

# MINUTES

OF THE

## THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# West Florida Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

## FRIENDSHIP CHURCH,

October 15th, 16th and 17th, 1881.

### OFFICERS:

T. E. LANGLEY,	- MODERATOR,	- Greenwood, Fla.
W. J. DANIEL,	- CLERK,	- - - Campbellton, "
W. J. DANIEL,	- TREASURER,	- " "

**Notice.**—The next Annual Meeting of the Association will be held with Ebenezer Church, Washington County, Fla., commencing on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1882. T. E. Langley is to preach the Introductory Sermon.

COLUMBUS, GA.:

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1881.

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## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call for Petitionary Letters.
2. Invite Visiting Brethren to seats with us.
3. Call for Correspondence.
4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
5. Appoint Committee on Nominations.
6. Appoint Committee on Deceased Ministers.
7. On Publications.
8. On Sabbath Schools.
9. On Missions.
10. On Documents.
11. On Temperance.
12. On Finance.
13. Arrange for Meeting and Adjourning.
14. Appoint Correspondents.
15. Elect Executive Committee and Treasurer.
16. Elect Delegates to State Convention.
17. Appoint General Meetings.
18. Arrange time and place for next meeting.
19. Call for Report of the Executive Committee.
20. Call for Report on Missions.
21. Call for Report on Finance.
22. Call for Report on Temperance.
23. Call for Report on Sabbath Schools.
24. Call for Report of the Treasurer.
25. Call for Report on Documents.
26. Call for Report on Publications.
27. Call for Report on Deceased Ministers.
28. Call for Report on Nominations.
29. Read and Adopt the Minutes.
30. Adjourn.

## MINUTES.

THE WEST FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met with the Friendship Church, seven miles northeast of Greenwood, Fla., on October 15th, 1881.

Pursuant to appointment the Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. A. P. Ashurst from Matthew the 5th chapter, and from the 17th to the 21st verses inclusive. The entire fulfillment of the law and the prophesies even to a jot and tittle, being the theme.

Refreshments being provided by the friends, and upon the ground, one and a half hours intermission was decided upon to partake thereof. After which, the messengers re-assembled in the church house, and were called to order by the former Moderator, T. E. Langley.

The letters from the various churches were handed in, and by request, were read by brethren W. M. Fariior, D. A. Skipper and W. J. Daniel, and the following list of messengers enrolled:

Bethlehem Church—J. W. Rawles.  
Bethesda Church—J. M. Davis, B. F. Smith.  
Cedar Pond—J. M. Boone, W. A. Boone, J. D. Watts, M. Oswald.  
Campbellton—W. M. Fariior, J. C. Collier, W. J. Daniel.  
Chipola Lake—N. L. Cornell, R. Richards.  
Circle Hill—W. R. Glisson, W. L. Sheppard.  
Ebenezer—Thomas Morris, J. W. Simmons.  
Econfina—W. R. Gainer, James Nixon.  
Ephesus—J. M. Christmas.  
Friendship—H. Sewell, J. Lynn, J. Stephens.  
Grassy Point—W. A. Bryant.  
Greenwood—A. Bevis, J. H. Stephens, J. W. Godwin.  
Hickory Level—S. Pomphrey, S. Foxworth.  
Magnolia—Z. Messer, John Mathews.  
Memphis—E. J. Creamer, W. M. Creamer.  
Mount Olive—M. Traylor.  
Orange Hill—S. Arnold, Edward Nelson.  
Poplar Spring—J. S. White.  
Providence—John Carpenter, John Hill.  
Paradise Grove—J. T. Allen, L. C. Messer, John Nichols.  
Rockey Grove—J. B. Henderson, Isaac Sims.  
Rehoboth—G. W. Smith, J. W. Smith.  
Sardis—F. A. Simpson, D. Player.  
Pilgrim's Rest—(Petitionary)—John Parish, John Shouppe.



After enrollment of the messengers, the body proceeded to permanent organization. Elected T. E. Langley, Moderator, and W. J. Daniel, Clerk.

Called for petitionary letters, and one from Pilgrim's Rest Church, seven miles south of Campbellton, was presented through her messengers; it was found orthodox and admitted to membership in the Association.

Called for visiting brethren, and Eld. Rufus D. Burrouhs presented himself as representative of the American Sunday School Union, and member of Mercer Association of Georgia, and, upon motion, was invited to a seat with the body.

Called for correspondents from other bodies, and received brethren A. P. Ashurst, F. M. Walker, Daniel Williams, T. M. Stapleton and John T. Davis, Jr., from the Judson Association.

The Moderator appointed A. Bevis, J. W. Rawls, and the delegates from Friendship Church, a Committee on Preaching, and after a few moments consultation, reported that D. A. Skipper would preach to-night; T. E. Langley to-morrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock; John Stuart in the afternoon at 2 o'clock, and W. D. Simpson Sunday night.

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following committees:

*On Missions*—W. J. Daniel, A. Bevis, J. H. Stephens.

*On Documents*—John Stuart, B. F. Smith, J. S. White.

*On Finance*—N. L. Cornell, J. M. Boone, John Carpenter.

*On Sabbath Schools*—W. M. Farrow, J. B. Henderson, John Stephens.

*On Deceased Ministers*—M. Osborn, T. Morris, S. Pomphrey.

*On Nominations*—J. C. Collier, W. A. Boone, Z. Messer.

*On Temperance*—R. C. B. Lawrence, J. W. Johnson, J. D. Watts.

Upon motion, the body adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

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

The Association met according to adjournment, and, after singing a hymn, and prayer by Bro. W. M. Farrow, resumed business by first renewing invitation to visiting brethren. No respondents, the Moderator proceeded to appoint correspondents as follows:

*To the Judson Association*—W. H. Creamer, D. A. Skipper, T. E. Langley, J. H. Stephens, J. W. Johnson.

*To the Newton*—J. C. Collier, W. J. Daniel, W. M. Farrow, J. W. Rawls.

*To the Southwestern*—J. T. Allen, J. S. White, John Stuart, J. M. Boone, M. Oswald, W. A. Boone.

Upon motion, the body proceeded to elect an executive committee by ballot, and made choice of the following brethren:

W. J. Daniel, J. C. Collier, J. H. Stephens, W. M. Farrow, A. Bevis.

By unanimous consent, the Association united with the Florida Baptist State Convention, and thereupon elected T. E. Langley, J. H. Stephens, M. L. Dekle, W. M. Farrow, H. Sewell, and W. J. Daniel, messengers to represent them in that body.

By agreement, the General Meetings for the next associational year were appointed as follows: The first with the Church at Greenwood in January; the second with Memphis Church; the third, with Ebenezer Church.

The report of the Executive Committee for the past associational year read and approved. T. E. Langley, Evangelist, for the Association in this connection, made a verbal report of his labors, and it was cordially received and approved by the body.

The report on Missions was read and adopted.

The Committee on Temperance, through their chairman, made a report, and it was adopted.

The report on Sabbath Schools was read and received, and pending its adoption, the question of holding a Sabbath School Convention, as recommended in the report, was thoroughly discussed. The body finally recommended that the Sabbath Schools in the Association hold a General Convention, and meet with the Church at Greenwood, Fla., on Friday before the first Sabbath in May, 1882.

The report on Publications was read and adopted.

The Committee on Documents reported through their chairman, Jno. Stuart, that they found nothing claiming their attention more than that the Church at Greenwood and Ebenezer Church both had invited the next session of the body to meet with them. They recommended that the body meet with the Ebenezer Church. The report was adopted.

The report on Deceased Ministers was read and adopted.

The Committee on Nominations reported that they had appointed Eld. T. E. Langley to preach the Introductory sermon at the meeting of the body at its next session. Their report was approved.

The Committee on Finance made their report, and was adopted as appended.

The funds appearing a little short with which to make a final settlement with the Evangelist, the amount was soon raised by the brethren without molesting the funds belonging to the Association. The body agreed to pay the Clerk \$15 for his services, and expend the same amount for Minutes. The following resolution of thanks was offered:

*Resolved*, That this body do hereby tender to the friends of Friendship Church and vicinity, their heartfelt thanks for their kindness and hospitality during their stay with them.

After which the body adjourned to meet with Ebenezer Church, Calhoun county, Fla., on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, A. D. 1882.

T. E. LANGLEY, *Moderator*.

W. J. DANIEL, *Clerk*.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

### REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee appointed to make a report on Missions, after consultation, have decided that a report setting forth the reasons why brethren should give to the cause of Christ, and citations to passages of Scripture bearing on the same, would be altogether useless; as we believe it to be the universal acknowledgment of every real Missionary Baptist that a mission work should be done even in our own bounds. If, however, there should be one belonging to this Association that is not thoroughly convinced that it is their duty to give of their substance to the Lord, we would respectfully invite them to a careful perusal of the report made by your Committee on Missions at its last meeting; and if the passages from God's word cited in that report are not convincing enough to satisfy us as to our duty in point of giving to his cause, and the inducements held out in the same report to stimulate us to action, then it would be perfect folly on the part of your present humble and weak Committee to undertake the task.

Your Committee on Missions at the meeting of your last Association recommended some action to be taken whereby the cause might be advanced, by employing an Evangelist to labor within your bounds. Your present Committee realizing, however, the depletion of your treasury, could not recommend a similar work, though they are fully impressed with the vast amount of good accomplished by the work. Yet we are admonished from the reading of the letters sent up from the churches, that your funds, after paying current expenses, will be too scant to even anticipate such a work; yea, we are afraid that it will be left empty; and with this state of affairs staring us in the face, the question with us is, What shall we recommend you to do? Your Committee will not advise you as to whether it would be best to use the small amount of means you will have left on hand after paying current expenses, or hold it over until another year, as has been the case some years heretofore, and not undertake to do any thing at all the present year in a missionary way. Your Committee, realizing fully the great trouble, though, that prevents your treasury from being supplied with means to carry on your work, would offer a suggestion to the brethren—though the same suggestion has been offered repeatedly by former committees—and that is, for you to agree positively upon some systematic plan before adjournment, one in which all the churches belonging to the Association will endeavor to practice, whereby the treasury of your Lord may be fully supplied with means to carry on his work, at your next annual meeting. We are commanded to lay by in store each week, as the Lord has prospered us. We know of no better plan than for each church belonging to this Association to meet on the day in which we are commanded to *lay by*, at their respective places for worship, and after engaging in some kind of religious service, give an opportunity to those present of contributing of their prosperity for the past week.

It is the opinion of your Committee that this plan, if heartily endorsed and

practiced by the churches, will bring you better results than any other you could adopt. If, however, the body thinks some other plan will work better, we surrender our judgment, and only insist that you be united upon that plan, and that it be in accordance with the divine word.

Your Committee can not close this report without complimenting the action taken by the Association at its last meeting, in employing Elder T. E. Langley to operate one-half of his time as Evangelist within your bounds. We feel that great good has been accomplished thereby, and that general satisfaction prevails throughout the entire Association, and a universal feeling on the part of the brethren that the funds used in this direction have perhaps been more profitably spent than could have been otherwise. Would that your treasury were in a condition to recommend you to employ him for the same purpose another year. Leaving the matter for the Association to decide as to what would be best to do under the circumstances, we are, respectfully,

W. J. DANIEL, *Chairman*.

### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It is to be lamented that while parents appreciate the fact of God's having declared in his holy word for his people to "search the Scriptures," they, to a great extent, ignore the no less binding injunction to teach their children, "that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law." Our children should be taught both by example and precept, that God's holy day can not be spent acceptably in his sight, only in endeavoring to learn of him, "whom to know is life eternal." The Sabbath School opens wide its doors for such lessons; which, though not intended to take the place of private instruction, yet becomes a great auxiliary to it.

Our denomination has spared neither time, labor nor money, in preparing a series of Lessons both instructive and entertaining. In them we have all the cardinal doctrines of the Bible explained with simplicity and clearness. Brethren, let us avail ourselves of their labors, ever bearing in mind the fact that the children of to-day are to be the men and women of the next generation. How important, then, for them to receive thorough Bible instruction in order to be able successfully to refute the various *isms* springing up all over the land!

We are glad to inform your body that there is an increase of interest in Sabbath Schools among the churches of this Association. We would especially recommend to the body, that they suggest to the various churches having Sabbath Schools, to appoint a committee from each, to meet at some designated place at any time they may see proper, there to organize a West Florida Baptist Sabbath School Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. FARRIOR, *Chairman*.

### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance would report, that not having sufficiently posted themselves on the subject, they do not feel prepared to draw up a report that would do justice to it. But, as the Lord has commanded his people to be temperate in all things, we believe it to be the duty of every Christian to rise up as one man in battle array, and fight against this hydra-headed monster—whiskey—until it be driven out of our country, and especially the churches. Almost every day we see or hear of the evil effects of this great sin. We would, therefore, suggest to our ministering brethren that we both preach and lecture on the subject in our churches, and strenuously insist upon our brethren that they strictly observe this, as well as all commandments of the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. B. LAWRENCE, *Chairman*.



REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee on Publications are pleased to state that the "Christian Index," published in Atlanta, Ga., is, in our opinion, the very best religious newspaper in our land and country, and we recommend that all who love to discriminate the truth (as we all should love to do), make it a business to get subscribers to this valuable religious newspaper.

We would further recommend that "Kind Words," published in Macon, Ga., together with the "Index Series of Bible Question Books," published in three grades, be used exclusively in our Sunday Schools; and would recommend that all schools using Union Books, Papers, or Pede-Baptist literature, substitute for it at once the above Baptist literature. We, as Baptists, are not dependent in any manner on the outside world to furnish us books and periodicals for our Sunday Schools.

We would also call your attention to the fine selection of valuable books kept by Bro. T. E. Langley for sale; and would recommend brethren to avail themselves of this opportunity of improving their libraries, while such good books can be had for so little money. Finally, brethren, buy the truth and sell it not.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. SKIPPER, Chairman.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	MINUTES.	ASSOCIAL PURPOSES.	MISSIONS.
Bethlehem.....	\$ 1 00	\$ 3 00	
Bethesda.....	1 00	50	50
Cedar Pond.....	2 00	2 00	4 15
Chipola Lake.....	75	25	
Circle Hill.....	50		
Campbellton.....		20 00	
Ephesus.....	1 00	50	
Ebenezer.....	1 00	7 00	
Econfina.....	50		5 80
Friendship.....	1 50	2 00	16 35
Greenwood.....	2 00	2 00	
Grassy Point.....	50		
Hickory Level.....	20	50	1 90
Magnolia.....	75	50	
Memphis.....	1 00	2 40	
Mt. Olive.....	50	50	
Orange Hill.....	1 00	1 00	
Paradise Grove.....		2 00	
Poplar Spring.....		2 50	
Providence.....	25	1 00	
Pilgrim's Rest.....	85	75	1 00
Rehoboth.....	25	1 80	
Rocky Grove.....	75	1 00	
Sardis.....	1 00	1 25	
Sardis.....	75		
Total.....	\$19 05	\$52 45	\$29 70
Sunday Collection.....			23 80
			\$53 50

Respectfully submitted,

N. L. CORNELL, Chairman.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee, with hearts of much gratitude to God, are glad to inform you that it has not pleased the kind hand of Providence, during this Association year, to say to even one of his ministers, "Thy work is finished; come up higher." For which let God have the praise of our whole hearts.

Respectfully submitted,

M. OSBORN, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

By Cash carried over from last Association.....	\$ 51 40	
Received from the Association.....		193 40
To amount paid the Clerk.....	\$ 15 00	
Paid for Minutes.....	15 00	
Paid over to T. E. Langley, Evangelist.....	214 80	
Totals.....	\$244 80	\$244 80

LIST OF PLEDGES TO BE PAID AT THE NEXT ASSOCIATION.

J. W. Godwin.....	\$10 00	W. M. Farrior.....	\$10 00
W. J. Daniel.....	10 00	J. W. Carter.....	5 00
W. R. Gainer.....	10 00	N. L. Cornell.....	5 00
H. Sewell.....	10 00	J. S. White.....	5 00
S. Pumphrey.....	10 00	J. A. Sharpe.....	5 00
E. N. Everett.....	10 00	W. A. Boone.....	5 00
M. L. Dekle.....	10 00	A. Bevis.....	5 00
J. H. Stephens.....	10 00	Mrs. Knapp paid.....	2 00
W. H. Taylor.....	10 00	Mrs. Pyke paid.....	50
E. N. Dekle.....	10 00	J. W. Bates.....	5 00

H. G. Land, unpaid from last year, \$5 00; J. N. Parish, unpaid from last year, \$5 00; Robert Herring, unpaid from last year, \$5 00; S. Williford, unpaid from last year, \$10 00.

DECORUM.

ARTICLE 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, and when her number of members shall reach twenty-five she shall be entitled to three, and for every additional increase of twenty-five members she shall be entitled to an 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, 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 first obtaining permission from the body or Moderator, and the Moderator shall only have power to act while the body is not in session. 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; 2nd, to keep up a correspondence with Associations of the same faith and order, that the chain of communication may be preserved among the Churches; 3rd, 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.

TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.	Read by Baptism	Read by Letter	Restored	Dismiss'd by Letter	Exclud'd	Deat.	Total	Sabbath of Me'tg
Bethlehem	D. A. Skipper	John Harper, Marianna, Fla.	1	2	1	0	3	1	4	4
Bethesda	J. J. White	J. M. Davis	3	3	0	0	3	1	4	4
Cedar Pond		W. H. Pyke, N-n's Landing, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chipola Lake		N. L. Cornell, Wewabitchka, Calhoun county, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Circle Hill	R. Kidd	E. J. Moody, Haywood's Landing, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbellton	T. E. Langley	J. T. Baldwin, Campbellton, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ephesus	I. W. Johnson	Moses Ch'istmas, Campbellton, Fla.	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ebenezer	D. A. Skipper	John G. Morris, Vernon, Washington county, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecoufina		W. A. Gains, Ecoufina, Washington county, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Friends ip		L. Dekie, Greenwood, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwood	T. E. Langley	T. G. Alsbrook, Greenwood, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grassy Point		Henry Anderson, Ecoufina, Washington county, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hickory Level	D. A. Skipper	S. Pumphrey, Marianna, Fla.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magnolia	R. C. B. Lawrence	Z. T. Messer, Chipola, Calhoun county, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Memphis	M. Brookins	Thos. Ratler, Dothan, Henry county, Ala.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Olive	H. Simpson	J. H. Gable, Ocheese, Calhoun county, Fla.	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orange Hill	J. W. Johnson	R. M. Pe'l, Orange Hill, Fla.	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Grove	R. C. B. Lawrence	J. T. Allen, Haywood's Landing, Fla.	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poplar Spring	W. D. Simpson	J. R. Dykes, Marianna, Fla.	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Providence	D. A. Skipper	W. H. Nobles, Haywood's Landing, Fla.	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pilgrim's B-st	J. J. White	James Bailey, Campbellton, Fla.	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rebooth	John Stuart	W. J. Smith, Big Creek, Ala.	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Grove	W. D. Simpson	C. Dykes, Marianna, Fla.	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sardis		A. J. Sims, Ocheese, Washington county, Fla.	57	37	1	30	27	10	813	813