

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

West Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

GREENWOOD CHURCH,

Commencing on the 19th day of October, 1872.

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MINUTES.

The Association met with the Church at Greenwood, Fla., Oct. 19th, 1872. The Introductory Sermon was preached by R. C. B. Lawrence, from Acts, 9th and 6th: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do." Prayer by T. E. Langley. After one and a half hours intermission, the Association met, and was called to order by the former Moderator. Prayer by Bro. Greene Hartsfield. The former Clerk, W. F. Jordan, being absent, W. J. Daniel was elected Clerk *pro tem*.

Letters from the various Churches were handed in and read, after which, the Association was permanently organized by electing T. E. Langley, Moderator, and W. J. Daniel, Clerk.

Called for petitionary letters. Received a letter from Cedar Pond Church, requesting membership with this body. The Church was received and the right hand of fellowship extended the delegates.

Called for Correspondents: Brethren L. R. Sims, Philip Belser, and David Rogers were received from the Judson; from the Newton, J. F. H. Pitts, and J. J. Faulk.

Appointed Correspondents: To the Judson, W. J. Cook, J. B. Mathias, B. H. Banks, A. Bevis, J. J. Grantham, John Stewart, T. E. Langley, and T. H. Paramore; To the Newton, J. B. Mathias, D. A. Skipper, T. E. Langley, and Y. R. Folsom.

To the General Association: T. E. Langley, W. J. Daniel, J. C. Collier, W. H. Hinson, J. B. Mathias, and D. A. Skipper.

The following Committees were appointed: On Preaching, J. C. Collier, W. A. Boone, and the delegates from the Greenwood Church; On Finance, W. H. Hinson, T. A. Paramore, H. Sewell; On Sabbath Schools, J. J. Grantham, L. Shelfer, J. Stewart; On Nominations, W. J. Cook, B. Bevis, W. Boone; On Deceased Ministers, J. C. Collier, J. B. Mathias, B. A. Forrister; On State of

the Churches, R. C. B. Lawrence, W. Williams, G. B. Stringer ;
On Documents, D. Williams, W. A. Jackson, B. Franklin.

The Committee on preaching report Bro. Wesley Williams to
preach to-night, L. R. Sims, to-morrow at 11 o'clock, and T. E.
Langley, at 3 p. m.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by
Bro. John Stewart.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

At 10 o'clock the delegates assembled and spent an hour in
prayer.

At 11 o'clock L. R. Sims addressed the congregation from
Romans the 10th Chapter, 13th and 14th verses, and a part of
the 15th verse: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the
Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call upon him whom
they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of
whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a
preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?"
The services were closed by T. E. Langley, and a collection taken
up, amounting to \$26.40. At 7 o'clock, Bro. D. Rodgers preached
to an attentive congregation.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

T. E. Langley in the chair. After singing the 562d hymn, Bro.
Green Hartsfield led in prayer.

Read and adopted the Minutes of Saturday and Sabbath. Re-
newed call for correspondents, and Bro. Greene Hartsfield an-
nounced himself as a visitor.

Went into election of Executive Committee, and on motion,
our present Executive Committee, J. A. Collier, D. H. Horn, W. J.
Cook, A. Bevis and B. H. Banks were elected by acclamation.

A motion was made that the query sent up by the Pilgrim's
Rest Church at our last Association, and laid upon the table, be
taken up and discussed. The motion was lost.

Letters of dismissal were granted Pilgrim's Rest and Hickory
Grove Churches. It was agreed that the next meeting of this
body be held with Cedar Pond Church.

The following resolution was then presented and adopted:

Resolved. We, the members of the West Florida Association, held with
the Greenwood Church, beg leave to return our heart-felt thanks to the
citizens of Greenwood and vicinity, for their hospitality extended to us dur-
ing our session.

On motion, a collection was made in cash and pledges for mis-
sionary purposes, which resulted as follows: Received in cash
\$13 25, and in pledges, to be paid at our next Association,
\$132.00.

At the close of the session, time was given S. R. Sims, to pre-
sent the claims of the *Baptist*, published at Memphis, by J. R.
Graves; also, Bro. Greene Hartsfield, to solicit loans for the pur-
pose of publishing a manuscript of his.

T. E. LANGLEY, Moderator.

W. J. DANIEL, Clerk

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

The Committee on Nominations report, T. E. Langley to preach the In-
troduutory Sermon at our next Association.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. J. COOK, Ch'n

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

The report on Deceased Ministers was read and adopted, and is as follows:
Your Committee feel thankful that there is no deaths to report in our
Association this year.

Respectfully Submitted.

J. C. COLLIER, Ch'n.

REPORT ON STATE OF CHURCHES.

The report on the state of the Churches was read, and pending its adop-
tion, addresses were delivered by R. C. B. Lawrence, L. R. Sims, T. E.
Langley, and others. The report was adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee on the state of the Churches, report that, as far as
they have been able to learn, the Churches have been blessed with preach-
ing during the past year. Several of them have been blessed with
gracious revivals of God's grace, and a goodly number of precious souls
have been added to them. But while we rejoice at what God hath

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wrought, and view the vast uncultivated field that now lies within the bounds of this Association, unoccupied by the Heralds of the Cross, the great destitution presented to our minds seems to stare us in the face as a mighty giant, defying the armies of the living God; and here the thought is suggested to our minds, what is the cause of this great destitution? We are inclined to the opinion that the whole secret of the matter is, and has ever been, since the organization of this Association, the want of a properly cultivated principle of systematic giving to the cause of God among the several Churches.

We would therefore suggest to your honorable body, that the principle of systematic giving be recommended to the Pastors and Delegates of the Churches present, that a successful effort may be made by every member to further on the glorious cause of our God in the salvation of immortal souls during the present associational year. As regards the statistics of the Churches, we are not prepared, in *this*, to give you a correct report of the increase or decrease of the Churches. We would therefore refer you to the Minutes of the Clerk for a correct report. We believe, however, there has been an increase in numbers.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The report on Sabbath Schools was called for, read and adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee report that they have abundant reasons to regret the 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 would say to the Churches, if there is not a different interest manifested on their part, the Sabbath Schools must go down entirely, and the children of the present age will never learn that the Baptist are any more entitled to the promises in the Bible, than any other people, or cannot tell the difference between a Baptist Sabbath School and one of any other name. We find but three Schools mentioned in your letters; two of them are in a declining condition, and one a Union School.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. J. GRANTHAM, Ch'n.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents, present the following report: 1st, That the Churches at Pilgrims Rest and Hickory Grove, ask for letters of dismissal from your body, which we recommend be granted. 2d, The Churches at Friendship and Cedar Pond call for the next session of your body, to which we call your attention.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. WILLIAMS, Ch'n.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee, through their Chairman, made the following report, which was adopted:

Your Executive Committee for West Florida Association, beg leave to report that we have done nothing this year in the way of employing a Domestic Missionary, from the fact of not having funds enough to do so. We have on hand \$92 80, and ask of the Association what disposition we shall make of it.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. C. COLLIER, Ch'n.

It was agreed, by this body, that the funds the Executive Committee have on hand be turned over to the Executive Committee of the General Association.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

The report of the Committee on Finance, was read and adopted, and is as below:

	For Min.	For Asso.
Sent up from Antioch, Calhoun Co., Fla.,	\$1 50	
" " " Bethlehem, Jackson Co., "	1 85	\$ 50
" " " Cambellton " " "	3 00	3 00
" " " Cedar Pond, " " "	2 00	
" " " Damascus, " " "	1 20	
" " " Ebenezer, Geneva Co., Ala.	1 00	
" " " Friendship, Jackson Co., Fla.	2 00	
" " " Greenwood " " "	3 00	
" " " Hickory Grove, Dale Co., Ala.	1 00	
" " " Mt. Pleasant, Jackson Co., Fla.	1 00	
" " " Providence " " "	1 75	
" " " Pilgrim's Rest, Henry Co., Ala.	2 50	
" " " Popular Springs, Jackson Co., Fla.	1 00	2 00
" " " Pleasant Level " " "	1 50	50
" " " Orange Hill, Washington Co., "	2 00	3 00
" " " Snyrna, Henry Co., Ala.,	1 50	1 50
" " " Sardis, Jackson Co., Fla.,	1 30	
" " " Mt. Olive, Calhoun Co., Fla.,	2 00	1 00

Total For Minutes

\$31 10

\$11 50

" " associational purposes

11 50

Collections on Sunday

26 40

Total

\$69 00

W. H. HINSON, Ch'n

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Treasurer's Report read and adopted, and is as his report shows.

Dr.

1871. J. A. COLLIER, Treasurer, in act. with W. Fla. Association.	
To amount due last report.....	\$10 70
Collected on Sabbath.....	38 85
Recd. from Finance Committee.....	56 70
" " Old Pledges.....	31 00
" " New ".....	25 55
Total.....	\$152 80

Cr.

By amount paid Clerk.....	\$30 00
" " " for Minutes.....	30 00
" " to Balance.....	92 80
Total.....	\$152 80

Respectfully Submitted,

J. C. COLLIER, Ch'm.

DECORUM.

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 baptised, 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 Churches.

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 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 the 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 the 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.

Article 1st. 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, 1, John, v. 7.

Art. 2d. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 11 Sam. xxiii, 2; Acts i, 16; 11 Tim. iii, 16—17; 11 Peter, i, 21.

Art. 3d. 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, 5; Eph. i, 4—11; 1 Thess. i, 4; 11 Thess. ii. 13; 1 Peter, i, 2.

Art. 4th. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. vi, 5;

Psalms, v, 9; Eccl. viii, 11; Rom. vi, 20, and vii, 18, and viii, 1; 1 Cor. ii, 14; Cor. v, 14; Eph. ii, 1-3; Col. ii, 2-3.

Art. 5th. 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. 6th. We believe that 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. 7th. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. John vi, 63, x and xvi, 13-14; 1 Cor. ii, 10-12; 11 Cor. i, 10-12; Eph. ii, 1-10; 11 Tim. i, 9; Tit. iii, 4, 5.

Art. 8th. 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. 9th. 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; 1 Peter iii, 21; Acts xviii, 8.

Art. 10th. 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; 11 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. Mathew xxv, 45; 11 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. ixvii, 6; Mathew ii, 7; Acts xiv, 23; Romans xii, 6, 7; 1 Cor. i, 1; 11 Cor. v, 18; Col. iv, 17; 1 Tim i, 12.

PLEDGES DUE NEXT ASSOCIATION.

J. A. Collier,	\$10 00	D. A. Skipper,	\$5 00
W. J. Daniel,	10 00	Wm. Hood,	5 00
W. H. Hinson,	10 00	A. Bevis	5 00
W. J. Belser,	10 00	Pilgrim's Rest Church (pd)	2 75
T. E. Langley,	10 00	Mrs. Abernathy,	5 00
Miss Mollie Barnes,	10 00	J. J. Hall,	2 00
T. A. Paramore,	10 00	W. A. Jackson,	2 00
J. C. Collier, (pd 1 50)	10 00	L. Devore, (pd)	1 00
R. C. B. Lawrence,	5 00	Mr. Stringer, (pd)	1 00
W. B. Mathias, (pd 50c)	8 00	Mrs. Everett,	2 00
J. J. Cook,	5 00	H. L. Linzenby, (pd)	50
Mrs. Hays,	5 00	D. Williams, (pd)	1 00
Wm. Butler,	5 00	W. D. Barnes, (pd)	5 00

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES & COUNTIES	PASTORS	Clerks and their Post Offices	DELEGATES
Antioch, Calhoun, Fla.	D. A. Skipper	M. E. Barkswell, Bristol	D. A. Skipper, Franklin B. Franklin
Bethlehem, Jackson, Fla.	J. Stewart	W. J. Daniel, Campbellton	J. Stewart, J. B. Mathias
Campbelton, Jackson, Fla.	T. E. Langley	W. J. Belser, Nell's Landing	J. C. Collier, W. J. Daniel, W. H. Hinson
Cedar Pond, Jackson, Fla.	L. R. Sims	W. A. Jackson, Campbellton	W. A. Boone, T. A. Paramore
Damascus, Jackson, Fla.	P. Kizer	J. J. Hall, Big Creek	W. W. Parker, W. A. Jackson
Effenezer, Geneva, Ala.	D. Rogers	L. Dekle, Greenwood	F. Singletary, J. Hall
Friendship, Jackson, Fla.	J. E. Langley	J. Underwood, Big Creek	H. Sewell, J. Stephens, L. Dekle
Greenwood, Jackson, Fla.	B. W. Taylor	G. W. Bassett, Mariana	W. Cook, A. Bevis
Hickory Grove, Dale, Fla.	W. Williams	S. Arnold, Campbellton	H. Ligenby, Young Folsom
Mt. Olive, Jackson, Fla.	J. Stewart	R. M. Peel, Orange Hill	G. W. Bassett, G. W. Herring
Orange Hill, Washington, Fla.	T. S. Dew	Z. Johnson, Circle Hill	C. Jarman, A. McNeil
Providence, Jackson, Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence	T. S. Stapleton, Gordon	T. E. Langley
Pilgrim's Rest, Henry, Ala.	D. Rogers	J. R. Dykes, Mariana	Levi Shiefer, Z. Johnson
Poplar Springs, Jackson, Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence	W. T. Mercer, Mariana	L. H. DeVore, D. Williams, B. Banks
Pleasant Level, Jackson, Fla.	W. Williams	W. F. Jordan, Columbia	S. W. Dykes, H. Daffin
Smyrna, Henry, Ala.	E. M. Knowles	T. M. Murry, Circle Hill	W. Mercer
Sardis, Jackson, Fla.	J. J. Grantham		B. A. Forrister, G. B. Stringer

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