participate in this ordinance only those who have been Scripturally Baptized, and sustained an accredited membership in the church. Matt. xxvi, 26, 27, et seq.; Mark xvi, 22 et seq.; Acts. ii, 42; 1st Cor. v, 11 et seq.

IX. We believe that the visible Church of God is composed of Baptised believers covenanted together and to keep the Commandments and ordinances of the Lord as He delivered them to us, acknowledging no head nor law-giver but Christ. Acts ii, 41, 42 and 47, and v, 14, and xviii, 8; 2d Cor. viii, 5; Eph. i, 22, 23; Col. i, 18.

X. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the righteous will enter into eternal life and the wicked will enter into everlasting punishment. Matt. xxv, 46; Acts xxiv, 15, and xvii, 31; Rev. xx, 12 et seq.; 1st Cor. xv, 21 et seq.

XI. We believe that no person has a right to administer the ordinances of the Church, only those who are chosen by the Church and Scripturally set apart to that office. Acts vi, 5; xiii, 2, 3.

XII. We believe that all infants that die as such are saved through the atoning merits of Christ, without any works that man can perform. 2d Sam. xii, 23; Matt. xix; 13, 14; Rom. v, 14.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY.



1. Introductory sermon.
2. Temporary organization.
3. Read Letters from Churches and Enroll Delegates.
4. Call Roll.
5. Elect by ballot Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
6. Call for Petitionary Letters.
7. Call for Correspondence.
8. Appoint Correspondents.
9. Invite all Ministers of our order to seats.
10. Invite visiting Brethren from Sister Associations.
11. Appoint Committees :—
 1. On Preaching.
 2. On Sabbath Schools.
 3. On State Missions.
 4. On Home Missions.
 5. On Foreign Missions.
 6. Re-districting Association.
 7. Finance.
 8. On Nominations.
 9. On Destitution.
 10. On Association Missions.
 11. On Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
12. Fix business hours.
13. Appoint Executive Committee.
14. Call for and hear Reports of Committees.
15. Miscellaneous business.
16. Appoint District meetings.
17. Appoint time and place of next session of this body.
18. Appoint delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
19. Hear report of Treasurer.
20. Call roll and mark absentees.
21. Arrange for printing and distributing minutes.
22. Read and approve minutes.
23. Adjourn.

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