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MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

BRADFORD BAPTIST CHURCH,

BRADFORD COUNTY, FLA., NOV. 10, 11 AND 12, 1883.

—OFFICERS:—

W. F. MALPHURS, MODERATOR. H. C. PARKER, CLERK.
W. H. PINHOLSTER, TREASURER.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

H. C. PARKER, NOAH GEIGER, R. CASON.

LAKE CITY, FLA.,
BAPTIST WITNESS BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call the Association to order.
3. Lingering and prayer: Invite Visiting Brethren to seats.
4. Call for letters and reading the same.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Petitionary letters called for.
7. Appointment of Committees:—
 1. On Preaching.
 2. On Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
 3. On Nominations.
 4. On Missions.
 5. On Finance.
 6. On Sunday-schools.
 7. On Publications.
 8. On Temperance.
8. Call for Executive Committee of last year.
9. Call for Treasurer's Report.
10. Call for other Committees.
11. Reading Circular Letter.
12. Adjournment.



ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.

S. S. BROWN	Lake Butler, Fla.	J. A. LEWIS	Starke, Fla.
W. ROBERTS	Lake Butler, Fla.	W. F. MALPHURS	Starke, Fla.
J. J. CLARK	Lake Butler, Fla.	R. KEITH	Starke, Fla.
L. DEES	Providence, Fla.	L. W. KICKLITER	Starke, Fla.

MINUTES.

The New River Association met pursuant to adjournment with the Bradford Church of Bradford county, Fla., Nov. 10, 1883. The introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. L. W. Kickliter from Romans 12:11; "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

After one hour's intermission for refreshments the Association met and was called to order by the former Moderator.

A hymn was sung; and prayer offered by _____.

The former clerk being absent, Bro. W. H. Pinholster was chosen clerk *pro tem*.

Letters were called for and read from eleven churches and delegates were then received, as follows:

Antioch—J. R. Sloan, W. H. Stroman, H. C. Parker.

Bethel—A. Hazen.

Bradford—D. E. Lynn, J. E. Hill.

Brandy Branch—By letter.

Kingsley Lake—F. R. and Darling Prevattie.

Mount Zion—A. Peterson, John Ellison.

North Pleasant Grove—R. Cason, S. H. Burnett.

New River—J. W. and W. H. Pinholster.

Santa Fe Pond—John B. Cason, Jno. Dyal, Chas. Weeks, Jas. Kite.

Sardis—J. J. Clark.

Waldo—By letter.

On motion the rule for election of officers was postponed until the petitionary letters were received, viz.: one from Dedan church, Bros. Wm. F. Malphurs and A. Crosby delegates; one from Mount Sinai, Bro. H. C. Surrency delegate.

On motion the rule for electing officers by ballot was waived to be elected by acclamation, which resulted in the re-electing of Eld. Wm. F. Malphurs, Moderator, Bro. H. C. Parker, elected Clerk, and Bro. W. H. Pinholster re-elected Treasurer.

On motion the order of business be changed to make the 7th order the 8th and *vice versa*, carried *pro tem*.

Correspondence was then called for and received: Bros. W. N. Chaudoin, G. W. Hall, N. T. King and W. S. Perry from Santa Fe Association.

The following committees were then appointed:

On Preaching—Bros. J. B. Cason, J. R. Sloan, I. W. Pinholster, and deacons of this church.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Rev. A. Crosby, Bros. W. H. Stroman, and D. Hazen.

On Nominations—Bros. R. Cason, J. J. Clare, and D. E. Lynn.

On Missions—Rev. A. Crosby, Bros. J. B. Cason, and John Ellison.

On Finance—Bros. R. Cason, Chas. Weeks, and F. R. Prevattie.

On Sabbath-schools—Bros. J. R. Sloan, Darling Prevattie, and S. H. Burnett.

On Publications—Bros. J. J. Clark, J. E. Hill, and A. Peterson.
On Temperance—Bros. J. B. Cason, James Kite, and H. C. Surrency.

On motion a committee be appointed on letters and queries; carried. The committee to consist of Bros. R. Cason, J. R. Sloan and J. E. Hill.

A report from the committee on preaching was received, viz: Bro. Perry to preach to-night, and Bro. King to conclude.

Moved to adjourn until Monday morning at 10 o'clock; carried.

SABBATH EXERCISES.

Met at the stand according to previous arrangements, at 11 o'clock, where the missionary sermon was delivered by the Moderator, Eld. Wm. F. Malphurs, to a large and attentive congregation; text, 1 Timothy, 2d chap., 5th and 6th verses; "For there is one God, and mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

A collection was taken up amounting to \$18.01.

The stand was occupied at 2½ o'clock P. M., by Bro. G. W. Hall, who preached from Mark 16:15, to a large attentive audience telling them in plain, impressive terms, how this command of the Saviour could be obeyed.

MONDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment. The Association was called to order by the Moderator; a hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Bro. J. B. Cason. Business was then resumed.

The minutes of last Saturday and Sunday were read and adopted.

The following-named Committees then made their report:

Committee on Nominations report as follows: Bro. A. Crosby to preach the next Introductory Sermon; Bro. Wm. F. Malphurs to close. Bro. L. W. Kickliter to preach the next Missionary Sermon; Bro. Wm. F. Malphurs to close.

The next meeting of the Association to be at New River Church. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. Cason, Chairman.

On Publications: That we learn with pleasure that a Baptist paper, to be called the FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS, is soon to be started at Lake City, by a brother that we learn is capable and a good man, Eld. A. P. Ashurst. It is to be a weekly paper, and cost two dollars a year. There is (we are sure) no means apart from the ministry of the gospel that will help to build up and strengthen our beloved denomination in the State like a paper advocating our sentiments as Baptist. Yet it would be hurtful to us to have a paper started and fail, as any effort of the kind will unless it has the hearty united support of our brotherhood. Therefore we earnestly recommend to our brethren of the Association to subscribe for and read this paper, and in every way practicable help to keep it alive. It is too late in the day to stop to argue the importance of the press. No interest, worldly or religiously, can prosper that does not print, advertise, or circulate its literature. We recommend also Kind Words, and Child's Gem, our two charming Sunday-school papers, and the Foreign Mission Journal, and Heathen Helper. The Foreign Mission Journal is published at Richmond, Va., by

the Foreign Mission board, and the Heathen Helper, at Louisville, Ky., in the interest of the woman's work in missions, and each costs fifty cents per annum, and are published monthly. We also record with pleasure the fact that the American Baptist Publication, has done much to increase reading and knowledge in our midst by the circulation of the Baptist literature, and in some instances have made grants of Bibles and Testaments for gratuitous distribution, and have made grants of books to some of our ministers. We rejoice to know that our Bro. G. W. Hall, is going to engage as a general colporteur in our part of the State, and any of the publications of the American Baptist Society, Sunday-school or religious books, hymn books, bibles, etc., can be had of him.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. CLARK, Chairman.

Report of committee on Sabbath-schools: We, the committee, are sorry to find so few Sunday-schools reported by the delegates of each church. This is a sad picture to be brought before so noble a body as this, and we do earnestly beg, that each church manifest more interest in establishing Sunday-schools and in giving their attention to training the young. That we earnestly beg that every church in this Association organize a school at once, and begin the noble work of training our neighbors and children for Jesus. We find one school reported at Kingsley's Pond; Supt., Mrs. W. H. Heiford. There is also one at Antioch which meets the third Sunday in each month; Supt. B. R. Mosley. One at LaCross, a branch school of Antioch, that numbers about forty schools; Supt. H. C. Parker. Also one at Mount Zion, numbers about fifty; Supt. D. L. Parrish. We the committee are pleased to find a few that are going in the discharge of their duty and earnestly hope that others will be stirred to a sense of their duty and go to work at once. May the good Lord bless and direct us in the discharge of our duty.

J. R. SLOAN, Chairman.

Your committee on preaching have had the same under consideration, and recommend that Bro. L. W. Kickliter preach to-day at the stand and Bro. Perry close in any way he may deem best.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. CASON, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Missions: The Committee on Missions report that the command of the Savior, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," is still binding upon us. To forget or neglect to aid in carrying it out is disobedience to Him; as we are missionaries or missionary Baptist, let us act consistently and work in this vast field. The various fields now cultivated by us as Southern Baptist and by us for convenience known as Foreign, Home and State Missions, are prosperous and enlarging and need help. Then too in our hands are fields white unto the harvest and the laborers are few. We do earnestly recommend to our sisters to organize Ladies' Mission Societies and that the churches are kindly urged to adopt some plan for raising mission funds. We suggest the churches try the plan of taking a collection quarterly at each Communion season. All of which is respectfully submitted. ABRAHAM CROSBY, Chairman.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows:

Amount in treasury	\$25 00
Collection on Sunday	18 00
Sent up from churches	21 90
Collection from the Union	4 30

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Report on Finance.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	No. of Minutes.	For Home Missions.	Amount for Minutes.	Total.
Antioch	20	\$2 50	\$1 00	\$4 10
Bethel	10	1 00	80	1 80
Bradford	10	1 30	80	2 10
Brandy Branch	10	75	80	1 55
Kingsley Lake	10	1 15	80	1 95
Mount Zion	6	1 25	50	2 75
North Pleasant Grove	25	2 50	2 50	2 75
New River	25	2 25	2 00	4 25
Santa Fe Pond	3		25	4 25
Sardis				
Waldo	11	45	1 10	1 55
Mount Sinai	10	85	80	1 65
Edom.				

All of which is respectfully submitted. R. CASON, Chairman.

On motion, we take an intermission of one hour for preaching, and one hour for refreshments. After which conference was called to order, and the following committees reported:

Report of Committee on Letters and Queries: We report that we find nothing claiming our attention except letters from Brandy Branch and Waldo, asking to be dismissed. We recommend the request be granted. All of which is respectfully submitted.
R. CASON, Chairman.

The Committee on Temperance report: That we deem it unnecessary to dwell upon the evils of intemperance, the baneful effects of strong drink we've all witnessed. We would call attention with emphasis to the general united effort now being all over our country to remedy as much as possible the evils of intemperance by legislation. We commend to our people and all our membership, our most excellent Local Option Law that has already closed up many of these dens of iniquity, called bar-rooms, and as a body we earnestly and lovingly recommend to our brethren to vote for no man to go to the Legislature that will not promise to support this law. We furthermore recommend to our churches to deal with every member for immoral conduct who will sign a petition for a man to get license to retail intoxicating drinks. Let us as friends of humanity and lovers of our country and of morality give no uncertain sound of the trumpet on this subject, but bravely and unitedly array ourselves on the side of right in this conflict, on the side of our friend, J. B. CASON, our children and our churches. Respectfully submitted,
Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons: Your committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, have had the same under consideration, and with gratitude report that we have no deaths to chronicle and feel that the Association will with gratitude render praise to God for his great mercies and kind Providences in sparing the lives of our deacons and standard bearers. All of which is respectfully submitted.
W. H. STROMAN, Chairman.

The committee in making the above report overlooked the fact that one beloved brother, Rev. John O. Kelly, died during the past associational year. We regret this omission very much,

and hereby take the liberty to state that Bro. Kelly was a very useful and highly esteemed servant of God. He was a native of South Carolina, and died at the advanced age of about 80 years. His loss is deeply mourned by those who knew him best, and we hereby extend to his bereaved family our heart-felt sympathy. As an Association we should pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up some one to fill his place.

H. C. PARKER, Clerk.

Report of Rev. L. W. Kickliter, Missionary.

Number miles traveled.....	542
Number sermons preached.....	50
Number baptized.....	5
Number Sunday-school addresses.....	5
Number family visits.....	1
Number churches constituted.....	
Collections for associational missions from Kingsley's church and community.....	\$11 31
For State Missions.....	2 00
Received from Antioch church through the Executive Committee.....	26 75
Total.....	\$40 06

Respectfully submitted, L. W. KICKLITER, Missionary.

Report of Executive Committee: We, a majority of your Executive Committee for the past associational year, beg leave to submit the following report: On or about the first of June Bro. L. W. Kickliter entered (being employed by us) on the work of missionary of our Association. His report will show the work performed by him. We have collected and paid over to him the following amounts:

Collected on the field.....	\$13 31
From Antioch church.....	26 75
Total amount received by him.....	\$40 06

Bro. Noah Geiger, one of the Executive Committee is absent and we presume he has about \$25 in hand collected by him. We recommend whatever amount that he has in his possession, and the \$18 collected yesterday, be turned over to him, making a total of about \$85.06.
Respectfully submitted,
H. C. PARKER, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report.

On hand from last year.....	\$25 00
Collected at Union Meeting New River Church.....	4 30
Collected on yesterday.....	18 01
Sent up from churches.....	21 90
Total amount on hand.....	\$68 21

W. H. PISHOLSTER, Treasurer.

On motion, Bro. J. R. Sloan be added to the committee on missions, and suggested Bro. Chaudoin as assistant.

On motion, the Committee on Missions be authorized to make

out report after the session and send to the clerk. Lengthy speech from Bro. Chaudoin on missions.

Whereas this Association has been deserted by a church or churches disregarding due christian courtesy, and whereas there has been neglect upon other churches to attend the regular sessions of this body be it therefore Resolved, That any church having failed for three years to represent itself at our annual meetings be at once dropped from the roll, and that hereafter any church willfully neglecting or refusing without just cause to duly represent itself for two consecutive meetings shall be dropped from the roll.

Be it resolved, That the churches of this Association are hereby requested to report at our next Association the amount in money or kind, contributed for the support of pastors and for missions during the year.

On motion the same Executive Committee be continued.

Volunteers to the State Convention were called for and the following brethren responded to the call: Brethren L. W. Kickliter, Wm. F. Malphurs, H. C. Parker, J. R. Sloan, P. H. Cason and J. J. Clark.

On motion the clerk draw \$10 for his services and a sufficient amount to pay for the printing of 250 copies of the minutes.

On motion, delegates who left the Association before it closed without permission be marked thus, X.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be heartily tendered to the brethren and friends of Bradford Church for their kindness and hospitality to us during this meeting.

A hymn was sung, the parting hand given, and prayer was offered by Bro. G. W. Hall.

Adjourned to meet with the New River Church, on Saturday before the second Lord's day in November, 1884.

H. C. PARKER,
Clerk.

WM. F. MALPHURS,
Moderator.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

By Elder Wm. F. Malphurs:—

1. Any brother, in good standing in any church in this Association, presenting a copy of these Minutes to any of our correspondents, will be recognized by us as a corresponding messenger to such correspondent.
2. We view the traffic of intoxicating drinks to be an enormous sin, and recommend all our members to abstain from the sale or use of them as a beverage.
3. We respectfully request the churches of this Union to send such representatives as will make the best counselors, and who will be willing to stay in session long enough to do the business properly.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Art. 1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasury of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. That it reveals the principles by which God will judge the world in righteousness; and, therefore, it is and shall forever remain the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

Art. 2. We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of the universe, inexpressibly glorious in holiness worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and executing harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Art. 3. We believe in the total depravity of the human heart, and that the natural state of man is such that he cannot prepare himself for divine favor without the assisting grace of God enabling him to act according to the good pleasure of his divine will.

Art. 4. We believe in the election according to the foreknowledge of God alone by his Spirit, through his Son and with his Word regenerates the soul of man.

Art. 5. We believe in justification by faith, which gives peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Art. 6. We believe the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes, and, therefore, should be preached to every creature, that the purpose of God according to election might stand.

Art. 7. We believe that all who obey the gospel and are regenerated by the power of God, are elected to eternal life in Christ, and are made heirs of God and joint heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, and that not one of them will be lost.

Art. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and their spiritual design is to exemplify the death and suffering, burial and resurrection of him, and that in baptism there are three essentials, viz: first, a proper subject; second, a proper mode; third, a proper administrator; and that a proper subject is one who has been begotten with the Word and born of the Spirit; and that the only proper mode is by immersion of such subjects in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and proper administrators only those who have been duly called and come under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery.

Art. 9. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ to be commemorated by his followers, and that none but baptized believers have any scripture right to partake thereof.

Art. 10. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a 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.

Art. 11. We believe and acknowledge Jesus Christ to be the great head of the church, and the only given that the government under him

is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual member, that spiritual discipline with an eye single to the glory of God must greatly conduce to the final prosperity and union of the church.

Art. 12. We believe that infants and idiots are saved, and saved alone by the mediation of Christ.

Art. 13. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious duties by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreation, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both public and private, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Art. 14. We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the graves for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will go away into an everlasting punishment, and the righteous into life eternal.



RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The sessions of this Association shall open and close with prayer.
2. The letters from the constituent churches shall be read and the names of representatives enrolled.
3. The Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot.
4. The Moderator shall preserve order, explain and put questions, and when speaking upon a matter under debate shall call some member to the chair, and in case of tie give the casting vote.
5. The Clerk shall keep a complete record of the proceedings of each meeting, and in the absence of the Moderator, shall call the Association to order and preside until a Moderator pro tem. is elected.
6. The Treasurer shall be the proper custodian of all Associational funds, which shall be at the control of the body.
7. Every motion made and seconded shall be open for discussion.
8. Every person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator, and confine himself strictly to the subject, and not speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave from the Moderator, and shall make no unkind allusion while speaking.
9. No business shall be transacted without a quorum, which shall consist of the number present at the hour to which the meeting adjourned.
10. When a question is under debate no motion shall be received except to adjourn, lay on the table, to amend, indefinitely postpone, refer to a committee, or otherwise, or call for a previous question. Any member voting in the majority on any subject may move a reconsideration at any time during the session.
11. No member shall leave the meeting without leave of the Moderator.
12. These rules of decorum may be amended at any annual session of the Association by a majority vote of the members present.
13. Rules not specially provided for shall be governed by parliamentary usage.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW RIVER MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

- I. This Association shall be called the New River Missionary Baptist Association.
- II. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the constituent churches to represent them, who must produce letters from their respective churches certifying their election, to entitle them to seats, and such letters must give the statistics of the church.
- III. Each church in the Union shall be entitled to two representatives, and one additional representative for every twenty-five members in excess of twenty-five.
- IV. Churches not connected with any other body, and desiring admission into this Union, shall petition by letter and representatives, and if found orthodox and in order, they shall be received by a vote of the Association in their favor, and the Moderator giving their representatives the right hand of fellowship.
- V. This Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
- VI. The Association shall be governed while in session by regular and proper rules of order, and every motion made and seconded shall command the attention of the Association, unless withdrawn by the movant.
- VII. Every query presented must be from church or Scripture authority, and fairly stated in writing, and shall not be taken under consideration except by a majority vote of the Association to debate it.
- VIII. The Association shall furnish the churches in the Union with the Minutes of its proceedings, provided that the churches send up money to pay for the same, but each constituent church shall have at least one copy of each session.
- IX. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor shall they have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, nor shall they infringe upon the internal rights of the churches in the Union.
- X. This Association shall have power
 1. To provide for the union of the churches by the promotion of brotherly love.
 2. To preserve inviolable, a chain of communion among the churches.
 3. To give the churches the best advice possible in cases of difficulty.
 4. To inquire into the cause why any church in the Union fails at any time to represent itself in the Association.
 5. To withdraw from any church in the Union which shall violate any rule of the Association, or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion.
 6. To advocate and cherish a missionary spirit, and encourage the universal spread of the gospel and practical religion.
 7. To invite correspondents and visiting brethren to seats when in session, who shall be entitled to all privileges except voting and serving on committees.
 8. To appoint any member or members, by and with his or their consent, to any business it may deem necessary.
 9. To dispose of her bounty for any purpose deemed proper.
 10. To adjourn to any time and place most profitable to the cause and convenient to the churches composing this Union.



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