

MINUTES

—OF THE OLD—

Mt. Zion Association

—OF—

✕FREE WILL BAPTISTS.✕

—HELD WITH—

SUGAR CREEK CHURCH,

**Benton County, Ark.**

SEPTEMBER 8, 1893.

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1893.

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SUGAR CREEK CHURCH, BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS,

SEPTEMBER 8, 1893.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment, with Sugar Creek Church, Benton county, Arkansas, on Friday, September 8th., 1893, at 11 o'clock a. m.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Eld, W. J. Blackburn, from Colossians, I, 13.

Letters were then called for and their messengers invited to seats.

Called for newly constituted churches, received none.

Called for corresponding letters and received one from Union Association by the hands of Eld. I. J. Whitely.

The Association then organized by choosing Eld. W. J. Blackburn Moderator

and Clark Bland Clerk.

The following committees were then appointed: Eld. I. J. Whitely, J. R. Guinn and G. W. Lynch with Moderator and Clerk to frame a bill of arrangements. I. S. Ford, Joseph Ellington and J. K. Sharp to arrange preaching. The committee on preaching reported that Elders G. W. Lynch and J. R. Guinn would occupy the stand Friday night.

The Association then adjourned with singing, and prayer by Eld. I. J. Whitely, until 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

#### SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 9.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by the Moderator.

The bill of arrangements was called for, read, received and committee discharged.

1st. Resolved, that we have our minutes printed; that we have 500 copies printed and reserve fifty copies for each sister Association that we correspond with.

2nd. Resolved, that J. K. Sharp and Clark Bland superintend the printing and distributing of said minutes.

3rd. Resolved, that we keep up correspondence with our sister Union Association and that Eld. W. J. Blackburn write the corresponding letter and that Jessey Vaughn and J. A. Gausbeener of Mt. Zion church, bear said letter to Union Association.

4th. Resolved, that we correspond with West Mt. Zion Association by letter and delegation and R. E. Ford of Sugar Creek church, write and bear the corresponding letter to the same.

5th. Resolved, that we keep up the memorial of the dead in the minutes of the Association.

6th. Resolved that the next Association be held with New Hope church, four miles north of the old Vanwinkle mill and one-half mile east of La Rue, in Benton county, Arkansas.

7th. Resolved that Eld. I. J. Whitely deliver the introductory sermon and Eld. J. R. Guinn be his assistant.

8th. Resolved that this association return a bill of thanks to the people of this vicinity for their kindness to the Association.

9th. Resolved that the Association adjourn to meet with New Hope church on Friday, before the second Sabbath in September, 1894, at 11 o'clock a. m. The Association adjourned with prayer by Rev. J. R. Guinn.

W. J. BLACKBURN,

CLARK BLAND, Clerk.

Moderator.

Eld. David Mason and Eld. I. J. Whitely occupied the stand during the day and R. E. Ford and David Mason at night.

## CONSTITUTION.

From a long series of experience, we, the church of Jesus Christ, being regularly baptised upon the profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of a necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate Union and Communion amongst us and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other. We therefore propose to keep order and rules of our Association according to the following plan or form of government.

I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, not exceeding three messengers from each church, and producing letters, they shall be entitled to seats.

II. Letters from the different churches are to express their number of fellowship, the number received by experience, letter or recommendation, dismissed, excluded, restored, and those that have died since the last Association.

III. The members thus chosen and convened to be denominated the "Old Mt. Zion Association of Free Will Baptists," be 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 ecclesiastical power over churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church acting disorderly.

IV. The association to have a Mod-

erator and Clerk, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

v. New churches to be admitted into the Association which are to petition by letter and delegates, and if, on examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly they may be received by the Association. the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

vi. No question presented by the delegates of any church shall be discussed in the Association unless it has been thoroughly discussed in their own church.

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

viii. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with the minutes of the Association in proportion to the members in each church, the contribution being at the direction of the Association.

ix. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes.

x. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association closes.

xi. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time when a majority of the members may deem it necessary.

xii. The Association, in case of the

failure of any church to attend, may inquire into the cause.

### OUR DEAD.

Louisa E. Cowan of Mt. Zion church; professed a hope in Christ about 1874. and joined the church soon after. She lived a devoted Christian until death which occurred Oct., 12, 1892, at her home in Rogers, Ark., aged 36 years. She leaves a kind husband and two little children.

Allie Gratehouse of Mt. Zion church; professed a hope in Christ in August, 1892, joined the church and was baptised the second Sabbath in October, 1892. Her death occurred at her father's home in Washington Co., Ark., April 4, 1893. She told her relatives and friends around her she was going home, and said to tell the brethren and sisters of the church she was going home. After saying all she wished to say to her friends she said: "Lord, take me; I am ready." She was within a few days of her 15th year.

Rebecca Jennings, of Sugar Creek church; was born Jan. 5, 1821, in Jackson Co., Ala., and moved to Benton Co., Ark., in 1839; was married August 29, 1842; professed religion in 1848. Died March 5, 1893, aged 72 years.

[For the convenience of the clerk of the Association it is requested that the clerks of the different churches please state in their letters to the Association the names,



dates of birth, profession and death, of the deceased members of their church who have died since the last Association.]

### **RULES OF ORDER.**

I. At every sitting, business shall be opened or concluded by prayer by the Moderator, or whoever he may require.

II. Ministers present, invited to seats with us, may debate on all subjects but vote on none.

III. Those who speak shall rise and address the Moderator, and personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.

IV. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.

V. If when a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question: "Shall this question be discussed?" which, if negatived, shall be dismissed.

VI. 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.

VII. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

VIII. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave from the Moderator.

IX. All questions shall be decided by a majority of members present.

X. No member shall absent himself



without leave from the Moderator. If so his name shall be left off of the minutes.

XI. The minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the rising of the Association.

XII. That in the future sessions of this Association arrangements be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises, which will be equivalent thereto, during each day of the session.

XIII. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.

XIV. Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in the only true and living God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one: Isa. xlv, 5; 1st Cor. viii, 6.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments are the word of God, and the Gospel by Jesus Christ is the only rule of faith and practice: 2d Peter, i, 21; 2d Timothy, iii, 16.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and by his transgression all his posterity fell and were made sinners: Gen. iii, 6; Rom. v, 19.

4. We believe in the corruption of human nature and the inability of man to recover himself by his own free will and

ability: Rom. v, 12; St. John vi, 44.

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that through His mediatorial death, the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all who come to Him upon the terms of the Gospel: Heb. ii, 9; St. John iii, 36.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ, and that good works are the fruits of faith and follow after justification: Eph. ii, 5-8; Rom. vi, 22.

7. We believe that saints persevere in grace and not one of them will be finally lost; Mat. xi, 28; Rev. xxii, 2-10-14.

8. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgment and the happiness of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked everlasting; Mat. xxv, 32.

9. We believe the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women who have obtained fellowship with each other and given themselves unto the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up a Godly discipline, according to the rules of the Gospel: St. Mat. xviii, 17, xvi, 18.

10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government thereof is with the body: St. John i, 11; Col. i, 18.

11. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet, are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be continued until His second coming: St. Mat. xiii, 16; Acts, viii, 30.

12. We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the only Gospel mode: St. Mark xvi, 16; St. Mat. xiii, 16; Acts viii, 30.

13. We believe that none but true believers are fit subjects to commune at the Lord's table; Cor. xi, 28, 29.

14. We believe that the Lord's day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God and no work or worldly business ought to be transacted thereon, works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted; Ex. xx, 8, 9.

MINISTERS.	AGE.	P. O. ADDRESS.
W. J. Blackburn.....	57	War Eagle Mills, Benton Co., Arkansas
David Mason .....	52	" " " " " "
J. R. Guinn.....	60	Huntsville, Madison " "
G. W. Lynch.....	46	Clifty, " " "
J. M. Martin.....	51	Fancher, " " "
R. L. Shaw.....	44	Drake's Creek, " " "
Ezekiel Hendrickson.....	73	Springtown, Benton " "
Wm. Ellington.....	49	" " " " "
S. G. Moses.....	51	Drake Creek, Madison " "
Granville Evans.....	49	Hindsville, " " "
A. M. Whitely.....	34	Drake's Creek, " " "
Adam Frazee .....	51	Huntsville, " " "

#### LICENSED MINISTERS.

A. A. Marr.....	60	Farmington, Washington Co., Arkansas
Calaway Roberts.....	37	War Eagle Mills, Benton, " "
M. L. Evans.....	42	Drake Creek, Madison " "
I. N. Bailey .....	38	Aurora, " " "
R. E. Ford .....	58	Avoca, Benton " "

**TABLE SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES.**

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Erased	Rec'd by experience	Received by letter..	Recommendation...	Dismissed by letter..	Excluded.....	Dead.....	Total.....
Mt. Zion.....	Jessey Vaughn, J. A. Gausbeener.....	..	7	..	..	..	..	2	64
Sugar Creek.....	R. E. Ford, B. Tiner, M. S. Anderson.....	..	4	0	..	5	1	1	53
Big Fork.....	J. R. Guinn.....	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	44
Salem.....	W. J. Blackburn, J. K. Sharp.....	..	16	0	0	0	0	0	28
New Hope.....	J. O. Hawthorn, E. Boydstun, Clark Bland.....	..	10	1	3	..	..	..	33
Hickory Grove..	David Mason, G. W. Lynch, Elbert Lynch.....	..	8	..	2	..	1	..	50
Willow Springs..	Not represented.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Highland.....	" ".....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Big Springs.....	" ".....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Long Valley.....	" ".....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..