

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

W. Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT SMYRNA, HENRY COUNTY, ALA,

ON THE

21st, 22d, 23d and 24th of OCTOBER, A. D. 1870.

---

PRINTED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUN AND TIMES,  
COLUMBUS, GA., 1870.

SAMPSON LIBRARY  
JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY  
DeLAND FLORIDA

MINUTES  
OF THE  
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st, 1870.

1. The congregation assembled at the stand, and the introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. J. Grantham, from II Corinthians, 6th c. 3d v.: "Giving no offence in anything that the ministry be not blamed."
2. One hour's intermission.
3. After intermission and refreshment, the delegates convened in the house, and the Association was organized for business by singing and prayer by former Moderator.
4. Appointed bro. W. F. Jordan, Clerk, pro tem.
5. Elected bro. B. H. Banks, Moderator and bro. W. F. Jordan, Clerk.
6. The letters from the Churches were then handed in and read.
7. Invited ministers of our faith and order, and not of this body, to seats with us.
8. Called for petitionary letters from newly constituted churches, and received a letter from the Beaver Creek Church, Geneva Co., Ala. and one from Rehoboth from the same county and State, both of which were found in good order, and were received into fellowship with us, and the hand of fellowship was extended to their delegates.
9. Called for Correspondence from sister Associations, and received from the Judson Association, bro. L. R. Sims, J. M. Poyner, E. M. Knowles, S. Wilkerson, A. J. Armstrong. From the Newton Association, Wm. Rogers, R. Deal and L. Deal, and were received as correspondence.
10. Appointed committees as follows, viz: On Preaching, bros. D. Williams, J. Collier, with the delegates from Smyrna Church. On Documents, J. Stanley and Cook T. Brown. On Sabbath Schools, J. J. Grantham. On Finances, A. Bevis, W. Butler, T. Stapleton. On Nomination, W. J. Daniels, T. Stapleton. On

Deceased Ministers, G. Hartsfield, J. Stanley. On the State of Churches, J. J. Grantham, G. Hartsfield.

11. Bro. Rogers preached at the stand at 3 o'clock, P. M., bro. J. C. Skipper at night. Adjourned until Saturday, October 22.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22.

1. The body met according to adjournment, and called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by L. R. Sims, then proceeded to business.

2. Renewed the call for letters, and received a letter from Sandy Creek, and Petitionary Letters from Hickory Grove, and one from Ebenezer, one from Mt. Pleasant presented and received.

3. Called for the reading of the Minutes: read and adopted.

4. On motion of J. J. Grantham, the body adjourned till 1 o'clock, P. M. Preaching by R. Deal at 11 o'clock, A. M. At 2 o'clock, P. M., by D. P. Everett, at night by S. Hargrove,

Met according to adjournment. Business dispensed with to hear the lectures of bro. L. R. Sims and Roges, upon the subject of General Association, and by unanimous vote of the body, joined the General Association. Report on Nominations was read and adopted. Report on Finance was read and adopted. Corresponding letter was read and adopted. Report of Committee on Documents read and adopted. Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools read and adopted. Report of Executive Committee read and adopted. The body gave their thanks to J. M. Poyner, our Missionary, for his faithful services among us. On motion of J. J. Grantham, the body adjourned till Monday Morning 9 o'clock.

Sunday, Oct. 23d, at 11 o'clock, bro. L. R. Sims preached the missionary sermon, from Matthew, c. 13, v. 31: "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field., Then took up collection amounting to \$12.80. Bro. B. H. Bank preached in the afternoon. Preaching at night by bro. Allfords

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by bro. Hartsfield.

1. Read and adopted the Minutes of the three past days.

2. On motion, there shall be annexed to the collection on Sabbath, the collection by subscription.

3. Committee on State of Churches read and adopted.

4. Report of the Treasurer read and adpted.

5. Brother Barnes' resignation as Treasurer was received and the body tendered him their thanks for his past labor, and also sympathize with him on account of his present health.

6. On motion, appointed as Executive Committee, J. A. Collier, Chairman, bros. Cook, A. Bevis, W. Butler, G. Hartsfield.

7. On motion bro. J. A. Collier was chosen as Treasurer.

8. On motion, we, the body, tender our thanks to our sister Church at Smyrna, and citizens in the vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality so abundantly bestowed on us during our present session.

9. Resolved, that the Clerk have 400 copies of these Minutes published.

10. On motion, the Clerk was allowed \$20.00 for his services.

11. Appointed the next Association to be held with the Church at Campbellton, Jackson, Fla., on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in October, 1871.

12. On motion, the Constitution to be annexed to this Minute.

13. On motion, to correspond with the General Association, G. Hartsfield, B. H. Banks, J. J. Grantham.

14. On motion, the Report of the Treasurer of the Missionary Society was read and adopted. J. B. Worrel, Treasurer, reports by subscription, \$9.00, cash in hand \$46.40.

17. Returned correspondence to the Judson Association as follows, viz: B. H. Banks, W. Cook, A. Bevis, W. J. Daniel, R. Kid, J. A. Collier, J. B. Worrel. To the Newton Association, W. H. Creamer, W. H. Allford.

18. On motion, the body adjourned. Preaching at 11 o'clock, by E. M. Nolds. After refreshment, the farewell sermon was preached by D. P. Everett, and the parting hand was taken.

B. H. BANKS, MOD'R.

W. F. JORDAN, CL'K.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

Art. 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God, and that He has made himself known to His people under the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence and equal in divine perfection. Exodus, c. xx, v. 3, Isa. c. ix, 6-46; Matt. xxviii, 19; Mark xii, 22; John 1, 1-4, and v. 23, and x, 30, I John, v. 7.

Art. II. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. II Sam. xxiii, 2; Acts i, 16; II Tim. iii, 16-17; II Peter, i, 21.

Art. III. We believe in the doctrine of election, that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world; that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestinated them to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will. Matt. xx, 16, and xxiv, 32; John xiii, 18, and xv, 16-19; Acts xiii, 48; Rom. xiii, 38-39 and ix, 10-19, and xi, 5; Eph. i, 4-11; I Thess. ii, 13; I Peter, i, 2.

Art. IV. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. vi, 5; Psalms, v, 9; Eccle. viii, 11; Rom. vi, 20, and vii, 18, and viii, 1; I Cor. ii, 14; Cor. v, 14; Eph. ii, 1-3; Col. ii, 2-3.

Art. V. We believe in man's incompetency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own will and ability. John vi, 44, 45; Rom. xi, 6; Eph. ii, 8, 9.

Art. VI. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the

imputed righteousness of Christ. Isa. lvii, 8; Acts iv, 11, 12; Rom. iii, 21-36, and v, 6; viii, 9.

Art. VII. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. John vi, 63, and xvi, 13, 14; I Cor. ii, 10-12; II Cor. i, 10-12; Eph. ii, 1-10; II Tim. i, 9; Tit. iii, 4, 5.

Art. VIII. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John vi, 37, x, 28-30, xiii, 23; Phil. i, 6; Hebrews vi, 7, 8; Peter i, 5.

Art. IX. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism. Matt. iii, 5-12; Mark i, 5; Luke iii, 3; Acts ii, 38-42; John iii, 23; Rom. vi, 3, 4; Col. ii, 12; I Peter iii, 21; Acts xviii, 8.

Art. X. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment. Job xix, 26, 27; Daniel xii, 2; Hos. xiii, 14; Mark xii, 24-27; II Cor. v, 10.

Art. XI. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal. Matthew xxv, 45; II Thess. i, 7-9; Rev. xiv, 9-11; Daniel xii, 2; Mark ix, 43, 44; Luke ii, 17, xviii, 25; John iii, 26.

Art. XII. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances, unless he is called of God, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and is in fellowship in the church of which he is a member. Isa. lxvii, 6; Matthew ii, 7; Acts xiv, 23; Romans xii, 6, 7; I Cor. i, 1; II Cor. v, 18; Col. iv, 17; I Tim. i, 12.

#### DECORUM.

1. Every query sent up to the Association by any Church in this union, shall be read, and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated or not; and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn: provided, always, that those be first considered that affect the union of the Churches.

2. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

3. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in debate, or use indecorous language.

4. No person shall speak more than three times upon the same subject, without leave of the body.

5. No member shall abruptly break off or absent himself without leave of the body; and if he so does, he shall be marked as an absentee.

6. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the body may require.

7. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided the chair be filled; but he shall not vote, except the body be equally divided.

8. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to see that these rules are strictly observed by the body.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the body.

10. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the body rise.

11. Amendments may be made to this form of government by two-thirds of the members in session.

## CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. Those members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union shall compose the Association.

Art. 2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with their number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last Association. Also, a statement of the amount of funds sent up by the delegates, and for what purpose, and any other contribution made during the year.

Art. 3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the West Florida Baptist Association.

Art. 4. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen by the members present.

Art. 5. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor by which she can infringe upon any of the internal rights of the church.

Art. 6. If newly constituted churches, or others, desire to be admitted into this union, they shall petition by letter and delegates, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, and such reception shall be manifested by the Moderator's giving to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

Art. 7. Each church in this Association shall be entitled to two delegates until her number of members exceed fifty. For every twenty-five above that number she shall be allowed one additional delegate.

Art. 8. Every query sent to the Association by any of the churches in this union shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be discussed, and if there be a majority for discussion it shall be taken up and considered; if not, it shall be withdrawn: provided, always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the church.

Art. 9. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it. The last motion shall be the first in order.

Art. 10. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he depart from the subject.

Art. 11. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject, without permission from the Association.

Art. 12. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of a public speech, nor shall any reflection be cast upon the speaker.

Art. 13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the body, and the Association is not considered closed until after the farewell sermon is preached.

Art. 14. If any member shall break the rules of this Constitution he shall be immediately reproved by the Moderator.

Art. 15. It is the business of this Association, 1st, to provide for the general union of the churches; 2d, to keep up a correspondence with Associations of the same faith and order, that a chain of communication may be preserved among the churches; 3d, to give the churches the best advice in matters of difficulty, and if the communion between any of the sister churches be broken, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use the best means to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be made up, to withdraw from any church whom they shall look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in practice, until she be reclaimed; 4th, to admit any of the brethren in the ministry as assistants, if they shall deem it to be necessary; 5th, to appoint a Clerk to keep

the records of every meeting of the Association, and to see that he is properly remunerated for his services; 6th, to have the Minutes read and corrected, if need be, before the Association rises, and have them printed if they think proper; 7th, to amend this plan of government at any time when a majority of the Association shall deem it necessary; 8th, to adjourn to any time and place considered most proper.

#### CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The West Florida Baptist Association to her sister Associations, with whom she corresponds, greeting:—*

In the good Providence of God we yet live and hold rank among the bodies of kindred characters, and have been favored with the privilege of holding another harmonious and delightful session, though we are left to mourn over the report of coldness and barrenness in most of our churches.

Our meeting was much enhanced by the presence and labors of a goodly number of corresponding brethren from your various bodies, the continuance of which favor we earnestly solicit, though we acknowledge our inability to reciprocate it with equal numbers and talents for the want of men to send and the means to enable them to go. But most of all, we fear the absence of a right disposition and sense of obligation in our appointees who voluntarily assent to their appointments, are the most common and real cause of our failure to be represented in your session. Brethren, requite us not in this failure of duty to God and courtesy to your bodies, by the law of retaliation, but by the law of our Saviour, which teaches Christians to do good for evil, and grant us the benefit of your earnest prayers that God would give us a large measure of His spirit and make us more prompt and obedient in the discharge of our duty to Him, and His cause, and may He abundantly bless you and enable you to triumph over the powers of darkness in all your borders, is our prayer, for Christ's sake.

J. J. GRANTHAM.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

Your Committee on Documents beg leave to report that the church at Campbellton request that the next session of this body convene with them; and also, Antioch Church, Calhoun county, Fla., applied for the same.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. STANLY, *Ch'n.*

#### COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools regret that, in all the representation from the several churches, they find only two Sabbath Schools mentioned, yet we are happy to find so large and interesting Sabbath Schools at Providence and Sardis Churches. One numbers 100 members and the other is very flourishing. We hope all the churches will follow their example, and at your next session all the churches will have something to say on that subject.

J. J. GRANTHAM, *Ch'n.*

#### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations report that they have nominated Bro. B. H. Banks to preach the introductory sermon; Bro. Lawrence his alternate.

L. S. STAPLETON, *Ch'n.*

#### REPORT ON STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Your Committee on the State of the Churches report that, from the account given in your representation from the several churches in their letters, there is almost a stand-still, if not a decline, in point of and in gathering of souls for want of ministerial labor. Some of them have some ingathering and seem to enjoy the blessing of God; others are left to mourn. We would recommend all Christians to pray more earnestly that the Lord would send more labor into his vineyard.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. GRANTHAM, *Ch'n.*

#### REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers report, with gratitude to God, that He has not visited our Association during the anniversary period which we are now closing, with a ministerial bereavement by death, but His Providence has, by removal, deprived us of the services of our former Clerk, Bro. Rowe; and also, transferred his ministerial labors to another and distant field in His vineyard.

Respectfully submitted,

GREEN HARTSFIELD, *Ch'n.*

#### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee would respectfully report:—We had a meeting in April and entered into a contract with Bro. J. M. Poyner for one half of his time until the session of the Association, who entered upon his duties soon after. Bro. Poyner has visited much of our destitution, preached to destitute churches and neighborhoods, and we think that through his labors much good has been accomplished, but from his time being limited he was not able to visit the west side of the Choctahatchee, where much destitution exists.

The report of Bro. Poyner is as follows:—Number of days, 60; number of sermons preached, 40; religion, 20; baptised, 10. For which we have paid him \$75 in cash and given him a draft on the Treasurer for \$50—aggregate, \$125. Our missionary has been faithful, we think, and but for the fact that he has been afflicted of late, would have accomplished much more.

We have much destitution in our bounds, but let us not be discouraged. We think our condition, as an Association, is more hopeful. Let us continue to work and pray.

We have examined the documents referred to us, written by G. Hartsfield, and think them worthy of publication.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. COLLIER, *Ch'n.*

#### REPORT OF TREASURER OF MISS. SOCIETY.

Your Missionary Society Treasurer begs leave to report as follows:

By Cash from Friendship Church.....	\$15 10
“ “ Pilgrims Rest Church.....	8 50
“ “ Greenwood Church.....	10 00
	<hr/>
	\$33 60
Collection on Sabbath for Mission.....	12 80
	<hr/>
	Total.....\$46 40
By Subscription.....	9 00

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, the Committee on Finance beg leave to make the following report: Sent up as follows:

	For Minutes.	Assoc'n purposes.
Antioch, Calhoun County, Fla.....	\$2 00	\$
Ebenezer, Geneva County, Ala.....	1 50	
Rehoboth, " " " " " " " "	1 50	
Providence, Jackson County, Fla.....		3 05
Pilgrim's Rest, Henry County, Ala.....	1 50	
Friendship, Jackson County, Fla.....	2 00	
Bethlehem, " " " " " " " "	2 00	4 00
Union, Washington, Fla.....	1 55	
Campbellton, Jackson, Fla.....	2 00	4 00
Contribution from the former members of		
Orange Hill Church, now dissolved.....	1 00	4 00
Greenwood Church, Jackson County, Fla.....	3 00	5 00
Sandy Creek, Holms County, Fla.....	1 00	
Smyrna, Henry County, Ala.....	1 50	3 00
Demascus, Jackson, Fla.....	1 00	5 00
Hickory Grove, Dale County, Ala.....	1 00	
Poplar Spring.....	1 00	2 00
Econfina, Washington County, Fla.....	1 50	55
Sardis, Jackson, Fla.....	1 00	
Mt. Pleasant, Jackson County, Fla.....	1 00	
	\$27 55	\$30 30

A. BEVIS, Ch'n.

THOMAS BARNES, Treasurer, in account with the W. F. B. Association, October 21, 1870.

1869.	Dr.
Oct. 25, To balance due the Association, as reported this day....	\$126 32
Nov. 13, Amount received of J. B. Mathias for Minutes.....	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$127 32
1869.	Cr.
Oct. 26, By amount paid S. Rowe, Clerk, for his services.....	\$30 00
Paid S. Rowe to have Minutes printed.....	30 00
1870, Sept. 21, Paid J. M. Poyner for services as Missionary.....	67 00
Oct. 21, Paid into the Association this day.....	32
	<hr/>
	\$127 32

Respectfully submitted,  
THOMAS BARNES, Treasurer.

PLEDGES FOR DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

B. H. Banks.....	\$5 00	T. G. Burns.....	\$2 00
J. A. Collier.....	10 00	J. Dikes.....	2 00
Wm. Butler.....	5 00	C. Dikes.....	2 00
A. Bevis.....	2 00	J. Peal.....	1 00
W. J. Cook.....	2 00	J. B. Worrel.....	5 00
J. B. Mathias.....	2 00	W. H. Creamer.....	2 00
John Creamer.....	2 00	T. J. Creamer.....	2 00
James Wilson.....	2 00	Pilgrim's Rest Church.....	10 00
S. M. Franklin.....	2 00		

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS & THEIR P. OFFICES.	DELEGATES.	Baptized	Rec'd by Let'r	Dismissed	Excommunic'd	Dead.	Total.	Time Meeting
Greenwood, Jackson Co.	B. H. Banks.....	Thos. Barnes, Greenwood.....	G. Hartsfield, A. Bevis, W. Butler, W. J. Cook, A. Kidd	1	6	2	1	2	55	
Friendship, " "	E. L. Holley.....	L. Deacle, Greenwood.....	B. H. Banks, J. M. Stanley, I. D. Brown,	1	6	6	11	2	55	
Mt. Pleasant	J. C. Skipper.....	Campbellton.....	R. Creamer, U. Jourman,	1	1	1	1	1	34	
Damascus	J. C. Skipper.....	B. A. Hinson, Campbellton.....	M. York.....	1	1	1	1	1	32	
Econfina	E. L. Holley.....	Wm. A. Gainer, Vernon.....	S. Whittle, E. L. Holley.....	1	6	1	6	1	25	
Pilgrim's Rest, Henry, A.	B. H. Banks.....	T. S. Stapleton, Gordon.....	D. Williams, J. Grimslay, T. S. Stapleton,	1	4	6	1	2	32	
Campbellton, Jackson,	J. M. Poynes.....	W. J. Daniel, Campbellton.....	J. C. Collier, J. A. Collier, W. J. Daniel,	1	2	1	1	2	33	
Poplar Spring, " "	R. C. B. Lawrence	J. R. Dykes, Marianna.....	J. Dykes, C. Dykes.....	1	3	1	1	2	20	
Union, Washington Co.	T. S. Dew.....	B. M. Peal, Orange Hill.....	P. Kysler, J. Peal, J. Sowel,	1	5	1	1	2	33	
Bethlehem, Jackson		J. Harper, Marianna.....	H. Harper, J. Steward, J. Harper,	4	5	1	1	1	48	
Hickory Grove, Dale		Jas. Wilson, Beaver Creek.....	H. Libenby, W. B. Taylor, W. McDaniel, T. Creamer	20	22	2	4	1	36	
Antioch, Calhoun	J. C. Skipper.....	W. F. Jordan, Columbia.....	F. M. Franklin, B. Franklin, Thos. Barnes,	4	5	2	7	2	33	
Smyrna, Henry, Ala.	A. D. Whittle.....	Beaver Creek.....	J. B. Worrel, J. S. Worrel, L. H. Brookins, W. F. Jordan	1	5	2	1	1	66	
Beaver Creek, Geneva.	J. C. Skipper.....		J. Hall.....	11	9	1	1	1	21	
Sandy Creek, Homes	W. H. Alford.....		W. H. Alford, J. Smith.....	7	16	1	1	1	64	
Providence, Jackson	J. J. Grantham.....		Z. Johnson, G. Hill.....	1	1	1	1	1	19	
Rehoboth, Geneva	J. J. Grantham.....		H. G. McAllister, H. Smith,	2	1	1	1	1	64	
Sardis, " "	J. J. Grantham.....		J. J. Grantham, No letter,	1	1	1	1	1	64	
Ebenezer			Letter lost.....							
				61	67	5	37	29	10	654

RECAPITULATION:—19 Churches. 4 Ordained Ministers. 1 Licentiate. 654 Members in fellowship. Baptized 61. Received by Letter 67. Restored 5. Dismissed 37. Excommunicated 29. Dead 10.