

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty--second Annual Session

OF THE

Pea River Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Hebron Church,

November 4th, 5th and 6th, 1898.

OFFICERS

A. E. WISE, Jr., Moderator, Victoria, Ala.
M. A. THUMS, Jr., Clerk, Elba, Ala.
G. M. FOWLER, Treasurer, Victoria, Ala.

The Next session will be held with Woodland Grove Church, 8 miles Northeast of Elba, on West side of Pea river, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1899.

.....MINUTES.....

The Pea River Baptist Association met in its twenty-second annual session with the Baptist church at Hebron on the 4th, 5th and 6th of November, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. A. J. Brooks. Text, Judas 6:3, after which the Association adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the former Moderator, A. J. Wise, Jr. Prayer by J. M. Loffin. The letters from the different churches were presented and read and delegates names enrolled as follows: Whitewater church—J T Peavy, J W White, W C Braswell. Bethany—J H Sawyers, Wm Anderson, J S Corbet. Bethlehem—A J Wise, W T Everett, D D Loffin. Zion Chapel—Jas Johnson, J H Fowler, G T Willis. New Ebenezer—A J Hudson, Young McCart, C C Fleming. Hebron—J J Bradley, J H Weed, W E Fuller. Union Grove—W E Johnson, R D Campbell. Shiloh—W T Woodward, M H Helms, Jr., S T Helms. Woodland Grove—L P Brunson, G M Fowler, Chas. Rowe. Bethsada—Wm S McCall, Jas McEwen. New Hope—J T Egerton, W J Horn, J J Lambert, Y S Wilkerson. Bluff Springs—W H Archer, J W Johnson, Robt Johnson. Clintonville—T F Anderson, J N Harden. G W Moore. Damascus—C I Stewart, W S Windham, G A Wright. New Home—I J Heath, I D Bradley, J D B Harper. Mt. Pleasant—A W Jones, J A Cogburn, W H Tew. Concord—D W Jernigan, Joe Jernigan, Joe Williams. Elba—J J Dawsey, H M McCook, B F Prescott. The Association then went into the election of officers, which resulted in the election of A. J. Wise, Moderator; M. A. Helms, Jr., Clerk; G. M. Fowler, Treasurer. On motion adopted printed order of business. Set time of meeting as follows: Meet 8 a. m., preaching at 11, and adjourn at will. Meet 2 p. m. and adjourn at will. The moderator extended an invitation to visiting ministers and brethren to seats with the body. Called for petitionary letters desiring membership and Bethsada church was received and moderator extended right hand of fellowship in behalf of Association. The moderator appointed special committees to report during session, as follows: On Preaching—J J Bradley, W T Everett, J R Spurlin together with the deacons and delegates of Hebron church. On Nomination—W H Archer, L N Harden, G T Willis.

On Finance—J M Talley, H S Nichols, W S Windham On Deceased Ministers and Deacons—T J Brooks, W J Horn, J H Stanton. Called for correspondence from different Associations. Received correspondence from the Salem Association, J. M. Loffin; Providence, W. A. Cumby, W. E. Eiland; Sardis, A. J. Brooks; Newton, J. W. Bullard. On motion the resolution passed in previous sessions granting ordained elders holding membership in any church in the Association to become a member of the Association by virtue of the fact that they are elders, was stricken out. After singing and prayer by J M Talley, the body adjourned until Saturday morning 8 o'clock. Preaching at night at Perdue school house 7 o'clock, by H. S. Nichols.

SAURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the moderator. After singing, prayer was offered by J W Bullard. The moderator extended the invitation to visiting ministers to seats. A public collection was taken for indigent ministers, to-wit; J. W. Bullard, \$7 50; I. J. Johnson, \$2 60. The moderator appointed the following committees: On Foreign Missions—J M Loffin, N P Bundy, G M Fowler. Home Mission—H S Nichols, I P Brunson, Wm McCart. Indigent Ministers—D M Jernigan, W T Everett. Education—J H Weed, J M Talley. Publication—W H Archer Jas Johnson. On motion Elder J. W. Stewart was appointed to make a report on orphanage. Eld. Stewart then preached to a large and orderly congregation from Psalms 16:5-6. Adjourned until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called to order by the moderator. After singing, prayer was offered by Jas. Ewen. The reports of the following committees were read and adopted: State Missions (see appendix A.) On Foreign Missions (app B.) On Orphanage (app C.) On Education (app D.) On Temperance (app E.) On Indigent Ministers (app F.) On Publications (app G.) On Deceased Ministers and Deacons (app H.) Report of Executive Committee (app I.) On motion Bros. Dawsey, McCook and Prescott from Elba church were seated as delegates. A. J. Wise and J. M. Talley were appointed as trustees of the Southeast Alabama Collegiate Institute at Newton. After singing, and prayer by Eld. J. W. Stewart, the body adjourned until Sabbath morning 8 o'clock. Preaching at night at church by J. M. Moore and at Deanville by A. J. Brooks.

SABBATH MORNING SESSION,

Called to order by moderator. Singing. prayer by J. W. Stewart. Appointed correspondents to associations as follows: Salem—J H Weed, H W McCook. Zion—J M Moore. Sardis—G M Faw-

ler, J R Spurlin, J H Fowler, H S Nichols, W T Woodward, M A Helms, Jr., W H Archer. New Providence—J R Spurlin, W T Woodward. Sandy Creek—W T Woodward. Haw Ridge—A J Wise, T M Harden, G M Fowler, J A Wright. Newton—P F Tew, J A Wright, W T Woodward, A J Wise, H M McCook, J M Moore, A McKinnon. Geneva—P F Tew, W T Woodward. Report on Nomination read and adopted (app J.) Bro. Wise read a communication from Bro. J. M. Rowe. Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted, (app K.) Finance report read and adopted, (app L) Treasurer's report read and adopted, (app M.) A Missionary sermon was then preached by Elder Preston, from 2 Tim. 4:2. Collection for missions was then taken. Adjourned to meet with Woodland Grove church, 8 miles northeast of Elba on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1899.

A. J. WISE Moderator.

M. A. HELMS, Clerk.

The following are standing committees to report at next session: On State Missions, J M Talley, H S Nichols, J M Kenington. Home Missions, J J Bradley, I P Brunson, G M Fowler. Foreign Missions, J R Spurlin, A S Head, J J Morris. Education, J M Talley, L P Brunson, W H Archer. Temperance, W T Everett, D M Jernigan, J M Moore. Indigent ministers, J A Wright, H S Nichols, P F Tew. Orphanage, J S Stanton, Z R Fulier, W T Woodward.

APPENDICES.

(A) Properly speaking, State, Home and Foreign Mission is one. We find the work somewhat classified by our Master. He said ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the utmost parts of the earth. State missions is the beginning at Jerusalem. If we neglect our home work the foreign work will also suffer. We feel proud of the work of some of our missionaries, but we regret that we have so few and are so poorly paid. There are only seventeen missionaries now at work, and we ought to have at least 50 or 75 active missionaries in the field. If we could have one for every county in the state we would see Zion triumph. Let us with our prayers and means come up and help the Lord against the mighty. Our Missionary Brother Preston has organized more than thirty Sabbath schools. He has preached near an average of once a day all this year. About 75 bibles have been sold and given away. He has received into churches 57 members. If all the other missionaries have done as much each, there have been more than 500 Sabbath schools organized and more than 1,000

members have been received, and 1,275 bibles have been sold or given away. This is a work of which we should feel proud, but we should double our energies. Let us bring the matter before our churches and try to awaken a deeper interest in the work

Respectfully submitted, J M Loffin, Chairman.

Home Mission means the work of evangelizing our own people, in our southland. It also includes the preaching of the gospel among the Indians and in Cuba. If we fail to Christianize the foreign population, they will heathenize our children. We have over 400 missionaries now at work in the above indicated fields. They are working hard and enduring greater hardships than even our foreign missionaries. Let us pray for them and see to it that their meager salaries are paid. Our home board desires to put at least 600 missionaries in the field. Cuba alone should have at least half that number. Respectfully submitted, H S Nichols, Ch'm'n.

(B) We, your committee submit the following: The field for foreign work is divided into two parts—papal and pagan—the papal field embraces countries which have been controlled by Catholics, such as Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice, Camess, Carpi and a great many other places. The work at these places has been pushed with all possible energy. The pagan field embraces that part of the world where the gospel has never been preached before. This embraces parts of Asia, Africa and some of the isles of the sea. With grateful hearts we look back over the past. Years ago our fathers laid strong foundations and we have entered into their labors. In 1891 we had 38 main states, 2,377 members, 361 baptisms. Since then our missionaries have baptized 4,122. Much has been done, but not what might be done if our churches would work to the demand. J. M. Talley, Chairman.

(C) There is cause for sincere gratitude that our orphanage is doing so good a work as it is. We learn that the purchase debt has all been paid, and lot improvements to the amount of several hundred dollars has been made and paid for; but a debt has been made for current expenses. The home needs about \$400 to pay for food which the children have already eaten. We recommend that all our churches take collections and send to Brother Stewart at Evergreen for this purpose. Since our orphanage was started 5 years ago, there have been gathered into it 101 children, and out of it have gone by apprenticeship two boys; returned to their people seven boys and seven girls; by adoption 11 boys and 11 girls; one boy and one girl have died; two boys were irregularly discharged, leaving in the home at present 22 boys and 27 girls. The boys are taught to do farm work and the girls to do various kinds of house work. Those

that are old enough attend the agricultural school—all attend Sunday school and church—15 of them have been baptised. We commend this work to all our people.

Respectfully submitted, H S Nichols, Chairman.

(D) No church can become powerful, spiritually, unless its members are educated. If the outside world and other denominations know more than ministers and leading members, and we undertake to reform them, it will only bring ridicule upon us. The subject of teachers is one of much importance. Can a man teach that which he has not? Often we find immoral men as teachers, which is a vital mistake. All teachers should be moral. No man or woman can become powerful unless educated in both mind and soul. We should see to it that our boys and girls are educated by earnest Christian teachers. We should take and read our state Baptist papers, thereby showing that we are a progressive and enlightened people. The Alabama Baptist should be in every Baptist home. We are glad to report our denomination progressive in schools and higher institutions, and that all are in co-operation with the better form of education. We should all praise our state schools, the Howard college and Judson Institute, also the Baptist male and female Collegiate Institute at Newton, Ala. They give each association the right to adopt it as its school and appoint two trustees to accordingly secure on the board of education.

J M Talley, Chairman.

(E) We, your committee ask leave to submit the following: Have we as a body of Christians been studying the subject of Temperance? If so, we are prepared to guard against the many intemperances so common among men. For truly there are many intemperate habits among us. So many that time and space forbid us to mention them all. We hope the intelligent men and women to whom we make this report will profit by it. Our daily walk and talk should be with discretion. We should walk by faith and not by sight, and our words should be leavened with grace. Brethren, let us live the life we advise others to live. Let us walk circumspectly before the world that we may win a victory for Christ. For truly we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Then let us not fear to battle against the many intemperate habits so common among us; such as whisky drinking, card playing, defrauding, etc. The bible says "Touch not, taste not, handle not, for such things perish with their using." Solomon says, "Strong drink is raging and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Let us take the admonition of one of the followers of the meek and lowly Lamb, in speaking of adding he says: "Add to knowledge temperance,

and to temperance Godliness for Godliness with contentment is great gain." J M Moore, Chairman.

(F) We, your committee offer the following report: We know that caring for our superannuated veterans of Christ is of as much importance as any subject that we foster. We are glad to see some of our churches doing something on this line. We recommend that the brethren make donations of corn, syrup, pork, etc., and convey it to our indigent ministers; thereby showing in a spiritual way our grateful feeling toward them. In this way most of us can assist.

D M Jernigan, Chairman.

(H) We, your committee, are proud to say that through the kind providence of God the lives of our ministers and deacons have been spared through one more year, for which we should all feel grateful to our heavenly Father.

T J Brooks, Chairman.

(I) We, your Executive Committee, submit the following: We have had nothing to do, therefore we haven't done anything.

L. P. Brunson, Chairman.

(J) We, your committee on Nominations, submit the following: We appoint J W Kenington to preach the introductory sermon at next session, and JM Moore as alternate; and as executive committee, J A Taylor, J L Lewis, L P Brunson, J H Stanton, M A Helms, Sr. All of which is respectfully submitted.

H Archer, Ch'mn.

(K) Your committee on Sabbath Schools submits the following: God has made it our duty to teach our children the word of God. It is therefore the duty of every church member to engage in this glorious work. No church can afford to be without a Sabbath school, and no church member can afford to neglect the Sabbath school work. If we don't love our own children well enough to teach them the word of God, how are we to love the heathens well enough to teach them the word of God? We must love God's word and as we love our children we must teach them the word of truth. A number of our churches have good Sabbath schools, while some are still neglecting this important work. Let every church member make an earnest effort to maintain a Sabbath school.

A J Preston,
Chairman.

(L) We, your committee on Finance report as follows:

For minutes	\$15 05
For Orphanage	4 30
For Foreign Missions	1 40
For State Missions	10 82
For Indigent Ministers	10 10
Total	\$41 67

DISBURSEMENTS.

To clerk for minutes.....	\$15 05
To J W Stewart for Orphanage	4 30
To A J Preston for Foreign Missions.....	1 40
“ “ “ “ State “	10 82
To J W Bullard.....	7 50
To I J Johnson.....	2 60
Total	\$41 67

G M Fowler, Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolved, That this Association request W A Cumby to revise and republish the Webb and Cumby debate. J H Weed.

Resolved. That all pastors of the different churches of this Association be requested to take a collection for and preach a sermon on missions and orphanage as often as four times a year

W T Woodward.

Resolved 1st, That our venerable brother, J. W. Bullard, may live in the memory of the Pea River Association.

2nd, That the thanks of this Association are due and are unanimously tendered to the members of Hebron church and the citizens of this community for their kind and generous hospitality extended to us during our stay with them

G M Fowler.

ORDAINED MINISTERS PRESENT—J W Bullard, J M Lofin, H S Nichols, I J Johnson, J M Moore, W A Cumby, A J Brooks, A J Preston, J W Stewart, T J Brooks.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH, WITH PROOF TEXTS

1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.—1 John 5:7.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.—Ephesians 1:4, 5.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Rom. 6:23

5. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.—John 6:44, 45; Romans 11:6; Eph 2:1, 9.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.—2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13, 14.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit—John 6:37; 2 Tim. 1:9.

8. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away—John 10:28, 30.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ: that true believers are the only subjects for these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.—Colos. 2:12; Acts 8:38

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.—Job 19:26, 27.

11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.—Matt. 25:46.

12. We believe that no person has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.—1 Tim. 4:50; 5:22.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Introductory sermon.
3. Enrollment of Delegates
4. Election of Officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Appoint special Committees—1, Devotional; 2, Nominations; 3, Finance; 4, Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
7. Receive Correspondents.
8. Appoint Correspondents.
9. Miscellaneous Business.
10. Report of Standing Committees—1, Missions—State, Home and Foreign; 2, Education; 3, Temperance; 4, Indigent Ministers; 5, Sabbath Schools; 6, Orphanage; 7, Publications; 8, Executive Committee.
11. Report of Special Committees.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Appoint Standing Committees.
14. Miscellaneous Business.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	PASTORS.	PASTORS.		CLERKS.		CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE.	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter.	Rec'd by Exper.	Dis'm'd by Let'r	Excluded	Dead	Pres't Membership	Missions	Minutes	Preac'g Sabbath Orphanage
		POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE.												
Union Grove	J M Moore	Brockton	J M Merredith	Enterprise	4	2	1	24	\$	50	2						
Concord	J M Moore	Brockton	C Jeruigan	Victoria.	1	2	1	16		50							
Mt. Pleasant	J F Register	Geneva.	W H Tew	Elta	2	5	3	167	1	55	3						
New Hope	J E Johnson	Fresco	T J Eagerton	Fresco	5	1	6	103		75	1						
New Ebenezer	C L Elland	Bullock	J R Spurlin...	Curtis	15	4	1	62		165	4						
New Home	J M Talley.	Dot	J D B Harper	Goodman			1	66		50	4						
Damascus	J W Brooks	Huggins	W H Seagraves	Damascus	3	3	2	121	2	42	1						
Woodland Grove	J M Talley	Dot.	A McKinnon.	Bronson	3	8	1	69		125	2						
Bethsada.	H S Nichols		J H White	Huggins		15		20		50							
Bluff Springs	A J Brooks	Huggins	C O H Martin	Rodney		1	1	43		75							
Whitewater	J M Talley	Dot	F M Reeves	Elba	3	5	8	1	123	1	5						
Shiloh	J M Moore	Brockton	W T Woodard	Alborton.	3	3	3	4	42	50	3						
Bethany	J W Brooks	Huggins	J L Corbitt	Brockton	14	6	14	3	82	100	4						
Clintonville	J F Register	Geneva.	G W Caylor	Clintonville		12	2			100	4						
Hebron	J M Loflin	Henderson	W E Fuller	Perdue.	1	6	10	7	109	430	100	3					
Zion Chapel	A J Brooks	Huggins	W J Willis.	Rodney		6	8	1	52	80	4						
Bethlehem	J M Loflin	Henderson	A J Wise.	Victoria	1	3	1	8	6	1	181	1	70	25	3		
Totals																	
44 43 75 79 64 10 128 0 11 72 15 05 00																	

