

Geo. A. Beem

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MINUTES

OLD MT. ZION ASSOCIATION OF FREEWILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

Madison Co., Arkansas,

SEPTEMBER, 11 & 12, 1896.

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The Association met pursuant to adjournment with Hickory Grove Church, Madison County, Arkansas; on Friday at 11 o'clock a. m., Sept. 11, 1896, with Eld. W. J. Blackburn, Moderator, and Clark Bland, Clerk. The introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. L. A. Edwards from 68 Psalms and 28th verse.

Letters were called for and their messengers invited to seats. Called for newly constructed churches, received Carroll county, Ark., in person of M. P. Capps. Called for corresponding letters. Received two—one from Carroll County (Freewill Baptist) Association by Eld. David McColough and Mat Smith and one from Union Association by Elds. W. R. Miller, W. S. Purselley and J. P. Whitley, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship and Christian love

The Association then organized by choosing Eld. W. J. Blackburn, Moderator and Clark Bland, Clerk. The rules of order were then read from the chair.

The following committees were appointed on bill of arrangements. Eld David McColough, Eld W. S. Purselley, Eld J. R. Guinn with the Moderator and Clerk.

COMMITTEE ON PREACHING.

D W Lynch, Mat Smith, M P Capps, Elds W J Blackburn, David McColough were appointed to occupy the stand Friday night.

After singing and prayer by the Moderator, the Association adjourned until 8:30 Saturday morning.

The stand was occupied Friday night by Elds W J Blackburn and David McColough, from Acts 26th chapter, 18th verse.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 12, 1896.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment at 8:30 a. m., singing and prayer by the Moderator.

Eld I. A Edwards was received into the Association in full fellowship and liberated to preach in the bounds of this Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

Bill of arrangements was called for, read and received and the committee discharged.

1. Resolved, That this Association have 500 copies of its minutes printed and reserve fifty for each of our sister Associations.

2. Resolved, That Clark Bland superintend the printing and distribution of same.

3. Resolved, That we keep up the memorial of our dead.

4. Resolved, That we continue to correspond with our sister Associations.

5. Resolved, That Elds J R Guinn, Granvill Evans and Jesse Vaughn write and bear the corresponding letter from Mt. Zion Association to Union Association and J F Paschal and Wm Gasseene supply in case of failure.

6. Resolved, That Wm Gasseene, D W Lynch and Fred Stamback write and bear the corresponding letter to Carroll county Freewill Baptist Association to be held with Low Gap Church, Newton county, Ark., to commence on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1897.

7. Resolved, That the next Association will be held with Christian Home Church, six miles north of Hindsville, Madison county, Ark., to commence on Friday at 11 o'clock a. m. before the second Sabbath in September, 1897.

8. Resolved, That Eld W S Purselley deliver the introductory sermon and Eld W R Miller assist.

9. Resolved, That we return a bill of thanks to the people of this vicinity for their liberal kindness during this session of the Association.

The stand was occupied at 11 a m by Elds W S Purselley and S G Moses, from Isaiah 35 chapter and 8th verse.

10. Resolved, That we adjourn with prayer by Eld J R Quinn, to meet with Christian Home Church, Madison county, Ark., on Friday, at 11 a m before the second Sabbath in September, 1897.

CLARK BLAND, Clerk.

W. J. BLACKBURN, Moderator.

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, letters or recommendation, dismissed, excluded, restored and those that have died since the last Association.

III. The members thus chosen and convinced to be denominated the old "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 Moderator and a 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 church with the minutes of the Association in proportion to the members in each church, the contribution being at the directions 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 a failure of any church to attend, may inquire into the case.

RULES OF ORDER.

I. At every sitting, business shall be open 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 reflections 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. Motions 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 seasons.
- 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 one only true and living God, and Father the Word, and the Holy Ghost. Isa. 45, 5. 1st Cor. 8, 6. 1st. John 5, 7.
- 2. We believe that the scriptures, of the Old and New Testaments, are the word of God; and the gospel by Jesus Christ, the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd. Peter 1, 21, 2nd. Timothy 3, 16.
- 3. We believe in the fall of Adam, and that by his transgression all his posterity fell, and were made sinners. Gen. 3, 6, Rom. 5, 19.
- 4. We believe in the corruptness of human nature and the inability of man to recover himself by his own free will and ability. Rom. 5: 12. St. John 6-44.
- 5. We believe that Jesus Christ by the grace of God tasted death for every man and through his mediatorial death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all that come unto him upon gospel terms. Heb 2, 6. St. John 3 36.
- 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and that good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification. Eph. 2, 5, 8. Rom, 6, 22.
- 7. We believe that saints may persevere in grace and not one be lost. St. Mat. 11, 28. Rev. 22, 14, 2, 10.
- 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 will be eternal. St. Math 25, 32. 1st. Cor, 15, 13 14.
- 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 to the Lord and one another. St. Matt. 18, 17, 16, 18.

10 We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government thereof is with the body. St. John 10, 11, Cor. 1, 18.

11 We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet are ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to be continued until the second coming. St. Mitt, 28, 19, St. John 13, 5-10, 14, 16.

12 We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects of Baptism, and that immersion is the only gospel mode. St. Mark 16, 16 St. Matt, 3, 16, Acts 8, 36.

13 We believe that none but true believers are fit subjects to commune at the Lord's Table. 1st, Cor. 11, 28, 29.

14 We believe that the Lord's day ought to be observed and sat apart for the worship of God, and that no work of worldly business ought to be transacted thereon, works of piety, mercy and necessity excepted. Exo. 20, 8, 9.

OUR DEAD.

Alice Bean, a member of Mt. Zion Church, departed this life February 29 1896. She professed a hope in Christ in the year 1879, joined the church and lived a pure life up to her death. Aged 34 years, 1 month and 2 days.

A. V. Smith, member of Hickory Grove Church, was born 1836. Died January 30, 1896. He had lived a religious life about 26 years.

Elizabeth Sharp, member of Salem Church, was born about 1812. Professed a hope in Christ while young. She was prompt in church duties, lived a devoted life up to death, which called her home last April.

Sister Vesta Ford, of Sugar Creek Church, was born April 21, 1840, in Benton county, Ark. Professed a hope in Christ in 1869. Joined the Freewill Baptist Church in 1881 and lived a devoted life up to her death March 12, 1896.

Mary Guinn was a member of Big Fork Church, she having been a Christian for about 60 years. Aged about 80 years. Departed this life Dec. 1, 1895. Was a true Christian until called home.

Jefferson Ledbetter was a member of Big Fork Church for about 45 years. He died in the hope of a glorious immortality in May, 1896, aged 86 years.

Sister O. D. Blackburn, of Christian Home Church, was born Nov. 12, 1830, and departed this life June 8, 1896.

J. M. CAIN, Job Printing and Binding Rogers Ark.

MINISTERS,	AGE	POST-OFFICE ADDRESS,
W J Blackburn.....	60	War Eagle Mills, Benton county, Arkansas
David Mason.....	55	" " " "
J R Guinn.....	63	Huntsville " "
G W Lynch.....	49	Clifty, Madison " "
R L Shaw.....	47	Drake's Creek, " "
S G Moses.....	49	Drake's Creek, Madison " "
Granville Evans.....	52	Hindsville, " "
A M Whitely.....	37	Drake's Creek, " "
Adam Frazee.....	54	Huntsville, " "
L A Edwards.....	54	Goshean, Washington " "
LICENSED MINISTERS.		
A A Marr.....	62	Farmington, Washington county, Arkansas
I N Bailey.....	41	Aurora, Madison " "

TABLE SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES,

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Rec'd by experience...	Rec'd by letter.....	Recommendation.....	Dismissed by letter....	Erased,.....	Excluded.....	Dead,.....	Total.....
Mt Zion.....	L M Miles, J W Blackburn, Jack Creek.....	1	0			4	1	1	48
Sugar Creek.....	Joe Ruddick, Lafe Ruddick.....	0		0		2	0	1	54
Big Fork.....	Eld J R Guinn,.....								50
Salem.	Eld W J Blackburn.....							2	25
New Hope.....	J O Hawthorn, E Boydstun, Clark Bland....	1	1			4		1	29
Hickory Grove.....	Eld David Mason, D W Lynch, F Stamback..			4		1			41
Long Valley.....	J F Paschal, Wm Muney, Wm Ward.....	3	2	1				1	40
Christian Home,.....	Eld G Evans, Wm Gasseene, H K Elles.....	12						1	20
Willow Springs.....	G F Brewer.....							1	8
Clifty.....	M P Capps.....								8