

MINUTES

— OF THE —

First Annual Session

— OF THE —

JASPER

FREE-WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH

Beech Grove Church, Walker County,

October 1st and 3rd, 1887.

GOLDSBORO, N. C.:

Printed at THE BAPTIST REVIEW Job Office

1887.

PROCEEDINGS.

The First Annual session of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association was held with Beech Grove church, Walker county, Ala., on the 1st and 3rd days of October, 1887. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. G. C. Elliott. Text: Act. 10th chapter, 34 and 35 verses. After recess and refreshments the Association was called to order by the Rev. W. H. Nelson, Moderator *pro tem*. After singing by the congregation and prayer by the Moderator, business was transacted in the following order, viz:

1. Robert Franks was appointed Clerk *pro tem*.
2. Letters from the churches were called for, handed in and read, and names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.
3. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk; whereupon, Rev. W. A. Nelson, was elected Moderator, and Robert Franks, Clerk.
4. Opened the door for the reception of new churches, and petitionary letters were presented as follows: Pleasant Hill and Cedar Grove. The delegates were received, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.
5. Called for correspondence from sister Associations; Vernon Association was represented by Rev. T. J. Springfield and Rev. R. H. Tomlin.
6. Invited visiting ministers to seats with us. Father Tidwell, of the Missionary order takes a seat.
7. On motion, that the Moderator appoint all the committees.

8. Committee on preaching appointed as follows: James A. Burlason, James Wood and V. T. Davis, with the deacons of this church.

9. *On Finance*—J. E. Kendrick, W. F. Burlason and W. T. Keeton.

10. *On Documents*—G. C. Elliott, J. J. Wesley and G. P. Baughn with the Moderator and Clerk.

11. *On Sabbath Schools*—J. F. Files and T. P. Swindle.

12. *On Literature*—J. J. Wesley, G. W. Moore and G. C. Elliott.

Committee on preaching report that Rev. John Baughn is appointed to preach at 3 o'clock, p. m., Rev. W. A. Nelson preach to-night.

Sunday morning Prayer meeting at 9 o'clock, conducted by Bro. C. M. King. Rev. R. H. Tomlin preach at 11 o'clock, a. m., Rev. W. A. Nelson, preach at 3 o'clock, p. m., and Rev. J. J. Wesley, preach at night.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. James J. Wesley.

SERVICE ON SABBATH.

SUNDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Prayer meeting conducted by C. M. King.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. R. H. Tomlin, preached to a large and attentive congregation. Text: Matthew, 10th chapter, 34th verse. After which the Lord's Supper was administered to a large number of communicants, and a revival feast was enjoyed. Rev. W. A. Nelson preached at 3 o'clock. Text: First Timothy, 4th chapter, last verse. Rev. James J. Wesley preached Sunday night to a large and attentive congregation. Text: Matthew, 22 chapter, 12th verse.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Association convened according to adjournment. Opening service was conducted by Rev. G. C. Elliott. Minutes of Saturday was read and approved.

1. On motion, the reading of the Constitution was called for, read and approved.

2. Invited ministers of other denominations to seats with us. None present.

3. Reports of committees are called for and presented as follows:

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We the committee on documents and order of business recommend the former order of business. We also recommend that Mount Pleasant be the place of holding the next session of the Jasper Association. We also recommend that we dispense with district meetings, and in lieu thereof, hold a ministers annual meeting, where select subjects pertaining to the fundamental interest of the cause be discussed.

Respectfully submitted, G. C. ELLIOTT, Chairman.

On motion, report is adopted and committee discharged.

ON LITERATURE.

We find great efforts being made in literary attainments. God grant that our ministers may take hold upon the means in use for still a greater degree of the same; and remember not to fail to study the Bible. And we recommend all other good religious literature. Also, that our minute work be done where our secretary can get it done the cheapest and best.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. WESLEY, Chairman.

On motion, report is received and committee discharged.

ON FINANCE.

We find the total amount of cash on hand to be sixteen dollars and forty-five cents. Respectfully submitted,

W. T. BURLASON, Chairman.

On motion, report is adopted and committee discharged.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We very much regret that the Sabbath school cause is on

the decrease. We, therefore, urge it upon our brethren to look after this all important interest, as we believe it to be an auxiliary power in the hands of Providence, in leading souls to Christ. Respectfully submitted,

J. F. FILES, Chairman.

On motion, report is adopted and committee discharged.

Resolved, that the ministers annual meeting be held with Bethel Church, Marion county, Ala., near Allen's Factory and convene on Saturday before the third Sabbath in August, 1888. The introductory sermon be preached by Rev. G. C. Elliott.

Resolved, that this body ordain all ministers bearing a good recommendation from their respective churches, at the annual Associations.

On motion, the next session of this body will convene with Mount Pleasant church, Marion county, Alabama, 8 miles south of Pearce's Mills, on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1888. Rev. J. R. Hulsey to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. T. P. Swindle alternate.

REPORTS OF MINISTERS.

Rev. R. H. Tomlin, reports as follows: Sermons 100, prayers 100, sick room visits 20, baptized 25, organized 1 church, ordained 1 preacher, burials 6.

Respectfully submitted, R. H. TOMLIN.

Rev. G. C. Elliott reports as follows: Sermons preached 94, prayers 100, members received 20, baptized 5, communion service 2, organized one church, Marriages 2, burials 2, funerals 1, served two churches, miles traveled 1212.

Respectfully submitted, G. C. ELLIOTT.

Rev. W. A. Nelson reports as follows: Sermons preached 88, members received by baptism 16. Received by letter 15, total 31; funerals 2, burials 2, total number of prayers 100.

Respectfully submitted, W. A. NELSON.

Rev. T. P. Swindle reports as follows: Sermons 46, prayers 87, burials 3, baptized 4, communion service 4, marriages 1.

Respectfully submitted, T. P. SWINDLE.

Rev. James J. Wesley report as follows: Sermons 52

prayers 63, marriages 1, served one church.

Respectfully submitted, JAMES J. WESLEY.

On motion, that Rev. T. J. Springfield write a circular letter to be appended to our next minutes. Choosing his own subject.

On motion, that the Rules of Decorum, Constitution and Articles of Faith, be appended to our minutes.

On motion, Robert Franks was elected to superintend the printing of the minutes, assisted by Rev. J. J. Wesley.

On motion, Rev. J. J. Wesley was elected treasurer and was instructed to pay over the Associational funds in his hands to the Secretary

On motion, that our thanks are due and hereby tendered to Beech Grove church, and surrounding community for their unlimited hospitality and kindness shown to members and visitors of the Association.

On motion, our thanks are hereby tendered to the officers of this Association for the faithful discharge of duty during this session.

On motion, adjourned to meet at Mt. Pleasant church, 8 miles South of Pearces Mills, Marion county, Ala. Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1888.

After appropriate remarks by the Moderator and prayer by Rev. T. J. Springfield, a hymn was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears and shouts of joy.

W. A. NELSON, MODERATOR.

ROBERT FRANKS, CLERK.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

- Rev. W. A. NELSON, Pearces mills, Marion county, Ala.,
- “ G. C. ELLIOTT, Pearces mills, Marion county, Ala.,
- “ J. J. WESLEY, Ur, Marion county, Ala.,
- “ R. H. TOMLIN, Townby, Walker county, Ala.,
- “ T. R. HULSEY, Mountain Springs, Franklin Co. Ala.,
- “ T. J. SPRINGFIELD, Townby, Walker county, Ala.,
- “ T. P. SWINDLE, Beech Grove, Walker county, Ala.,
- “ P. V. VICKRY, Nanvoo, Walker county, Ala.,
- “ JAMES USRY, Nanvoo, Walker county, Ala.,

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Vernon Freewill Baptist Association, of Ala., and be composed of delegates from different churches forming the same. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates.

ART. 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council; but having no authority over the local affairs of the churches.

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

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

ART. 5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority vote.

ART. 6. This Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as shall be most convenient, and shall not adjourn finally until all the business is transacted.

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

ART. 8. We agree as churches composing this Association to use our best interest to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions such as the Temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary operation, &c., &c.

ART. 9. That no member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive years, unless no other member be competent.

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 AGENCY.—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 the divinity 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.

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 ship wreck of the Faith,” turn again to sin and be finally lost.

OF GOOD WORKS. 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 performing the 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 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 their death.”

STATISTICS OF THE JASPER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1887.

CHURCHES and COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES,	CLERKS and POST OFFICES	PASTORS.						P'd for Minutes	
				Baptized.	Rec. by letter.	Dis by letter.	Excluded.	Used.		No members.
Mount Olive, Marion co.....	J A Burlason and R Franks.....	J T Reese, Ur, Alabama	G C Elliott.....	2	2	6			64	2 25
Beech Grove, Walker co.....	J F Files, J Atkins and P E Pike..	J F Files, Beech Grove, Ala.	R H Tomlin.....	16	10		2		98	4 05
Blue Springs, Franklin co.....	W Smith, J Wood and P Duboise..	P Duboise, Eaton, Ala.....	T R Hulsey.....	14					27	1 25
Bethlehem, Marion county....	W T Burlason.....	W T Burlason, Haleys, Ala....	W A Nelson.....	4	4			1	18	80
Mount Pleasant, Marion co....	G W Moore.....	E B Webb, Pearce's Mills, Ala	G C Elliott.....			3	4		139	1 50
Cedar Grove, Franklin co.....	M Franks, R Coins.....	Alvin Franks, Mount Springs	G C Elliott.....		1				13	1 00
Pleasant Hill, Walker co.....	W P Baughn.....	George Baughn, Beech Grove	R H Tomlin.....						7	1 25
Oak Grove, Walker co.....	W T Keeton, V T Davis, A Keeton	L K Smith, Beech Grove	R H Tomlin.....	14	13		2		258	2 50
Mount Joy, Marion co.....	J E Kendrick, J W Kendrick.....	W A Waters, Pearce's Mills ..	W A Nelson... 18	6	2	4			267	1 25
Bethel, Marion county.....	B F Tidwell.....	B F Tidwell, Mount. Springs	T R Hulsey.....						8	60

W. J.

370

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