
MINUTES

—OF THE—

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER FREE WILL

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED WITH

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH

PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD., 1891.

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THE LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER FREE-WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

PREAMBLE.—From a long series of experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, being regularly baptised upon the profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion between us and preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other; do therefore propose to keep orders and rules of our Association according to the following plan or form of Government:

ARTICLE 1.—The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union not exceeding three delegates from each church, and who, upon producing letters, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. 2.—Letters from the different churches are to express their number in fellowship; the number received by experience, letter or recommendation; the number dismissed, excludcd; restored and that have died since the last Association.

ART. 3.—The members to be chosen and convened to be denominated "The Little Missouri River Free Will Baptist Association," being composed of sundry churches in the State of Arkansas. The Association to have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches; reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

ART. 4.—The Association to have a Moderator and Clerk who are to be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

ART. 5.—Newly constituted churches may be admitted into the Association on petition by letter and delegates, and if, on examination, they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6.—No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has been discussed in its own church.

ART. 7.—Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

ART. 8.—The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

ART. 9.—It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of this Association.

ART. 10.—The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and clerk before closing.

ART. 11.—Amendments to this form of government may be made at any time when a majority of the members may deem it necessary.

Rules of

OF THE LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER FREE-WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

- 1.—At every sitting the business making the motion shall be opened and closed with prayer by the Moderator or whomsoever he may request.
- 2.—Any ministers of the Gospel of the Free Will Baptist Church are to be invited to seats at the Annual Associations, and allowed to vote, or discuss any subject.
- 3.—Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
- 4.—No motion shall be discussed without first being seconded.
- 5.—When a motion has been made and seconded and a member proposes a discussion, the Moderator shall put the question; "Shall this question be discussed?" If negatived, the question shall be dismissed.
- 6.—If any proposition or motion, under debate, contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.
- 7.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless so ordered by the party.
- 8.—No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave of the Moderator.
- 9.—All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.
- 10.—No member shall be absent without leave of the moderator, and if so, his name shall be left off of the minutes.
- 11.—No member shall leave this body, while in session, without leave of the Moderator.
- 12.—Minutes shall be carefully read and corrected, if necessary, before the rising of the Association.
- 13.—In future sessions of this Association arrangements shall be made so as to insure two or more sermons each day, or other equivalent devotional exercise during the day.
- 14.—The rules of order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.
- 15.—Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session.

Minutes

The Little Missouri River Free-Will Baptist Association met with Pleasant Grove Church, Pike County, Arkansas, on the 3rd, 4th and 5th days of October, 1891. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder Z. D. Lawless and J. H. Lawless assistant clerk.

from Isaiah 55th chapter and 4th verse, after which the Association went into an election for Moderator and Clerk which resulted as follows; Elder Z. D. Lawless was elected Moderator, D. Moore clerk.

L. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

... real ... Pinkerton to follow; preach-
... which corresponded at 2 o'clock P. M. by Eld. J.
... were called for, and W. Brewer with Bro. J. A. Fox to
letters from the following churches follow, and services continued by
were presented, with the names of communing and foot washing at 4
the delegates from each church: o'clock P. M. Eld. J. A. Fox
Speedwell church, R. Porter, and Baptised Bro. Parker. Monday,
R. M. Cogburn; Pleasant Grove Oct. 5th, the Association met pur-
church, D. F. Pinzon; J. T. Ailer shant to adjournment the Modera-
and J. H. Lawless; Concord church, for in the chair, prayer by Bro.
W. L. Westbrook, Bethel church, D. B. James. The roll was called.
J. A. Fox, W. T. Bell, J. F. Greer and a quorum was present. The
and J. A. Barton; Rock Springs committee on arrangements made
church no. 2, B. F. Ralls and J. F. their report which was
Musgraves. By motion D. Moore prayer meeting by Brother
was seated as a delegate from Holly J. A. Welch at 9 o'clock A. M.;
Creek church. preaching at 11 o'clock by Elder B.

Petitionary letters were then Cox and Bro. Rogers; preaching at
called for, and one was presented 3 o'clock P. M. by Elders Brewer
from Corinth Church Pike County, and Markam. Then the Committee
M. Travis, William Travis and on finance made their report.

John Whisenant as delegates. The Committee on Resolutions
The letter was read and received reported as follows;
and the right hand of fellowship 1st.—“Resolved that we hold
extended to the delegates by the a union meeting at
moderator. Bethel church, commencing on

By motion the Moderator ap- Friday night before the second
pointed the following committee: Sabbath in August, 1892.

committee on arrangement, D. 2nd.—“Resolved that we adopt
Moore, J. H. Lawless and J. F. the articles of the Southern Baptist
Musgraves; committee on creden- Association, amending article 11.
tials, J. W. Brewer, R. Porter and 3rd.—“Resolved that the Free
J. F. Greer; committee on finance, Will Baptist Church adopt the fol-
B. F. Ralls, M. Travis and W. T. lowing rules: On receiving mem-
Bell; committee on resolution, D. bers into the Church that in “grants
Moore, J. H. Lawless and J. F. ing them all of the rights and priv-
Greer. ileges when baptized,” the word

Committee on arrangement report “baptized” shall be left out.
as follows; prayer meeting on Sab- 4th.—“Resolved that hereafter
bath at 9 o'clock A. M. by Eld. J. when we go into communion and
A. Fox, preaching at 11 o'clock A. washing feet we will make a dis-
M. by Eld. J. F. Greer with Bro. tinction between christians and the

MINUTES OF LITTLE MO. R.

world, or sinners by having the
seated separately.

5th.—Resolved that hereafter all disorderly members shall not be recognized in our Church.

6th.—Resolved that hereafter we will license our preachers instead of liberating them.

6th.—Resolved that we solicit our preachers and lay members to write an essay to be examined at our camp-meeting at Bethel, that we may have it published with our next minutes.

By motion the above resolutions were adopted and the committee, Z. P. Lawless, D. Moore and J. P. Greer discharged.

The following general resolutions were agreed upon: "Resolved that we communicate with the

Bro. J. S. Rodgers, Z.

A. Parington, J. R. Green, A. Fox as delegates.

Resolved that our next association convene with Rock Springs church no. 2, Howard County, Arkansas, commencing on Friday night before the first Sabbath in October, 1892; Elder Z. D. Lawless to preach the introductory sermon, and Bro. J. A. Fox to follow.

Resolved that we tender our thanks to the brethren and citizens of this vicinity for their kind hospitality during our stay with them."

Z. D. LAWLESS,
Moderator.

D. MOORE,
Secretary.

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.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.—1 Tim. 2c., 5v.

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.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,

but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently, involved his posterity in sin. tion, for instruction in righteousness.—2 Tim. 3c., 16v.

OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY.—ART. 3. We believe that Adam was once a righteous man, and when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat.—Gen. 3c., 6v.

OF FREE GRACE.—ART. 4. We believe that the grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessing

THE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

III.

OF PERSEVERENCE.—ART. 8.

salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reprobates the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto salvation.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call on him.—Rom. 10c. 12.

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 is the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. That "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not on the Son shall see life: the wrath of God abideth on him.—John 3c., 36v.

OF REPENTENCE.—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.

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world worketh death.—Cor. 7c., 10.

OF FREE ADOPTION.—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.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?—Mich. 6c., 8v.

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.

And Jesus said unto him, No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.—Luke 9c., 62.

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 any thing pleasing or acceptable unto God.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.—Matt. 6c., 19 and 20.

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.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.—Rom. 6c., 4v.

OF GOSPEL ORDINANCES.—ART. 11.

We believe the Lord's Supper and the washing of one another's feet, are ordinances of Jesus Christ; to be perpetrated under the Gospel of universal obligation and to

MINUTES OF LITTLE MO. RIVER

be administered to all true believers.

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will reunite and form an n.

OF THE SOUL.--ART. 12. We believe that man is a living soul, received into a state of everlasting happiness, to reign with God for ever and ever; But the wicked the separation of the mortal and immortal parts. shall be bound hand and foot, and cast into outer darkness.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul,--Gen. 2c., 7v. Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in the grave shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good unto the resurrec-

OF THE RESURRECTION.--ART. 13 We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection nation,--John 5c., 28, 29.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

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