


MINUTES



OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

West Florida Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT ROCKY GROVE,

COMMENCING ON 14th OCTOBER, 1876.

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1876.



MINUTES.

The Thirtieth Annual Session of the WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with the Church at Rocky Grove, Jackson county, Florida, October 14th, 1876, and at the request of the regular appointee the Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. John W. Johnson, from the 4th Chapter and 13th verse of Acts: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men they marvelled—and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus."

After refreshments and one and a half hours intermission the body convened in the house, and was called to order by the former Moderator. Prayer by R. C. B. Lawrence.

Called for the letters, and they were read by Brethren J. T. Mann and W. H. Taylor, after which the body proceeded to perfect its organization by electing Thos. E. Langley Moderator, and W. J. Daniel Clerk. The Moderator returned thanks to the body for another expression of their confidence in him as their presiding officer.

The Clerk proceeded to enroll the following delegates:

Antioch—Thomas Parish, John Kenedy.
Bethlehem—J. W. Rawles, D. A. Skipper.
Campbellton—W. J. Daniel, James C. Collier, James Peel.
Cedar Pond—Robert Kidd, William Boone.
Christian Hope—Jesse Grant.
Concord—Jacob Hardin, J. W. Johnson.
Damascus—George Phillips, Jarret Miller.
Ephesus—James Brewner, John Brewner.
Friendship—J. H. Stephens.
Greenwood—T. E. Langley, J. W. Godwin.
Hickory Level—William Thompson, J. S. McCormac.
Memphis—E. S. Johnson.
Mt. Olive—S. O'Bryan, J. H. Gable.
Orange Hill—R. M. Peel.
Poplar Spring—J. R. Dykes, John S. White.
Providence—Z. Johnson, Jonathan Hill.
Paradise Grove—J. T. Mann, J. W. Messer.
Rocky Grove—W. H. Dykes, J. Y. Folsom.
Selma—Y. R. Folsom.

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Called for petitionary letters, and received none.

Called for correspondents from other Associations, and received Brethren Daniel Williams, David Coonrod, Joseph Coonrod and Phillip Coonrod from the Judson.

Appointed correspondents as follows :

To the Judson Association—T. E. Langley, Robert Kidd, J. H. Stephens, J. W. Johnson, Wm. Boone.

To the Newton Association—W. J. Daniel, T. E. Langley, J. C. Collier, J. R. Dykes, D. W. Skipper.

J. W. Rawles, James Peel and the delegates from Rocky Grove Church were appointed a Committee on Preaching, and they appointed Bro. D. W. Skipper to preach at the stand at 3 o'clock this (Saturday) evening, Bro. Robert Kidd to-night and T. E. Langley on Sabbath at eleven o'clock.

The Moderator announced the following committees :

ON DOCUMENTS—J. C. Collier, J. W. Johnson, J. H. Gable.

ON NOMINATIONS—J. T. Mann, W. H. Dykes, J. S. White.

ON MISSIONS—W. J. Daniel, John Stuart, William Boone.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS—R. Kidd, Z. Johnson, J. Kenedy.

ON FINANCE—J. H. Stephens, J. R. Dykes, Thos. Parish.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—D. A. Skipper, Y. R. Folsom, E. S. Johnson.

A motion to adjourn and meet Monday morning, 9 o'clock, was carried. Prayer by Bro. John Stuart.

Met on Sabbath morning in prayer meeting capacity, conducted by Bro. Robert Kidd. At 11 o'clock the stand was occupied by T. E. Langley, and at night by Bro. Masgrove.

Met Monday morning pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. Herring.

Renewed the call for petitionary letters and received a letter from Flat Creek Church, Gadsden county, Fla. The church was found orthodox and received as a member of this body.

Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted as below.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools regret that so important a matter should be so generally and almost entirely neglected in your churches. We believe there is not a single school reported in a prosperous condition—only one, we think, at all. We can only do what your former committees have done, and that is to recommend you to organize Sabbath schools in every church. We feel satisfied if we could only get you to try it once, there would be but little trouble afterwards to keep them up. But how will we ever get you to try it first.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. SKIPPER, Ch'n.

Report on Documents read and adopted :

Your committee beg leave to report that they find nothing in the documents claiming your attention, more than the Church at Sandy creek wants a letter of dismission, and that the church at Greenwood desires your body to meet with it the next year. We recommend that both requests be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. COLLIER, Ch'n.

Your Committee on Nominations appoint J. W. Johnson to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of your body.

Respectfully,

J. T. MANN, Ch'n.

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers feel very thankful, indeed, to report to you no deaths among our ministerial brethren this year. Brethren, our ministerial strength is quite weak, as you are all aware. Let us then appreciate the goodness and love of God in preserving the lives of our ministers during this associational year.

Respectfully,

ROBERT KIDD, Ch'n.

Adopted the report of the Executive Committee and is as their report shows.

The report on Missions read, and pending its adoption speeches were made by several of the brethren, and the body agreed to exhaust the money on hand after printing the Minutes and paying the Clerk, in sending Bro. Herring to some good school instead of employing a missionary as heretofore.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee would briefly report as follows : That owing to the small amount of funds sent up at the meeting of your body one year, hence there has been but little labor, comparatively speaking, done within your destitution, and we are sorry to report to you that notwithstanding the demand for labor is greater than it ever has been, there is but very little sent up again by the churches to send the gospel to the destitute. It was a fact well known to all of us at our last meeting that our destitution was considerably more than we could supply, and from the number of churches that in our knowledge were supplied then that have no preaching now, we are bound to conclude that our condition is worse even now than then. As to what course would be best for you to pursue we are unable to advise, but would it not be well for you to consider now what you have done for a number of years past and ask yourselves the question has the mission work, with its past management been a success. If it has not would not the meeting of your body now be too early for you to instruct your Executive Committee to expend the money sent up, together with the pledges made at the last Association in a way that it would be more beneficial to the cause of Christ.

W. J. DANIEL, Ch'n.

The body retained their present Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Bro. John Stuart made a verbal report of his labors as Missionary during the past associational year.

The Report on Finance was read and adopted.

The body decided to dispense with the collections generally taken up on Sabbaths during the meeting of the Association; also, the pledge plan of raising missionary funds as heretofore adopted, and in lieu thereof, recommended the churches to adopt some plan best suited to themselves and send their funds by the hands of their delegates.

Resolution of thanks adopted.

The delegates of the West Florida Association tender their heartfelt thanks to the brethren and citizens of Rocky Grove Church for their kindness and hospitality during our session.

Agreed to print five hundred copies of Minutes and pay the Clerk \$21 25 for his services.

Pledges made at the meeting of the last Association called for and the sum of \$71 00 was paid.

Adjourned to meet with the Church at Greenwood, Fla., on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1877.

W. J. DANIEL, Clerk.

THOS. E. LANGLEY, Mod'r.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your committee would state that on the fifth Sabbath in January last they held a meeting and employed both Brothers John Stuart and M. Osborn to labor a portion of their time within your destitution, and paid them therefor, respectively, \$35 00 and \$36 00. Bro. Stuart has made a satisfactory statement of his labors. Bro. Osborn has not informed us to what extent he has labored, but we have every reason to believe that he has done much good within your bounds.

Respectfully,

W. J. DANIEL.

I would state that since the adjournment of the Association I have had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Osborn and he reported the result of his labors, as missionary, as follows: Days spent in the destitution 57; miles traveled 545; sermons preached, 41; Baptised, 2.

CLERK.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Received from Finance Committee, | \$91 00 |
| Paid Clerk for his services, | \$20 00 |
| " Bro. Stuart for services, | 35 00 |
| " Mr. Osborn for services, | 36 00 |
| | <hr/> \$91 00 |

REPORT ON FINANCE.

| | Minutes. | Ass'nal Purposes |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Sent up from : | | |
| Antioch, Calhoun county, Fla., | \$1 50 | |
| Bethlehem, Jackson county, Fla., | 1 50 | \$1 00 |
| Bethesda, Geneva county, Ala., | 1 50 | 3 50 |
| Cedar Pond, Jackson county, Fla., | 3 00 | 3 00 |
| Campbellton, Jackson county, Fla., | 1 00 | |
| Concord, " " " | 1 50 | 2 00 |
| Christian Hope, " " " | 1 55 | |
| Damascus, " " " | 2 00 | 50 |
| Flat Creek, Gadsden county, Fla., | 1 00 | 50 |
| Ephesus, Jackson county, Fla., | 1 50 | 3 50 |
| Friendship, " " " | 2 00 | 2 00 |
| Greenwood, " " " | 1 00 | 1 35 |
| Hickory Level " " " | | |
| Magnolia, Calhoun county, Fla., | 1 00 | 25 |
| Mt. Olive, Jackson county, Fla., | 1 00 | |
| Memphis, Henry county, Ala., | | |
| Mt. Pleasant, Jackson county, Fla., | 1 50 | 50 |
| Orange Hill, Washington county, Fla., | 50 | 1 00 |
| Poplar Spring, Jackson county, Fla., | 2 00 | 2 00 |
| Providence, " " " | 1 00 | 50 |
| Paradise Grove, " " " | 2 00 | 1 00 |
| Rocky Grove, " " " | | |
| Sardis, " " " | 1 00 | |
| Selma, Geneva county, Ala., | | |
| Rehoboth, " " " | | |
| | <hr/> \$28 05 | \$22 60 |
| Total, | | |
| Collected on Sabbath, \$6 70 | | |

J. H. STEPHENS, Chm'n.

LIST OF FLEDGES 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 Mallie 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 |
| H. Taylor, | 5 00 | J. B. Henderson, | 2 50 |
| B. Long, | 5 00 | A. J. Sullivan, | 2 50 |
| M. A. Galner, | 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. Davis, | 5 00 | K. White, | 1 00 |

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 reprovved 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 service; 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 Timothy, 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, xiv 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, v ii 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 AND COUNTIES. | PASTORS. | CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES. | Baptised. | Rec'd by Letter. | Restored. | Dismissed. | Excommunicated. | Dead. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Antioch, Calhoun county, Fla. | J. J. Grantham. | C. A. Barber, West Winton, Fla. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 7 |
| Bethlehem, Jackson county, Fla. | J. W. Johnson. | M. E. Shores, Marianna, Fla. | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 16 |
| Bethesda, Geneva county, Ala. | | | | | | | | | |
| Concord, Jackson county, Fla. | John Stuart. | Phillip Forehand, Campbellton, Fla. | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Christian Hope, Jackson county, Fla. | J. J. Grantham. | D. M. Mooneyham, Circle Hill. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 13 |
| Campbellton. | T. E. Langley. | W. J. Daniel, Campbellton, Fla. | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Cedar Pond. | T. E. Langley. | H. C. Nell, Nell's Landing, Fla. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Damascus. | J. W. Johnson. | Joseph White, Campbellton. | 2 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Ephesus. | J. E. Langley. | Moses Christmas, Campbellton. | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Friendship. | T. E. Langley. | L. Dekle, Greenwood, Fla. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Flat Creek, Gadsden | J. T. Mann. | Miss Sallie Shepard, Chattahoochee. | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Greenwood, Jackson | T. E. Langley. | N. B. Long, Greenwood. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Hickory Level. | John Stuart. | S. Fumphyrey, Marianna. | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Mt. Olive, Calhoun county, Fla. | A. R. Herring. | J. H. Gable, Chipola. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| Memphis, Henry county, Ala. | S. Williford. | J. P. Conery, Big Creek. | 5 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 20 |
| Orange Hill, Washington county, Fla. | T. S. Dew. | R. M. Peel, Orange Hill. | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Rocky Grove, Jackson county, Fla. | John Stuart. | C. Dykes, Marianna. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Paradise Grove. | R. Kidd. | J. W. Messer, Greenwood. | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Providence. | R. Kidd. | J. Johnson, Circle Hill. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Poplar Spring. | R. C. B. Lawrence. | J. R. Dykes, Marianna. | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 8 |
| Selma, Geneva county, Ala. | J. C. Skipper. | S. Martin, Dothet, Ala. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | | | 39 | 80 | 94 | 134 | 3 | 636 | |