

For 1891

1891

MINUTES.

—OF THE—

MT. MORIAH FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION.

The Forty-First Annual session of the Mt. Moriah Free-Will Baptist Association, was held with Macedonia Church, Pickens County, Ala., on October 10th-12th 1891. Introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. H. McGee text, Isaiah 58; 1. After religious service a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the delegates assembled in the house and the Association was called to order by Eld. W. H. McGee, former moderator. Prayer by Elder S. W. Williams. Business was conducted in the following order:

1. Letters from the different churches called for, handed in, read, and contents noted as per Statistical Table.

2. Proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, whereupon Elder Woods Springfield was elected moderator, and G. V. Clardy re-elected clerk.

3. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into our body, whereupon, a petitionary letter was presented from Union Church, said church having been organized upon our Articles of Faith, was unanimously received, the moderator and other ministers extended to the delegates the right hand of fellowship cordially invited them to seats with us.

5. Called for correspondence from Sister Associations, none present.

5. The following committees were appointed: On Document and Order of Business, Elder W. H. McGee, R. A. Pinkerton, M. E. Vail and brethren W. V. Curry, W. E. Hardin with moderator and clerk; On preaching, T. M. Bailey, H. W. Doneho, J. E. Woods, with deacons of Macedonia church; On Temperance, J. S. Seaymour, I. P. Robertson and I. T. Neighbors; On Finance, B. A. Cash, J. W. Montgomery; On Sabbath Schools, W. R. Latham, S. W. Williams; On Deceased, S. A. Pool, A. A. Burgin, J. E. Mathis; On Resolutions, F. L. Smith, A. P. Hays, J. R. Cooper, W. Stuckey and J. W. Shelton.

6. Committee on Preaching made the following report, Elder S. W. Williams preach at 9 a. m. Sabbath; R. A. Pinkerton at 11 o'clock; Woods Springfield at night.

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

Sabbath, 9 o'clock, Elder S. W. Williams preached, text, Proverbs, 34; 14. At 11 o'clock Elder R. A. Pinkerton preached, text, James 1; 27. At night Elder Woods Springfield preached, text, Luke 22; 44.

MONDAY, 8 o'clock.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer and called to order by moderator.

1. Roll called, delegates answered to their names.
2. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.
3. Committee on Documents and Order of Business made their report as follows: Recommend, 1. That the next session of the Association be held with Tabernacle church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala. 2. That Elder R. A. Pinkerton preach the introductory sermon; Elder W. R. Latham alternate. 3. That G. V. Clardy be continued as Treasurer. 4. That G. V. Clardy superintend the publication of the minutes and that we allow him pay for his services. 5. That we discuss the propriety of continuing the Union meetings. 6. That we take steps as to the mission work.

W. H. McGEE, Chairman.

4. On motion report received and committee discharged.
5. On motion the report was taken up and considered by sections: 1. The place for holding the next session taken up. Antioch church having petitioned for the next Association, said petition was considered, and finding that she had never had the Association held with her, on motion the next Association was given to Antioch church. Sections 2 and 3 adopted. Section 4 amended by allowing G. V. Clardy ten (\$10.00) dollars for his services. Section 5 taken up and considered. After much discussion as to the propriety of holding two Union meetings in the bounds of the Association, it was ordered that the Union meetings be consolidated, and that the session be held with Mt. Hermon church on Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1892. Section 6 taken up and considered.

After discussion a motion was made that roll of churches be called in order to ascertain how much means could be raised to support the mission work. The churches responded as follows: Mt. Moriah, \$15; Macedonia, \$5; Mt. Pleasant, \$10; Shiloh, \$10; Tabernacle, \$5; Holly Springs, \$15; Mt. Harmony, \$5; Shady Grove, \$3; Mt. Zion, \$5; Antioch, \$5; Unity, \$2.50; Mt. Herman, \$10; Friendship, \$5; Union, \$5; total, \$100.50.

6. On motion the churches are requested to forward amounts subscribed, to the treasurer at Byars, Ala., by the 1st of March 1892.

7. On motion went into election for two missionaries to go into the field where they are now calling for work, whereupon Elders R. A. Pinkerton and Woods Springfield were elected.

8. Reports of committees were called for. Committee on Temperance submitted the following: We believe that the intemperate use of intoxicating liquor is one of the greatest evils by which the Christian church is surrounded. Many men who might have been bright and shining lights in the church, and ornaments to society, have fallen into this evil and are now ruined. In view of this fact, we urge ministers while warning sinners and professing christians of the various evils, to make intemperance a special subject.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: We find there is a dearth of Sabbath Schools in our denomination, and believing that the Sabbath School is one of the best of our institutions and a great factor in the upbuilding of all Christian churches. Youth is the time to make good and lasting impressions. Therefore, we are commanded to teach all nations, and we urge our ministers and all who are concerned to make an earnest effort to build up the Sunday School interest. We recommend that each school exercise their own judgment in the selection of literature, but we recommend to all the Bible as the best literature, but do not object to helps.

W. R. LATHAM, Chairman.

Committee on Finance reported \$25.25 in hand. Allowed clerk for his services \$10. Balance on hand \$15.25.

We, your committee on Deceased find that we have lost since last session three, to-wit: Brother G. R. Reynolds, of Holly Springs church; Sister Polly McCool, of

Shady Grove church; Brother S. L. McAdams, of Macedonia church, the above having been removed from us by death, we therefore recommend that we pay them a tribute of respect and append to our minutes.

J. A. POOL, Chairman.

We, your committee on Resolutions submit the following: Resolved 1st; That any delegate who absents himself from the Association without leave, his name shall not be entered upon our minutes as a member of the Association. Resolved 2nd; That we the Free Will Baptists resort to way and means to support the ministry in the future more than in the past, and that we as churches labor more zealously to carry out our resolutions more than we have heretofore. Resolved 3rd; That we tender our thanks to the Macedonia church, and surrounding community for their kind hospitality shown us during this session of the Association.

F. L. SMITH, Chairman.

9. That the missionaries elected be entitled to the amount of two dollars per day for actual work.

10. The following brethren were appointed as a Board on Mission Work: W. E. Harden, W. V. Curry, T. M. Baley, whose duty it shall be, after receiving the reports of the missionaries' work, to issue a warrant on the treasury for the amount due them.

MINISTERS' REPORTS.

Elder J. E. Mathis: sermons preached, 82; public prayers, 182; members received by experience, 5; officiated at burials, 6; Communion, 3; ministers ordained, 1; miles traveled in the interest of the gospel, 562.

Elder Woods Springfield: Sermons preached, 86; public prayers, 182; members received by experience, 30; officiated at burials, 2; communions, 6; lessons in music, 50; schools taught, 3; miles traveled in the interest of the gospel, 880; miles traveled in interest of music, 520.

Other ministers failed to make a record of their work.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at Antioch church, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in October, 1892. An appropriate hymn was sung and the parting hand taken amid tears of joy.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

UNION MEETING.

The Second session of the First District of the Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Association, was held with the Holly Springs church, August 22, 1891.

The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. S. W. Williams, text, 1st Cor., 14 chap. 40 v. After religious services a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments. After dinner the delegates assembled in the house. The moderator and clerk being absent, Elder J. E. Mathis was appointed moderator, and Elder S. W. Williams clerk.

1. Letters from the different churches called for, handed in, read and contents noted.

2. Proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, whereupon Eld. J. E. Mathis was elected moderator, and G. V. Clardy clerk.

3. Opened the door for reception of new churches. A petitionary letter was presented from Mt. Hermon church and on motion was received.

4. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us, whereupon Eld. R. A. Pinkerton was seated.

5. Following committees: On order of business Eld. Woods Springfield, S. W. Williams with moderator and clerk. On preaching, W. E. Harden, J. G. Pearson, with deacons of Holly Springs church.

6. Called for discussion of Queries.

7. On motion query No. 1 (What is the first Resurrection) deferred till tomorrow morning.

8. On motion query No. 2, (Can man live a Sanctified life?) taken up, discussed, and answered in short, we can not live a sanctified life.

9. Committee on preaching reported as follows: Elder J. E. Mathis preach tonight; Elder R. A. Pinkerton at 11 o'clock Sunday.

10. On motion Union meeting adjourned till 8 o'clock Sunday morning. Saturday night, preaching by Elder J. E. Mathis, text, 1st Cor., 5, 10.

SUNDAY, 8 o'clock.

Union meeting met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer and called to order by the moderator.

11. Committee on order of business made its report as follows: 1. Recommend that we adopt former order of business. 2. that the next session of the Union meeting be held with Mt. Hermon church, on Friday before the First Sunday in August, 1892. 3. That Elder Woods Springfield preach the introductory sermon, Elder J. E. Mathis alternate. 4. That the first and second districts of the Association consolidate, and that we hold only one Union meeting in the Association, and that it be held annually.

12. On motion report received and committee discharged.

13. Query No. 1 taken up, discussed and the following adopted as answer, Christ is the first resurrection.

14. The following Queries were offered for discussion at the next Union meeting: First. What is the Millennium? Second. Should our ministers have a theological education?

15. The following resolutions offered by Bro. W. E. Harden, and were adopted: Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the Holly Springs church and citizens of the community for their kind hospitality shown to us during this session of the Union meeting.

16. On motion adjourned for preaching, Elder R. A. Pinkerton preached, text, Romans, 19, 1. After preaching a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken.

J. E. MATHIS, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mt. Moriah, W. E. Harden and M. L. Woods.

Macedonia, J. E. Mathis.

Holly Springs, C. A. Lancaster and E. P. Rhodes.

Unity, Not represented.

Mt. Pleasant, Not represented.

Mt. Harmony, Not represented.

Mt. Hermon, T. M. Baley and J. G. Pierson.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I. We believe that there is only one true and living God, who is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, self existent Creator of all things, and revealed under the personal distinction of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

II. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the centre of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

III. We believe that man was holy, under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that state, in consequence of which all mankind are now depraved, and wholly unable of their own free will and ability to recover themselves from the fallen state in which they are by nature.

IV. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unconditional decree, but salvation is offered in the gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever, it will be their own fault.

V. We believe that Christ, by his death and sufferings, made an atonement for the sins of mankind in general, and every individual in particular, however none but those who believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

VI. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural facilities and powers, or from the force or operation of free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable either of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

VII. We believe in a general application of the grace of God, to fallen man, sufficiently to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirements of the law of liberty.—Jas. 1:22; this is to act saving faith—John 1:8; however, none but those who believe or acquiesce in

Christ will be saved thereby—Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:19; John 3:19.

VIII. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion, and that on him is laid no invincible necessity, by his Creator, to act in any given way. If he lives after the flesh, he shall die; but if he through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, he shall live; man therefore is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation.—Heb. 11:11, 12, 13; Rom. 12:14; Mark 13:13; Ez. 18:24.

IX. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinance of Christ, governed by his law, and exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; and that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistle to Titus.

X. We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water, in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are proper subjects.

XI. We believe that the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church, in the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XII. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment, that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal, upon principals of grace and justice.

XIII. We believe in open communion, and the churches of our body are authorized, through their pastors, to invite Christians of all orthodox churches, who are in good standing in their respective churches, to commune with us at the Lord's table.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be known as the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and be composed of delegates from the different churches composing the same.

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

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

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

5. The officers of this association shall be a moderator, clerk and treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority vote annually.

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

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt the articles of faith and conform to its usages.

9. We agree, as churches composing this Association, to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the temperance cause, sabbath schools, missionary operations, &c. &c.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be called to order by the moderator who presided at the last session; the former clerk also officiates until the body is fully organized.

2 The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. The moderator and clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session; a majority of members 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 the delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in reception of churches into our body which must be unanimous.

6. The moderator shall vote in no case, only when the Association is equally divided; but shall have equal right to speak on any subject, provided he appoint some brother present to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise and address the moderator.

8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject in 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 body, nor more than fifteen minutes at one 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 in session without leave of the moderator.

12. The moderator shall have power to call the Association together at any time upon a petition of two-thirds of the churches composing the Association over which he presides.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

M. E. Vail, Military Springs, Lamar county Ala.

W. R. Latham, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.

W. H. McGee, " " " "

J. H. Hinton, McConnell, Tuscaloosa county, Alabama.

J. R. Robison, Kennedy, Lamar county, Ala.

Woods Springfield, Byars, Pickens county, Ala.

I. T. Neighbors, Anro, Lamar county, Ala.

J. E. McGee, Kingville, " " "

J. E. Mathis, Millport, " " "

S. W. Williams, Byars, Pickens county, Ala.

M. D. McGee, Kingville, Lamar county, Ala.

R. A. Pinkerton, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.

LICENSED MINISTERS.

J. W. Coward, Beards, Pickens county, Ala.

W. F. Parker, Fernbank, Lamar county, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF MT. MORIAH FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES. POSTOFFICES. PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Rec'd by Experience.	Rec'd by Letter.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total Membership.	Paid for Minutes.
Mt. Moriah, Beards Ala.	Woods Springfield.	J E Woods, W E Harden and F L Smith.					148	3.70
Macedonia, Millport, Ala.	J. E. Mathis.	R S Fields, O B Harden and J D Byars.		7	2	1	78	2.25
Mt. Pleasant, Vernon, Ala.	D. G. W. Hollis.	J W Lindsay, H P Hays and J H Stacey.	18	2	2	2	91	2.25
Shiloh, Koon, Ala.	J. E. Mathis.	J H Hannah, H W Doneho and T C Sexton.	1	5			45	1.80
Tabernacle, McConnell, Ala.	Woods Springfield.	J W Montgomery, J R Logan, J W Shelly.	2	2	1		36	1.90
Holly Springs, Byars, Ala.	Woods Springfield.	W L Stuckey, G V Clardy and E P Rhodes.	1	3		1	73	2.05
Mt. Harmony Hightoga, Ala.	D. G. W. Hollis.	I P Robertson, T A Guin and B H Cline.	29	3	1		132	2.45
Shady Grove, Kennedy, Ala.	J. R. Robison.	W J Barnes, R A McCoy and W B Nabors.	2		2	4	50	1.25
Mt. Zion, (Unknown.)	J. A. Brown.	B A Cash, J H Cash and A A Burgin.			1		42	1.65
Antioch, Fayette, Ala.	J. R. Robison.	J Wallace, B D Williams and Geo. Johnson.		2	2		30	1.20
Unity, Star, Ala.		Thos. Hays and John Hays.	3				23	1.25
Mt. Hermon, Fox, Ala.	W. H. McGee.	T M Baley, J D Springer and J G Pierson.	7		1		23	1.50
Friendship, Gentry, Ala.	J. E. Mathis.	E Holloman, J R Cooper and J Mouchett.		7			13	.70
Union, Stephens Mill, Ala.	Woods Springfield.	W V Curry, J S Seymour and J A Pool.					50	2.00

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