

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Philadelphia Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Ala.,

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 25, 1888.

OFFICERS.

J. W. LESLIE..... Moderator.
W. T. NETTLES..... Clerk
JOHN THAMES..... Treasurer.

The next session will be held with Monroeville Baptist Church, Monroeville, Ala., beginning at 1 o'clock, on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1889.



MINUTES.

The seventy-second session of the Bethlehem Association was held with the Philadelphia church, at Kempville, Monroe county, Alabama, beginning on Tuesday, September 25th, 1888.

The Association convened at 11 o'clock, and after devotional exercises conducted by the Rev. S. L. Lowery, was called to order by the moderator, J. W. Leslie.

The clerk, Brother T. S. Wiggins, being present, the moderator announced the session ready for business. The moderator appointed a committee on credentials, to-wit :

Brethren B. J. Skinner, T. J. Emmons and John Thames, who reported the following churches represented by delegates. viz :

Monroeville—J. W. Leslie, T. J. Emmons, T. S. Wiggins and W. L. Rikard.

Oak Grove—James Kirby.

Pleasant Hill—W. A. Locke, Monroe Stacy and W. Blanton.

Enon—J. H. Castello.

Bethany—B. J. Skinner, S. D. Nash, D. H. Lee and Burrell Shirley.

Bellville—S. R. Stamps, T. A. Robbins, W. K. Burt and A. B. Farnham.

Point Pleasant—S. L. Lowery and John Russell.

Zion—Liston Hurry, W. A. Fountain, C. Kimbrel and J. J. McWilliams.

Claiborne—James Thames.

Salem—J. H. Brown, G. K. Fountain, C. M. Carter and L. A. Hendrix.

Philadelphia—W. T. Nettles, T. A. Nettles, J. T. Newberry, C. W. McClure and J. D. Nettles.

Kamah—T. H. Rains, O. J. Day, A. P. Thames.

Pleasant Ridge—E. T. Andress, Winfrey Biggs and J. L. Smith.

New Hopewell—Wm. Blair.

Perdue Hill—John Thames.

The following named brethren were requested to act as tellers for the election of officers for the ensuing year, to-wit : D. W. Ramsey and G. M. Parker. The election was ordered, which resulted in the election of J. W. Leslie, moderator, W. T. Nettles, clerk, and John Thames, treasurer.

Committee on Preaching—Thos. Robbins, Burrell Shirley, Monroe Stacy and deacons of Philadelphia church.

C. F. Plaster was recognized as representing the interests of the State Mission Board.

G. M. Parker, D. W. Ramsey, P. C. Riley, T. J. Robbins, W. R. Maxwell, W. G. Andress and D. W. Massey were received as messengers from Pine Barren Association.

Moved that a special committee be appointed by the moderator, to re-district the Association, viz: B. J. Skinner, Thos. Robbins, S. L. Lowery, Monroe Stacey and L. A. Hendrix.

The Association took a recess of one hour and a half.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Prayer by Rev. C. F. Plaster. The following committees were appointed by the moderator, to report at the present session of this body:

On Sunday Schools—T. S. Wiggins, Liston Hurry, W. K. Burt.

Woman's Work—B. J. Skinner, G. K. Fountain, J. L. Smith.

Denominational Education—Jno. Thames, J. T. Newberry, Burrell Shirley.

On Missions—A. B. Farnham, G. R. Stamps, S. L. Lowery.

On Temperance—S. P. Lindsey, S. D. Nash, Wm. Blair.

Ministerial Education—Burrell Shirley, James Thames, C. W. McClure.

Finance Committee—T. J. Emmons, T. A. Nettles, W. A. Fountain.

Queries and Requests—D. H. Lee, J. D. Nettles, T. H. Rains.

Perdue Hill church, lately constituted, presented a letter by her delegates, John Thames and A. G. Lowery, for admission into this Association. which letter was read, and the church received.

On motion, the time of meeting of this Association changed to Saturday before the 4th Lord's day in September, 1889, at 10 o'clock. Carried.

On motion of Brother B. J. Skinner, the subject of Missions was taken up, and eloquent speeches were made by brethren D. W. Ramsey, G. M. Parker and C. F. Plaster, forcibly presenting the claims of Missions to the support of all Christians. A collection was taken up for the furtherance of that cause. Adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 o'clock A. M.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The Association met according to adjournment. After devotional exercises by G. H. Parker, the Association was declared ready for business.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee report, that of the sixteen churches represented at this session of the Association, there are only seven schools reported. The aggregate number of scholars is not reported, and it is impossible

from the information we gain, to say whether there has been any improvement in this branch of Christian work during the past year. Enough, however, appears to show very clearly that we are not doing our duty in this respect. We submit that it is incumbent upon every professed follower of Christ, as an act of worship, to repair to the house of God every Sabbath, and as a seeker of truth and light, come to the great source of all truth and wisdom, the Bible. With the system now at hand, and the facilities it affords, a Sunday School should be in every church, and every member of the church an earnest scholar.

THOS. S. WIGGINS.

Adopted.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Your committee commend the efforts of our Christian women to advance the cause of our Master. We believe that good has resulted from the formation of different societies among the churches of this Association. We think best to leave the matter of organization to the wisdom of our Christian women and their pastors, believing that under God such labor will be performed as will best advance the interest fostered.

J. L. SMITH.

Adopted.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

That denominational education is a necessity is a fact so patent, that it needs no argument to convince us of the fact. It is only in our denominational schools that we can say what the morals and religious character of the teachers should be under the necessity of raising support to our institutions.

Howard College is now permanently located at East Lake. Our last convention at Talladega called upon the denomination at large, to aid in building a dormitory. We recommend that this body take action and that there be a collection taken up some time during the next associational year by the different churches of the Association for this purpose.

We have reason to be encouraged with the prospect of both the Howard and the Judson. The Judson is under the able and efficient management of Dr. S. W. Averett, whose ability as an educator is unsurpassed by any in the State.

J. T. NEWBERRY,
BURREL SHIRLEY,
JOHN THAMES.

Adopted.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee esteem the subject of this report as occupying a place in denominational work second to no other which comes before your body. Preaching the gospel to a lost world is the all important work of the churches. A thoroughly competent and qualified ministry is indispensable to the fullest accomplishment of this work, and in order that our preachers may be thus thoroughly furnished for their life work, they must be educated. The sacredness and dignity of their profession, with the demands that are now being made upon our ministry, require in no uncertain terms that they come into the work possessing the very best training that is possible for them to acquire.

We would not say anything in this report which would in any wise reflect upon those brethren, who have in the fear of God and love of

souls, gone forth without the training of schools and spent their lives for Christ; but in view of the great work, the new phases of infidelity that are to be met, and the many isms abroad in the world, led on by men of intelligence and culture, hence men of power—we think it not improper to urge upon our people the great importance of sending out trained men to preach the gospel. B. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

Adopted.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee on Missions would recommend a more thorough and perfect plan of operations, and more concert of action, in obtaining the means by which the great interest of mission work is to be supplied. As applied to this Association, our work is not adequate to the demands pressing upon us. The Foreign Board, the Home Board and the State Board form the sum total of our enterprise of mission work. We must ascertain what we as a body of Christians are doing towards the observance of what Christ has commanded. It is true, much has been done, but it seems as if it is only the beginning of the great work. The importance of missions has not been fully appreciated by all of our people. We need more consecration; and we need to be educated up to the importance of this work. Plans have been suggested to systematize the act of giving to this cause, and among them the envelope seems to be the best. We recommend this plan to be put in force. W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of our State Mission Board, can supply any number free of charge.

A. B. FARNHAM.

Adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We feel gratified indeed, that the wide, extended range of intemperance has within the last few years been restricted to a very narrow scope. Public sentiment is growing more and more in favor of temperance. We are taught in the Scriptures to shun the very appearance of evil, and there being yet some bad influence exerted against the cause of temperance, we feel more and more the necessity of concert of action, founded on sound Scriptural principles as a remedy for intemperance. Christian people should be temperate in the face of all temptation; and until we can stand on this high plane, we have not come up to the full discharge of duty as believers in the Scriptures and as followers of Jesus Christ. With the marked improvement in the morals of our people, we should feel encouraged to renew the battle against intemperance from day to day. The poor house and asylum will be a necessity until the baneful influence of intemperance is entirely eradicated.

S. P. LINDSEY, Ch'n.

Adopted.

At the hour of 11 o'clock the ordination of Brother S. P. Lindsey, of Monroeville church, was performed by a presbytery consisting of Revs. C. F. Plaster, G. M. Parker, D. W. Ramsey and B. J. Skinner; and in the order of their names, the ordination sermon, the prayer, the charge and presentation of the Bible.

WEDNESDAY—AFTERNOON.

Prayer by Rev. F. C. Plaster.

Report of Finance committee was stated and adopted, as follows :

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.		Foreign Missions.		Home Missions.		Ministerial Education.		Minute Fund.
	Cash.	V'h's	Cash.	V'h's	Cash.	V'h's	Cash.	V'h's	
Monroeville.....	\$ 6 00		\$ 4 00	\$ 5 00	\$ 4 00		\$ 5 00	\$10 00	\$ 2 50
Ramah.....			3 25						1 55
Enon.....					5 00				1 50
Zion.....	6 00		12 75		6 00				3 00
Pleasant Hill.....	50		50						1 15
Bethany.....	5 00		5 00		5 00		5 00		2 00
Oak Grove.....									1 60
Pleasant Ridge.....	75								2 45
Point Pleasant.....	6 05								2 15
New Hopewell.....	3 00								1 80
Bellville.....	3 75	4 50	3 00		3 00		5 00		2 50
Salem.....	50								2 45
Claiborne.....	2 85		2 50						1 65
Perdue Hill.....									2 00
Philadelphia.....	3 25	8 75	2 85		3 00				3 00
Public Collection.....	5 00		3 50		3 70				2 79
Total.....	\$41 65	\$13 25	\$37 35	\$ 5 00	\$29 70		\$10 00	\$15 00	\$34 00

T. J. EMMONS, Ch'n.

Moved, that the fund for missions be turned over to C. F. Plaster. Carried.

REPORT ON REDISTRICTING THE ASSOCIATION.

First District—Philadelphia, Ramah, Bethany, Pleasant Ridge, Bellville, Repton, New Hopewell, Point Pleasant, Enon, Catawba Springs.

Second District—Zion, Monroeville, Salem, Claiborne, Perdue Hill, Oak Grove, Poplar Spring, Mount Pleasant, Montgomery Hill, Mars' Hill.

Adopted.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

On Sunday Schools—Jno. Thames, L. A. Hendrix and W. A. Fountain.

On Woman's Work—Thos. S. Wiggins, S. D. Nash, W. K. Burt.

Denominational Education—A. B. Farnham, D. H. Lee, James Thames.

Missions—W. A. Locke, T. A. Nettles, J. H. Castello.

Temperance—G. R. Stamps, J. D. Nettles, W. H. Fountain.

Ministerial Education—B. J. Skinner, S. L. Lowery, Burrell Shirley.

Treasurer's Report was stated and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Jno. Thames in account with Bethlehem Association :	
Am't received from Finance committee.....	\$ 152 65
Vouchers.....	18 25
Total.....	\$ 170 90
CREDIT.	
By am't paid C. F. Plaster,	\$ 108 65
	\$ 62 25
Less by amount of vouchers.....	18 25
	\$ 44 00
By amount Minute fund	\$ 34 00
Balance in hands of Treasurer.	\$ 10 00
JOHN THAMES, Treasurer.	

QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your committee beg leave to report that we find two requests, one from Claiborne and one from Monroeville, asking that the next session of this body be held with them. We recommend that this Association meet with the Monroeville church, on Saturday before the 4th Lord's day in September, 1889, at 10 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

D. H. LEE.

Adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to the membership of Philadelphia church and community for their generous hospitality to us during our stay among them.

PLEDGES FOR MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Monroeville.....	15 00	Ramah.....	2 50
Bethany.....	10 00	Zion.....	5 00
Philadelphia.....	10 00	Claiborne	2 50
Perdue Hill.....	2 50	Salem.....	2 50
Bellville.....	5 00		

Moved and adopted, that Brother B. J. Skinner be appointed to attend the Southern Baptist Convention to meet at Memphis, Tenn.

The order of regular and miscellaneous business being disposed of, the moderator adjourned the Association to meet with the Monroeville church, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1889, at 10 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. D. W. Ramsey.

J. W. LESLIE, Moderator.

W. T. NETTLES, Clerk.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	P. O. OF CLERKS.	Memberships Last Reported.	Baptized.	Letter.	Experience.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dismissed by Letter.	Deceased.	Present Membership	Sunday School.	
														Officers & Teachers	Pupils.
Philadelphia.....	Monroe..	B J Skinner.....	J D Neates.....	Kempville.....	104	104	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104	530	W T Nettles.
Ramah.....	Monroe..	G M Parker.....	J A Riley.....	Burnt Corn.....	98	98	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	98	.....	D H Lee.
Bethany.....	Monroe..	G M Parker.....	Jno P Watkins.....	Bellville.....	100	100	13	1	1	1	1	1	63	325	.....
Bellville.....	Conceh.	B J Skinner.....	J Straughn.....	Brewton.....	100	100	13	1	1	1	1	1	89	.....	J L Smith
Point Pleasant.....	Conceh.	S L Lowery.....	J A Smith.....	Hollinger.....	55	55	2	1	3	2	1	1	57	321	.....
Enon.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	A D McNeil.....	Range.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	21	.....	.....
New Hopewell.....	Conceh.	S L Lowery.....	L Hammond.....	Monroeville.....	66	66	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	.....	.....
Pleasant Ridge.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	J L Smith.....	.....	.....	.....	5	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	.....	.....
Catawba Springs.....	Conceh.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kepton.....	Conceh.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Zion.....	Monroe..	A P Majors.....	C M Williams.....	Axe.....	120	120	10	3	10	3	1	7	127	849	J L Hurry.
Monroeville.....	Monroe..	B J Skinner.....	Jno DeLoach.....	Monroeville.....	.....	.....	2	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	73	.....	J W Lesite.
Salem.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	G W Thompson.....	Perdue Hill.....	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	1	99	.....	.....
Claiborne.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	B F Carter.....	Perdue Hill.....	14	14	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	54	36	B F Carrer.
Pleasant Hill.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	J H Moore.....	Perdue Hill.....	51	51	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58	.....	A C Lamb.
Perdue Hill.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	A G Lowery.....	Perdue Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	.....	.....
Oak Grove.....	Monroe..	W A Locke.....	M Stacey.....	Perdue Hill.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....

Poplar Spring, Mount Pleasant, Montgomery Hill and Mar's Hill, not represented.





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