

MINUTES
of the
ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
1848

MINUTES

OF THE

ALACHUA ASSOCIATION, FLORIDA,

Held with the Church Providence, (Olusta Creek,) Columbia County, Florida, on the 11th, 12th, and 13th days of November, 1848.

1st. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Daniel Simmons, from the 17th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and 30th verse :

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.”

2d. The Delegates composing the Alachua Association convened at the meeting house, and was called to order by Elder James McDonald. Prayer by Elder Daniel Edwards.

3d. Letters from the churches comprising the Association were then called for, and thirteen being presented, were read and received, and their statistics minuted.

4th. Petitioners' letters were then called for. None presented.

5th. Proceed to the election of Moderator and Clerk; whereupon Brother McDonald was re-elected Moderator, and Brother Thos. J. Prevatt Clerk.

6th. Appointed Brothers S. Scarborough, J. M. Prevatt, Theop. Weeks, Asa A. Stewart, and Moses Barber, a committee to arrange the order of Preaching during the Association.

7th. Read the Decorum.

8th. Brethren Daniel Edwards, Daniel Simmons, John Tucker, Ryan Frier, and James McDonald, were appointed a committee to arrange the business to come before the Association.

9th. Brethren John Jones, Abraham Geiger, Elisha Green, John Curry, and Charles Roach, were appointed a committee on finance.

10th. Called for contributions from the churches, which was referred to the committee on finance, who reported letter A.

11th. The committee on Preaching report as follows :

Bro. John Tucker to preach this evening at the house of Daniel Barcos.

Bro. Daniel Edwards at Bro. Theop. Weeks's.

Bro. McDonald and Bro. Simmons at Bro. Giles W. Ellis's.

Bro. Frier and Bro. Stanland at Bro. John M. Prevatt's, all by candle-light.

Bro. McDonald at the stand, 11 o'clock A. M.

Bro. Edwards to follow him.

Bro. Frier to follow him.

Bro. Tucker to conclude the services Sunday evening.

12th. *Resolved*, That there be a collection taken up on Sabbath, immediately after the forenoon services, for an Association fund.

13th. *Resolved*, That the Ministers and Messengers comprising this Association convene at the meeting house half past nine o'clock Sabbath morning, and hold a prayer meeting, that the Great Shepherd of his flock would pour out his Spirit upon this part of his vineyard, that a great revival may break out ere the close of this Association.

14th. On motion, adjourned till Monday morning, 10 o'clock A. M.

Prayer by Elder John Tucker.

LORD'S DAY, *November 12th*, 1848.

15th. The ministering Brethren filled the appointments Saturday night, in accordance with previous arrangements, and preached with great force and power to the most respectable and attentive congregations.

16th. The Brethren occupied the stand on Sabbath in the order of their appointments, and preached the words of eternal truth, with great power and energy, to a very large and well-ordered congregation, characterized throughout by the most decent and credita-

ble order and respectful attention, and we do hope and trust that the word preached has and will have its desired effect upon the minds and consciences of the dear waiting audience.

17th. On motion, according to the request of New Hope Church, it was agreed to attend to the ordination of Bro. S. T. Stanland.

18th. The ordination of Bro. S. T. Stanland to the Ministry was attended to at 2 o'clock P. M., Sabbath, by a Presbytery of Elders, *i. e.*, McDonald, Tucker, Simmons, and Edwards. Elder John Tucker and Elder Daniel Simmons brought forward Bro. S. T. Stanland for ordination. Elder Edwards gave the introduction of the ordination, by reading from the 3d chapter of the 1st Epistle of Paul, the Apostle, to Timothy, suitable to the occasion. Elder James McDonald gave the ordination charge in a very eloquent and affectionate manner. Ordination prayer by Elder John Tucker. Bible presented by Elder Daniel Simmons. Right hand of fellowship given by the Presbytery.

19th. The Preaching committee's appointments for Sunday night: Say—Bro. Frier preach at the Methodist church; Bro. McDonald and Bro. Stanland to preach at Bro. Theop. Weeks's; Bro. Edwards at Bro. Giles U. Ellis's; Bro. Simmons and Tucker at Bro. Elias Osteen's. All by candle-light.

20th. The Preaching Brethren filled the appointments on Sabbath night, in accordance with the instructions of the Preaching committee, to the most attentive and affectionate congregations, and to good effect.

MONDAY MORNING, November 13th, 1848.

21st. Met, pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Moses Barber.

22d. Read and received the minutes of Saturday.

23d. Called for correspondence, when Bro. Ryan Frier and Bro. James J. Polhill, from the Florida Baptist Association, presented themselves, and were received by the Moderator, giving the right hand of fellowship.

• 24th. Called for the circular letter, which was produced, read, and adopted.

• 25th. Appointed Brethren James McDonald, Moses Barber, Daniel Simmons, Asa A. Stewart, and S. Scarborough, correspondents to the Florida Baptist Association, 1849.

• 26th. Appointed Elder James McDonald to preach the next introductory sermon, and Bro. D. Edwards alternate.

• 27th. Appointed Elder John Tucker to preach a sermon on Missions, on Sunday morning, at our next Association.

• 28th. Appointed Elder D. Simmons to write the circular letter for our next association, and Bro. T. J. Prevatt in case of failure.

• 29th. Called for the report of the arranging committee, which was received.

• 30th. On motion, *Resolved*, That we request the churches of this Association to consider the subject of a Domestic Mission within its bounds, and report to us in their letters next year, what their wish may be with reference to that subject.

• *Resolved*, That the delegates of this body meet on Friday before our next Association, to consider subjects connected with the welfare of this Association.

• *Resolved*, That as we are aware that our Clerk, Bro. T. J. Prevatt, is subject to much labor and attention, in having our minutes printed and distributed, we honestly and devoutly think twenty dollars is not too much for his labor and attention.

• 31st. On motion, agreed to discuss the 4th article of the articles of faith adopted by the Alachua Association.

• 32d. *Resolved*, That the 4th article of our constitution be erased and this be substituted, viz: We believe in the doctrine of Election.

• 33d. *Resolved*, That the articles of faith and decorum be republished in our minutes, and that the second part of the preamble thereto annexed be stricken out of the articles.

• 34th. Called for the report of the committee on finance, which reported letter B.

• 35th. *Resolved*, That the names of the ordained Ministers of this Association, with their several post offices and addresses, be inserted in the Minutes.

• 36th. *Resolved*, That we have five hundred copies of the Minutes of this Association printed, for the use of the Association, friends, &c.

• 37th. *Resolved*, That we hold our next Association with the Church New Providence, (Flemington,) Marion county, Fla., to commence Saturday before the second Sabbath in November, 1849.

• 38th. *Resolved*, That we hold four protracted meetings the ensuing year—at South Prong Church, Columbia county, Fla.; at Fort Clark, Alachua county, Fla.; at Fellowship, Marion county, Fla.; at Eden, (Lake Lindsey,) Benton county, Fla.—as follows: At South Prong, commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in January, 1849; at Fort

Clark, Friday before the fifth Sabbath in April, 1849; at Fellowship, Friday before the fifth Sabbath in July, 1849; at Eden, Friday before the fifth Sabbath in September, 1849.

Ques. In answer to the query sent us by some anonymous person, "What shall be done with a member of the Baptist church, who, after he joins a Temperance society, is buying and drinking ardent spirits?" *Answer.* We consider such a man not fit for a Temperance society, and altogether a scandal to Christians of our denomination, and therefore he ought to be excommunicated for falsehood and intemperance.

With. Resolved. That Bro. James McDonald return thanks to the citizens of Providence church, (Olusta Creek,) and its vicinity, for their kindness, benevolence, and hospitality during the session of this body.

His. Adjourned to the time and place of our next Association.

THOS. J. PREVATT, *Clerk.*

JAMES McDONALD, *Moderator.*

CONSTITUTION AND DECORUM

OF THE

ALACHUA ASSOCIATION, FLA.

We, the Churches of Jesus Christ, who have been regularly baptized upon a profession of our faith, are convinced, from a series of experience, of the necessity of a combination of Churches, and of obtaining a correspondence, for the preserving of a federal union amongst all the Churches of the same faith and order.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and the imputation of his sin to his posterity; in the corruption of human nature, and the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free-will ability.
4. We believe in the doctrine of Election.
5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.
6. We believe that all those who were chosen in Christ will be effectually called, regenerated, converted, sanctified, and supported by the Spirit and power of God, so that they shall persevere in grace, and not one of them be finally lost.
7. We believe that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, and that they only justify us in the sight of men and angels, and are evidences of our gracious state.
8. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

And as for Gospel order:

1. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have gained Christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord and to one another, and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline, agreeable to the rules of the Gospel.
2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great Head of his Church and only Lawgiver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual, and that the discipline of the Church is intended for the reclaiming of those Christians who may be disorderly, either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up, for God's glory and the peace and unity of the churches.
3. We believe that Water-Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances of the Lord, and are to be continued till his second coming.
4. We believe that true believers in Jesus Christ are the only subjects of Baptism, and that immersion is the mode.

5. We believe that none but regularly baptized Church members have a right to communion at the Lord's table.

6. We believe that it is the duty of every heaven-born soul to become a member of the visible Church, to make a public profession of his faith, to be legally baptized, so as to have a right to, and to partake of the Lord's Supper, at every legal opportunity through the whole course of his life.

7. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, only such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery.

Having laid down a summary of the faith and order upon which we intend to associate, we therefore propose to mention, for the Decorum of our Association, the following plan or form of government:

ARTICLE 1. Those members who are regularly chosen by the Churches in our Union shall compose the Association.

2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certify their appointments, together with their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and dead, since our last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Alachua Association.

4. This Association shall have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor by which they can infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.

6. If new churches desire to be admitted into this union, they shall petition by letters and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and it shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. No church in the union shall have a right to more than two messengers, till she shall exceed one hundred members, and then she shall have a right to an additional messenger, for every fifty after the first hundred.

8. Every query sent to the Association, by any church in the union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority for, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn: Provided always, that those be first considered which affect the union of churches.

9. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

10. Every member who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he depart from the subject.

11. No person shall speak more than three times to the same query, without leave of the Association.

12. There shall be no talking or whispering in the time of a public speech, nor reflections cast upon the speaker.

13. No member shall absent himself from the Association, without leave of the Moderator.

14. If any member shall break the rules of this Decorum, he shall be immediately reprovved by the Moderator.

15. It is the business of this Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches; second, to keep up a correspondence with those Associations of the same faith and order, that a chain of communication may be preserved amongst the churches; thirdly, to give the churches the best advice they can in matters of difficulty; and, if the communion should be broken between any of the sister churches in the union, to enquire into the cause of the breach, and use their best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from any church or churches whom they shall look upon to be unsound in principle, or immoral in practice, till they be reclaimed; fourthly, to admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assistants, if they shall judge it to be necessary; fifthly, to appoint a Secretary, to keep a book, and regularly to record the proceedings of every Association, and to see that he is satisfied for his trouble; sixthly, to have the minutes of the Association read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and clerk, before the Association rises, and have them printed, if they think proper; seventh, to amend this form or plan of government at any time when the majority of the union shall deem it to be necessary; eighth, to adjourn to any time or place they may think to be most proper.

REPORT OF THE

Resolved for Minutes

- 1. St. Mary's, Nassau county, Fla.
- 2. Bethesda, Berne co.
- 3. New Hope, Munson co.
- 4. Columbia, Columbia co.
- 5. Bethesda, Berne co.
- 6. Elm.
- 7. South Prong, Columbia co.
- 8. Fellowship, Munson co.
- 9. New Providence, Marion co.
- 10. Fort Clark, Alachua co.
- 11. Mount Pleasant, Alachua co.
- 12. Bethel, Duval co.
- 13. Providence, Columbia co.

Collection on Sabbath.
Amount in the Treasury.

REPORT OF

Do.
To and collected at the Association
1849.
and in treasury of 1847.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE—(A.)

Received for Minutes and Clerks' services, from No.—of Churches:

1. Sharon, Nassau county, Florida,	- -	\$2 00	\$3 00 for missions.
2. Bethesda, Benton co.,	" -	1 25	
3. New Hope, Marion co.,	" -	1 00	
4. Columbia, Columbia co.,	" -	2 00	
5. Bethlehem, Benton co.,	" -	2 10	
6. Eden,	" -	1 37 1-2	
7. South Prong, Columbia co., Fla.,	- -	2 50	
8. Fellowship, Marion co.,	" -	1 00	
9. New Providence, Marion co., Fla.,	- -	3 00	2 66 "
10. Fort Clark, Alachua co.,	" -	5 00	1 87 1-2 "
11. Mount Pleasant, Alachua co.,	" -	1 00	
12. Bethel, Duval co.,	" -	2 25	
13. Providence, Columbia co.,	" -	2 75	
		<u>\$27 22 1-2</u>	<u>\$7 53 1-2</u>
			<u>27 22 1-2</u>
			34 76

REPORT—(B.)

Collection on Sabbath,	- - -	\$22 25
Amount in the Treasury,	- - -	6 00
		<u>\$63 01</u>

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 1848.

Dr.		Cr.	
To am't collected at the Association,		By am't paid clerk for services,	
1848,	\$57 01	1848,	\$20 00
- am't in treasury of 1847,	6 00	" am't paid for minutes,	20 00
		" " " postage,	20
	<u>63 01</u>		
	40 20		40 20
	<u>22 81</u>		

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.
1. Providence,	Columbia,	1	-	-	1
2. Sharon,	Nassau,	3	3	2	2
3. Bethesda,	Benton,	2	-	-	-
4. Columbia,	Columbia,	-	-	-	-
5. Eden,	Benton,	2	-	-	-
6. Bethlehem,	Benton,	2	4	1	-
7. New Hope,	Marion,	-	5	-	-
8. South Prong,	Columbia,	-	-	-	-
9. Fellowship,	Marion,	-	1	-	1
10. N. Providence,	Marion,	-	2	-	1
11. Ft. Clark,	Alachua,	-	2	-	3
12. Mt. Pleasant,	Alachua,	-	-	-	-
13. Bethel,	Duval,	7	2	1	1
		17	19	4	6

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Excommunicated.	Dead.	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES' NAMES.	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.
-	2	45	-	45		{ J. M. Prevatt and S. Scarborough.	
2	-	27	5	32	J. McDonald.	{ J. McDonald and J. Jones.	Address J. McDonald, Jacksonville, Florida.
-	-	15	1	16	J. Tucker.	{ J. Tucker and J. W. Riggs.	Address Jno. Tucker, Ft. Dade, Benton Co., Fa.
-	-	5	5	10		{ J. W. Lowe and A. A. Stewart.	
1	-	20	5	25	J. Tucker.	D. Simmons.	Address D. Simmons, Ft. Dade, Benton Co., Fa.
2	-	13	11	24	D. Simmons.	Reported by letter.	
-	-	14	-	14	S. T. Stanland.	{ S. T. Stanland and C. Roach.	Address S. T. Stanland, Ocala, Marion Co., Fa.
-	-	24	1	25		{ E. Green and M. Barber.	
1	-	16	3	19	D. Edwards.	{ A. Geiger and A. M. Geiger.	Address D. Edwards, Flemington, Marion Co., Fa.
-	1	33	6	39	D. Edwards.	{ D. Edwards and Jno. Curry.	Address D. Edwards, Flemington, Marion Co., Fa.
-	3	44	16	60	D. Edwards.	{ S. Geiger and T. J. Prevatt.	Address D. Edwards, Flemington, Marion Co., Fa.
-	1	12	2	14		{ J. M. Mott and Sol. Godwin.	
4	-	11	145	156	J. McDonald.	James McDonald.	Address Jas. McDonald, Jacksonville, Duval Co., Florida.
10	7	279	200	479			

STETSON LIBRARY

CIRCULAR.

The Alabama Association, to the Churches of which she is composed, sendeth greeting!

RECOMMENDED BY THE LORD: In this our Circular Letter, we beg leave to call your attention to the command of the Great Head of the Church to his Apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark, xvi. 15.) And we are further commanded to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving our own souls." (James, i. 22.) Let us, therefore, brethren, aim at the honorable position occupied by the Apostle James, when he could say to his enemies and the enemies of truth, "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." (James, ii. 18.) Then, beloved brethren, let us individually examine ourselves, whether we are coming up to the full discharge of the duties we owe to God and our neighbors, fellow men, remembering that "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither we go," and let us not flatter ourselves that this will ever be accomplished otherwise than as the Lord devised, and has ever purchased by the prayers and labors of his people. Although it is his determination and will that the Gospel shall be fully preached to every tribe and nation, yet is this work to be accomplished through the instrumentality of his people.

What did our blessed Lord mean, when he told his disciples that they were the light of the world, and the salt of the earth? Is it not obvious that in that language he made them instrumentally the means of enlightening and preserving the world? Shall we then, beloved, dare to keep that light hid? Nay, rather let us place it as a beacon upon a prominent shore, that its light, streaming abroad upon the waters, may enlighten the darkness to the port of endless life.

Permit me to suggest to you the great importance of union and brotherly love, in all our efforts for the prosperity of Zion. Reason, as well as the words of our blessed Lord, declares us that a divided house cannot stand. Let a prudent and becoming zeal characterize all your operations as churches. Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, and by mutual advice, counsel, and co-operation, strengthen each other's hands and encourage each other to every good word and work. The neglect of many in attending the conferences of the Church, is an evil of sufficient magnitude to deserve at least passing notice in this place. Allow me to ask, dear brethren, how are we to feel a proper interest in the operations of a body whose business meetings we even occasionally come to attend? Let us rather imitate the pious Israelites, who abandoned their farms and flocks three times each year, and at the command of God took long journeyings to the temple, that all their males might, according to the commandment, appear before God.

Finally, if our plain but affectionate exhortations shall find a lodgment in your hearts, we trust you are ready to say, "And what shall I do?" To this question we reply, that it is certainly not the duty of every one to go abroad to preach the Gospel, or even at home to ascend the sacred desk, but let each one obey the divine injunction, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee; whether it be a gift for preaching, or prayer, or exhortation, let it be diligently employed, for the glory of God and the good of immortal souls."

And now, my dear brethren and sisters, a few words to you. Shall we not attend to the duty we owe to God, and enable his ministers to read the blessed Word, that they thereby may be prepared to give saint and sinner his portion of meat in due season? There are many of God's preachers who are under the solemn charge to preach the Word that are poor men, and who have families, and some of them have large families, and are very poor; and shall we, as churches or congregations, call them or call for them, and not consider their poor wives and children, when every care comes upon their poor lone-some wives, who mourn the loss of their dear husbands, when so often come and oft when it is the will of God to bring back their husbands to their wives and children, worn and worn down with fatigue, and who as quick as or before they can well walk must go to work for their families? Their families are dear to them, and it is a great trial to their minds to see them suffer through their neglect. But they are God's servants; they must forsake all and preach the Gospel; yea, leave their wives and children, and attend to what God has enjoined on them. And now, brethren, let us consider, for a little while, what time have ministers to read who have to attend three or four churches,

13 Bethel	17	19	4	6	10	7	279	200	479
14 Mt. Pleasant	7	2	1	1	4	-	11	145	156
Alachua	-	-	-	3	-	1	12	2	14
Alachua	2	-	-	1	-	3	44	16	60
Mt. Pleasant	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	6	39
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Alachua	1	1							

and their families depending on their labor for support? Oh, brethren, if you could hear the moans of the ministers of Jesus in silence—of the great, important work that they have enjoined on them—and how unprepared they often feel to feed the flock of God with the sincere milk of the Word, when they have not had the opportunity of reading the Word and meditating thereon! Oh, brethren, let us not seal up the Word from us and our children! Let us not “muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn!” Do not let your ministers mourn by your neglect. If we are poor, let us give according to our ability, and not grudgingly, for “the Lord loveth the cheerful giver.” Let us take the Word for our guide, and the Lord enable ministers, and brethren, and sisters, to live in the discharge of their duty, for Jesus sake!

Finally, brethren, farewell. Live in love; and the God of peace grant that your whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

JAMES McDONALD, *Moderator.*

T. J. PREVATT, *Clerk.*

JACKSONVILLE, December 15, 1848.

Received of T. J. PREVATT Twenty Dollars for printing these Minutes.

COLUMBUS DREW