

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

W. Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT CAMPBELLTON, JACKSON CO., FLA.

ON THE

21st, 22d and 23d October, A. D. 1871.

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MINUTES
OF THE
WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1871.

1. The congregation assembled, and the introductory sermon was preached by Elder B. H. Banks, from 1st Peter, 1st chap. 11th verse: Searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.
2. One hour's intermission.
3. After intermission and refreshment, the delegates convened in the Church house, and the Association was organized for business by singing, and prayer by L. R. Sims.
4. Read letters.
5. Elected Moderator and Clerk, Bro. T. E. Langley for Moderator, W. F. Jordan for Clerk.
6. Invited members, not of our body, to seats with us.
7. Called for correspondence, when the following brethren were received from the Judson, L. R. Sims, J. C. Skipper, Wm. Ross, J. Pynes, Nat Pace, H. McNath, J. A. Hooton, T. S. Wilson, J. C. Hawkins; from the Newton, J. M. Poyner, D. Rogers, M. Ausburn, M. Jones, A. N. Jones.
8. Called for petitionary letters.
9. Appointed committees as follows, viz: On Preaching, M. C. Barkwell, with the delegates from the Campbellton Church. On Finance, D. H. Horn, A. Bevis, B. A. Forrister. On Sabbath Schools, B. H. Banks, J. J. Grantham. On Nomination, W. J. Cook, T. D. Brown, W. Borum. On Deceased Ministers, R. C. B. Lawrence, W. H. Creamer, J. Grimsley. On State of the Churches, G. Hartfield, J. C. Collier. To write Corresponding Letter, G. Hartfield. On Documents, D. H. Horn, W. J. Cook, R. Lawrence. Adjourned till Monday morning 10 o'clock.
Preaching at night by Wm. Ross.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22.

Prayer meeting 9 o'clock, A. M. The missionary sermon was preached by Eld. T. E. Langley, at 11 o'clock A. M.; Bro. L. R. Sims preached at 2 o'clock P. M.; Bro. J. C. Skipper preached to the colored people at 4 P. M.; Bro. D. Rogers at night.
Collection on Sunday taken up, \$28.55.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Wm. Ross.

1. Read the minutes of the past days and adopted them.
2. Called the roll.
3. Renewed the call for correspondence.
4. Went into an election of Executive Committee, and J. A. Collier, D. H. Horn, W. J. Cook, A. Bevis, B. H. Banks, were elected.
5. Treasurer's report read and adopted. (See Appendix A.)
6. Report of Committee on Nomination read and adopted. (See Appendix B.)
7. Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers read and adopted. (See Appendix C.)
8. Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools read and adopted. (See Appendix D.)
9. Report of Committee on State of Churches read and adopted. (See Appendix E.)
10. Report of Committee on Finance read and adopted. (See Appendix F.)
11. Report of Committee on Documents read and adopted. (See Appendix G.)
12. Report of Executive Committee read and adopted. (See Appendix H.)
13. Appointed Bro. J. A. Collier to continue as Treasurer for the W. F. Association. Adjourned until 1½ o'clock.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by L. R. Sims.

1. Corresponding letter read and adopted. (See Appendix I.)
2. The body agreed to hold their next session with the Greenwood Church, to convene on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in October, 1872.
3. Called on Bro. J. M. Poyner to deliver an address on the subject of the state of the Churches, which he did, followed by L. R. Sims, J. J. Grantham, T. E. Langley, after which a collection was taken up by subscription and cash, amounting to \$145.00.
4. Appointed correspondence to the Judson Association, T. E. Langley, J. J. Grantham, D. H. Horn, J. A. Collier; to the Newton, T. Brown, A. Bevis, B. H. Banks, E. L. Holley, T. E. Langley, J. A. Collier; delegates to the General Association, T. Brown, T. E. Langley, J. Lynn.
5. On motion that any member from this body that may be at the General Association, may be considered a delegate.
6. On motion, a resolution presented by G. Hartsfield was read and adopted.
7. On motion,
Resolved, That 400 copies of these minutes be published, and that the Clerk have thirty dollars for his services.
8. Resolved, That this body tender their thanks to the Campbellton Church and vicinity, for their hospitality during this session among them; also to the Methodist friends in kindly tendering us the use of their house for the use of preaching

Adjourned to hear the farewell sermon at night. R. C. B. Lawrence preached at 11 o'clock, T. E. Langley the farewell sermon at night; after which the parting hand was taken.

T. E. LANGLEY, Mod'r.

W. F. JORDAN, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

Article 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 i, 1-4, and v. 23, and x, 30, I John, v. 7.

Art. 2. 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. 3. 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. i, 4; II Thess. ii, 13; I Peter, i, 2.

Art. 4. 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. 5. 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. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Isa. lviii, 8; Acts iv, 11, 12; Rom. iii, 21-36, and v, 6; viii, 9.

Art. 7. 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; I Tim. i, 9; Tit. iii, 47.

Art. 8. 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, xx, 28-30, xiii, 23; Phil. i, 6; Hebrews vi, 7, 8; Peter i, 5.

Art. 9. 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. 10. 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. 11. 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. 12. 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

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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 ad-

dress 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 reprobated 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 unless 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.

A—TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. A. COLLIER, Treasurer, in account with the W. F. B. Association:

1870.	Dr.
Oct. 22, Received from former Treasurer.....	\$ 32
Received of Bro. Grantham, Antioch Church.....	4 25
Collected at Association.....	1 25
Received from Finance Committee.....	58 50
Received from Treasurer of Mission Society.....	46 40
	\$110 72
1870.	Cr.
Oct. 22, Paid J. M. Poyner for services.....	\$50 00
Oct. 22, Paid Clerk the salary.....	20 00
Oct. 22, Paid for printing Minutes.....	30 00
Oct. 22, Amount to balance.....	10 72
	\$110 72

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. COLLIER, Treas'r.

B—COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION.

Your Committee on Nomination report that they have nominated Brother Lawrence to preach the introductory sermon, and Brother Hartsfield his alternate.

W. J. COOK, Ch'n.

C—COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee report with grateful hearts to our Heavenly Father that there has been no deaths of our ministering brethren during the past Association year.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. B. LAWRENCE, Ch'n.

D—COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee report as follows: They have abundant reason to regret the great indifference manifested on the part of the churches to encourage and carry on this great enterprise in the advancement of the cause of morality in our land and country, and we would say to the churches, if there is not a different interest manifested on their part, the Sabbath Schools must go down entirely. We find one Sabbath School at Providence, nine teachers and about ninety scholars.

Respectfully submitted,
B. H. BANKS, Ch'n.

E—COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES

Your Committee on the State of the Churches, under a deep sense of the difficulty of the task assigned them, and the impossibility of making out, and rendering a minute report, in all respects adequate to the importance of the subject, respectfully submit the following:

Your body consists of delegates representing eighteen churches, the names and location of which, with their casualties for the year closing, will be shown in the statistical table to be appended to your Minutes, to which table we must refer you, and all who may read your Minutes, for a more minute and definite account of the state of religion in each individual church, than time and space will here admit of our attempting to give you. The aggregate gain in membership of these eighteen churches during the last Associational year, is one hundred and fifty four. Their aggregate loss is ninety eight, which leaves a net gain of fifty-six, and a total membership of seven hundred and thirty-five. These seven hundred and thirty-five Baptists have sent up as funds to defray the casual expenses of your body, and promulgate the Gospel in your bounds, the respective sums of twenty-eight dollars and thirty cents for Minutes, and thirty-three dollars and fifteen cents for Association purposes and missions. We deem it superfluous for us to enlarge upon these facts, and further elaborate them in this report. They declare to us, and the world around us, so far as they shall become known, that the state of religion in our churches is most lamentably low. The highest amount sent up by any one church is eighteen dollars. Can that church, with her recent costly but by no means indispensable appendage to her house of worship, conscientiously say, that is all she owed her Lord at this gathering for the extension of his kingdom. Another church has reached the amount of twelve dollars. Can the consciences of that band of brethren and sisters sleep quietly over that response to the Divine demand against them, and contentedly do less at your next anniversary than quadruple it. Two others have reached four dollars each, one four dollars and fifteen cents, and one three dollars, to be divided between these two objects; while twelve have paid nothing at all into their Lord's treasury, for the establishment and extension of his kingdom with and around them; and only a few mites to procure for themselves a few of your Minutes. Some of these churches too, report revivals with considerable accessions to their numbers during the past year. If this be the fruits of the first love of these churches with their babes in Christ to be nurtured and trained for his service, what kind of fruit may they be expected to bear when they have left that love, as most assuredly they will do right early, unless they bear much fruit to the glory of God. Paul's manner was to speak gently, and give milk to infants of days; but when for the lapse of years they ought to be men, using strong meat, and were still crying for milk, he changed his voice towards them, and came to them, not in love and meekness, but with a rod and reproof. With these hints, we dismiss a subject so harshly grating to our fraternal feelings and regard for those for whose benefit they are designed; and if they are dictated by the spirit of Christ, may that spirit convey them to the hearts of all your seven hundred and thirty five constituents, and whisper in each of those hearts, how much owest thou unto thy Lord, who bought thee with the infinite price of his precious blood?

Respectfully submitted,
GREEN HARTSFIELD, Ch'n.

F—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Your Committee would respectfully report the following, viz:

	FOR MINUTES.	ASSC'N.
From Antioch, Calhoun, Co. Fla.,	\$2 00	
" Bethlehem, Jackson, Co. Fla.,	1 50	\$2 65
" Campbellton, Jackson Co. Fla.,	2 00	10 00
" Damascus, Jackson Co. Fla.,	1 00	
" Ebenezer, Geneva Co. Ala.,	1 00	
" Friendship, Jackson Co. Fla.,	2 00	
" Econfina, Washington Co. Fla.,	70	
" Greenwood, Jackson Co. Fla.,	3 00	13 00
" Hickory Grove, Dale Co. Ala.,	50	
" Mt. Pleasant, Jackson Co. Fla.,	00	
" Providence, Jackson Co. Fla.,	2 30	
" Pilgrim's Rest, Henry Co. Ala.,	2 00	2 00
" Poplar Spring, Jackson Co. Fla.,		70
" Pleasant Level, Jackson Co. Fla.,	1 30	
" Orange Hill, Washington Co. Fla.,	2 00	1 00
" Rehoboth, Dale Co. Ala.,	1 50	
" Sandy Creek, Holms Co. Fla.,	1 50	
" Smyrna, Henry Co. Ala.,	1 50	2 50
" Sardis, Jackson Co. Fla.,	2 00	

Totals,	\$28 80	\$31 85
Oct. 22, 1871, Collections on Sunday,	\$28 55	
From old pledges,	\$31 00	
From new pledges,	25 55	
	\$56 55	
For Associational purposes,	31 85	
For Minutes,	28 80	
	\$145 75	

D. H. HORN, Ch'n.

G—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee report the following query sent in from Pilgrim's Rest, viz Is it Baptist usage for one Church to receive a member into her membership that has been excluded from another Church, without conferring with the Church the expelled person formerly belonged.

Respectfully submitted,

D. H. HORN, Ch'n.

H—REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee submit the following report:

Your Treasurer's report shows a depletion of your treasury to a fraction over ten dollars, which has been its condition through the past year. This fact, in connection with a want of confidence in any prompt response, from any source, to any call they might make, has fettered their hands, and prevented their making any effort to put a missionary in your wide-spread destitution; and, but for the last act of your body prior to your recess, we should have recommended in this report, that you dispense with a committee, to whose charge you had nothing to commit; but that act has inspired a gleam of hope; and it may be prudent to keep such an agency, and cry mightily to the Lord for help, and trust him to replenish your treasury, and put into the hands of your Committee the means of introducing the engines of light into the dark places of our land.

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. A. COLLIER, Chairman.

I—CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The West Florida Baptist Association to her sister Associations, who, despite her failures to reciprocate their favors, continue their cordial fraternal correspondence with her:—

DEAR BRETHREN:—With gratitude to God and yourselves, we acknowledge the presence with us at our present session, of large delegations from the Judson and Newton, by whose presence and labors we feel both cheered and helped; and to make our routine of business complete, we appoint delegations to your next sessions; not presuming however, that you can reasonably feel any high degree of confidence in their fulfilment. Ours is a territory of great destitution, and if our brethren are detained from your assemblages by zealous labors to fill to the utmost of their ability that destitution, they are excusable in the sight of God; and could you be assured of that fact, they would no doubt be excused by you; but we can not venture to plead for them all so valid and worthy an excuse.

DEAR BRETHREN,—Let not our delinquencies and unworthiness abate your sympathies, nor repel your visits; but continue to let us have the benefit of your prayers, and the assistance of your messengers, laden with messages of peace and good will to the inhabitants of our benighted land, till our waste places be built up, and our desert blossom as the rose.

T. E. LANGLEY, Moderator.

W. F. JORDAN, Clerk.

Whereas, Brother L. R. Sims, of the Judson Association, has gratuitously visited and preached once a month the present year, at three points on our north east border; therefore,

Resolved, That we express our thanks to Brother Sims, for such gratuitous labor in our territory; and our conviction is, that our brethren and friends in, and around the points thus favorably noticed and labored for by Brother Sims, are fully able, and in duty bound to remunerate him amply for his gracious labors on their behalf.

PLEDGES, SUBSCRIPTION AND CASH.

T. E. Langley,	\$10 00	Z. Hamilton,	\$5 00
J. A. Collier,	10 00	J. C. Witherspoon,	5 00
J. C. Collier,	10 00	E. A. Pelt, (cr. by \$1).....	5 00
W. J. Daniel, paid,	10 00	J. Harper, (cr. by 95 cts.).....	5 00
J. M. Poyner,	10 00	T. Brown, (cr. by 60 cts.).....	2 00
M. E. Barkwell,	10 00	A. Bevis,	5 00
B. H. Banks,	10 00	Wm. Tucker,	5 00
H. Sewell, paid,	10 00	G. Hartsfield, paid,	2 50
W. J. Cook,	10 00	D. H. Horn,	5 00
J. Lynn,	10 00	D. U. Smith, paid,	50
C. Jerman,	5 00		

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

B. H. Banks,	Greenwood.	R. C. B. Lawrence,	Marianna.
G. Hartsfield,	Greenwood.	W. H. Alford,	Ponce deLeon.
J. J. Grantham,	Chattahoochee.	J. Steward,	
T. E. Langley,	Orange Hill.	W. P. Steward,	

LICENTIATES.

Henry Lizenby,