

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Pilgrim Rest Primitive Baptist Association

HELD WITH

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH, TUSKALOOSA CO., ALA.,

Commencing September 30th, 1892.

Elder A. J. Coleman, Moderator,
R. J. Goodman, Clerk.

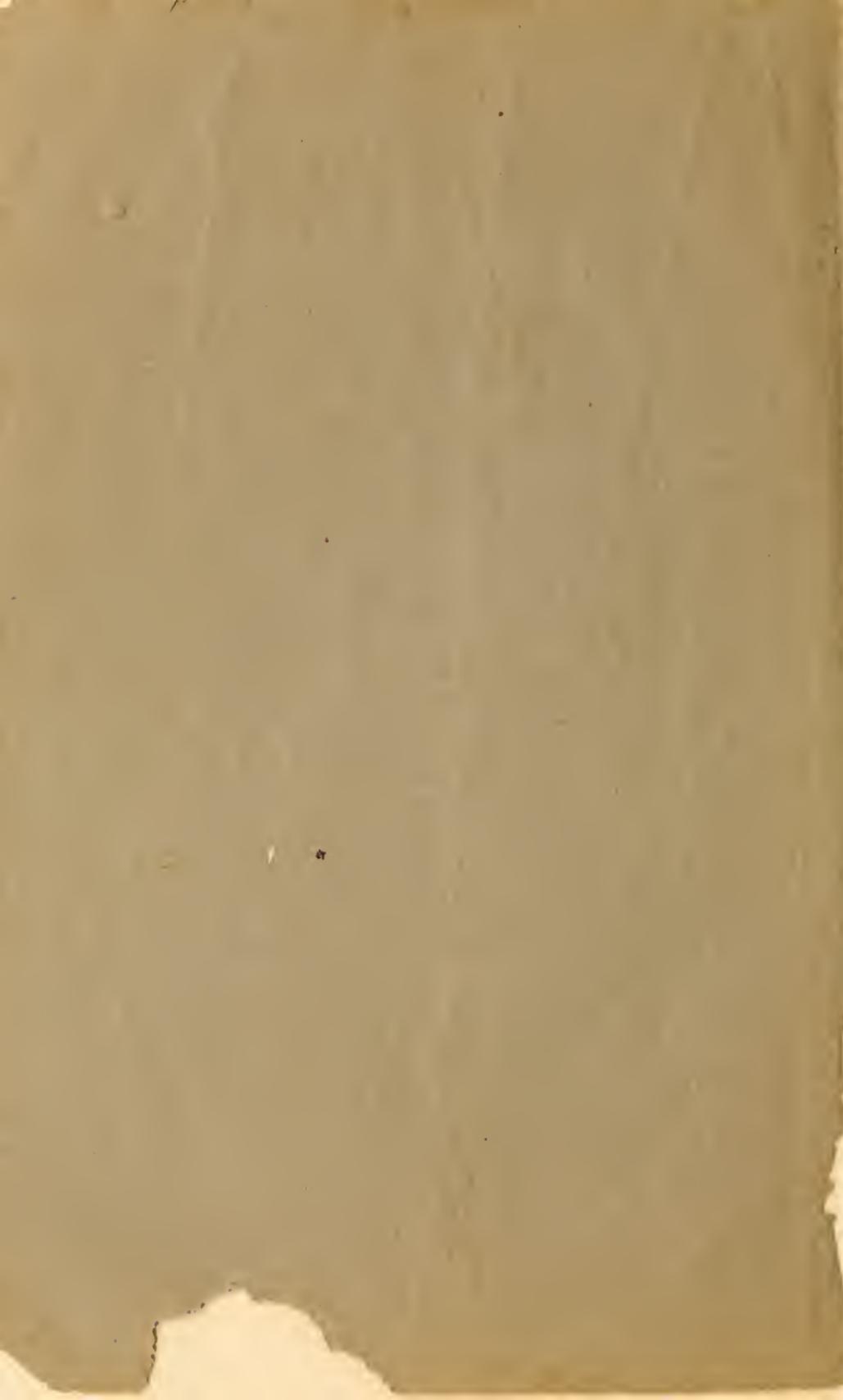
The next session will be held with Salem church, Pickens County, Alabama, commencing Friday before the 1st Sunday in October, 1893.

CARROLLTON:

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BY A. HENRY.

1892.



MINUTES.

The fifty-sixth annual session of the Pilgrim Rest Primitive Baptist Association was held with Mt. Pleasant church, Tuska-loosa county, Alabama, commencing September 30th and continuing October 1st and 2nd, 1892.

1. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Eld. A. J. Coleman from Isaiah, 51st chapter, and 11th verse: Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: They shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

2. After a recess of half an hour the Association assembled and proceeded to call the names of the churches and enroll the names of the delegates, as follows:

Bethany, Alfred Jones; Five Mile, Not Represented; Salem, G. L. Hollingsworth and John Eledge; Oak Grove, Charley Mabry and A. D. Massingill; Pilgrim Rest, A. J. Coleman, J. N. Blanton and F. J. Goodman; Sarepta, John Scarborough, L. E. Jones and Mc. Hollingsworth; Liberty, Green Carver, J. M. Carver and T. Gardner; Kennedale, By Letter; Mt. Pleasant, J. T. Hardin, Willie Sutton and N. Canterbury; Pilgrim Hope, E. H. Patric. Total membership, about 122. Contribution, \$15 50.

3. The Association then proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Eld. A. J. Coleman was elected moderator and F. J. Goodman clerk.

4. Call for bill of arrangement, which was handed in and adopted.

5. The Moderator appointed the following brethren to fill the stand to day: in the afternoon J. C. Nabors and G. W. Stewart.

6. Called for correspondence from sister Associations with whom we correspond: From Little Hope J. C. Deason and J. C. Champiou presented themselves, with Minutes. From Hopewell, Elders J. C. Nabors, T. D. Moore and R. F. Papasan.

7. Appointed as a Committee on Preaching: A. Jones, G. T. Hollingsworth, A. D. Massingill, J. N. Blanton, L. E. Jones, J. M. Carver and N. Canterbury.

8. Appointed as a Committee on Finance: Green Carver and N. Canterbury.

9. Appointed as a Committee on Arrangement: J. M. Carver, John Stapp and Green Carver.

10. Appointed a brother to write a Corresponding Letter.

11. Appointed a time and place for holding Union meeting, which will be held with Mt. Pleasant church, Tuskalooosa county, Ala., commencing on Friday before the 1st Sunday in July, 1893; Eld. T. D. Moore to preach the Introductory Sermon.

12. Adjournment next in order.

SATURDAY.

13. Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by the Moderator.

14. Called on Committee on Preaching. Committee reported R. F. Papasan and G. W. Stewart in the forenoon, and T. D. Moore in the afternoon.

15. Called on Committee on Finance. Committee reported \$15.50 and were discharged.

16. Called for Circular Letter; there being none handed in it was agreed to insert our Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum in these Minutes.

17. Appointed time and place for holding the next Association, which will be with Salem church, Pickens county, Alabama, nine miles east of Carrellton, commencing on Friday before the 1st Sunday in October, 1893.

18. Called for Corresponding Letter, which was handed in by the writer, read and adopted, and ordered to be annexed to these Minutes.

19. Proceeded to elect a brother to preach the Introductory Sermon and one to write a Circular Letter. Elder J. C. Nabors to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder A. J. Coleman to write the Circular Letter.

20. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations:

Little Hope—N. Canterbury, D. W. Smith, Elder A. J. Coleman, J. J. Redd, J. T. Hardin, and W. J. Sutton.

Buttatchie—Elder A. J. Coleman and Elbert Jordan.

Hopewell—Green Carver, Elder A. J. Coleman, L. E. Jones, and J. M. Carver.

Tombigby—Elder A. J. Coleman, Mc. Hollingsworth, A. D. Massingill, Alfred Jones, and James M. Carver.

21. Elected the following brethren to fill the stand on Sunday: Elders G. W. Norris and T. D. Moore in the forenoon, and Elder G. W. Stewart in the afternoon.

22. Opened the door for promiscuous business, whereupon it was agreed to have published in our Minutes the obituaries of our deceased brothers, Z. T. Speed and Abel Strickland.

23. Appointed the Clerk as Treasurer, and ordered him to superintend the printing of the Minutes.

24. The Moderator tendered thanks to the brethren and sisters, and to the community at large for their kindness and hospitality during our stay with them.

The brethren appointed to fill the stand on Sunday appeared in regular order, and preached the Gospel with power and demonstration of the spirit unto the satisfaction of all of God's children, who know and love the truth.

F. J. GOODMAN, Clerk.

A. J. COLEMAN, Moderator.

Corresponding Letter of Pilgrim Rest Primitive Baptist Association in her Fifty-Sixth Session.

Dearly Beloved Brethren, with whom we correspond:

It is through the goodness of a covenant keeping God that we are permitted to meet again. We are passing through the business of the Association in perfect peace and harmony, though we feel to regret at not meeting with some of our corresponding brethren, for some cause unknown to us. We have received corresponding messengers from Little Hope and the Hopewell Associations only. Brethren, we greatly desire a continuation of correspondence with you, for we are taught in Holy Writ not to forsake the assemblage of ourselves together as the manner of some are. Brethren, pray for us that we may still have an existence in this world of trouble. Yours in hope of eternal life.

F. J. GOODMAN, Clerk.

A. J. COLEMAN, Moderator.

OBITUARIES.

Our venerable old brother, ABEL STRICKLAND, was born October 17, 1803, obtained a hope in the rich atoning merits of the blood of Christ in the twelfth year of his age. We have often heard him relate with tears his miraculous conviction: He and his older brother were plowing in a field some distance from their residence, when a dark and angry cloud was rising from the West. Whilst at the end of the rows nearest the house his brother proposed that they unhitch and go to it. Abel said, in angry, brave terms, that he would go another round if it rained yearlings head foremost with horns. He turned his horse, and with a slash of the line away he went, and when about half way through the field he fell to the ground like Saul; there he cried for mercy, and his brother hearing his cries went to him and carried him home. In a few days the good Lord heard his cries (as He always does) and came to his relief, and he was made to rejoice in God, his Savior. He joined the Primitive Baptist church in 1831 and departed this life January 19, 1892, aged 88 years 3 months and 2 days. When the great Institution Wave from the North came among us he stood like a rock before a lashing storm until the membership of Liberty church, Pickens county, Alabama, were all carried off but himself. But like a faithful sentinel he stood at his post and lived to see his church, to his great joy, revive and become the empire church in the county. He left two sons and two daughters, a beloved wife, and all his church and community to mourn his loss, for he was a great and good man. His word was his bond, having filled several official positions to his credit and honor, and to the good of all. Sleep on, dear faithful old soldier, we shall meet again. His pastor, A. J. COLEMAN.

Our beloved brother, Z. T. SPEED, was born November 12th, 1847, and has lived a faithful member of the Salem Primitive Baptist church for fifteen years, and departed this vain and transitory life August 29, 1892. Bro. Speed was a quiet, unassuming, exemplary member of the church, and was loved and esteemed by the community in which he lived. Peace to his ashes. Sleep on, dear brother, until we shall meet again in our Father's House above. HIS FRIEND.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in the true and living God—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these are one.

2. We believe that God elected or chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

5. We believe that God's elect shall be called, effectually regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost, and shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.

6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and the true mode of Baptism is Immersion in water.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

8. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances, only such as are called of God, as was Aaron, and come under the imposition of hands by presbytery, and in fellowship with the church of which he is a member.

9. We believe that God has ordained good works, that His children should walk in them, and good works are only such as God has commanded in His Word, and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention.

10. We believe that washing of the saints' feet was ordained by Christ to be done by his children in a Church capacity until his second coming.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer, and when opened the Moderator shall invite Ministering Brethren of our Faith and Order to act with us.

2. If new churches desire to be admitted in this Association, they shall petition by Letter or Delegates, and on examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Moderator giving them the right hand of fellowship.

3. Every query sent to the Association by any church in the Union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator; whether it shall be debated; or if there is a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated, but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided, always, those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

5. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject.

6. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

7. No member of the Association shall have the privilege of laughing during the sitting of the body, nor of whispering in time of speech, or of casting reflections on the speaker.

8. No member shall break off or absent himself from the Association without leave.

9. The several names of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as the Association may require.

10. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as another member, provided the chair be filled, but have no vote except in case of a tie.

11. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a file of the minutes of each session of this Association.

12. Amendments of the Decorum may be made at any time when two-thirds of the members in session shall deem it expedient.

