

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

—HELD WITH—

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH,

DUVAL CO., FLA., DEC. 7, 8, 9, 10, 1888.

OFFICERS:	
WM. F. MALPHURS,	MODERATOR.
L. W. KICKLITER,	CLERK.
W. H. PINHOLSTER,	TREASURER.

JASPER, FLORIDA:

PRINTED AT THE TIMES JOB OFFICE.

1888.

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

—HELD WITH—

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH,

DUVAL CO., FLA., DEC. 7, 8, 9, 10, 1888.

WM. F. MALPHURS,	:	:	:	:	MODERATOR.
L. W. KICKLITER,	:	:	:	:	CLERK.
W. H. PINHOLSTER,	:	:	:	:	TREASURER.

JASPER, FLORIDA:

PRINTED AT THE TIMES JOB OFFICE.

1889.

## CONSTITUTION

—OF THE—

### New River Missionary Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the New River Missionary Baptist Association, and shall be composed of accredited messengers who are members of constituent churches; and of such others as may be invited to a seat by the consent of the body.

ART. 2. Each church in the Association shall be entitled to two messengers and one additional for every twenty-five members in excess of twenty-five.

ART. 3. Churches are expected to send with their messengers letters to the Association, containing an account of their state, particularly of the additions and diminutions of the past year; and other statistics of interest, together with full statistics of the Sunday-schools under their charge. The letters should show what said churches are doing for the cause of Christ at home and abroad, and generally whatever relates to their own peace and prosperity, and with them each church should forward money for the printing of the minutes, and also their contributions for missions.

ART. 4. Baptist churches desiring admission into this body shall petition by letter and messengers, and on giving satisfactory evidence of their being sound in the faith of the Gospel, and correct in practice, may be received by a vote of the Association, and the Moderator, in behalf of the body, shall give their representatives the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by separate ballots, continue in office until others are chosen, and discharge the duties usually incumbent upon such officers.

ART. 6. We acknowledge the independence of particular churches, and that no authority or jurisdiction is to be exercised over them by this Association, and, therefore, we would disclaim all power of making laws for them under any pretext whatever, but we deem it our duty to disown any church that we may consider unworthy of our fellowship.

ART. 7. The Association shall be governed while in session by regular and proper rules, and every motion made and seconded shall command the attention of the body unless withdrawn by the mover.

ART. 8. Every question asked in the letters from the churches must be based on the Scriptures, and may relate to faith, practice and church discipline, but the same shall not be taken under consideration except by a majority vote of the body.

ART. 9. Churches composing this Association shall be entitled to as many copies of the minutes of its proceedings as the money sent up with the letters calls for, but each constituent church shall have at least one copy.

ART. 10. When a church shall neglect to make a communication to the Association for three consecutive years, it shall be considered as having withdrawn, and shall be dropped by vote from the minutes, unless two or three members of the Association request its continuance, and will engage to enquire into its standing, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

ART. 11. It shall be the duty of the Association, from time to time, to suggest to the churches what they think most expedient to be done to promote the spread of the Gospel in the world, and to give the best advice possible in cases of difficulty, and also to inquire into the cause of failure on the part of any church, to report themselves by letters and messengers at the annual meeting.

ART. 12. This Association, when convened, shall appoint the time and place of the next annual meeting, taking into account the convenience of the churches and the interest of the cause. This Constitution may be altered or amended from time to time, as experience may suggest, by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present.

# MINUTES.

## FRIDAY.

The New River Baptist Association met at 11 o'clock A. M., December 7th, 1888, with the Mount Zion Church.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. J. Clark, from Isaiah, 54th chapter and 2nd verse.

After which one hour and thirty minutes were taken for refreshments.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Moderator called the Association to order at 1 o'clock P. M.

A hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by Rev. W. F. Malphurs.

The Clerk being absent, Rev. L. W. Kickliter was chosen to act *pro tem*.

The letters from the churches were then called for by the Moderator, and read by Rev. L. W. Simmons and Bro. J. H. Moore.

Messengers from the following churches being present were enrolled:

- Antioch—N. J. Barry, J. H. Robuck.
- Dedan—Rev. W. F. Malphurs, Rev. A. Crosby.
- Hope—J. H. Moore, R. Sultavant, B. T. Fortner.
- Sardis—Rev. J. J. Clark, W. B. Dees, E. B. Scarborough, E. C. Philpot.
- Starke—Rev. L. W. Kickliter.
- Kingsley's Lake—J. W. F. Prevatt.
- New River—L. W. Fimholster.
- Mount Zion—Samuel Godwin, C. L. Oliver.

The election of officers was made the special order for to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats.

The Moderator called for correspondents, and Rev. L. W. Simmons was received from the St. Mary's Association.

Petitionary letters were called for.

Evergreen Church presented a letter, which was read, and the church was received, and the following names enrolled as Messengers: Lewis Griffice and J. S. Green, the Moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Brethren J. H. Moore, J. S. Green, J. W. F. Prevatt, and the deacons of Mt Zion Church, to arrange for preaching to-night and to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

The appointment of other committees was postponed until after the election of officers to-morrow.

The committee on preaching made the following report:

That Rev. W. F. Malphurs preach at the church to-night, Rev. L. W. Simmons at Brother John Elison's, and Rev. W. F. Malphurs to-morrow at 11 A. M. Report was adopted.

Association then adjourned till to-morrow at nine A. M.

The doxology was sung, and prayer offered by Rev. L. W. Simmons, of St. Mary's Association.

## SATURDAY—9 A. M.

The 33d Psalm was read, a hymn sung and prayer offered by the Moderator.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call the Association to order.
3. Singing and Prayer.
4. Reading Letters and Enrollment of Messengers.
5. Election of Officers—Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
6. Inviting Visiting Brethren to Seats.
7. Call for Correspondence from Other Associations.
8. Call for Petitionary Letters.
9. Appointment of Committees.
10. Reports of Committees.
11. Call for Executive Committee of Last Year.
12. Call for Treasurer's report.
13. Call for Other Committees.
14. Appointment of Messengers to State Convention.
15. Miscellaneous Business.
16. Adjournment.

### MINISTERS' DIRECTORY.

- REV. A. CROSBY, Yiff, Fla.
- REV. L. W. KICKLITER, Starke, Fla.
- REV. W. F. MALPHURS, Stark, Fla.
- REV. ROBERT KEITH, Starke, Fla.
- REV. J. J. CLARK, Worthington, Fla.
- REV. L. H. MARLOW, Waldo, Fla.

### LICENTIATES.

- N. J. BERRY, LaCross, Fla.
- J. B. CASOX, Hampton, Fla.

SAMPSON LIBRARY

Minutes of preceding day were read and approved, after which the officers were elected as follows:

Moderator—Rev. W. F. Malphurs; Clerk—L. W. Kickliter; Treasurer—W. H. Pinholster.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:

On Preaching—J. H. Moore, J. S. Green, J. W. F. Prevatt, with deacons of Mt. Zion church.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Rev. J. J. Clark, Lewis Griffice and C. L. Oliver.

On Nominations—Joseph S. Green, C. L. Oliver, J. J. Clark.

On Missions—Rev. J. J. Clark, I. W. Pinholster, Samuel Godwin.

On Finance—J. H. Moore, C. L. Oliver, Lewis Griffice.

On Sunday Schools—Rev. L. W. Kickliter, Samuel Godwin, J. S. Green.

On Publications—L. W. Pinholster, J. H. Moore, C. L. Oliver.

On Temperance—Rev. J. J. Clark, Samuel Godwin, Lewis Griffice.

On Letters and Queries—S. Godwin, J. S. Green, I. W. Pinholster.

On Education—Rev. L. W. Kickliter, J. S. Green, I. W. Pinholster.

The hour having arrived for preaching, on motion business was postponed for services.

Rev. W. F. Malphurs preached an interesting sermon from Psalms 91st chapter, 2nd verse.

One hour was then taken for refreshments, after which the Association resumed its regular order of business. Prayer was offered by Brother John Ellison. The committee on religious exercises report that Rev. L. W. Simmons preach the missionary sermon to-morrow at eleven o'clock. Signed by J. H. Moore, Chairman.

#### Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons.

Your committee are glad to report that the lives of all our Ministers and Deacons have been spared through another year, which fact calls for love and gratitude on our part to Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts and graces.

Respectfully Submitted,  
REV. J. J. CLARK, Chairman.

#### Report of Committee on Nominations.

Your committee report as follows: that Rev. W. F. Malphurs preach the next introductory sermon, Rev. A. Crosby alternate; and Rev. L. W. Kickliter the Missionary sermon, Rev. Robt. Keath, alternate. We further recommend that the next Association meet with the Sardis church, commencing Thursday before the second Sunday in November, 1889.

J. S. GREEN, Chairman.

Report was adopted.

#### Report of Committee on Missions.

Your committee report as follows: Brethren, our Saviour was a missionary, and he bade us follow him. His disciples were missionaries, and the Church has always been missionary in spirit. The truth of this is demonstrated in the fact that she has ever been aggressive in her works, ready to impart to others that comfort which she enjoys in a practical obedience of the command of her Saviour to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Brethren, God has not commanded us to do, and then withhold the means; no, brethren, no! He has given us the means, and He has given us a place to work, and let us not neglect the gift, or bury the talent committed to our keeping; ere it be said to us, as one of old, "take it from him, and give it to him that hath ten pounds, and cast ye the mite into the field, we hear the cry from every quarter, come over and help us! our own destitution calls aloud, and the regions beyond are calling for help, and brethren we should be encouraged to double our diligence, for when we look on the reports of our own beloved missionaries, and count the score of more of souls buried with Christ in baptism, and welcome them into the fellowship of the Church, our hearts are made glad as we count the thousands of souls converted to the religion of our dear Saviour in other lands.

And your committee would recommend that our churches would co-operate with our State Board as a medium through which to help the regions beyond as well as to cultivate our own field.

J. J. CLARK, Chairman.

After remarks by the following named brethren—Clark, Malphurs, Simmons, Ellison, Kickliter and Pinholster—the report was adopted.

#### Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.

Your Sunday School Committee find, from investigation of the letters from the churches, only four schools reported, and believing that there are more schools than that in the Association, we urge upon the churches the importance of reporting all the schools under their charge, and that every church make an earnest effort to maintain a Sunday School in their midst and to train the children that come under the influence of the church, in the way of the Lord, placing in their hands good, sound Baptist literature, thereby teaching them Baptist principles and the doctrines of the Baptist Church.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. W. KICKLITER, Chairman.

On motion the further consideration of the report was made the special order for Sunday morning, at ten o'clock, at which time it was agreed to hold a Sunday School mass meeting.

#### Report of the Committee on Publications.

Your committee submit for your consideration the following report: We are greatly pained to find so large a number of our brethren in this Association who do not supply their families with the religious reading matter necessary for a thorough acquaintance with what the Baptists are doing throughout the State; hence our churches are without the information to a large extent needed for a prosperous, useful and growing membership.

We feel it is the duty of, and most earnestly recommend that every family in our bounds take the Florida Witness; and to sisters and brethren who can do more, we recommend the foreign Mission Journal, published by our Foreign Mission Board at Richmond, Va. To our Sabbath schools we recommend the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia, Pa.; also Kind Words and other publications of the Southern Baptist Convention. Respectfully submitted,  
L. W. PINHOLSTER, Chairman.

After remarks by Brethren Malphurs, Kickliter and Simmons, the report was adopted.

On motion, a committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. W. F. Malphurs and Rev. L. W. Kickliter, to revise the Articles of Faith and Decorum.

On motion, a committee was appointed, consisting of Brethren J. J. Clark, L. W. Kickliter and W. F. Malphurs, to prepare subjects for the next year in the Ministers' and Deacons' Union. The following named brethren were appointed to go to the Convention: J. J. Clark, L. W. Kickliter, Joseph Thomas, W. H. Pinholster, W. W. Carter, John Griffice, Rev. L. H. Marlow, J. H. Moore, John E. Hill.

The Association adjourned till Sunday morning at nine o'clock. Prayer by Rev. L. W. Simmons.

#### SUNDAY—9 A. M.

A few minutes were devoted to prayer meeting in behalf of the churches.

The Association was called to order and proceeded to business.

The minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Petitionary letters were called for. None reported.

The call for correspondence was renewed, and Brethren Aaron Fourakers and Thomas Fourakers were received as correspondents from the St. Mary's Association.

The hour of ten having arrived, the Association took up the special order, which was the consideration of the report on Sunday schools.

The Sunday-school mass meeting was addressed by Brethren L. W. Kickliter, L. W. Simmons, Samuel Godwin and ——— Hysley.

The report was adopted.

The hour for the eleven o'clock services having arrived, the Association adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday morning.

Rev. L. W. Simmons preached the missionary sermon from John, 17th chapter and 20th and 21st verses.

At the close of the services a collection was taken up, amounting to \$6.00. The congregation was then dismissed to partake of refreshments, which were prepared on the ground.

AFTERNOON SERVICES.

The congregation reassembled in the house, and the Rev. J. J. Clark preached an instructive sermon from First Peter, 4th chapter, 17th and 18th verses. Agreeable to the arrangements of the Committee on Preaching, Rev. L. W. Kickliter preached Sunday night from Matthew, 13th chapter, 18th verse.

MONDAY—9 A. M.

The Association met at 9 A. M. Prayer by Rev. J. J. Clark. Minutes of Sunday morning's session were read and approved. Brethren L. W. Kickliter, J. M. Malphurs and L. W. Pinholster were elected as the Executive Committee for the next year.

Report of Committee on Letters and Queries.

Your committee, upon examination of the letters from the churches, find no queries sent up to the Association. Respectfully submitted.

The report was adopted. SAMUEL GODWIN, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Education.

Your committee report that we are glad to see a deeper interest manifested among the Baptists in the cause of education; but there is not as much interest as there should be, and your committee would urge upon the brethren the importance of educating our children, that they may be better able to fill our places in the church and as citizens than we have been. And we would commend to all our brethren and friends who have children whom they desire to so train, that they patronize their home institution of learning, viz.: DeLand University at DeLand, Florida, thereby giving aid to our home institutions, and with greater success advance the cause of education at home. Respectfully submitted.

The report of the committee was adopted. L. W. KICKLITER, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

Your committee submit the following report: The Scriptures enjoin temperance in all things, and while temperance societies are not churches, every church should have a temperance society. Every church member who drinks potent spirits as a beverage dishonoreth his religion, and brings reproach upon the cause of Christ. And we would recommend all our churches to exercise a prudent Scriptural watch and care over all their members, and where any of their members habitually use ardent spirits as a beverage, to labor with them, and where they will not give up this habit, expel them. Intemperance is the prolific mother of nine-tenths of all the crime and misery in all our land, and should be met by the whole power of the church. Every Christian should feel bound by his allegiance to Christ, his love of truth and justice, to use his whole influence to counteract its influence. Respectfully submitted.

The report was adopted. J. J. CLARK, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Finance.

Your Committee on Finance submit the following report of amount sent up from the churches:

Missions.	Minutes.	Missions.	Minutes.
Antioch.....	\$2 55	Sardis.....	\$ 85
Bradford.....	1 50	New River.....	4 00
Dedan.....	1 50	Hope.....	2 90
Evergreen.....	1 00	Missions.....	50
Mt. Zion.....	1 00	Collected at M. and D.	\$9 37
North Pleasant Grove.....	1 00	Unions during year.	10 78
Stark.....	3 00	Total amount.....	\$26 65
J. M. Malphurs and wife.....	50		\$19 15
Collected Sunday.....	6 00		45 80
Santa Fe Pond.....	1 65		

The report was adopted. J. H. MOORE, Chairman.

Report of Executive Committee.

Your committee sent an earnest request to the churches that they try and raise twenty-five cents per member for missions during the year, and trusting that the churches would respond to this request, we employed the Rev. W. F. Malphurs to labor as a missionary in the bounds of our Association. But the churches did not respond to our request as liberally as we expected. We find sent up by the churches for missions, \$9.37. J. M. Malphurs and wife, fifty cents; collected at the M. and D. Union, \$10.78; collected on Sunday at the Association, \$6.00; making a total of \$26.65. Your committee regret to see so little done in our Association the past year for missions, and our missionary so poorly paid for his services. Brethren, let us try to do better in the future. Respectfully submitted. JOSEPH THOMAS, Chairman.

The report was adopted.

The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That this body elect a minister to labor in the bounds of this Association, and that his salary be fixed at one hundred dollars, and that each church be requested to raise its pro rata share for the support of the missionary.

The resolution was adopted, and Rev. J. J. Clark was elected said missionary.

The Moderator, Clerk and Executive Committee were authorized to prepare and have embodied in the minutes any matter that may be left unfinished by the Association.

Report of Committee on Subjects.

We, your Committee on Subjects, having had the same under consideration, recommend the following arrangement of district programmes and subjects for the M. and D. U. of our Association:

- First District—Antioch/Pleasant Grove and Sardis Churches.
- Second District—Bradford, Dedan and New River Churches.
- Third District—Hope, Santa Fe Pond and Starke Churches.
- Fourth District—Evergreen, Kingsley Lake and Mount Zion Churches.

First Quarter—The Union will meet with the Dedan Baptist Church, December, 1888. Subject: "What are our duties as church members as to attending our church meetings and supporting the Gospel?"

Second Quarter—The Union will meet with the Pleasant Grove Church, 1889. First Subject: "Consider the method by which the will of man is conformed to the will of God." Opened by W. F. Malphurs. Second subject: "Consider the Scriptural authority for mission work." Opened by L. W. Kickliter.

Third Quarter—The Union will meet with the Santa Fe Pond Church, 1889. First subject: "If the righteous are not justified by the deeds of the law, are sinners condemned for their deeds by the law?" Opened by L. W. Kickliter. Second subject: "Consider the best method of prosecuting mission work." Opened by J. J. Clark.

Fourth Quarter—The Union will meet with the Evergreen Baptist Church, 1889. First subject: "Consider the scriptural authority for advocating the Temperance cause." Opened by Rev. A. Crosby. Second subject: "Consider the importance of mission work and its results." Opened by Wm. F. Malphurs.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Report of Treasurer.

Balance over from last year.....	\$	
Collections at Ministers' and Deacons' Unions.....	10 78	
Sent up from churches for missions.....	9 87	
Total.....		\$19 15

Respectfully submitted. W. H. PINHOLSTER.

The report was adopted.

On motion, the clerk was authorized to draw on the Treasurer for money to publish the minutes.

On motion, the Association adjourned one hour for refreshments. After partaking of a bountiful repast prepared by the good sisters of Mt. Zion Church, the Association reassembled in the house, and the following resolution was then offered:

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this body are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to, the brethren, sisters and friends of this church and community for their very kind and liberal hospitality extended to us during our meeting.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The minutes were then read and approved.

The Association then adjourned to meet with the Sardis Baptist Church on Thursday before the second Sunday in November, 1889.

A hymn was sung, the parting hand taken, and prayer offered by Rev. J. J. Clark.

L. W. KICKLITER,

Clerk.

Wm. F. MALPHEUS,

Moderator.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ART. I. 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 or errors 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 center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

ART. II. 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, obedience and love. That in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost—equal in every divine perfection, but executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

ART. III. 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 God's divine will.

ART. IV. We believe in the election according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth, and that God by His spirit through His Son, and with His word regenerates the soul.

ART. V. We believe that the great Gospel blessings which Christ secures to

such as believe in Him, is Justification by Faith, which gives peace with God, the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, His Son.

ART. VI. We believe the Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and, therefore, should be preached to every creature, that the purpose of God according to election might stand.

ART. VII. 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 the Lord Jesus Christ; and that they are kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed at the last time, and that not one of them will be lost.

ART. VIII. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and spiritually designed 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 administration, and that a proper subject is one who has been begotten by 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. IX. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ to be commemorated by His followers, and none but baptized believers have any Scriptural right to partake thereof.

ART. X. 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 vested in them by His word.

ART. XI. We believe and acknowledge Jesus Christ to be the great head of the Church, and the only Law Giver; 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. XII. We believe that idiots and infants are saved, and saved alone by the mediation of Christ.

ART. XIII. 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 devout observance of all the means of grace, both public and private, and by preparation for the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

ART. XIV. 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 their graves for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous into life eternal.

