

MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

TUSCALOOSA

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION;

HELD AT

BIG CREEK MEETING HOUSE,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALA.

From the 3d to the 6th of October,

1840.

TUSCALOOSA :

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1840.



MINUTES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1840.

The anniversary sermon was delivered by Elder JOAB PRATT, from Matthew 24th chap. 14th verse. "*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*"

1. The delegates met in the meeting-house, and after singing and prayer by Elder H. W. Middleton, proceeded to business.

2. The letters from the different churches were read, and the names of the delegates enrolled.

3. Elder H. W. Middleton, was chosen Moderator, and brother John Thomas, Clerk.

4. The Moderator and Clerk, together with Elders Joab Pratt, William Hood and Benjamin Hodges were appointed a committee to arrange business necessary to come before the Association at the present session.

5. The delegates of Big Creek church, together with brother J. A. Goodson, G. Coob, G. Brown and C. G. Gill, were appointed a committee to arrange the order of preaching during the present session.

6. Brother C. Finnell, R. Dodson and R. R. Strawn, were appointed a committee of finance.

7. Visiting ministers present invited to take seats with us.

8. An opportunity was afforded for those bearing petitionary letters (if any) to present them; and from the following churches such letters were presented, viz: Tuscaloosa city, Mount Tabor, Bethelhem, Mount Zion, of Pickens county, Mount Pisgah, Tuscaloosa county, Macedonia, Bibb county, and Liberty Hill, of Walker county; and on examination, believing them orthodox and orderly, they were received as members of this body, and the Moderator gave to each delegate the right hand of fellowship, and invited them to take seats with us.

9. The committee appointed to arrange the preaching, reported—elders Benjamin Hodges, H. W. Middleton and J R Smith to occupy the stand on Sabbath, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.

SABBATH, OCTOBER 4.

The stand was occupied by the brethren, according to the order of arrangement. The congregation was large and attentive, and we hope the seed sown may yield an abundant crop.

OCTOBER 5.

The Association met according to adjournment—prayer by elder J. Pratt.

1. The names of the Delegates were called.

2. The report of the committee to arrange the business necessary to come before the Association, made their report; which was received, and the committee discharged.

3. The Abstract of Faith, Constitution, and Rules of Decorum, were read.

4. Correspondence was called for from sister Associations, and brother J. R. Smith, James Robertson, and Wm Y. Glover, presented themselves as messengers from our sister, the Union Association, at whose hands we received copies of the Minutes of that body; and the Moderator gave to them the right hand of fellowship, and invited them to take seats with us.

5. The committee appointed at the last session of this body to adjust the difficulty existing between the Canaan and Tuscaloosa Association, made the following report, viz: They met with the Mount Moriah Church, organised themselves for the purpose of attending to the duties assigned them, but was informed by said Church that the difficulty had been amicably settled; which report was received, and the committee discharged.

6. The committee appointed to wait on the Columbus (Miss.) Association, made the following report, viz: that since their appointment, they had ascertained that the next meeting of that Association would be beyond the time of the present session of this body; they consequently had not acted; which report was received, and the committee discharged.

7. On regular motion, this Association yields an assent to the request of our sister, the Columbus Association, and a correspondence is opened with her.

8. The queries sent up by Gilgal and Cedar Grove churches, the Association declines answering, believing them barred by the provisions of our Constitution.

9. The report of the District meetings was received, and is as follows: In the first district, the next annual meeting to be held at Cedar Grove meeting-house, Bibb county, commencing on Friday before the 3d Sabbath in September next; brother E. Taylor to preach the introductory sermon; brother H. F. Buckner his alternate. In the second district, the next annual meeting to be held at Little Sandy meeting-house, Tuscaloosa county, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in September next; elder Benjamin Hodges to preach the introductory sermon, elder J. Pratt his alternate. In the third district, the annual meeting to be held at Chapel Hill meeting-house, commencing on Friday before the fifth Sabbath in August next; elder T. Howell to preach the introductory sermon, E. J. Walters his alternate. In the fourth district, to be held at Concord meeting-house, commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in September next. Elder Wm. Hood to preach the introductory sermon—elder R. R. Strawn his alternate.

10. Elder Wm. Hood, who was appointed at the last session of this Association, to prepare a Circular Letter, to be submitted for the consideration of this body, being present, was called upon for the same, which he presented, and the same being read, it was received, and ordered to be printed, and attached to the Minutes of this Association, at its present session.

11. This Association, learning that our beloved bro, John Meek, an ordained Minister of our order, is about to remove from among us, do unanimously recommend him, as one that we esteem orthodox, faithful and worthy of all confidence.

12. Ordered, That the abstract articles of faith, constitution, and rules of decorum, be attached to the minutes of this Association at its present session.

13. The Association is divided into Districts in the following order;

CHURCHES.—First District.

Mount Moriah,
Cedar Grove,
Haysop,
Shoultz's Creek,
Liberty,
Macedonia,
Sardis,
Big Hurricane,

CHURCHES.—Second District.

Mount Pisgah,
Gilgal,
Little Sandy,
Hopewell,
City of Tuscaloosa,
North Tuscaloosa,
Big Creek,
Zion,

CHURCHES.—Third District.

Bethel,
Chapel Hill,
Mount Tabor, Tuscaloosa co.
Philadelphia,
Salem,
New Hope,
Friendship,
Liberty Hill,

CHURCHES.—Fourth District.

Antioch,
Dunn's Creek,
Bethany,
Mount Tabor, Pickens co.
Concord,
Spring Hill,
Mount Zion,
Bethlehem.

14. Whereas, Robert Turner, an ordained preacher of our order has obtained a letter of dismission, by fraud—We take this method to inform the friends of Zion, and the public, that he is to us as an heathen man & a publican.

15. Whereas, James D. Duncan, an ordained preacher of our order, has been guilty of gross disorder—We take this method to inform the friends of Zion, and the public, that he is to us as an heathen man, and a publican.

Resolved, That the members of this Association unite in social meetings, this evening (being the first Monday in the month) to celebrate the monthly concert with the thousands of our brethren throughout christendom; and that the churches composing this Association be requested to observe the same, on the first Monday evening in each and every month—that the Lord would graciously revive and prosper his work amongst us; and that his glorious Gospel may be extended throughout the dark benighted nations of the earth.

The Association then adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

OCTOBER 6.

The Association met according to adjournment—Prayer by the Moderator.

1. Returned correspondence in the following order: to the Cahawba Association, as messengers, elder Joab Pratt, brothers H. F. Buckner and W. Burns—brother Buckner to write the letter. To the Union Association, as messengers, elder Wm Hood and brother J. W. Beall—elder Hood to write the letter. To the Canaan Association, elders Wm Hood, Joab Pratt, and brother E. E. Fletcher, as messengers—elder Pratt to write the letter. To the Columbus Association, elders Benjamin Hodges, R. R. Strawn, and brother Samuel Eddins, as messengers—elder Hodges to write the letter.

2. The next annual session of this Association to be held at Haysop Meeting House, in Bibb county, commencing on Saturday before the first Lord's day in October next. Elder Bazil Manly to preach the anniversary sermon—elder John Walters his alternate. Elder John L. Dagg to write the Circular Letter.

3. The report of the committee of finance was received, and is as follows;

Cash remaining in the Treasury,	-	-	\$4 00
Cash contributed to procure Minutes,	-	-	52 25
Cash contributed for the use of the Association,	-	-	60 00

4. The funds were disbursed in the following manner:

By deposit with the Superintendent of preparing the Minutes,	\$52 25
To the Superintendent for his services,	15 00
To elder Wm Hood, as correspondent,	12 00
To elder R. R. Strawn, do.	12 00

Remaining balance of twenty-one dollars deposited in the hands of John Thomas, Treasurer of the Association.

5. Appointed John Thomas to superintend the printing of the Minutes, and retain in his possession a suitable number for the purpose of corresponding with sister Associations. The remaining copies to be deposited at the store of Messrs. Hogan & Lyon, in the city of Tuscaloosa.

Resolved, That for the great kindness and hospitality manifested by the citizens of this vicinity, the Association expresses its thanks.

Closed by singing and prayer, and benediction.

H. W. MIDDLETON, *Moderator*,

JOHN THOMAS, *Clerk*.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. "We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

Art. 2. We believe that the Scriptures comprising the Old and New Testament, are the word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

Art. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the World.

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Art. 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

Art. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

Art. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Art. 8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

Art. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

Art. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, will be eternal.

Art. 11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the gospel, but one who is regularly baptised, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

Art. 12. We believe that none but regularly baptised members have a right to commune at the Lord's table."

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. "The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union, who on producing their credentials shall be entitled to seats.

ART. 2. "The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "The Tuscaloosa Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the Churches in our union, or infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered as an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely:—If one Church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction: if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more churches in our union, to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which, upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches, to assist in the work; and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church, may bring the case before the Association, to be acted upon according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the Gospel by St. Matthew, and other parts of the Scripture, which define the nature of offences, and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

ART. 3. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their Delegates, their number in fellowship, baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, deceased since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 4. Every church in our union, shall be entitled to representation in the following manner, viz: Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 5. New churches may be admitted into our union, by delegates, bearing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving their delegates the right hand in token of christian fellowship.

ART. 6. The Association when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum, which she is authorised to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by, and from the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall also be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings.

ART. 8. The Association shall have power to exclude from the union any church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the gospel.

ART. 9. The Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

ART. 10. Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it but failed. In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

ART. 11. Queries which immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by proper motion, shall be taken up, and decided on as soon as practicable.

ART. 12. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all presbyteries in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, or in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the abstract of faith adopted by this Association.

ART. 13. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all monies thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches, by their delegates, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order; and make at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 14. It shall be the duty of the clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this body.

ART. 15. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

ART. 16. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

ART. 17. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

ART. 18. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

MINUTES.

Art. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Art. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

Art. 3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.

Art. 4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

Art. 5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

Art. 6. The Moderator when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

Art. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

Art. 8. Every case taken up by the Association, shall be decided on or withdrawn, before another shall be offered.

Art. 9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and the members, on affirmation of the question, shall signify the same by rising from their seats; and those on the negative shall retain their theirs.

Art. 10. The Moderator shall pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

Art. 11. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

Art. 12. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without permission of the Association, nor more than once, till every member wishing to speak, shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.

Art. 13. The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association by members in their address one to another.

Art. 14. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

Art. 15. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

Art. 16. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided.

Art. 17. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

TABLE, shewing the state of the Churches.

Churches and Counties.	DELEGATES' NAMES.	Ordained Ministers names in Italics. Licensed Ministers names marked * Members absent †	Baptised.	Rec. by L.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	Fellowship.	Total in Fellowship.	For Minutes	Contrib'n's	For Assoc'n	Contrib'n's	Monthly M
Big Creek, Tuscaloosa,	<i>Wm Hood</i> , Spencer Griffin, J. W. Beall,		2	4	26	2	2	3	192	\$3 50	50	\$3 50	2	1	2
Friendship, "	<i>H. O. Thomas</i> , Boswell Freeman, Parham Suduth		16	6	5	3	5	5	75	2 50	50	3 50	2	1	4
Philadelphia, "	<i>H. H. Middleton</i> , Reuben Dodson, R. C. Ritchey		13	2	9	3	3	2	59	1 50	2 50	2 50	4	4	4
Spring Hill, "	<i>Wm. Walters, R. R. Strawn</i> , B. Nall,		1	1	25	11	6	2	87	2 00	2 00	2 00	2	4	4
Mount Tabor, "	<i>Wm Stewart</i> , H. Land, L. Watson,		1	6	3	3	1	1	42	2 00	2 00	2 00	2	3	3
Bethany, "	Jesse Hughes, Jacob Fox, A. F. Bell,		23	6	5	2	2	2	52	1 50	2 00	3 00	2	1	2
Bellevue, "	<i>William Stoker</i> , C. G. Gill, James Jeffrey,†		18	1	6	3	1	1	53	2 00	3 00	3 00	1	1	1
Gilgell, "	Samuel Nonsworthy, S. Edlins, B. Dardin,		39	4	26	3	2	1	103	2 00	3 00	2 00	1	1	1
Sardis, "	G. Cobb, Jolly Jones, Elijah Clements,		13	3	12	2	4	1	88	2 00	3 00	2 00	1	2	2
Salem, "	B. Wittingham, E. Slaughter, E. G. Sharp,†		21	4	15	1	2	1	85	2 00	2 00	2 00	4	4	4
Hopwell, "	<i>Wm Cole</i> , <i>Wm S. Meek</i> , P. Darden,		20	5	13	1	2	1	78	2 00	2 00	2 00	3	3	3
Dunn's Creek, "	O. Mayfield, Hiram White, James Mills,		1	5	2	4	2	2	67	1 50	1 50	1 50	4	4	4
Antioch, "	A. Berry, Job Springer, William Barrett,		2	2	12	2	2	1	53	1 00	1 00	1 00	3	3	3
Liberty, "	S. Tubbs, E. S. Dodson, J. M. Brazzel,†		8	8	2	2	1	1	38	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	1	1
Little Sandy, "	<i>Benjamin Hodges</i> , T. Davis, J. S. Caldwell,†		13	11	6	2	1	1	49	1 50	1 50	1 50	1	3	3
Zion, Tuscaloosa, "	E. Hardy, W. Slaughter,† Wm. Thomas,		6	3	8	1	1	1	43	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	3	3
North Tuscaloosa, "	J. S. Reynolds, B. S. Wilson, * J. McCown,		6	2	6	1	1	1	43	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	3	3
Big Hurricane, "	P. E. Fletcher, * Th. Cleveland, L. Wallace,†		4	1	3	1	1	1	26	1 00	1 00	1 50	3	3	3
New Hope, "	J. York, Wm Simpson,† R. Bagwell,†		3	2	1	1	1	1	23	1 00	1 00	1 00	4	4	4
Chapel Hill, "	C. Fimmel, G. Brown, J. Sarah,		4	5	1	1	1	2	149	2 00	4 00	2 50	3	3	3
Mount Pisgah, "	E. Wright, Wm Tierce,† A. Rhinah,		46	3	23	5	2	2	103	2 00	2 00	2 50	3	3	3
Tuscaloosa City, "	Joseph Lacy, M. McGuire, N. Prince,		8	5	29	2	1	1	69	1 00	2 00	2 50	3	3	3
Haysop, "	<i>Joab Pratt</i> , H. F. Buckner, * H. Colbert,		1	4	8	1	1	1	48	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	1	1
Mount Moriah, "	J. A. Goodson, J. Riley, Thomas Jordan,		2	2	4	1	1	1	21	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	1	1
Shonitz's Creek, "	A. Prewet, J. Wood, William Burkhalter,		20	10	9	1	1	1	51	1 25	1 25	1 25	2	2	2
Macdonia, "	W. Burns, S. Goss, Benjamin Raglin,		7	7	1	1	1	1	20	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	1	1
Cedar Grove, "	Benj. Oswald, * Elza Taylor, * Sam'l White,		10	4	1	1	1	1	40	1 50	1 50	1 50	1	1	1
Mount Tabor, "	A. Bennet, William Mahan, Joseph Parker,†		4	4	1	1	1	1	31	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	1	1
Bethlehem, "	R. Briggs, James Smith, Dudley Prewet,		5	13	2	1	1	1	42	1 50	1 50	1 50	1	1	1
Mount Zion, "	A. McElroy, William Corder, J. Jennings,		5	13	2	1	1	1	24	1 00	1 00	1 00	1	1	1
Concord, "	James Middleton, D. Trawick, E. Melton,		5	13	2	1	1	1	42	1 50	1 50	1 50	1	1	1
Liberty Hill, "	<i>H. G. Smith</i> , J. Bays, E. Gillcrease,		310	144	266	47	28	22	202	52	2561	25			