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MINUTES

—OF THE—

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

NEW RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Alachua County, Florida.

November 7th, 8th and 9th, 1885.

Officers:

W. F. MALPHURS, MODERATOR. | J. I. DUBOSE, CLERK.
W. H. PINHOLSTER, TREASURER.

Executive Committee:

J. W. BLOAN, C. F. BARKER, J. E. CASON, C. A. BUTLER, J. W. MOORE, W. B. DEES,
J. A. THOMAS.

Times Print, Lake Butler, Fla.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Call the Association to order.
3. Singing and prayer. Invite Visiting Brethren to Seats.
4. Call for Letters and Reading the Same.
5. Election of Officers.
6. Call for Correspondence from other Associations.
7. Petitionary Letters called for.
8. 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.
 9. On Letters and Queries.
10. Call for Executive Committee of Last Year.
11. Call for Treasurer's Report.
12. Call for Other Committees.
13. Reading Circular Letters.
14. Adjournment.

Ordained Ministers and their Postoffices.

L. W. KICKLITER, Starke, Fla.	W. F. MALPHURS, Starke, Fla.
ROBERT KEITH, " "	J. A. LEWIS, " "
DR. HENRY TALBOT, " "	URIAH ROBERTS, Lake Butler.
J. J. CLARK, Worthington.	ABRAHAM CROSBY, Waldo.

LICENTIATE.

J. R. SLOAN LaCrosse, Fla.	N. J. BERRY, LaCrosse, Fla.
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Report of Committee on Religion Exercises was read and adopted.
 Report of your committee beg leave to report as follows: Brother A. Crosby
 at 12 o'clock Sunday, D. L. Norton at the church at candle-light.
 Wm. B. Berry at LaCrosse at candle-light, J. J. Clark Monday at 11
 o'clock, L. W. Kickliter at Worthington, W. F. Malphurs close
 at 10 o'clock at LaCrosse.

MINUTES

The New River Missionary Baptist Association met pursuant to adjournment with the
 at Pleasant Grove Church, Alachua county, Florida, November 7, A. D., 1885.
 The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder L. W. Kickliter, from Isaiah lxvii, 11:
 "hold his reward is with him and his work before him."
 After one hour's intermission for refreshments the Association was called to order by Wm.
 Malphurs, former Moderator.
 Hymn was sung and prayer offered by Wm. F. Malphurs.
 A committee of three was appointed with the Deacons of the Church to arrange for preach-
 ing. The Committee on Preaching beg leave to report that Rev. Wm. S. Perry preaches at
 the stand this evening; all of which is submitted.
 J. J. DUBOSE, Chairman.
 The former Clerk being absent, Brother J. I. DuBose was elected Clerk pro tem.
 Letters were then called for and read from the following thirteen churches, and messengers
 bearing them received: *Deep Creek*—D. L. Norton.
Bradford—C. A. Butler, S. Hagood.
Starke—L. W. Kickliter.
Mt. Sinai—B. Thomas.
Kingsley Lake—E. R. Prevatt, J. D. Prevatt.
North Pleasant Grove—M. M. May, R. Cason.
Harmony—J. A. Lewis, S. J. Lewis.
Sardis—W. B. Dees, J. I. DuBose.
Hope—T. Hagen, L. D. Moore.
Eden—A. Crosby, Wm. F. Malphurs.
New River—I. W. Pinholster, W. H. Pinholster, D. M. Deik.
Antioch—S. J. Berry, B. F. Walker, H. C. Parker, J. R. Bevel.
Santa Fe Pond—J. B. Cason, N. C. Wainright.
 On motion the rule for electing officers by ballot was waived and to elect by acclamation.
 W. F. Malphurs re-elected Moderator, J. I. DuBose for Clerk, W. H. Pinholster re-elected
 Treasurer.

Correspondence was then called for and received: Brothers W. S. Perry and N. J. King,
 of Santa Fe, and J. D. Vaughn, from the Mercer Association.
 Appointment of committees as follows:
 On Religion Exercises—B. Thomas, W. B. Dees, L. D. Moore, with the deacons of the
 church.

On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—L. W. Kickliter, N. J. Berry, J. A. Lewis.

On Nominations—N. C. Wainright, B. F. Parker, D. M. Delk.

On Missions—R. Cason, C. A. Butler, S. J. Lewis.

On Sunday-Schools—L. W. Kickliter, W. H. Pinholster, T. Hagen.

On Publications—A. Crosby, M. M. May, D. L. Norton.

On Temperance—J. B. Cason, L. V. Moore, I. W. Pinholster.

On Letters and Queries—A. Crosby, R. Cason, N. C. Wainright.

Report of Committee on Religious Exercises was read and adopted:

We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows: Brother A. Crosby preach at 2 o'clock Sunday, D. L. Norton at the church at candle-light, Wm. S. Perry at LaCrosse at candle-light, J. J. Clark, Monday at 11 o'clock, L. W. Kickliter at 1 o'clock p. m., and Wm. F. Malphurs close; all of which is respectfully submitted.

B. THOMAS, Chairman.

On motion, adjourned to meet Monday, at 9 o'clock a. m.

WM. F. MALPHURS, Moderator.

J. I. DuBose, Clerk.

SUNDAY'S EXERCISES.

Met at the stand Sunday morning pursuant to previous arrangement. Brother Wm. F. Malphurs preached the Missionary Sermon to a large and attentive congregation, using for a text Mark xv, 15-16: "And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barrabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged Him, to be crucified, and the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Prætorium, and they call together the whole band."

After which a hymn was sung and a Missionary collection was taken up amounting to \$15.00.

An intermission was then given for one hour for refreshments.

At 2 o'clock p. m. the congregation re-assembled at the stand and was ably entertained with a sermon by Elder A. Crosby.

Afterwards a collection was taken up for Brother Uriah Roberts, an old, worn-out veteran of the cross, amounting to \$11.95.

MONDAY'S WORK.

Met Monday at 10 o'clock a. m. A hymn was sung and prayer offered by Brother J. A. Lewis, after which conference was announced in order by the Moderator.

Called for Corresponding Messengers. Brother F. M. Pinkston was acknowledged and received from the Beulah Association.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Report of Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons:
As far as we know there has been no deaths of our ministers or deacons

during the past year, which should be a source of gratitude and praise to God for His great mercy and kind providence in sparing the lives of our standard-bearers and deacons through another year; all of which is submitted.

L. W. KICKLITER, Chairman.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Missions, submit this report, as follows:

We have had the same under consideration, and therefore recommend that seven be appointed on the Executive Board, and recommend to them the consideration of Mission work.

A. Crosby, Chairman.

After lecturing by Wm. F. Malphurs and A. Crosby on the subject of Missions the report was adopted.

The business of the Association adjourned for preaching. Brother J. J. Clark preached to a very orderly and attentive congregation from the text 2d Peter, 3-9: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us-ward—not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance," which was attended with interest through the congregation. Brother Wm. F. Malphurs closed. After one hour for refreshment the Association re-assembled in the house; a hymn was sung, prayer was offered by D. L. Norton. The Moderator announced the conference in order. Reports of Committee were then called for, and the following were read and adopted:

ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows: Amount in Treasury sent up from churches:

	Missions.	Minutes.
Antioch.....	\$ 2 80	\$3 00
Bradford.....		2 00
Hope.....		2 20
Sardis.....		1 15
Santa Fe Pond.....		2 00
New River.....	1 25	2 50
Starke.....		2 50
Mt. Sinai.....	25	45
Dedan.....	70	1 00
Harmony.....		50
North Pleasant Grove.....	1 10	1 00
Deep Creek.....		45
Kingsley's Lake.....	1 00	1 00
Collected on Sunday.....		15 07

Totals.....\$7 10 34 82
All of which is respectfully submitted. R. CASON, Chairman.

ON PUBLICATIONS.

We, your Committee on Publications, submit the following: That we do recommend the Florida Baptist Witness, as our people are in need of such paper for their own good. Also we recommend that the Sunday Schools in the bounds of the New River Association take, first "The Baptist Teacher," second the "Young Reaper," third "Our Little Ones," fourth "The Sunlight;" all of which is respectfully submitted.

D. L. NORTON, Chairman.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee to whom was referred the subject of Sunday-Schools, report that upon an examination of the letters we find five Sunday-Schools presented, four of which send a statistical report showing the following result: Officers and teachers 28, scholars 262; and from all the information our committee have been able to get from other sources, we think there are about nine or ten Sunday-Schools within the bounds of our Association, which shows that the number of Sunday-Schools are increasing, and we trust that the cause will have the warm support of all God's children. Let us teach the children God's word; all of which is submitted.

L. W. KICKLITER, Chairman.

After the report on Sunday-Schools was read speeches were made by the following brethren: Wm. S. Perry, A. Crosby, D. L. Norton, and others. On motion, adopted.

ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report: We have all witnessed the great evil of intemperance, and would to God we could submit a report that would drive the evil out of existence. We respectfully recommend to the whole brotherhood to do all they can in reason to prevent the great evil, remembering at all times to ask God to help us.

According to Doctor Young, Chief of the National Bureau of Statistics, this Nation's grog-money for alcoholic drink in 1870 was more than \$600,000,000; of this amount the State of New York paid about \$80,000,000, or about one-seventh of the whole. There is contributed in the United States annually for religious and benevolent purposes about \$50,000,000. Rum keeps and keeps 300,000 criminals, it sends to prison men and women 200,000, it sends children to the poor-house 200,000, it procures not less than 300 suicides, and instigates not less than 400 murders.

Brother Moderator and brethren, we have concluded that it is not what we do about intemperance that does the most good, but it is what we do.

J. B. CASON, Chairman.

After several speeches by some of the brethren against the use of alcoholic drink and to be temperate in all things, the report was adopted.

LETTERS AND QUERIES.

We, your committee, having had the same under consideration, find nothing claiming our attention; all of which is submitted. Adopted.

A. CROSBY, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Employed Elder Wm. F. Malphurs.	
Collected at Unions.....	\$12 64
" " Santa Fe.....	3 20
Total.....	\$15 84
Paid Brother Wm. F. Malphurs.....	10 25
Balance on hand.....	5 59

We recommend that the missionary have for the past year the balance in our hands, and what is left in the Association, after the Association's expenses be paid; all of which is submitted.

H. C. PARKER, Chairman.

ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee, have had the same under consideration, and report as follows: Brother A. Crosby preach the next Introductory Sermon, and Brother L. W. Kickliter close; Dr. Henry Talbert preach the next Missionary Sermon and Brother Wm. Malphurs close. The next meeting of this body meet with the Starke Baptist Church on Wednesday before the second Sunday in November, A. D., 1886; all of which is submitted. Adopted.

D. M. DELK, Chairman.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

On motion, the following preamble and resolutions be received and adopted:

WHEREAS, It is our duty as Baptists to avail ourselves of every means not inconsistent with the spirit of Christ and His Gospel to improve ourselves in the knowledge of divine things. We are glad to know that our brethren have maintained with commendable efficiency an organization in connection with the churches of our Association known as the New River Union. Its object has been the discussion of questions connected with the general interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom on earth and the usefulness of our churches.

We therefore extend to the brethren composing the organization our cordial sympathy and grateful acknowledgements. We, however, suggest some slight changes, which, without interfering in any sense with the spirit and usefulness of their meetings, may be promotive of their efficiency. Therefore,

Resolved, 1st, That the organization be henceforth known as the Ministers' and Deacons' Union of the New River Baptist Association.

Resolved, 2, That every minister and deacon within our bounds, or any minister who is pastor of a church connected with us, shall by virtue of his office be a member of the Union; provided all such persons are in good standing with their respective churches.

Resolved, 3d, That without the formality of an election the regularly-elected officers of the Association shall be *ex-officio* the officers of the Union. In the absence of either of these officers any brother may be called to the discharge of his duties for that occasion.

Resolved, 4th, That each church represented in the Association is authorized to send, in addition to its ministers and deacons, two of its members to sit with and take part in the discussions of the Union. It shall not be required that they shall be accredited by letters from their churches, but that they be simply announced and received. They shall to all intents and purposes be regarded as members of the Union.

Resolved, 5th, That the Union be requested to hold four regular meetings during the associational year, and that the times and places of holding these meetings be published in the Minutes of the Association.

Resolved, 6th, That at each annual meeting of the Association a committee of three be appointed to report at next annual meeting, whose duty it shall be to select and arrange four programmes, or sets of themes and subjects, for the consideration of the Union at its regular meetings. That the report of this committee, when received be published in the Minutes of the Association, to the end that the brethren may know in advance the subjects which will claim their attention. A motion was carried that the Clerk draw from the Treasurer all the money sent up from the churches for associational purposes, to pay for the distributing of Minutes, and if any pe left the Clerk accept it for his services.

On motion, it was moved and carried that on motion the third day on the next meeting of this body that Dr. Henry Talbert preach a doctrinal sermon.

Resolved, By this body that our humble and heart-felt thanks be returned to the brethren, sisters and all the friends in the vicinity of this church, for their hospitality and kind attention to us during the meeting of this Association.

On motion, we adjourn to meet with the Starke Baptist Church, Wednesday before the second Sunday in November, A. D. 1886.

A hymn was sung, the parting hand given and prayer offered by Brother John B. Cason.

Association closed in order.

Wm. F. MALPHURS, Moderator.

J. I. DuBose, Clerk.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, 1st. Any Brother in good standing in any chrch in this Association, presenting a copy of their Minutes to any of our correspondents will be recognized by us as a corresponding messenger to such correspondence.

Resolved, 2d. We view the traffic of intoxicating drink to be an enormous sin, and recomend all our members to abstain from the sale or use of them as a beverage.

Resolved, 3d. We respectfully request the churches of this Union to send such representatives as will make the best counsellors, and will be willing to stay in session long enough to do the business.

Resolved, 4th. That any church having failed for three years to represent itself at our annual meetings, be dropped from the roll, and that hereafter any church wilfully neglecting or refusing without just cause to represent itself for two consecutive meetings, shall be dropped from the roll.

Resolved, 5th. That the churches of this Association are hereby requested to report at our next Association, the amount of money or kind contributed for the support of pastors and missions during the year.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 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 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 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 Divine will.

ART. 4. We believe in the election according to the foreknowledge of God through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, and that God alone by His spirit, through his Son and with His Word, regenerates the soul.

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 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. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ and Spiritual 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 subject 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 Scriptural 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 His gifts, rights and privileges vested in them by His Word.

ART. 11. We believe and acknowledge that Jesus Christ to be the great head of the Church and the only 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. 12. We believe that idiots and infants 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 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. 14. We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from their graves for final retribution; that solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will go away into 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 allusions 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. The 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.

I. This Association shall be called the 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 mover.

VII. Every query must be 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 the 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.

Appendix.

At the regular meeting of the New River Union, Saturday before the fifth Sunday in November, A. D. 1885, the Union received and adopted the Preamble and Resolutions as was adopted in the Association.

—Wm. F. MALPHEUS, Moderator.

J. I. DuBOSE, Clerk.

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