

# MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

South Florida Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

Bethel Church, Polk County, Florida,

OCTOBER 16TH AND 18TH, 1880.

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OFFICERS.

SYLVESTER WALDEN  
J. M. HAYMAN

MODERATOR.  
CLERK.

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# MINUTES.

## FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

The fourteenth annual session of the South Florida Baptist Association was held with the Bethel Church, in Polk county, Florida, commencing Saturday, October the 16th, 1880.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder S. Walden. Text: "Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers xiii. 30.

After an intermission of one hour, for refreshments, the delegates assembled in the church house, and, after engaging in singing and prayer, the Association was called to order by Elder S. Walden, the former Moderator.

Letters from the churches represented at this session were handed in and read. Petitionary letters were then called for, when one presented by Elder B. L. Ray, from the Double Branch Church, in Hernando county, and being found orthodox, was received as a member of this body, and the right hand of Fellowship was given to the delegate by the Moderator.

The Association then proceeded to the election of permanent officers for this session, and, on motion, the rule was waived, and, by acclamation, Elder S. Walden was elected Moderator, and Elder J. M. Hayman, Clerk.

Brother J. I. Spivy preached at the stand at 3 o'clock P. M.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees, to-wit:

On preaching—T. C. Simmons, J. R. McDonald and J. M. Duffy, with the delegates from Bethel Church.

On Sabbath-schools—J. C. Blount, J. M. Hayman and W. M. McDonald.

On Temperance—T. H. Jaudon, J. I. Spivy and B. F. Blount.

On Finance—E. G. Wilder, S. L. Handcock and G. L. Newbern.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—S. L. Handcock, S. S. Rogers and J. C. Blount.

On Letters and Documents—T. H. Jaudon, T. W. Wilder and A. Wilson.

On Publications—R. N. Pylant, B. L. Ray and B. F. Blount.

On motion, brother J. R. McDonald was enrolled as delegate from Hopewell Church, instead of the absent delegate.

Visiting brethren of our faith and order were invited to seats with us.

Correspondents from sister Associations called for, when Elder A. Tindall, from the Wekiva Association, presented himself as a Corresponding Messenger, with a copy of the Minutes of said Association, and was received as such, and the hand of fellowship was given him by the Moderator.



After singing and prayer, adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

NOTE.—At night Elder A. Tindall preached to a large and attentive congregation.

### EXERCISES ON SABBATH.

At 10 o'clock Sunday morning prayer meeting was commenced, and conducted by Elder J. M. Hayman, and participated in by others. At 11 o'clock Elder A. Wilson preached on the subject of Missions, from the text, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Luke 3:4. At the close of the hour's exercises a collection for Missions, within the bounds of this Association, was taken up, in *cash*, amounting to fifty-six dollars and fifty five cents, and in *subscription* to the amount of fifty-five dollars.

After refreshments, at 3 o'clock P. M., Elder A. Tindall preached from the text, "Remember." Luke, 16:25, and at night Elder R. N. Pylant preached.

The congregation at each hour's service was large, and good order was observed. The congregation on Sunday at 11 o'clock was supposed to number eight hundred persons.

### SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, October 18, 1880.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and, after singing and prayer, the delegates' names were called, and the Minutes of Saturday's proceedings were read and approved.

The following queries were handed in and read, and, on motion, it was agreed to discuss and answer them, to-wit:

When does a church commence exercising discipline over its members? Answer. When they become its members.

Is it right for the churches of this Association to allow persons out of the churches to take part in calling their preachers? Answer. *No*.

Elder T. H. Jaudon offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That we advise the churches of this Association not to receive excluded members into their fellowship until they are restored by the church that expelled them, unless it can be shown that the church has become extinct, or that the member has been unfairly expelled from his church.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Elder R. N. Pylant, to-wit:

WHEREAS, John A. Gandy, formerly a member of Fairview Church, in Orange county, Florida, and now a member of Antioch Church, of Polk county, and reports derogatory to his Christian character, having occurred previous to his joining Antioch Church, and after his being dismissed from Fairview Church; therefore,

*Resolved*, That Antioch Church be, and is hereby advised, to turn over the letter the said Gandy received from Fairview Church, with all the papers pertaining to the same, and request that that church will take such action as they may think proper.

The above, after having been read, was adopted.  
Elder J. M. Hayman offered the following preamble and advice, which was read and adopted, to-wit:

WHEREAS, There seems to be a matter of trouble with Bethel Church, of this Association, and the Green Pond Church, of the Midway Association, in regard to brother R. T. Caddin; therefore, this Association *advises* Bethel Church to propose to Green Pond Church to meet with a committee appointed, at some time and place, to be designated; and we *suggest* to the Green Pond Church to send their committee, to meet with the committee from Bethel, and that each church call two ordained ministers from each Association, and before the committees and council let investigation be made in regard to the trouble, and we advise that the decision of the committees, with the advice of the ministers, govern the matter.

### REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

We, the committee appointed at the last Association to advise with Antioch Church, in the case of J. R. Tatum, beg leave to report that we have examined into the matter, and find that Antioch Church has acted in good faith, and in the case of J. A. Gandy and that the church was entirely misrepresented to our Association. All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. G. WILDER, *Chairman*.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

We, the Committee on Letters and Documents, beg leave to report that we have examined the letters sent up by the churches, and find that peace and harmony prevails. We find letters from three churches marked, viz: Gapway, Providence and Six-Mile Pond. We see no reason why said letters were marked.

We also find four petitions for the next Association, and we recommend that the next session of the Association be held with Oak Grove Church.

We find in all the letters requests for the prayers of this body for their spiritual prosperity.

Respectfully submitted.

T. H. JAUDON, *Chairman*.

The above, after being read, was adopted.

### REPORT ON SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Report of Committee on Sabbath-schools was read and adopted as follows:

The Committee on Sabbath-schools have to report that we learn from some of the churches of our Association that they have good, flourishing Sabbath-schools, in which they use Baptist literature. We urgently recommend the importance of keeping up a Baptist Sabbath-school in each church of this Association. And we suggest that, in order to make them interesting to the young, for the old people, especially the members of the churches, to attend them, recite lessons and repeat the Scriptures, and otherwise participate as pupils of the schools. And we respectfully suggest the

propriety of the superintendents and teachers being exemplary members of the churches, upon the ground that it is to be presumed that they are better qualified to impart religious instruction. And we would remind the churches of this Association that our Sunday-school literature, books and papers, are very cheap, published by the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, and the INDEX PUBLISHING COMPANY, Atlanta, Georgia. The Sabbath-school is a place where all can find profitable work to do in the cause of our dear Redeemer. Respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. BLOUNT, *Chairman.*

#### REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Adopted the report of the Committee on Publications, which is as follows:

We, the Committee on Publications, beg leave to report that we recommend the reading of all standard Baptist literature, published throughout the country, especially THE CHRISTIAN INDEX, published at Atlanta, Georgia; the "Baptist," published at Memphis, Tennessee; and Ford's "Christian Repository," published at St. Louis, Missouri. Also, theological works, such as Wayland's sermons, and Dagg's and Carson's systems of theology. And though lastly, we recommend, above all others, the great Book of books, the Holy Bible, which is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our pathway, which will make us wise unto salvation, and lead us through that straight and narrow pathway, which leads from earth's sorrows to Heaven's joys. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. N. PYLANT, *Chairman.*

The stand was occupied at 11 o'clock by Elder A. Tindal, and at 3 o'clock, P. M., by Elder B. L. Ray, who preached from Hebrews 2:1.

#### CIRCULAR LETTER.

##### MISSIONS.

The cause of Missions is the cause of God. Are we God's people? Do we love Him? If we love Him we should honor Him. God is honored and glorified in the salvation of souls. And there is no other name given under Heaven, or among men, whereby souls can be saved, than the name of Jesus. He said, "All power is given unto me, go ye, therefore, into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark xvi:15. "Teach all nations." Matthew xxviii:19. Jesus being the only name by which salvation is offered, how shall the destitute have faith, as faith comes by hearing? Romans x:17. How shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent? Romans x:14-15. "The Gospel is the power of God, unto salvation to every one that believes." Romans i:16.

Then it is our duty to disseminate the Gospel in every way we can, by preaching, and sending *preachers* and *teachers*, that the people may hear, may learn, and obey all the commands of our blessed Redeemer.

This is not intended to be read over hastily, and carelessly thrown aside, but the *urgent appeal is now made to you as a Christian* that if you love your Saviour, and have faith in Him, you should show your faith by your works. For he said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John xiv:15: If you trust Him for

the salvation of your soul, can you not trust Him with your means? "Have faith in God." He says, "Prove me now, herewith, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing." Matthew iii:10.

"Oh! make but trial of His love, Experience will decide  
How blest are they, and only they, who in His truth confide."

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty." Proverbs iii:9-10.

If you will do better than you have been doing for the support of the Gospel, at home and abroad, adopt the New Testament plan, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." 1 Corinthians, xvi:2. "Jacob's vow was to give one-tenth of his income." Genesis xxviii:22. Can you not give one-tenth of your income? "How much owest thou my Lord?" Luke xvi-5.

Now, dear brother and sister, if you have the mind to give, and have not the means, ask the Lord for the means to give, and when you receive it, give where you think it will do the most good. By cultivating the *spirit* and *habit* of benevolence, you will not only realize God's blessings upon yourself, but will bestow upon others—the recipients of your contributions, favors of incalculable worth, and you will grow to be a better man or woman by it.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has forty-five missionaries—six in Africa, eighteen in China, eleven in Italy and one in Brazil, South America. The Home Mission Board has nine missionaries among the Indians, and twenty-five missionaries among the whites, in the Southern States, six of whom are in our own State. Ought we not help sustain these self-denying, cross-bearing missionaries, who have given up the sweet enjoyment of their homes and loved ones, and are sacrificing their lives for the salvation of souls? How can you forbear? Why do you withhold? Oh! my dear brethren and sisters of the South Florida Association, look around you at the destitution within the bounds of our own Association. Many neighborhoods where there is no preaching—some churches not able to support a preacher, or *not willing* to do what they ought to do for the good cause in their midst. Our churches ought to be taught their duty in this respect, for as long as they remain as they are, times will be no better. You will find it to be true, if you will pay your "pastors," as you call them, better, you will have better preaching, by those who supply your churches, for with the scanty pay they get, they cannot afford to perform all the duties of a pastor, and consequently only supply the churches monthly with the preaching of the word, and the administration of the ordinances. "My brethren, these things ought not so to be." Will you resolve now, before you lay this aside, that, by the grace of God, you will give *steadily*, or *portionately*, to the cause of Christ, as the Lord may prosper you? I am assured if you will do it, you will never regret it, but that the Lord will bless you in it.

Every church should be a *missionary band*, and carry out this missionary work. For what were you organized but to help extend the Kingdom of Christ? Be no longer idle in the vineyard of the Lord—whatsoever is right he will give you.

"Soon the joyful news will come,  
Child, your Father calls, come home."

Yours, in Christ.

J. M. HAYMAN.

## REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

We, the Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, ask leave to report that since our last Association, one of our brother deacons has been taken from us by the hand of death, to-wit: Brother Solomon Goodwin: therefore,

*Resolved*, That we submit to the will of God, who doeth all things well; that we sympathise with his bereaved relatives; that this Association has sustained great loss in his death; and that a page be suitably inscribed in our Minutes to his memory, and that a copy of the same be sent to his family.

S. L. HANDCOCK, *Chairman*.

## REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance presented their report, which was read, and, after amendments, was received, as follows:

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that there is no practice known among us that is productive of more evil to the social and moral, as well as the Christian world, than the intemperate use of spirituous liquors; and though it is not within our power to prevent its use among all classes, yet we do most earnestly urge upon all the churches throughout this Association to deal with any member in its ranks who would either engage in its traffic, or indulge in its use as a beverage. And we earnestly pray that the time may soon come when this, the greatest of all other evils, shall be subdued, and the Redeemer's Kingdom established upon the ruins thereof. Respectfully submitted.

T. H. JAUDON, *Chairman*.

## REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, the Committee on Finance, ask leave to report that we have received from the several churches of this Association, for Associational purposes, the sum of forty dollars.

E. G. WILDER, *Chairman*.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

To amount on hand for Missions	\$ 5 70
“ Received from Finance Com., Asso'l Funds	40 00
“ Of cash collections for Missions on Sabbath	56 55
“ Of Subscription	55 00
Total	\$157 25

T. W. WILDER, *Treasurer*.

## REPORT ON PREACHING.

The Committee on preaching reports as follows:  
Elder R. N. Pylant to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next Association, and Elder S. Walden, alternate. Elder J. M. Hayman to preach on the subject of Missions, at 11 o'clock on Sunday, and Elder A. Wilson, alternate.

Respectfully submitted. C. T. SIMMONS, *Chairman*.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

On motion, the Moderator appointed an Executive Committee for this Associational year, to-wit: R. N. Pylant, T. H. Jaudon, E. G. Wilder, J. M. Duffy and J. R. McDonald, whose duty it shall be to secure a good, efficient ordained minister of our faith and order, to labor as a missionary within the bounds of this Association, in visiting and preaching in the destitute places, and use what money is in the hands of our Treasurer, contributed for that purpose; in short, to provide missionary labor in accordance to the means.

The Moderator appointed brother B. F. Blount to write the next Circular Letter.

Ordered that the Clerk have four hundred copies of these Minutes printed, and that he draw upon the Treasurer for a sufficient amount to defray the expenses of printing and distributing the Minutes.

On motion, the Clerk was allowed to have ten dollars for his services as Clerk for this session, and that he draw on the Treasurer for the same.

Ordered that the Clerk reserve fifty copies of these Minutes, and hand them over to the Executive Committee, for their use.

The following resolution was offered by brother W. S. Knight, and was unanimously adopted, to-wit:

*Resolved*, That we tender our sincere thanks to the brethren and sisters of this (Bethel) Church, together with the many friends of this community, for their genial hospitality in the support of this meeting.

After singing a parting hymn and joining in prayer, adjourned to meet with the Oak Grove Church, in Hernando county, on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, A. D., 1881.

SYLVESTER WALDEN, *Moderator*.

J. M. HAYMAN, *Clerk*.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Dead.	Totals.	Contributions.	Days of Meeting.	REMARKS.
Antioch	Polk	J. M. Hayman.	Not represented	7	5	1	0	0	14	14	14	1	As last represented.
Anclote	Hernando	J. M. Hayman.	Not represented	1	1	1	0	0	16	16	2	0	As last represented.
Bethel	Polk	J. M. Hayman.	E. G. Wilder, S. S. Rogers	1	1	1	0	0	2	2	2	0	As last represented.
Beniah	Polk	J. M. Hayman.	Not represented	1	1	1	0	0	14	14	1	0	As last represented.
Double Branch	Hernando	B. L. Ray	B. L. Ray, Jacob Godwin	11	2	1	0	0	1	13	2	5	Church P. O. F. Daide.
Concord	Polk	J. M. Hayman	Not represented	4	2	1	0	0	27	27	1	5	As last represented.
Clear Water	Hillsboro	C. S. Reynolds	J. L. McCland, J. S. Boax	1	1	1	0	0	21	21	1	5	As last represented.
Gapway	Polk	R. T. Caddin	J. R. McDonald, W. M. McDonald	1	1	1	0	0	31	31	3	25	Church P. O. Alafia.
Hopewell	Hillsboro	T. H. Jaudon	Not represented since 1876	1	1	1	0	0	46	46	1	4	As last represented.
Key West	Hernando	W. F. Wood	A. W. Jackson, G. G. McKindree	4	7	2	2	1	1	13	4	25	As last represented.
Emmaus	Hillsboro	R. E. Bell	W. F. Pratt, John Murphy	11	4	2	2	1	1	19	3	0	Church P. O. Fern.
Oak Grove	Hernando	T. H. Jaudon	D. T. McLeod, E. McLeod	8	4	1	3	5	1	13	3	0	Church P. O. Fern.
Prosant Hill	Hillsboro	G. M. T. Wilson	H. D. Evans, John Spivy	6	2	1	1	1	1	11	4	3	Formerly Five-Mile Prairie.
Six-Mile Pond	Hillsboro	R. T. Caddin	R. N. Pyles, J. W. Faich	6	5	1	1	1	1	14	1	5	Formerly Five-Mile Prairie.
Spring Hill	Polk	R. N. Pyles	W. S. Knight, J. W. Wilder	1	3	1	1	1	1	6	4	3	As last represented.
Shiloh	Hillsboro	T. H. Jaudon	T. H. Jaudon, J. M. Duffie	1	3	1	1	1	1	6	1	61	As last represented.
Tenotassassa	Hillsboro	T. H. Jaudon	C. T. Simmon, G. L. Newbern	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	2	As last represented.
Turkey Creek	Polk	J. M. Hayman	Not represented	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	2	As last represented.
Flag Grove	Polk	J. M. Hayman	Not represented	2	1	1	1	1	1	6	4	2	As last represented.
				10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	

**SACRED TO THE MEMORY**  
 OF  
**DEACON SOLOMON GODWIN,**  
 WHO DIED  
**JULY, 1880.**

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