

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Second Annual Session

—OF THE—

BEAR CREEK

Freewill Baptist Association,

CONVENED WITH

Hopewell Church, Winston County, Ala.,

October 8th 10th and 11th, 1898.

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OFFICERS:

Rev. G. B. HANEY,
H. W. KING,
J. A. NIX,
J. E. WILSON,

Moderator,
Clerk,
Treasurer,
Corresponding Secretary.

The next session of this Association will meet with Mount Zion Church,
Lawrence county, Alabama, seven miles South-East of
Leighton and will convene on Saturday
before the second Sunday
in October, 1899.

BAPTIST REVIEW JOB OFFICE,
GOLDSBORO, N. C.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The second annual session of the Bear Creek Freewill Baptist Association convened with Hopewell Church, Winston county, October the 8th, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. C. McCombs. His text was Mark 16c, 15v. He was followed by Rev. R. P. Campbell. After religious service, an intermission of one hour was taken for refreshments; and then the ministers and delegates were requested to meet in the house, organize and proceed to business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to the request of the moderator. Singing by the congregation. Prayer and called to order by Rev. Porter Dubois, the former moderator. After which business was transacted as follows:

1. Letters from the churches were called for, handed in and read and contents noted as per statistical table.

2. Called for petitionary letters, and opened the door for the reception of new churches into the body. Received and read two letters—one from Pleasant Grove and the other from Cooper Chapel. The churches were found to be orthodox in doctrine, and organized according to our form of government.

On motion, they were received and their names enrolled on the minutes.

3. Proceeded to permanently organize the body by the election of officers; whereupon, Rev. G. B. Haney was elected Moderator; Bro. H. W. King, Clerk; and Bro. J. E. Wilson, Corresponding Secretary.

4. Called for correspondents from sister Associations, and received brethren A. J. Ingle, J. T. White and P. R. McCaig from the Jasper Association. These brethren were cordially received by extending the right hand of fellowship, and they accepted seats with us.

On motion, it was agreed that the moderator appoint all the committees. The following are appointed:

ON PREACHING—Brethren R. T. Montgomery, J. A. Nix and G. B. Boyed, with the deacons of this church.



ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.—Revs. W. C. McCombs, H. B. Foster and P. Duboys, with the moderator and clerk.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Rev. J. M. Haney, G. B. Thomas and Bro. J. E. Wilson.

ON LITERATURE.—Rev. R. P. Campbell, J. S. Hunt and John Alexander.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.—Brethren D. W. Dossan, Henry Butler and B. Jackson.

ON FINANCE.—Brethren M. D. Haney, A. J. Brakefield and John Motes.

Committee on preaching report that Rev. L. L. Nickols preach tonight; Rev. P. H. Drain, alternate. Rev. G. B. Haney preach Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. H. B. Foster, alternate. Rev. W. C. McCombs preach Sunday at 11 o'clock, Rev. R. P. Campbell, alternate. Rev. J. P. McVay preach Sunday night; Rev. J. M. Haney, alternate. Rev. E. B. Pool preach Monday at 11 o'clock; Rev. Porter Duboys, alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

R. T. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted and com. discharged.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning 8 o'clock. Prayer by the moderator.

Saturday night Bro. Nickols preached, followed by brother Drain.

ORDER OF SERVICE ON SABBATH.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. G. B. Haney preached; followed by Rev. H. B. Foster. At 11 o'clock Rev. W. C. McCombs preached, followed by Rev. R. P. Campbell.

MONDAY MORNING, Oct. 10th, 1898.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer and called to order by the moderator. The clerk called the roll and the ministers and delegates answer to their names. Then proceeded to business as follows:

The proceedings of Saturday were read and adopted.

Invitation was given to ministers of other denominations to take seats with us. None present.

Reports of committees are called for and presented as follows:

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We your committee on Documents and Order of Business report as follows: We recommend the former order of business of the Bear Creek Association, and that the saints ought to wash each others feet. This to be appended to our Articles of Faith. And we also recommend that this Association convene on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1899, with Mount Zion Church in Lawrence county, Ala. We recommend that Queries before this body shall be written and received by motion, and that the Union Meeting convene with Rocky Grove Church, in Marion county, Ala. And in the ninth Article the words (not or acceptable) be left out.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. McCOMBS, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We the committee on Sabbath Schools present our report. We find only one Sabbath School in our Association which shows that the interest is at a low ebb. We recommend that the pastors of each church lecture in their respective localities on the subject. We recommend Freewill Baptist literature. We find the School at Nebo Church. God bless their aims.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. WILSON, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We your committee on Denominational Literature present our report: We recommend the prayerful reading of the Bible because it is the book of inspiration, and the only safe guide to the soul in search of eternal life. For our Denominational Literature, we recommend the use of the Baptist Review and the Baptist Harmony.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

We your committee on Deceased Ministers and Members report the following. During the past year death has entered the pales of our churches and taken from us our members whose names are given in our report as follows: Bro. J. A. Davis aged 25 years; and sister Viry Smith, died the 15th of September, aged 21 years; and Bro. John Marona died August 18th, 1898. They all died in a living faith; but their death leaves a vacant place in the church and in their families that no one else can fill. But we hope our loss is their eternal gain.

Respectfully submitted,

B. JACKSON, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

ON FINANCE.

We your committee on Finance report as follows: We find thirteen dollars and fifty cents (\$13 50) sent to this Association as minute and associational funds.

Respectfully submitted,

M. D. HANEY, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

On motion, the Association adjourned for preaching, and to meet at half past one o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Bro. John Dutton. Called to order by the moderator.

On motion, it was agreed to drop the question of an evangelist.

On motion, it was agreed to elect a Treasurer, which resulted in the choice of Bro. J. A. Nix.

On motion, the Finance committee was instructed to pay the funds in their hands to the Treasurer.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet half past 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. Prayer by Rev. J. M. Haney.

TUESDAY MORNING, Oct. 11th, 1898.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. P. McVay. The moderator called the body to order.

The question of time as to when to take the Lord's Supper, was tabled.

On motion, it was agreed to appoint a committee to look after the ministers of the Association. The following are appointed: Bro. T. W. Dosson, post office, Edmon, Ala. B. Jackson, Nauvoo, Ala. J. W. Sticher, Spruce Pine, Ala. G. B. Boyed, Hamilton, Ala. J. J. Johnson, Pool, Ala.

The question of what is the test of fellowship, decided that it is the right hand of church fellowship.

On motion, it was agreed to defer the question as to the duty of pastor to church, and church to pastor, until our next Association.

On motion, it was agreed, that the question that was sprung in the Union Meeting be sent back to the Union Meeting that was not settled, and the remainder of the Union Meetings be appended to the minutes of our Association.

On motion, it was agreed that the moderator appoint corresponding delegates to sister Associations. The following are appointed:

To the Jasper Association—Rev. J. M. Haney, Rev. Porter Dubois, Rev. E. B. Pool.

To the Flint River Association—Rev. J. P. McVay, Rev. P. H. Drain, Rev. John Alexander.

To the Brown's Creek Association—Rev. H. B. Foster, Rev. G. B. Haney, Rev. L. L. Nickols.

To the Vernon Association—Rev. E. A. Palmer, Rev. G. B. Boyed, and Bro. John White.

On motion, it was agreed that our Corresponding Secretary write the letters to the several Associations.

On motion, Bro. J. S. Rusk is excluded from this Association, and that we withdraw the hand of church fellowship from him.

On motion, it was agreed to postpone the question of a formulated government until our next Association.

On motion, it was agreed to pay the clerk four dollars for his services.

On motion, it was agreed to have our minute work done at the Baptist Review Job Office, Goldsboro, N. C., and that Bro. Nash be requested to send the minutes due each church to their clerks.

On motion, it is agreed that our next Association meet with Mount Zion Church, Lawrence county, Ala., 7 miles South-East of Leighton; and that it commence on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1899.

On motion, Rev. H. B. Foster was elected to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. W. C. McCombs, alternate.

On motion, it was agreed to hold the first Union Meeting with Rocky Grove Church in Marion county on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1899.

On motion, Rev. Porter Dubois was elected to preach the introductory sermon.

On motion, it was agreed to have the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum appended to our minutes.

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to Hopewell Church and the citizens of this community for kindness and hospitality shown to members and visitors of the Association.

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to the officers of the Association for the faithful manner in which they have presided over the body.

On motion, the Association adjourns to meet at the time and place above named. Prayer was offered, after which the moderator made some appropriate remarks. A hymn was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears and shouts of joy.

G. B. HANEY, Moderator.

H. W. KING, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

- R. V. PORTER DUBOYS, Eatonton, Franklin county, Ala.
 " W. C. McCOMBS, Haleysville, Winston county, Ala.
 " G. B. HANEY, Philcampbell, Franklin county, Ala.
 " R. P. CAMPBELL, Leighton, Colbert county, Ala.
 " J. W. ALEXANDER, Lynn, Winston county, Ala.
 " T. L. LOWRY, Leighton, Colbert county, Ala.
 " M. M. SUMMERS, Avoca, Lawrence county, Ala.
 " J. M. HANEY, Spruce Pine, Franklin county, Ala.
 " R. P. SHADIX, Double Springs, Winston county, Ala.
 " H. B. FOSTER, Bear Creek, Marion county, Ala.
 " P. W. A. CRUMBIA, Hamilton, Marion county, Ala.
 " E. A. PALMER, Hamilton, Marion county, Ala.
 " L. L. NICKOLS, Hamilton, Marion county, Ala.
 " J. P. McVAY, Gum Pond, Lawrence county, Ala.
 " P. H. DRAIN, Moulton, Lawrence county, Ala.
 " E. B. POOL, Lynn, Winston county, Ala.
 " JOHN WHITE, Detroit, Lamar county, Ala.

LICENTIATE MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

- J. E. WILSON, Double Springs, Winston county, Ala.
 W. P. SCOTT, Russellville, Franklin county, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Bear Creek Free-will Baptist Association, of Ala., and being composed of delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory counsel, but having no authority over the affairs of the churches.

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, &c. It may however in extreme cases, call aid from sister churches.

4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

6. This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally until all the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sabbath School, Missionary work, &c.

9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any church of this Association failing to be represented for two years in succession, its name shall be dropped from our minutes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

OF GOD.—ARTICLE 1. We believe there is one, and but one, living and true God. Who is in personality the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Equal and harmonious in every Divine perfection.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.—ART. 2. We believe that God is the Author of the Holy Bible; and that its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of His church.

OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY.—ART. 3. We believe that Adam was created holy; but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

OF FREE GRACE.—ART. 4. We believe that the grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings. That the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto Salvation.

OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.—ART. 5. We believe that Christian Faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and we believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. That "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

OF REPENTANCE.—ART. 6. We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin and the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance, must be preceded by effectual conviction for sin.

OF FREE AGENCY.—ART. 7. We believe that the human will is free. And that men have ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

OF PERSEVERANCE.—ART. 8. We do not believe under the Gospel dispensation, that any soul is elected to eternal life, unconditionally. But that those who by Faith persevere to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make shipwreck of the Faith" turn again to sin and be finally lost.

OF GOOD WORK.—ART. 9. We believe that good work is the result of Faith and not of necessity. That those who have Faith will do works of righteousness; while those who have no Faith, cannot do anything pleasing or acceptable unto God.

OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.—ART. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That Baptism cannot be Scripturally administered without Faith in the subject who receives it.

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.—ART. 11. We believe the Supper was instituted by our Saviour as a commemorative ordinance. That the bread and wine represent His body and blood. That it was instituted for Christians, and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

OF THE SOUL.—ART. 12. We believe that man is a living soul. That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

OF THE RESURRECTION.—ART. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever and ever. "But the wicked will be bound hand and foot, and cast into outer darkness. The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in the resurrection."

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST UNION MEETING.

The first Union Meeting of the Bear Creek Freewill Baptist Association met with Marshall Church, Frank' county, Ala. Saturday before the second Sunday in August 1898. An introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. P. McVay. His text was Luke 21c, 8v. Rev. J. W. Alexander, alternate. After service the body adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the moderator. Business was transacted as follows:

Called for letters from the churches, which were handed in and read and the names of churches and delegates enrolled as presented.

Blue Springs—Brethren M. D. Haney and J. A. Smith.

Hopewell—Brethren S. T. Hopson and B. Jackson.

Bethel—Bro. W. D. Douthit.

Shady Grove—Brethren J. A. Nix and T. W. Estis.

Marshall—Brethren S. M. Peppers and M. A. Harris.

Holms Chapel—Bro. J. P. McCoy.

Zion—Brethren J. S. Hunt and R. S. Pickard.

Nebo—Brethren A. M. Clark and W. A. Thompson.

Pleasant Grove—Bro. A. W. Banks.

Harmony—Brethren C. C. Jeffreys and A. Quillin.

Mount Zion—Rev. T. S. Lowry.

Called for new churches. None presented.

The moderator appoints a devotional committee as follows. Brethren B. Jackson, C. C. Jeffreys, and R. S. Pickard, with the deacons of this church.

Invitation was given to ministers of other denominations to take seats with us.

On motion, it was agreed to adopt the former plan of our Union Meetings and Rules of Decorum.

Call for destitutions. None presented.

Called for Queries. A question was asked by Rev. W. C. McCombs. What shall be considered a destitution, and how supplied? It was agreed that we don't consider any church destitute, who fails to make its own request, and its plan to be supplied.

Committee on preaching report that Rev. W. C. McCombs preach to-night; Rev. Thomas Williams to follow. Sunday at 9 o'clock, Rev. J. M. Haney to preach, Rev. P. H. Drain to follow. At 11 o'clock, Rev. T. L. Lowry to preach, Rev. H. B. Foster to follow. Sunday night, Rev. W. C. McCombs to preach, Rev. Thomas Williams to follow.

B. JACKSON, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted, and the committee discharged.

On motion, it was agreed to excuse Rev. Porter Duboys on account of the legal authorities, who called for him in their court.

On motion, Rev. T. L. Lowry was elected moderator protem.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning 8 o'clock.

MORNING SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Rev. J. P. McVay. Called to order by the moderator. The ministers filled their time as it was assigned to them.

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to this church and vicinity for kindness shown them during this meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet with Mount Zion Church Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1898.

T. L. Lowry, Moderator.

H. W. King, Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2nd UNION MEETING.

The 2nd Union Meeting of the Bear Creek Freewill Baptist Association convened with Mount Zion Church, Lawrence county, Ala. Sept. 10th, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Porter Duboys. His text was 1st Tim. 4c, 16v. Followed by Rev. R. P. Campbell. After service, an intermission of one hour was taken; and after the intermission to meet for the transaction of business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer and called to order by the moderator. The clerk being absent, Bro. M. M. Summers was appointed clerk protem.

Letters from the churches were called for, handed in and read, and the names of the churches and delegates enrolled as follows:

Blue Springs—Brethren H. M. Franks and J. M. Jones.

Shady Grove—Brethren E. M. Nix and W. M. Fowler.

Bethel—Brethren T. H. Edwards and C. M. Baker.

Zion—Brethren W. P. Mullins and Henry Clow

Bethlehem—Bro. R. R. Hall,

Harmony—Brethren J. E. Keat and W. A. Mullin

Mt. Zion—Brethren J. H. Ayers and T. W. Dosson.

Marshall—Bro. B. M. Tolerson.

The moderator appointed a devotional committee as follows, to wit: Brethren H. M. Franks, J. M. Jones, E. M. Nix, W. M. Fowler and T. H. Foster.

Then called for the reading of the minutes of the first Union Meeting. The manuscript not being present it was deferred.

Then called for unfinished business at the first Union Meeting, and deferred to It was discussed and deferred to the Association.

Committee on preaching report that T. L. Lowry preach tomorrow at 9 o'clock, followed by Rev. Porter Dubois. Rev. Porter Dubois preach at 11 o'clock, followed by Rev. R. P. Campbell. Bro. Summers offered prayer.

On motion, the body adjourned to meet Monday morning 9 o'clock.

MORNING SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer and called to order by the moderator. The clerk being absent J. S. Lowry was appointed to act in his place. Roll was called and the ministers and delegates answer to their names.

On motion, a vote of thanks is given to this church and community for kindness and hospitality shown to us during our meeting. May they enjoy the richest of heaven's blessings.

PORTER DUBOIS, Moderator.

J. S. LOWRY, Clerk pro tem.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session. Former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present elects.

4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

5. A majority of delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in cases of a tie; and then he shall give the deciding vote. He is entitled to speak on any question after others have spoken, provided he appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.

8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

STATISTICAL TABLE. FOR 1898.

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