

Baptists, Florida.

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,
CONVENED WITH
EBENEZER CHURCH,
LOWNDES COUNTY, GEO.,
Commencing on Saturday, the 7th of October, 1848.

1. The Introductory Sermon was preached by brother W. B. Cooper, from the 8th chapter of Acts, latter clause of the 25th verse—"And preached unto him Jesus."
2. The Delegates assembled for business; prayer by bro. John Broom. Our former Clerk being absent, bro. R. H. Shackelford was called upon to act.
3. Read the letters from the Churches, and prepared a list of the Delegates names.
4. Received five new Churches into the body upon petitionary letters.
5. Elected bro. W. B. Cooper Moderator, and bro. E. W. Solomons Clerk.
6. The Moderator appointed committees, viz: Brethren, W. H. Scruggs, S. Forest, R. G. Mays, W. H. Goldwire, and Richard Scruggs, on preaching. B. S. Fuller, H. Z. Ardis, J. J. Polhill, R. H. Shackelford, and W. West on business. J. Denson, T. J. Denmark, and H. Moore, on finance. E. G. Mays, W. T. Johnson, and J. J. Goldwire, on correspondence.
7. The rules of decorum was then read together with the minutes of the last Association.
8. The committee on preaching reported bro. Henderson to preach at candle light, and bro. Frier conclude—bro. Fuller, Sabbath morning, at 9 o'clock, bro. Lacy conclude—bro. Ardis, the Missionary Sermon, at 11 o'clock, and bro. R. G. Mays conclude, and a collection be taken up—bro. Blewet at 3 o'clock, p. m., and bro. Fuller conclude—bro. Henderson at candle light.
9. The report of the committee to visit Hopewell Church was received, read and laid on the table.
10. Adjourned till Monday morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by brother R. G. Mays.

J. T. H. Arthur - 1/24/48 - 6:00

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- 11. After the Missionary Sermon on Sunday, a collection of \$32 60 was taken up for the support of Missions within our bounds.
- 12. MONDAY, 9th.—Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother J. Gaulden.
- 13. Invited visiting brethren of the Baptist denomination to seats with us in the Association.
- 14. Resolved, That this Association sincerely regret, that by reason of indisposition, our beloved brother R. J. Mays, our former Moderator, was unable to serve us as heretofore: and we earnestly pray that God would speedily restore him to health and former usefulness.
- 15. The report received and laid over on Saturday in regard to the Hopewell Church. Resolved, That we recommend that body to dissolve and join some other Baptist Church.
- 16. Brethren R. H. Shackelford and W. West was appointed a committee to wait on the Hopewell Church and communicate the advice of the Association.
- 17. Received the report of the committee on business.
- 18. Appointed bro. W. Henderson to preach the next introductory Sermon—bro. J. B. Lacy alternate.
- 19. Deferred the appointment of a Minister to preach the next Missionary Sermon, until the beginning of the next session.
- 20. Appointed bro. R. G. Mays to write the next Circular Letter.
- 21. Appointed bro. R. H. Shackelford to write the Corresponding Letter.
- 22. Dispensed with the employment of Domestic and Foreign Missionaries until those who have been employed be paid, and a fund be obtained.
- 23. Appointed brethren R. Fryer and J. J. Polhill, Messengers to the Alachua Association, East Florida—brethren J. B. Lacy and J. Gaulden to the Bethel Association, Georgia.
- 24. Appointed bro. W. B. Cooper, Treasurer.
- 25. The Circular Letter read and received.
- 26. Appointed the next session of this body to be held with the Oaklocknee Church, Thomas county, Geo., 7 miles west of Thomasville, on Saturday before the 2d Lords day in October, 1849.
- 27. Resolved, That as the Association find itself under the painful necessity of suspending domestic Missionary operations for want of funds, that the Churches composing our body be earnestly and affectionately requested to send up to our next meeting funds for the support of Missionary operations within our bounds.
- 28. Received the report of the Executive Committee.
- 29. Ordered that brother R. Frier be paid \$85 09, ballance in the hands of the Treasurer, for services rendered in 1846, and three months in 1847.
- 30. Adjourned until 2 1/2 o'clock, p. m.
- 31. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by bro. Lacy.
- 32. Whereas, the query proposed and answered in the 29th Article of the Minutes of our last session, has been proposed for the reconsideration of the Association.

Resolved, As the unanimous sense of the body, That a man who has been divorced from his wife, by the civil authority, and marries another during the life of the first, is an adulterer, and a Church holding such men in fellowship, under the Law of Christ, is herself in disorder.

33. The Financial Committee reported \$40 12 received for Minutes. Ordered that 1000 copies be printed, and the remaining portion to the Clerk for his services.

34. Adjourned to the time and place before appointed. (Item 26.)—Prayer by the Moderator. W. B. COOPER, Moderator.
E. W. SOLOMONS, Clerk.

MINISTERS OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

| | NAMES. | POST OFFICES. | NAMES. | POST OFFICES. |
|----|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | H. Z. ARMS, | Madison C. H., Fla. | <i>R. Levy,</i> | Tallahassee, Fla. |
| 2 | T. J. BOWEN, | Quincy, | <i>H. S. LINTON,</i> | Monticello, " |
| 3 | JOHN BROOM, | Talopa, | <i>J. W. R. McCALL,</i> | Clifton, " |
| 14 | R. J. MAYS, | Clifton, | <i>J. McCants,</i> | Monticello, " |
| 8 | B. S. FULLER, | Grooverville, Geo. | <i>M. STICKLAND,</i> | Duncansville, Geo. |
| 5 | R. DUBOSE, | China Hill, Fla. | <i>E. VINING,</i> | Madison C. H. Fla. |
| 10 | J. T. HOUSTON, | Madison C. H., " | <i>GEORGE WALKER,</i> | Monticello, " |
| 6 | A. F. DUVAL, | Newport, " | <i>E. C. WALKER,</i> | Shell Point, " |
| 4 | W. B. COOPER, | Troupville, Geo. | <i>Z. G. WHEELER,</i> | Tallahassee, " |
| 7 | RYAN FRIER, | Woodland, Fla. | <i>B. Winn,</i> | Monticello, " |
| 9 | J. GAULDEY, | Ocopilco, " | <i>J. J. Polhill,</i> | Belleville, " |
| 11 | J. B. LACY, | Thomasville, " | | |

Those whose names are in *Italics*, are Licentiates.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Your Missionary reports to your committee seven months services in his field, but he makes a contribution to the body of one month's labor, which leaves us indebted to him for six months. In his labors and travels, he reports having preached ninety-nine Sermons, and travelled sixteen hundred and fourteen miles; assisted in the Ordination of one Deacon, and in the Constitution of two Churches; in compliance with the request of your committee, has visited all the Churches in the Association. The committee also report that they have received per receipts of bro. Blewet's and from Churches individual subscriptions, contributions, Minute fund, &c.:

| DR. | CR. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Received for sundries, . . . \$325 21 | Amount paid bro. Blewet, \$200 00 |
| | " " bro. Frier, . . . 85 09 |
| | " Minute fund p'd Clerk, 40 12 |
| | <hr/> |
| \$325 21 | \$325 21 |
| | B. S. FULLER, Chairman E. C. |

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

| CHURCHES, COUNTIES AND STATES. | POST OFFICES. | PASTORS. | NAMES OF DELEGATES. | Baptized | Rec'd by L/T | Restored | Dismissed | Excluded | Dead | Whites | Blacks | Total | for Minutes | Amt Rec'd of Missions | Amt Rec'd | Meetings |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|----------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|------|--------|--------|-------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Concord, Madison county, Fla. | Clinton, Florida. | R. J. Mays, | R. J. Mays, J. W. P. McCall, F. S. McCall and W. T. Johnson. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 39 | 53 | 1,50 | 10,00 | 3 | |
| 2. Sharon, " " " | Falopa, " " | J. T. Houston, | J. Broom and M. Barker. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 44 | 59 | 1,00 | 4,00 | 3 | |
| 3. Hickstown, " " " | Madison C. H. | H. Z. Ardis, | R. G. and E. G. Mays, H. Z. Ardis and J. D. Reed. | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 9 | 36 | 1,25 | 25,00 | 2 & 4 | |
| 4. Oscilla, " " " | Monticello, Fla. | H. S. Linton, | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 37 | | | | |
| 5. Elizabeth, Jefferson " " " | do. " " | H. S. Linton, | J. Walker, A. J. Whitus and M. Sparks. | 0 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 54 | 26 | 74 | 1,50 | 10,00 | 2 | |
| 6. Ebenezer, " " " | do. " " | B. S. Fuller, | W. West and T. J. Townsend. | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 66 | 82 | 1,50 | 12,00 | 3 | |
| 7. Monticello, " " " | do. " " | W. B. Cooper, | G. Walker, W. H. Scruggs, R. H. Shackelford & C. T. J. Singieton. | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 32 | 1 | 33 | 2,00 | 30,25 | 1 | |
| 8. Bethpage, " " " | Marion, " " | Z. G. Wheeler, | E. Sealy, L. Hall and A. Vickers. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 47 | 197 | 244 | 1,00 | 6,00 | 4 | |
| 9. Hopewell, " " " | Monticello, " " | | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 38 | | | | |
| 10. Union, " " " | Ft. Hamilton, Fla. | Z. G. Wheeler, | Z. G. Wheeler and J. Townsen. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 15 | 30 | 1,00 | | | |
| 11. Indian Springs, Leon " " " | Micasuka, " " | B. S. Fuller, | S. H. Whitaker and N. Turner. | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 65 | 5,00 | | | |
| 12. Shilo, " " " | do. " " | | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 140 | | | | |
| 13. Antioch, " " " | Newport, " " | | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 22 | | | | |
| 14. Alton, " " " | Tallahassee, " " | M. Strickland, | R. Levy. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 22 | | | | |
| 15. Bethesda, Wakulla " " " | Shellpoint, " " | E. C. Walker, | E. C. Walker. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 1,50 | | | 3 |
| 16. Liberty, Gadsden " " " | Quincy, " " | T. J. Bowen, | R. Dubose. | 16 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 13 | 31 | 1,50 | | | 1 |
| 17. Hebron, " " " | do. " " | T. J. Bowen, | By letter. | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 41 | 55 | 1,00 | | | 2 |
| 18. Providence, " " " | do. " " | F. J. Bowen, | O. E. McKowen. | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 34 | 7 | 41 | 1,50 | 6,90 | 4 | |
| 19. Harmony, * " " " | Ft. Hamilton, " " | H. Z. Ardis, | P. Moss and S. Robuck. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 13 | 1,00 | | | 3 |
| 20. Lake Jackson, * Leon " " " | Tallahassee, " " | T. J. Bowen, | L. Joiner and D. D. Young. | 12 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 00 | 22 | 1,50 | 11,50 | 1 | |
| 21. Summersville, * Madison co. " " " | Ft. Hamilton, " " | Geo. Walker, | J. Houston and L. G. Lamb. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 00 | 9 | 1,00 | 2,75 | 2 | |
| 22. Bethel, * Hamilton " " " | Bellville, " " | W. Henderson, | J. J. Polhill, J. L. Caruthers and L. Dees. | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 15 | 1,00 | 2,50 | | |
| 23. Rehoboth, Gadsden " " " | Reform, " " | | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 8 | | | | |
| 24. Concord, Hamilton " " " | | | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 39 | | | | |
| 25. Bulah, " " " | | | Not represented. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 00 | 6 | | | | |
| 26. Troupville, Lowndes Co., Geo | Troupville, Geo. | W. B. Cooper, | W. B. Cooper, R. Frier, J. J. Goldwire and C. Brinson. | 11 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 50 | 2,00 | 25,00 | 3 | |
| 27. Ebenezer, " " " | Sharp's Store, " " | W. B. Cooper, | B. Tedder, J. Gauden, R. Scruggs and E. W. Solomons. | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 5 | 22 | 1,75 | 11,00 | 4 | |
| 28. Friendship, * Thomas " " " | Thomasville, " " | T. B. Lacy, | J. Denson, S. Forest, G. Burton and E. J. Young. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 00 | 15 | 15 | 1,00 | 3,00 | 1 | |
| 29. Liberty, " " " | Grooverville, " " | B. S. Fuller, | B. S. Fuller, T. J. Denmark and C. N. Powell. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 1 | 19 | 2,00 | 12,34 | | |
| 30. Oaklocknee, " " " | Thomasville, " " | W. B. Cooper, | J. B. Lacy. | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 21 | 6,00 | | 2 | |

*New Churches.

Five Churches in Georgia, containing 127 members.

||60|58| 4|17|20| 7| | 1335|40,00|172,24|

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CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Florida Baptist Association, to her sister Associations with whom she corresponds, sends Christian salutation:

DEAR BRETHREN:—By the kind hand of Providence we have again been permitted to meet in an associational capacity. We have received no Minutes from other Associations, and it is exceedingly painful again to have to express our mortification of not having been met by Messengers from your bodies; but we feel and believe that it is owing to the providence of God, and not a want of a lively interest in our common cause.

Our session has been one of delight and interest, characterized by the kindest feelings among the brethren; much unity of sentiment has prevailed among them in all their deliberations. The Gospel has been preached by the Ministers within our bounds with zeal, and we believe in its true spirit, and will we trust redound to the glory of God and the blessing of immortal souls. We have had several accessions to this body since our last meeting, and our prospects are bright. Oh, that God would give us still more of his holy spirit to cheer us onward in his all important cause, and the rich profusions of the Spirit of Christ be poured upon you in abundance, and its hallowed influence be realized in the spread of the Redeemer's cause.

W. B. COOPER, Moderator.

E. W. SOLOMONS, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Association addresses the Churches this year on the subject of corrective discipline.

Offences may be divided into two classes; personal difficulties, which involve sin, but not of a flagrant nature, and immoralities. In our remarks on the former, we notice, 1st, the duty of the offended party, 2d, the duty of the offender, and 3d, the duty of the Church.

The duty of the offended party is laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew.—It comprises three steps. 1st., He must go and reprove the offender. 2d. If this step should fail to produce reconciliation, he must take with him one or two other brethren and go again. 3d, If this fail, he must bring the case before the Church. Each of these three steps, the offended party is bound to take, without omission or variation.

If the offender should prove refractory, he is finally to be excluded from the Church for two sins, viz: for the original transgression, and for refusing to hear the Church. Before he can be restored, he must make satisfaction for each of these offences.

We next notice the duty of the offender. Many persons appear to think that the offender has nothing to do towards settling a personal difficulty, until the offended party has come to him as directed in the 18th of Matthew. But this opinion is contrary to the commandment of Christ. In Matthew, 5: 23, 24, he teaches us that even our worship is not lawful, if we have a variance with a brother, and have not done all that we could to effect a reconciliation. It is not the privilege of the offender to wait for his brother to come and reprove him. He must

go immediately to his brother, and confess his fault. If his confession is not accepted, he should take one or two discreet brethren, and go again; and if these cannot settle the difficulty, it should be brought before the Church.

An innocent man, against whom some brother has an imaginary or unjust complaint, is under obligation to visit the offended party, and prosecute the case until it is properly settled.

It is the duty of the Church to oblige both parties to obey the laws of Christ, as laid down in the 18th and 5th of Matthew. If the parties neglect to obey these divine rules, both of them should be taken under dealing for their disobedience. The Church need not perplex itself to investigate the original quarrel. If one of the parties was innocent at first, both are guilty now, and both should be excluded, unless they settle their original difficulty, and repent of their subsequent disobedience to the laws of Christ.

If a Minister should choose to preach while he has a quarrel with any brother, and does not use his best endeavors to settle it, the Church to which he belongs, should forbid the impious service, and require him to obey the gospel which he preaches. If the Church neglects this duty, other Churches and Ministers should not receive the contentious Minister into their pulpits. By holding services in fellowship, we are made partakers of their guilt.

We are next to speak of *immoralities*. Cases of this kind are not conducted according to the rules given in the 5th and 18th chapters of Matthew. Instead of confessing his sin to any particular brother and asking forgiveness of him, the transgressor must confess to the assembled Church, and ask forgiveness of them. Instead of requiring any individual member to go and reprove him, the scriptures teach that he should be rebuked openly before all. 1st Tim. 5: 20. The notion that all offences should be treated according to the 18th of Matthew, is sufficiently refuted by the single fact that no individual has a right to forgive a transgression against the moral law. What individual would presume to forgive a man who had been guilty of adultery or theft? or who would imagine that such an act of forgiveness should be a sufficient satisfaction to the Church? It is clearly impossible to dispose of immoralities by private repentance and individual forgiveness, and it is unreasonable to suppose that the rule in the 18th of Matthew was intended as the law of corrective discipline in such cases.

Immoralities should be treated according to their nature. If a felony has been committed by a member, the Church should assemble and exclude him as quietly as possible. Only one preliminary step is necessary, and that is to prove that he is guilty. In ordinary cases, the process of dealing consists in two points; 1st, the *citation*, by which the accused member is summoned to attend at such a time, and answer to such a charge; and 2d, the *trial*, in which he is acquitted or condemned, according to the circumstances of the case.

There are a few maxims in corrective discipline from which Churches should never depart; as for instance, that no transgressor should pass unnoticed, let his office or reputation be what it may; that no case should be too long belayed; that no one, except felons, should be tried without a previous citation, written or verbal, if the Church knows where he is—that no case can be dropped, but every case must be settled, either by the reformation or by the exclusion of the disobedient. When a transgressor brings his own case before the Church by a public

acknowledgment, the question arises whether he must be retained in the Church, or excluded. To determine this question, we must remember that the design of corrective discipline is threefold; 1st, to reclaim transgressors, 2d, to deter others from sin, and 3d, to show the purity and faithfulness of the Church. If each of these three designs can be fulfilled by retaining the transgressor, he ought to be retained; otherwise, he ought to be excluded. Some good brethren think that an offender should of course be forgiven by the Church, provided he makes an acknowledgment and gives evidence of genuine repentance. But this opinion is erroneous, because it respects only the first design of corrective discipline, while the other two are regarded as if they had no existence. Let it be granted that, in some cases, the retention of an impenitent member might not injure the reputation of the Church, still he must be excluded, because he is impenitent. The first design of corrective discipline must not be disregarded. On the other hand, in some cases the retention of a penitent man would injure the Church's reputation, and for this reason he must be excluded, although he is penitent. A Church cannot be the light of the world without a good reputation. If these things were properly considered, honest men would not labor as they sometimes do, to prevent the Church from excluding persons who have lost their standing as Christians. If the salt has lost its savor, it is good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Thus when a man has disgraced himself by wicked works, he should be excluded from the Church till he regains the esteem and confidence of his fellow men, especially of his brethren.