## MINUTES

OF THE

### TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# Missionary Harmony Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

# ROUP'S VALLEY CHURCH,

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALA

From the 8th to the 10th Oct. 1898.

- J. D. FOLK, MODERATOR, Woodstock,
- J N HAYES, CLERK, Tuscaloose,

The next Session will meet the Pleasant Valley Church, on Saturday, before the 2nd Sabbath in Oct. 1899.

### Committees to Report at next Session:

Temperance := B. P. McGraw, Ch'n., Blocton, Ala. Satbath Schools:= S. W. Hosmer, Ch'n., Woodstock Edifextion:= J. N. Walker, Ch'n., Woodstock, Orphan's Home:= J. C. McElroy, Ch'n., Blocton, S. H. & Foreign Missions:= C. Miller, Ch'n., Blocton.



### MINUTES.

SATURDAY, October 8, 1898.

1. The delegates from the churches composing the Twenty-Second Annual Session of the Missionary Harmony Baptist Association convened with the Roups Valley church this day at 11 o'clock.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder T. L. S. Carroll, from Mathew 16 chapter, 18 verse: "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

After a recess of one hour, during which a most ample dinner was served, the delegates then assembled in the meeting house, and the association was called to order by Elder J. D. Fowlkes.

- 2. The roll of the churches was called and the delegetes came forward bearing their petitionary letters and voted for moderator which resulted in the choice of Rev. J. D. Fowlkes. By request Elder L. P. Craig and Brother J. C. McElroy came forward and read the letters.
- 3. The maderator proceeded with the business, as follows, and appointed the following committees to serve during the present session except the committees on Temperance S. H. and F. missions, Sabbath Schools, Education and Orphans Home, who report at our next session.

Preaching-W. L. Carton, F. A. Lawson, with the deacons of the church.

Aged, Deceased and Imfirm Ministers—J. H. Tatum, A. J. Flemming, R. C. Moses.

Documents—W. P. Keeton, B. M. Tatum, J. T. Lawson. Education—I. N. Walker, J. A. Turner, B. M. Tatum. Finance—J. C. Caffee, S. W. Hosmer, W. H. Weaver. Nominations—A. J. Fingle, Oscar Burgan, T. Sanders. Orphans Home—J. C. McElroy, W. H. Pearson, B. P. McGraw. Temperance—B. P. McGraw, J. C. McElroy, George Parsons. Sabbath Schools—S. W. Hosmer, R. N. McCully, W. L. Caston.

### CALLED FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

4. Bessemer-Elder L. P. Craig. Birmingham-Elder G. A. Wilson.

### RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

Birmingham—J. C. Caffee.
Bessemer—Elder T. L. S. Carroll.
Mud Creek—J. T. Lawson.
Mineral Springs—Elder B. P. McGraw.

Mount Moriah-W. P. Keeton, Elder J. D Fowlkes.

- 5. Opened the door for the reception of new or unassociated churches, Elder R. Hallman and Brethren Jesse Williams, J. E. White came forward with letter from Pleasant Valley church, and on motion was received into the association, also Brother A. D. Rowland came forward with letter from the Third Baptist church at Blocton, and on motion, was received into the association.
- 6. The committee on preaching reported Elder R. Hallman to preach to-night at 7 o'clock and Elder J. D. Fowlkes to preach a missionary sermon on Sunday at 11 o'clock.

The association adjourned to 8:30 o'clock Monday morning.

Elder R. Hallman preached at 7 o'clock from Luke 17 Chapter, 22 Verse, "And He said unto His disciples, the days will come when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the son of man, and ye shall not see it."

### SABBATH, October 9, 1898.

- 7. The appointments as announced by the Committee on Preaching were attended to, as follows: Elder J. D. Fowlkes preached a missionary sermon at 11 o'clock, from Mathew 16 chapter, 15-16 verses: "He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." After which a collection was taken up to the amount of \$7.10 for missions.
- Elder B. P. McGraw preached at 3 o'clock from 1 John, 3 chapter 8 verse, "He that committeth sin is of the devil, for the devil sineth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil."
- Elder L P. Craig preached at 7 o'clock from Malachi 3 chapter 8 verse, "Will a man rob God, yet ye have robbed me; but ye say, wherein have we robbed Thee, in tithes and offerings."

### MONDAY, October 10, 1898.

- 8. Pursuant to adjournment the association met. After spending a few minutes in devotional exercises led by Brother John N. Hayes, the association was called to order by our moderator.
  - 9. The roll of delegates was called and absentees noted.

### LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Blue Creek-J. H Lawson, J. E. Brackner, F. A. Lawson.

Cedar Grove-John N. Hayes, W. D. Pearson, M. W. Lewis.

Center Grove-A. J. Fleming.

Corinth-James Turner, A. J. Tingle, Wm. Weaver.

Enterprise-Not represented.

Hephzibah-I. N. Walker, J. D. Fowlkes, W. P. Keeton, S. W. Hosmer, E. Y. Allen.

Liberty-E. D. Herring.

Mount Olive-J. N. Hayes, no letter.

Mount Carmel-B. P. McGraw, C. R. Miller, J. C. McElroy.

New Hope-J. H. Tatum, B. M. Tatum.

Pleasant Grove-W. G. Crawford, J. T. Lawrence, R. R. Kennedy.

Parkers Grove-Not represented.

Pleasant Valley—R. Hallman, Jesse Williams, T. H. Greggs, J. E. White.

Roups Valley-R. C. Moses, T. E. Sanders, O. L. Burgin.

Third Baptist Church at Blocton-A. D. Rolen.

Valley Creek-W. L. Coston, George Parsons.

### LIST OF MINISTERS IN THE ASSOCIATION.

10. Ordained Ministers—I. N. Walker, J. D. Fowlkes, Woodstock; B. P. McGraw, C. R. Miller, Blocton; R. Hallman, Redding; P. I., Herring, Clements: T. L. S. Carroll, Goethite.

Licenciates—J. N. Goodwin, S. H. Colburn, Blocton; T. C. Caffee, McCalla; Milton Chesser, Belle Sumpter.

11. By motion there was a committee of one member from each church in the association appointed to take up collections quarterly in their respective churches for the orphan's home and missions. The following brethren were appointed:

Blue Creek, J. H. Lawson; Cedar Grove John N. Hayf; Center Grove, A. J. Flemming; Corinth, James Turner; Enterprise, Bedford Kyle: Hephzibah, S. W. Hasmer; Liberty, J. T. Franklin; Mount Carmel, D. L. Morrison; New Hope, B. M. Tatum; Pleasant Grove. J. G. Lawrence; Parkers Grove, Thomas Taylor; Roups Valley, T. E. Sanders; Valley Creek, W. L. Caston; Mount Olive, H. Ray; Third Church at Blocton, A. D. Roland; Pleasant Valley, J. E. White.

12. The committee on aged, deceased and infirm ministers reported. Since our last meeting one of our beloved brothers, a minister of the gospel, has been called to that home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, there he cast the fruits of his labors. Brother Markham was a concientious laborer for his Master from the time he professed in the blood of Christ as applied for the regeneration of souls from their sins. He walked more miles to preach the gospel for

less remuneration than any minister known to us, hence the Father called for him, and now he rests from his labors. He joined the church in the year 1873 and died March 18, 1898.

We recommend in reference to Elder N. H. Williams. He is also poor and needy, and we therefore ask the churches to contribute to him financially that he may procure the necessaries of life while he is permitted to live, it being well known that he has worn himself out in the ministry.

J. H. TATUM,

Chairman.

Dear Brethren: We have taken this opportunity to relate to you how our beloved brother, J. A. Markham died. He died in the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He died at the home of Brother James Turner. On the night before he died he called on all present to sing songs of his own selection, and while we sang his whole soul seemed Lappy. Afterwards he called his wife and commended her and his children into the hands of the Lord. He also called Brethren James Turner and W. H. Weaver, and, after making some request of them, he said I want you all to know if I die I have got a home in glory. He talked about Jesus as long as he could talk.

W. H. WEAVER, JAMES TURNER.

13. The committee on documents reported: We find nothing of importance in the letters from the churches. Some revivals are reported. Accessions by baptism 46. We recommend the Baptist literature and the Bible also to be used in our Sabbath schools.

J. H. LAWSON, Chairman.

14. The committee on nominations reported: We recommend that the next annual session of this body meet with Pleasant Valley church on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1899. The introductory sermon to be preached by Elder I. N. Walker. Missionary sermon to be preached by Elder L. P. Craig Sunday at 11 o'clock, one half mile from Redding, L. & N. R. R., and one and a half miles south from Wheeling Station on the A. G. S. R. A. J. TINGLE,

Chairman.

15. The committee appointed to revise the constitution reported: That we recommend Article 1 so as to read "the Harmony Missionary Baptist Association," also to strike out the words "nor shall any proposition be made to close the subjects until the debates have been carried through" in the latter clause of Article 2 of the Rules of Decorum.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

Prayer by E. D. Herring.

16. Pursuant to adjournment the association met, and was

opened with prayer by Elder V. A. Wilson.

17. The committee on finance reported: For minute \$11.15, association purposes \$6.86, Home missions \$6.50, State missions \$5.15. Foreign missions \$12.15, Orphans Home sent direct from Cedar Grove church \$2.85, from association to Orphans Home \$3.40, from Cedar Grove church to Elder N. H. Williams quarterly \$4.35.

18. The committee on education reported: We believe there is no work in the denomination that has a greater tendency to the unifi-

cation of our forces than this, the schools for this important work in Alabama, the Howard college at East Lake, the famous Judson Institute of Marion and the grand old Central Female College at Tuscaloosa, are especially fitted for the building up of our great Baptist cause all over the land. In the first place in each of these institutions we have a corps of firm, strong and loyal Baptist teachers versed in all the branches, but when our cause of education joins its modest birth is in the fact that these teachers are men and women whose hearts are full of Christian graces so that the mind and heart is being trained also. In the second place the Bible, the God given text book of the Christian faith and practice, is taught in our denominational schools, and to this fact their success and prosperity through the vicissitudes and storms they have been compelled to pass during the last few years is largely attributable. They are founded upon God and his promises, and he has not forsaken them in times of seeming peril and adversity. The great and powerful Baptist brotherhood to-day stands united on account of the training, brotherly love and Christian ties which have received and begotten in our denomidational institutions of learning. The sons and daughters of the Howard, the Judson and the Central together with those of all the other Baptist colleges and schools stand as the Macedonian phalanx, not to be cut down by the Spartan and Athenian powers of specialism and skepticism. They are united under the great captain and king, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Brethren, this cause is worthy of and demands our deepest prayers and supplications as well as our most earnest and careful consideration as servants of God assembled to do His work. Let us prove our faith by our works in sending our boys and girls to our own denominational schools. It is a conceded fact that education to a minister of the gospel in these days and times is one of the foundations of success. It is essential for a two fold purpose. He should be in advance of his flock in order to lead them, for indeed a leader he should be. All denominations are educating their ministers, and if we Baptists expect to hold prestige we have gained over the other denominations in this state we will have to keep up with the procession we need men educated in more ways than one. we need balanced men; men who can hold their hand with any set or body of men, hence we conceive it to be the duty of Baptist churches and associations in educating young men for the ministry, to see that they take those that are made of the right kind of material. Howard college can cultivate and improve the mind and strengthen the morals but it can neither give brains nor moral you ask. Are not the Baptists of this state giving sufficient to properly educate all of the ministerial students? It is with sorrow we have to answer no. We are giving comparatively nothing. We find that during the last scholastic year of Howard college there was more than thirty ministerial students and not enough given to pay for one-third of them. Now, brethren, we ask how can we expect to send out to the world the blessed gospel of our Lord and break down the citadel of sin if we have not the forces? The day of the wilfully ignorant is past, and it has become our duty to work for the advancement of education and for the upbnilding of God's cause, and we recommend that each church in the bounds of this Association take up collections quarterly for the education of her ministers. T. G. CAFFEE,

19. The committee on Sabbath Schools reported: We find after careful investigation that about one third of the churches have Sabbath Schools, and we recommend that each church in the bounds

of this Association go to work in the interest of Sabbath Schools. We believe that this is one of our most essential duties in the upbuilding of the cause of Christ. T. G. CAFFEE.

- Chairman. The committee on Missions reported: Go teach all nations is the Redeemers great command. The church of the living God, as prompted by the ever Blessed Spirit, has from the days of the Saviors sojourn on earth, sentforth the herald of the Cross, upholding them by their means and prayers; and the result is that now a large part of the habitable parts of the earth have a knowledge of Jesus as a savior of sinners. But still the cry comes from Africa, China, Itily, Mexico, Cuba, come over and help us. Can those in whom dwelleth the love of God stand listlessly by, while this cry comes? No, never! If the subject is but properly brought before them. Here much depends on the faithfulness of pastors in bringing this matter before their people. We would therefore recommend that pastors keep themselves posted in reference to what is being done and what is proposing to be done in bringing the world to Christ, in order that they may be able from time to time to so present the claims of the Gospel in this respect before their people: that they may be prepared to act understandingly when they are prompted by a divine impulse. But a small pitience is required to answer every demand. We would recommend a hearty cooperation with our Mission Boards. Oh, may the name we go by and are known by infuse into our hearts a greater love for missions. Brethren, let us do better in the future and give to this cause cheerfully. JOHN N. HAYES
- Chairman. The committee on Temperance reported: Your committees have little encouragement to offer on temperance notwitnstanding all the stringent laws and moral sentiment against drunkenness. The manufacture, sale and use of intoxicating beverages seem to be on the increase, yet we have encouragement. Among our native born American citizens, there seems to be a growing moral sentiment against intemperance of all kinds. Then it is to a great extent the foreigners, with their coarse morals, who are continually pouring in-to our country, who are responsible for a great amount of our intemperance and crime. In the United States we spend annually \$1,000,-000,000 for drink; about four times as much as it takes to run the whole Government, for twenty leading necessaties of life, not includwhole Government, for wenty leading necessaries of the nor including education. We spend the same amount we do for liquor, and for home and foreign missions we give the pitiful sum of \$5,500,000 annually. Alabama alone pays yearly for its intoxicants \$4,000.000. Brethren, we are commanded to abstain from every appearance of evil, and to be sober-minded, touch not, handle not, any unclean thing whatsoever it may be. Now, brethren, we that claim to know God in the free pardon of our sins take up our cross and follow Him. Now let us abstain from every appearance of intemperance.

GORDON PARSONS, Chairman.

22. Report of the first district meeting: Minutes of the first district meeting, held with New Hope church from the 16th to the 17th day of September, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder T. B. Dison, from Mathew 5th Chapter and part of the 14th "Ye are the light of the world."

Adjourned one hour for dinner. At one o'clock the delegates assembled in the meeting house, and was called to order by J. C. McElroy. The roll was called and

the delegates came forward bearing their respective letters, and voted for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Rev. T. B. Dison, Moderator and G. A. Smith, Clerk. By request brethren J. C. McElroy and B. M. Tatum came forward and read the letters. The Moderator appointed the following committees: Preaching—A. J. Fleming with the Deacons of this church. Nominating and queries -Brethren D. H. Lewis, A. J. Flemming, J. H. Tatum.

23. The committee on nominations reported: That the next meeting of the first district meet with the Centergrove church on Friday before the third Sabbath in September in 1899; the introductory sermon to be preached by Elder C. Miller. Query for Friday evening: "Why are we Baptist." Opened by A. J. Flemming. Query for Saturday morning: "What is the cause of the churches dropfor Saturday morning: ping off from the ordinences and communion of the Lords supper and washing feet?" Opened by Bro. C. Miller. Query for Saturday evening: "Shall our natural bodies be raised at the Judgement Day?" Opened by N. P. Henderson.

24. The union meeting of the second district will be held with the Pleasant Grove church, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in September 1899. The introductory sermon to be preached

by Elder I. N. Walker.

Resolved: That we hereby tender our thanks to the brethren and sisters of Roups Valley church, and the citizens of this neighborhood for the liberal and hospitable manner in which they entertained this body during its present session. After singing a hymn and taking the parting hand, the Association adjourned, to meet with the Pleasant Valley church, commencing on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1899. The introductory sermon to be preached by Elder I. N. Walker. A missionary sermon to be preached on Sunday at 11 o'c'ock by Elder L. P. Craig. One half mile from Redding Station on the L. & N. R. R. and one and one half miles from Wheeling Station on the A. G. S. R. R. in Jefferson County Ala.

> J. D. FOLKS, Moderator. J. N. HAYES, Slated Clerk.

# CONSTITUTION.

1. The 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 MISSIONARY 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 concern; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely: If one church commit an

offense 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 of 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 help 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 econemy of the church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the gospel of St. Mathew, and other parts of the scriptures which define the nature of offense and the manner of bringing offenders to trial.

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

Every church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manuer: Each church of fifty members or less 3 delegates, and one additional for each 25 members above 50, or fractional part thereof. Any church failing to represent herself as prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

5. New churches may be admited 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 appeals. sent 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 or-

thodox 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 iu her letter, certifying that she endeavored to reconcile it, b. t 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 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 or daining 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 uave 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 ses-

sion rises.

16. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members 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 1 We believe in only one true and livingGod, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and the 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 incanability, 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 Gh st.

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 Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by immersion is the 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 Gospel, but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a

right to commune at the Lord's Table.

### Rules of Decorum.

ART. 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 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, and on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by 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. Each case taken up by the Association, shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a question 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 to the body.

10. Any member wishing to retire, must have permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, unless by permission of the Association, nor more than once until every one wishing to speak shall have spoken.

12 The appellation of "Brother," shall b used in the Associa-

tion by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often asithe Associa. tion may direct.

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

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other person, provided he call some one to his seat during the time. He shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any one violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, at his discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have

been made.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

1 A 4	Pleasant Valley R. Hollman Reding Roup's Valley. L. P. Craig Bessemer B. Ch at Blocton P. S. Motherman Blocton Valley Creek. L. P. Craig Bessemer	Mount Olive No Letter  Mount Carmel- G W Freeman  Mewhope T B Dison  Pleasant Grove I N Walker  Parken's Grove Not repres'nted	Hephzibah l	νe	Churches,
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