

117

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MUD CREEK

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Liberty Church, Jefferson County, Ala.,

OCTOBER 17, 18, 19, 1895.

A complete Roll of the Delegates appears in a Tabular Statement at the end of these Minutes.

The next session will be held with Concord Church, commencing on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1896.

BESSEMER, ALA.,
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1895.



L. A. Key
J. E. Wilson
W. A. Key

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TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

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MUD CREEK BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ROCK CREEK CHURCH, October 17, 1895.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Session of the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association convened with Rock Creek Church, Thursday, October 17, 1895.

The appointee being absent, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder H. A. Key. Services began by singing hymn No. 652 in Baptist Psalmody. Read for meditation 121st division of the Psalms. Prayer by Elder J. C. Gilmer, after which hymn No. 135 in in Class, Choir and Congregation was sung. Text found in third chapter of John, fourteenth verse. After preaching services were closed with prayer by Elder A. White.

An intermission of one hour and a half was given for dinner.

THURSDAY EVENING.

The house was called to order by the Moderator by reading the 126th division of the Psalms. Hymn No. 528 in Baptist Psalmody was sung. Prayer by Elder J. E. Wilson.

The Moderator called for letters from various churches. Elders J. E. Wilson and B. M. Waldrop were appointed to read the letters.

The body then went into an election of Moderator and Clerk. Elder B. M. Waldrop and Bro. G. Townsend were appointed to take up the votes. Elder J. C. Gilmer was elected Moderator, and I. V. Salter Clerk.

Called for letters from new churches. None received. Called for correspondence. Received Elder J. E. Wilson, Tuscaloosa; Elder B. M. Waldrop, Birmingham; Bro. J. T. Roberts, North River; Elder H. A. Key, Liberty. Bro. G. W. Townsend moved they all be seated, seconded and carried.

The Moderator then proceeded to appoint Committees, as follows:
 DEVOTION—Bros. S. A. Parsons, Wm. Black, D. F. Knight and the Deacon of this church.

DOCUMENTS—Bros. G. H. Bean, I. V. Salter and G. W. Herring.

NOMINATIONS—Bros. A. J. Summers, J. T. Glaze and Perry Jones.

FINANCE—T. N. Crowder, J. T. Perry and T. S. Smith.

HOME MISSIONS—Bros. A. White, R. Kemp, I. L. Hammonds.

TEMPERANCE—Bros. T. P. Vanderver, T. Y. Cargil and B. M. Waldrop.

SABBATH SCHOOL—Bros. H. W. Burchfield, E. L. Nicholson and S. A. Parsons.

EDUCATION—Bros. J. N. McFalls, T. Y. Cargil and G. H. Bean.

DECEASED MEMBERS—Bros. A. J. Summers, A. White and T. P. Vanderver.

INDIGENT MEMBERS—Bros. J. N. McFalls, Wm. Black and B. M. Waldrop.

EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL BOOK—Bros. G. W. Herring, I. L. Hammonds and T. N. Crowder.

Brother T. Y. Cargil was appointed to read the constitution and decoum.

A motion was made that there be a standing committee on Education, Home Missions, Temperance and Sabbath Schools. After short discussion the motion was withdrawn until morning for consideration.

Motion to adjourn to meet Friday at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder B. M. Waldrop.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The body reassembled by singing. After the reading of the third chapter of Matthew hymn number 55 in Class, Choir and Congregation was sung, prayer by Elder B. M. Waldrop. After a short talk from the Moderator (which was very interesting) the motion of the day before was taken up for discussion. After discussion was adopted.

Motion that all corresponding delegates be seated, carried and the following were received: B. Burton from Birmingham, Virgil Wilson and John Balson.

An amendment to the constitution was offered by Elder J. E. Wilson, which reads as follows: We shall have the right to enact and carry out Missionary work in all its bearings, so that giving or withholding shall not be a barrier of fellowship.

Motion that article 15 be erased from the constitution and this amendment be inserted in its place, carried.

Standing committees were appointed as follows: MISSIONS—S. A. Parsons, TEMPERANCE—G. H. Bean, SABBATH SCHOOLS—Jackson Reeves, EDUCATION—A. J. Summers.

After singing No. 155 in Class, Choir and Congregation, a motion to adjourn for preaching at 11 o'clock by Elder J. C. Gilmer. Services began by singing, after which division 32 of the Psalms was read and hymn No. 172 was sung, after which prayer was offered. In the first clause of the 3d verse of the I. chapter of Jonah the text will be found. Services closed with prayer by Elder Virgil Wilson. An intermission of one hour was given for dinner.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The body reassembled by singing. Prayer by Elder H. A. Key. The Moderator then called for reports of various committees.

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, after examining the letters from various churches, find only two requests for the next session of this body, that of Mud Creek and Concord.

G. H. BEAN, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, find nothing to claim our attention, except a call for the next session of this body, i. e., that of Concord and Mud Creek. We recommend that Concord church entertain the next session of this body, to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1896, and that the introductory address be delivered by Elder J. N. McFalls, at 11 o'clock on Saturday, and the missionary sermon be preached by Elder J. C. Gilmer, Sunday at 11 o'clock.

A. J. SUMMERS, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, have received from the different churches the following: Association purposes, \$7.61; Minutes, \$9.75. Oak Grove, \$5; Mud Creek, \$6.46; Connelsville, \$2.10. The \$2 10 to be sent to the Secretary of the State Missionary Board, to be used as he sees fit, for missions.

T. N. CROWDER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS

We, your Committee on Home Missions, beg leave to submit the following: Brethren, we, as christians, ought to look well to the interest of the cause of Christ, in every particular, using every energy for the promotion of the same. Though we may differ in our views as to the plans, that does not lighten our responsibility. But let us labor for a greater development of the spirit of missions, in giving more of our time and means to the promotion of the cause of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

A. WHITE, Chairman.

After prayer by Elder T. P. Vanderver the body adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The body reassembled by singing. After prayer by Elder J. N. McFalls the business of yesterday was resumed.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following: We recommend that we, as a Baptist people, be temperate in all things, not only in dram drinking but in our various habits. We should be temperate in speaking of each other, but, rather, let our light so shine, that it may penetrate the hearts and minds of others that God's name may be glorified. Brethren, we prayerfully recommend that this body continue to do all in its power to prevent intemperance, which has so long rendered home so miserable and unhappy.

T. P. VANDERVER, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following report: The Sabbath School, when properly conducted, is a means of dispensing scriptural knowledge, which is light, and this light will moralize the people. The Bible, the Sabbath School text book, when properly studied, often proves to be the means of leading many to the Rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ, from whom the waters of life flow for ever and ever. We find that the churches that keep up prompt, well directed Sabbath Schools have better scripture reading children, better music and better order at the 11 o'clock services than those churches that do not keep up Sabbath Schools.

We recommend the Lesson Helps published by the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tennessee. We again recommend and urge the churches of our Association to keep a Sabbath School.

H. W. BURCHFIELD, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Education, submit the following:

There is greater necessity for educating the young and rising generation than ever before. While our young have been advanced in literary knowledge, yet, we believe that education in books is but an assistance to a higher development of the mind to a higher religious duty for the advancement of the cause of the gospel of our Lord and Master. We believe that the home circle should be the place to commence the work by example, daily practice and Godly

conversation before our children. We view with alarm, the rapid progress of evil in our country, to draw our children away from the paths of rectitude and righteousness. Therefore, we should have special regard to employing teachers of good moral and christian character, who will exert their utmost ability at all times to improve the education and morals of their pupils, and who will do all they can to point the young and tender minds the ways of righteousness. We should always guard against the employment of teachers who are simply teaching for employment or just for the money there is in the profession, and who have no regard, whatever, for the welfare of the pupils. We should also do all in our power to promote the education of the orphans. As the teacher occupies the place of the parent, we sincerely hope that the time is close at hand when teachers who do not realize the position they occupy may be set aside and their places filled by active, energetic men and women who will go forth in the discharge of their whole duty.

For higher educational advantages, we take pleasure in recommending Howard College, a Baptist institution, situated at East Lake.

J. N. MCFALLS, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, find by examining letters from the various churches, that three of our much loved ones have been summoned away by the icy hand of death, i. e., Sisters Lucinda Howton, of Mud Creek church, Lou Bradley, of Freewill church, and Brother J. R. Goodwin, of Oak Grove church,

May the good Lord give each of us a thankful heart for His protection to us through another year.

A. J. SUMMERS, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENT MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Indigent Members, do not find from any of the letters of the churches any member in destitute circumstances, or in need of aid from this body.

WM. BLAKE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL BOOKS.

We, your Committee on Examination of Associational Book, have examined the same and find it in good order.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HERRING.

Moved and seconded the Missionary sermon be preached today, carried.

Ten minutes intermission.

Services began by singing. Sixteenth chapter of Mark was read, after which hymn No. 164, in Baptist Psalmody, was sung.

Section 6

Prayer by Elder J. C. Gilmer. Missionary sermon was delivered by Elder E. L. Nickelson. Closed with prayer by Elder A. White, after which a collection was taken up for the missionary cause. Received \$11.13.

Adjourned for refreshments.

SATURDAY EVENING.

The body reassembled by singing. After prayer by Elder A. White the body went into business.

Resolved, That we co-operate with the state, home and foreign mission board.

Moved and seconded the Associational Book be kept by the Clerk and turned over to his successor, carried.

Moved and seconded a Missionary be appointed to labor in the bounds of the Mud Creek Association for the ensuing year, lost.

Moved and seconded the amount of money raised today be sent to the Board to be used for the mission cause as they see proper, carried.

Moved and seconded the money left over from last year be applied to the printing of minutes, carried.

Moved and seconded the Associational funds be paid to the Clerk for his service, carried.

Moved and seconded the printing of the minutes be left with the Clerk, carried.

Resolved, That we tender a vote of thanks to Rock Creek Church and vicinity for their kind and hospitable manner in which we have been entertained during our stay with them.

Resolved, That we adjourn to meet with Concord Church on Saturday before third Sunday in October, 1896

J. C. GILMER, Moderator,

I. V. SALTER, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association.

ART. 2. It shall be formed of delegates from all the churches which may connect themselves with this body.

ART. 3. Any church may be admitted into this body by general consent of the members present at any regular session.

ART. 4. Any church may withdraw from this body at its own discretion, on proper application for dismissal.

ART. 5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered as an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal affairs.

ART. 6. The churches in the union shall transmit each annual session of the Association with a written communication specifying the names of their messengers, and the state of their churches since last session.

ART. 7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates. Any church failing to represent herself as above describ-

ed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

ART. 8. New constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 9. The Association when convening shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

ART. 10. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be chosen by and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that all the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to make proper and correct minutes of the Association.

ART. 11. The Association shall have the power to drop from her union any church which may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

ART. 12. The Association shall furnish the churches with minutes according to the funds sent up for said purpose by the churches.

ART. 13. Queries that immediately concern the union of the churches, or introduced by a proper motion of the body, may be taken up and decided by the body.

ART. 14. The Association shall have a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys from the Finance Committee, and pay it out at the order of the Association.

ART. 15. We shall have the right to enact and carry out missionary work in all its bearings, so that giving or withholding shall not be a barrier of fellowship.

ART. 16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, unless it be in extraordinary cases.

ART. 17. Minutes of Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, if necessary, before the session rises.

ART. 18. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members may deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

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

ART. 2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have the right to call to order at any time; also, it shall be his duty to see that the rules of decorum are attended, and to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body.

ART. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day that the decision is made, but at no other time.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of the transactions of the Association.

ART. 5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.

ART. 6. The Moderator when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming them, or otherwise.

ART. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under consideration, or use words of personal reflection, or with a view of calling to order for some

particular purpose and any motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by the one who made it.

ART. 8. Every case taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall put the question, and, if necessary, the sense of the body may be taken by rising to their feet.

ART. 9. When anything is taken up by the Association it shall first be decided upon before another is proposed.

ART. 10. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the same.

ART. 11. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address to each other.

ART. 12. The name of the members shall be called as often as necessary.

ART. 13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in any time of public speech, or other practices that would dishonor the Association.

ART. 14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as others, provided he appoint some member to take his seat while he is speaking, but shall not be entitled to vote unless the Association be equally divided then he shall have the casting vote.

ART. 15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, without first obtaining leave of the Association, unless to explain.

ART. 16. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reprov'd at the discretion of the Moderator, but only on the day the breach is made.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three in one.

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

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

4. We believe in a man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and holiness.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of truth.

6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe the Saints will persevere in grace and not finally fall away.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only proper subjects, and do conscientiously believe that the true mode of Baptism is immersion.

9. We believe in the resurrection and general judgment.

10. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as have been called of God, and regularly baptized and approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hand by presbytery.

12. We believe that none but believers have a right to the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

