MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

West Plorida Paptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

EBENEZER CHURCH,

October 14th, 15th and 16th, 1882.

OFFICERS:

Moderator—Rev. T. E. LANGLEY, Greenwood, Fla. Clerk—Wm. M. FARRIOR, . . . Campbellton, Fla. TREASURER—W. J. DANIEL, . . . Campbellton, Fla.

Notice.—The next Annual Meeting of the Association will be held with Bethlehem Church, eight miles west of Marianna, Jackson County, Fla., commencing on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1883—Rev. John Stuart to preach the Introductory Sermon-

COLUMBUS, GA .:

THOS. GILBERT, STEAM-POWER PRINTER AND BOOK-BINDER.

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY
DELAND FLORIDA

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Call for Petitionary Letters.
- 2. To invite Visiting Brethren to seats with us.
- 8. Call for Correspondence.
- 4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
- 5. Appoint Committee on Nominations.
- 6. Appoint Committee on Deceased Ministers.
- 7. Appoint Committee on Publications.
- 8. Appoint Committee on Sabbath Schools.
- 9. Appoint Committee on Missions.
- 10. Appoint Committee on Documents.
- 11. Appoint Committee on Temperance.
- 12. Appoint Committee on Finance.
- 13. Arrange for meeting and adjourning.
- 14. Appoint Correspondents.
- 15. Elect Executive Committee and Treasurer.
- 16. Elect Delegates to the State Convention.
- 17. Appoint General Meetings.
- 48. Arrange time and place for next meeting.
- 10. 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.

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, VERNON, FLORIDA,

Saturday Morning, October 15, 1882.

- (1) The West Florida Baptist Association convened with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Vernon, Washington county, Florida, in its thirty-sixth annual session, Saturday morning, October 15th, 1882.
- (2) Pursuant to appointment, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. T. E. Langley, from John xv. 16. Subject—The benefits to be derived from good works of Christians.
- (3) Refreshments being provided by the friends, and upon the ground, one and a half hours intermission was given to partake thereof.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON-Two o'CLOCK.

- (4) At 2 o'clock the messengers $\, {\bf r}$ assembled in the church house and were called to order by T. E. Langley, Moderator of former session.
- (5) Devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator.
- (6) The letters from the churches were handed in, and by request were read by W. M. Farrior, D. A. Skipper and E. N. Dekle.
 - (7) Delegates were enrolled as follows:

Bethlehem-M. R. Shores, S. W Land, J. W. Rawls, John Harper. Bethesda-J. M. Davis,

Cedar Pond-J. D. Watts, Bazzell, J. N. Boone, F. A. Paramore Campbellton-W. J. Daniel, E. N. Dekle, W. M. Farrior.

Chipola Lake-N. L. Cornell, R. H. Richards.

Damascus-R. S. Abbott.

Ebenezer-J. F. Moses, J. G. Simmons, A. F. Register.

Ephesus-John Bruner.

Friendship-H. Sewell, J. M. Stephens.

Greenwood-J. W. Godwin, A. Bevis.

Magnolia-J. W. Bailey.

Memphis-J. B. Stringer.

Orange Hill-Robert Peel, John Nelson.

Providence-Z. Johnson.

Paradise Grove-L. C. Messer, G. W. Messer, H. L. Greene.

Rocky Grove-John Stuart.

Rehoboth-E. Taylor.

Sardis-D. H. Player, J. Griffin.

Pilgrim's Rest-John Shouppe, Callie Shouppe.

Circle Hill, Econfina, Grassy Point, Hickory Level, Mount Olive, Poplar Spring-Not represented.

- (8) After enrollment of the messengers, the following officers were elected by ballot, to wit: T. E. LANGLEY, Moderator; W. M. FARRIOR.
 - (9) Call for petitionary letters. None presented.

(10) Call for visiting brethren. None present.

(11) Correspondents were received from Associations as follows:

Judson-Daniel Williams, Benjamin Williams, Moses Bracken.

(12) The Moderator announced the appointment of Committees to report at this session, as follows:

On Religious Exercises—A. Bevis, J. W. Rawls, and delegates of Ebenezer Church.

On Missions-W. J. Daniel, A. Bevis, R. C. B. Lawrence.

On Documents-John Stuart, J. G. Simmons, J. B. Stringer.

On Finance-E. N. Dekle, N. L. Cornell, J. W. Rawls,

On Sabbath Schools-W. M. Farrior, J. M. Stephens, J. W. Johnson.

On Deceased Ministers-F. A. Paramore, John Harper.

On Nominations-J. D. Watts.

On Temperance-D. A. Skipper, Bazzell, Shouppe. .

(13) The Committee on Religious Exercises reported as follows: J. W. Johnson would preach to-night; T. E. Langley, Sunday, at 11 o'clock; John White at 2 o'clock, and Moses Bracken at night.

Adjourned till Monday, 9 A. M.

MONDAY MORNING-NINE O'CLOCK.

- (14) Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator.
- (15) Correspondence was returned as follows:

Judson-J. W. Rawls, J. B. Stringer, Bazzell, John Stuart, Taylor. John White, T. E. Langley, J. W. Johnson, D. A. Skipper,

NEWTON-W. M. Farrior, T. E. Langley, D. A. Skipper.

Southwestern-F. A. Paramore, A. Bevis, J. N. Boone, Z. Johnson. SANDY CREEK-J. G. Morris, A. F. Register.

(16) The following resolution was adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That an Executive Committee be elected.

By acclamation the following were elected: W. J. Daniel, J. C. Collier, J. H. Stephens, W. M. Farrior, and A. Bevis.

(17) The following resolutions were adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That T. E. Langley be sent as a delegate to the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Resolved, That the delegates of this Association defray his expenses. Resolved, That twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of the Mission money on hand be sent up to the Convention.

(18) Appointment of General Meetings:

The West Florida Baptist Sabbath School Convention embraces the first-Fifth Sunday, and Friday and Saturday before; which meets with the Campbellton Church.

Second-with Paradise Grove Church.

Third-with Cedar Pond Church,

(19) The Report of Committee on Documents was read and adopted, to wit:

That among the number of churches that petitioned for the Association we recommend that the body meet with Bethlehem Church, at its next

(20) The Report of the Treasurer was read by W. J. Daniel, and adopted, to wit:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. J. Daniel, Treasurer, in account with West Florida Association- DR_{\bullet} Oct. 16. To amount received of Finance Committee......\$125 00 1881. CR. Oct. 16. By amount paid Clerk for printing Minutes, and for his services......\$ 30 00 By amt. paid R. C. B. Lawrence for missionary labors.....

\$125 00 \$125 00

Fraternally submitted.

W. J. DANIEL, Treasurer.

(21) The following Report on Deceased Ministers was read by F. A. Paramore:

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your Committee on Deceased Ministers, with regret, are pained to report the death of one of your ministerial brethren—Brother Kizer. A good man has fallen. While his worth and influence as a minister was not generally known, yet the good that he has accomplished for his Master's kingdom is known to Him, and he is now, no doubt, enjoying the fruits F. A. PARAMORE, Chairman.

(22) The Report of the Missionary, R. C. B. Lawrence, was read and adopted, to wit:

MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

Began the work in January, 1882; traveled 960 miles; preached twentytwo sermons; delivered one exhortation; visited fifteen families; prayed with them twenty-four times. Providential circumstances caused me to miss four of my appointments.

Fraternally.

R. C. B. LAWRENCE.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Missions, after looking over the Report on Missions of the last Association, are greatly puzzled in their minds what more to suggest to your body that would move the churches to action upon this great and important subject. It is action-yes, immediate action-on the part of every member of all the churches in the Association, that is wanted. When God converts a sinner, He says to him, "My son, go work to-day in my vineyard." Here duty is plainly set forth. God will accept of no excuse. He requireth of none above the ability which He giveth. There are none so poor, or weak, or feeble in mind, or otherwise, but can work for the Master. We say that we are missionaries, but if the tree is judged by its fruit, the verdict would be that a vast majority are omissionaries. If this can be truthfully said of any, they should rise up at once and wipe the stigma from their names. If the brethren desire to do any thing in this direction, they can carry into effect the old adage, that charity begins at home. Even near our own doors there is vastly more work than we can have accomplished, or will be likely to do, in years to come, judging from our past efforts. Fraternally, W. J. Daniel, Chairman.

(24) The Report on Temperance was read by D. A. Skipper:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following: The struggle for reform in all matters pertaining to the welfare of society is becoming more pronounced and resolute each succeeding year. While intemperance is not the only evil that afflicts the land, it is recognized as the greatest in extent and the most deplorable in its results. We do not propose to set forth the enormity of this evil; neither the pen, the canvas nor the lips have conveyed or can present to our minds an adequate conception of all the crimes, want and wretchedness entailed upon our race through this single vice. When any one calmly contemplates its widespread and deadly work, his soul is filled with sorrow and pity. He feels that he can not forbear to speak and act with all good men in seeking deliverance from this desolating scourge, which destroys both body and soul, for time and eternity. With hearts full of gratitude to God, we hear of the efforts made in many of our sister States to check its onward tread. There is certainly not a more perfect libel upon true manhood, nor a deeper or more aggravated cancer upon the body of the Christian Church. Brethren let our united prayers arise to Him to stay the plague, and may the time speedily come when it shall be an established fact throughout the land, that no man can habitually use intoxicating drinks, as a beverage, and still hold his membership in a Baptist church. The word of God is plain and positive in its teachings on the subject. Drunkenness is there classed with all the other evils that tend to drag man down to the lowest depths of shame, and God's command in every instance is that "they be put out from among you."

D. A. SKIPPER, Chairman.

(25) The Report on Sabbath Schools was read by W. M. Farrior, and adopted, to wit:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

From the reports in regard to Sabbath Schools of the different churches comprising this body, your Committee find that the interest in them is increasing. Not very rapidly, it is true; but we find that the people are generally arousing to the fact, that their children should be taught to understand the doctrines of the Bible. Many of our churches have not reported any Sabbath School at afl, yet we trust that ere long they will have, and that it is not disobedience to the Master's will, carelessness, or indifference on their part to teach their children the word of life. We know of no better definition of the words "Sunday School," than, "A church at work." Then, we ask the brethren, why every church has not a Sunday School? If there are Baptists enough to constitute a church, there are enough to be at work, and a part of this work should be in training and instructing the young about the word of God. We are commanded, "Not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." Those churches that content themselves to meet only once a month for divine service, and neglect Sabbath School work and prayer meetings, will do but little work, will get but little growth; in short, churches will always be in a cold state, their light will not shine, and they most assuredly neglect their duty.

We trust that all the churches of this Association, and especially do we beg the pastors of the churches, to heartily co-operate with the Sabbath School Convention that was put on foot at the last meeting of this body. It is only by our united efforts that we may hope to make progress in this direction. By so doing we will secure the best plans for building up and sustaining Sunday Schools in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted, W. M. Farrior, Chairman.

(26) The Report on Publications was read by J. J. White, and adopted, to wit:

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 disseminate 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 Pedo-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.

J. J. WHITE, Chairman.

(27) The following resolution was adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to spend the funds remaining in their hands as best their judgment shall direct.

(28) The Report of the Finance Committee was read and adopted,

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

ASSOCIATIONAL PURPOSES.	
8 2 00	MISSIONS
	* 3 00
1 00	1 00
3 00	2 70
1 25	
	20 00
1 00	2 50
50	**********
2 00	3 00
2 00	15 90
5 00	18 80
	10 00
1 25	
1 50	********

1 00	
1 00	*******
1 00	*******
1 05	

75	50
75	********
2 50	
142 25	********
107	_
\$29 80	\$ 67 40
	21 80
	29 80
	\$119 00
	11 10
	1 60
	\$131 70
	N. DEKLE, Cha

(29) The following resolution was offered, and adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) be paid to the Clerk for his services, and the same amount for printing Minutes.

(30) The following resolution was read, and adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That this Association appreciates the cordial hospitality of the citizens, of every denomination, in the vicinity of Ebenezer Church, and the delegates return their hearty thanks for the many kindnesses extended to us during our stay among them.

(31) The Moderator made a few parting remarks, and during the singing the delegates gave each other the parting hand. Prayer was offered

(32) The Association then adjourned to meet with Bethlehem Church, Jackson county, Fla., on Saturday before the third Sabbath in October,

WM. M. FARRIOR, Clerk,

T. E. LANGLEY, Moderator.

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 baptized, 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

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

ARE 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

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

Agr. 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 reproved 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

> SAMPSON LIBRARY JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY DeLAND **FLORIDA**

remove the difficulty, but if the breach can not 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.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God, and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. - Mark xii. 32; Mat. iii. 16, 17; xxiii 19; 1 Tim. i. 2, 5; Exod. xx. 1, 3; John i. 1, 4; v. 23; x. 30.

ART. 2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only rules of faith and practice. -2 Tim. iii. 16, 17; 2 Pet. i. 21; 2 Sam. xxiii. 2; Rev. xxii. 18, 19

ART. 3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and the imputation of sin to his posterity; in the corruption of human nature, and the impotency of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability. Isa i. 5, 6; Psa. xiv. 1, 3; Rom, v. 12; John vi 44; 1 Cor. xv. 20, 1; Job xiv. 57; Eph. ii. 8, 10.

ART. 4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people, and the eternal election of a definite number of the human race to grace and glory; and that there was a covenant of grace of redemption made between the Father and the Son before the world began, in which their salvation is secure. and they in particular are redeemed. -Jer. xxi. 3; John xv.. 16, 17; Isa xl. 8, 9; Eph. i. 4, 5, 11; Acts xiii. 48; 2 Thess. ii. 13; 1 Pet. i. 2; Rom. viii. 29, 30; Rom. ix. 11, 12, 23; xi. 4, 7; 2 Tim. ii. 9.

ART, 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. -Rom. iii. 21, 5, 56; Psa. xlv;

John x. 9, 15; Rom. v. 1, 10; 1 Cor. i. 30.

ART. 6. We believe that all those who are chosen of God in Christ, will be effectually called, regenerated, converted and sanctified, and supported by the Spirit and power of God, so that they shall persevere in grace, and not one of them be finally lost.—John x. 29, 30; vi. 37; Phil. i. 6; 1 Pet. i. 3, 9; Heb. vi. 16, 20; John xvii. 2, 3; 2 Tim. i. 9, 10; Tit. rv. 4, 7; Eph. ii. 45; Rom.

ART. 7. We believe that good works are the fruit of faith, and follow after justification, and that they only justify us in the sight of men, and are only evidences of our christianity. -Eph. ii. 10; James ii. 13; iii. 13; 1 Pet. ii. 3, 5; Mat. v. 16.

ART. 8. We believe that there will be a Resurrection of the dead, and a general Judgment; and the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked, will be eternal. - Mark xii. 24, 27; 2 Cor. v. 10; 1 Cor. xv. 12, 29; Acts xvii. 31; Mat. xxv. 46; John v. 28, 29; Thess. i. 7, 10.

AET. 9. We believe that the Church of Christ is a visible congregation of baptized believers, who have gained christian fellowship with each other; and

that immersion is the only scriptural mode of baptism. -Rom. vi.

ART. 10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great Head of his Church, and only Lawgiver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual; and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclamation of those christians who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and the peace and unity of the Church.

ART. 11. We believe that Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Lord, and are to be continued until his second coming.

ART. 12. We believe that none but those regularly baptized, and who are in fellowship with the church, have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

Statistical Table West Florida Association, 1882.

CHURORES	PASTORS.	CLEENS AND POST-OFFICES.	Present Mambay ship
Bothleham	D. A. Skipper	John Harper, Marianna, Fla J. M. Davis, Dundes, Ala	6 6 2 59
			1 1 41
Obipole Lake	R.C. B. Lawrence.	in is conneil, wewantichka, Fla	
Campbellton	T. E. Langley	W. M. Farrior, Campbellton, Fla	1 2 1 28
Ephesus	D. A. SKIPPER	T. J. Parker, Graceville, Fla	2 2 6 72
*Econfina	D. A. Skipper	J. G. Morris, Vernon, Fla	3 2 2 40
Friendship	R. C. B. Lawrence		12 3 3 1 1 2 45
		T. G. Alsobrook, Greenwood, Fla	
Magnalla	John Stuart	***************************************	20 28
Memphis *Montt Olive	Moses Bracken	Z. T. Messer, Chipola, Fla Thomas Butler, Dothan, Ala	1 1 2 2 2 26
	I SIA LUSIS PER PERPENDING SESSIOLI	R. M. Peel, Orange Hill, Fla	12
Puplar Spring	h. C. B. Lawrence.	J. T. Allen, Dellwood, Fla	1 1 2 1 2 39
	W. D. Simmon		1 1 1 1 38 .
			9 5 1 2 32 5 4 2 2 58
		W. H. Dykes, Marianna, Fia Adam Hoover, Ochecsee, Fla	
		Totals	2 24 9 13 26 19 918

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The West Florida Baptist Sunday School Convention will be held with the Church at Campbellton on April 27th, 28th and 29th, 1883, being the fifth Sunday, Friday and Saturday before.