

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL SESSION

9th

OF THE

SOUTH-FLORIDA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLA..

OCTOBER 16th 17th and 18th, 1875.

OFFICERS:

SYLVESTER WALDEN, Moderator, - - - - - *Cork, Fla.*
N. T. JONES, Clerk, - - - - - *Alafia, Fla.*

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.:

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1876.

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MINUTES
OF THE
South Florida Baptist Association.

The South Florida Baptist Association met with Oak Grove Church, Hernando county, Oct., 16th, 1875, at 11 o'clock.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. W. Hendry, from First Timothy, third chapter, and sixteenth verse—"And without controversy, great is the mystery of Godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

At 2 o'clock the delegates assembled, and the house was called to order by the former Moderator, Rev. J. W. Hendry.

After singing and prayer, letters from the churches were called for and read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

Petitionary letters were called for, and the following were received:

From Friendship, Manatee county; Mt. Pisgah, Manatee county; Concord, Polk county; Enon, Polk county; which churches being found Orthodox, were received into the Association, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their delegates.

On balloting for officers, Elder Sylvester Walden was elected Moderator, and N. T. Jones Clerk.

Called for Correspondence and received the following:

From the Santa Fe Association, W. S. Perry, with a package of Minutes; from Alachua Association, Elder Joshua Perry; from Wekiva Association, Elders R. W. Lawton, and J. H. Hayman, and Bro. A. P. Farnell, with a package of Minutes.

The following committees were appointed:

On preaching—J. R. Stewart, J. M. Duffy, with the delegates of Oak Grove Church.

On Letters—C. L. Reynolds, J. M. Hayman, J. W. Hendry.

On Finance—R. N. Pylant, J. W. Whidden, T. H. Jaudon

On Publications—L. J. Simmons, J. M. Hayman, S. Walden

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on Temperance; also one on Sabbath Schools.

The following were appointed:

On Temperance—R. N. Frier, C. L. Reynolds, and J. J. Robinson.

On Sunday Schools—J. W. Hendry, R. N. Pylant, and J. M. Hayman.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to examine the manuscripts of the late discussion between Elder L. J. Simmons, of our Association, and Rev. E. H. Giles, of the Methodist Church, on the subject of "Restricted Communion," and report upon the propriety of publishing the same by the order of this body.

Appointed—J. M. Hayman, R. N. Pylant, J. W. Hendry, Ryan Frier, and S. Walden.

Adjourned till Monday morning.

At 3 o'clock the stand was filled by S. L. Cross, who preached from First Corinthians, fifteenth chapter, twenty-second verse—"As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

SUNDAY, Oct., 17th, 1875.

At 11 o'clock Elder L. J. Simmons preached the Annual Sermon on Missions, from Second Timothy, second chapter, fifteenth verse—"Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

At 2 o'clock Elder Joshua Perry, of the Alachua Association, preached from John, nineteenth chapter, thirtieth verse—"It is finished."

Followed by Elder R. W. Lawton, of the Wekiva Association.

At night Elder J. W. Hendry preached from Luke, twenty-fourth chapter, twenty-sixth verse—"Ought not Christ to have suffered and to have entered into his glory?"

MONDAY, Oct. 18th, 1875.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment; called the roll and marked the absentees; read the decorum and proceeded to business.

Resolved, That in view of the many requests sent up by the different Churches of the Association, in their letters, asking an interest in the prayers of this body, that we, at this time, engage in prayer for them, Elder Ryan Frier leading.

Bro. L. J. Simmons presented the case of Bro. J. E. Blich, who is in our midst in a destitute condition, therefore, be it

Resolved, That aid be extended him through a committee.

T. W. Wilder, T. H. Jaudon, and J. F. Tatum were appointed as said committee, to solicit contributions and apply them as he may have need.

The following report was received:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

The Committee on Publications ask leave to report that we recommend to the members of the Churches composing this Association, a more careful and prayerful reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the FLORIDA BAPTIST, *Ford's Christian Reposi-*

tory, The Baptist, edited and published by J. R. Graves, Memphis, Tenn. Respectfully submitted.

L. J. SIMMONS, Chairman.

The following report was received:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LETTERS.

Your Committee on Letters respectfully report that they have examined the letters sent up to this session of our Association and find in them many encouraging words. There are fewer complaints of coldness and a more general breathing of devout thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the rich showers of his grace than have heretofore pervaded the letters sent up to this Association. Three letters have been sent up without the Moderator's name, and one not signed by either Moderator or Clerk, and two or three containing no statement of the time of Church meetings. We earnestly recommend to the Churches greater care in preparing their letters for the Association.

The Church at Alafia asks for the first Union Meeting in the ensuing year. We recommend that their request be granted.

The Hopewell Church makes a request in the following terms:

We request your body to discontinue the practice of preaching a sermon on missions, and taking up a collection on the Sabbath, and that the Sabbath be spent in religious worship, and that the pastors of Churches be requested to preach at least twice a year, on the necessity of the Church having regular seasons for communion. And that each pastor preach at least two sermons on missions in each year, say March and September, and that the Churches take up collections for the Missionary Cause. The same to be presented to the Association by the Delegates, to be disposed of as your wisdom may think most prudent for the good of the Great Missionary Cause. We recommend the adoption of the above suggestion.

The Church at Tenotassassa asks that the next session of the Association be held with them. We recommend the acceptance of their invitation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. S. REYNOLDS, Chairman.

The following query was received from New Zion Church: "Is there any Scriptural authority for a licentiate minister?" *Resolved*, That we answer "no."

The following report was received:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that they

have received from the Churches for Associational purposes, the sum of fifty-six dollars and sixty cents,
Respectfully submitted.

R. N. PYLANT, Chairman.

Resolved, That we drop from our Association the Fellowship Church.

The following report was received:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that we do earnestly recommend to the Churches composing this Association, the organization of Sabbath Schools and that they provide for them the best Baptist literature, and that they strive earnestly to maintain and keep up the Sabbath School where it is practicable and report the same to the next Association. Respectfully submitted.

J. W. HENDRY, Chairman.

The following report was received:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that they earnestly recommend to the Churches composing this Association the propriety of urging all their members to have their names enrolled in the books of the "National Temperance Alliance Association" as members thereof, thereby pledging themselves to discountenance by their example as well as teaching the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

Respectfully submitted.

RYAN FRIER, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Articles of Faith be published in these minutes.

Resolved, That the Clerk have five hundred copies of these minutes printed, and that he have fifteen dollars for his services, and that he draw on the Treasurer for the same.

Appointed Union Meetings as follows:

1st. Alafia; 2d. Benevolence; 3d. Shiloh; 4th. Concord.

Resolved, That we request all the ordained ministers of this Association to keep a journal of their ministerial labors during the ensuing year, and make a complete report to this body at their next session.

On motion Elder J. W. Hendry was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at the first Union Meeting—on the subject of "The Covenant."

Elder R. W. Lawton requested the prayers of this body in behalf of the Wekiva Association. The body accordingly engaged in prayer, Elder L. J. Simmons leading.

Received report of Special Committee on Elder L. J. Simmons' manuscripts, which is as follows:

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

We, the Special Committee on Elder L. J. Simmons' manuscript on restricted communion, ask leave to report, that we recommend its publication in pamphlet form, and that it be circulated as extensively as possible, as well as those remarks of E. H. Giles, that are noted and pertinent.

Respectfully submitted.

J. M. HAYMAN, Chairman.

SYLVESTER HAYMAN,

J. W. HENDRY,

R. N. PYLANT,

RYAN FRIER,

Committee.

Received report of Executive Committee, which is as follows:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee beg leave to report that we have cash on hand, principal and interest, \$176.92. The balance in books unsold. We further recommend that the money be again loaned at legal interest. Respectfully submitted.

S. WALDEN, Chairman.

The Executive Committee and agents having books on hand are directed to sell them if possible, and turn over all unsold to the next meeting of the Association.

Received report of Committee on Preaching, which is as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PREACHING.

The Committee on Preaching beg leave to report: At nine o'clock Sunday, Elder Joshua Perry, from Alachua Association, will preach, followed by Elder R. W. Lawton, of the Wekiva Association. On Monday at 10 o'clock, Elder J. H. Hayman, of Wekiva Association; at 2 o'clock, Elder J. M. Hayman.

The committee beg further to report: Elder L. J. Simmons to preach the Introductory Sermon at our next Association, and Elder J. W. Hendry at 10 o'clock on Sunday.

J. R. STEWART, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT—1875.

T. W. WILDER, Treasurer, in account with South Florida Association.

DR.

Oct. 1874. To cash received from Finance Committee.	\$47.80
" " " on hand.....	18.00
" " " since.....	44.00

\$109.80

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CR.

Oct. 1874.	Paid for printing minutes, and Clerk's fees.	\$40.00
"	Retained by order of the Association.....	9.50
"	Cash on hand.....	60.30
		\$109.80

Respectfully submitted.

T. W. WILDER, Treasurer.

Resolved, That any member of our Association who may meet with any Association with whom we correspond, presenting one of our Minutes, shall be considered our messenger to such Association.

Resolved, That we continue the same Executive Committee now in office for the ensuing year, except W. C. Hayman, who asked to be relieved. R. N. Pylant being appointed in his stead.

Resolved, That this Association offer their condolence to the the family of our esteemed Brother, Elder J. N. Tatum, deceased: That in his death we have lost a faithful friend and servant in the cause of our Master, Jesus Christ, but we bow in humble submission to the will of our Heavenly Father.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren of Oak Grove Church, and their friends in the vicinity for their kind treatment of the members and visitors.

Adjourned to meet with Tenotassassa Church, fifteen miles east of Tampa, on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1876.

SYLVESTER WALDEN, Moderator.

N. T. JONES, Clerk.

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ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. OF THE SCRIPTURES.—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men, divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. 2nd Peter, 1st ch., 21st v., Acts 1st ch., 16th v., Romans 3rd ch., 2nd v.

2d. OF THE TRUE GOD.—That there is one, and only one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in

holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. 1st Cor. 8:4, Isaiah 44:6, John 17:3.

3d. OF THE FALL OF MAN.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore, under the just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse. Eccl. 7:27, Gen. 1:27-31, Rom. 5:12.

4th. THE WAY OF SALVATION.—That the Salvation of sinners is wholly of Grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death, being risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections is ever qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour. John 3:16, Eph. 2:4-10, Acts 15:11.

5th. OF JUSTIFICATION.—That the great Gospel blessing which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is Justification; that Justification consists in the pardon of sin, and promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness, that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity. Eph. 1:7, Isaiah 53:2, Romans 3:24-28.

6th. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.—That the blessings of Salvation are made free to all, by the Gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation. Rev. 22:17. Is. 1:18. Mat. 11:28.

7th. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.—That in order to be saved we must be regenerated, or born again, that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in

the holy fruit which we bring forth to the Glory of God. John 3:3-7. 1st Peter 1:22-23. Gal. 4:20-29.

8th. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the moral agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel, is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.—2d Thess. 2:13. Rom. 11 5:6. John, 15:16.

9th. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end, that their persevering attachment to Christ, is the grand mark which distinguishes them from mere professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.—Matt. 10:22. John, 10, 28:29. John, 4:14.

10th. HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good, and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men, to fulfill its precepts, rises entirely from their love of sin, to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.—Matt. 5:17. Luke, 16:17. Rom. 3:30.

11th. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.—Acts, 8:1-13. 1st Cor. 1-2. 1st Cor. 4:17.

12th. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its purifying power; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and

wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by a solemn self-examination.—Mark, 1:4. Matt. 3:6. John, 3:23.

13th. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.—Acts, 20:7. Rev. 1:10. Mark, 2:27.

14th. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.—1 Peter, 2:13. Rom. 13:1-7. Matt. 22:21.

15th. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse, and this destruction holds among men both in and after death.—1 John, 3:7-10. Gen. 18:23. Psalms, 37:1-40.

16th. OF THE WORLD TO COME.—That the end of this world is approaching, that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy, and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.—2 Peter, 3:19. Matt. 28:20. Heb. 1:10-12.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	BAPTIZED.	REC. BY LETTER.	RESTORED.	EXPELLED.	DEAD.	DIS. BY LETTER.	PRESENT MEMBERSHIP.	CONTRIBUTION.	SARATHIS FOR
Abadia.....	Hillsboro.	J. W. Hendry.	Nathan Boyet	4	6			2	2	21	1 00	2
Avi-floch.....	Polk.	Jas. Milton.	Jas. Milton, J. W. Castine,					2	2	17	3 00	2
Beulah.....	Hillsboro.	Jas. Milton.	E. F. Carpen, or J. B. Stewart	6	1	6		5	5	39	2 00	1
Benevolence.....	Manatee.	J. J. Robertson.	L. J. Simmons, M. Waters.	2	1			1	1	40	3 00	2
Bedford.....	Polk.	S. Walden.	J. J. Simmons, Ryan Frier	5	1			1	1	58	2 25	4
Concord.....	Polk.	J. M. Hayman.	J. M. Hayman, J. C. Blount	6	2			1	1	16	3 85	2
Conon.....	Polk.	J. R. Hayman.	J. W. Fitch, D. C. Dukas.	1	1					35	2 70	2
Friendship.....	Manatee.	E. J. Hull.	J. N. Reid, G. J. Tatum.	2	1					17	3 00	2
Fort Made.....	Polk.	L. J. Simmons.	R. N. Pyant, S. Trelwin.	4	2	2		2	2	35	2 50	1
Highway.....	Hillsboro.	L. J. Simmons.	R. W. Weeks, B. A. Winslow.	2	4			1	1	26	2 30	2
Mt. Moriah.....	Hillsboro.	L. S. Reynolds.	C. S. Waddles, T. W. Parrie.	18	18			1	1	73	5 60	1
Mt. Pisgah.....	Manatee.	J. W. Hendry.	D. W. Carlton, J. W. Whitden.							17	1 50	4
New Hope.....	Manatee.	E. Chandler.	By Letter.							16	1 00	4
New Zion.....	Manatee.	J. M. Hendry.	D. J. W. Boney.	10	20			1	1	91	5 06	4
Oak Grove.....	Manatee.	J. W. Hendry.	J. W. Hendry, J. M. Hendry, N. T. Jones.	1	30			1	1	48	3 00	3
Shiloh.....	Hernando.	A. Wilson.	Thos. Thigpen, H. Steer.	5	11	3		3	3	68	1 50	2
Tenofasassa.....	Hillsboro.	S. Walden.	A. Wilson, S. L. Hancock.	3	3			2	2	41	5 00	2
Tampa.....	Hillsboro.	S. Walden.	S. Walden, T. W. Wilder.	2	4			2	2	60	5 00	2
			T. H. Jaudon, J. M. Duffey.	2	4			1	1	17		
			No Representation.									

Received of N. T. Jones twenty-five dollars to pay for printing these minutes.

