

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

West Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT CAMPBELLTON,

Commencing on the 16th of October, A. D. 1875.

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1875.

## MINUTES.

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The Twenty-ninth Annual Session of the WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with the Baptist Church at Campbellton, commencing on the 16th and ending on the 18th of October, 1875.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder John Stuart, from Job, xiv Chapter and 6th verse, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life," &c.

At 2 P. M. the body was called to order by Eld. Thos. E. Langley. Prayer by Bro. J. C. Skipper.

The letters were handed in and read by Eld. L. R. Sims and Bro. W. H. Taylor, and the following delegates enrolled:

Bethlehem—J. W. Rawls, J. F. Barfield.

Bethesda—B. F. Smith, J. M. Davis.

Cristian Hope—D. M. Mooneyham, John Cloud.

Concord—Jacob Harden, F. Forehand.

Cedar Pond—W. A. Boone, H. C. Neel.

Campbellton—J. C. Collier, E. N. Dekle, W. J. Daniel.

Damascus—J. H. Brookins, W. W. Parker.

Donafina—W. A. Gainer.

Ephesus—J. W. Christmas, Frank Tye.

Ebenezer—M. Russell.

Friendship—J. Lynn, J. M. Stephens.

Greenwood—W. H. Taylor, W. J. Godwin, N. B. Long.

M. Pleasant—C. Jarman.

Memphis—M. G. Pitts.

Mid Olive—J. H. Gabriel, M. Keel.

Orange Hill—J. M. Peel, T. E. Langley.

Paradise Grove—W. F. Messer.

Poplar Spring—John Dykes, James Dykes.

Providence—M. M. Dickson, Levi Sheefer.

Rocky Grove—S. Henderson, A. J. Sullivan.

Sardis—J. Hatcher, J. J. Grantham.

Selma—J. A. Johnson, H. Lizenby.

Rehoboth—J. Sanders, Silas Williford.

The body went into election of officers which resulted in the election

of the following: T. E. Langley, Moderator, and W. J. Daniel, Clerk.

Called for Petitionary Letters, and received letters from Ephesus and Christian Hope. They were found orthodox, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their delegates.

Called for correspondents, and received from the Judson Association, brethren L. R. Sims, G. S. Stanton, W. H. Banks, J. C. Skipper, D. Coonrod, W. F. Jordan, Daniel Williams, Nat Pace, Jno. Waters.

Returned the following correspondence: To the Judson—W. J. Cook, W. D. Skipper, T. E. Langley. To the Newton—H. L. Lizenby.

William Boone, W. J. Cook, and the delegates from Campbellton Church, were appointed a Committee on Preaching, and they appointed Eld. J. J. Grantham to preach Saturday night; L. R. Sims on Sabbath at 11 o'clock; T. E. Langley at 2 p. m.; and M. Osborn at 7.

Adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

The following committees were announced on Sunday by the Moderator:

ON DECEASED MINISTERS—J. J. Grantham, J. A. Johnson, J. B. Henderson.

ON MISSIONS—W. J. Daniel, W. H. Taylor, E. N. Dekle.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—N. B. Long, B. F. Smith, M. M. Dixon.

ON FINANCE—W. A. Gainer, H. C. Neel, J. M. Stephens.

ON NOMINATIONS—J. W. Rawls, J. Lynn, J. F. Barfield.

ON DOCUMENTS—J. W. Godwin, John Dykes, J. H. Gabriel.

#### MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

T. E. Langley in the Chair. The body was called to order and prayer by Bro. Albritton.

Renewed call for correspondence and received Bro. Brewner from the Judson.

The Committee on Nominations made their report and elected Eld. T. E. Langley to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next session.

Your Committee on Documents presented the following report:

#### REPORT ON DOCUMENTS:

The Church at Rocky Grove requests the meeting of your body with it the next session, and we recommend that you meet with them.

Also would present for your action a query as sent up from the Church at Memphis, "Is it not unscriptural for a Church to allow her members to act in any church capacity whatever with an excluded member of a Baptist Church?"

The above report was adopted and the query answered in the affirmative.

The report on Sabbath Schools read, and pending its adoption, Eld. L. R. Sims made an argument before the body and made it very clearly a Bible duty for members of the Church to meet at their respective places of worship and engage every Sabbath, if possible, in studying the Bible.

The report was adopted and is as follows:

#### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS:

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools do lament to report the existence of only one School within the bounds of this Association, and it seems to be somewhat in dispute as to whether it belongs to the Baptist or some other denomination.

Brethren, it is a hard matter for your Committee to make a report upon Sabbath Schools when there are no schools to base a report upon. We would, however, suggest to your body the propriety of dropping from your list of Committees that one usually appointed on Sabbath Schools, unless there is more interest manifested in the future than there has been for some time in the past.

Respectfully,

N. B. LONG, Chm'n.

The report on Missions read and adopted, and is as the report shows.

#### REPORT ON MISSIONS:

Your Committee on Missions respectfully submit the following report: That upon examining the letters sent up to your Association, we have not been able to find a Church but what has been supplied with the preached Word during this associational year. But if we take the amount of money sent up by these Churches for Missions as an index to the interest felt in the extension of the Gospel to that part of your Association where destitution abounds, we must say that they feel but little interest in the salvation of those who have not the privilege of hearing the Word preached. To call your attention to the destitution is but to repeat reports that have been made ever since your body has been organized. Year after year plans have been devised whereby we might be able to supply to some extent our destitution, but instead of the plans having succeeded, we seem to be, if anything, growing worse. Your Committee, however, would suggest for your consideration, one other plan, and at this point in our report, would take occasion to impress, if possible, as with a pen of iron, your duty as churches, to your pastors. The plan which we are about to suggest is somewhat dependent upon the performance of your duty in this particular, and unless you take better care of your pastors than some of you are doing, not only this plan will prove a failure, but you will have need for a missionary yourselves. The plan is embraced in the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st. That the ministers of this Association be requested to supply the destitution nearest to them to the extent of their ability.

Resolved 2d. That pledges be called for from this Association to remunerate, to some extent, these brethren for their services.

Resolved 3d. That any brother proposing to labor in accordance with resolution 1st, and receiving compensation in accordance with resolution 2d shall have the endorsement and recommendation of the Executive Committee of this Association.

W. J. DANIEL, Chm'n.

In order to carry into effect the third resolution of the Report on Missions the body proceeded to elect the following brethren an Executive Committee: J. W. Rawls, J. W. Godwin, Jacob Stephens, A. J. Sullivan, and W. J. Daniel.

The Committee on Deceased Ministers presented the following report:

#### REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS:

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers regret to report the death of Bro. Wm. Borum. Yet, while we regret to report our loss, we feel that

it is his eternal gain. We can but offer our deepest sympathy to his bereaved family, and encourage them to strive to become as well fitted for death as our beloved brother, and very soon will they not only meet him in heaven but all the finally faithful.

The Report adopted.

The Preaching Committee reported that they had appointed Eld. L. R. Sims to deliver the farewell address.

Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock the body met pursuant to adjournment.

The amount of \$74 was handed in for pledges made at the last Association; also pledges to the amount of \$152.50 were taken, payable at the meeting of the next Association.

Agreed to have 500 copies of the Minutes printed and draw upon the Executive Committee for the cost of them.

Also agreed to pay the Clerk \$20 for his services.

Appointed the following brethren delegates to the General Association, to meet with the Church at Greenwood, Fla., the 3d Sabbath in November: H. C. Neel, W. H. Taylor, J. W. Rawls, Council Jarman, A. J. Sullivan, W. J. Daniel, J. Lynn, K. White, J. J. Grantham, Wm. Gainer, and on motion, the Moderator was added to the list.

Passed resolution of thanks to the citizens of Campbellton and vicinity, for their hospitality during the session, and adjourned to meet with the church at Rocky Grove, on the 3d Saturday in October, 1876.

T. E. LANGLEY, MODERATOR,

W. J. DANIEL, Clerk.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Sent up from :	Minutes.	Miss'ns.	Ass'nal.
Bethlehem, Jackson county, Fla.....	\$1 50	\$ 50	\$1 50
Bethesda, Geneva county, Ala.....	1 00		
Cedar Pond, Jackson county, Fla.....	2 00		3 00
Campbellton, " " ".....	2 50		2 50
Concord, " " ".....	75	25	25
Christian Hope, " " ".....	1 00	3 00	1 00
Damascus, " " ".....	1 05		
Ebenezer, Geneva county, Ala.....	1 00	1 00	
Econfina, Washington county, Fla.....	75		1 75
Ebenezer, " " ".....	1 00		1 00
Ephesus, Jackson county, ".....	1 50		1 50
Friendship, " " ".....	1 50	4 35	1 30
Greenwood, " " ".....	2 00		3 00
Hickory Level " " ".....			
Magnolia, Calhoun county, Fla.....			
Mt. Olive, Jackson county, ".....	1 00		35
Memphis, Henry county, Ala.....	1 50	4 00	1 90
Mt. Pleasant, Jackson county, Fla.....	1 50		
Orange Hill, Washington county, Fla.....	75		50
Poplar Spring, Jackson, " ".....	1 00		1 15
Providence, " " ".....	3 00		
Paradise Grove, " " ".....	1 50		85
Rocky Grove, " " ".....	1 50		
Sardis, " " ".....			3 00
Selma, Geneva county, Ala.....	1 00		
Rhehobeth, " " ".....	1 35		
Collected on Sabbath,.....		23 15	
		\$31 65	\$36 25
			\$24 55

W. A. GAINER, Chm'n.

92.45

LIST OF PLEDGES DUE NEXT ASSOCIATION.

J. H. Stephens,.....	\$10 00	Mrs. M. E. Hinson,.....	\$5 00
W. J. Daniel,.....	10 00	Mrs. Josie Daniel,.....	5 00
Jas. C. Collier,.....	10 00	Wm. C. Dickson,.....	5 00
Miss Mollie Barnes,.....	10 00	J. A. Daniel,.....	5 00
E. N. Dekle,.....	10 00	D. A. Skipper,.....	2 50
Mrs. Ammie Hinson,.....	10 00	J. M. Stephens,.....	2 50
W. H. Taylor,.....	5 00	J. B. Henderson,.....	2 50
N. B. Long,.....	5 00	A. J. Sullivan,.....	2 50
W. A. Gainer,.....	5 00	James Hatcher,.....	2 50
J. Lynn,.....	5 00	Robt. Jones,.....	2 50
Mrs. J. Collier,.....	5 00	Jacob Williford,.....	2 50
Mrs. S. C. Daniel,.....	5 00	J. H. Gabriel,.....	1 00
Mrs. B. A. Hinson,.....	5 00	H. L. Lizenby,.....	1 00
James Cotton,.....	5 00	Council Jarman,.....	1 00
John Cloud,.....	5 00	J. A. Johnson,.....	1 00
A. Bevis,.....	5 00	K. White,.....	1 00

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## 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 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.

Art. 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God, that He has made himself known to His people under the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.—Exodus, xx chap. v. 3; Isaiah, ix chap. v. 6; Matthew, xxviii chap. v. 19.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2nd Peter, i chap. v. 21; Acts, i chap. v. 16; 2d Timoth, iii chap. v. 16, 17.

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.—Matthew, xxiv chap. v. 31; John, xv chap. v. 16, 19; Acts, xiii chap. v. 48.

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Genesis, vi chap. v. 5; Romans, vi chap. v. 20; Ephesians, ii chap. v. 1, 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 chap. v. 44; Romans, xi chap. v. 6; Ephesians, ii chap. v. 8, 9.

Art. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.—Jeremiah, xxiii chap. v. 6; Romans, iii chap. v. 21, 26; Romans, viii chap. v. 9, 10.

Art. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.—John, vi chap. v. 63; John, xvi chap. v. 13, 14; 1st Corinthians, ii chap. v. 10, 12.

Art. 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believer from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.—John, vi chap. v. 37; Philippians, i chap. v. 6; John, x chap. v. 28, 30.

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.—Matthew, iii chap. v. 5, 9; Romans, vi chap. v. 4, 5; 1st Corinthians, xv chap. v. 29.

Art. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.—1st Corinthians, xv chap. v. 20, 23; Matthew, xxv chap. v. 32, 33; Revelations, xx chap. v. 12.

Art. 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous eternal.—Matthew, xxv chap. v. 46.

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 full fellowship in the church of which he is a member.—Hebrews, v chap. v. 4; 1st Timothy, iv chap. v. 14.

# STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES & COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.	Baptized,	Rec'd by Letter	Restored,	Dismissed,	Excommunicated	Dead,	Total,
Bethlehem, Jackson County, Fla.	J. W. Johnson,	J. M. Davis, Big Creek,	10	6	1	2	1	1	33
Bethesda, Geneva Co., Ala.	M. Osborn,		1						16
Concord, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. W. Johnson,		3	1	1	4	1		12
Christian Hope, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. J. Grautham,	D. M. Mooneyham, Circle Hill,	1						13
Campbellton, Jackson Co., Fla.	T. E. Langley,	W. J. Daniel, Campbellton,	20	1	19	4			41
Cedar Pond, Jackson Co., Fla.	L. R. Sims,	W. J. Belser, Neal's Landing, Fla.,	7	3	4	4	2		50
Damascus, Jackson Co., Fla.	M. Osborne,	J. J. White, Campbellton, Fla.,	19	7	7	3	1		63
Ephesus, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. W. Johnson,	M. Christmas, Campbellton,	6						23
Economia, Washington Co., Fla.	T. E. Langley,	W. A. Gainer,	4	1	1	1	5		23
Ebenezer Geneva Co., Ala.	T. E. Langley,	A. S. Fellows, Big Creek,	1	1	1				26
Ebenezer Washington Co.	D. Rodgers,	J. M. Simmons, Vernon,	2	1	2	1	2		30
Friendship, Jackson Co., Fla.	T. E. Langley,	L. Dekle, Greenwood, Fla.,							41
Greenwood, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. F. Taylor,	N. B. Long, Greenwood, Fla.,	4	1	12	1	1		48
ML Olive, Calhoun Co., Fla.	J. W. Johnson,	J. H. Gabriel, Marianna,	15	6	4	1	1		31
Memphis, Henry Co., Ala.	J. W. Johnson,	J. Ellis, Campbellton,	15	9	4	4	1		46
ML Pleasant, Jackson Co., Fla.	T. E. Langley,	R. M. Peel, Orange Hill,	1	1					5
Orange Hill, Washington Co.	J. T. Mann,	W. F. Messer, Greenwood,							35
Paradise Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence,	Z. Johnson, Circle Hill,	1						13
Providence, Jackson Co., Fla.	R. C. B. Lawrence,	J. R. Dykes, Marianna,	2	2	3	1			33
Poplar Spring, Jackson Co., Fla.	P. Klizer,	W. J. Smith, Big Creek,	4	4	3	3			25
Rehoboth, Geneva Co., Ala.	J. Stuart,	C. Dykes, Marianna,	8	4	3	3			38
Rocky Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. C. Skipper,	L. Martin, Big Creek,	7	3	4	3			49
Selma, Geneva Co., Ala.	J. J. Grantham,	W. S. Grantham,	5	7	6				29
Sardis, Jackson Co., Fla.			121	54	17	77	20	13	823