

Baptists, Florida

MINUTES

OF THE

NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH,

THOMAS COUNTY, GA.,

Commenced on Saturday, the 11th of October, 1851.



TALLAHASSEE:

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1851.

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# STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

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1887

CHURCHES, COUNTIES, AND STATE.	POST OFFICE.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	Received by Baptism...	By Letter...	Restored...	Dismissed...	Excom'd...	Dead...	WHITES...	BLACKS...	TOTAL...	For Minutes	MEETINGS...
1. Enon, Leon Co. Fla.	Wallhassess,	R. Levy,	Robert Levy,	4	0	0	0	0	0	17	83	100	\$1 00	3
2. Antioch, Wakulla "	"	W. W. Maund,	B. Hale,	1	1	0	0	0	0	14	14	14	1 00	6
3. Bethel, Hamilton "	"	"	"	0	4	0	2	0	0	21	3	24	1 00	1
4. Bethel, Wakulla "	Bellville,	E. C. Walker,	L. B. Smith,	0	1	0	3	0	1	12	15	27	1 50	1
5. Bethesda, Jefferson "	St. Marks,	Z. G. Wheeler,	E. C. Walker,	0	0	0	6	4	1	36	188	924	1 00	4
6. Bethpage, Madison "	Wakulla,	J. W. P. McCall,	By Letter,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	1 00	0
7. Carnel, do "	Talofa,	R. J. Mays,	L. Turner,	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	39	58	2 00	0
8. Concord, Hamilton "	Jasper,	"	R. J. Mays, W. T. Johnson,	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	16	47	1 35	2
9. Concord, Jefferson "	Monticello,	J. W. P. McCall,	Not Represented,	0	2	3	2	1	1	18	67	85	2 00	2
10. Elizabeth, do "	"	B. S. Fuller,	Jesse Walker, David Walker,	0	4	0	0	0	0	35	8	43	3 00	2
11. Ebenezer, Thomas "	Geo.	J. B. Lacy,	J. F. Scruggs, W. West,	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	8	43	3 00	2
12. Friendship, Madison "	Fla.	George Walker,	L. J. Simmons, S. Pored,	0	0	0	1	0	1	38	8	46	2 00	2
13. Harmony, do "	Moseley's Hall,	L. T. Houston,	A. A. Robeck, N. Campbell,	1	4	0	0	0	0	36	1	37	2 00	1
14. Hickstown, do "	Madison C. H.	B. S. Fuller,	E. G. Mays, S. A. Brown,	4	6	0	0	0	0	25	14	39	2 00	1
15. Indian Spring, Leon "	"	J. B. Lacy,	J. C. Mason, J. S. Hart,	10	2	0	2	0	0	6	0	6	50	1
16. Liberty, Thomas "	Geo.	G. W. Bostick,	C. N. Powell, James Groover,	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	50	1
17. Lake Jackson, Leon "	Geo.	J. B. Lacy,	W. Blawett, G. W. Bostick,	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	50	1
18. Liberty, Decatur "	Geo.	M. Strickland,	J. Higdon, F. J. Harrod,	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	8	40	3 00	1
19. Monticello, Jefferson "	Fla.	W. B. Cooper,	B. S. Fuller, W. H. Scruggs,	2	8	0	0	0	0	20	5	25	1 50	1
20. Mill Creek, Lowndes "	Geo.	R. Fryar,	J. T. Carroll, D. B. Carroll,	3	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	1 00	3
21. Mount Giload, Jefferson "	Fla.	Z. G. Wheeler,	Z. G. Wheeler,	6	0	0	0	0	0	22	7	29	2 00	3
22. Oak Grove, Thomas "	Geo.	W. B. Cooper,	J. B. Lacy, J. G. Deekle,	0	3	1	0	0	0	11	15	26	1 50	1
23. Oak Grove, Leon "	Fla.	O. E. McKeown,	Herron Carter,	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	3	70	1 70	4
24. Providence, Gadsden "	Geo.	R. Fryar,	O. E. McKeown, I. Shepherd,	7	2	0	2	0	0	39	1	40	1 53	1
25. Redland, Lowndes "	Geo.	L. T. Houston,	J. J. Fryar, C. Brinson,	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	10	20	1 00	1
26. Summerhill, do "	Fla.	J. W. P. McCall,	L. G. Lamb,	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	58	76	1 00	3
27. Sharon, do "	Talofa,	J. W. P. McCall,	John Broome, J. W. P. McCall,	0	8	0	1	1	1	3	3	22	1 50	3
28. Trouppville, Lowndes "	Geo.	W. B. Cooper,	W. B. Cooper, J. O. Goldwire,	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	15	1 50	4
29. Trouppville, Thomas "	Fla.	J. B. Lacy,	G. R. Moore, J. M. Grady,	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	1 00	1
30. Tallahassee, Leon "	Fla.	S. C. Craft,	Not Represented,	3	0	0	2	0	0	15	80	45	1 00	1
31. Union, New Churches,	Beauzey,	"	Sam. C. Craft, Isaac Townsend,	73	53	4	84	17	10	50	582	1320	50	58
32. Bethlehem, Wakulla "	"	W. W. Maund,	J. G. Bevil,	14	3	0	0	2	2	14	3	17	3 00	2
33. Long Branch, Thomas "	Geo.	B. Wynn,	W. Elkins, Isaac Welch,	24	5	0	0	0	0	11	11	11	1 00	0
34. Olive, Madison "	Fla.	R. Fryar,	J. W. Hurst,	29	1	50	0	0	0	29	1	30	1 50	0
35. Providence, do "	Fla.	L. J. Simmons,	W. Cowart, D. Bell,	23	2	0	0	0	0	23	2	25	2 00	3
36. Uxiah, Thomas "	Geo.	"	T. J. Hurst, J. C. Paramore,	73	53	4	84	17	10	50	582	1320	50	58

J. T. McCarter - 1/24/42 - 5:00

## MINUTES OF THE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

- The Association convened, according to adjournment, at Friendship Church, Thomas County, Ga., on Saturday, 11th October, 1851.
  - Brother Maund, who was appointed at the last session to preach the Introductory Sermon, not having arrived, and Brother Craft, the alternate, not being able, from indisposition, Brother Ardis, by request, preached from Acts, 16 c: 17 v.
  - After a short intermission, the Delegates convened in the Church, and the Association was opened in due form. Prayer by Brother Ryan Fryar.
  - The Letters from the Churches were then called for, read, and their statistics noted.
  - Five Petitionary Letters were received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the Delegates. See Statistical Table.
  - Re-elected Brother Cooper Moderator, and Brother Craft Clerk. On Preaching, Brethren Cason, E. G. Mays, J. O. Goldwire, Denison and Forest; On Business, J. F. Scruggs, Bevil, Johnson, and J. H. Carroll; On Finance, Fuller, Townsend and Brinson; On Correspondence, C. N. Powell, Lamb and Hurst; On the Circular Letter, E. C. Walker, Bostick and Wheeler; On Queries, W. H. Scruggs, J. G. Deekle, and Jesse Walker.
  - The Committee on Preaching report Brother Ardis to preach at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, followed by W. H. Goldwire, and Brother Fryar to preach at 3 o'clock, followed by G. R. Moore. Adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday Morning; prayer by Brother Fryar.
- The Brethren all occupied their places in the stand on Sabbath, in the order as arranged by the Committee on Saturday, and preached to a very large concourse of people, and we trust to purpose and effect.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock, 13th October.

8. The Association was regularly opened; prayer by Brother Lacy.
9. Brother W. H. Goldwire was appointed to write the Corresponding Letter.
10. Called for Correspondence from sister Associations; Brother Isaac Newton, from Alachua Association, presented himself with Minutes from that body.
11. Brethren Lacy, Fuller, Craft, and W. H. Goldwire were appointed a Committee to visit Hebron Church, at Quincy.
12. The report of the Committee on Business was read and adopted.
13. Ordered to change the phraseology of the 21st Rule of Decorum.
14. Ordered to hold the next Association with Sharon Church, Madison County, Fla.
15. Brethren E. G. Mays, Gray, Higdon, Beville, J. F. Scruggs and Blewett were appointed a Committee to report on Union Meetings.
16. The Committee appointed last year to revise and report upon Missionary operations, reported. Marked A.
17. Ordered that the same members, to wit: Fuller, Cooper, R. J. Mays, Cason and J. F. Scruggs, composing the Executive Committee of last year, be continued in office the ensuing year.
18. Brother Cooper was re-elected Treasurer.
19. Brother R. J. Mays was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon; brother Craft alternate. Brother Ardis to write the next Circular Letter.
20. *Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed by the Association, whose duty it shall be to ascertain whether, in the event that the subscribers to the fund for the erection of a Female Seminary at Madison C. H., are willing to donate and turn over to the Association the said Female Seminary, with all its fixtures and appurtenances, the subscribers to the fund for the erection of a Male Seminary will consent and agree that the Association shall direct the said last mentioned Fund to the use and advancement of the said Female Seminary; and in such event of such willingness and assent upon the part of the subscribers to both of said Funds, the Committee be instructed forthwith to organize and commence said Female Seminary, by employing a Teacher or Teachers, &c., &c.
21. Brethren Cooper, W. H. Scruggs and Cason, and L. Tooke, Esq., and Gen. J. S. Broome were appointed the Committee in accordance with the above.
22. Took a recess for one hour.
23. Convened at the time appointed; prayer by Brother Newton.
24. Corresponding Letter read and adopted.
25. Financial Report read and adopted. Marked C.

26. Ordered that the Clerk have 1200 copies of Minutes printed, and that he receive for his services the present Session \$20, and also the further sum of \$6 50 balance due him from last session, to be paid out of the Associational Funds.

The Committee on Correspondence report nothing before them except the Minutes from Alachua Association, in which they find nothing objectionable, and recommend Correspondence with said Association.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning; prayer by Father Broome.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 O'clock, 14th October.

28. Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Brother Moderator.
29. The Committee on the Circular Letter reported the one submitted to their examination to the Association without any amendment. The Circular was then read and adopted.
30. Ordered to correspond with Bethel Association, Ga., West Florida and Alachua Associations. Brethren Blewett and Bostick Messengers to the first; Blewett, E. C. Walker and McKeown to the second, and Ryan Fryar, Isaac Townsend, J. W. P. McCall, H. M. Fryar, J. Townsend, and W. B. Cooper to the last named.
31. *Resolved*, That the Friday before the first Sabbath in January, 1852, be recommended to the Churches composing this body as a day of fasting and prayer; Also, that brethren and sisters be requested to meet at their respective Churches on Wednesday before the second Sabbath in each month, or on some other day, till the next Association, to hold prayer meetings for a general revival of Religion.
32. *Resolved*, That as we are still represented as imposing a tax on every person joining our Church, we hereby declare that as Baptists we are still upon "the old Platform of the Scriptures;" every member gives or withholds his worldly goods as he pleases, and is responsible to God and not to man on this account.
33. *Resolved*, That the "Tennessee Baptist," a paper published at Nashville, Tennessee, be highly recommended to the patronage and support of Florida Baptists, as one among the best Baptist papers in the South or West: Also, that a work called "Haldane on Romans," be recommended as a work replete with the soundest Theology, and well calculated as a means to nerve the believer in his warfare against the powers of darkness.
34. The report on Union meetings submitted and adopted. Marked E.
35. Treasurer's report read. Marked D.
36. Ordered that all Minute Fund in the hands of the Chairman of the Financial Committee be turned over to the Clerk.
37. Ordered that all matters contained in, or referred to in the report of the Special Committee on Missions, submitted on yester-

day, be referred to the Executive Committee, with full discretionary powers.

38. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be unanimously and most cordially tendered to the citizens of this community for their kind hospitality during the present session.

Adjourned till Saturday before the second Lord's day in October, 1852.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator*.

S. C. CRAIG, *Clerk*.

## CIRCULAR LETTER

To the Churches composing the Florida Association.

*Dear Brethren*:—A faithful and solemn self-examination, as recommended by our last address, cannot fail to teach us what we are, and plainly discover to us our spiritual needs; which result, doubtless, all who have heeded the subject have felt, and we deem you prepared to practice without what you have felt within. We, therefore, offer for our next consideration the subject of Godliness.

We consider Godliness as synonymous with practical religion—as meaning strictly, the heart devoted to the *worship, love* and *fear* of God, our great head, and spiritual father. To the worship of Him, in complying with all that His word shall prescribe, and avoiding all that it prohibits, not grudgingly, or with languishing emotion, but with ardor and zeal proportionate to the honor and sovereignty of His character. It must not consist of outward ceremonies, nor will it tolerate any particular round of forms alone, for such is denied to be worship in the word of God, having only the form without the “power of Godliness,” but must seek Him in spirit, “for they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” When have we been blessed in our souls from attending church merely because it was the Sabbath, or regular appointment? Or when have we been benefited even from private prayer only because the hour had arrived when it is our custom to pray? How often, dear brethren, have we returned from the Sanctuary or silent grove under motives of this kind, lean and barren? And yet, when impelled by higher and holier motives, the honor and glory of God, the advancement of His spiritual kingdom, and the renewal of our spiritual strength, can we not recall many occasions of comfort which the world cannot give, and felt honored with the gifts of God's spirit, which He giveth to all who thus worship him?

To the *love* of God, in accepting Him as our chief good, the author of all our mercies, “loving Him because He first loved us,” which love is “without dissimulation,” accepting God as the *only* proper object of worship and adoration. This love springs from gratitude,

is won by the goodness of God, and built upon such a basis as withstands all other powers—as the Apostle expresses it to the Romans, “nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God,” &c.

To the *fear* of God, not as a servile fear which serves Him from fear of punishment, but from love to Him, such as a grateful and dutiful son bears to his father. Let us be particular, brethren, in the character of our fear of God, for such as does not spring from love is slavish and not accepted; indeed, so great was the value that the Apostle to the Corinthians placed upon this kind of fear to constitute Godliness, that he called the fear of God “perfecting holiness.” Does not our experience teach us that this fear of God is a holy disposition of the mind, constrains us to obedience to all His commands, makes us dread to displease Him, gives us desire for His favor, esteem for His purity, earnestness in His service, and thankfulness for His protection? In short, brethren, does it not, combined with love, constitute that Godliness which is enjoined in the scriptures—which Paul to Timothy describes as “being profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come?” If our peace here and hereafter depends upon this, we regard it as a subject, to us, of all the most important. It is the rock upon which we must stand or fall, and hence recommends itself to our meditation; and not merely that indifferent sort of thinking which we practice every day upon whatever subject may chance to spring up in our minds, but we would enjoin that serious exercise of the understanding by which our thoughts are entirely fixed; and being assisted by the light of revelation and teachings of the Holy Spirit, we cannot fail to discern spiritual things in the order we would wish to practice them. If we would have our temporal affairs prosperous, we must bestow thought upon them; and how much more does our spiritual interest demand it, and if we only felt the need of it, how much more “healthiness of soul” should we feel in searching after it? And as we advanced fresh graces would grow up with us, and new advantages discovered in our christian warfare.

By meditation and self-examination we would not only be led to see, but also to feel the benefits of Godliness. Its fruit would be felt in our own heart. We would see that it was *honor*, beholding the condescension of the Son of God in giving himself to die that we might live—that while death is our due, we hope of exaltation at the right hand of the throne on high, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We would be led also to embrace it as *peace*, such as the world cannot give, and is “past all understanding”—not only with the world, which is a high blessing, but peace in the conscience too high to be estimated, accepting God as a Father, Christ as a Brother, and Heaven as a Home. Furthermore, brethren, it is *safety*—though the winds of opposition might rise, and tides of persecution roll high, yet it emanates from God—His strength is in it, and we thus confide in deliverance. It shields us from the snares of a world that “lies in sin,” secures us from temptations that beset our pil-

grimage through life, prepares us to "walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith we are called." It is safety from the love of sin, in condemning sin—safety in death, and a sure passport to glory.

Thus far, dear brethren, we have considered the subject as touching us individually, but there is a further advantage in it, which we think "the Word" prescribes, and which is consequent, and that is, that it proposes *usefulness*, a test by which we are to judge of each other and the world to judge of us, and points directly at us as a Church. The Saviour said, Ye shall know them by their fruits; and here lies the great responsibility of the Christian. It is not enough that we see our sins, but that we turn from those sins. It is not enough that we be Godly in desire, but that we be so in practice, for otherwise "we give no light," produce no fruit, and fail to fulfill the part assigned us. This position, we think, is well sustained by the Scriptures, and will be readily endorsed by every christian's experience, and we propose that whatever holds good to us as individual professors, will also apply to us as a Church, and since it is essential to "examine ourselves" to find our faults and secret sins, in order to correct them, by the help of grace, does it not follow that as Baptists we must do the same? Then, dear brethren, the highest evidence, in order to come to a correct conclusion, must be examined. To decide upon the state of our hearts, we must go there to examine and note our actions—to decide upon the state of our cause generally we must go to the Churches. If the heart is right the consequence is individual usefulness—if the Church is right she is useful. Well, what is the proof of the usefulness of our Association, the creature of the Churches, and their medium of general action? Are the Churches in possession of every spiritual enjoyment which God has promised? Do they report revivals of spiritual comfort and confidence? Does a holy influence go out from you into the community around? Is the word of truth being preached through your instrumentality as often as the people will attend it? Are your's and the neighbors' children regularly instructed in the "Book of books?" Are your Pastor's hands untied to the best of your abilities, that he may engage in his duties as circumstances require? In a word, are you "instant in season and out of season, always abounding in the work of the Lord?" Or shall we yet judge the present by the past, and express our sorrows over the languishing state of our Zion?

The Churches in the main seem to be lean and inactive, many of them spending much time to draw distinctions by professions, and seem to almost forget that these must consist (with us) in practice. With many of us there is too much of the *letter* and not enough of the *spirit*. Such is not Godliness, and the result is that members are not added unto our Churches, and but few, compared with our population, are called into the ministry, but, on the contrary, we find some that might be useful in this respect forced to other occupations, that partially, if not totally, hinder their usefulness. We feel that if the churches would take this matter into prayerful consider-

ation and investigation, they would find confined in school houses, behind merchants' counters, and at the plough handle, several in the bounds of the Association who, with encouragement, by advice, prayers and means, could be sent forth "to thrust the sickle into this field, already white to harvest." Such an exercise, brethren, would increase Godliness, practical Godliness, "soul prosperity," and Zion would prosper even "as thy soul prospereth." If you would have Godliness and prosperity in your bounds, begin the work at home, and soon your annual communications will become those of usefulness and comfort. And may the Lord graciously smile upon and "keep us by His power through faith unto salvation."

S. C. CRAFT, *Clerk*.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator*.

### CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Florida Association to those with whom she corresponds:*

BELoved BRETHREN:—We are happy in the receipt of Minutes from Alachua Association by the hands of their Messenger and our brother, Isaac Newton.—Our brethren of Alachua Association will accept our most hearty thanks for this expression of their remembrance towards us. We have received neither Minutes nor Messengers from any other of you, but trust the failure has not originated from carelessness on your part. We believe, dear brethren, that a strict union and communion is enjoined upon us, and that the prompt enjoyment of that great privilege and pleasure will cause brotherly love to continue, and the cause of Christ to be promoted. We trust that our own Messengers may be clothed in the mind of Christ when they appear among you, and that they may be received into your body to assist in your heavenly deliberations.

Our session has been attended with pleasing and profitable exercises, and we trust that under God, all our efforts will redound to the honor and glory of His eternal name.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator*.

S. C. CRAFT, *Clerk*.

### MISSIONARY REPORT—"A."

The Committee appointed at last Session to report a system of Missionary operations for this body, beg leave respectfully to report:

We have given the subject that consideration which its importance requires, and, they hope by Divine direction, have come to the following conclusions:—In the first place, we are compelled to admit that there has not been that satisfaction with past operations that was desired—the proof of which is found in the continually decreasing contributions from the Churches—and the melancholy truth presents itself that we must adopt a different plan, or cease to pretend to do. We, therefore, recommend as the best plan presenting itself, that the Association raise a Book Fund, (of say \$500,) and that some efficient man be sent out to act as Colporteur and Missionary, and as he goes let him preach upon all occasions offering themselves, and distribute the Books by sales, and otherwise, as you may direct. We think that, under God, by this course a greater amount of good may be accomplished than any other that offers itself.

With regard to the best method of preaching the Gospel to the blacks, we advise that, owing to our present condition, there be nothing farther attempted than the preaching, by the Pastors of the Churches, to the blacks after the regular preaching to the whites, inviting brethren and friends to remain and hear.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. J. MAYS, *Chairman*.

### REPORT OF FINANCIAL COMMITTEE—"C."

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that they have received moneys for the following purposes, viz:

For Central African Mission,.....	\$218 10
" Domestic ".....	79 65
" Foreign ".....	2 20
" Minutes,.....	50 60

Making in all,..... \$350 55

Together with Sabbath Contributions..... 64 00  
 All of which is respectfully submitted. B. S. FULLER, *Chairman.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT—"D."

Your Treasurer begs leave to report as follows—  
 Paid to W. B. Cooper, for missionary and other services, named in  
 Report of Executive Committee..... \$100 00  
 Funds on hand..... 127 10  
 Subscriptions..... 25 00  
 W. B. COOPER, *Treasurer*

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Owing to the fact of the absence of our Chairman, Brother Fuller, from indisposition, it becomes our duty to make a very summary statement of our action. At our first meeting we employed our Brother Cooper to devote a portion of his time as Colporteur and Missionary. By his report it will appear what portion of his time was thus occupied; also the report of Brother McKeown and his labors.—We remark in conclusion, that the brethren mentioned, having, as we believe, a desire for God's glory, submit their action for approval.

Respectfully submitted.

R. J. MAYS, *Chairman pro tem.*

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON UNION MEETINGS—"E."

The Committee appointed upon Union meetings beg leave to report. That the Association be divided into four Union Meeting Districts: 1st District to be composed of Madison and Hamilton Counties, Fla., and Lowndes County, Ga.; 2d District Thomas County, Ga., and Indian Spring and Oak Grove Churches, Leon County, Fla.; 3d District, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties, Fla.; 4th District, balance of Leon County, Gadsden and Decatur.

We further recommend that a Clerk for each Union Meeting District be elected; that a book be obtained, and that all the proceedings of each meeting of the several Districts shall be recorded in their District Books by the Clerks, and that questions of practical importance, of christian duty, be debated in these Districts. And we also recommend that a General Union Meeting be held at Sharon Church, Madison County, two days before the next Association, to be composed of Delegates, say from four to six, to be elected at the last preceding Union Meeting before the Association, from each district. The commencement of said meetings to be as follows:—1st Meeting, for the 1st District, to commence at 9 o'clock, on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in November next, at Hickstown Church; for the 2d District, at the same time, with Union Church, Thomas County, Ga.; for the 3d District at Bethpage, Jefferson County, Fla., and for the 4th District at Lake Jackson Church, Leon County.

### CONSTITUTION OF THE FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. This Association shall be known by the name of the Florida Baptist Association.
2. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the respective Churches in its union, not to exceed two members from each Church, who shall be duly authorized by letter to represent the Churches delegating them.
3. In the letters sent by the Churches at each session of the Association, shall be expressed their respective members in full fellowship; those Baptized, received by Letter, Restored, Dismissed, Excommunicated and Dead since the last session.
4. Believing it to be proper, on account of the diversity of opinion among men, as to the import of the scripture doctrines contained in the Old and New Testaments, to declare our belief and understanding thereof, we therefore append our belief in twelve articles, and present them, with our Minutes, to the Baptist denomination.
5. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum. A Moderator and a Clerk shall be chosen by the votes of the members present, who shall hold their office till the next session of the body, and until their successors are elected. The Moderator shall preside at the meetings of the Association, and the Clerk shall record the proceedings thereof, and prepare them for the press.

6. The Association, thus organized, shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe upon the internal rights of any Church.

7. Newly constituted Churches may be admitted into this union upon application by letter and Delegates; and if, upon examination, found to be orthodox, shall be received by the Association, and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates by the Moderator.

8. The Association shall furnish the Churches with the minutes of their proceedings, in proportion to the funds sent up by the Churches for that purpose.

9. The minutes of the Association shall be publicly and distinctly read, (and corrected, if necessary,) and then signed by the Moderator and Clerk before adjournment.

10. Any amendment or alteration of this Constitution may be made by the votes of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Association, (of which notice shall be given in the minutes,) and the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at the next Association shall make the desired alteration. All other matters in this Association shall be decided by a majority of votes.

11. The Association shall have power, 1st, To provide for the general union of the Churches. 2d, To give the Churches advice in matters of difficulty. 3d, To enquire into the course of any Church failing to be represented at the meetings of the Association. 4th, To withdraw all connection from any Church or Churches in this union who shall violate the rules of this Association, or shall deviate from the orthodox principles of the revealed word of God. 5th, To appropriate the moneys contributed to the Association Fund by the Churches, to any purpose they may think best for the interest of the Church of Christ. 6th, To adjourn to any future time and place they may deem most convenient to the Churches in the union.

Assented to by the Florida Association, at Ebenezer Church, Jefferson County, Middle Florida, and signed by order of the same, on the 16th day of October, 1843.  
 JOHN BROOME, *Moderator.*

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, *Clerk.*

### ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

- I. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
- II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.
- III. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.
- IV. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
- V. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature, by his own free will and ability.
- VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.
- VII. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.
- VIII. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.
- IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that nothing is Baptism except immersion; that believers are the only subjects of this ordinance, and that none but Baptized believers are entitled to partake of the Lord's Supper.
- X. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment.
- XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
- XII. We believe that no Ministers have a right to administer the ordinances, only such as are regularly called, and have come under the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery.

W. B. COOPER, *Moderator.*

SAMUEL C. CRAFT, *Clerk.*

### Rules of Decorum for the Florida Baptist Association.

1. At every meeting of the Association, the Moderator shall call the members to order, and cause the Clerk to read the minutes of the preceding Association.
2. The Moderator shall preserve order, shall speak on points of order in preference to other members, and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association, when requested by any two members.

3. The Moderator shall put all questions distinctly in this form: "As many as are in favor (as the question may be,) say aye;" and after the affirmative voice is taken, "as many as are of a contrary opinion say no." If doubtful which voice is in the majority, it shall be decided by rising and counting.

4. The Moderator shall appoint Committees, except in cases of appointment by ballot.

5. In all cases of ballot the Moderator may vote; in other cases he shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided, or unless his vote, if given to the minority, will make the division equal; in that case the question shall be lost.

6. When any member is about to speak in debate, he shall rise and address himself respectfully to the Moderator.

7. If any member while speaking, or otherwise, transgress the rules of decorum, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order.

8. When two or more members rise at the same time, the Moderator shall determine who is first entitled to the floor.

9. No member shall indulge unkind remark in debate; nor shall any member speak more than twice on the same question without leave of the Association, nor more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have done so.

10. While any member is addressing the Association, it shall be the duty of the Moderator to suppress all private discourse that may be entertained between the members, and to require strict attention on the part of the members.

11. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Moderator before debated.

12. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if desired by any member of the Association.

13. After a motion is made and seconded, it shall be deemed in possession of the Association, but may be withdrawn at any time before decided or amended.

14. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained, unless to amend it, or to refer it to a committee, or for the previous question, or for adjournment.

15. A motion for adjournment shall always be in order, and decided without debate.

16. Any member may call for the division of a question where two or more distinct propositions are set forth, and when the substance will admit of division.

17. Motions and amendments may be referred to a Committee, at the pleasure of the Association.

18. Every resolution shall receive two statements or readings in the Association previous to its passage. The first shall be for information, and the second when the decision of the Association is to be made.

19. These rules may be changed and amended at any regular and full meeting of the Association.

20. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer each day, either by the Moderator or some other member.

21. Queries shall only be entertained by this body coming from the Churches and fairly stated in writing.

### MINISTERS OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

NAMES.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES.	POST OFFICE.
H. Z. ARDIS,	Madison C. H., Fla.	R. J. MAYS,	Clifton, Fla.
JOHN BROOME,	Talofa, Fla.	J. W. P. McCALL,	Talofa, "
G. W. BOSTICK,	Attapulcus, Ga.	O. E. McKEOWN,	Quincy, "
W. BLEWETT,	Bambridge, "	G. R. MOORE,	Thomasville, Ga.
W. B. COOPER,	Troupville, "	E. J. SIMMONS,	Thomasville, "
SAM. C. CRAFT,	Monticello, Fla.	M. STRICKLAND,	Mannington, Fla.
B. S. FULLER,	Monticello, "	W. T. STANLAND,	Ellisville, E. F.
RYAN FRYER,	Clyattville, Ga.	GEORGE WALKER,	Monticello, Fla.
W. HENDERSON,	Clyattville, "	E. C. WALKER,	St. Marks, "
I. T. HOUSTON,	Moseley's Hall, Fla.	Z. G. WHEELER,	Bezeley, "
J. B. LACY,	Thomasville, Ga.	G. M. WILLIAMS,	Quincy, "
ROBERT LEVY,	Tallahassee, Fla.	B. WYNN,	Thomasville, Ga.
W. W. MAUND,	Newport, "		

Licentiates in *Italics*.

NOTE.—The reason that the several amounts sent up by the Churches for Missionary purposes are not specified in the Statistical Table, is because the list was in the hands of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, who, from indisposition, was compelled to leave the Association before adjournment. THE CLERK.