

STETSON LIBRARY

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Alachua Baptist Association,
HELD WITH THE
WACAHootA BAPTIST CHURCH,
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
October 27th, 28th and 29th, 1877.

OFFICERS:

WILLIAM JOHNSON, MODERATOR,.....MORRISON'S MILLS, FLA. MILLS, FLA.
H. C. MARTIN, CLERK.....FORT McCoy, FLA. COY, FLA.
G. T. GRESHAM, TREASURER.....OCALA, FL. ALA. FLA.

JACKSONVILLE:
SUN AND PRESS JOB ROOMS PRINT.
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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order.
3. Letters called for and read.
4. Petitionary Letters called for.
5. The Election of Officers.
6. Inviting brethren to seats.
7. Letters of Correspondence.
8. Appointment of Committees.
9. Reports of Standing Committees.
10. Queries called up and considered.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY.

SATURDAY, October 27th, 1877.

The Thirty-first Annual Session of the Alachua Baptist Association met with the Wacahoota Church, Alachua county, Florida, October 27th, 1877.

Elder J. P. Parker, who was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Lamar Bryan, alternate, were not present.

Elder G. T. Gresham was designated by the Executive Committee to preach the introductory sermon, who introduced the services by reading 50th Psalm; prayer by Elder W. J. Hughs. Brother Gresham then preached from 36th and 37th verses of the 8th chapter of St. Mark: "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Prayer by Elder W. M. Williams; benediction by Moderator Elder William Johnson.

After refreshments, the delegates assembled in the church, while Elders A. W. Jones, of Alabama, and S. Sheffield, of the Santa Fe River Association, conducted services at the stand.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder C. V. Waugh, of the Santa Fe River Association.

All brethren of the same faith and order were invited to seats with the body.

Letters from fifteen churches were presented, read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

Petitionary Letters from four churches—Palatlakaha, Big Spring, New Hope and Eden—were presented, read, and received into the Association, and the right-hand of fellowship extended to their delegates by the Moderator.

The election of officers being next in order, on motion of Brother H. H. Huggins, the present Moderator and Clerk were re-elected by acclamation.

A Letter of Correspondence from the St. Johns Association was presented, read, and received.

Brothers W. Walker, S. T. Stanaland and J. C. Barrington were appointed messengers to the said Association, and authorized to prepare a Letter of Correspondence to the same.

Elders J. H. Tomkies, C. V. Waugh, W. S. Perry, S. Sheffield, J. K. Sheffield and Z. Crumpton presented themselves and were received as messengers from the Santa Fe River Association.

Committees were appointed, as follows:

On Preaching—S. L. F. Edge, J. M. Willis and Joseph Mathews.

On Finance—W. J. Hughs, H. E. Martin and H. H. Hugins.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—G. T. Gresham and S. T. Stanaland.

On Sabbath-schools—T. J. Sparkman, L. Bryan and Henry Cassells.

On Missions—W. Walker, J. M. Hedick and William Priest.

On Letters and Queries—William M. Williams, G. T. L. Watson and James Hobkirk.

On Religious Periodicals—W. J. Hughs, G. T. Gresham and William M. Williams.

On motion of W. J. Hughs, it was decided to divide the collection to be taken up on the following day as follows:

One-third to be given to the Associational mission, one-third to the home mission, and one-third to the foreign mission.

The Committee on Preaching made a partial report, as follows:

Elder G. T. Gresham to preach at candlelight, and Elder C. V. Waugh at 3 o'clock, Sunday.

Adjourned to meet Monday at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder S. T. Stanaland.

SECOND DAY.

OCTOBER 28th, 1877.

The Assembly was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Brother Whitfield Walker.

The congregation was briefly addressed by J. C. Eastman and Brother W. Walker on the subject of Sabbath-schools. Prayer by G. T. Gresham.

After a few minutes intermission, the 11 o'clock services were introduced by reading the 72d Psalm. Prayer by Elder W. M. Williams.

The missionary sermon was then preached by Elder W. M. Williams, from the (whole chapter) 1st chapter of Ezekial, followed by Elder W. J. Hughs; after which a collection of \$54.00 was taken up. Prayer by Elder W. J. Hughs.

After refreshments, the congregation assembled at the stand, when Elder C. V. Waugh preached.

Elder S. Sheffield preached at the church at candlelight, and Elder G. T. Gresham at the residence of Brother L. W. Jackson.

THIRD DAY.

OCTOBER 29th, 1877.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Brother H. C. Martin.

Minutes of Saturday and Sunday read and corrected.

Brother Whitfield Walker presented the following report of the Committee on Missions:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

In the discussion of the subject of missions we find a field so broad that in attempting the occupation of even a small portion of it we hardly know where to begin, and if begun, are equally at a loss to know where to conclude.

Your committee have no statistics, or rather, those at hand are so meagre that they have determined what they say on the subject of missions shall be almost exclusively of a recommendatory character.

There has been so much said, written, re-written, and, oftimes repeated, on the subject of missions that we experience a heartlessness in again calling attention to this great and important matter. Nevertheless, the immense improvement and wonderful increase in the contribution of money for home and foreign missions within the last twelve months, encourages the belief that proper appeals made to Baptists and the friends of christianity will continue their good offices of aiding this good work.

We take it for granted that all persons claiming to be christians are not only not opposed to missions, but are in every sense of the word fully and heartily in favor of a thorough and well settled system of missions, and are at all times, and under all proper circumstances, ready and willing to aid in carrying into practical effect these great objects. Then the important question for us to consider is, what are the best means to be adopted? Many suggestions have been made, but we believe that missionary committees should be appointed in every church of this Association, whose business it shall be to solicit and collect contributions to be handed in to either member of the committee at any time, and on each meeting day of the church the various sums thus gathered shall be forwarded by the chairman or some member of the said committee to the Treasurer of the Association, or to the chairman of the Executive Committee. In this way it is believed a larger amount may be contributed than by any other plan; and in this way the contributors to this fund will find that they can spare the small, or even large, amounts thus contributed with greater ease than in any other way. Besides, if this plan is adopted members will feel themselves under special obligations to lay aside their mite as the regular monthly contribution, and will not fail to pay it promptly.

It is a matter that ought to call forth the largest gratitude and the humblest thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the wonderfully divine favor and the success that have crowned the labors of your Missionary, Elder W. J. Hughs, during the past year (which is more fully shown by his report). These successes under the divine guidance ought to encourage every lover of christianity to redoubled efforts in the great work of missions.

It seems strange that any professed christians would require any word to stir them up to the discharge of their duties; it is, nevertheless, a truth that men and women everywhere require to be reminded of their duty. It seems to be necessary to have line upon line, and precept upon precept, held up constantly before them. They forget the blessings that they are constantly enjoying; they either forget or do not realize the great destitution in our own beautiful land of flowers, especially in South Florida, in the counties of Hernando, Hillsboro, Polk, Manatee, Brevard, Volusia, and portions of Sumpter, Monroe and Putnam. The cry is almost constantly coming up from these quarters: "Come over and help us." And shall we stand idly by with these appeals ringing in our ears? We do not believe it, and are sanguine that all that is necessary is to let our people know the facts, and they will respond promptly.

It is unnecessary, we think, to do more than to again call attention to the subject of foreign missions.

We ought to remember that although these regions are the source from whence sprang the light of the glorious Gospel of our blessed Redeemer, yet their light has now gone out. And shall we, who profess to be the followers of Jesus, neglect or refuse to restore this light to these people? Let us be up and doing; they are starving for the bread of eternal life. We have means enough and to spare, and shall we dare to withhold the assistance that we can so easily render without detriment to what we call our own, but which indeed is only loaned to us on trust?

Respectfully urging all to assist in carrying out the foregoing suggestions, and invoking the blessing of divine help to enable you to do so,

Respectfully submitted,

WHITFIELD WALKER,

Chairman.

After prolonged discussion, the report was adopted.

Brother G. T. Gresham presented the following report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons:

The Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons are glad to be able to report that, in the providence of God, there have been no deaths among the ministering brethren and deacons of this Association since the last meeting of the body.

G. T. GRESHAM,

S. T. STANALAND,

Committee.

Adjourned until 3 o'clock.

The delegates assembled at the stand and listened to a sermon from Elder W. J. Hughs.

After preaching and refreshments, the body again assembled; prayer by Elder — Jones, of Alabama.

Brother T. J. Sparkman presented the report of the Committee on Sabbath-schools:

REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following: After an examination of the letters sent up by the churches, we find four churches report schools, but no statistics, and two report an average attendance of thirty each.

Is it possible, brethren, that there are so few churches with Sunday-schools? We fear many of us have not the Sunday-school spirit.

Baptists have been charged with neglecting their children. Is not such a charge justly attributable to many of our churches? Why has not each church a school? Is there any good reason? Have all our children grown up to be too large to go to Sunday-school? Are they too old to learn about those things which make for their souls peace? Have they become masters and mistresses of the Bible? Are they all christians?

These cannot be assigned as reasons for not having schools. Children are a necessary part of every community. They are everywhere. We find them in the hovel of the poor, as well as in the halls of the rich. They need religious instruction. The Sunday-school is such a good place for this work. Here they are taught the way of life; here they learn of God, Heaven, hell, sin, rest. But we must not think that the school is intended for the children alone. It is a place for the old as well. None have ever gotten so old, or so wise, as to be graduates in Sunday-school work.

Show us a church that has a good Sunday-school, and we will show you a live church. The church that has no school maintains a *poor* existence.

Let us go home, dear brethren, one and all of us, with the determination to have a school at our church. Let us have a school *by all means*. Let us start one if we can get only a half dozen to come. When all our churches get to work thus, then will dawn upon us a better and happier day. Our churches will grow more, and greater good be done for Jesus. In behalf of the Association, and for the good of the churches, we request that each church, in her annual letter, give statistics of her school.

Let us to the work, dear brethren.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. SPARKMAN,

L. BRYAN,

Committee.

After much discussion by several brethren, the report was adopted, with the following amendment offered by Brother G. T. Gresham:

We earnestly recommend all of our churches to establish, if possible, a Baptist Sunday-school, furnish it with our own denominational literature, purchasing the books either from the A. B. P. Society, Memphis, Tennessee, or the American Baptist Publishing Society, Philadelphia, and that they also take *Kind Words*, published at Macon, Georgia, by Rev. S. Boykin.

Brother G. T. Gresham presented the report of the Committee on Religious Periodicals, which was adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS PERIODICALS.

In the opinion of your committee, it is very essential to the prosperity of our cause, in this State, that we have a Baptist paper, devoted wholly to the interests of the Baptists of Florida. We therefore unhesitatingly recommend that this Association express its approval of Brother McCallum's efforts to revive the *Florida Baptist*, and pledge him its hearty support. We think it for the good of the people to read the best Baptist periodicals published outside of the State, but let us see to it that we make our own paper first on our list, and then take such others as we may wish.

Respectfully submitted,

G. T. GRESHAM,

W. J. HUGHS,

Committee.

Brother W. J. Hughs offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Inasmuch as Brother Paul Willis, of our Association, is now at Louisville, Kentucky, prosecuting his theological studies, *Resolved, 1st.* That we express our gratitude at the knowledge of the fact.

Resolved, 2d. That we will aid Brother Willis in his efforts to qualify himself for the ministry.

Brother G. T. L. Watson presented the report of the Committee on Letters and Queries, which was adopted:

REPORT ON LETTERS AND QUERIES.

Your Committee on Letters and Queries beg leave to submit the following: We find three petitions for next annual meeting of this body, viz: Ocklawaha Bridge, Fort McCoy and Ochwilla. We recommend that the next session be held with the Ochwilla Church.

We notice that a majority of the churches ask an interest in the prayers of this body, we therefore recommend the Friday before the first Sunday in May next, be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer within the bounds of this Association, for the prosperity of Zion.

Fraternally submitted,

W. M. WILLIAMS,

JAMES HOBKIRK,

G. T. L. WATSON,

Committee.

Brother M. J. Chitty presented the report of the Executive Committee, which was adopted :

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We, the Executive Committee of the Alachua Missionary Baptist Association, held a meeting on the second Monday in April, at Ocala, and engaged Elder W. J. Hughs to employ half his time as missionary within the bounds of this Association, at twenty-five dollars per month.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. CARLTON,
M. J. CHITTY,
JOHN CORDERE,
Executive Committee.

Elder W. J. Hughs presented the following report of missionary operations within the bounds of this Association, which was adopted :

MISSIONARY REPORT.

Time employed, six and one-half months, (half time.) Miles traveled, 1,900; families visited, 100; sermons preached, 138; baptized, 84; awaiting baptism, 2; received by letter, 64; churches constituted, 2.

Received as compensation for services rendered:

From Treasurer of the Association.....	\$ 12.50
From Mt. Arnon Church Missionary Committee	38.40
From Stafford's Pond " "	13.10
From individuals.....	1.25

Total amount received..... \$ 165.25

Total amount due me by Association 162.50

Due by me to Association..... \$ 2.75

The Home Mission Board have kindly supplemented my salary \$100, beginning with the first of July, 1877, in consequence of which more time can be given to the mission work.

P. S. Baptized during the year 1877, one hundred and forty-one.

The above report was approved by the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer not being present, his report was presented by the Clerk, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

1876, Oct. 23.—Balance on hand	\$ 126.32
“ “ 30.—Received from Orange Creek Union at Ochwilla Church.....	5.05
“ “ 30.—From Brooksville Union Church by J. H. Tomkies.....	15.00
“ Dec. 30.—Received from Orange Creek Union at Orange Creek Church.....	3.25
1877, April 29.—Received from Orange Creek Union at Fort McCoy.....	10.00
“ July 29.—Received from Orange Creek Union at Simmons Church.....	6.35
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Total amount received.....	\$ 165.97

CR.

1876, Oct. 23.—By paid Clerk.....	\$ 10.00
“ “ “ —Paid W. J. Hughs for missionary labor	112.50
	<hr/>
	\$122.50

Balance on hand this Oct. 24, 1877, \$ 43.47.

Brother W. J. Hughs moved the selection of a Treasurer, which resulted in the election of Elder G. T. Gresham, of Ocala, Marion county.

On motion of Brother W. J. Hughs, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Brother W. T. Carlton for his faithful services as Treasurer of this Association in the past.

On motion of Brother W. J. Hughs, the Executive Committee, to consist of three, were appointed as follows: Elder G. T. Gresham, chairman, and Brothers M. J. Chitty and H. C. Martin.

Moved by Brother G. T. Gresham, and carried, that the Executive Committee be instructed to employ a missionary, for half his time, within the bounds of this Association.

Brother H. C. Martin, who was appointed at the last session to prepare a Circular Letter, presented the following, which was received and ordered printed in the minutes:

CIRCULAR LETTER.

It has been often remarked that of all christian denominations, the Baptist is the most careless in the support of the ministry. And it is true that many of our ministers are being driven from their fields of labor to other employments for a sustenance. The writer asked a minister in the bounds of this Association, "why he had the pastoral care of but one church," when he answered, "I cannot preach for nothing, and live." We do not pay our "laborers their hire," but "rob God" of the tithes that belong to Him. This is doubtless owing in a great measure to our want of a system in contribution. Suppose a church of fifty members adopt the system of giving ten cents each every week for the support of the Gospel, they would raise \$260 annually, or if they give only five cents per week, and we have \$130. This method is within the reach of all. For want of co-operation we accomplish but little; united effort on the part of God's people would fill the earth with joy and gladness. Paul's plan was, "upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come."—1st Cor. 16:2.

We cheerfully endorse this plan, because it is scriptural, but let us try another passage from the same Apostle: "Every man as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2d Cor., 9:7. According to the first quotation, our contributions are to be in proportion as God has blessed us. But suppose, according to the last passage, God's people give nothing, either grudgingly or of necessity, can they please God, "who loveth a cheerful giver?" It is clear that in the Apostle's time the churches had both missionaries and agents. We read first Corinthians, 16:1, "Now concerning the collection for the Saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia so do ye." We see here that the great Apostle to the gentiles "ordered" the churches to take up collections for the Saints. In the seventeenth verse of the same chapter, we see that after collecting some from the churches at Corinth, that others there named supplied what was lacking on their part. In second Corinthians, 8:5, Paul sent brethren before him from Macedonia to notify the brethren at Corinth: "And make

up beforehand, that your bounty whereof ye had notice before that the same might be ready as a matter of bounty and not of covetuousness." Just here he reminds the brethren that if they "sow sparingly, they shall reap sparingly," but if they "sow bountifully they shall reap bountifully." In all these passages money or its equivalent is meant. In one place we have "your abundance may be a supply," in another "make up beforehand your bounty." In another "collections for the Saints," all meaning the same thing. In conclusion, we urge upon the churches systematic giving, for it alone is conducive to success, and is in harmony with the teachings of the scriptures.

"There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing, there is that maketh himself poor yet hath great riches." Proverbs 13:7. "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered himself also;" Proverbs, 11:24-25. Give and it shall be given you again, good measure, heaped up, pressed together and running over shall men give unto your bosom.

May God bless and help us all to support our ministry more liberally, is the prayer of

Yours in Christ,

H. C. MARTIN.

The Finance Committee reported, as follows:

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance offer the following report. We have examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct:

NAME OF CHURCH.	Associational purposes.	Home Mission.	Associational Mission.	Foreign Mission.
(Balance on hand).....	\$ 43.47		\$ 3.80	
Wacahoota.....	1.25		12.00	
Crystal River.....	1.85			
Oak Grove.....	1.50			
Pleasant Plain.....	2.50		5.85	
Ocala.....	3.00		18.05	
Fellowship.....	1.50			
Lake Bryant.....	1.50		2.25	
Simmons.....	7.00			
Fort McCoy.....	2.79		3.60	
Stafford's Pond.....	5.45	\$ 5.00	11.40	
Ochwilla.....	8.75			
Mount Arnon.....	1.75			
Pine Level.....	2.00		12.00	
Orange Creek.....	3.70			\$ 1.40
Ocklawaha Bridge.....	1.50		25.00	
Pleasant Grove.....	1.00			
Palatlahaha.....	1.50			
Big Spring.....	5.00		18.50	
New Hope.....				
Eden.....				
Total sent up by churches.....	\$ 53.54	\$ 5.00	\$112.45	\$ 1.40
Received from W. J. Hughs.....			2.75	
Taken up on Sunday.....		18.00	18.50	18.00
Totals.....	\$53.54	\$23.00	\$133.20	\$19.40

We have also examined the Missionary's report and find it correct.

W. J. HUGHS,
H. E. MARTIN,
H. H. HUGGINS,
Committee.

A collection was here taken up for Brother Paul Willis, of \$9.55, which was handed to the Treasurer to forward to Brother Willis, at Louisville, Kentucky.

The following was offered by Brother T. J. Sparkman, and adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to have the Constitution and Articles of Faith of this Association published in the minutes, provided the fund for minutes will justify, and that he receive \$10 for his services.

Brothers William Johnson, G. T. Gresham, W. J. Hughs, W. Walker, H. H. Huggins and L. Bryan were appointed delegates to the State Convention.

Brother T. J. Sparkman offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That any member of this body presenting himself, with a minute of this meeting containing his name and this resolution, to any sister Association, shall be considered our duly accredited messenger.

The body then considered the place of holding the next session, and, after discussion, was decided in favor of Ochwilla Church, in Putnam county.

The following appointments were made:

W. J. Hughs to preach the introductory sermon; L. Bryan, alternate.

G. T. Gresham to preach the missionary sermon; J. P. Parker, alternate.

Brother Whitfield Walker to write a Circular Letter.

Brother Walker offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Association be, and are hereby tendered, the citizens of the vicinity of Wacahoota for their kind hospitality during the session of the Association.

A hymn was sung and the parting hand given, and, after prayer, the Association adjourned, to meet with the Ochwilla Church, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in October, A. D., 1878.

WILLIAM JOHNSON,

H. C. MARTIN, Clerk.

Moderator.

Dear Brethren: The reason the minutes have been so late in appearing, I have been to some trouble to obtain the following Constitution and Articles of Faith, which I at last obtained from Elder J. M. Hayman, of Bartow.

H. C. MARTIN, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ALACHUA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This body shall be denominated the Alachua Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II. It shall be composed of such churches as hold to the doctrine of human depravity, the atonement of Christ, the election to eternal life, regeneration and perseverance of the Saints, baptism by immersion of the person in water, administered to none but professed believers, and the Lord's Supper intended for those only who have been regularly admitted into the visible church.

ARTICLE III. We take the only living and true God, in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to be one God.

ARTICLE IV. We take the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the only rule of faith and practice, both in the concerns of religion and the general affairs of life, and particularly for transacting the affairs of our churches.

ARTICLE V. We take the Church of Christ to be a congregation of faithful persons, who live in fellowship, and have given themselves to the Lord and to one another, in cordial agreement, to observe Holy discipline in conformity with the requirements of the Scriptures.

ARTICLE VI. We take Jesus Christ to be the Great Head of the Church, and the only one given; that the government under Him is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual member; that spiritual discipline, with an eye single to the glory of God, must greatly conduce to the final prosperity and union of the churches.

ARTICLE VII. In view of the increase of fraternal love, knowledge, usefulness and efficiency, which must accrue from an association of churches in cordial union upon the principles of the Gospel, we have sought to be thus united, that by individual and collective action, we may best subserve the great objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom; and the concurrence of two-thirds will dissolve the connection.

ARTICLE VIII. The Association shall have power to withdraw its connection from any Church which shall act contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE IX. New churches wishing to be admitted into this body shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted by receiving the right-hand of fellowship of the Moderator.

ARTICLE X. No Church shall have a right to more than two delegates, unless she shall exceed one hundred in membership, and then shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every fifty, after the first hundred.

ARTICLE XI. Every query sent to the Association by any Church in its union shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated, and if there shall be a majority in favor, it shall be taken up and debated, but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided always, that those be first considered, which affected the union of the churches.

ARTICLE XII. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, unless withdrawn by the mover.

ARTICLE XIII. Every member who speaks, shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while he is speaking unless he depart from the subject.

ARTICLE XIV. No person shall speak more than three times upon one subject, without permission of the body. The Constitution of this body may be altered or amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.

ARTICLE XV. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

ARTICLE XVI. It shall be the first business of this Association to provide for the general union of churches; second, to provide for the destitution of the churches and districts by missionary aid; third, to keep up a correspondence with other Associations of like faith and order, that a chain of communication may be preserved among the churches; fourth, to give the churches the best advice they can in matters of difficulty, and if communication should be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause, and use the best means to remove the difficulty. But if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from such church or churches, as walk disorderly, until they may be reclaimed; and fifth, to regulate all matters pertaining to its business, provide for printing its minutes, and appoint the time and place of its next meeting.

BY-LAWS.

I. The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Clerk, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

II. The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary shall be chosen by ballot, at each session of the Association, and shall remain in office until their successors are elected.

III. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meetings of the Association, and the duty of the Clerk to keep a record of the proceedings, and prepare a minute for the press.

IV. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Association, and make a report of the same at each regular meeting of the body. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep all the funds of the Association, subject to the order of the Executive Committee.

V. There shall be an Executive Committee appointed at each meeting of this Association, of five brethren, whose duty it shall be to supervise and conduct all matters pertaining to this Association during the year.

VI. Churches wishing to dissolve connection with this body must submit their reasons during its session.

VII. It shall be required of the Executive Committee to hold a meeting for business at each session of the Association before its adjournment.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POST-OFFICES.	CLERKS.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Expelled.	Dead.	Total.	No. Copies of Minutes.	Time of meeting.
Wacahoota.....	Wacahoota.....	S. L. F. Edge..	G. W. Hall.....	S. L. F. Edge, A. J. Edwards.....	5	3	2	5	2	..	32	20	2d S. and S.
Crystal River.....	Crystal River.....	William Priest	(Missionary).....	William Priest.....	3	..	..	1	..	..	19	20	..
Oak Grove.....	Scott's Mills.....	W. D. Cain.....	..	N. K. Shaw.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	45	25	3d S. and S.
Ocala.....	Ocala.....	T. D. Morton.....	G. T. Gresham	..	..	5	..	2	..	..	32	20	2d and 4th S.
Pleasant Plain.....	Grahamville.....	J. H. Perrymore	S. T. Stanaland	(By letter only).....	2	1	..	1	1	..	55	12	2d S. and S.
Fellowship.....	Ocala.....	H. H. Huggins.	(Missionary).....	H. H. Huggins, Jesse Marlow	9	2	..	..	..	1	33	20	1st S. and S.
Lake Bryant.....	Grahamville.....	Sarah Sellers..	B. I. Hull.....	(By letter).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	15	3d S. and S.
Simmons.....	Orange Spring	J. J. Brown.....	W. T. Carlton	G. T. L. Watson, James Hobkirk	3	1	..	..	1	..	39	20	4th S. and S.
Fort McCoy.....	Fort McCoy.....	J. S. Martin.....	W. T. Carlton	D. C. Galbraith, J. D. Shaw	2	..	1	..	..	..	63	50	3d S. and S.
Stafford's Pond..	Archer.....	J. P. Reddick..	W. M. Williams	J. M. Willis, J. P. Reddick	5	..	..	..	1	..	28	35	2d S. and S.
Ochwilla.....	Morrison's Mills.	G. W. Riles.....	William Johnson	William Johnson, J. C. Barrington	..	5	..	..	..	1	39	20	2d S. and S.
Mount Arnon.....	Flemington.....	Jos. Mathews..	W. J. Hughs.....	W. J. Hughs, J. C. Matthews, M. J. Mixon	53	14	..	4	2	1	96	50	2d S. and S.
Pine Level.....	Scott's Mills.....	H. E. Martin.....	J. P. Parker.....	H. E. Martin, J. T. Perry	10	6	..	..	1	..	51	30	4th S. and S.
Orange Creek.....	Orange Spring	J. A. Carlton..	W. T. Carlton	J. A. Carlton, Henry Cassels	2	..	..	5	5	..	38	20	4th S. and S.
Ocklawaha Bridge.	Grahamville.....	S. A. Long.....	J. P. Parker.....	W. B. Holly.....	12	3	..	..	..	..	37	25	2d S. and S.
Pleasant Grove.....	Cotton Plant.....	Wm. J. Foalks.	L. Bryant.....	S. B. Foalks, J. J. Foalks	4	1	..	2	2	..	35	15	1st S. and S.
Palatlahaha.....	Webster.....	T. J. Sparkman	(Missionary).....	T. J. Sparkman, Whitfield Walker	25	34	..	..	..	..	59	25	2d S. and S.
Big Spring.....	Crystal River.....	Colum's Ganes..	L. Bryan.....	Columbus Gains.....	6	2	..	..	..	..	8	5	2d S. and S.
New Hope.....	Webster.....	William Curry..	Daniel Slown..	T. J. Sparkman (by proxy.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	12	3d S. and S.
Eden.....	Brooksville.....	J. M. Hedic.....	(Missionary).....	J. M. Hedic.....	25	16	..	..	..	..	52	20	3d S. and S.
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	188	93	3	30	15	3	789	469	.....