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MINUTES

OF THE

14TH ANNIVERSARY

OF

STONE ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

LAUREL CREEK CHURCH,

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, TENN.,

Friday and Saturday, 3d and 4th days of October, 1879.

NASHVILLE:

MARSHALL & BRUCE, STATIONERS, COLLEGE STREET.
1879.

MINUTES.

The Delegates comprising the Fourteenth Anniversary of the Stone Association assembled at the Laurel Creek Church, Cumberland County, Tennessee, on Friday, the 3d day of October, A. D., 1879.

After prayer by Elder John Kinnaid, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder John Brewster, from the 15th Chapter of the Gospel recorded by St. John, and first clause of the 5th verse, "I am the vine, ye are the branches."

The delegates from the different Churches being called, came forward and took their seats. The Association then proceeded to organize, by electing Elder Benjamin Clouse, Moderator, and Bro. R. L. Gentry, Clerk.

Letters from the different Churches were then called for and were read and received.

The door to admit sister Churches as members of the Association was then opened, when there were two presented themselves by their delegates—T. C. Peek and John Brewster, duly appointed, and were received in due form, they having presented petitionary letters, which letters were read and received.

On motion, the Association adjourned until 4 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION—Met pursuant to adjournment, and after prayer by the Moderator, proceeded to business.

Corresponding letters were then called for, when one from New Union Association of United Baptist was presented by its delegates, duly appointed, to-wit: A. D. Jones, William Massa, J. H. Brannum, M. Curtis and W. H. Trammel, which letter was read and received, and the delegates invited to seats; they being present, came forward and took their seats.

On motion, the Association adjourned until Saturday morning, 8 o'clock.

SATURDAY—The Association met pursuant to adjournment, and, after prayer by Elder T. J. Clouse, proceeded to business.

On motion, and in pursuance of Section 9 of the Declaration of Rights, there were appointed as Presbyters, Elders T. J. Clouse, John Brewster, Joseph A. Moyers, G. L. Moyers, Lewis Howell, James A. Moyers and John Stowers for the next associational year.

On motion, the ministers were appointed to attend the several churches as pastors thereof, to-wit: Antioch—Willis Bush and John Fuquay.

Board Valley—Benjamin Clouse and E. Pennington.

Blackburn's Fork—Jesse Allen and John Kinaird.

Bethel—T. J. Clouse.

Calf Killer—Benjamin Clouse.

Cane Fork—E. Pennington and Lewis Howell.

Crooked Creek—W. P. Brown and John Brewster.

Cane Creek—Willis Bush and John Fuquay.

Copeland Creek—G. L. Moyers, Joseph Moyers and John Stowers.

Chapel Hill—Lewis Howell and Benjamin Clouse.

Dodson's Branch—Jesse Allen and Nathan Judd.

England Cove—E. Pennington and Benjamin Clouse.

Highland—John Kinnaird and J. J. Speck.

High Rock—Mathias Judd and John Judd.

Indian Creek—C. Alfred and W. Y. Tinch.

Laurel Creek—G. L. Moyers and Joseph A. Moyers.

Liberty—W. B. Isbell.

Macedonia—Nathan Judd and Mathias Judd.

Mt. Pisgah—Joseph A. Moyers and John Brewster.

Shady Grove—John Kinnaird and J. J. Speck.

Viola—T. J. Clouse and Mansfield Howell.

Zion Hill, P. C.—Benjamin Clouse, Mansfield Howell and R. L. Gentry.

Zion Hill, C. C.—Joseph A. Moyers and G. L. Moyers.

Elder James A. Moyers, at his own request, was released from pastoral labor for the next associational year.

Elder W. E. Smith, upon the report of the Board of Presbyters, was dismissed from the Association, and his credentials declared null and void.

On motion, it was agreed that we have correspondence with New Union Association of United Baptist, and one Messenger from each Church from this Association was appointed, to-wit: John Fuquay, Benjamin Clouse, R. F. Pippin, Robert Horn, John A. Brown, John Brewster, James A. Moyers, Wm.

Boisloy, Lewis Howell, Jesse Allen, Wm. Emery, James Crabtree, Center Alred, G. L. Moyers, Joseph Whiteaker, Jackson Lee, Jr.; Joseph A. Moyers, Thomas Neal, R. L. Gentry, Mansfield Howell, John Judd, T. J. Clouse and W. B. Isbell, and that this Association send up a letter of correspondence to New Union Association, when convened with the Indian Creek Church, DeKalb County, Tenn., on Friday before the second Lord's Day in September, 1880.

On application of R. L. Gentry, and J. J. Speck, and they being recommended as candidates for the Ministry, and being declared qualified by the Board of Presbyters, they were ordained to the office of Elder by prayer and the imposition of bonds.

On motion, it was resolved that the next Association be held with the Church at Zion Hill, Putnam County, Tennessee, commencing on Friday before the third Lord's Day in October, 1880, and that Elder G. L. Moyer be appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder Benjamin Clouse his alternate.

Resolved, That the following be the form of letters of correspondence to the Annual Association, to-wit:

We, the Christian Baptist Church of Christ, at _____ County, Tenn., to the Stone Association.
 Dear Brethren: We have chosen our Messengers, _____, to represent us in your body. The statistics of our Church are as follows: Increase by baptism, _____; by letter, _____; by restoration, _____. Our decrease by letter, _____; by expulsion, _____; by death, _____. Total in

fellowship, ----- Our day of meeting is the-----
Sabbath. We send contribution, \$-----.

-----, Moderator.

-----, Clerk.

Agreed that we have 700 minutes printed in pamphlet form.

On motion, it was resolved that we tender our thanks to the brethren and friends of the Laurel Creek Church for the kind treatment extended to us during our stay with them.

The Association was then dismissed in order until the next Association.

BENJ. CLOUSE, Moderator.

R. L. GENTRY, Clerk.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. That all power of Church Government is inherent in the people and the Preachers, that is the churches; that they have a right through their representatives to establish, alter or amend their form of Church Government, two-thirds agreeing thereto.

SEC. 2. That a Christian Church is a society of believers in Jesus Christ, and is a divine institution, Christ Jesus being the head of the Church, and the Bible the only rule of faith and practice.

SEC. 3. That no rule of faith and doctrine shall ever be established in the Christian Baptist Church contrary to the Bible.

SEC. 4. No person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ and obeys the Gospel, ought to be deprived of Church membership.

SEC. 5. Every man has an inalienable right to private judgment in matters of religion, and may speak freely of the same in a way that will not violate the law of God, or the laws of his country, or the rights of his fellow-men.

SEC. 6. Church trials should be conducted on Gospel principles only, and no minister or member should be excommunicated except for immorality, or the propagation of unchristian doctrine, or neglect of duty enjoined by the Word of God, or the rules of the church.

SEC. 7. The Church has a right to form and enforce such rules and regulations only, as are in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, and may be necessary to carry into effect the great system of practical Christianity.

SEC. 8. There may be three grades of Associations established in the Christian Baptist Church. 1st.—The Monthly Association. 2d.—The Annual Association. 3d.—The General Association, all of which may be established by the rules of the church.

SEC. 9. The Annual Association has the right to elect Presbyters for the purpose, and with the power to ordain candidates to the ministry, and to pass upon and declare the credentials of any Minister not found worthy or qualified for the ministry, null and void.

SEC. 10. That the Church has the right to elect their leaders and delegates to the Annual Association. All the members are entitled to a vote in the elections and church trials.

SEC. 11. It shall be the duty of every church to elect two Deacons and one Clerk.

SEC. 12. It shall be the duty of each church to send up their delegates with letters in order to the Annual Association.

SEC. 13. It shall be the duty of the Annual Association to send to the General Association, delegates with corresponding letters in order.

RULES OF DECORUM.

We, the Christian Baptist Church of Christ, believing it to be our duty to convene ourselves together in an associated capacity, in order to set forth our principles, and also Rules of Decorum for the churches to be governed by in the future, the following rules shall be our decorum:

1ST.—The Association shall be composed of the members chosen from sister churches of the same faith and order.

2ND.—This Association shall be opened by prayer to Almighty God.

3RD.—One of the members of this Association shall be chosen to preside, who shall be addressed by the name of Brother Moderator, and to him every speech shall be directed, and he shall not have the liberty of discussing any subject unless the chair is filled by some one else.

4TH.—And we shall have the liberty of choosing our own Clerk, and there shall be a door open for sister churches into the Association.

5TH.—No complaint shall be brought into this Association against transgressing churches, until the aggrieved party comply with the directions

given by our Lord, in St. Mat. 18th chapter, 15th, 16th, and 17th verses.

6TH.—Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by those who made it.

7TH.—If the minority are at any time grieved by the majority, they are hereby directed to make the same known immediately to the Association, and if satisfaction cannot be obtained, it may be necessary in that case to call help from other Associations.

8TH.—If at any time the Association should deem it necessary to make amendments, it may be done, provided two-thirds of the Association be in favor of it.

9TH.—All the business of the Association shall be recorded by the Clerk, and before the Association rises, the same shall be read and corrected, if need be.

10TH.—It shall be the duty of the delegates of the different churches, who have been elected, to bring up letters in order to the Annual Association.

11TH.—It shall be the duty of the Deacons of the churches to go to transgressing members, talk to them, admonish them, and they shall have until the second church meeting to make reconciliation; it may be the duty of the church to choose a committee to settle questions of aggrieved cases.

12TH.—It shall be the duty of the deacons to advise the church to promote means to sustain their churches and preachers.

13TH.—It shall be the duty of each minister on receiving members into the church, to ask the applicant the following questions: 1st, Do you feel that you love God with all your heart, soul, mind

and strength. 2d, Are you a believer in Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. 3d, Are you determined to walk in all his precepts.

14TH.—It shall be the duty of all persons who become members of the Christian Baptist Church to attend to the Ordinance of Baptism.

15TH.—Each Annual Association shall elect a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to hold all the funds which shall come into the Treasury. There shall also at the same time be a Clerk elected, whose duty it shall be to record all the business of said Treasury. All moneys paid into the Treasury shall be subject to the order of the Association.

16TH.—It shall be the duty of the several Churches of this Association to organize a Church Treasury in like manner to Rule 15th, to defray Church expenses.

ARTICLES OF FAITH—CHRISTIAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

Article 1.—We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

Art. 2.—But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him. 1st Cor., 8 chap. and 6th verse.

Art. 3.—We believe that man is unable to recover himself from the fallen state that he is in by reason of sin only by the grace of God, through the exercise of Faith.

Art. 4.—We believe Baptism and the Lord's Sup-

per and the washing of the saints' feet, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that Immersion is the only true water baptism, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Art. 5.—We believe that no minister has a right to administer these Ordinances except such as are legally ordained.

Art. 6.—We believe in the Resurrection of the dead, and a general Judgment, the punishment of the wicked and the joys of the righteous are eternal.

Art. 7.—We receive no persons into the Christian Baptist Church of Christ only on the principle of their conversion.

Art. 8.—We believe that no persons are members of the Church of Christ, only those that have the witness within themselves.

Art. 9.—We believe that all the members of the Church of Christ have a right to the Sacrament table, upon the principle of their acceptance with Him, for St. Paul says, "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." 1st Cor., 11th chap. 28th verse.

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TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Letter.	Restored.	Decrease by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Contributions.
Antioch.....	Smith Bryant, George Rodgers.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	\$ 50
Bozrd Valley.....	Benj. Clouse, F. S. Robinson.....	9	0	0	0	0	0	142	1 00
Blackburns Fork.....	Lafayette Byers, D. G. Bradford.....	12	0	0	0	1	0	90	1 80
Bethel.....	T. C. Peck.....	45	0	0	0	0	0	45	1 75
Calf Killer.....	T. J. Clouse.....	11	1	0	0	0	1	64	1 00
Caney Fork.....	Taylor Hudgens.....	3	0	0	0	0	3	40	60
Crooked Creek.....	John Brewster.....	0	1	0	0	3	0	46	20
Cane Creek.....	Jas. A. Moyers, J. L. Welch.....	11	1	0	0	1	1	75	1 20
Copeland Creek.....	Wm. Baisley, Benj. Clouse.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	50
Chapel Hill.....	.....	7	0	0	0	2	1	97	95
Dodson's Branch.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
England Cove.....	Elijah England, John Dubois.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	50
Highrock.....	.....	6	0	0	1	0	0	47	50
Highland.....	J. J. Speck.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	85
Indian Creek.....	John Brewster.....	0	2	0	3	1	0	20	.....
Laurel Creek.....	Jos. A. Moyers, Wm. Brewer.....	0	1	0	2	0	1	28	1 70
Liberty.....	John Brewster.....	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	.....
Macedonia.....	.....	9	0	0	0	0	0	34	25
Mount Pisgah.....	John Judd.....	1	0	1	0	1	1	26	20
Shady Grove.....	E. H. Henry.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	41	70
Viola.....	R. L. Gentry, N. L. Crawley.....	2	5	0	0	0	0	27	90
Zion Hill P. C.....	J. V. Martin, A. W. Tilley.....	1	0	0	0	2	5	122	1 00
Zion Hill C. C.....	Jas. E. Vanwinkle, G. L. Moyers.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	60
Total.....		111	76	1	6	16	15	1091	\$15 20