

FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

MINUTES

STETSON LIBRARY

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SAINT MARY'S RIVER

Missionary Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH,

CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA.

SEPT. 28, 29 AND 30 1883.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

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1883.

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MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, September 28, 1883.

Elder J. A. Harper, who was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, failed to attend the Association, and G. A. Mallette, the alternate, preached the sermon from Matthew, vi. chapter, 33rd verse, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you."

After which an intermission of thirty minutes was given for refreshments.

The Association was then called to order by Rev. G. A. Mallette, Moderator, and after religious service proceeded to business. Letters from churches were then called for, read and the names of the delegates duly enrolled as follows:

- From Hebron—G. A. Mallette, Wm. J. Caldwell.
- From Mount Olive—G. A. Pendarvis, W. C. Wilds.
- From New Providence—E. A. McWhorter, Wm. Brazil.
- From Ephesus—Not represented.
- From Mount Zion—Not represented.

Petitionary letters were called for, when letters from Brandy Branch Church, Nassau county, Florida, delegates Nathan Fourakers and Aaron Fourakers; from Thomasville Chapel, Duval county, Florida, delegates Abraham Ogilvie and Elijah Higgenbotham; from Sharon Church, (presented by Rev. K. Chambers, our Association Missionary, the delegates appointed being providentially hindered from attending,) were presented asking for membership in the Association, and after being severally read, on motion the churches were received, the Moderator presenting the hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association. A motion was then made by Brother E. A. McWhorter, with a few preparatory remarks, that a prayer of thanksgiving be offered by Rev. W. F. Wood to God for his blessing in increasing our numbers. On motion an election was then held for officers of the Association for the ensuing year, which resulted in the choice of Elder G. A. Mallette, Moderator; E. A. McWhorter, Clerk, and W. C. Wilds, Treasurer. Visiting brethren were then invited to seats, when Elder Wm. F. Wood, pastor of Key West Church, Florida, and Elder K. Chambers, our Missionary, a member of Bulah Association, Florida, were welcomed by the Moderator, and requested to take part in the deliberations of the Association.

Correspondence from sister Associations called for. None presented.

Appointments of committees as follows:

- On Letters and Queries—W. C. Wilds, Wm. J. Caldwell.
- On Sunday Schools—N. Fourakers, W. C. Wilds.

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On Missions—Aaron Fourakers, Elijah Higgenbotham.
On Periodicals, Etc.—A. Ogilvie, Wm. Brazil.
On State of Religion in the Churches—Wm. J. Caldwell, W. C. Wilds.

On Finance—Wm. Brazil, N. Fourakers.

On Nominations—A. Ogilvie, Wm. J. Caldwell.

On Religious Exercises—E. A. McWhorter, Wm. Brazil.

The committee on religious exercises were requested to report as soon as possible.

The committee reported that they had selected Elder K. Chambers to preach on Saturday at 11 o'clock, and Elder Wm. F. Wood, of Key West, Florida, to preach the missionary sermon on Sabbath at 11 o'clock.

Report received and adopted.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet on Saturday at 9 o'clock A. M.

SECOND DAY.

SATURDAY, September 29, 1883.

The Association was called, and after singing and prayer by the Moderator, business was resumed.

The Minutes of Friday were read and approved.

Reports of Committees were called for and read, as follows:

ON LETTERS AND QUERIES.

The Committee on Letters and Queries report that they have examined the corresponding letters, and find nothing claiming the attention of the Association. No Queries have been submitted. Respectfully submitted.

W. C. WILDS,
 WM. J. CALDWELL.

Report received and adopted.

ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday-schools beg leave to report that they regret that the churches are not as active in this work as we could desire. We find but one church which supports a Sunday-school, and that only partially. Mount Olive in this particular is an example to the other churches.

It has been said that the Sunday-school is the nursery of the church, meaning that it bears the same relation to the church as a nurse does to a family.

The duty of the church to provide religious instruction to the children cannot be questioned, and the Baptist Churches are generally at least ahead of other churches in this matter. It is not only a duty but a blessed privilege to instruct the young in the words and work of Him who said "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

We therefore urge upon all our churches to organize Sabbath-schools at once, and we earnestly and urgently request the delegates when they return to their churches to call their attention to this important work, and to take an active part in organizing and carrying on the work. Respectfully submitted.

NATHAN FOURAKERS,
 W. C. WILDS.

Report received and adopted.

ON PERIODICALS AND RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Periodicals and Religious Literature after due deliberation beg leave to report, that taking into comparison our numbers, very few take our religious papers. Yes, too few. Next to the Bible we class our well-conducted religious papers. The Christian Index having been made the organ of this Association we heartily recommend it to our brethren as a good and true Baptist paper, not only zealously upholding the principles of our denomination, but sending forth much religious truth and information just needed within the bounds of this Association, and being also an excellent family paper. We also recommend The Foreign Mission Journal of our Southern Convention, which gives us much information about the missionary operations of our church. Also kind words for the benefit of our children. Respectfully submitted.

ABRAHAM OGILVIE,
WM. BRAZIL.

On motion to receive and adopt this report Brother W. F. Wood made some spirited remarks in advocacy of the recommendation by the committee of the several papers, and urging the churches to subscribe for them, and showing their great value in the family, not only in a religious point of view, but as means of education. Brother McWhorter made a few remarks, and informed the brethren that he acted as agent for the Index and Foreign Mission Journal, and would be glad to forward any subscriptions.

The hour of 11 o'clock having arrived, Elder K. Chambers preached by appointment, on yesterday, from the 17th chapter of John, 22d verse: "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." After which business was resumed.

ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report that, while the churches have done but little towards Missions, "they have done what they could," but not what they might have done had there been an organized, systematic effort in that direction. While the church letters show no contributions sent up for that purpose, we are confident it was not for lack of a missionary spirit, but simply because no one has set the subject in its proper light before them. Our churches are very deficient in information on this most important matter. While Mission Boards are represented by their agents in almost every section of our State, our Association, isolated as it is from the lines of travel, has unfortunately not received that attention which we need and earnestly desire; the result is the Mission cause has lost what we might have contributed, and our churches have lost the blessing. In view of these facts we call the attention of our Mission Boards to our condition, and invite them to send representatives within our bounds, waken up our churches, encourage the missionary spirit among us, and collect such funds as we would cheerfully contribute. We would also recommend an organized, systematic effort in this direction. Let the Association's Committee on Missions appoint some sister, selected by the delegates from the church, to solicit and collect such funds as the brethren and friends may contribute; let the sisters organize a Missionary Society in each church, and contribute five cents per month for missions and

send the same to the association with other contributions. Let such contributions appear on the Minutes, accredited to the proper source. During the past year the Committee on Missions for the Association employed their much esteemed and beloved brother, Elder K. Chambers, to labor as missionary for the Association. While we do not hear of any additions to the churches, we believe his labors have been greatly blessed in the unification of the churches; we perceive greater energy and spiritual life among our people, we see manifested a more earnest desire for the preaching of the gospel among us, there is an hungering after spiritual food; the united prayer breathed in the church letters seems to be, Lord, send us ministers to break the bread of life among us. We are encouraged to believe that a better day is dawning. When Zion travails, children are born unto her. Brethren of the churches, lift up your heads, your redemption draweth nigh.

Respectfully submitted,

AARON FOURAKERS,
ELIJAH HIGGINBOTHAM.

Upon a motion to receive and adopt the report, Elder K. Chambers, Brother E. A. McWhorter, and Elder W. F. Wood addressed the Association on the subject of Missions. After the pointed and feeling remarks of Brethren Chambers and Wood, especially as to our Foreign Mission Work, a collection for Foreign Missions was taken up, amounting to \$11.

ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee, after an examination of the letters of the different churches composing the Association, find that not a single church has a pastor, or regular preaching, and have had none during the associational year, except the occasional preaching of the missionary employed by the Committee on Missions of our Association. None of the churches report revivals, all seem to be at a stand still, if such a thing can be, no increase in membership and no loss by excommunication is reported. We rejoice to notice, however, that three churches have been added to our number, one of which has been constituted since our last Association. Your committee believe that just at this time there are indications for good, especially if the churches could have regular preaching and instruction, and would be built up. Let us, therefore, pray that the Lord would send us laborers to occupy the held in our destitution, for the harvest is great. We would recommend the churches to make strenuous efforts to obtain pastors, and to hold meetings for prayer at least once a month, to be conducted by some of the members.

Respectfully submitted,
Received and adopted.

WM. J. CALDWELL,
W. C. WILDS.

ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that no money has been sent up from any of the churches for any purposes except for minutes, as follows: Hebron, \$3.00; Mount Olive, \$3.00; Thomasville Chapel, \$3.20; Brandy Branch, \$1.00; New Providence, \$2.25.

Respectfully submitted,
Received and adopted.

WM. BRAZIL,
N. FOURAKERS.

ON NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to recommend that Elder K. Chambers be requested to preach the Introductory Sermon, G. A. Pendarvis, alternate, and that Rev. J. N. Chaudoin, of the Florida State Board of Missions, be requested to preach the Missionary Sermon; G. A. Malfette, alternate. We also recommend that the next meeting of the Association be held with Ephesus church, Nassau county, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,
Received and adopted.

A. OGILVIE,
WM. J. CALDWELL.

The Committee on Missions, appointed at the last Association to hold union missionary meetings to foster a missionary spirit in the churches, and if possible, to procure a missionary to labor within the bounds of the Association, beg leave to report that they have discharged the duties imposed upon them by the Association, as far as was in their power to do. We have held three union missionary meetings which we think were attended with good results, at each of which collections were taken up. The one at Mount Olive, amounting to \$18.50, was appropriated to foreign missions. We have employed Elder K. Chambers as a missionary, who has been laboring with our churches preaching at outside stations and neighborhoods for the past six months. He reports that he has traveled 1,734 miles, preached 110 sermons, made 137 family visits and prayed with the families, that he has baptized one at Olustee, Fla., which is outside the bounds of our Association,) while we have no revivals, nor has our church membership increased. Yet we feel that in employing Brother Chambers that we have done a good work and it was just at the time opportune and directed by our Great Head, so that our church could have the ministrations of the Gospel, as not a church within our bounds had a pastor during this year. The committee promised Brother Chambers \$150 for his services, of which \$111 has been paid him, leaving a balance due at the time of \$39, which your committee earnestly hope to be able to pay now very soon, and ask the churches to come immediately to our help.

The laborer, we believe, in this case, has not only earned but is worthy of his hire.

Your committee now beg to be discharged.

E. A. MCWHORTER,
G. H. PEEPLES,
W. C. WILLS,
G. W. HADDOCK.

A motion was made to receive and adopt all of the report of the committee except as to their discharge, and that the committee be continued another year.

Carried.

It was resolved that a collection be taken up to-morrow (Sunday) after the missionary sermon, to be devoted to Associational purposes.

After singing and prayer, adjourned to meet on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

SUNDAY, September 30, 1883.

By appointment, Elder Wm. F. Wood, of Key West, Florida, preached a missionary sermon to a large and attentive congregation, from Matthew, xxviii, 19th and 20th verses, after which a hymn was sung and a collection taken up, amounting to \$10.00 for missionary purposes, within the bounds of the Association.

The Association adjourned to meet with Ephesus Church, Nassau county, Florida, on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1884. After the parting hand had been given, a hymn sung, and the prayer and benediction by the Moderator.

E. A. MCWHORTER,
Clerk.

G. A. MALLETT,
Moderator.

STATISTICS.

| NAME OF CHURCH. | Baptized. | Received by Letter. | Restored. | Excommunicated. | Dismissed. | Died. | Total Membership. | Contributions for Minutes. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Hebron..... | | | | | | | 30 | 3 08 |
| Mount Olive..... | | | | | | | 23 | 3 00 |
| New Providence..... | | | | | | | 34 | 3 25 |
| Mount Zion (not reported)..... | | | | | | | | |
| Ephesus (not reported)..... | | | | | | | | |
| Thomasville Chapel..... | | | | | | | 13 | 3 20 |
| Brandy Branch..... | | | | | | | 13 | 1 00 |
| Sharon..... | | | | | | | 23 | |
| Total..... | | | | | | | 146 | \$12 45 |

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

G. A. MALLETT, Moderator.....King's Ferry, Florida.
E. A. MCWHORTER, Clerk.....St. Mary's Georgia.
W. C. WILDS, Treasurer.....Crandall, Florida.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

G. A. MALLETT.....King's Ferry, Florida.
THEODORE DAVIS.....King's Ferry, Florida.
G. A. PENDARVIS.....Hart's Road, Florida.

MISSIONARY IN BOUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

K. CHAMBERS.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- I. Introductory Sermon.
- II. Association called to order by the Moderator.
- III. Letters from the Churches called for, read, and names of Delegates enrolled.
- IV. Petitionary Letters called for.
- V. Election of Officers.
- VI. Inviting Visiting Brethren to seats.
- VII. Letters of Correspondence called for.
- VIII. Appointment of Committees.
- IX. Circular Letter called for.
- X. Reports of Standing and other Committees.
- XI. Queries called up and considered.
- XII. Miscellaneous Business.
- XIII. Adjournment.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF DECORUM.

In view of the increase of fraternal love, knowledge, usefulness and efficiency, which must accrue from an association of churches in cordial union upon the principles of the Gospel, we now seek to be thus united, that by individual and collective action, we may subserve the great objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

ARTICLE 1. This body shall be called St. Mary's River-Missionary Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 2. It shall be composed of such churches as hold the doctrine of human depravity; the atonement of Christ; the election unto eternal life; the regeneration and the perseverance of the saints; baptism by immersion, administered to none but professed believers; and the Lord's Supper intended for those only who have been regularly admitted into the visible Church

ARTICLE 3. The officers of this Association shall consist of Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be elected annually by ballot.

ARTICLE 4. We believe in only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead.

ARTICLE 5. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the only rule of faith and practice, both in the concerns of religion and the general affairs of our churches.

ARTICLE 6. We believe the Church of Christ to be a congregation of faithful believers, who live in fellowship, and have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in cordial agreement to observe holy discipline in conformity with the requirements of the Scriptures.

ARTICLE 7. We believe Jesus Christ to be the great head of the Church; the spiritual discipline, with an eye single to the glory of God, must greatly conduce to the final prosperity of the union of the churches.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall not be dissolved without the concurrence of two-thirds of the churches composing the body, and shall have power to withdraw its connection from any church which shall act contrary to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.
 2. Any church wishing to be admitted into this body shall petition by letter and messengers, and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be admitted.
 3. Each church shall have a right to two (2) delegates, and shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every fifty members after the first hundred; and a majority of the churches represented shall constitute a quorum.
 4. Any query sent to the Association by any of the churches composing the body, shall be read and duly considered.
 5. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association unless withdrawn by the mover.
 6. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted unless he depart from the subject.
 7. No brother shall speak more than twice upon one subject without permission of the body.
 8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.
 9. It is the duty of the Association to provide for the general union of churches; to provide for the destitution of the territory within its bounds by missionary aid; and to give the churches the best advice it can in matters of difficulty.
- The Constitution and Rules of Decorum of this body may be altered and amended by the concurrence of two-thirds of its members.