

Wm. Eagle

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

New Providence Church, Marion county, Fla:

OCTOBER 26TH AND 28TH, 1867.

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MINUTES OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH, Marion County, Florida, October 26th and 28th, 1867:

The twenty-first session of the Alachua Baptist Association was held with the New Providence Church, at Flemington, Marion county, commencing on Saturday, the 26th of October, 1867.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder R. M. Perry, from Amos, vi chapter, and 1st verse.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the delegates and congregation were invited to a table near by, where a bountiful dinner was supplied. After refreshments, the delegates assembled in the Methodist Church, when the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

After singing and prayer, Elder R. M. Perry was elected Clerk pro tem.

Letters from ten churches were then presented, read, and the names of their delegates enrolled.

On motion, Elders W. T. Carlton and S. T. Standland were received as the authorized delegates of Fort McCoy church.

A letter was then presented from Elder S. C. Craft, chairman of a convention held by a number of churches south of the Withlacoocha River, asking for letters of dismission from this Association, for the purpose of forming themselves into a new Association, which, together with a verbal request for a letter of dismission made by the Lake Harris church, through Elder S. B. Todd, was referred to the committee on Letters and Queries.

The Moderator then called for Petitionary Letters, when a letter was presented from the Ocklawaha Church of Marion county, which was, on motion, received as a member of the body, and the right hand of fellowship extended to its delegates by the Moderator.

Correspondence was then called for, whereupon the following named brethren, viz: Elders William Johnston and L. J. Simmons, and brethren Elias Earle, H. V. Massey and William S. Perry, presented themselves as correspondents of the Santa Fe River Association, and were heartily welcomed by the Moderator.

The body then proceeded to the election of officers for the present session, which resulted in the re-election of Elder J. H. Breaker, Moderator, in the election of Elder R. M. Perry, Clerk, and Elder J. J. Kirkland, Treasurer.

The following committees were then appointed, viz :

Committee of Arrangements—Brethren J. L. Mathews, C. J. Mixon and D. Griffin.

A Special Committee on Deceased Baptist Ministers—Elder R. M. Perry and brethren M. Alexander and John E. Allen.

Committee on Church Letters and Queries—Elders S. B. Todd, W. T. Carlton, S. T. Standland and R. M. Perry.

Committee on Mission—Brethren H. H. Hudgens, Martin Griner and J. S. Sistrunk.

Committee on Finance—Brethren Wm. J. Taylor and John E. Allen.

The Circular Letter was then called up, read, and adopted, and ordered to be printed with the minutes. (See appendix A.)

On motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock, a. m., Monday, the 28th instant.

SUNDAY, October 27th.

At 11 o'clock, a. m., Elder L. J. Simmons preached on the subject of Missions, after which a collection was taken up for the support of Missions within the bounds of the Alachua Association, amounting to \$48.15.

In the afternoon Elder J. H. Breaker addressed the congregation in a touching and pathetic discourse, from 1st Cor. xv. chapter and 26th verse, alluding very feelingly to the death of Elder Daniel Edwards.

MONDAY MORNING, October 28th.

The delegates assembled pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder L. J. Simmons.

The names of delegates called. A sufficient number being present, proceeded to business.

The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Two Church Letters, one from New Hope Church, and the other from Stafford's Pond Church, which had failed to reach the body on Saturday, were handed in and read.

The report of the Committee on Missions was called up and read, which was, on motion, received and adopted, and the committee discharged. (See appendix B.)

The report of the committee on Church Letters and Queries was then called up and read, and, on motion, received and adopted, and the committee discharged. (See appendix C.)

The report of the Special Committee on Deceased Baptist Ministers was called up and read, which was, on motion, received and adopted, and the committee discharged. (See appendix D.)

The report of the Executive Committee was then called up. The chairman, Elder J. H. Breaker, made a verbal report, stating that the committee had not ventured to employ a Missionary, on account of the Treasurer having no funds on hand, which was, on motion, received as the report of that committee.

The report of the Treasurer was called up, read, approved, and adopted. (See appendix E.)

On motion, an Executive Committee was then appointed, consisting of Elders J. H. Breaker, Brethren C. J. Mixon, J. L. Mathews and D. Griffin.

It was then, on motion, Resolved, That any member of this body who shall be present at the meeting of the Florida Association, the Santafee River Association, the Concord Association, or the Baptist State Convention of Florida, shall be considered as our appointed messenger or messengers to those bodies.

On motion, the First Monday in May next was appointed as a day of fasting and prayer to Almighty God for a revival of His work within the bounds of the Association.

On motion, agreed to pay the Clerk thirty dollars for his services.

Agreed to have three hundred copies of these minutes printed.

On motion, the Moderator was requested to return the thanks of the body to the Brethren and Friends of this vicinity for the kind entertainment furnished the delegates and visitors.

On motion, a resolution was adopted authorizing the Clerk of the Association to write letters of dismission for all those churches which may apply for such letters; which was subsequently so amended as to allow those churches that could not obtain letters before the time of the proposed meeting for the purpose of forming an Association south of the Alachua Association, to become members of that body, and afterwards apply to the Clerk and obtain letters of dismission from this Association.

On motion, agreed that the next session of this Association be held with the Fort McCoy church.

Elder J. J. Kirkland was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next session.

Elder J. H. Breaker was appointed to preach on the subject of missions,—Elder L. J. Simmons, alternate.

Elder R. M. Perry was appointed to write the next Circular Letter.

The report of the Committee on Finance was called up and read, and, on motion, received and adopted, and committee discharged. (See appendix F.)

On motion, adjourned, to meet with the Fort McCoy church of Marion county, on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1868.

While singing the parting hand was given. Prayer by the Clerk. Benediction by the Moderator.

J. H. BREAKER, Moderator.

R. M. PERRY, Clerk.

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APPENDIX.

(A)

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN: Your attention is earnestly invited to the important duty of providing ministerial Aid for our churches. It is well known that at every session of our Association, from its organization until the present, some of our churches are reported without a Pastor, and that in very few instances can one church have the entire benefit of their Pastor's labor. Usually, one minister has been required to serve three or four churches. It is well known too that great difficulty has been experienced in carrying on missionary work in the bounds of the Association, for want of laborers. We have reason to believe that the same destitution prevails elsewhere. Every year new churches are organized and received into the Association, and yet we hear of no corresponding increase of ministers. This great destitution has not only been felt and deeply lamented, but some efforts have been made to induce ministers from other localities to settle in our midst, and thus aid in supplying our wants. Brethren, allow us to suggest that this method of obtaining ministerial aid is hardly just to sister churches, and that we have no encouragement to look for great spiritual progress while such a course is being pursued. As well might we attempt to build up our churches only by inviting such as are already in the fold elsewhere to come and join us, entirely overlooking the perishing souls around us. Let us remember that so long as God calls men to repentance by the preaching of the word, so long will He continue to call men to the ministry. The Lord makes use of means, using even poor earthen vessels, to convey the messages of His love. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." It may be that you have often prayed for help, but have you prayed as earnestly as you would for the conversion of sinners?—remembering that it is as much your duty to invite young men who have given themselves to Christ, and who give evidence of deep piety and of reasonable talents to listen for a call to preach the Gospel, as it is to invite sinners to come to Christ for salvation. Brethren in the ministry: Some of you are far advanced in age, your work is almost done. Some of you are in feeble health and are looking for an early call to your eternal home. Who will preach Christ crucified to a perishing world when you are gone? Can you depart in peace, even though in full view of the Promised Land, without beholding the Joshua who is to lead the flock you will leave behind. You sometimes make great efforts to awake the attention of the churches to the importance of sending and sustaining missionaries where the Word of Life has never before been proclaimed. Do you make use of every favorable opportunity to urge the pious promising young men of your churches to seriously consider their obligations to engage more actively in the service of their Redeemer? If you say that God will call all whom he designs to preach His Word, without any personal effort on your part, you may as well say that your services are not required to call sinners to repentance. Dear Brethren, while you are laboring so hard to win souls to Christ, are you doing all you can to supply our churches, and the world, with Preachers of the Gospel? Every brother and sister should feel the obligation to pray for an increase of laborers, and should pray as earnestly in public and in private as they would for the conversion of the world. Let every young man of

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true piety and intelligence in our churches know that your eyes are upon him and that he is expected diligently enquire of the Lord what He will have him to do. See that the Saviour's claims are faithfully declared, that the mighty motives of the Gospel are fully brought to bear upon the hearts and consciences of these young soldiers of the Cross. Converted young men are under the most solemn obligations to consider whether they are called of God to engage in preaching the gospel. Let no one decide rashly, but go to God in humble fervent prayer for the guidance of His Holy Spirit. If love to God and your fellow man should move you to deny self and to engage in preaching the life-giving Word, take heed that no worldly considerations cause you to neglect the great duty. "Woe be to you if you do not preach the gospel." Remember that "They who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever." It is not pretended; that every christian young man is called to preach the Gospel. But while there is such a pressing want of laborers, it becomes the duty of every one of you to enquire of the Lord your duty in regard to this important matter. If, after thorough inquiry, you are satisfied that it is not your duty to engage personally in proclaiming the Gospel, remember that you are still under several obligations to do all in your power towards making known the blessed invitations of your Saviour, both at home and abroad. Brethren: Let us work while it is day, "for the night cometh when no man can work."—Let every step be taken in prayer. The limits of a Circular Letter will not permit a more extended appeal.

(B)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Your committee on Missions beg leave to report:

In view of the small amounts sent up for Missions by some of the churches, we fear the measure recommended by the committee last year has not been adopted and acted upon by the churches and their Pastors. But such is the vast destitution in our bounds, we recommend the appointment of at least one Missionary to labor in the destitute portions of our Association, and we trust the services of an able and efficient minister will be secured. And we recommend that Pastors inform their congregations that said Missionary is in the field dependant upon them for support, and that collections or contributions be taken up among all our congregations to secure this object, at that season of the year most favorable, when the people have money in hand.

H. H. HUDGENS, Chairman.

(C)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHURCH LETTERS AND QUERIES.

Your committee, to whom was referred the matter of Church Letters and Queries, beg leave respectfully to report as follows:

In answer to the query whether "a brother may move his membership to a more distant church without changing his residence also," we are of opinion that a brother is free to hold his membership with any church which may best suit his views, so that he does not neglect his religious duties.

With regard to the query from the Ocala church, we would say, that when a brother has lost the confidence and fellowship of his brethren, without having committed any acts upon which specific charges can be made, he should be officially notified of the fact by the church, and in a spirit of christian kindness, admonished to change the course of conduct that has given cause of offence. If

he refuse or neglect to do this, the church may, after laboring with him and waiting a reasonable length of time, withdraw from him.

Regarding the request of the southern churches for Letters of Dismission, for the purpose of constituting a new Association, we are of opinion that they have the right to withdraw if they see proper to do so; and furthermore, that the reasons they give are sound and substantial. While, therefore, we regret the necessity for a separation, we recommend that their request be granted, and that we bid them God speed.

There being more than one petition from the churches for the next session of the Association, we respectfully submit the decision of the matter to the body.

All of which is respectfully submitted, S. B. TODD, Chairman.

(D)

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECEASED BAPTIST MINISTERS.

The Special Committee on Deceased Baptist Ministers, respectfully beg leave to submit the following report:

In view of the mortality within the bounds of our Association, we feel that our churches generally have great cause for the most profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father for that mercy displayed in sparing to them so great a proportion of their ministry. Nevertheless, it is with heartfelt sorrow that we would call the attention of your body to the melancholy tidings that have reached us from Crystal River. Our much esteemed brother, Elder Daniel Edwards, the spiritual father of many within our bounds, and, for a number of years, the esteemed, active and efficient Moderator of our Association, "has fallen asleep." But while we feel that these tidings must send a thrill of sorrow throughout the entire Association, we know that the brethren of his own church and his bereaved family must feel most keenly the loss of one still more endeared by more frequent associations on more intimate terms, and to them we most affectionately tender our most earnest sympathy and christian condolence,—feeling that we should all bow in meek submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, knowing that the voice which called our beloved brother from among us, however full of the plaintive notes of sorrow to our ears, was to him but the charming voice of his Redeemer calling him from those labors of love, which had so endeared him to our hearts, to that rest which his exhausted strength and aged frame requires.

R. M. PERRY, Chairman.

(E)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received of the Committee on Finance, Oct. 29th, 1866	\$226 44
Paid the Clerk of the Association for Services,	\$30 00
Paid for Printing of Minutes,	30 00
Paid to Chairman of the Executive Committee,	166 44—
Received of Clerk, October 24th, 1866, balance left from printing minutes,	\$5 00
Amount in hand,	5 00

R. M. PERRY, Treasurer.

(F)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Your committee on Finance would respectfully report:

Sent up by the churches,	\$68 75
Contributed on Sabbath,	48 15

\$116 90

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. J. TAYLOR, Chairman.

BALANCE OF THE OFFICERS.

NAME	AMOUNT	DATE	REMARKS
W. J. Taylor	100 00	1866	...
J. M. Perry	50 00	1866	...
D. Edwards	20 00	1866	...
S. B. Todd	15 00	1866	...
R. M. Perry	10 00	1866	...
...
Total	116 90		

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STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	Baptized.	Received by letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Deceased.	Whites.	Colored.	Total.	Contributions.	Sabbaths of Meeting.
					—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 Alafia, †	Hillsboro,	Represented thro' conv't'n.	A. Wilson,	Cork,							64		64		
2 Bethel, †	Polk.	" " "	A. Wilson,	Cork,							62	6	67		1st.
3 Buclah.	Putnam,	Not represented,	J M Hayman,										23		
4 Crystal River,	Hernando,	H. D. Edwards, J. E. Allen,		Crystal River,									19	3 00	
5 Eden,	"	Not represented,	H. McGlon,	Abramtown,							19		56	3 00	3rd.
6 Ft. McCoy,	Marion,	W T Carlton, S T Standland.	S. Simmons,	Orange Spring,							17	6	23	3 00	4th.
7 Fellowship,	"	H. H. Hudgens,	J J Kirkland,	Flemington,	10	7	1		1		26		15	1 00	
8 Good Hope,	"	By Letter,	ST Standland	Ocala,	11						26	71	97	2 15	
9 Indian Spring,	"	Martin Griner, S P Stevens,	S. Simmons,	Ocala,	3						9	20	29		
10 Lake Harris, †	Sumter,	S. B. Todd,	H. McGlon,	Adamsville,									5		
11 Liberty,	Volusia,	Not represented,	L Mothershed								45	12	57		1st.
12 Mount Zion,	Sumter,	Not represented,	Joshua Perry	Adamsville,						1	10		10	3 00	1st. & 3rd
13 Midway,	Hillsboro,	Nm. J Taylor,	C S Reynolds	Clear Water,	2	1							38		
14 New Providence,	Marion,	Not represented,		Flemington,							32		32	14 00	1st & 3rd
12 New Hope,	"	By Letter,	R M Perry,	Ocala,							20		20	17 65	2d & 4th
16 Ocala,	"	M. Alexander,	R M Perry,	Ocala,	1					2	20		30	4 50	3rd.
17 Orange Creek,	Putnam,	James Carlton, C. R. Beck,	S Simmons,	Orange Spring,	8	7		5			60	9	79	2 15	
18 Oclawaha bridge	Marion,	By Letter,	ST Standland	Ocala,							28	8	26		4th.
19 Oak Grove,	Sumter,	R. M. Perry, W. D. Cain,		Adamsville,		2		1			30		30	4 50	3rd.
20 Oclawaha,*	Marion,	James S. Brinson, S. Tyner.	W T Carlton,	Orange Spring.	9						11		11		4th.
21 Peas Creek, †	Polk,	Represented thro' conv't'n.	J M Hayman,	Peas Creek,							64	9	73		
22 Stafford's Pond,	Marion,	J. Goodnight, J. S. Sistrunk,	J J Kirkland,	Archer Station,	1			9	1				66	3 00	
23 Spring Church, †	Hernando,	Represented thro' conv't'n.	H. McGlon,										48		
24 Salem, †	Polk,	" " "	S B Todd,	Cork,							54		54		
25 Shiloh, †	Hillsboro,	" " "	S B Todd,	Cork,							29		29		3rd.
26 Tenotassa, †	"	" " "	A. Wilson,	Cork,							70	3	73		
27 Union,	Hernando,	Not represented,		Brooksville,							80		80		
28 Wacahoota,	Marion,	D. Griffin,	P C Johnston	Micanopy,	8						33	147	2 7	10 00	4th.

† Churches Dismissed. * Received this session. Capitalized ministers in small capitals. The report of churches not represented is taken from the minutes of last session.