

MINUTES.

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

Blue Creek Church,

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA,

From the 5th to the 7th of October, 1893,

P. L. HERRING,
Moderator,
Vance, Ala.

J. N. HAYES,
Clerk.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Next Session to meet with Mt. Carmel Church, on Saturday before the
Second Sabbath in October, 1894.

MINUTES.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1893.

1. The delegates from the churches composing the Seventeenth Annual Session of the Harmony Baptist Association, convened with the Blue Creek Church this day, at 11 o'clock. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder T. B. Dison from Matthew, 3rd chapter, 1st clause of 14th verse: "Ye are the light of the world." Adjourned one hour for dinner.

2. At 2 o'clock P. M., the delegates assembled in the meeting house and were called to order by our former Moderator, Elder P. L. Herring.

3. The roll of churches was called, and the delegates came forward with their letters and voted for moderator, which resulted in the choice of Elder P. L. Herring.

4. The Moderator proceeded with business as follows:

5. Opened the door for the reception of new or unassociated churches, when Elder R. H. Blake came forward with a letter from Parker Grove Church, and on motion was received into the Association.

6. The Moderator then appointed the following committees to serve during the present session:

Preaching—W. H. Lawson, S. W. Hosmer, with Deacons of this church.
Nominations—S. Y. Herring, H. B. Mathews, John Ray.

Finance—A. J. Flemming, B. J. Thrasher, W. B. Kyle.

Temperance—Elder R. H. Blake, Brethren J. N. Blake, M. J. Champion.

Sabbath Schools—W. B. Kyle, John N. Hayes, S. H. Morrison.

Home and Foreign Missions—A. J. Flemming, H. C. Kyzer, D. W. Morse.

Documents—Gordon Parsons, J. J. Nickolson, Simon Sellars.

Deceased Ministers—N. I. Armstrong, W. H. Lawson, R. D. Rogers.

Aged and Infirm Ministers—W. H. Lawson, S. W. Hosmer, J. Price.

7. Called for correspondence:

Tuscaloosa—J. T. Hayes, J. M. Mize, with minutes.

Central Liberty—Elder T. B. Dison, Bro. G. W. Townson, with minutes.

Birmingham—Elder G. A. Wilson.

Mud Creek—Elder J. N. McFall.

Mount Moriah—Bro. E. D. Herring.

By motion, the Association agreed that when any of the members are present at another Association they have the right to let themselves be known and act as correspondents:

8. By motion, the Association appointed a committee of three, to-wit: Elders P. L. Herring, R. H. Blake, and Bro. J. J. Nickolson, to notify Union Church that they have treated this

Association with contempt by joining the Birmingham Association without first getting a letter of dismissal from the Harmony Association. Also, to notify the Birmingham Association of the facts, and report at our next meeting.

9. The Committee on Preaching reported: Eld. V. A. Wilson to preach the missionary sermon on Friday at 11 o'clock.

The Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Friday morning. Prayer by Elder R. H. Blake.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1893.

10. Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met and was opened with prayer by Elder T. B. Dison, after which the roll was called and absentees marked. The following is a list of the churches, with delegates representing them. (Names of ordained ministers in small capitals):

FIRST DISTRICT.

Cedar Grove—ELDER N. H. WILLIAMS, BROS. J. N. HAYES, H. B. MATHEWS.

Center Grove—D. W. MORSE, J. N. BLAKE.

Enterprise—W. B. KYLE, H. C. KYZER, P. L. HERRING.

Mount Olive—John Ray, J. N. HAYES.

Mount Carmel—B. J. THRASHER, S. H. MORRISON, M. P. CHAMPION.

Parker Grove—R. H. BLAKE.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Blue Creek—J. M. TUCKER, J. H. LAWSON, SIMON SELLARS.

Hephzibah—S. W. HOSMER, S. Y. HERRING, M. Y. HERRING, W. P. KEETON.

Pleasant Grove—W. H. LAWSON, A. J. FLEMING, M. J. ARMSTRONG, W. A. TUBB.

Pleasant Valley—Not represented.

Roups Valley—R. D. ROGERS.

Union—Not represented.

Valley Creek—James Price, Gordon Parson, J. J. Nickolson.

The Association adjourned until 1 o'clock—preaching at 11 by Elder V. A. Wilson, from Isaiah 22:22—"And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulders, so he shall open and none shall shut, and he shall shut and none shall open."

11. Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met and was opened with prayer by Bro. J. J. Nickolson.

12. The Committee on Nominations reported:

We recommend the next meeting of the association be held with Mt. Carmel Church, commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1894, one and a half miles north-west of Blocton, in Bibb Co., Ala.; Elder P. L. Herring to preach the introductory sermon; Eld. R. H. Blake to preach the missionary sermon on Sunday at 11 o'clock.

S. Y. HERRING, Chairman.

13. The Committee on Documents reported:

After examining the letters from the churches we find that some of them have had good meetings, and we urge that the churches organize Sabbath schools and prayer meetings. J. J. NICKOLSON, Chairman.

14. The Committee on Sabbath Schools reported:

The statistics show that not more than half of the churches within the bounds of this Association have Sabbath schools, and they need strengthening. Oh! that our Baptist brethren everywhere would awake and become alive to the great importance of Sabbath schools, and thereby aid in the great work of saving souls. We as Baptist brethren of the Harmony Association earnestly believe that a Sabbath school is one of the best auxiliaries the church of Christ has in diffusing a knowledge of the Bible. We do not attempt to offer anything new on this subject, for it has been ably discussed by some of the most intelligent brethren of our country. It must be remembered, however, that everything done for Sabbath schools, is some thing done for every kind of Christian enterprise. The work of the Sabbath school, is a grand thing; a work upon the young, a work which has largely to do with the foundation of a good moral character, and with the inspiration of a life time. It has been well said: "Scratch the green rind of a sapling or rudely twist it in the soil, and the scarred and crooked." oak will tell of this for centuries to come. So as the Sabbath school can reach the young, and help to train them, and to shape their thoughts and feelings; it will be working not only for the present, but for the future also. Our ministers and missionaries come largely from the Sabbath schools. We realize the importance of a singing society connected with the Sabbath schools, therefore we heartily recommend and insist that every school have a singing society connected with it—because it is a delightful part of Worship—because we are commanded to sing praises unto the Lord—because there is an attraction in singing to draw the children and people together, and bring about a unity of feeling and love. We recommend that schools use literature of the Southern Baptist Convention; for the periodicals are adapted to suit the demands of the various Sabbath schools. We recommend that each and every church appoint at least two of the leading members of their church to work in the interest of Sabbath schools.

W. B. KYLE, Chairman,

15. The Committee on Finance reported:

For Foreign Missions, \$11.30; Hephzibah Sabbath school, \$1.51; Collection for Missions, \$2.70; Collection for Elder N. H. Williams, \$4.35; for minutes, \$11.65; for Association purposes, \$4.30. Total \$35.81.

A. J. FLEMING, Chairman.

The Association then adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Prayer by Brother W. P. Keeton.

16. Pursuant to adjournment the Association met and was opened with prayer by Elder V. A. Wilson.

17. The Committee on Deceased Ministers reported:

We find that there has been no deceased ministers in our bounds since our last meeting.

W. H. LAWSON, Chairman.

18. The Committee on Home and Foreign Missions reported:

We feel profoundly impressed with the obligation which the scriptures enjoins upon us to assist in spreading the gospel, not only in our own country and around our own houses, but also to send it into the regions

beyond. The field is the world, and the great commission is to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. We feel that this command embraces every one of us, and that each one should assist in the great work. The little things that the little Christians can do are as great in the sight of God as the great things that are done by the great ones. Remember the cups of cold water and the Widow's mite. Every true Christian under proper instruction, must feel it to be his or her duty to do something in word and deed for the spread of the gospel. God is glorified in the salvation of Saints, and as long as there are souls to be saved, as long as there are nations and people who have never heard the name of Jesus, there will be need of mission work. The world is open for the gospel as never before. The facilities for carrying the truth are constantly enlarging and increasing. Increased facilities bring increased responsibilities. Every foreign mission journal bring cheering news from the foreign mission fields. Men and women in the prime of life are going and willing to go into these fields; and by the guiding hand of our God the work is greatly expanding and growing stronger every year. Brethren let us work and pray and give to this great cause until God shall, by the enlightening influence of the Gospel, make the desert to flourish and blossom as the rose, till the kingdom of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; till the heathen shall become Christ's for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. We recommend that the ministers and members of this Association take a greater interest in this glorious work, and that the members of each church arrange a plan or system of raising funds for missions.

A. J. FLEMMING, Chairman.

The Association adjourned one hour for dinner. Prayer by Brother J. J. Nickolson.

19. 1 o'clock p. m., the Association met and was opened with prayer by Elder R. H. Blake.

20. The Committee on Temperance reported:

We admit that there is too much drinking in our land. But we spend too much time in telling it instead of providing a remedy. Intemperance does not consist all together in drinking, but we will look at it in that light in our report. The use of intoxicating drinks is a dreaded crying sin in our land today, and calls for the power and influence of God's people against it. Oh brethren drinking is the enemy to everything that is good and sacred, it not only ruins the church, but it ruins the souls of our children. There are thousands of souls being led to hell every day by the use of intoxicating drinks, how will we find relief, only by total abstinence, and we appeal to you for help, it is our duty to teach by example as well as word. If every Christian in Alabama would quit at once, we would have a remedy that would be felt all over our land. But as long as Christians set the example the world of sinners will follow the word of God forbids it, and nature does not need it, so in drinking we disobey God and break the law of nature, and come under condemnation. No drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God. We close by making a grand appeal to every Christian to stop drinking.

And we respectfully call your attention to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, whose motto is for God, home and native land. We would just here offer a word of encouragement to our good women of our country to still go forward in the great and good work in which they are engaged, and we ask our ministering brethren to do all they can to suppress this great evil in our land. Also, that we recommend to our ministers and leading men to take the word of God instead of the law for their weapon.

R. H. BLAKE, Chairman.

21. The union meeting of the First District will be held with the Enterprise Church, commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1894. Elder R. H. Blake to preach the introductory sermon. Query for discussion Friday evening. What is the greatest cause of the trouble and unholy condition of our churches spiritually? Opened by John N. Hays. Saturday morning; is it scripturally right for the church to appoint a committee to labor with a violator of the church rules? Opened by George Dunn. Saturday evening; is it scripturally right for the church to deal with offenders in conference with open doors to the world. Opened by R. H. Blake.

22. The union meeting of the Second District will be held with the Valley Creek Church, commencing on Friday before the third Sabbath in September, 1894. The introductory sermon to be preached by Elder R. Hollman. (I never received any report from the Second District. I do not know what the queries are.—Clerk.)

Resolved, That this Association return its hearty thanks to the members of Blue Creek Church and citizens of this neighborhood and vicinity for their hearty welcome to us, and their kind entertainment during our stay with them. May the rich blessings of our God rest upon them. And may the labors of our meeting with them be blessed with an abundant harvest, for Christ's sake. After singing, and taking the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet with the Mount Carmel Church, commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1894, one and a half miles northwest of Blocton.

JAMES N. HAYES,
Stated Clerk,

P. L. HERRING,
Moderator.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of THE HARMONY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, which shall have the right to enact and carry out Missionary purposes in all their bearings—yet, so as that the churches and individual members are left free; and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

2. The Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union or infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered 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 agrieved 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 matter before the Association, to be acted on according to its merits; but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the 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 of St. Matthew; and other parts of the Scriptures, which define the nature of offenses, and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

3. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the name of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

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

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 the right hand in token of Christian fellowship.

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

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 stated clerk shall be appointed, who shall continue in office until the Association shall elect his successor, and whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings, and to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session of this body, which he is to present to the view of the Association annually.

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 constitution.

9. The Association shall furnish the Minutes of every session to the churches making contributions for that purpose.

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

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

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 and deacons, or in the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by the Association.

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.

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

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

16. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to change or amend the Constitution.

17. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session, when two thirds of the delegates present are in favor of such amendment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE I. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

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

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

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.

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

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

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

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jes-

us Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

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.

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

12. We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

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

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

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

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

6. 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 who made it.

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

8. When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Mod.

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

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

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

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

15. 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 he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reprov'd by the Moderator at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S P. O.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.	Sabbath Meetings	Date of Constitution.	Minute Fund.	Associational Fund.	Foreign Missions.
Blue Creek	W. A. Bryan	Johns	S. Seibars	Johns	40	3	2	6	1	5	64	4	1858	\$ 65	\$ 1	\$ 1
Cedar Grove	L. P. Craig	Bibbville	John N. Hayes	Johns	1	1	7	1	1	11	13	3	1853	1.50	1.00	1.00
Center Grove	R. H. Blake	New Mans	W. H. Parry	Johns	2	2	7	2	1	13	2	1857	1.50	1.50	1.00	
Enterprise	P. L. Herring	Yanves	J. W. Kyle	New Mans	1	1	2	1	2	53	53	1859	1.00	50	50	
Mount Olive	W. G. Hubbard	Yanves	J. E. Colbert	Clemens	37	18	1	7	10	41	41	1858	1.50	25	25	
Mount Carmel	F. Kizzar	Clemens	B. B. Thirsher	Coaling	1	1	1	1	1	180	180	1860	2.00	50	50	
Pleasant Grove	L. P. Craig	Bibbville	J. R. Moses	Woodstock	1	1	1	1	1	59	59	1884	1.84	75	75	
Pleasant Valley	L. P. Craig	Bibbville	J. J. Acker	Bellsumpter	1	2	1	1	1	43	43	1891	1.891	75	75	
Romp's Valley	L. P. Craig	Bibbville	J. J. Acker	Kimberl	1	2	1	1	1	90	90	1899	2	2	2	
Tinton	L. P. Craig	Bibbville	J. J. Acker	Kimberl	1	2	1	1	1	90	90	1899	2	2	2	
Valley Creek	R. H. Blake	New Mans	J. J. Nickolson	Adger	2	1	1	3	1	21	21	1891	4	75	30	
Parker's Grove	G. Freeman	Centerville	Thomas Taylor	Centerville	1	1	1	3	1	21	21	1891	4	75	30	
Hephzibah	L. P. Craig	Bibbville	J. E. Keeton	Woodstock	1	1	1	3	2	8	8	1893	5	50	25	
					51	27	4	34	22	18	752	4	1847	1.25	40	4.21
														\$12.15	\$ 301.281	

82
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