

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

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DeLAND ✦ FLORIDA

West Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CEDAR POND CHURCH,

Commencing on the 18th day of October, 1873.

JOHN POST, PRINTER, TROY, ALA.

MINUTES.

THE WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION met pursuant to adjournment with the Cedar Pond Church, Oct. 18th, 1878, and, by request of the former appointee, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. D. Rogers, from Romans 8th and 34th: "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us." After refreshments and 30 minutes intermission, the Association met in the house and was temporarily organized by the former Moderator. W. J. Cook, J. W. Rawls and the delegates from Cedar Pond Church were appointed a committee on Preaching, and appointed Bro. E. M. Knowles to preach at 2 p. m. at the stand, T. E. Langley Sunday at 11 o'clock, and R. C. B. Lawrence in the afternoon. The letters were handed in and read by Bros. L. R. Sims and W. J. Belser, after which the body was permanently organized by electing T. E. Langley, Moderator, and W. J. Daniel, Clerk.

A call for petitionary letters was made, and letters from Bethesda, Hickory Level and Magnolia Churches were presented and found orthodox. They were received and the right hand of fellowship extended their delegates.

Called for correspondents, and received from the Judson, L. R. Sims, D. Rogers, E. M. Knowles, D. Williams, T. S. Stapleton, L. D. Coonrod, Phillip Coonrod, James Coonrod, James Jordan and W. P. Jordan.

Appointed Correspondents: To the Judson, T. E. Langley, W. J. Daniel, J. T. Mann.

To the Newton: T. E. Langley, J. C. Collier, John Stuart, James Hughes, W. O. Connor, James Rawles, J. W. Johnston.

To the General Association: T. E. Langley, W. J. Daniel, J. C. Collier, A. Bevis, Wm. Cook, John Stuart, Wm. Hinson.

Appointed the following Committees:

On Finance—W. H. Hinson, J. S. White, T. A. Paramore.

On Sabbath Schools—D. A. Skipper, J. W. Johnston, J. M. Stephens.

On Nominations—Wm. Boone, W. J. Cook, G. B. Stringer.

On Deceased Ministers—A. Bevis, James Hughes, W. O. Connor.

On Missions—R. C. B. Lawrence, J. J. Grantham, John Stuart.

On Documents—J. C. Collier, W. F. Jordan, W. A. Mann.

Adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by L. R. Sims.

SABBATH, Oct. 9, 1873.

The congregation assembled at the stand, and was addressed by T. E. Langley from Colossians 2d and 10th: "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."—The services were closed by L. R. Sims, and a collection taken up amounting to \$5 35.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather, R. C. B. Lawrence preached at 2 p. m. in the Church house to an attentive congregation.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

T. E. Langley in the chair. Read and adopted minutes of Saturday and Sabbath. The committee on preaching report L. R. Sims to preach the farewell sermon at 11 o'clock. Renewed call for petitionary letters, when a letter from Apalachicola Church was presented, asking admission into this body, which was received.

The Association then went into the election of Treasurer and Executive Committee, which resulted as follows: For Treasurer, N. B. Long; for Executive Committee, R. C. B. Lawrence, Wm. Boone, W. J. Cook, A. Bevis and N. B. Long.

Report on Deceased Ministers read and adopted. Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted. Report on Nominations report R. C. B. Lawrence to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session. The report on Missions read, and pending its adoption, speeches were made by T. E. Langley, J. J. Grantham, L. R. Sims, and others. It was finally adopted, and is as the report shows. The report on Documents read and adopted.

Granted Smyrna Church a letter of dismissal, and agreed that

the next meeting of the body be held with Friendship Church on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in October, 1874.

Report on Finance read and adopted.

An opportunity was offered for the payment of pledges made at the last Association, and the sum of \$96 00 paid. An opportunity was also offered, and the sum of \$168 00 was pledged to be paid at the next Association.

Agreed to pay the Clerk \$30 00 for his services, and only expend \$28 50 for minutes, that being the actual amount sent up by the Churches for that purpose.

At the close of the session T. E. Langley took occasion to present the claims of the *Florida Baptist*, published at Lake City, Fla., and it was unanimously agreed that this body adopt that paper as its organ of religious intelligence.

Resolved, That we, the members of the West Florida Baptist Association, beg leave to return our sincere and heart-felt thanks to the citizens living in the vicinity of Cedar Pond Church, for the hospitality extended to us during our session.

Adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed.

T. E. LANGLEY, Moderator.

W. J. DANIEL, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

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

Respectfully submitted.

A. BEVIS, Ch'n.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that, from the tenor of the letters sent up by the Churches, there is but little interest taken in this direction, only two or three schools being mentioned. We are truly sorry to see so little interest manifested on the part of the Churches. We would urge this all-important duty on the brethren, and pray that God would make us more faithful in the discharge of our duty.

D. A. SKIPPER, Ch'n.

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REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions regret to report the great indifference manifested on the part of the Churches, and the little interest taken in the Missionary cause. We would urge upon the Churches a more active participation in the work. The need of an active, well-qualified Colporteur within the bounds of the Association, is universally admitted. Brethren who have the matter at heart, express much anxiety for one to be appointed. Your Committee would recommend to the Church the plan of regular and systematic contributions; and while urging the claims at home, we would not have the brethren forget the claims of foreign missions.

Respectfully submitted.

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

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee on Documents present the following report: 1st. That Smyrna Church asks for a letter of dismission, which we recommend be granted; also, that Campbellton and Friendship Churches request that your body convene with them at its next session.

Respectfully submitted.

J. C. COLLIER, Ch'n.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

	Min'ts.	Mis'ns.	Asso.
Sent up from Antioch, Calhoun Co., Fla.,	\$ 1 50	\$	\$ 1 75
" " " Bethlehem, Jackson, Co., Fla.,	3 00	21 40	2 00
" " " Campbellton, " " "	2 00		3 00
" " " Cedar Pond, Jackson, Co., Fla.,	1 25		
" " " Demascus, " " "			
" " " Evergreen, Geneva Co., Ala.,	2 00		75
" " " Friendship, Jackson Co., Fla.,	3 00		2 00
" " " Greenwood, " " "	1 00		45
" " " Hickory Level, " " "	1 00		
" " " Mt. Pleasant, " " "	3 35		
" " " Providence, " " "	1 00		1 35
" " " Poplar Springs, " " "			
" " " Pleasant Level, " " "	2 00	2 50	2 00
" " " Orange Hill, Washington Co., Fla.,	1 50		
" " " Smyrna, Henry Co., Ala.,	1 00		
" " " Sardis, Jackson Co., Fla.,	1 00	1 00	
" " " Mt. Olive, Calhoun Co., Fla.,	75		
" " " Magnolia, " " "	1 50		
" " " Rehoboth, " " "		5 00	
Received from members Greenwood Church,	\$28 50	\$29 90	\$13 80
Received for Minutes,	\$28 50		
Received for Missions,	29 90		
Received for Associational Purposes,	13 80		
Collected on Sabbath,	15 35		
Collected pledges amounting to	96 00		
	\$183 55		

W. H. HINSON, Ch'n.

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 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 As-

sociations 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; Eccle. 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. ivii, 8; Acts iy, 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, 47.

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. ii, 5—12; Mark i, 5; Luke

xi, 5; 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. 1, 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; Matthew 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.

W. J. Belser,	\$10 00	Bro. Bryant,	\$5 00
Dr. Abernathy,	10 00	Mrs. Hayes,	5 00
T. E. Langley,	10 00	Mrs. C. Langley,	5 00
W. J. Daniel,	10 00	R. C. B. Lawrence,	5 00
J. C. Collier,	10 00	W. J. Boone,	5 00
W. H. Hinson,	10 00	Mrs. Annie Hinson,	5 00
Miss Mollie Barnes,	10 00	Bro. Lynn,	5 00
T. A. Paramore,	10 00	Mrs. Mack Hartsfield,	2 00
J. M. Stephens,	10 00	Miss Eliza Cox,	2 00
W. J. Gook,	5 00	Mrs. Greene Kirkland,	2 00
A. Bevis,	5 00	Mrs. Julia Pike,	2 00
Wm. Boone,	5 00	W. D. Barnes,	5 00
Wm. Taylor,	5 00	Wm. Butler,	5 00
Bro. Monerief,	5 00		

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES & COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS & POST OFFICERS.	DELEGATES.	Baptised,.....	Re'd by Letter..	Dismissed,.....	Excommuni'd.	Dead,.....	Total,.....
Autioch, Calhoun, Fla.....	D. A. Skipper.....	Bristol.....	W. O. Connor, James Rawls.....	00	00	00	00	00	00
Apalachicola, Franklin, Fla..	S. J. Revel.....	L. M. Fowler, Apalachicola..	D. U. Smith, B. F. Smith.....	24	15	00	00	00	39
Bethlehem, Jackson, Fla.....	John Stuart.....	M. Davis, Big Creek.....	W. H. Hinson, J. C. Collier, W. J. Daniel	00	5	00	00	3	29
Bethesda, Geneva, Ala.....	M. Osborn.....	W. J. Daniel, Campbellton..	W. H. Hinson, J. C. Collier, W. J. Daniel	00	9	00	00	00	26
Campbellton, Jackson, Fla..	T. E. Langley.....	W. J. B. Iser, Neil's Landing..	J. W. Johnson, Miles York.....	7	00	00	00	2	41
Cedar Pond, Jackson, Fla.....	L. R. Sims.....	J. J. White, Campbellton....	H. McDaniel, H. Sewell, J. M. Stephens.	13	2	00	3	00	39
Demascus, Jackson, Fla.....	M. Osborn.....	L. Dekle, Greenwood.....	J. W. Johnson, Miles York.....	12	7	5	10	00	55
Friendship, Jackson, Fla.....	D. Rogers.....	N. B. Long, Greenwood.....	H. McDaniel, H. Sewell, J. M. Stephens.	10	00	00	4	00	48
Greenwood, Jackson, Fla.....	T. E. Langley.....	S. Pumphrey, Marianna.....	J. Stuart, S. Pumphrey.....	16	3	1	2	00	52
Hickory Level, Jackson, Fla..	John Stuart.....	A. R. Herring, Marianna.....	A. R. Herring, J. T. Mann.....	17	3	1	00	00	20
Mt. Olive, Jackson, Fla.....	D. A. Skipper.....	J. Bailey, Abe Spring, Fla... W. A. Mann, Campbelton....	Pat. Kelley.....	3	3	00	00	00	38
Magnolia, Calhoun, Fla.....	D. A. Skipper.....	R. M. Peel, Orange Hill, Fla..	W. A. Mann, C. Jarman.....	00	2	00	9	3	13
Mt. Pleasant, Jackson, Fla..	John Stuart.....	J. R. Dykes, Marianna.....	Thos. Dew, T. Langley.....	00	00	4	00	00	45
Orange Hill, Washington, Fla.	Thos. Dew.....	W. J. Dykes, Circle Hill, Fla..	J. J. White, Geo. Dykes, B. Dykes,	6	00	1	1	2	36
Poplar Springs, Jackson, Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence.....	Z. Johnson, Big Creek, Ala..	Z. Johnson, Z. Hamilton, L. Sheifer...	2	2	00	00	00	29
Providence, Jackson, Fla.....	J. F. Taylor.....	W. J. Smith, Big Creek, Ala..	J. Hughes, W. Register.....	2	00	00	14	1	47
Rehoboth, Geneva, Ala.....	J. C. Skipper.....	W. H. Creamer, Poplar Head	G. B. Stringer, W. F. Jordan.....	00	4	00	00	1	74
Smyrna, Henry, Ala.....	J. T. Mann.....	Calvin Dykes, Marianna.....	J. N. Mercer, J. Y. Folsom.....	1	5	00	00	00	32
Rockey Grove, Jackson, Fla..	J. T. Mann.....			125	76	13	45	10	8,660

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