

W O V

MINUTES

OF THE

Eleventh Annual Session

OF THE

WEST FLORIDA

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

BETHLEHEM CHURCH,

JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA,

ON THE

24th, 26th and 27th of October, 1857.

TALLAHASSEE:

Printed at the Office of the "Florida Sentinel,"

BY BENJAMIN F. ALLEN.

1857.

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MINUTES.

The congregation convened in the house, and the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. H. Wombwell, from 2nd Corinthians, 3rd chapter and 6th verse: "Able ministers of the New Testament."

After intermission, the Association assembled in the School-house, and organized for business by singing and prayer—Elder D. G. Daniel led in prayer.

The letters from the Churches were handed in and read.

Elder Joshua Mercer was elected Moderator, and Elder Stephen Rowe, Clerk.

The following Committees were appointed, namely:

To arrange preaching, Elder D. P. Everett and Wm. A. Bell, with the delegation from the Bethlehem Church.

To arrange business, Elder Wm. Borum, Wm. A. Bell and John Kemp.

On Finance, T. Barnes, S. Borum and J. Hinson.

On Publications, Elder G. W. Underwood, A. Bevis and B. T. Barkley.

On Documents, J. A. Collier, G. F. Mercer and H. A. Lanier.

On the State of the Churches, C. N. Hartsfield, Wm. Sorey and A. J. Sims.

On Sabbath Schools, J. H. Wombwell, Daniel Neel and J. Mashburn.

On Nominations, Wm. A. Boykin, A. W. Miller and L. B. Meyers.

On Missions, J. H. Wombwell, D. P. Everett and C. N. Hartsfield.

On Deceased Ministers, Wm. Borum, J. A. Collier and T. Barnes.

Called for Petitionary letters from newly constituted Churches, when a letter from the Fellowship Church, Holmes County, was received and read, and the Church being found orthodox and orderly, was received into connection with this body, and the hand of fellowship extended to her delegates.

On motion, invited Ministers of our faith and order, who are not members of this body, to seats with us.

On motion, Elder D. G. Daniel, Agent for Foreign Missions, and Elder Wm. W. B. Weston, Agent for the Central Institute, Coosy County, Ala., were recognized as Agents in their respective missions.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and received

from the Eufaula, a letter by Elder R. Webb, and a letter and minutes from the Bethlehem, by the hand of Elder D. G. Daniel, proposing to renew correspondence, which was accepted.

Appointed correspondence to sister Associations as follows, namely: To the Tuskegee Associations, J. Mercer; the Eufaula, J. Mercer and D. P. Everett; the Salem, D. P. Everett and J. Mercer; the Judson, N. W. Miller, J. Mashburn, Daniel Neel, G. W. Underwood, J. Mercer and A. W. Miller; the Florida, G. W. Underwood, J. Mercer, S. Rowe, G. F. Mercer, H. A. Lanier, L. B. Meyers, and C. N. Hartsfield; the Bowen, N. W. Miller and A. W. Miller.

On motion, appointed brother Wombwell to write a letter to the Bethlehem Association, and also one to the Bethel.

Elder J. B. Taylor is appointed to preach to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, and Elder D. G. Daniel in the afternoon.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock on Monday morning. Prayer by brother Weston.

LORD'S DAY, October 25th.

The brethren, Taylor and Daniel, preached in the order of their names to a large and an attentive congregation.

After the Missionary Sermon by brother Taylor, a collection was taken at the Stand for Domestic Missions of \$32 85, and \$1 00 for preaching to the colored people at Bethlehem, and \$3 75 from the colored people for African Missions.

The Bible Society met at night, and, after several interesting addresses, a collection of \$17 50 was taken up.

MONDAY MORNING, October 26th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Daniel.

The Moderator being absent, in consequence of affliction, brother Wombwell was appointed Moderator, pro tempore.

The report of the Committee on Business was read and adopted.

Called the roll, and read and corrected the minutes of the two past days.

Renewed the call for petitionary letters, but none presented.

An interesting letter from the colored members of the Apalachicola Church was received and read, with a contribution of \$12 00, to be appropriated to the support of a minister among them, and 50 cents for minutes, which was referred to a select Committee of brethren, Everett, Barnes and Hartsfield, to report this afternoon.

Renewed the call for further correspondence, and on motion, the brethren, Sims, Taylor and Hollis were recognized as delegates from the Judson Association.

Renewed invitation to ministers to seats with us.

The report of the Committee on the State of the Churches was read and adopted, and referred to the Ex. Committee, with the au-

thority to appoint sub-Committees to assist them in the discharge of the duties referred to in that report. [See Appendix A.]

On motion, adjourned to hear a sermon by brother Daniel.

After intermission, the Bible Society convened and elected its officers for the ensuing year.

The Association was then called to order for business. Prayer by brother Underwood.

On motion, agreed to set apart Friday before the 5th Lord's Day in November next as a day of Fasting and Prayer, that the Lord would pour out His spirit upon us and revive his work throughout the land.

The report of the committee on Missions was read and adopted; followed by a very interesting address by brother Daniel, on the subject of Foreign Missions. [See Appendix B.]

On motion, business was suspended for ten minutes, to give brother Daniel an opportunity to make a collection for Foreign Missions. The sum of \$33 50 was collected in cash and pledges.

On motion, invited brother Weston, Agent of the Central Institute, Ala., to deliver an address on the subject of his Agency.

An interesting letter from the Orange Hill Sabbath School Missionary Society was received and read, tendering a contribution of \$12 00, for Missionary purposes.

The report of the Committee on Documents was read and adopted. [See Appendix C.]

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by brother Sims.

TUESDAY MORNING, October 27th.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by brother Everett.

Appointed our next Session to be held with the Greenwood Church, commencing on Saturday before the 4th Lord's Day in October next.

The report of the Ex. Committee was read and adopted. [See Appendix D.]

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted. [See Appendix E.]

The report of Committee on Finance was read and adopted. [See Appendix F.]

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted. [See Appen. G.]

The report of the Committee on Nominations was read and adopted. [See Appendix H.]

The report of Committee on Publications was read and adopted. [See Appendix I.]

The report of Committee on Deceased Ministers was read and adopted. [See Appendix J.]

The Letter of Correspondence was read and adopted.

Brethren, Wm. Sorey, C. N. Hartsfield, J. A. Collier, F. T.

Allen and Wm. Hartsfield, were elected Executive Committee. Brother Sorey was elected Treasurer.

On motion, brother T. Barnes was added to the above Committee. The brethren, J. H. Wombwell, C. N. Hartsfield, T. Barnes, S. Rowe, D. P. Everett, G. W. Underwood, R. C. B. Laurence, F. T. Allen, J. Mercer and G. F. Mercier, were elected Delegates to the Florida Baptist Convention.

The report of the Committee to whom was referred the letter from the colored members of the Church at Apalachicola, was read and adopted. [See Appendix K.]

The subject of premiums for Sabbath Schools was referred, by the Moderator, to a select Committee of brethren, D. P. Everett, G. W. Underwood and Wm. Boykin, who awarded the first premium to the Sabbath School at Greenwood, and the second premium to the Sabbath School at Sardis.

On motion, adopted the following resolution,* namely:

Resolved, That we tender our hearty thanks to the inhabitants of this vicinity for their hospitality to us during our present session.

On motion, instructed the Clerk to have 500 copies of these minutes printed and distributed, and that he have \$20 for his services.

On motion, adjourned to hear the farewell sermon by brother Weston.

After a solemn discourse delivered by brother Weston, a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken, and prayer by brother Daniel, the Association then adjourned to the time and place before mentioned.

J. H. WOMBWELL, Mod. P. T.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

Note.—A resolution was offered by Elder D. P. Everett and adopted by the Association, instructing the Ex. Committee to direct their effort as far as practicable to the settlement of a minister in our western destitution, but the scrip on which it was written has been mislaid.

CLERK.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

—:00:—

The West Florida Baptist Association

To all others with whom she Corresponds :

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—By the divine permission we have just closed our Eleventh Annual Session, which has been marked by christian affection and an earnest desire to promote the interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom. It is a source of deep sorrow that with the feeble means we possess and the great ministerial destitution within our bounds, so much of our field remains unoccupied and barren. We crave the sympathy of our more favored brethren, and earnestly entreat you not only to continue your correspondence with us, but devoutly trust we shall enjoy the benefit, in future, of a larger number of your members at our annual meetings. Our next session is appointed to be holden with the Greenwood Church, commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October.

J. H. WOMBWELL, Mod, P. T.

STEPHEN ROWE, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

Your Committee beg leave to submit the following report: From the Churches, through their letters, we learn that a sad, cold and gloomy state of religion is prevailing among them. This condition should strike our hearts with no little force; should open our eyes to behold our suffering, and cause us to enquire what is the producing cause, and how it can be removed.

We think the great and leading cause of the whole thing is the worldly mindedness of our members. Your committee must be faithful to your souls. Bear with us, brethren, even if we have to send the probe deep into your sensitive feelings. If we would see our present state of religion changed for the better, the cause must be removed which has placed us in our lamentable condition. It is futile, useless; yea, perhaps, sinful, to attribute the inefficiency of the churches to the want of ministers, or the changeableness of our population. These are not the real causes. We repeat, it is the want of spirituality in our souls. We may pray for laborers to be sent into our vineyard; but need we expect the good Lord to hear us, if we are not a holy—a devoted people? We can properly indulge no such hope. Let all our brethren and sisters amend in their lives.—Let them forsake worldly conformity, devote themselves as a peculiar people to the Lord, have their conversation in heaven, and then no more such groaning will be heard, no such coldness be felt, no such gloomy darkness be visible above our religious horizon.

Your committee must beg leave, however, to bring to your notice the condition of some of the churches, as they are either disorderly or virtually dead. Among these, we name the Union and New Providence churches, and all those not represented. We recommend you to appoint a committee to visit these brethren, and take such a course with them as may be deemed proper, and report at your next session.

In view of the condition of the churches, we propose that the Association appoint a day of fasting and prayer for an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon them.

Respectfully submitted,

C. N. HARTSFIELD, Chairman.

[B.]

The Committee on Missions beg leave to submit the following report: The cause of Missions is the cause of God. Every christian feels this when he believes in the divine Redeemer to the saving of his soul. It is taught in the scriptures, and was manifested in the lives of the apostles.

Your committee do not feel called upon to elaborate an argument to show that christian churches should sustain missions at home and abroad to the utmost of their ability. The appointment given us was to present the churches composing this Association with some account of those missions about which our minds are more peculiarly interested. The missionary operations of the Baptist denomination South have been conducted the past year, as formerly, by two Boards of Managers. The Foreign Board has several stations and missionaries in China, and in Western and Central Africa; and to the extent of the means allowed the Board to use, it is intended to go on until

"Earth's remotest nation has learned Messiah's name."

The agent of this Board for this portion of the South, Rev. D. G. Daniel, is present, and can give you the details of the work in this department.

The Domestic Board is engaged to supply the destitution in the Southern and Western States, including the indians, and the Chinese in California. This is a wide and important field. It lies around us, and is peopled by our blood and kin, as well as by the native red man, and the foreigner.

This Association is engaged in supplying the destitution in its own bounds, and you will learn from the reports of the Ex. Committee and the Colporteur, what is being done.

We would close this report by requesting you to pass the following resolution:

Resolved, That brother D. G. Daniel be solicited to visit our bounds in the prosecution of his agency, and labor to enkindle among us a greater interest in the extension of Christ's kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. WOMBWELL, Chairman.

[C.]

The Committee on Documents beg leave to report: That they find in letter from Greenwood Church an application for your next session to be held with them. We would also call your attention to the interesting letters from the colored members of the Apalachicola Church and the Orange Hill Sunday School Missionary Society, and recommend the following resolution, namely:

Resolved, That the Orange Hill Sabbath School Missionary Society has done more in raising funds for the spread of the Gospel, in

proportion to surrounding circumstances, than any other organization within our knowledge, and that we gratefully receive their liberal contribution and commend their noble little enterprise as worthy the imitation of larger communities.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. COLLIER, Chairman.

[D.]

The Executive Committee beg leave to submit the following report: That agreeable to a resolution passed at your last session, we thought best to commence the Colporteur system connected with the mission. Accordingly we determined to commence the operations, and bought \$154 35 worth of books, making \$250 93, including the books on hand at your last session. Not being able to obtain a suitable Colporteur in time, we commenced the sale of books among ourselves, and sold \$72 43 worth of books, out of which we paid expenses to the amount of \$36 81, and paid over to your Treasurer \$20 34, and in account uncollected \$6. On the 25th of April we obtained the services of Brother G. W. Underwood, who entered immediately upon the work and reports to us as having found great destitution. He traveled in the counties of Jackson, Washington, Walton and Holmes—1,564 miles, made 236 religious visits, attended 11 prayer meetings, preached 87 sermons and baptized 7 persons. We placed in his hands \$17 50 worth of books, out of which he sold \$13 70 worth and \$2 worth of Tracts, and gave away \$24 55 worth of books. In his hands yet \$37 25 and distributed over 2,000 Tracts, for which we have paid him \$180.

It is due brother Underwood to say, that on account of sickness of himself and family, and rainy seasons, he could not perform as much service as he otherwise might have done. We would recommend that you keep him in your service, at least until Christmas.

Dear Brethren—In conclusion, we must beg your indulgence to say, that after we have done all we could with the funds at our command, we have been unable to send a missionary into either of the counties of Franklin or Calhoun in which there is no preaching by Baptists, except by colored preachers at Apalachicola.

Dear Brethren—We beg you only to contribute your money, but remember the destitution in your prayers, and support your missionary by fervent and earnest appeals to Almighty God, and then will your efforts prove effectual to the salvation of the souls of your fellow men who are now perishing for the want of the bread of life.—Brethren, let us ask ourselves if it is not for the want of our prayers that our former efforts to give the Gospel to the destitute have proven so little good.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

C. N. HARTSFIELD, Chairman.

[E.]

The Committee to whom was assigned the duty of making a report on Sunday Schools, beg leave to present the following: We feel no hesitation in saying that the prosperity of the Churches is directly and intimately connected with their interest in this matter.

The problem is not to be solved by our posterity; it has been already demonstrated clearly and beyond contradiction, that to be indifferent to the religious education of youth, is suicidal to their welfare, the cause of good morals and the future enlargement of our denominational success.

Your committee are pleased to state that the churches composing this Association have given more than usual attention to this subject during the past year. Several new schools have been organized, and previous establishments have been conducted with increased attention.

However praiseworthy our churches are beginning to act in Sunday Schools, and nobly some of our brethren are consecrating their time and talents to this good, great and glorious work, we must say in all candor and truth, that no church, and no church-member is living in the entire discharge of every important duty that does not bestow here a share of interest. We would urge upon the brethren present, upon their return home, to address themselves to operation in this field with prayerful effort. And, your committee would also propose, that it be

Resolved, As the wish of this Association, that every brother and sister in our churches encourage and attend the schools at their regular places of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. WOMBWELL, Chairman.

[F.]

The Committee on Finance beg leave to report :

	Minutes.	For Domestic Missions.	In the People's Beth'ns.	Association Purposes.	African Missions.	TOTAL.
Color'd members of Apalachicola Church, Greenwood,.....	50	33.00	.....	12.00	.....	12 50
Sardis,.....	1.50	13.50	.....	.....	.....	15 00
Salem,.....	1.00	6.33	.....	.....	.....	7 33
Bethlehem,.....	1.50	5.00	.....	.....	.....	6 50
Orange Hill Church, \$18 35.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. S. S. Missionary Society, \$12.....	.....	.....	.....	30.35	.....	30 35
New Hope,.....	1.50	5.00	.....	.....	.....	6 50
Fellowship,.....	1.00	.....	.....	5.25	.....	6 25
Sabbath Collections,.....	.....	32.85	1.00	.....	3.73	37 58
Final amount,.....	10.00	95.68	1.00	47.60	3.73	158 01

All of which we have paid over to the Treasurer.

Recapitulation.—Sent up by the Churches for Minutes, \$10; for Domestic Missions, \$62.83; Associational purposes, \$47.60; collected on Sabbath for Missions, \$36.58; for instruction of colored people at Bethlehem Church, \$1;—Sum total, \$158.01.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

THOS. BARNES, Chairman.

Besides the above, the sum of \$33.50, in cash and pledges, was collected by brother Daniel, for Foreign Missions, CLERK.

[G.]

The Treasurer begs leave to report :

WILLIAM SOREY, in Account with the West Florida Association.

1856.

DR.

Oct. 27—Received of Finance Committee, \$283 95
To cash received from Clerk, a balance after, 15 00
Paying for Printing Minutes,

1857.

Sept. 5—To cash received from brother Underwood, from sale of books, 3 00
Oct. 26—Received of C. N. Hartsfield, 25 34
27— do Finance Committee, 158 01
do G. W. Underwood for sale of books, 129 70

Amount, \$615 00

CR.

1856.

Oct. 29—By cash paid Clerk for services, \$20 00
do printing minutes, 30 00
By cash received at the Association, on the Man. & Mechanics' bank, 1 00

1857.

June 13—By balance for printing Minutes, 5 00
By cash paid to C. N. Hartsfield for books to furnish Colporteur, 50 00
Sept. 11—By cash paid to Smith & Whilden for books, 93 00
Oct. 27—By cash paid to brother Underwood for services and for purchase of books, 194 00

Amount, \$393 00

Balance on hand, \$222 00

[H.]

Your committee on Nominations beg leave to report : That they have nominated brother D. P. Everett to preach the Introductory Sermon for our next session—brother S. Rowe his alternate; brother Jos. H. Wombwell to preach the Missionary Sermon—brother R. Laurence his alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM W. BOYKIN, Chairman.

[I.]

Your committee make the following report : All the issues of the Southern Paptist Publishing Society are worthy your perusal and circulation, and should be scattered broad-cast over the land. Besides these, the South-Western Publishing House has sent out several important denominational works of sterling worth.

Among our periodicals, we enumerate as proper to be read by our people, the South-Western Baptist, printed at Tuskegee, Ala., and the Tennessee Baptist & Eclectic Review, at Nashville, Tenn., and also the Christian Index, printed at Macon, Ga.

Brother J. R. Graves is accomplishing great good by his multiplied labors, and deserves the sympathies, the patronage and the confidence of every Baptist.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. UNDERWOOD, Chairman.

[J.]

The committee on Deceased Ministers beg leave to report: That we regret exceedingly to say that our beloved brother Edward Minchin has deceased since the last meeting of this body; we therefore recommend the following resolution, namely:

Resolved, That this body sincerely sympathize with our sister, the widow, and family of the deceased.

WM. BORUM, Chairman.

[K.]

The committee to whom was referred the letter from the Colored Members of the Apalachicola Church, beg leave to report: That we hail the sentiment expressed in, and the liberal contribution accompanying said letter, as a bright evidence of an enlightened zeal for God, worthy the imitation of others surrounded by more favorable circumstances. We would call the attention of our ministers to the great want of the preached word, by the Apalachicola Church, and more especially to their want of pastoral services, and entreat our brethren generally, to aid by prayer and contributions in supplying their lack of service. We find they have called, and very greatly deserve, brother Richard Webb to minister unto them in holy things, and that they would, as far as possible, contribute to his support, and we would beg brother Webb to consider the matter and supply them if he can. Finally, we would call the especial attention of Baptists—ministers and others—who are interested in Apalachicola as a place of trade, to the great importance of sustaining our denominational interest at that place.

Respectfully submitted,

D. P. EVERETT, Chairman.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

(The names of Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS.)

NAMES OF CHURCHES REPRESENTED.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	Post Office of CLERKS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptizd	Rd Let	Rest'd.	Dism'd	Excom	Dead.	Total.	Time Meet'g
Greenwood, Jackson.	J. H. Wombwell.	C. N. Hartsfield.	Greenwood.	J. H. Wombwell, C. N. Hartsfield, T. Barnes, W. Sorey, A. Bevis, A. J. Sims	6	2	7	4	1	111	1	1
Orange Hill, Wash'r.	D. P. Everett.	H. C. Bragg.	Orange Hill.	J. Mercer, D. P. Everett, G. W. Usherwood.	4	5	8	1	1	67	2	2
Bethlehem, Jackson.	L. Sims.	N. W. Miller.	Campbellton.	Usherwood.	7	5	6	2	57	4	4	4
Salem.	R. Laurence.	Wm. A. Bell.	Marianna.	N. W. Miller, A. W. Miller, W. Boykin, L. B. Meyers, B. T. Barkley.	7	7	2	4	33	4	4	4
New Hope.	William Borum.	J. A. Collier.	Greenwood.	Salem, Wm. A. Bell, John Kemp.	9	3	2	3	47	3	3	3
Sardis.	Stephen Rowe.	John Bird.	Chattahoochie.	New Hope, Wm. Borum, S. Rowe, J. A. Collier.	4	4	3	3	16	2	2	2
Fellowship, Holmes.	.....	Daniel Neel.	Ponce de Leon.	Sardis, G. F. Mercer, S. Rowe, H. A. Lanier.	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	3	3	3
Churches Not Rep'd	.....	.....	.....	Fellowship, J. Mashburn, D. Neel.	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....
Autlock, Gadsden.	O. Melkoun.	J. A. Baykin.	Quincy.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	.....	.....	.....
Chattahoochie.	.....	.....	Chattahoochie.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24	.....	.....	.....
Union, Henry, Ala.	(Dissolved).	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....
Apalachicola, Frkin.	.....	H. Clark.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Prov., Jackson.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Homes Valley, Walt.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Homes Creek, Jack.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Homes Spring, Walt.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Hope.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harmony.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Camp Creek.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
A Equa.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
					23	22	28	11	9	423	9	423

RECAPITULATION.—Baptized 23; Received by Letter 22; Restored none; Dismissed 28; Excommunicated 11; Dead 9; Total 423; Ordained Ministers 7; Licentiates 1. Seven Churches only represented. It is probable that some of the Churches that were not represented are extinct and others so paralyzed that they are doing nothing.

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**NAMES OF MINISTERS,
WITH THEIR POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.**

—:oo:—

JOSHUA MERCER, Orange Hill,
D. P. EVERETT, " "
G. W. UNDERWOOD, " "
R. C. B. LAURENCE, Marianna,
J. H. WOMBWELL, Greenwood,
WM. BORUM, "
STEPHEN ROWE, Ocheesee,
THOS. MERCER, (Licentiate) Greenwood.