

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Shelby Baptist Association,

HELD AT

LIBERTY CHURCH, SHELBY CO., ALA.,

FROM THE 9TH TO THE 12TH OCTOBER, 1858.

WITH

Constitution, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum.



SELMA:

PRINTED BY SHELLEY & WILLIAMS.

1858.



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1. Introduction

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6. The first part of the document discusses the importance of understanding the context of the data being analyzed. This includes identifying the source of the data, the methods used to collect it, and the potential biases that may be present. It is essential to ensure that the data is representative of the population being studied and that the analysis is conducted in a transparent and reproducible manner.

7. The second part of the document focuses on the statistical methods used to analyze the data. This includes a detailed description of the models used, the assumptions underlying these models, and the results of the analysis. It is important to clearly state the objectives of the analysis and to provide a clear interpretation of the results.

8. The third part of the document discusses the implications of the findings and the limitations of the study. This includes a discussion of the potential for bias and the need for further research. It is important to acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of the study and to provide a clear conclusion.

9. The final part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and a list of references. This includes a clear statement of the main results and a list of the sources used in the analysis. It is important to ensure that the references are up-to-date and relevant to the study.

10. The document concludes with a final statement of the author's conclusions and a list of references. This includes a clear statement of the main results and a list of the sources used in the analysis. It is important to ensure that the references are up-to-date and relevant to the study.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The Ministers and Delegates, to the Shelby Association of Baptist Churches, convened with Liberty Church, Shelby County, Alabama, on Saturday the 9th day of October, 1858.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. G. Walton, from 44 v. 2 ch. of the prophecy of the Prophet Daniel.

After a short recess the delegates from the Churches, assembled in the School House, near the Church, were called to order by the former Moderator, Elder J. C. Hand, and the Association opened by prayer. Brother Sterrett appointed Clerk pro tem.

Letters from the Churches were called for, (Brothers King and Freeman requested to read) were received, read, and the names of delegates enrolled—viz :

BEAVER CREEK.—David Goold, *James Reynolds, Alexander Moore, *S. Coiner, alternate.

BETHESDA.—J. D. TEAGUE, E. Vick, C. Salser.

BEULAH.—Asa Wyatt, James S. Duyck, *H. M. Strasner, C. Bass.

LIBERTY.—T. P. HOLCOMB, J. G. WALTON, J. N. GILBERT, and W. Armstrong.

SPRING CREEK.—C. F. Elliott, J. G. Thweat, and J. Perry.

MT. PISGAH.—J. P. FULMER, Ephram Frost, and *Wm. Perren.

MT. PLEASANT.—H. W. INZER, E. G. Cook, and *J. J. Clanton.

COLUMBIANA.—*W. H. CARROLL, A. Parnell, and A. A. Sterrett.

PLEASANT HILL.—Joseph Vanderslice, J. S. Pickens, and *W. R. Rushing.

UNION.—D. Holsamback, Wm. Lucas, and *Marion Holsamback.

SAREPTA.—Jordan Jones, J. C. HAND, and C. H. Jones.

SHOAL CREEK.—Not represented ; as advised dissolved.

PROVIDENCE.—THOS. E. MERONEY, T. J. FREEMAN, and *Levi A. Honeycut.

CAHABA VALLEY.—*T. L. Miles, *Elisha Fancher, *L. G. McGuire, *H. F. Fancher.

ENON.—J. F. BRAZEL, *Stephen Johnson, *J. H. Pratt, *W. V. Arnold.

FREEDOM.—Not represented.

MONTEVALLO.—NOAH HAGGARD, E. King, *W. T. Booth, and *J. D. McMath.

CAHABA.—Not represented.

The Association then proceeded to vote for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the election of T. P. Holcomb, Moderator, and A. A. Sterrett, Clerk.

The constitution, abstract of principles, and rules of decorum of the Association were read.

An invitation to newly constituted churches, or those dismissed from other associations, was given to join this; whereupon the Baptist Church of Christ at Concord, Shelby County, Alabama, constituted in July, 1858, was received by letter, and petition presented by her delegates *Wm. R. Fulmer, G. P. Aderhold, and *G. W. Weldin, being found orthodox in abstract of principles, and is added to the first district.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us. Correspondence was then called for. Letter and Minutes received and letter read from Coosa River Association by her messengers, Elders J. M. Scott, and F. S. Posey, and from Canaan Association by her messengers, Elders J. H. Baker, and Jas. Truss, and from the Mulberry Association received minutes but no letter by her messenger, brother J. M. Langston.

A committee to arrange preaching during the Association was appointed, consisting of brethren King, Bass, and the deacons of Liberty Church, who, after retiring a few minutes reported that Elders Brazel and Haggard preach this evening. Elder J. H. Baker, to-morrow at 10 A. M., and J. D. Teague, the missionary sermon at 11, as appointed at our last session, and Elders Fulmer and Inzer in the evening.

Appointed a committee to arrange business for the Association, consisting of Haggard, Jordan, Jones, Brazel, Duyek, King, the Moderator and Clerk; and Jordan Jones and Freeman, a committee on finance. And Inzer, Wallace, Gilbert, Wood and Brazel, a committee on documents.

NOTE.—Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPS—those marked thus (*) denotes absent.

After prayer by brother Brazel, the Association adjourned until Monday Morning 9 o'clock.

On Sabbath the services were conducted at the Church by the brethren named; Baker and Teague in the morning, brother Teague preaching the missionary sermon, from 15 v. 16 ch. of the Gospel by Mark; after which a collection of \$18 85 was taken up for missionary purposes. The congregation was large, and attention to the word spoken. Evening services were conducted by brethren Fulmer and Truss, at the Church, and by brother Inzer at the School House. May much good be the result of the labors of the day.

Monday Morning, 9 o'clock, the Association met, was organized by prayer by brother Scott.

Called the roll and agreed to call again and mark absentees hereafter.

The committee to arrange business for the Association made their report, which was received, read, adopted and committee discharged; (this report simply states the order in which business should be taken up by the Association). At request of the two delegates from the Montevallo Church, brother R. Wood was recognized as a delegate from that Church in the absence of brother W. F. Booth. Brother John Russell also recognized as a delegate from Beaver Creek Church, in the absence of brother Reynolds.

Returned correspondence to the Canaan Association—brethren Thos. E. Meroney, T. J. Freeman, and R. Wood, messengers. To the Coosa River Association, Jas. Fulmer, and William Fulmer, messengers.

On account inconvenience of attending the Cahawba Association, and her failure to correspond with this, correspondence dropped with her. To the Mulberry Association, T. J. Freeman, Thos. E. Meroney, J. C. Hand, J. F. Brazel, and J. G. Walton, messengers. To the Liberty Association, Noah Haggard, and R. Wood, messengers. Brother Haggard to write corresponding letter to said body. Brother T. J. Freeman to write the corresponding letter to be presented with these minutes.

Amended the first article of the constitution of this body by striking out the words "whether in the bounds, or," in the fifth line of said article; and directed, that the constitution and rules of decorum as now and previously amended, together with the abstract of principles of this Association, be printed with these minutes.

Appointed the next session of this body to be held with

the Columbiana Church, Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October next.

Received brother Jesse Collins as a messenger from the Coosa River Association.

Appointed brother J. C. Hand to preach the next introductory sermon. T. P. Holcomb, alternate, brother W. H. Carroll to preach the missionary sermon. J. C. Hand, alternate.

Brother King introduced the following resolution: "Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Moderator to enquire into and report to this Association the expediency of improving the system and rendering more interesting, efficient and beneficial, our annual associational meetings;" which was adopted and brethren King, Haggard and Teagne appointed said committee.

Freedom Church having failed twice in succession to be represented in this body, is now excluded.

Appointed brethren R. Wood, J. D. Teagne, Charles F. Elliot, J. G. Walton, J. C. Hand, W. H. Carroll, John Thweat, delegates, or messengers to the East Alabama Convention, which convenes at the Central Institute, Coosa County, Alabama, 12 miles North East of Wetumpka, on the day of 1859.

The committee under brother King's resolution, made the following report:

"Resolved, That a committee of be appointed, at each annual association, whose duty it shall be to select two ministers of the Gospel, and to ascertain whether their services can be obtained, to carry on a protracted meeting, to commence at the close of the Association, and continue said meeting for at least days. And that said ministers be allowed \$1 50 each per day, and their expenses paid coming and returning. And in order to provide funds for the payment of said service, the collection taken up on the Sabbath shall be appropriated for that purpose, or so much thereof as may be necessary. And it shall be the duty of said committee to notify the Pastor, or when there is no Pastor, the Church, at least one month before the Association shall convene, of the ministers who they have engaged to hold said meeting, in connection with the Pastor, when the Church has a Pastor. The money appropriated as specified above, to be deposited with said committee to enable them to comply with their engagements; provided the Church, with which the Association shall convene, shall approve the hold-

ing of said meeting;" which report was received, committee discharged, and on motion for the adoption of said report, the same was rejected.

The committee on finance reported sent up by the Churches for minutes \$24 90, for Associational purposes \$21 70, for foreign missions \$3 00, and for home missions \$21 30, and from brother E. G. Cook, for home missions, fifty cents; which report was received and committee discharged.

The committee on documents made the following report: "We, your committee, to whom was referred the subject of documents, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report, that we see much in other similar bodies, to excite and arouse our benevolent and christian exertions, and we are satisfied that the age and church in which we live demand not only our sympathies, but our prayers and ceaseless exertions; and that in view of these responsibilities, we should consecrate our money and time to the advancement of these great objects; such as the establishing and keeping up a Sabbath school in every congregation, as these are the sure hopes of the Church, and in these Sabbath schools the pure word of God should be taught unmixed with human creeds; domestic missions also claim our time and money, consecrated with the prayers of the Churches; we should also be zealous in instructing our colored population; encouraging the East Alabama convention, and our State convention, and we would further recommend our churches, when advantages are equal, to sustain and support our denominational schools; and that every head of a family of our churches would take and be a constant reader of some of our denominational papers, such as the South Western Baptist, Tenn. Baptist, Christian Index, Home and Foreign Journal, Baptist Review; and we would further recommend to our churches to liberate their preachers (by giving a living support) that they may devote their time wholly to the churches; all of which is respectfully submitted.

J. G. WALTON, *Chm'n.*

Which report was received, read and adopted, and said committee discharged.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. Sterrett, viz:

"Resolved, That the money collected by this Association for domestic missionary purposes, be applied to payment of any liability already incurred by this Association, and if any excess that the same be paid over to the East Alabama Convention for domestic missionary purposes.

Permission being given, brother Jesse Collins, agent of the East Alabama Convention, (after a short recess at noon) addressed the Association and congregation in the Church, upon the subject of missions, the object and views of said convention, after which a collection in money and pledges was taken of \$.

The Association having met after recess, on motion the treasurer of this Association is directed to pay over to brother J. D. Teague, twenty dollars, in discharge of the balance due him for services heretofore rendered as domestic missionary in the bounds of this Association.

On motion it was resolved, that the balance of the funds in the hands of the treasurer, collected for domestic missionary purposes, be by the treasurer paid over to the East Alabama Convention for domestic missionary purposes. After which brother Sterrett added to the resolution offered by him above, the following: "And that in future this Association will co-operate in domestic missionary purposes with said convention;" and then, as thus amended, offered the same for adoption, which was received, but on motion for its adoption rejected.

After singing, and prayer by the Moderator, adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Tuesday morning, Association met according to adjournment. Opened by prayer by brother Brazel.

Brother Duyck offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five shall be appointed by the Moderator to report to this Association, some plan, if in their power, to organize a system of missionary labor for the supply of preaching the Gospel in the destitute portions of the Shelby Association." Adopted, and committee appointed, consisting of brethren Duyck, Jordan Jones, Vanderslice, Armstrong and Cook, who immediately retired to consider of their report.

Brother Haggard moved, that as the Association had refused to co-operate with the East Alabama Convention, the fund directed to be paid over to that convention be now withheld, which was agreed to and adopted, and the order appointing delegates to said convention also revoked.

Ordered that the Clerk have six hundred copies of the minutes of this session printed, reserve 100 copies for correspondence with sister associations, and receive ten dollars for his services; that brother King and the Clerk be ap-

pointed distributing agents, and that they distribute among the churches said minutes according to funds sent up by each Church for minutes; that the treasurer pay to the Clerk \$40 00 out of which to pay for minutes this session—which is done.

Brother Dayck from the committee appointed under the resolution offered by him above, made the following report: "The committee appointed to devise some plan for supplying the destitute portions of the Shelby Association, with the preaching of the Gospel, beg leave to report, that they have carefully examined the subject, and report the following plan: The Association to nominate and appoint four ministers, such as may be approved for the work, and who will agree to serve, to hold meetings once a month at the most suitable place, for the convenience of the population; there shall be one minister appointed to occupy two departments, and to have one appointment in each month, in each of their divisions to hold a meeting one or two days as they may deem best. The Ministers who engage to perform this service, shall be allowed each one dollar per day for said service. And for providing funds for the payment of said service, the churches of the Association are requested to send up contributions as liberal as the nature of the case demands. It will require about \$200 to carry on a mission as above mentioned. If the contributions are deemed sufficient the missionary labor will be commenced immediately after the next Association: provided the ministers can be obtained; by this plan no debt will be incurred beyond the amount of contributions. The funds contributed as above, to be placed in the hands of _____ to be at all times ready to discharge any liability that may be incurred. Each missionary who may labor as above indicated, should be required to make a full report to the next Association thereafter, of the service rendered or labor performed;" which report was received and adopted, and the pastors of the churches in this Association requested to lay the matter before their respected churches.

Ordered that \$21 80, the amount sent up for future domestic missionary operations, be retained and paid out by the treasurer to ministering brethren of this Association, who may hereafter volunteer to labor as missionaries within our bounds, according to their labors, and that if labors are performed, a report thereof be made to our next session, and

that the remainder in hand, \$10 20, be distributed among correspondents to sister Associations.

Resolved, That this Association tender its thanks to the brethren and sisters at Liberty, and to the citizens, for their kindness and hospitality during the session of this body.

After singing, and prayer by the Moderator, the Association adjourned to the time and place mentioned.

T. P. HOLCOMB, *Moderator*.

A. A. STERRETT, *Clerk*.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Shelby Association to sister associations with which she corresponds, sends christian salutation.

Receive this, our Letter, with our Minutes, and Messengers, as a token of our christian regard towards you, and the expression of our wish to continue correspondence with you. Viewing ourselves as co-workers in the great cause of truth, and as gentle, yet firm opposers of error, we wish to keep a close alliance. The presence of your messengers, and good news communicated by your letters, are cheering.

The next session of our body will be held with the Columbian Church, in Columbiana, Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October next.

T. P. HOLCOMB, *Moderator.*

A. A. STERRETT, *Clerk.*

Churches,.....	Counties,.....	Baptised,.....	Received by Letter,....	Restored,.....	Dismissed by Letter,...	Excluded,.....	Died,.....	Present Number,.....	Minutes,.....	Associational purposes,	Sabbath preaching,....	Pastors,.....
<i>1st District.</i>												
Beaver Creek,	Shelby,..	4	1	1	4	3	..	26	\$ 75	\$ 75	4	.....
Bethesda, ...	"	7	5	2	3	2	..	54	2 00	1 00	3	J. M. Scott.
Beulah,	"	5	6	..	6	..	..	32	1 50	2 00	..	J. G. Walton.
Liberty,	"	16	16	2	4	..	1	135	2 00	2 00	1	T. P. Holcomb.
Spring Creek,	"	..	3	..	6	1	6	121	1 45	1 50	2	Wm. C. Harris.
Mt. Pisgah,..	St. Clair,	3	2	..	7	..	..	20	50	1 00	..	J. P. Fulmer.
Mt. Pleasant,	"	11	11	1	6	..	..	58	1 60	80	3	H. W. Inzer.
Columbiana,	Shelby,..	..	3	..	1	1	2	24	3 00	2 00	4	W. H. Carroll.
Pleasant Hill,	"	28	9	1	7	3	..	70	1 50	2 00	2	E. T. Akins.
Coneord,	"	9	..	..	2	..	..	13	50	50	..	J. P. Fulmer.
<i>2nd District.</i>												
Union,	"	4	5	1	5	..	1	55	1 50	1 65	4	James Grimes.
Serepta,.....	"	1	3	..	2	..	..	22	2 00	.....	1	J. C. Hand.
Providence ..	"	11	1	..	4	2	1	51	2 00	1 00	2	J. F. Brazel.
Cahaba Valley	Bibb, ...	..	7	3	7	2	..	66	1 00	2 00	1	R. Wood.
Enon,	"	..	4	..	9	3	..	71	1 50	1 50	2	J. C. Hand.
Montevallo,..	Shelby,..	2	14	..	1	..	..	38	2 00	2 00	3	W. Wilkes.
Cahaba, .....	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
									\$24 90	\$21,70		

CONSTITUTION.

1. The members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union, shall compose the Association, but in making appointments or assigning duties to be performed, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to any such duty any ordained minister belonging to any church in the body, though said minister be not a delegate to this body.

2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be called the SHELBY ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES.

4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to "Lord it over God's heritage," nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches, but shall have power to exclude from the union, any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who fails to represent herself at one Association, and refuses to account for it at the next.

5. If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction, and if she fails of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if satisfaction cannot be obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to lay the matter before the Association to be decided on according to its merits: And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which after due labor, she cannot reconcile, she shall call to her aid two or more churches of her union, to assist her in her work; and if the difficulty be not then removed, it shall be the duty of the church to bring the case to the Association, to be acted on as above prescribed. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued.

6. Any church desiring admittance into this union, shall

petition by letter and messengers, and if found orthodox, shall be received by the Association through the moderator's giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and one for every additional fifty over fifty.

8. Any church in our union shall have the power to license members to preach the Gospel, and report the same to our next body, and in all ordinations we recommend a presbytery of two or more, and report to the next Association.

9. No query shall be taken under consideration in the Association except when cases of serious difficulty are likely to arise, and cannot be settled by the church nor by the assistance of other churches which they shall call upon, then if not settled they may send it to the Association; provided, any member of this body may introduce a query, when its settlement tends to the peace, harmony and welfare of the churches.

10. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution she may deem expedient.

11. This Association shall have power to elect a Moderator and Clerk of her own body.

12. Any amendment may be made to this plan or form of constitution at any time, when two thirds of the Association may deem it expedient.

13. Any church wishing a letter of dismissal, shall make application therefor by letter.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe there is only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God and the only proper rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe that election is the gracious and eternal purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imi-

tation of his free mercy, that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel is the foundation of christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and that man is incapable of recovering himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.

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

6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's supper, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of the ordinances, and that Immersion only is christian baptism.

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

8. We believe that no minister should administer the ordinances of the Gospel, only such as are called, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in full fellowship with the church of which he is a member.

9. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a scriptural right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

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

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

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

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

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed; which permission shall be signified by the moderator's naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, and every motion made and seconded (in order) shall come under the consideration of the Association, and be decided on, 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 question is taken up and sufficient time allowed for debate, the moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, those in the affirmative of the question first, then if need be, reverse the question, and pronounce the decision.

9. The Association shall be governed in all cases by a majority, except in the reception and exclusion of Churches, which shall be by two-thirds at least, of the members present.

10. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without leave of the Association, nor more than three times without the concurrence of three-fourths of the members, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.

11. The appellation of brother, shall be used in the Association by members in their addresses to one another.

12. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the moderator.

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

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which has a tendency to interrupt public speaking.

15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other, provided he appoints another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be reprovved, at the discretion of the moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

17. These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and may be altered or amended when two-thirds of the members present, at any annual meeting, shall deem it necessary.

Resolved, That the moderator appoint committees for the transaction of any business that may come before our body from time to time; but the alteration and number of each committee shall be by consent of this body.

